



SUCCESSION  
IN JAPAN

P6



RANATUNGA  
ENTERS UNP  
LEADERSHIP FRAY

P9



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

A GLOBE-TROTTING  
POPE, LOCKED  
DOWN BY COVID

P10



TOP PLAYERS  
OBJECT TO  
DJOKOVIC PROPOSAL

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of very light rain/drizzle. Gusty winds during the day. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 94% Min: 71%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 31.4°C (3) Min: 26.7°C (0)  
SUN RISES 05:59 hrs MOON RISES 17:55 hrs SUN SETS 18:43 hrs MOON SETS 04:53 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Devotees are screened at the Kashmiri Gate idgah in the capital on Sunday on the occasion of Muharram amidst the Covid pandemic. SNS

**India, Russia joint winners of Online Chess Olympiad:** India and Russia were on Sunday declared joint winners of the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection and server malfunction. Russia were initially declared winners after two Indian players – Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh – lost out on time in the final after suffering a disconnection with the server. India lodged a protest against the controversial decision which was reviewed.

**Rhea Chakraborty quizzed for third day:** The CBI questioned actress Rhea Chakraborty for the third consecutive day on Sunday in connection with her boyfriend and filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, a police official said. The 28-year-old actress, who is accused of abetting Rajput's suicide, was questioned for around nine hours, he said. Her brother Showik Chakraborty was also questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday for the fourth day in a row, the official said.

## No urgency to have an elected Congress president: Khurshid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST



Asserting that there was no urgency to have an elected Congress president, senior leader Salman Khurshid on Sunday said he "can't see the heavens falling" for the need of a party chief as Sonia Gandhi was still at the helm and should be the one to decide on the leadership issue.

Khurshid, a former Union minister and among the leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, told PTI in an interview that he would not have signed the letter even if he was approached by the group that wrote to Gandhi seeking urgent organisational overhaul, including an active and full-time leadership.

On Ghulam Nabi Azad, the most vocal among the 23 letter writers, seeking organ-

sational elections to ensure that the Congress does not remain out of power for decades, Khurshid said the senior leader from Jammu and Kashmir had been part of the top echelons of the party for years when there has been no such elections and still the party prospered.

He said probably Azad wanted a change now in what the party has been doing over the years and expressed confidence that the leadership will give a thought to what he is

saying as he is a senior leader Khurshid said the leaders who have written to Sonia Gandhi always had access to her and could have approached her rather than writing to her.

"It is very clear that the important persons in this letter do belong to the top echelons of our party and therefore Mrs Gandhi has indicated that it was best that they could have discussed it within the confines of the party," he said.

Khurshid's remarks come

days after the 'group of 23' wrote to Gandhi calling for far-reaching reforms within the party such as having a "full time, active and visible" leadership, devolution of powers to state units and revamping the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in line with the party constitution.

## India to start bidding process by Oct to procure 6 submarines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST



India is all set to launch the bidding process by next month for a Rs 55,000-crore mega project to build six conventional submarines for the Indian Navy to narrow the gap with China's growing naval prowess, government sources said on Sunday.

The submarines will be built in India under the much-talked-about strategic partnership model that allows domestic companies to join hands with leading foreign defence majors to produce high-end military platforms in the country and reduce import dependence.

The sources said the ground work like specifications of the submarines and other critical requirements for issuance of the RFP (request for

proposal) for the mega project, named as P-75 I, has been completed by separate teams of the defence ministry and the Navy. The RFP will be issued by October, they added.

The defence ministry has already shortlisted two Indian shipyards and five foreign defence majors for the project, being billed as one of the biggest "Make in India" ventures.

The shortlisted Indian entities were L&T group and state-owned Mazagaon Docks

Ltd (MDL) while the select foreign entities included ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Navantia (Spain) and Naval Group (France).

Initially, the defence ministry will issue RFPs to MDL and L&T and the two firms will have to submit their detailed bid after receiving the document. Subsequently, the L&T and MDL will have to select a foreign partner out of the five shortlisted entities, the sources said.

The Navy plans to acquire

24 new submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines, to bolster its underwater fighting capability. It currently has 15 conventional submarines and two nuclear submarines. The Navy has been focusing on significantly bolstering its overall capabilities in view of China's growing efforts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

According to global naval analysts, Chinese navy currently has over 50 submarines and about 350 ships. The total number of ships and submarines is projected to go past 500 in next 8-10 years. The Navy is also in the process of procuring 57 carrier-borne fighter jets, 111 Naval Utility Helicopters and 123 multi-role helicopters under the strategic partnership model.

We are not anyone's puppets: Farooq Abdullah's retort to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

Reacting sharply to Pakistan hailing the recent Gupkar Declaration in which six political parties of Jammu and Kashmir vowed to fight collectively against the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday asserted that "we are not anyone's puppets".

"Pakistan has always abused mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir but now suddenly like us," the former chief minister said when asked about Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's statement that the declaration issued by the NC, PDP, Congress and three other parties was "not an ordinary occurrence but an important development".

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

## In Mann ki Baat, PM Modi talks of Atmanirbhar Bharat for toys

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

The PM expressed satisfaction over a "feeling of responsibility amongst citizens" while taking part in festivities amid the Covid-19 pandemic

ed toys which provide no scope for creativity children should be given domestically manufactured toys that help groom their creative faculties.

Gurudev used to say that toys should be such that they bring out the childhood of a child and also his or her creativity. In the National Education Policy, a lot of attention has been given on the impact of toys

on different aspects of children's lives. Learning while playing, learning to make toys, visiting toy factories, all these have been made part of the curriculum," Modi said.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore had said about toys, the best toy is that which is incomplete, a toy that children together complete while playing. Gurudev Tagore had said that during his childhood, he used to make his own toys and games with his friends, with materials available at home, using his own imagination," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the idea of making toys an integral part of learning came during his interaction with

children at the Children University of Gandhinagar, a "unique experiment". "We discussed how to make new toys available to the children of India, how India could become a big hub of toy production," he further said.

Referring to India's rich tradition of local toys such as Andhra Eti-Koppakaa toys, and talented and skilled artisans with expertise in making good toys, the Prime Minister said some parts of India were developing as "Toy Clusters".

Some of these clusters are in Channapatna in Ramanagara, Karnataka, Kondapalli in Krishna, Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, Dhubri in Assam, Varanasi in

Uttar Pradesh. Narendra Modi called upon cottage industries, small industries, MSMEs and big industries and private entrepreneurs to come forward to preserve and promote Indian toys. He especially exhorted start-ups and young entrepreneurs to team up and make Indian toys' presence felt in the global toy market worth over Rs 7 lakh crore.

"You will be surprised to know that the global toy industry is of more than 7 lakh crore rupees. Such a big business of 7 lakh crore rupees but, India's share is very little in this. Now, just spare a thought for a nation which has so much of heritage, tradition, variety, young pop-

ulation, will it feel good to have such little share in the toy market?" Modi asked.

"To my start-up friends, to our new entrepreneurs I say, Team up for toys... let us make toys together. For everybody it is the time to get vocal for local toys. Come, let us make some good quality toys for our youth. Toys should be such that in their presence childhood blooms and smiles. Let us make toys which are favourable to the environment too," he said adding, "be it virtual games, be it the sector of toys in the self-reliant India campaign, all have to play very important role, and therein lies an opportunity too."

The Prime Minister underlined the need to celebrate

the festivals with precaution and expressed satisfaction over a "feeling of responsibility amongst citizens" while taking part in festivities amid the Covid-19 pandemic. He said there was a "deep connect" between festivals and environments. In this context he mentioned the centuries old practice of self-imposed sixty-hour lockdown-Barnā among the Tharu tribal community of West Champaran, Bihar, to help rejuvenate the environment.

Modi saluted farmers for record sowing of kharif crop and proving their mettle during "trying times of corona". He said sowing of kharif crops saw a 7 per cent increase over the last year. He said sowing of paddy, pulses, cereals, oilseed, cotton too witnessed an increase by 10, 5, 3, 13 and 3 per cent respectively.

The Prime Minister said the month of September would be observed as Nutrition Month. "Nutrition and Nutrition are very closely interrelated. We have a maxim - "Yatha Annam Tatha Mannam," which means our mental and intellectual development is directly related to the quality of our food intake. Experts are of the opinion that the better nutrition a child imbibes in the womb and during childhood, greater is the mental development and he/she remains healthy," the Prime Minister pointed out.



Now, just spare a thought for a nation which has so much of heritage, tradition, variety and young population. Will it feel good to have such little share in the toy market

NARENDRA MODI  
PRIME MINISTER

# New Metro guidelines: Masks, smart cards mandatory

There will be a strict ban on tokens for the Metro trains ride and the passengers in each coach will be limited

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

**A**fter the Ministry of Home Affairs has allowed the metro rail services to resume in the fourth phase of unlock, the new set of guidelines has been issued by the Delhi government for the operations on Sunday.

In its guidelines, the use of masks and smart cards has been made mandatory by the government. There will be a strict ban on tokens for the train ride and the passengers in each coach will be limited.

As a safety measure, the air conditioner of the metro trains will also be taken out to allow fresh air, said Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot.

He also said that the trains will not stop at all stations for now and also there will be plans to open stations in



increase the spread (of coronavirus). Moreover, it won't be possible to sanitise a token

every time. People will use smart cards or other recharge mediums to travel," NDTV

quoted Kailash Gehlot as saying. "All stations will not be opened. Those in containment

zones will remain shut.

Other than those, there are more stations which will

remain shut, the list for the same will be prepared and people will be informed about it," he added.

As per DMRC's prior announcement, the smart cards will be recharged automatically at the automatic fare collection gates (AFC) of the metro stations to avoid queues at the kiosks.

As per the reports, on platform floors, large stickers bearing 'Ensure Social Distancing' message with a white circle bordered by a red circle, will be pasted at regular intervals to alert commuters.

Yesterday, the central government had permitted to resume the metro services in a phased manner as part of the fourth phase of unlock-

ing. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had welcomed the decision of the government by saying, "I am glad that metro has been permitted to start its operations from 7 Sep in a phased manner."

Delhi Health Minister

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STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

been taken to restore the facilities to children in the best possible manner.

He informed that the department of health and family welfare had a vital role to play as it supports organising immunisation camps every month.

The minister said, "the department of women and child development through its 10,000 Anganwadi centres in the capital plays an important role in getting the children enrolled in the Anganwadi centers immuni-

zed."

This is done by holding immunisation camps in each Anganwadi centre every month in coordination with the health department.

In September, the department will start the immunisation programme and under this, Anganwadi workers will facilitate medical functionaries for the outreach programme for immunisation.

Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers will help auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM) and ASHA workers to organise and coordinate immunisation camps in the capital.

The immunisation camps will be organised once a month at each Anganwadi centre.

## Around 30 pc non-resident Covid patients admitted to Delhi hospitals in August: Govt data

PTI

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

Around 30 per cent of the coronavirus patients admitted to Delhi hospitals in August were from other states, according to government data.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in June, had predicted an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases in the national capital and decided to reserve beds in Delhi government-run hospitals only for city residents. But, the decision was overturned by Lt Governor Anil Baijal.

Delhi Health Minister

**Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in June, had predicted an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases in the national capital and decided to reserve beds in Delhi government-run hospitals only for city residents. But, the decision was overturned by Lt Governor Anil Baijal**

Sayendran Jain had on Friday said the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Delhi was due to various reasons, including patients from outside seeking treatment here, return of migrants who left Delhi during lockdown as well as increased testing.

According to the data, non-resident also accounted for more than half the number of deaths reported in the national capital between August 3 and August 28.

Government data shows that of the 8,577 COVID-19 patients admitted to Apollo Hospital were not from Delhi. Among the 395

patients in August, 2,536 belonged to other states - mostly from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. For example, of the 120 non-residents admitted to Delhi hospitals on August 28, as many as 64 belonged to Uttar Pradesh, while 39 were from Haryana.

In private hospitals, the

number of COVID-19 patients from outside was greater than those belonging to Delhi. Of the 98 patients admitted to B L Kapoor Hospital, 51 were from outside the city. Similarly, 111 out of 158 patients admitted to Apollo Hospital were not from Delhi. Among the 395

people who succumbed to the viral disease between August 3 and August 28, as many as 210 (53 per cent) were from outside the national capital, according to the data.

The month's data collated till August 28 showed that around 900 hospital beds have been occupied so far.

The city recorded 2,024 fresh coronavirus cases on Sunday, the highest single-day spike since July 11, when it recorded 2,089 cases.

The total number of cases is now over 1.73 lakh, while the death toll has mounted to 4,426 with 22 fresh fatalities,

authorities said. It had registered 1,954 new cases on Saturday. In June, when the national capital was seeing a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, Kejriwal had said, "Providing treatment for people coming from all over the country during the pandemic is a big challenge."

He had said the decision to reserve beds was taken on suggestions of Delhites. However, L-G Baijal had later overruled the decision,

saying no one should be denied treatment on the grounds of not being a resident of Delhi.

## Objection filed in connection with election of Delhi Waqf Board member disposed of

PTI

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

An objection filed in connection with the election of member (MLA) of the Delhi Waqf Board has been disposed off by the divisional commissioner, paving the way for the appointment of a new chairman for the panel, officials said.

The board is without a chairman for the past over six months and the process of appointing a chairman has also been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they said.

The seven-member Waqf Board includes four elected members an MLA, a current or former parliament

tarian, mutawalli (manager or custodian of a mosque) and a Bar Council member.

The remaining three are nominated members, including a Delhi government officer, a social worker and a Muslim scholar. The seven members of the board choose one of them as chairman of the panel.

The election of member (MLA) was scheduled on August 25 but it was postponed due to the objection filed by an individual with the divisional commissioner's (revenue) office, they said.

The election was postponed as the electoral roll could not be finalised as the objection and scrutiny of nomination papers was

stalled, said a senior officer of the Delhi government.

The complainant had also filed a petition in the high court which was rejected. Now, his objection filed with the office of divisional commissioner has also been disposed of so the process for election of member MLA will resume," he said.

The complainant had objected to the nomination of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan for the membership of the Waqf Board referring to a case of corruption registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2016, the officials said.

District magistrate north Delhi Dipak Arjun said he was to receive information of the disposed objection.

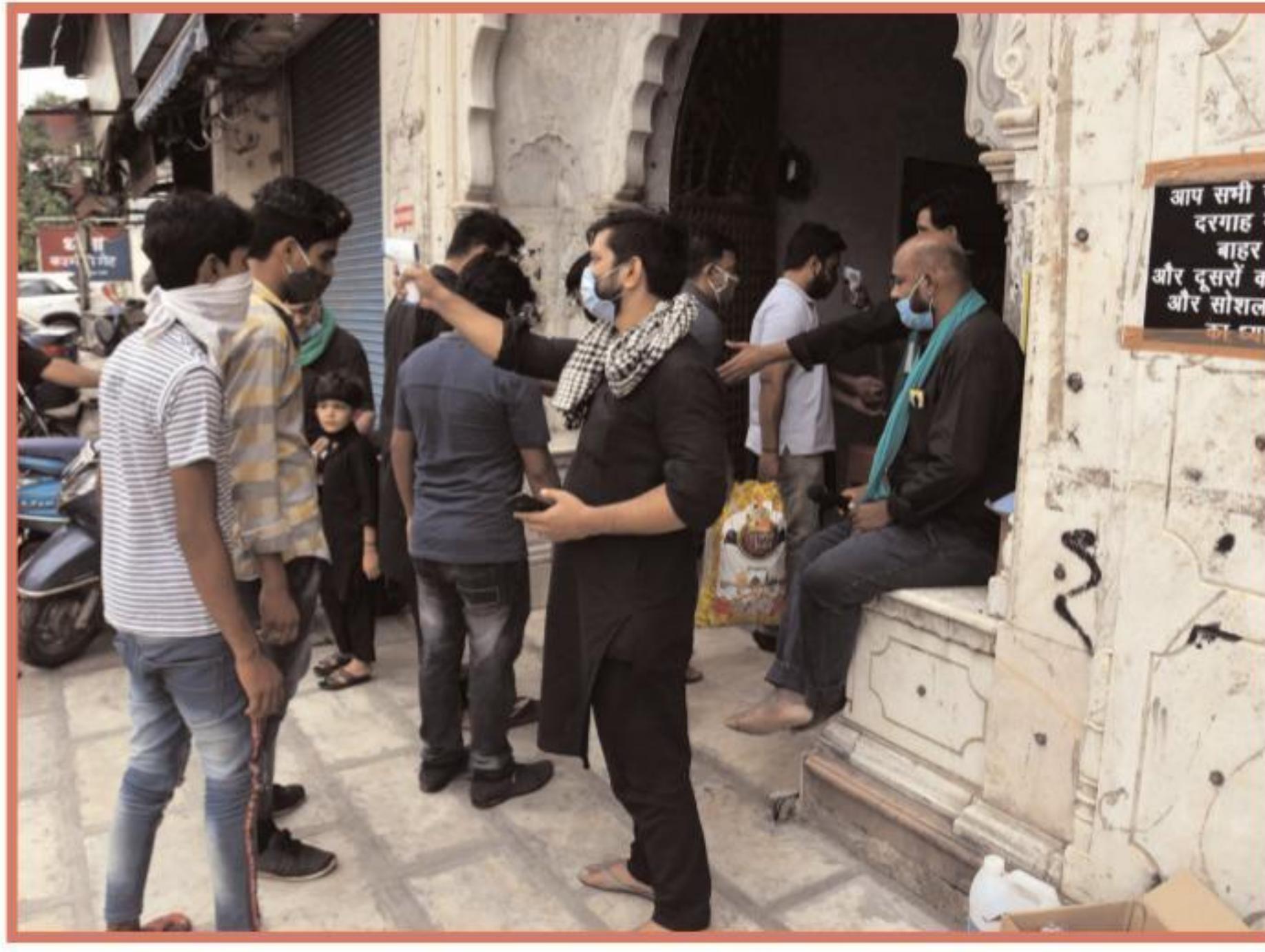
Previously too he held the post of member (MLA) which fell vacant due to assembly polls in February this year.

"With the disposal of the objection, fresh dates for scrutiny of nomination and election will be announced by the district magistrate of north Delhi who is the returning officer for the election of member (MLA)," said a Delhi Waqf Board officer. If Khan's nomination is found legal in the scrutiny, he will be declared elected unopposed, he said.

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## MOURNING DAY



The Muharram processions were not allowed Sunday due to the Covid pandemic. Under these circumstances, people were allowed entry into Idgah of Kashmiri Gate in the Capital after their temperature screening on this day of mourning.

## Classified

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

**The Rajendra's Co-Operative G/H Society Ltd. (1395/GH), 212, Best Arcade, Plot No. 3, Pocket-6, Sector-12, Dwarka New Delhi - 110075**

### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

### Public Notice

The society has submitted the list of members who have resigned as per list given below from the society from time to time & the Managing Committee has accepted their resignations and their deposits have been duly refunded to the concerned members. The resigned members having any objection in the below list may submit his/her representation to the Assistant Registrar (Concerned Zone), Office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Courts Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001 with a copy to the society with complete details / evidence, if any, within 15 days from the date of issue of the notice.

Failure to accept the proposal for enrolment of new members in the society will be accepted.

S. No. Name of Member Father Husband Name of Son Name of Daughter Name of Spouse & Interest in per BGS Act.

1 142 Mr. Ramu Dev Joshi Late Sh. Ravi Befehl Joshi 100.00 Rs. 13,12,42/-

2 142 Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma Mr. Neeraj Chaudhary Sharme 100.00 Rs. 8,12,42/-

For The Rajendra's Co-Op G/H Society Ltd.

Secretary

**COLLECTION: 110, B.C. RD., Barabazar (Near C.M.S. School) Burdwan, Ph.: 0342-2560069 / 8926434614. NEW COMPUTER INDIA: New Market, Benaras Road, Bagarpur-712310, Ph.: 9833245058, M: 9732302700. NAYAN DAS: 1074, Mahakali Paper Colony, P-9/15 (G), Kalyani-741225, Nadia. Phone: 9851771877 / 2582-7177 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Sunday Closed.**

**STANDARD BOOK DEPOT: 10/1, Grand Trunk Rd. (South) Howrah Maidan, Howrah-711101, Ph.: 2641-4114 / 2474-5856. RINKU AD**

**AGENCY: Chanchal Bhattacharya, 74, Santiram Rasta, Bally, Howrah-711201, Mobile: 831833485. RAYCOGNISE: Arghya Commercial Plaza, Upper Ground Floor, Room No. 8, Burnpur Rd., Asansol-4, Burdwan, Ph.: 933 3104777, Fax: 933 2253099.**

**ALIMUDDIN: C/o Alimuddin, Opposite Zilla Parishad, Paschim Medinipur-721101, Ph.: 9434702050, 9434259099. S. TRIVEDI: Pathakpara, Bankura (0324) 2320665, 9735801256-57. TYPE CORNER, Collectry More (opposite SP Bungalow), Krishnanagar-741101, Dist: Nadia, 947334978, (03472 257432). KRISHNA DEB, C/o Balurhat Barta, Balurhat-733101, Dist: Dakshin Dinajpur (W.B.), Ph.: (03522) 249230. Mobile: 8759169158 / 09434247137.**

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, ALIMUDDIN** Mohammad, son of late Sk. Abbas Ali, residing at Sekh Para, P.O. & P.S. C. Danda, Dist.: Hooghly, henceforth to be known as Sk. Alimuddin, vide affidavit sworn before the First Class Judicial Magistrate Kolkata Court dated 10.08.20. Alimuddin Mohammad and Sk. Alimuddin both are same and one identical person.

### LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (Testamentary Intestate Jurisdiction)**

**Citation U/S 283, Indian Succession Act, 1925**

**In the matter of Test Case No. 16/2020**

**Mrs. Kulwant Kaur Sangari Through Attorney & Ors. – Petitioner**

**versus**

**State & Ors. – Respondents**

**To,**

**All Concerned.**

**In the matter of estate of Late Mrs. Sanjiv Mehar, w/o Late Col. Surjeet Singh Mehar, r/o A-28/105 B, MIG Flat, Ektap Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, (3) Shri Amarjeet Singh Keer, s/o Late Sh. Rekha Kaur, grandaughter of late Sh. Surjeet Singh, great grandson of Late Sh. Bhagat Singh, r/o B-2/149, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have filed a petition under Section 278 of the Indian Succession Act for grant of Letters of Administration in respect of the estate of Mrs. Sanjiv Mehar, deceased.**

**And whereas the aforesaid case is fixed for hearing on 17-09-2020 at 10:30 a.m. before this Hon'ble Court, this petition is issued, in terms of Section 283 of the said Act to all persons claiming to have any interest in the properties of the said deceased to come to this Court, file objections, if any and take part in the proceedings on the date specified above for the grant of Letters of Administration.**

**Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court, in terms of the order dated 24th day of July, 2020.**

**Assistant Registrar (O)**

**For Registrar General**

**Seal of the Court**

## The Statesman

### KOLKATA

Statesman House,  
4, Chowringhee Square  
Kolkata-700 001

## BEER (SIC) IT!



It's certainly hard to predict when and what a child may blurt out, much to its parents' embarrassment or chagrin. Certainly, an innocent, pure-at-heart child harbours no malice. Yet, the little one can cause the parents to squirm quite a bit! Even private conversations inadvertently spoken can be transmitted outside. An acquaintance, who has a habit of downing a peg or two before dinner, said he was quite open about it and did not hide it from his family. And for his seven-year-old daughter, this appeared a normal way of life. Thus it

was that when her teacher, as part of a communication skills lesson, asked each child to narrate something about one's family, this little girl responded that her father came home from office every day and drank. She then proceeded to reel out the names of various beer brands, much to the teacher's shock. After discussing it with the school principal, the teacher called up the child's home and asked whether there was a "drinking issue" at home! While things were sorted out, the father has been unable to live down his embarrassment.

### TRAFFIC WOES

**H**as the lockdown changed life in Delhi? For some parts of the city, nothing much has changed. For example, crossing the ITO Bridge. Still, one finds traffic here moving at a snail's pace. It can be any hour of the day, even an unexpected hour, like 1 p.m. One still fumes and sweats half the bridge length towards New Delhi. There is not much reason for suffering the agony. People are seen virtually dragging their two and four wheelers in the company of large low floor buses, which heat up the atmosphere and belch out hot gases. After crawling for 30 minutes along a stretch, which actually requires just three minutes to cover, one comes to know the reality: non-working traffic lights. Two traffic constables are sweating it out on a humid afternoon, man-

aging the traffic movement manually at the crossing. The scene does not look different from the pre-lockdown days. The traffic planners had plenty of time during the lockdown to think about ITO's slow-motion traffic. Or, they really had? Maybe, the problem is now beyond routine human thought. Delhi's plan for traffic jams and even slow-motion traffic, when they leave for work any day. But they can never predict when they will face the ordeal. They miss appointments, get late and reach their destinations when it is meaningless to reach there. The unnecessary burning of fuel is another issue. The traffic movement is much less these days. Still, on the New Delhi-trans-Yamuna route, vehicles get blocked in the first row of traffic, in front of DDA's Vikas Minar. This is because some people want to turn



als, some out of their love for God and others for simple entertainment. The addiction was so high that many felt sad when these came to an end. Gradually, they found more on Doordarshan, more of interestingly churned out fiction shows. To the respite of the entertainment industry, now the shooting has begun and new episodes of popular TV serials are being telecast. But, many of the viewers are not ready to go back to the world of "evil or angel" overdressed women. Neeta Sharma, a government employee, says, "I tried to see a new episode of Barrister Babu, but just could not. It was testing my intelligence. The same old plot of a woman conspiring against another woman was going on. So, I switched to a Doordarshan show. At least, these portray a real world, usual women, usual dresses, usual men, and innocent comedy from real-

life situations." For many, such an "awakening" had come much earlier with availability of foreign entertainment channels and streaming services. Sunita Sinha, a housewife, who stopped watching popular TV shows much earlier, says, "The saas-bahu serials portray negative stories, and negative women, as if one needs to fight their own family members to survive in the world. Either women are conspirators or victims, but not real. When I watch foreign-made shows, I feel some intellectual enrichment, but these shows (popular ones), drain my energy and positivity!" Amid this channel surfing, it will be interesting to carry out a survey to find out whether there has been a real shift in people's TV watching habits due to Corona. For, at least that will make producers to stop under-estimating people's intelligence and make something interesting.

### METRO BACK ON TRACK!

**T**he Centre has finally accepted the Delhi's government's proposal to resume Metro train services, the lifeline of the national capital. The Delhi government had repeatedly asked the Centre to give the go-ahead for the resumption of the Metro services which connect Delhi with other parts of the National Capital Region (NCR) better than any other mode of transport. Even mall owners and traders in Delhi had been complaining that few people were coming to their shops due to the lack of a convenient public transport like the Metro. But the Centre was apprehensive that the resumption of the Metro could effectively mean compromising with the social distancing norm. However,

those residing in the NCR did not agree with this logic, wondering why the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has been allowed to resume its operations. "If DTC buses can ply, why Metro can't be allowed to operate by following the Covid guidelines?" asked a senior citizen, who depended largely on Metro services for commuting earlier. Office-goers in the national capital, who used to earlier commute by Metro, complained that they were forced to use their private vehicles because they don't find the DTC buses safe to travel as the social distancing rule could not be properly followed in these public buses. The heavy traffic on the roads in the NCR gives one an impression that everything is back to normal even though a large number of Corona patients are still reporting at city hospitals every day. The recent rains brought nor-

mal activities in the NCR to a grinding halt with traffic jams witnessed across Delhi and surrounding areas. Many say the traffic would certainly have been less and manageable if Metro services had been restored. These factors have obviously been taken into account by the Centre while giving its nod for the resumption of the Metro services in a phased manner.

### TAILPIECE

**“**Khanjaryya maska chaku (dagger or butter knife) is what makes politics such a game of intrigue,” quipped a veteran scribe.

Contributed by: Savita Verma, Deepak Razdan, Ashok Tuteja and Asha Ramachandran.

## India/Capital

# Haryana rolls back market lockdown after Unlock 4

Haryana govt withdraws 29 Aug order shutting malls and markets in urban areas on Mondays and Tuesdays due to the Covid surge

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

**A**fter two days of imposing lockdown, the Haryana government on Sunday reversed its order which had stated closure of markets on Monday and Tuesday.

Taking it to Twitter, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said, "Under Unlock 4, the central government has said that state government shall not impose any local lockdown (outside containment zones).

So, the Haryana government has withdrawn the order issued August 29 to keep markets closed on Monday and Tuesday."

Earlier, the Haryana government had ordered to close the shopping malls and markets in the urban areas of the



state on Mondays and Tuesdays due to the surge in cases

of coronavirus.

Yesterday, the Ministry of

of unlocking and allowed the social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, political functions and other congregations with a ceiling of 100 persons from September 21 among other relaxations.

However, such limited gatherings can be held with the mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitizer, the guidelines said.

The central government has also permitted to resume the metro services in a phased manner as part of the fourth phase of unlocking.

As of now, Haryana has reported nearly 62,000 cases of coronavirus out of which 10,600 are active. There were 670 deaths reported in the state due to the virus.

# HP govt left people in the lurch in Covid time: Cong

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 30 AUGUST

The Himachal Pradesh Congress on Sunday accused the BJP-ruled state government of leaving the common masses to fend for themselves, charging that they were being made to suffer owing to wrong decisions of the government.

State Congress spokesperson Vijay Dogra said in COVID-19 pandemic when the state government should have provided relief to common masses, the government's decision had resulted in price-rise, causing mental and economic harassment.

"The residents of the state had to seek permission for coming to their own state while outsiders are being brought to state via flights.

If the state government is giving argument that they were asking the people to seek e-COVID pass to track their history, then they should follow the example of Punjab wherein e-Registration facility is launched for inter-state movement," he added.

Dogra said many people had lost their jobs due to Corona crisis in the state and many employees were being harassed and ousted by private companies but the government hadn't taken any corrective measures resolve these issues.

"The BJP government seems to care less about such issues which were being faced by the people."

The BJP leaders are shedding crocodile tears and giving false assurances on being supportive towards the needs of general public. But the sit-

uation on ground tells an entirely different story," he added.

He further stated that BJP ministers were organizing public functions amidst the COVID-19 pandemic without caring for the safety of masses as these could lead to community spread of disease.

The state government had imposed various sanctions on holding of various social functions and even marriages but there seemed to be no such restriction on functions and programmes organized by the party, he added.

He urged the BJP government to take decisions for the welfare of general public and utilize the funds to provide them relief.

He also took a dig at state BJP chief Suresh Chauhan for terming Congress a party without any leader and advised him to focus on his own party organization as Congress had strong leadership and even better policies to help people in such a crisis.

## Pak national arrested in UP for violation of visa norms

PTI  
NOIDA, 30 AUGUST

A Pakistani woman has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Noida for allegedly violating visa rules, Gautam Buddha Nagar Police officials said on Sunday.

The woman, identified as Nausheen Naaz from Karachi in Pakistan, was held on Saturday. She was staying with her husband at their Ajmeri Gate home in Delhi on a long-term visa, the officials said.

The woman had entered Noida in violation of the rules of her long-term visa. She was in a bus which was intercepted for checking

under a flyover at Sector 14A of the city. She was arrested after inspection, a police spokesperson said.

An FIR has been lodged against her at the Sector 20 police station under Section 14 of the Foreigners' Act, 1946, and further legal proceedings are underway in the case, he added.

According to officials, the woman's visa allowed her long-term stay in the

country but not outside Delhi. For travel anywhere outside the national capital she was required to have necessary permissions, they said.

The Saturday arrest also came at a time when lockdown-like curbs are imposed in Noida, like elsewhere across Uttar Pradesh, over the state government's orders amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Security checks intensified across the state, especially at state and district borders, during the period of restriction, which begins 10 pm Friday and ends 5 am Monday, according to officials.

## '1.63L new pensioners getting social security pension in HP'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 30 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Sarveen Chaudhary on Sunday said 1,63,607 new social security pension cases have been sanctioned by the government in the last two-and-a-half years.

Chaudhary said this includes 130,931 old age pensions, 18,203 widow, destitute, single women pensions and 14,473 disabled pensions.

"The state government is working vigilantly to provide social security to destitute, old, abandoned, disabled and poor people and efforts are being made to provide social security pension schemes.

Destitute women, differ-



Himachal Pradesh Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Sarveen Chaudhary

ently-abled children are being benefited through the Scholarship for Disabled Children, she said.

Chaudhary further stated that social welfare was the top

priority of the state government and social security pension was one such scheme which is providing relief to several people living below poverty line.

"At present, among the total 5,69,248 social security pension beneficiaries in the state, there are 3,85,039 old age pensions, 1,19,713 widows/ destitute/single women, 63,498 disability pensions, 995 leprosy and 03 transgender pensions. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the state government has decided to give six months pension in advance to beneficiaries of tribal area and three months advance pension to beneficiaries of non-tribal areas," she said.

adding Rs 424.58 crore had been spent so far for the purpose. A state government official said 83-year-old widow Durgu Devi of village Dawandai in Karsog area of Mandi district is one such beneficiary who received advance pension of Rs 4500 for three months during corona pandemic.

Apart from this, 90-year-old Jhudu Ram and Shar Devi of Gram Panchayat Dabrot of Karsog area have expressed their gratitude towards Chief Minister for providing them pension at their door step, he said.

He further stated that two and a half years ago, the age limit of social security pension has been reduced to 70 years.





A health worker wearing a PPE suit talks to local residents on Rapid Antigen Tests for Covid-19 on a roadside in Allahabad on Sunday.

**MNF wins council polls:** The ruling Mizoram National Front in Mizoram has registered a thumping victory in village council and local council polls by emerging victorious in 324 VCs and 262 LCs, poll panel said. Polling was conducted in 550 VCs and 381 LCs on 27 August. PTI

**Sushant case:** The Congress on Sunday questioned the 'alacrity' exhibited by the Centre in ordering a CBI probe in Sushant Singh Rajput case and sought investigation into alleged BJP links of Sandeep Singh, producer of a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is under the scanner in a related drugs case. PTI

## UP govt issues Unlock 4 guidelines; schools, colleges to remain closed till 30 Sept

**PTI**  
LUCKNOW, 30 AUGUST

All schools, colleges and educational institutes in Uttar Pradesh will remain closed till September 30, the state government said on Sunday, a day after the Union home ministry issued the Unlock 4 guidelines.

Chief Secretary RK Tiwari said online and distant learning will be encouraged.

Metro trains will be allowed to resume from September 7 in a phased manner, an official order said. For this, the standard operating procedure will be issued separately.

Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatre, auditorium and similar places will remain closed. However, open-air theatres will be allowed to open from September 21.

The coronavirus induced country-wide lockdown was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from March 25 and it was extended in phases till May 31.

The Unlock process of the

# AP govt goes ahead with guest house plan

Activists say building at Buddhist site will amount to 'archeological vandalism'

**ANINDITA CHOWDHURY**  
HYDERABAD, 30 AUGUST

**A**ndhra Pradesh government's decision to build a state guest house at a Buddhist archeological site in Visakhapatnam as a part of its plans to shift the executive capital to the port city, is facing severe opposition from activists and Buddhist organisations.

On 27 August the state government issued an order allotting 30 acres to Kapulaupada village in Bheemunipatnam for the construction of a state guest house despite a contempt plea in the High Court.

This is not the first time such an attempt has been made. During the tenure of N Chandrababu Naidu the state government had attempted to allot the land for building a Film Nagar Cultural Centre which was opposed by the activists and successfully thwarted.

Activists have pointed out that the Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex was once a flourishing Himalayan Buddhist complex, some 2000 years ago. It is situated on a hill near Bheemunipatnam about 15 km from Vizag and overlooks

the sea. This monastery was a major religious and educational centre that traded with several nations including the Romans.

According to studies archeological remains are contained across several hills in the area and there are over 120 micro sites around Thotlakonda. The construction site of the guest house is on a hill opposite to the Thotlakonda complex.

Andhra Pradesh tourism minister Avanthi Srinivas has tried to sidestep the row, pointing out that the new state guest house will not be built at the Thotlakonda site or beside it but opposite to it.

The administration also said the land had been previously allotted to the Greyhounds, an elite anti-naxal force.

However, dismissing the argument those opposing the move point out that the construction site is part of the total extent of 3,300 acres of the Thotlakonda and Bavikonda Buddhist Complex.

The archeological remains are contained across several hills in the area and there are over 120 micro sites around Thotlakonda and with the construction of the guest-

house a part of history is in danger of being completely wiped out.

As Human Rights Forum, a civil society organisation pointed out the recently issued government order violated the AP Ancient and Historical Monuments, Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960 and flouts a High Court directive of 2016 that barred any kind of construction within this area. According to HRF any construction in this notified area will amount to 'archeological vandalism.'

Retired IAS officer EAS Sarma opposed and in a letter to chief secretary Nilam Sahney he pointed out that revenue authorities have irregularly subdivided the old survey number 314 and allotted new numbers to circumvent the restrictions imposed in a previous government order issued in 1978 and then sur-

reptitiously allotted plots to both private and public agencies including the Greyhounds. "Over the years, successive governments have altered and disturbed the site even handing over 300 acres to Greyhounds. These patent irregularities were facilitated by fudging of land records and

skullduggery by revenue officials," said Human Rights Forum.

**Shashi Tharoor supports Bharat Ratna for PV**

Former Union minister and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor supported the demand for Bharat Ratna for former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao while describing him as an "underappreciated leader."

He spoke on a webinar on "Indian Foreign Policy and PV

Narasimha Rao" organised by the Telangana Congress on the occasion of centenary

celebrations of the leader who was also the first chief m

The PV Narasimha Rao government was successful in maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries through reasonable, conciliatory and accommodative approach while the present BJP dispensation has "failed" in the area, Tharoor said on Sunday.

Delivering a talk on "India's Foreign Policy - Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao", organised by the Congress' Telangana unit, he also described the late leader as a 'true jewel of India' and pitched for conferring Bharat Ratna posthumously on him.

**Assam favours ST status to six indigenous communities**

GUWAHATI, 30 AUGUST

Assam government remains committed for granting ST status to the six indigenous communities of the State namely Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom, Chutia, Matak, Moran & Tea tribes and it would send the report made by the group of ministers (GoM), which was constituted for preparing necessary modalities, to the Centre very soon.

As chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, while meeting the delegations of Moran community, Bengali Yuva Chatra federation and Gorkha students' union in the city yesterday, assured his all possible supports for the cause. He also added that the proposed Moran autonomous council would start functioning within a short period of time.

Earlier, Sonowal met State Governor professor Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Bhawan and discussed on several issues including the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the state, which has already crossed one lakh corona positive cases.

Assam recorded 2427 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours. Presently it has 20992 active cases and 289 casualties till Sunday. SNS

## Depressed over lack of job, cancellation of PSC list, Kerala youth kills self

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
30 AUGUST

KPSC to implement the stubborn decisions of the chief minister. "If the validity of the ranklist was extended by a few months, many youngsters, including Anu, would have got jobs," he said.

BJP state president K Sudrendran claimed only contract, consultancy and backdoor appointments had been taking place in Kerala in the last four years.

BJP Yuva Morcha workers staged a protest march at PSC headquarters at Patton here. Youth Congress, KSU, Youth League and ABVP workers protested in front of the secretariat blaming the government for the youth committing suicide. As the protesters tried to enter the secretariat, the police used water canon, injuring a few.

Meanwhile, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday announced a 100-day action plan for mitigating the sufferings by the people due to the pandemic.

He announced a hike of Rs 100 in social security pensions per month and distribution of free food kits for ration card holders for four more months.

Kerala has been recording a steady increase in the number of cases for the past several days with the tally reaching 71,700 and the death toll rising to 280 as of Saturday.

## TMC snatching democratic rights of Opp parties: Arjun Singh

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 30 AUGUST

at that place today to protest the incident later large contingent of police dispersed the

BJP supporters from that area. "Police should know this government would use them only for upcoming six months.

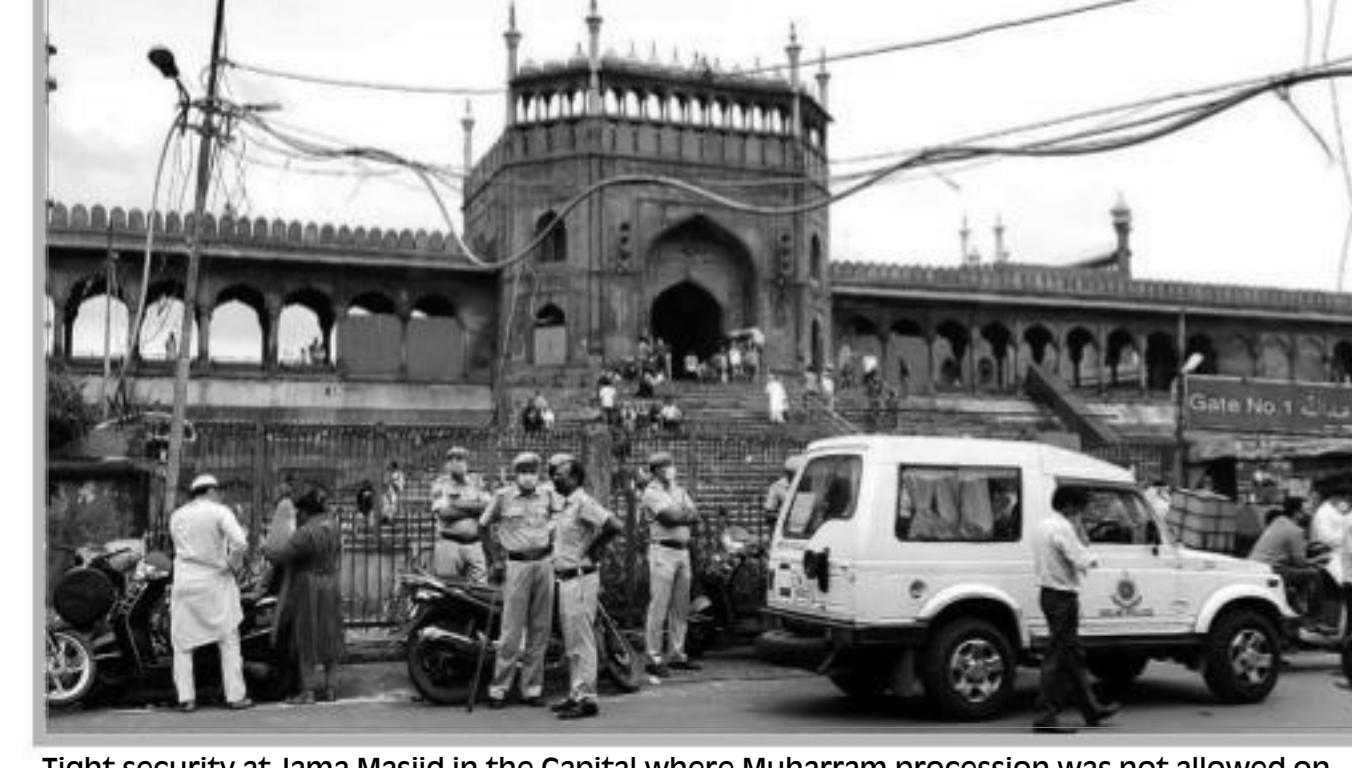
Then people of Bengal would oust this autocratic ruler from the state in the next Assembly poll. Police officers should know this government would be immersed like a Durga idol so they should not behave like a paid agent," he said.

Singh said BJP is fighting for the rights of the students, farmers, factory workers, women and economic weaker section of people of Bengal.

"We would save our strength to fight for rights in democracy. Banerjee killed the democracy here so wrath of people will turn into a huge movement against this oppressive government. Everybody is keeping their patience intact for this fight. People are ready to bid adieu to TMC," he said.

Ghosh was allegedly forced to cancel his programme there following the attack on his stage at that area by a group of miscreants allegedly backed by TMC. Singh and BJP supporters sat on demonstration

### EAGLE EYE



Tight security at Jama Masjid in the Capital where Muharram procession was not allowed on Sunday in view of the pandemic.

## Gold smuggling: Customs official removed from probe team

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
30 AUGUST

It has been reported that Customs Assistant Commissioner N S Dev, who is a member of the investigation team probing the Thiruvananthapuram gold smuggling case, has been removed from the probe team.

The decision to remove Dev from the probe team has been taken in the wake of Swapna's statement given to the media.

Swapna Suresh's statement against Anil Nambiar, the coordinating editor of Janam TV, was published through the media the other day.

Janam TV is considered as a pro-BJP channel. The higher officials of the Customs department assume that it is with political intentions a particular part of the statement of Swapna was leaked.

The central government had also directed to identify those who were responsible for leaking the statement, it is learnt.

Following this, SN Dev was removed from the team. Meanwhile, people in the state are concerned about the slow pace of the probe is being conducted and nothing concrete coming out from the probe.

## Ch'garh CM opts for self-isolation after his aides test Covid-19 +ve

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
RAIPUR, 30 AUGUST

on Sunday.

The pandemic has taken an upswing mode in the state with several high-ranking officials and politicians being tested Corona positive. Principal secretary to Governor Sonmani Bora along with Bilaspur district collector and Superintendent of Police have tested positive. Congress MLA from Bemetara Ashish Chhabra was also found infected with the virus on Sunday. Home minister Tamra Dhawaj Sahu's six aides, including his 4 PSOs, have also tested positive.

With over 1,513 new cases, until this afternoon, the total number of infected people

in the state stands at 28,764. However, the death toll due to the pandemic is 262. The number of active corona cases stands at a staggering 12,666 whereas 15,518 have already been cured and discharged. The state has been witnessing a daily spike of more than 1,000 cases for a week now with several containment zones sprung up across the Chhattisgarh.

The state government has allowed inter-state operation of buses and other passenger vehicles, but has made it mandatory for the bus operators to follow the guidelines issued by the Transport Commissioner.

## PIL in SC for removal of 'anomalies' in adoption and guardianship

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking removal of anomalies in the grounds of adoption and guardianship and making them uniform for all citizens has been filed in the Supreme Court.

The plea filed by advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay has also sought directions to declare that the discriminatory grounds of adoption and guardianship are violative of Articles 14, 15, 21 of the Constitution and to frame uniform guidelines for adoption and guardianship for all citizens.

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution talks about all citizens' equality before the law. Article 15 prohibits discrimination of Indians on basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and Article 21 says no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

The PIL, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, contended that the current practice of adoption is blatantly discriminatory as Hindus have a codified law of adoption but Muslims, Christians and Parsis do not have it.

It also sought directions to the Law Commission to prepare a report on 'Uniform Grounds of Adoption & Guardianship' within three months, while considering the best practices of laws and international conventions.

The PIL stated that adoption and guardianship is one of the most important and crucial aspects of human life but even after 73 years of independence, India does not have a gender-neutral and religion-neutral law of adoption and guardianship for all citizens.

"Adopted child has the right to inherit property under the Hindu law but not under the Muslim, Christian and Parsi law. Adopted child by the Hindus can become a legal heir whereas adopted child by Christians, Muslim, Parsis cannot," the plea said.

"Adopted child by Hindus turn equivalent to a biological

child of adoptive parents whereas it's just the opposite in Muslims, Christians and Parsis. Adoptive parents can be the natural guardian of the adopted son and his wife under Hindu Law but not in Muslim, Christian and Parsi Law," the plea said.

The petition said in the case of Shias Muslims, the mother is entitled to the custody of a boy until the age of two years and girl until she attains seven years of age if parents are separated.

Referring to Christians, the plea said that they have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

Christians can take a child under the said Act only for foster care. Once a child under foster care becomes major, he is free to break away all his relations and also he does not have the legal right of inheritance, it said.

## Delhi reports 2,024 new cases...

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Delhi's Covid recovery rate came down to 88.91 per cent from yesterday's 89.23 per cent.

According to the health bulletin, 22 deaths were recorded in the city due to Covid-19 today that led to the rise of the cumulative total of such fatalities to 4,426. The city had recorded 15 Covid fatalities yesterday and 20 on Friday. The national capital was today reported to have 1,47,93 active coronavirus cases and the number of hospitalised Covid patients numbered 5,242. There were 7,527 Covid

patients who were getting treatment under home isolation, the health bulletin said. The number of containment zones or red zones rose to 820 in the city, the bulletin added. Delhi has recorded an increase in the number of new Covid cases over the last several days, which experts attribute to easing of lockdown curbs, complacency among people and return of migrants workers from neighbouring states to the national capital. The rise in the number of Covid cases has led to a sharp escalation in the demand for beds in hospitals in the city, according to government data.

patients who were getting treatment under home isolation, the health bulletin said. The number of containment zones or red zones rose to 820 in the city, the bulletin added. Delhi has recorded an increase in the number of new Covid cases over the last several days, which experts attribute to easing of lockdown curbs, complacency among people and return of migrants workers from neighbouring states to the national capital. The rise in the number of Covid cases has led to a sharp escalation in the demand for beds in hospitals in the city, according to government data.

## TENDER



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Notice Inviting e-Tenders

The General Manager (Civil), RITES Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites on behalf of M/s. MCL, Samalswari OCP Area, percentage rate bids on two packet system for the following work(s): NIT No. RITES/BBSR/MCL/Y-CURVE SHIFTING/S & T/OT-5/2020, Dated: 31.08.2020 Name of Work: "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking System along with all the outdoor gears, cables etc. for Provision of New Electronic Interlocking arrangement at New BOCM Cabin-3 & BOCM Cabin-4 of BOCM SIDING in between LAJKURA and BRAJRAJNAGAR Station in connection with shifting of "Y" curve M/s. MCL". Estimated cost : Rs. 24,93,62,432.00, Earnest Money : Rs. 24,93,62,400.00, Period of completion : 15 (Fifteen) months, Last time and date of submission of bid: 11.00 Hrs (IST) of 24.09.2020. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hoisted online only.



*Not only did her (Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal) demand for the CBI investigation into the alleged scholarship scam expose her total lack of trust in the highly competent and professional police force and administration of the state, it was also against India's legal and judicial principles...*

CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH  
PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2020

05

## THUMBNAILS



A bag vendor wearing a facemask, waits for customers in a market in New Delhi on Sunday. AFP

**Free transportation:** Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel has directed all district collectors to arrange free transportation for students appearing for IIT-JEE and NEET exams to their examination centers. District Collectors have also been told to appoint District Nodal Officers who will coordinate with RTO and DTO in this regard.

**Valour wall:** A 'valour wall' depicting the names of gallantry award-winning CRPF officers has been inaugurated at the Force's training academy in Gurugram, officials said on Sunday. The bravery wall with the names of 138 officers, including five who got the awards posthumously, was inaugurated by CRPF Director General A P Maheshwari on Saturday.

"It's a trick to make us believe that we have nothing to worry about from Corona

**Pranab still in deep coma:** Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to be in deep coma but is haemodynamically stable, the hospital treating him said on Sunday.

**'J&K DySP was tasked by Pak to establish contact in MEA'**



NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

Suspended Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Devender Singh, who has been charged by the NIA for providing support to banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, was tasked by his Pakistani handler with establishing a "contact" in the Ministry of External Affairs for carrying out espionage activities.

According to the chargesheet of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed before a special court in Jammu, Singh, who was posted in the sensitive anti-hijacking unit of Jammu and Kashmir police, had been in constant touch with his handlers in the Pakistan High Commission who have since been repatriated to Islamabad.

The 3,064-page charge-sheet, filed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code against Singh and five others, gave a graphical description of the police officer's involvement in providing shelter to the terrorists of the banned group.

# Corona & floods: Bihar villagers reluctant to join poll process

Panicky masses are not ready to come out of their homes fearing they might get infected

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, 30 AUGUST

**E**nough as the Election Commission has moved ahead to conduct Assembly elections in Bihar with the Supreme Court rejecting the petition seeking deferral of the polls on the grounds of "Covid-19 and floods", the common voters are not enthusiastic to join the poll process.

What have kept them in low spirits are the month-long floods leaving them homeless and the surging Covid-19 cases proving deadlier to them. Their own struggle for survival has, thus, very obviously ended their interest in the poll process. The Assembly elections in the state are scheduled for October/November this year.

The common worry among the voters right now is that who will take care of them when they get infected with the virus while joining the poll process.

Even though the state government is slowly ending restrictions and allowing plying of buses and reopening of shopping malls and business establishments, the panicky masses are just not ready to come out of their homes.

"It's a trick to make us believe that we have nothing to worry about from Corona

## Some leaders feel Cong far from hitting top gear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

Amid a turmoil within the Congress, some leaders feel the party is far from hitting top gear in preparing for the Bihar Assembly polls, but senior party functionaries involved in strategising for the elections are confident of sealing an alliance with "like-minded parties" soon and putting up a good show.

The Assembly elections in Bihar are likely to be held on time in October-November despite demands by some political parties for postponing the polls in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

and so we should fearlessly walk up to the polling stations and cast the votes but are we idiots? Who will take care of us and our family if they get infected with the virus where all beds in government hospitals are going full while we don't have the capability to get admitted to the private hospitals since they are charging too much," asked SK Sharma, a Patna businessman.

He wondered how the Election Commission is trying to conduct elections at the time of pandemic when the people's lives are in danger.

Another person Pankaj Srivastava, a resident of Purulia, said nothing could be more important than saving a person's life.

"It was this reason which prompted the Prime Minister to enforce nationwide lockdown and suspend plying of buses, trains and flights.

These elections are being seen as the next big political fight between the BJP-led NDA and a combined Opposition force.

While the Congress as such is not in a position to lead the opposition alliance in Bihar with its ally RJD having a relatively much larger base, some within the party feel its electoral and even seat-bargaining prospects may take a hit due to the ongoing turmoil over the central leadership and other organisational issues raised by a group of leaders.

The appointed party office bearers, however, asserted that the controversy surrounding the letter written by 23 leaders to party chief Sonia Gandhi seeking organisational changes will in no way impact the party's preparations for the Bihar polls.

Also, all parties need to evolve novel campaign strategies for an election to be held under the coronavirus pandemic protocols.

Various political equations are also changing fast with all eyes glued to whether Nitish Kumar, who has been at the helm for about 15 years barring a brief period when Jitendra Ram Manjhi replaced him, will hold his ground or get challenged by the opposition 'grand alliance'.

Bihar is still under lockdown till 6 September which means Corona situation is still serious. We fail to understand why the poll panel wants us to reach the police stations and cast votes at this critical time? Are elections more important than people's lives?" asked Srivastava.

The intensity of the Covid-19 in the state is underlined from the fact that it has claimed 688 lives and infected more than 1.35 lakh people so far. What is alarming is that of the total deaths reported in the past five months, 376 alone have been reported only this month. Similarly, of the total cases of Corona infection, 80,505 have been reported in the past 30 days, indicating the gravity of the situation.

The villagers are also shocked at the way "floods" are being described as no ground for postponing elections while the situation on the ground remains very horrible.

The very own report of the Disaster Management Department, Government of Bihar, states that floods have affected 83.62 lakh population settled in 1,333 panchayats across 16 districts out of Bihar's total 38.

That means half of the state has been seriously battling flood situations with the displaced villagers somehow living along the river embankments, railway lines, roads or other higher places but the authorities want them to rush to the polling booths without waiting for the time to get the situation become normal.

Angry flood victims have been blocking roads, shouting slogans and assaulting the officials over lack of relief. At present, Sitarham, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, east Champaran, Saran and Gopalganj are in the grip of floods.

## Delimitation panel to visit 4 N-E states, J&K with broad framework

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

The delimitation panel will redraw the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the four north-eastern states and work on increasing the Assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act

ern states and Jammu and Kashmir was set up in March.

It is headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjan Desai (retired). Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra is the representative of the Election Commission in the delimitation panel while state election commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir and the four states are its ex-officio members.

In May, the Lok Sabha Speaker had nominated 15 MPs from Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as "associate members" of the Delimitation Commission to meet locals. Once the framework is drawn, it would also interact with associate members to seek their views and inputs," said an official aware of the developments.

The delimitation panel will redraw the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the four north-eastern states and work on increasing the assembly seats of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

The Delimitation Commission for the four north-east-

many districts till Tuesday.

Since Sunday morning, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Banaskantha, Vadodara, Botad, Ahmedabad and some other districts received heavy showers, disrupting normal life and causing overflowing of several rivers and lakes.

In the afternoon, the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Narmada district received over 10 lakh cusec (cubic foot per second) of water due to heavy rainfall in its catchment areas.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and state agencies were involved in the rescue operations in Bharuch, they said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy showers at isolated places in

## Three LeT militants, JCO & ASI killed in J&K encounter



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 30 AUGUST

A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the Army was martyred in unprovoked shelling by Pakistani troops in the Nowshera Sector of Rajouri in Jammu and a police officer laid his life in an encounter with terrorists in Srinagar on Sunday.

Three terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in the overnight encounter at Panthachowk in the outskirts of Srinagar.

The martyred JCO has been identified Naib Subedar Rajiv Singh, who was critically wounded during exchange of fire with Pakistani troops and later succumbed in the hospital.

The police officer, who lost his life in Srinagar, has been identified as Assistant Sub-Inspector Babu Ram who was deputed in the special operation group (SOG) of the police that was leading the encounter with terrorists.

The gun battle with terrorists broke out last night when motorbike borne terrorists opened fire at a check post of the CRPF in Panthachowk and also tried to snatch weapons of the cops. Security forces chased the terrorists and cornered them a short distance away. Among the killed terrorists was a commander of the LeT who was involved in attacks at security forces and harassment of civilians, DGP Dilbag Singh said.

"During initial shootout we

## Flooding in Maha's Vidarbha after rains, over 18,000 shifted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAGPUR, 30 AUGUST

More than 18,000 people were evacuated after torrential rains in the last two days triggered flooding at several places in Nagpur and some other districts in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday.

Apart from Nagpur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gondia districts in east Vidarbha bore the brunt of the rain fury on Friday and Saturday, they said.

Till Sunday evening, as many as 18,261 people were evacuated from 148 affected villages in these five districts, the Nagpur divisional commissioner office said.

According to officials, in Nagpur district, Mouda, Kamptee, Parseoni and Kuhi were the worst affected tehsils, and the administration had to call in the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Army to rescue people at some places.

Rajasthan received heavy rainfall in the past 24 hours, prompting authorities to open all 16 gates of the Mahi Dam

in Banswara district.

Aspur in Dungarpur recorded the maximum 36 cm rainfall.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall was recorded in Udaipur, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Jhalawar, Banswara, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Jaisalmber, and Bikaner districts, the Meteorological Department said.

Sabla recorded 20 cm rain, followed by 19 cm each in Nithuwa and Jhalawar, 15 cm in Lokaria of Banswara, 14 cm each in Bhunga and Jagpu, 13 cm in Danpur, 12 cm each in Banswara and Ganeshpur in Dungarpur, 11 cm each in Ghatol of Banswara, Manoharhanta of Jhalawar, Kotda of Udaipur, Dharav

of Pratapgarh, Gangadhar of Jhalawar and Salumbar of Udaipur.

Gujarat received heavy rainfall on Sunday created a flood-like situation in many areas including Bharuch, where over 2,000 people from inundated areas along the Narmada river were evacuated following release of water from the Sardar Sarovar dam, officials said.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and state agencies were involved in the rescue operations in Bharuch, they said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy showers at isolated places in

## We are not anyone's puppets: Abdullah's retort to Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

mir and will work for them," he told from Srinagar.

In response to a question on cross-border terrorism, Abdullah said, "I would urge Pakistan to stop sending armed men into Kashmir. We want an end to the bloodshed in our state. All political parties in Jammu and Kashmir are committed to fight for our rights peacefully, including for what was unconstitutionally snatched away from us on August 5 last year".

"Our people are being killed on both sides of the Line of Control every time there are ceasefire violations. For God's sake bring a halt to that," he said.

In a declaration issued on August 22, six prominent mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir but now suddenly they like us", the former chief minister said when asked about Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's statement that the declaration issued by the NC, PDP, Congress and three other parties was "not an ordinary occurrence but an important development".

"Let me make it clear that we are not anyone's puppets, neither New Delhi's nor of anyone across the border. We are answerable to the people of Jammu and Kash-



Children interact while wearing face masks, in the Capital on Sunday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

## Muharram procession taken out in Leh, banned in Kashmir Valley

SNS & PTI

JAMMU, SRINAGAR, 30 AUGUST

Youm-e-Ashura was observed on Sunday with religious fervour in Leh where the Muharram procession was taken out with strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs put in place by the administration.

Youn-e-Ashura is observed to pay tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad and his companions for their ultimate sacrifice in Karbala.

The procession of 10th Moharram Ashura reciting Nohas started from Jama Masjid Chhatey-Rangthak passing through Leh main Bazar and culminated at Imam Bargha



appealed to people to join prayers for early eradication of Covid-19 from the world.

The district administration in Leh made elaborate arrangements to ensure strict implementation of measures

such as sanitization of places, maintaining social distancing, wearing of face masks, and other required measures.

**Curbs in Srinagar, Budgam:** Authorities in Kashmir imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar and Budgam districts on Sunday to prevent people from taking out Muharram processions to mark the last day of the 10-day mourning period, officials said.

They said restrictions on the movement and assembly of people under Section 144 CrPC have been imposed in Lal Chowk and Zadibal

areas. Shops and other business establishments in the areas where restrictions were in place, were shut, while public transport was off the roads, they said, adding however, few private vehicles were plying.

Security forces have been deployed in strength in other areas of the Valley to prevent any untoward incident.

Restrictions were imposed to maintain law and order in these areas. The traditional procession, to mark the eighth day of the 10-day mourning, used to pass through these areas, but have been banned since militancy in 1990 as authorities maintain that the gathering has been used for propagating separatist politics.

## Special prayers at Vaishnodevi shrine to celebrate 35th foundation day of Board

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 30 AUGUST

Special prayers were held on Sunday at the Vaishnodevi shrine to celebrate the 35th foundation day of the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

Cave shrine of Vaishnodevi is the biggest pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir where pilgrims from other states of the country and abroad visit every year. The Board was constituted in 1986 by the then Governor Jagmohan who considerably improved

## Succession in Japan

The resignation of Shinzo Abe from the Prime Ministership of Japan comes at a time when the nation is at the crossroads in more senses than one, and places his successor in a piquant situation given that he (or she) will have to steer the ship of state through turbulent waters for a little more than a year before the ruling Liberal Democratic Party again elects a leader and prepares possibly for another general election. That the country faced multiple challenges would have been best known to Mr Abe, by some measure Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister. In accepting realistically and gracefully that the condition of his health did not permit him the strength to confront these, he has set an example other similarly placed leaders would do well to emulate. Mr Abe's administration has faced some criticism for its handling, described as both contradictory and sluggish, of the coronavirus epidemic. The issue of the Olympic Games, postponed from this summer because of the virus outbreak, is not entirely resolved. Thus, his successor, who for a variety of reasons will in effect be a caretaker, will have a lot on the plate, and not much time to address pressing domestic and international challenges.

While ties with China, historically fragile, had been warming under Mr Abe's watch, a fact acknowledged by Beijing as news of his resignation came out, things have changed in recent months because the United States, a traditional ally, has adopted a confrontationist posture. His successor will therefore have to negotiate a tricky path, without the rapport that Mr Abe had developed with China's leaders to fall back on. In addition, the Japanese economy had slipped into recession even before the virus outbreak, and things have gone steadily downhill since March. Notwithstanding the challenges, several candidates have thrown their hat into the ring for the election of a new Prime Minister, slated to take place in a fortnight. Of these, the LDP's policy chief and former foreign minister, Fumio Kishida, is considered by many to be Mr Abe's choice. But there are other contenders such as former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba, chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and another former foreign minister, Taro Kano.

From an Indian perspective, Mr. Abe's departure may impact the timing of the Prime Minister-level annual summits between the two countries. The last summit was held in 2018, and the 2019 meeting slated to be held in Guwahati had to be put off because of the protests against the citizenship legislation. There had been reports that a virtual summit would take place early next month, but the resignation may cast a shadow on these plans. The change in guard in Tokyo will also cause concern to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was said to have established a warm rapport with Mr Abe and who now confronts a future where he may lose another "good friend" in distant Washington.

## Settlement in Nepal

With Nepal's tallest Communist leaders, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and party co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda, having appeared to have settled their differences, peace at least for now appears to have returned to the politics in the Himalayan nation. The two - who had merged the Communist groupings they each headed to form the Nepal Communist Party in 2018 - had been locked in a bitter battle over the past few months, triggered by what Prachanda perceived as a betrayal of the unity deal under which one would rule the country and the other would manage the party. What had started as a movement to get Oli to give up either his Prime Ministership or his position as co-chair of the united party soon degenerated, in the face of his intransigence, into a drive to get him to leave both positions.

As the Prime Minister hummed and hawed, skipped vital meetings, launched behind-the-scenes negotiations and reportedly got even the Chinese embassy in Kathmandu to intercede on his behalf, things seemed to get murkier by the day. Finally, the two leaders appointed a six-member task force to find a way out of the mess and this group submitted a report a few days ago. Under the terms of settlement now agreed upon, Oli will lead the government for the full term while Prachanda will play an "expanded" role as co-chair of the NCP. Observers have been quick to point out that this is a return to the basics of the earlier agreement between the two and gives some face to both.

While a deal appears to have been reached, and may even hold, the bitterness of the past few months will not go away in a hurry. For by last month, the rift had widened to the extent that many believed the party was heading for a split. Many of the party's second-rung and youth leaders barely spoke to each other.

The task force report clearly blamed the two leaders for the crisis, noting that "recurring problems in the relations between two chairs had negatively affected the activities of the party and the government." But while Oli and Prachanda are the senior-most leaders in the Communist pantheon, other senior leaders such as Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jwala Nath Khanal will have to be convinced there is something for them in the new arrangement and may have to be placated with some posts for their followers. But even Nepal's Communist factions agree that the compromise hammered out between Oli and Prachanda does not address core concerns that members of the two groups have.

Primary among these is the fact that while they both claim Communist pedigree, their ideological positions are some distance apart. But for now, power and the mechanics of sharing it have acted as a glue and Nepal must hope its government will rule without distractions.

# Towards Minimalism

Post-Covid, many new normals will emerge both in our personal and domestic spheres as well as in public domains. All fields of life are witnessing sea changes, but the caveman inside us will begin to explore new meanings and benefits of isolationism and minimalism



*"Have nothing in your house  
That you do not know  
to be useful,  
Or believe to be beautiful"*

- William Morris.

The Coronavirus pandemic and consequent lockdown have put all of us into a 'new normal' mode of life. During lockdown or home quarantine, even the most prodigal spendthrifts among us have begun to learn or at least show interest in the benefits of minimalism in order to keep safe and secure in an alarming atmosphere of disease, death, deprivation and utter helplessness. As venturing outdoors has become a risky option, we have had to abstain from certain daily activities like sweating it out in gyms, running after a moving bus in office hours, jostling with other passengers, indulging in adda sessions, visiting shopping malls and eating out at newly launched upmarket eateries.

All these things have become a thing of the past. Corona and lockdown have made us think of how life was centuries ago in a cave with a partner and not much more. Many of us have begun to feel that our "caveman" mentality is now dominating our consumerist selves and superfluities; unnecessary attachments and associations have taken a backseat. We have, maybe momentarily, bid farewell to gyms and work-out centres and are making do with freehand exercises or asanas, sitting on the modest mat at home. Instead of sumptuous lunches or dinners at expensive hotels or restaurants, we are now satisfied with minus-frills recipes at home that are, however, made more hygienically.

Post-Covid, many new normals will emerge both in our personal and domestic spheres as well as in public domains. All fields of life are witnessing sea changes, but the caveman inside us will begin to explore new meanings and benefits of isolationism and minimalism.

More and more people across the globe are reported to have veered towards the minimalist path, consuming less as the world takes a giant pause as part of virus prevention measures. Hale Acun Aydin, founder of "The Turkish Way is Minimalism" movement says: "It doesn't matter how many shoes we have now, we're only using one pair to go to the supermarket." She feels that home quarantine and lockdown measures have made peo-

ple conscious of the necessity and benefits of minimalism. "During our time at home, we have started to notice more what items need to be repaired, or what things are missing or, more importantly, what we have more of than we really need." Her words clearly highlight the minimalist motto: "Less is more."

Joshua Becker, the author of the book, "The More of Less: Finding the Life You Want Under Everything You Own", has, however, confessed that there has not been any marked increase in the USA in people's awareness or interest about minimalistic living. Becker feels that once the heightened anxiety about a post-Covid future subsides, people will begin to think more

earnestly about living life minimalistically. According to Becker, "minimalism is the intentional promotion of the things we most value and the removal of anything that distracts us from it." Echoing Becker's suggestions, Hale Aydin said that being a minimalist had brought her greater awareness about nature and climate. She went as far as to launch a campaign to reduce

the use of paper cups at cafes. In the year since her crusade began with the hashtag, "#mycoffeeinthermos", more than 200 coffee shops in Turkey started giving consumers discounts when they scrapped paper cups in favour of their own thermos flasks.

But the allure or pull of minimalist living is not restricted to people of any age or any clime. If the American Joshua Becker has a website for promoting minimalist living, the passion for going for less has attracted many Indians. Take, for instance, the case of Nisha Bhimaia. After drudging it out in the corporate world for a few years, she realized that this life was not meant for her. Having travelled far from her family farm in Kodagu, she settled for a covetable job in Bengaluru. Yet, over time, the wasteful ways of an urban lifestyle became all too apparent while the allure of a minimalist way of life pulled harder. "Everything was sustainable when I was growing up. Not even the sewage was waste. It was directed under-

ground without treatment. The food waste went to farm animals or was converted to fertilizer. We followed a certain cycle of life. Only when I came to Bengaluru, I realised how much "waste" is wasted. That irked me," said 46-year-old Nisha to The Better India (TBI). Thus, a decade ago, she decided to leave her corporate job and made a switch that would give her the best of both worlds - the comforts of urban life and the sustainable, circular nature of rural life. She is today a lifestyle coach, counsellor and entrepreneur. Settled in Bengaluru, she conducts gardening, composting and other workshops for students, teens and adults, giving lessons about the essence of minimalism and zero-waste living. As Covid-19 lockdown has restricted our choices and movement, sustainable and minimalist living has become handy for many people like Nisha who completed her 10-year journey of minimalism this April. But a minimalist lifestyle is neither a post-Covid phenomenon nor a modern trend. The messages propagated by the best minimalist blogs of 2020 like "Unfancy", "Be More with Less", "Slow Your Home", "Exile Lifestyle", and "Smart Living 365" echo the philosophy of ancient sages and saints, thinkers and religious preachers who advised people to reduce everything in their lives, especially possessions, to only the things they really love and need.

The ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes (born in around 400 B.C.) famously lived inside a ceramic pot. He saw poverty as a virtue and chose a lifestyle as a way of criticising the values of a corrupt and confused society. Ever since the industrial revolution, the rise of the middle classes in developed countries has led to excess consumption. This has left many of us with too many belongings to manage - making life more complicated, tiring and stressful. This has also led to the huge amount of waste left for the planet to deal with.

American writer Henry David Thoreau (1812-1862) left his urban home to live the life of a recluse in the woods. He nar-

rated his experience in the book Walden (1854). The first chapter of the book - with the apt title "Economy" - begins thus: "When I wrote the following pages, or rather the bulk of them, I lived alone, in the woods, a mile from any neighbour, in a house which I had built myself, on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts, and earned the living by the labour of my hands only. I lived there for two years and two months..." Thoreau realised through observation and experience before moving to Walden Pond that fortune can be a burden. He pitied the young people who inherited lands, barns, cattle and tools. "Better if they had been born in the open pasture and suckled by a wolf", he wrote, "that they might have seen with clearer eyes what field they were called to labour in".

In the woods, Thoreau learned to walk in the dark at night, and bathed in the lake every morning - "a religious experience." He wrote, read, baked bread, planted beans, talked to animals and marvelled at the majesty of the trees. Although Thoreau was criticised for many reasons, his influence upon today's minimalist gurus and practitioners is immense and Walden, the story of Thoreau's experiment, is the prototypical guide to the simple life, even if it is written by an imperfect man.

The Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown have made a strong push for a simple lifestyle amid an atmosphere of alarming recession, foreclosures, joblessness, and underemployment. The value of a simple and decluttered life is gradually dawning upon many of us, a life devoid of wastage and superfluities just the way Thoreau experimented and influenced others like Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King to follow.

The hapless condition of migrant workers, the hardship and deprivation suffered by them in the wake of the Covid lockdown, the gigantic scale of suffering experienced by poor people in West Bengal after the Amphan fury - have all pricked our conscience and made us think of scaling down the wasteful mode of life many of us were used to. How successfully man can survive this crisis will depend upon a number of factors, not the least of which is his capacity to live a life reduced to bare essentials as was shown in the past by some wise souls.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIAN VOICES

**'Blood thinners  
reduce deaths  
among Covid-19  
patients'**

This is the findings of the research team from the Mount Sinai Health System, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. The team had earlier published their study results involving 2,000 patients in May. Wednesday's report follows up with more patients who were treated more consistently.

According to CNN, the researchers had studied more than 4,300 patients, and it revealed those who died often had evidence of blood clots throughout their bodies even though many of them had no symptoms of the problem. "Compared to no anticoagulation, both prophylactic and therapeutic anticoagulation was associated with decreased mortality and intubation," the team wrote.

The team said that 60 percent of patients who were not given anticoagulants were discharged alive, 26 percent died in the hospital and 13 percent were still in the hospitals. Researchers said patients who received a drug to prevent clots, 75 percent were released alive, 22 percent died in the hospital and 3 percent were still hospitalized. Dr Valentin Fuster, the study leader said 60% of patients who were not given anticoagulants

**Vientiane Times**

were discharged alive, 26% of them died in the hospital and 13% were still in the hospital.

When patients got the drug prophylactically to prevent blood clots, 75% were released alive, 22% died in the hospital and 3% were still hospitalized during the study period. The researchers said the reduction in the risk of death was similar in patients who got anticoagulants either to prevent clots, or after they began showing evidence of clotting. CNN reported. Doctors have also learned that steroids, specifically dexamethasone, can also help patients recover better from coronavirus infections. Trials are under way to test blood-based therapies that deliver various types of antibodies to help patients fight off the infection, using plasma donated by people who have recovered from infections. In the absence of a slam-dunk treatment for the virus, many medical teams are taking a cocktail approach, giving their patients a combination of drugs to control the immune response, control the virus and to control blood clotting.

In the study, autopsies on some of the patients who died showed that 42 percent had blood clots. "They never had the clinical syndrome of a thrombotic disorder. It was silently causing damage," Fuster was quoted by CNN as saying. The doctors used several different anticoagulants and often more than one on each patient, so it is not possible to say which ones worked best. But Fuster said low molecular weight heparin and apixaban both showed positive effects. The researchers aimed to examine the link between anticoagulation with hospital outcomes and describe thromboembolic findings on patients' autopsies, according to News-Medical.

To arrive at the study findings, the team conducted a retrospective analysis to examine the link of anticoagulation with death, intubation, and significant bleeding. They analyzed the association of therapeutic versus prophylactic anticoagulation initiated within 48 hours from admission. The team included all patients who were treated for less than 48 hours after admission with an anticoagulant.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com**

## Helping the BJP

SIR, This refers to the well-analysed editorial 'Gandhi and son' (26 August). Despite two Lok Sabha defeats, the coterie-pumped stubbornness of the Gandhis verges on self-deception. They fear that once a non-Gandhi leader takes over, their clout in party will decline. So, ... even implied criticism of the Gandhi family is viewed as disaffection', as you have rightly said. It's the deep-seated thinking of the Gandhis, handed down from one generation to the next, that they believe the Congress and their family are synonymous. Except the sycophants, many dynamic, experienced and innovative leaders, both old and new, accepted the Gandhis as undisputed leaders until two back-to-back poll debacles. Even the double whammy of GST and demonetisation



could not be capitalised upon.

The Gandhis are piqued because their bumbling leadership has been challenged by party veterans. The dogged perseverance with the Gandhis by loyalists helps the BJP to run the government whimsically in the absence of a viable opponent. The Gandhis must look beyond sycophants to

understand who their friends are within the party. The faster they do so, the better it will be for Indian democracy.

Yours, etc., Sudipta Ghosh, Jangipur, 26 August.

### UNVIABLE

SIR, Your editorial 'Gandhi and Son' (26 August) is top class. The dynasty thinks Congress to be its fiefdom. It is the dynasty that is now carrying the outfit towards destruction. The Congress at present is facing a peculiar situation - neither is Sonia Gandhi the permanent chief, nor is the son interested, and they are not mentally prepared to hand over the baton to a leader outside the dynasty.

Dissent is almost being equated with rebellion. Lack of in-house coordination is taking the Congress away from the hope of its supporters that it can be a viable alternative to the BJP.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 27 August.

### HARASSED BY UBI

SIR, When almost all banks are trying to provide normal banking services to customers, some branches of these banks fail to do so. As a senior citizen, I am an account holder of UBI Birati Mahajati Branch, Kolkata. For the past three months, I have been unable to update my Recurring deposit passbook.

Every month, after waiting two hours in the queue, I am told that updation is not being done due to the lockdown. Not only that, the branch is reluctant to issue a new Savings Pass book. When I asked a higher lady official of the branch how long this would continue, she told me that it would until they got orders from the Head Office. But surely this cannot go on indefinitely. Customers have the right to know whether amounts debited from the savings account have been credited to the RD account. This service must be restored.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo, Kolkata, 26 August.

Putting aside their bickering,

its leaders must work collectively for the nation. Democracy will be weakened if a feeble Congress, the main opposition party with a pan-India presence.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 27 August.

### GANDHIS BRUISED

SIR, Apropos your editorial, 'Gandhi and Son' (26 August), the Congress, instead of reinventing itself after its second successive defeat in

the Lok Sabha elections, continues to hop from one crisis to another. The latest crisis that surfaced after a host of senior leaders wrote a letter to Ms Sonia Gandhi demanding a change in leadership has led to the alliance parties raising doubts on Congress's ability to take on the ruling BJP.

Significantly, the development comes ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Bihar in October this year, Covid-19 permitting. By

responding to such a letter in haste, it is the Gandhis, and not the signatories of the letter, who have emerged bruised amid an orchestrated chorus of support. Instead of preserving their hold on the party, the 23 leaders who signed the letter have ended up adding grist to the BJP's propaganda mill about the Nehru-Gandhi family.

Yours, etc. Ranganathan Sivakumar Chennai, 26 August.

## The end of Global Illusion



ANDREW SHENG

As the world rapidly transforms, are we in illusion or denial? Reality does not feel real whenever we switch on CNN to watch the reality show coming out of the White House. Those who hope for some normality will have to wait till November when the American voters decide. And those who believe in democracy will worry like New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman whether the 2020 US elections would have "a free and fair vote and the prospect of a peaceful transfer of power".

Former US deputy National Security Adviser Nadia Schadlow has penned an important article in ForeignAffairs.com on "The end of American illusion". She argues cogently that

US policymakers were "beguiled by a set of illusions about the world order, where they see the world as wishful thinking rather than reality." The set of illusions included (a) liberal (global) convergence where everyone played by the rules (b) Washington could depend on multilateral institutions to build "global governance" with the help of American leadership; (c) world interdependence and multilateralism would be underpinned by uncontested military superiority; and (d) US tech generosity and openness would accelerate the spread of liberal ideas.

Since Dr. Schadlow wrote her doctoral thesis on "War and the Art of Governance" (2017), she should have no illusions on how Americans kept on winning militarily but losing politi-

cally in almost every American military intervention abroad since 1776. Her conclusion was that the politicians and military were in institutional silos that never spelt out what US political objectives were in getting into war, violating Clausewitz's dictum that "war is merely the continuation of politics by other means."

The world is in serious trouble when it is run by idealists who are great on theory but have little understanding how the other 90 per cent really live. The Washington Consensus, promoted by US-led multilateral institutions in the 1980s, was long on economic and social ideals in a free market world, but shorter on outcomes, because many developing economies had considerable difficulty in creating institutions to safeguard

the rule of law and functioning markets. If the West took 500 years to build such institutions, is it realistic to assume that countries with very different legal and cultural traditions could build these institutions overnight?

Two excellent recent books show why if Americans finally see the end of American illusion, the Rest of the World is also having second thoughts. Bulgarian political scientist Ivan Krastev and New York law professor Stephen Holmes in their book, *The Light that Failed* (2019) compared and contrasted the rise of populism in Central and Eastern Europe with that in the US. They saw the rise of populism in Central Europe as a rejection of liberalism.

For the rest of the world, Americanisation, Europeanisation, democratisation, liberalisation, integration, globalisation etc. have always signified modernisation by imitation and integration by assimilation.

Because the Rest were imitators (I prefer to call them learners) of the West, they adopted either the means (copiers), the ends (converts) or appropriated the knowledge but still live their own way, the Chinese being the leading example. The Central Europeans who joined the European Union were initially true converts, but then a number realised that liberal ideas that welcomed immigration could overwhelm their own culture and beliefs. They moved from converts to right wing populists who are anti-immigrants, similar to British Tea Party members and many Trump supporters.

French philosopher and sociologist Bruno Latour observed that those who felt alienated in their own land have deep emotions that "rational" globalist liberals simply cannot fathom.

In his view, the issues over deregulation, inequality and climate change are essentially one and the same political issue. The idea that economic convergence would lead to political convergence is too simple because the world is multi-dimen-

sional and interactive. Global elites pushed for "deregulation" towards free markets, but they changed the rules that historically protected labour and jobs in favour of capital, namely the rich. Trump and Bolsonaro are still dismantling rules that protect the environment, so it is no surprise that inequality, climate warming and resource depletion worsened.

Latour posits that "the United States had two choices: by acknowledging the extent of climate change and the immensity of its responsibility, it could finally become realistic and lead the "free world away from the abyss, or it could plunge further into denial." Last week's Republican National Convention confirmed that the denial path has been taken, celebrating how wonderfully the country is performing, despite predicted deaths of nearly 310,000 by year end and the worst economic recession since the Second World War. Only the stock market, buoyed by unprecedented Fed quantitative easing, seems to be celebrating.

The flip side of the end of American illusion is the end of Global Illusion. If the leading uni-polar power is in denial as jobs disappear with the rapid advance of technology, aided by an escalating trade and tech war, then every country has to look for its own interests. As the logic goes, if you don't take care of your own citizens, how can you take care of the world?

The illusion is that the US will be able to print her way out of her growing fiscal and trade deficits. The historical reality is that unrestrained monetary creation will sooner or later come to grief. The Rest should have no illusions that America can print her way again to global leadership, without deep and painful reforms.

We should thank Mr. Trump for shedding us any illusions about American Exceptionalism.

The writer is a former central banker and financial regulator. The views are entirely his own.  
Special to ANN

### 100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

A year ago the Imperial Treasury appointed a University Grants Committee to inquire into the financial needs of university education in the United Kingdom and to advise the Government as to the application of any grants that might be made by Parliament towards meeting them. This was an acknowledgement on the part of the Home Government that provision for the aid of university education must be increased and consolidated, and it created a spirit of expectancy among those who are interested in the subject. The immediate response was the raising of the annual recurrent vote for universities and colleges in the United Kingdom to £1,000,000, with a special non-recurring vote of £500,000 for special grants-in-aid to enable various schools of learning to re-establish their work on a basis of unimpaired efficiency after the war. The University Grants Committee has recently been urging upon the Treasury the desirability of increasing the annual grant this year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in a sympathetic reply fully recognises the vital importance of the universities in the national life, but holds out no prospect of an increase in the grant for the present financial year. He promises, however, that, in preparing the Budget estimates for 1921-22, "subject to overriding necessities of national finance," an increase of the grant from £1,000,000 to £1,500,000 will be considered.

### NEWS ITEMS DIOCESE OF CHOTA NAGPUR

Preaching in St. John's Church, Calcutta, on Sunday evening, the Bishop of Chota Nagpur said that in the diocese to which he had been recently appointed their resources, owing to the unfavourable Exchange, had been cut down by a third. New churches were opening, new stations being put down. It was one of the most wonderful things in India to find in certain parts of the diocese village after village without a Hindu temple; in village after village, right in the middle of Heathen surroundings, were found families of Christians bearing their witness very steadfastly but needing constant help. Suddenly their resources were cut down by a third. Were they to cut down the work by a third? Was that to be the thank-offering to Almighty God for his recent great deliverance?

### "REGRETTABLE INCIDENT"

A Shanghai message from Seoul states that a regrettable incident marred the visit of the United States Congressmen. The latter, with the approval of the Japanese authorities, had accepted the invitation of the Korean Y.M.C.A. to meet returned students at the Y.M.C.A. headquarters. The police, however, changed the meeting place to a hotel but the Koreans refused to accept the change. Congressman Hersman, seeing the crowd outside the Y.M.C.A., entered and addressed the Koreans but without referring to politics. The police entered the Y.M.C.A., arrested the Koreans and ordered Mr. Hersman and the other foreigners to clear out. Mr. Hersman refused but as a result of the timely arrival of the American Consul, matters were satisfactorily settled and the Koreans were liberated.

### SHIA COLLEGE, LUCKNOW

The Shia Intermediate College, Lucknow, writes a correspondent, has been very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. G.R. Walters, as its Principal. Dr. Walters was educated at the London High School and Trinity College, Dublin. He has passed several law examinations and has taken his LL.D. He has taught at University College School, London, has been examiner in the City of London College, and the London High School, and has been a London City Lecturer under the patronage of Her Majesty the late Queen-Empress. For some years he was tutor with his late father Dr. Walters, the famous coach for Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He is an accomplished essayist. He joins the College early in September.

### ANGLO-INDIANS & DOMICILED EUROPEANS

The annual general meeting of the Simla Provincial Branch, Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association was held in Simla. It was very largely attended and a hearty welcome was extended to Lt.-Colonel H. Gidney, President-in-Chief of the Association. Colonel Gidney addressed the meeting on the needs of the community, and outlined his policy regarding its future. The chief resolution placed before the meeting was one supporting Colonel Gidney as being the best person to represent the needs of the community on the Legislative Assembly. Many prominent members spoke in eulogistic terms on the suitability of the Colonel, and it was unanimously resolved to support his candidature. The general feeling was that the community had at last found in Colonel Gidney the man to fight their cause in the Legislative Assembly.

### IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

## Missed, at Saint Petersburg

I waited at the Mayakovskaya metro station for a long time. Galina never turned up. I had landed in Saint Petersburg on a whim. I had work in Moscow, but it ended earlier than I imagined. Nothing important waited for me in Washington. I bought a ticket online and boarded the train for Saint Petersburg.

I had successfully located a copy of the New York Times, the only daily I considered worth reading, in a Moscow newsstand, and now was a good time to read it. I had hardly reached the fifth page when there was an intrusion. In a curious accent.

"Excuse me," said the person sitting next to me, pointing to the other sections of the voluminous newspaper on my lap.

"You read English!" I said in surprise, redundantly, before adding, "By all means." I passed her the bulk of the paper.

Now I noticed, for the first time, the person seated beside me. A young woman, in a yellow summer dress, her chestnut hair in a casual bun, a large black bag perched on her lap.

"You will ask these sections when you finish your section, right?" she asked. I nodded.

I hadn't read much of the troubles in South Sudan and Nicaragua before there was another gentle interruption, "Excuse me?"

She wanted me to explain something in the science section about gene therapy. My science is worse than basic, and on medical innovations my ignorance is abysmal. I read the part that eluded her and tried to throw some light.

I must have said something stupid, for she laughed. It was a gentle, quickly-smothered laugh, but the meaning wasn't lost on me. I confessed to being lost amid such therapeutic wizardry when she divulged that she was a doctor. A pediatrician, with a special interest in medical oncology.

She was kind, patient, and funny.



Illustration: Debabrata Chakrabarty

dream was to relocate to the other end of Russia and work in a reputed children's clinical hospital in Khabarovsk.

Then, unexpectedly, she narrated the story of a fire that had broken out in a children's school in her village to the north of St Petersburg and how, as an untrained student volunteer, she had assisted the young local doctor trying to save the burnt children. Some died of smoke inhalation, but the others died painfully of their burns. She never forgot the young doctor's futile effort to save the children and his agonized remark that he had neither the resources nor the training to save the ones that could have been saved. That

was when she resolved to be a pediatrician. She struggled relentlessly to gather the money for her tuition, until the lucky day she won a government scholarship.

On my last night we took a boat ride along the Neva river and the many canals of the city. It was spectacular, for many remarkable homes, palaces and historic buildings are on the embankments, often lit up gloriously in the summer nights. The day had been warm, but the evening was cool, made cooler by the river breeze. I saw her copper hair flying in the breeze, and, at one time, put out a hand to catch her scarf that was about to fly away. It was a magnetic leisurely voyage.

Our time together had run out. I thanked her, and she hugged me. I was about to say goodbye, but she said she would come the next morning to meet me in front of the Mayakovskaya metro station, near my hotel, whence I intended to leave for the airport.

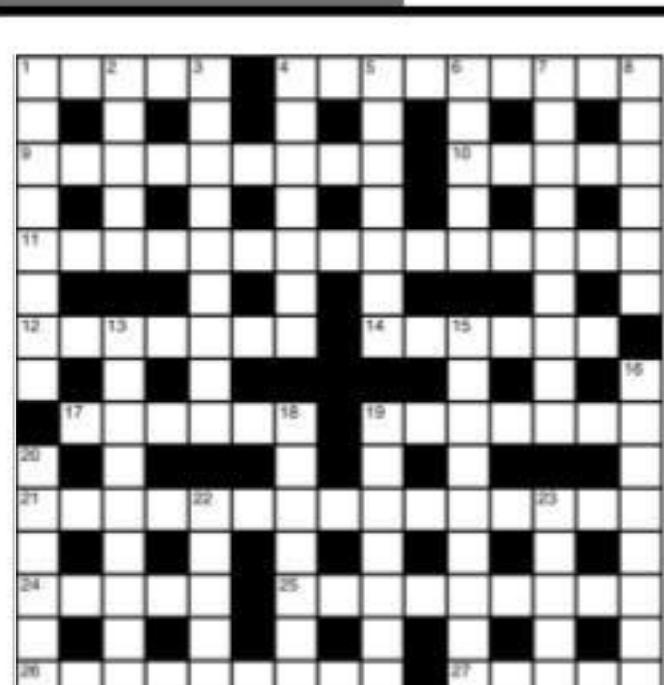
I waited at the station expectantly. I wanted to see Galina again.

I waited and waited. Galina did not come.

Maybe she had an emergency or a patient that had to come first.

The writer is a Washington-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mnandy@gmail.com

### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- 1. Wet person missing an identity (5)
- 4. Dad leaves hitchhiker, say, on Middle East express (9)
- 9. Shiner's mild swelling (5,4)
- 10. The man left Girl Guides (5)
- 11. It has flashing lights, potentially splicing corneas (7,8)
- 12. More turbulent, revolutionary architecture is iconic internally (7)
- 14. Fast bowler drops energy for game (3,3)
- 17. Go during school lecture (6)
- 19. Copper and informant - or superintendent (7)

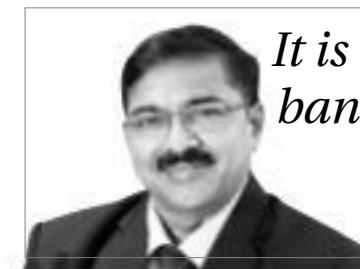
#### DOWN

- 1. Measure pi (4-4)
- 2. Instant introduction to good university with backing from oil baron (5)
- 3. Policeman found in cheap bar outside either city, oddly (9)
- 4. Half-hearted runner's head dropping - Farah starts keener (7)
- 5. Involved in impure boss's return to regain control (5,2)
- 6. Attitude from French and American prostitutes (5)
- 7. Travel from German holiday home, going North with six-footer (9)
- 8. Rule restricting soldier's first leave (6)
- 13. Indiscreet book comes out after Trump/Biden chaos (9)
- 15. Bend rule over V&A replacing lecturer in the arts (9)
- 16. Went hunting earlier (8)
- 18. Share kiss, both naked, with sex appeal - it's hot stuff (7)
- 19. Opiate supplied by Morse, perhaps by means of pill (7)
- 20. Shorten second wave (6)
- 22. Greeting seen when Rachel and Louise meet (5)
- 23. Shot afternoon play (5)

NO 28059

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





*It is important for cooperative banks to unleash core banking solutions (CBS) services for their customers*

GOVINDA RAJULU CHINTALA  
NABARD CHAIRMAN

## THUMBNAILS

**Bata expansion:** Footwear major Bata India is planning to open around 100 outlets during this financial year despite the Covid-19 outbreak, an official has said. The shoemaker, which currently has around 1,500 stores across India, plans to add 500 outlets by 2023 to strengthen its network in semi-urban and rural markets, he said. "We will open around 100 stores this year and 80 per cent of these outlets will be opened through a franchise model in tier-II and tier-III cities," Bata India chairman Ashwani Windlass said.

PTI

**MG Motor foray:** MG Motor India has entered pre-owned car business in the country. The company has introduced certified pre-owned car vertical "MG Reassure" which aims to provide quick and the best residual value for MG cars to customers across its dealerships, MG Motor India said in a statement. The pre-owned vehicles will be assessed through over 160 quality checks to ensure the leading inspection standards and conduct all necessary repairs before their re-sale, it added.

PTI

**NSE 'silver options':** NSE will launch "silver options" in the commodity derivatives segment from 1 September. The exchange has received markets regulator Sebi's nod for "options" in goods contracts on underlying silver spot price for trading in the commodity derivatives segment, the NSE said in a circular. The move is aimed at offering new products to commodity market participants and to deepen the market ecosystem.

PTI

**Anti-dumping duty:** The commerce ministry's investigation arm DCTR has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty for five years on "choline chloride", a chemical imported from China, Malaysia and Vietnam, to guard domestic players from cheap inbound shipments.

PTI

# Former RBI chief Subbarao for setting up a bad bank

**It is not just necessary but unavoidable in present circumstances when NPAs are likely to balloon**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

**F**ormer RBI Governor D Subbarao made a strong case for setting up a bad bank, saying it is not just necessary but unavoidable in the present circumstances when NPAs are likely to balloon and much of the resolution will have to take place outside the IBC framework.

Even the Economic Survey 2017 had proposed this idea, suggesting the creation of a bad bank called Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) to help tide over the problem of stressed assets.

The standard advantage of a bad bank is that the entity taking a decision on the sale price is different from the entity accepting that price. Conflict of interest and corruption are avoided, and importantly, are seen to be avoided.

There are some successful models of bad banks with carefully designed carrots and sticks. Danaharta of Malaysia, for example, is a good

*The bankruptcy framework is already overloaded and it simply will be unable to deal with this huge additional burden. It is important, therefore, indeed more than ever before, that much of the resolution takes place outside the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework*

D SUBBARAO  
FORMER RBI GOVERNOR

model to study in designing our own bad bank, Subbarao said. The former RBI Governor noted that with the economy contracting by at least five percent this fiscal year, non-performing assets (NPAs) will balloon.

Also, according to RBI's Financial Stability Report, gross NPAs of banks may rise to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under baseline scenario, from 8.5 per cent in March 2020.

"The bankruptcy framework is already overloaded and it simply will be unable to deal with this huge additional burden. It is important, therefore, indeed more than ever before, that much of the resolution

takes place outside the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework," he said.

Before Covid-19 crisis hit India, the economy was already decelerating, real gross domestic product (GDP) growth had moderated from 7.0 per cent in fiscal 2017-18 to 6.1 per cent in fiscal 2018-19 and 4.2 per cent in fiscal 2019-20.

The growth projections for the current year by various global and domestic agencies indicate a sharp contraction of Indian economy ranging from (-)3.2 per cent to (-)9.5 per cent.

Earlier on, Subbarao said he had some reservations

about a bad bank but, in view of recent experience, he is veering towards the idea of it.

"First, I believed the bankruptcy framework will put resolution on track and help clean up the system," he said, adding that in hindsight that faith seems misplaced.

Subbarao admitted that he also had concerns about the capital structure of the bank.

"Where will the funding come from? If capital has to come from the public sector banks (PSBs), the problems that bogged down PSB chiefs from taking bold decisions ~ fear of retribution ~ will persist.

"If it's got to come from the private sector, there will be issues of crony capitalism. If it's got to be from the government, the question is, wouldn't the government be better off using that money to capitalise individual banks which, at any rate in theory, looks more efficient?" he added.

Replying to a question on RBI's inflation targeting framework, the former RBI Governor said the point

remains that the inflation targeting framework has not been fully tested.

"There has been no extraordinary circumstance to challenge the efficacy of the inflation targeting framework... Globally, there have been no hiccups on the financial stability front until the corona crisis hit us six months ago," he said.

Subbarao pointed out that sure, the coronavirus crisis has turned our world upside down and caused a host of problems, but not much on the inflation front.

Noting that there have been no inflation pressures either from domestic or external forces, he said private demand for credit has been low because of, among other things, the NPA problem; so, not much demand push inflation.

The former RBI Governor, however, wondered if the inflation targeting framework will allow the MPC the flexibility and freedom to deal with an unusual situation such as stagflation or volatile capital flows.

The corporate loans will be restructuring based on the recommendations of the KV Kamath committee.

"With respect to larger credit books above Rs 100 crore, RBI has appointed a committee headed by K V Kamath. Now they are going to give us the details... whether it would be sector specific or category specific, that we will come to know in next few days."

"If you remember, RBI Governor had also come to the public domain indicating that within 30 days those details will be available," the PNB chief said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier this month allowed one-time restructuring of corporate and personal loans to help entities amid the Covid-19 crisis.

"Our total loan book is Rs 7.21 lakh crore at June end. MSME (loan book) stands at Rs 1.27 lakh crore. Out of this, 14 per cent is under NPA. Now with respect to the book that we are looking at (for loan restructuring), a rough estimate what we are seeing is that anything around 5-6 per cent of the credit book may be eligible under the restructuring profile."

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had last week said that after studying the recommendations of the Kamath committee, the central bank will notify the broad financial criteria for sectors and borrowers by 6 September.

## PNB expects to restructure loans worth ₹40,000 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

The country's second largest lender Punjab National Bank said it expects to restructure loans worth about Rs 40,000 crore as per RBI-approved guidelines, scheduled to be out soon.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier this month allowed one-time restructuring of corporate and personal loans to help entities amid the Covid-19 crisis.

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## NMDC Q1 profit slips 54% to ₹531 cr in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

State-owned NMDC has said its consolidated net profit fell over 54 per cent to Rs 531.35 crore in the first quarter ended 30 June 2020, mainly on account of lower income due to Covid-19.

The company had posted Rs 1,178 crore net profit during the same quarter a year ago.

In a BSE filing, the company said its total income declined to Rs 2,009 crore in the April-June quarter of this fiscal, from Rs 3,386 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

During the quarter under review, the company's expenses stood at Rs 1,250 crore, as against Rs 1,474 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal.

In a separate statement, the company said its business was impacted by the outbreak of coronavirus and the lockdowns.

"This is a difficult year with the pandemic creating unprecedented situations. I am happy that our performance remains stable despite the challenges we are facing. I am certain, we will see a marked improvement in our performance in the following quarters with the conditions getting normalised," NMDC chairman and managing director Sumit Deb said.

NMDC, under the ministry of steel, is the country's largest iron ore miner.

Besides iron ore, it is also involved in the exploration of a wide range of minerals like copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite and gypsum.

## Bumper kharif production likely this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 30 AUGUST

The overall kharif crop output is expected to increase by 5-6 per cent this year, mainly driven by higher crop acreage and productivity following a well-spread monsoon across the country, according to a report.

As on 21 August, rains were 7 per cent above the long-period average and this good spatial and temporal distribution has led to sowing across crops in most states, Crisil Research director Hetal Gandhi said.

He, however, added that this is being more compensated by growth in area under paddy in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh where the labourers have gone back to work.

Crisil Research expects an overall 5-6 per cent growth in farm output, including a 2-3 per cent rise in the sowing area at 109 million hectares for kharif season 2020.

The eastern states could see the highest growth in crop profitability because of a low base, she said, adding that southern and western states will bear the brunt of lower cotton and maize prices.

the paddy cultivation is set to increase because of both rains and reverse migration of labour to the eastern and southern states.

"Due to migration of labourers, many farmers in Punjab and Haryana are going for direct sowing of paddy which has less productivity," Crisil Research director Hetal Gandhi said.

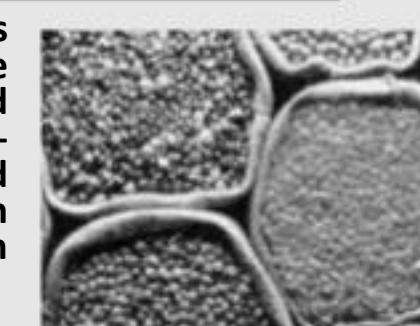
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### EFFECT OF WELL-SPREAD MONSOON

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► It expects an overall 5-6 per cent growth in farm output, including a 2-3 per cent rise in the sowing area at 109 million hectares for kharif season 2020.



► The productivity will also increase by 2-3 per cent, resulting in bumper kharif output, it added.

North will be the most profitable in the kharif season 2020 owing to a favourable crop mix and higher government procurement, she said.

However, the area under vegetables, cotton and maize would be lower than in the pre-

vious season as declining prices have discouraged farmers from sowing them, the report said.

Coronavirus-related supply disruptions have made farmers move away from highly perishable horticulture produce like tomatoes to

## Crude steel production declines 24.6% in July

NEW DELHI, 30 AUGUST

India's crude steel output fell by 24.6 per cent to 7.150 million tons (MT) during July 2020, according to global body worldsteel. The country had produced 9.485 MT crude steel during the same month in 2019, World Steel Association (worldsteel) said in its latest report. Global steel production also registered a fall during the month under review, the data showed.

World crude steel production for the 64 countries reporting to the worldsteel was 152,694 MT in July 2020, a 2.5 per cent decrease compared to 156,679 MT in July 2019. Due to the ongoing difficulties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, many of this month's figures are estimates that may be revised with next month's production update," it said.

According to worldsteel data, China registered a 9.1 per cent year-on-year growth in its steel output at 93,359 MT during July 2020. The United States produced 5,241 MT of crude steel in July 2020, registering a fall of 29.4 per cent compared to 7,419 MT output in July 2019.

Japan produced 6,049 MT of crude steel in July 2020, down 27.9 per cent from 8,387 MT in July 2019. South Korea's steel production for the month stood at 5,526 MT, down 8.3 per cent compared to 6,026 MT in July 2019. It further said "the production in the EU overall is estimated to be 9,817 MT of crude steel in July 2020, down by 24.4 per cent over 12,989 in July 2019."

During July 2020, production in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries is estimated to be 8,091 MT, down 5.8 per cent over 8,588 MT in July 2019.

## Realty sector to witness up to 60% decline in residential sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 30 AUGUST

Liquidity-starved real estate sector is expected to witness a 40-60 per cent decline in residential sales volumes this fiscal due to Covid-19 pandemic, ratings agency Icra said.

According to the agency, the collections from customers are also expected to decline by around 35-40 per cent.

Maintaining a negative outlook for the real estate sector, the agency noted that the overall sales volume from completed and under-construction inventory is expected to reduce by 40-60 per cent.

Icra also expects the spends on ongoing projects to reduce by around 30 per cent in this fiscal on account of the pandemic.

New launches, which were

already on a declining trend given the increased focus on deliveries, are likely to get further deferred," it said.

According to Icra, higher rated clients have maintained considerable liquidity buffers, which can be used to meet project costs and debt obligations.

Also, many companies have availed moratorium to bring down debt repayments, which coupled with automatic reduction in collection-linked pre-

payments, has provided some relief to the developers.

"Going forward though, adequacy of operating cash flows to meet scheduled repayment obligations will remain a key look-out area, with developer ability to refinance or carry out one-time restructuring of debt obligations under the recently announced government relief measure, in case of a cashflow gap remaining critical," it said.

However, firms with adequate balance sheet strength, available liquidity, financial flexibility, refinancing ability and a well-diversified project portfolio under varying stages of execution, spread across different geographies and segments are expected to be better positioned to absorb disruptions in operating cash flows.

Payments, has provided some relief to the developers.

"Going forward though, adequacy of operating cash flows to meet scheduled repayment obligations will remain a key look-out area, with developer ability to refinance or carry out one-time restructuring of debt obligations under the recently announced government relief measure, in case of a cashflow gap remaining critical," it said.

In this case, 2020 and 2019 refer to financial years 2020-21 and 2019-20, respectively.

Icra noted that if only organisations that gave an increment are considered, then the average increment in 2020 is 7.5 per cent.

"Less than 10 per cent companies have given an increment equal to or more than 10 per cent in 2020 and the proportion of such companies has dropped drastically

since the start of the lockdown in March 2020," it added.

As per the findings, actual increments across sectors have been lower than what were projected six months ago and no industry witnessed an average double-digit increment this fiscal.

"Increments were the highest in the life sciences sector and the lowest in the manufacturing and services sector (particularly in the real estate, construction, metals and mining, hospitality, retail, and automobiles industries). Even the digital/e-commerce industry, which is known for giving double-digit increments, has struggled to match its past figures.



Closure of Kazakhstan Nuclear-test site largely reduces threat to the international community

ADMITTING THE SEMIPALATINSK SITE NEAR SEMEY CITY HAD CAUSED INTENSIVE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

KAZAKH PRESIDENT KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2020

09

# Ghani names council for Taliban peace deal

Council will have final say on whether the govt will sign a deal after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KABUL, 30 AUGUST

Afghanistan's president has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.

The negotiations were envisaged under a US-Taliban peace agreement signed in February as intra-Afghan talks to decide the war-torn country's future. However, their start has been hampered by a series of delays that have frustrated Washington. Some had expected the negotiations to begin earlier this month.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree late Saturday establishing the 46-

member council, led by his former rival in last year's presidential election, Abdullah Abdullah, who is now in the government.

The council is separate from a 21-member negotiating team, which Ghani appointed in March and which is expected to travel to the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office, for intra-Afghan talks.

The council will have the final say and will ultimately decide on the points that the negotiating team takes up with the Taliban.

Abdullah's appointment to head the reconciliation efforts followed a power-sharing deal he signed in May with Ghani to end the political deadlock after last year's election a vote in which Abdullah had also declared himself a winner. The High Council for National Reconciliation is



ers who fought against the Soviet Union in the 1980s but who were also involved in a Afghanistan's brutal civil war that followed their takeover in 1992 that left 50,000, mostly civilians, dead in Kabul. Among them is Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who signed a peace deal with Ghani in 2016 but previously was declared a terrorist by the US.

The council also includes Abdur Rasool Sayyaf, who was the inspiration for the Philippine terrorist group Abu Sayyaf. During the 1992-1996 civil war, Sayyaf's fighters killed thousands of minority Shi'ite Muslims led by a rival warlord. However, the establishment of the council may not sit well with the Taliban, who have appointed just one 20-member negotiating team that has the authority to make final decisions. The Taliban team answers only to the insurgents' leader, Mullah

Hibatullah Akhundzada. There are also other obstacles in the way of the negotiations. The Afghan government has reversed a decision to release the last 320 Taliban prisoners it is holding until the insurgents free more captured soldiers.

The U.S.-Taliban deal called on the Taliban to free 1,000 government and military personnel they hold captive while the government was to free 5,000 Taliban prisoners, in an exchange meant as a goodwill gesture ahead of the intra-Afghan negotiations.

The government appears adamant to secure freedom for the soldiers. Javid Faisal, spokesman for the National Security Advisor's office, tweeted there are no changes to the plan.

The Taliban will have to release our commandos held by them before the government resumes the release of the

remaining 320 Taliban prisoners, he said.

The US-Taliban deal is aimed at ending America's war in Afghanistan a conflict that began shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks and toppled the Taliban regime, which had harbored al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

US troops have already started leaving Afghanistan, and by November, fewer than 5,000 troops are expected to still be in the country. That's down from nearly 13,000 when the U.S.-Taliban agreement was signed Feb. 29.

Under the agreement, the withdrawal of U.S. troops does not hinge on the success of intra-Afghan talks but on commitments made by the Taliban to combat terrorist groups and ensure Afghanistan is not used as a staging ground for attacks on the U.S. and its allies.

Since signing the agree-

ment, the Taliban have held to a promise not to attack U.S. and NATO troops, but have carried out regular attacks on Afghan security forces.

The government wants an immediate cease-fire, while the Taliban have said the terms should be agreed in the negotiations.

Attacks, however, have continued unabated, with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence.

On Friday, roadside bombs struck vehicles carrying civilians in separate attacks in southern Afghanistan, killing 14 people, including three children. No one has so far claimed responsibility for those bombings.

Earlier last week, attacks including a Taliban truck bombing in northern Balkh province that targeted a commando base for Afghan forces left at least 17 people dead and scores more wounded.

Japan's top govt spokesman Suga to join race to succeed Abe



TOKYO, 30 AUGUST

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga will join the race to succeed his boss Shinzo Abe as prime minister, Kyodo news agency reported on Sunday, as the competition heats up to succeed Japan's longest-serving leader.

A Suga government would extend the fiscal and monetary stimulus that defined Abe's nearly eight years in office. Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, said on Friday he was stepping down due to a worsening of a chronic illness, setting the stage for a leadership election within his Liberal Democratic Party.

The LDP president is virtually assured of being prime minister because of the party's majority in the Lower House of Parliament.

Suga decided to join the LDP race, judging that he should play a leading role given expectations of his ability to manage crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and Japan's deepest postwar economic dive, Kyodo said, citing an unnamed source.

Suga would join such candidates as former foreign minister Fumio Kishida and former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba.

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

## Former Lankan cricketer Arjuna Ranatunga enters UNP leadership contest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, 30 AUGUST

22 electoral districts. UNP chief and former prime minister Wickremesinghe also failed to become a member of parliament for the first time since 1977.

Earlier this month, Wickremesinghe announced his decision to resign from the UNP leadership following his party's defeat. Wickremesinghe since 2001 resisted calls to resign as the party leader even in the face of repeated electoral defeats.

On Sunday, former Sri Lankan cricket team captain Ranatunga said, At the party working committee meeting held recently there were four names which came up as possible leaders. My name was also proposed. Given the opportunity, I would be happy to take over the party and revive it."

Ranatunga, 57, was among the top UNP members who lost their seats in their bid to enter parliament at the 5 August parliamentary polls.

I am not a rich man or I am not the one to go after the rich businessmen to do politics, but I know I have the capability to go to people and do justice to the UNP members who are dejected right now," Ranatunga said.

Ranatunga's family has been traditionally supporting the UNP's rival Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). His father Reggie was a minister in SLFP governments and his brother Prasanna is the current Tourism Minister in the SLPP government.

### PAIN AND GLORY



Sunnis take part in an Ashura procession on the occasion of Muharram in Karachi on Sunday. AFP

## Turkey marks 1922 victory over Greece amidst Med tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ANKARA, 30 AUGUST

same invaders as the ones who attempted to invade our homeland a century ago.

In recent weeks, Turkish and Greek forces have engaged in a series of cat-and-mouse military exercises in the seas between Cyprus and the Greek island of Crete. The confrontation was sparked when Turkey sent a research vessel accompanied by warships to search for gas and oil reserves.

EU member Greece claims the waters are part of its continental shelf and has enlisted the support of the 27-nation bloc, which has condemned Turkey's illegal activities and warned of potential



sanctions against Ankara.

Turkey says Greece and others are denying its rights to explore for energy resources in the Mediterranean.

Greece and Cyprus have recently been joined by France,

Ministry also released cockpit footage of what it said were Turkish jets in mock dogfights with Greek F-16s between Crete and Cyprus. No one should have any doubts about our resolve in this matter and our unshakable belief in victory," Erdogan said.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Greece extending its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles would be a cause for war.

Earlier this week, Athens announced plans to extend its maritime border with Italy to 12 nautical miles.

Erdogan laid a wreath at the tomb of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

in Ankara later Sunday.

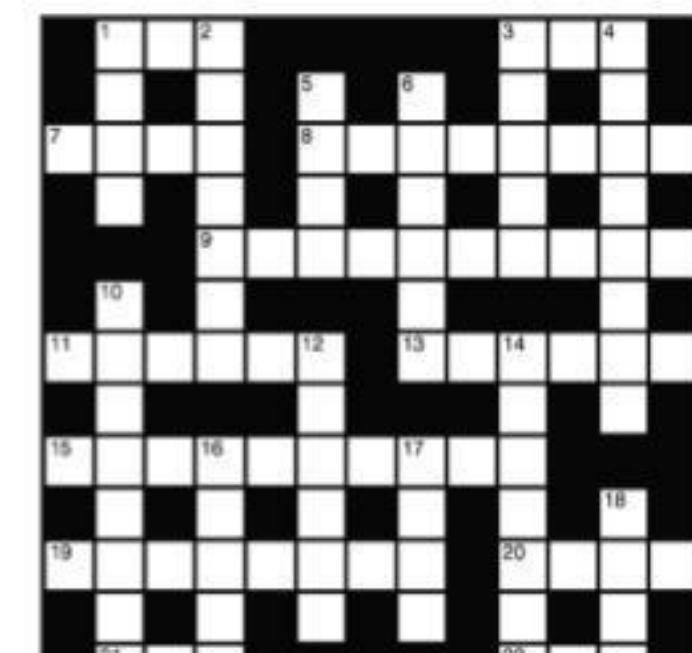
Turkey would not bow to threats, intimidation and blackmail, especially in the eastern Mediterranean, he said at the ceremony.

Ataturk led the Turkish troops in the independence struggle following World War I and went on to establish modern Turkey.

In other commemorations, troops marched through Ankara while in Istanbul, people waved flags from cars in an impromptu procession. Turkish warships will visit 20 ports around Turkey and northern Cyprus for sunset flag ceremonies.

### LEISURE

#### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Plunge (3)  
3 Rule (3)  
7 Wise man (4)  
8 Disciples (8)  
9 Practice of refraining (10)  
11 Invented (4,2)  
13 Occur (6)  
15 Rastafarian hairstyle (10)  
19 Manicure tool (8)  
20 Nobleman (4)  
21 Recede (3)  
22 Gist (3)

**DOWN**  
1 Sketch (4)  
2 Make ready (7)  
3 Liquid measure (5)  
4 Miserable (8)  
5 Planet (4)  
6 Burnish (6)  
8 Sketch (4)  
10 A legitimate target (4,4)  
12 Preaching area in a church (6)  
14 Horse's foot part (7)  
16 Extemporise (2-3)  
17 Ship's company (4)  
18 Dull (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**  
**ACROSS**  
1 Tied, 16 Tooth and nail, 19 Benin, 20 Shatsu, 22 Larder, 23 Slur, 11 Authenticity, 13 Thesis,  
14 Starch, 15 Import, 16 Mesh, 17 Existence, 18 Abel, 21 Ill.  
2 Turn the corner, 2 Emu, 4 Allocated, 5 Quartermaster, 6 Etion,  
7 Imp, 8 Miserable, 9 Helium, 10 Also, 11 Ill.  
3 Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

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

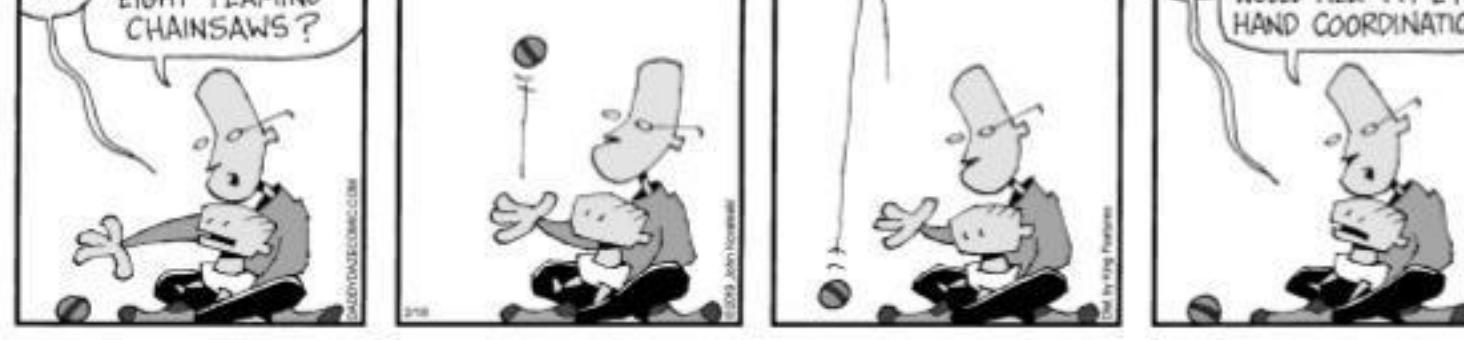
#### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



#### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



#### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



#### NEED TO KNOW

##### HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

##### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

##### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383338,

18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

port 011-25671580; Terminal I-23860626

Rajasthan Roadways 23671576, 18001803838

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 3373377

##### FLIGHT INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383338,

18001803838, Reservation 25656421/25656431

Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33534373

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## WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	30	27 H
HONG KONG	32	28 CL
TOKYO	33	26 R
LONDON	19	10 CL
DUBAI	42	31 S
SAN FRANCISCO	22	14 CL
NEW YORK	26	21 CL
MOSCOW	29	19 CL

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

## THUMBNAILS



A street vendor wearing a face mask sells grain to feed pigeons at Basantapur Durbar Square in Kathmandu on Sunday. **AFP**

**China restaurant collapse:** 29 people were killed after a village restaurant collapsed on Saturday in north China's Shanxi Province, local authorities said on Sunday. The accident happened at around 9.40 a.m. when relatives and fellow villagers were attending a birthday party banquet. **PTI**

**Montenegro elections:** Voters in Montenegro on Sunday cast ballots in a tense election that is putting the long-ruling pro-Western party against an opposition seeking closer ties with Serbia and Russia. The vote is marked by a dispute over religious rights law that is opposed by the influential Serbian Orthodox Church. **AP**

**Canada PM statue toppled:** Activists in Montreal have toppled a statue of Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald, who was linked to policies that killed many indigenous people in the late 19th Century, the BBC reported. Quebec Premier Francois Legault condemned the incident as "unacceptable". **IANS**

# One dead as pro, anti-Trump groups clash in Portland

Portland has been the site of nightly protests for three months now since police killing of Floyd

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
PORTLAND (US), 30 AUGUST

**O**ne person was shot and killed late Saturday in Portland, Oregon, as a large caravan of President Donald Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter protesters clashed in the streets, police said.

It wasn't clear if the shooting was linked to fights that broke out as a caravan of about 600 vehicles was confronted by protesters in the city's downtown. Three gunshots were heard. The victim appeared to be a white man.

Portland Police officers heard sounds of gunfire from the area of Southeast 3rd Avenue and Southwest Alder Street. They responded and located a victim with a gunshot wound to the chest. Medical responded and determined that the victim was deceased, the Portland Police Bureau said in a statement.

Portland has been the site of nightly protests for more than three months since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Many of them end in vandalism and violence, and hundreds of demonstrators have been arrested by local and federal law enforcement since late May. The caravan arrived downtown just as a protest planned for Saturday was get-



Police arrive to treat a man who was shot near a Pro-Trump rally late Saturday in Portland, Oregon. **AFP**

ting underway. Police made several arrests before the shooting and advised residents to avoid the city core.

The chaotic scene came two days after Trump invoked Portland as a liberal city overrun with violence in a speech at the Republican National Convention as part of his law and order re-election campaign theme. The caravan marked the third Saturday in a row that Trump supporters have rallied in the city.

Trump and other speakers at this week's convention evoked a violent, dystopian future if Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden wins in November and pointed to Portland as a cautionary tale for what would be in store for Americans.

The pro-Trump rally's organiser, who coordinated a similar caravan in Boise, Idaho, earlier in the week, said in a video posted on Twitter on Saturday afternoon that attendees should only carry concealed weapons and the route was being kept secret for safety reasons.

The caravan had gathered earlier in the day at a suburban mall and drove as a group to the heart of Portland. As they arrived in the city, protesters attempted to stop them by standing in the street and blocking bridges.

Videos from the scene showed sporadic fighting, as well as Trump supporters firing paintball pellets at opponents and using bear spray as counter-protesters threw

**Trump to visit Kenosha tomorrow**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, 30 AUGUST

President Trump will travel to Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, amid fury over the police shooting of Jacob Blake in the back, which left the 29-year-old Black man paralysed.

White House spokesman Judd Deere told reporters aboard Air Force One on Saturday that Trump will be meeting with law enforcement officers and surveying some of the damage from recent protests that turned destructive. The visit is certain to exacerbate tensions in the city, where a crowd of about 1,000 demonstra-

tors gathered outside a courthouse Saturday to denounce police violence.

Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey and two other officers were responding to a domestic abuse call last Sunday when Sheskey shot Blake in the back seven times.

Trump has been running his reelection campaign on a law-and-order mantle, denouncing protesters as thugs while voicing his support for police.

Trump told reporters while attending a briefing on Hurricane Laura in Orange, Texas. He didn't offer details to support his statement.

Earlier this month, the nation's top intelligence official has informed Congress that his office will no longer give in-person election security briefings on Capitol Hill, a move that raised concern among lawmakers on Saturday about the public's right to know about foreign interference in the upcoming presidential election.

President Donald Trump said National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe made the decision because the administration "got tired of the intelligence about election security leaking from Congress."

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, who was with Trump in Texas, said lawmakers will still be sent full written readouts. Meadows said Ratcliffe is going to make sure there are "proper tools for their oversight."

They leaked the information... and what's even worse, they leaked the wrong information and we got fired of it, Trump told reporters while attending a briefing on Hurricane Laura in Orange, Texas. He didn't offer details to support his statement.

Earlier this month, the nation's counterintelligence chief, William Evanina, issued a statement saying U.S. intelligence officials believe Russia is using various methods to denigrate Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and that people linked to Putin are boosting Trump's reelection bid.

U.S. officials also believe China does not want Trump to win a second term and has accelerated its criticism of the White House, Evanina wrote.

On Saturday, Democratic lawmakers criticized Ratcliffe's decision. This intelligence belongs to the American people, not the agencies which are its custodian, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

# Trump's intel chief ends election security briefings to Capitol Hill

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, 30 AUGUST

intelligence committee, said in a lengthy statement.

To stifle and limit the American peoples' awareness of this fact cannot be explained or allowed. Ratcliffe, who oversees the nation's intelligence agencies, sent formal notification letters on Saturday to the Senate and House leadership and the chairmen and ranking members of both chambers' intelligence committees.

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# 'How dare we not vote?' Black voters organise after DC march

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, 30 AUGUST

Tears streamed down Brooke Moreland's face as she watched tens of thousands gather on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to decry systemic racism and demand racial justice in the wake of several police killings of Black Americans.

But for the Indianapolis mother of three, the fiery speeches delivered on Friday at the commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom also gave way to one central message: Vote and demand change at the ballot box in November.

As Black people, a lot of the

people who look like us died for us to be able to sit in public, to vote, to go to school and to be able to walk around freely and live our lives, the 31-year-old Moreland said.

Every election is an opportunity, so how dare we not vote after our ancestors fought for us to be here? That determination could prove critical in a presidential election where race is emerging as a flashpoint.

President Donald Trump, at this past week's Republican National Convention, emphasized a law and order message aimed at his largely white base of supporters.

His Democratic rival, Joe Biden, has expressed empa-

thy with Black victims of police brutality and is counting on strong turnout from African Americans to win critical states such as North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

As the campaign enters its latter stages, there's an intensifying effort among African Americans to transform frustration over police brutality, systemic racism and the disproportionate toll of the coronavirus into political power.

Organizers and participants said Friday's march delivered a much-needed rallying cry to mobilize.

If we do not vote in numbers that we've never ever

seen before and allow this administration to continue what it is doing, we are headed on a course for serious destruction, Martin Luther King III, said before his rousing remarks, delivered 57 years after his father's famous I Have A Dream speech.

As speakers implored attendees to vote as if our lives depend on it, the march came on the heels of yet another shooting by a white police officer of a Black man 29-year-old Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, last Sunday, sparking demonstrations and violence that left two dead. We need a new conversation you act like it's no trou-

ble to shoot us in the back, the Rev. Al Sharpton said.

Our vote is dipped in blood. We're going to vote for a nation that stops the George Floyds, that stops the Breonna Taylors.

Navy veteran Alonzo Jones-Goss, who traveled to Washington from Boston, said he plans to vote for Biden because the nation has seen far too many tragic events that have claimed the lives of Black Americans and other people of color.

It's been 57 years since Dr. King stood over there and delivered his speech. But what is unfortunate is what was happening 57 years ago is still happening today.



People stand in the Reflecting Pool near the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington on Saturday. **AFP**

# Far-right extremists try to enter German parl

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BERLIN, 30 AUGUST

Far-right extremists tried to storm the German parliament building Saturday following a protest against the country's pandemic restrictions, but were intercepted by police and forcibly removed.

The incident occurred after a daylong demonstration by tens of thousands of people opposed to the wearing of masks and other government measures intended to stop the spread of the new coronavirus

ital's iconic Brandenburg Gate took place as planned.

Footage of the incident showed hundreds of people, some waving the flag of the German Reich of 1871-1918 and other far-right banners, running toward the Reichstag building and up the stairs.

Police confirmed on Twitter that several people had broken through a cordon in front of Parliament and entered the staircase of the Reichstag building, but not the building itself.

It's unbearable that vandals and extremists should misuse it, he said, calling on authorities to show zero tolerance.

Stones and bottles were

thrown at our colleagues, police said. Force had to be used to push them back. Germany's top security official condemned the incident.

The Reichstag building is the workplace of our Parliament and therefore the symbolic center of our liberal democracy, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said in a statement.

It's unbearable that vandals and extremists should misuse it, he said, calling on authorities to show zero tolerance.

Failure to enforce that measure prompted Berlin police to dissolve the march while it was still in progress.

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Stones and bottles were

## PERSISTENT DEMAND



Opposition supporters protest against disputed presidential election results in Minsk. **AFP**

# Lebanese Hezbollah says it's open to reformist government

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BEIRUT, 30 AUGUST

The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah said on Sunday his group supports the formation of a government that would be able to improve economic conditions in the crisis-stricken country and undertake major reforms.

Hassan Nasrallah said his group is also open to calls from France for a new political contract in Lebanon, on condition that all Lebanese sects are on board.

The speech came on the eve of a meeting by Lebanese parliamentary blocs deciding to name a new prime minister and also ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's arrival in Lebanon late Monday.

It's Macron's second visit to the former French protectorate in less than a month. He had offered French support after the devastating 4 August port explosion in

Beirut and has also pressed Lebanese officials to formulate a new political pact to lift the country out of its political stalemates, entrenched corruption and years of mismanagement.

The Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, which has a dominant role in Lebanon's politics, has come under intense criticism and public scrutiny as the country faces multiple devastating crises.

Feeling the pressure, Nasrallah promised Hezbollah will cooperate to avoid a political vacuum. Whether in naming a prime minister or forming a government, we will be cooperative and facilitate getting the country out of a vacuum, he said in a speech Sunday. He snubbed criticism that Hezbollah stands in the way of reforms.

PM Diab's government, backed by Hezbollah and allies, resigned on 10 August, six days after the blast.

During the virus crisis,

Francis has become a 21st century prisoner of the Vatican," as one of his predecessors was once known, robbed of the crowds, foreign travel and visits to the peripheries that so defined and popularised his papacy.

He will resume physical contact with his flock this week on Wednesday with general audiences, but the meetings will be held in an internal Vatican courtyard before a limited crowd rather than the vast St Peter's Square.

After weeks during which Italy brought the virus under control, the country's caseload is rebounding now adding more than 1,000 new infections a day so there's no telling when or how more ambitious public gatherings and travel might return. What does all this mean for a 83-year-old globe-trotting pope and his ministry to the 1.2-billion-member Catholic Church? Alberto Melloni, a church historian, declared

that the pandemic marked the beginning of the end of Francis' pontificate. In a recent essay, he asserted that tensions that had percolated throughout the papacy came to the surface during the lockdown, and won't fade even after Covid-19 is tamed.

In every papacy there's a historic point after which the final phase begins, which can last years, Melloni wrote. For Francis, this point was the pandemic and his solitude before the virus. Papal biographer Austen Ivereigh concurred

**The mass stifling of college teachers in Manipur through imposition of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules is an impairment of their profession**

## THONGKHOLAL HAUKIP

On 10 August 2020, the Nongthombam Biren Singh government in Manipur, through the Directorate of University and Higher Education, issued an office memorandum enforcing the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 "to all Government College Teachers and other staff working under the Higher Education Department, Manipur". The order requires "due approval from the competent authority" to "be taken before publishing or making statements regarding any Government Policy or Programme in the media, failing which appropriate disciplinary action may be initiated against them as per the relevant provisions of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965". The order is a fallout of political unrest in Manipur since April that culminated July this year and also the demand for implementation of the 7th University Grants Commission Pay and Regulations by college teachers.

The relationship between the state's Bharatiya Janata Party and one of its coalition partners, the National People's Party, soured in early April leading to a public spat between chief minister N Biren Singh and his deputy Yumnam Joykumar Singh of the NPP party. Following that, all portfolios assigned to the deputy CM were stripped and the NPP threatened to withdraw their support to the government.

The political environment further worsened in July when three disgruntled BJP MLAs also resigned just before the election to the lone Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament seat from Manipur. The Indian National Congress of Manipur, the single largest party in the 2017 Manipur Legislative Assembly elections, also took the opportunity in attempting to not only win the Rajya Sabha seat but also staked a claim to form the government by demanding a floor test. It was followed by five MLAs defecting from the party and joining the BJP.

The manner in which the BJP won the election and floor test as well as evaded the anti-defection law became a matter of public concern and discussion in the state and also beyond. Such matters were topics of debate on local television channels where teachers from various public

# Shrinking democratic space



Manipur CM N Biren Singh

funded colleges were often invited. It triggered the Biren Singh government to issue the aforementioned order leading to widespread resentment by the public.

### CCS rules and educational institutions

During the last two years, there have been attempts to impose CCS rules on teachers across the country. In the national capital, the Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Delhi were in loggerheads with authorities on the issue. In October 2018, the JNU administration attempted to impose the rules on faculty members, which the JNU Teachers Association saw as an attempt to curb intellectual freedom by putting teachers under the umbrella of "government servant".

The relevant section of the CCS rules restricts a "government servant" from expressing opinions in audio, visual, print or electronic media "(i) which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government; (ii) which is capable of embarrassing the relations between the Central Government and the Government of any State; or (iii) which is capable of embarrassing the relations between the Central Government and the Government of any foreign State".

However, the CCS rules are in contradiction to the UGC's regulations from 2018. The UGC regulations on "Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education" clearly state that teachers in universities and colleges should be able to "express free and frank opinion by participation at professional meetings, semi-

nars, conferences etc, towards the contribution of knowledge". They are required to "work to improve education in the community and strengthen the community's moral and intellectual life" and "be aware of social problems and take part in such activities as would be conducive to the progress of society and hence the country as a whole".

Upon several protests by teachers and students, the JNU administration, after the 276th meeting of the Executive Council, released a press note stating that CCS rules had not been incorporated in the JNU ordinances.

### What do enforcing CCS rules mean?

Enforcement of CCS rules on teachers, particularly those in higher educational institutions, mean impairment to the profession itself. Under the rules a political scientist can no longer freely discuss politics; an economist can be reprimanded for talking about the economic policies of the government; an educationist can no longer make critical opinions on the educational policy of the government; a scientist can be punished for expressing views on the science policy of the government, and a teacher of environmental science can be punished for discussing the environmental policy of the government.

The strictures on "publication or making statement" imply that daily academic activities of writing opinions in newspapers and magazines will involve bureaucratic scrutiny, hassle and red tape. Performing "academic honour" on the invitation to be a guest editor for a special issue of a journal in social sciences or humanities, or the routine work of writing an editorial

will become a violation of service rules.

In short, teachers can be criminalised for the very purpose that they are expected to perform.

### Becoming an Orwellian state?

The imposition of CCS rules on teachers is only the latest development in the shrinking democratic space of Manipur. In the last two years, a series of curbs on democratic rights have been witnessed in the state wherein several writers and activists were criminalised for expressing their views on the government and its policies.

In December 2018, a television journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem was arrested under the National Security Act for criticising the BJP government on social media. During the national lockdown in April this year, Mohammad Chingiz Khan, a PhD student of JNU from Manipur, was arrested for republishing an old co-authored article in a local vernacular daily. In the article, the writers voiced their concern regarding state policies and the marginalisation of Pangals or Manipuri Muslims. Laifungbam Debabrata Roy and Takhenchangbam Shadishkanta were also arrested for questioning and making critical comments on the state government's policies related to the pandemic.

A political activist Erendro Leichom was arrested on sedition charges for his Facebook post on 25 July. In the picture post, Leichom was criticised the newly elected Rajya Sabha MP from Manipur, who is also the titular king of the state, Leishemba Sanajoba for bowing before Union home minister Amit Shah while greeting him, with a caption that read

"meenai macha", meaning son of a servant.

All is not well with women too. RK Ichanthobi was arrested in December 2019 for her social media post on the contemporary issues of the state. Currently, a defamation suit filed by the chief minister is pending in Manipur High Court against Thounaojam Brinda, a police officer of Manipur, and 10 other editors and publishers of newspapers for carrying what he considered to be "derogatory" content.

During an interactive session of "Bharat Ki Baat, Sabke Saath", a diaspora event at the Central Hall of Westminster in April 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, "I want this government to be criticised. Criticism makes democracy strong". The National Education Policy 2020 puts an emphasis on developing the cognitive skills of students through a curriculum that will make space for critical thinking. The new education policy also aims to shift the assessment of student development in schools from rote memorisation to higher order skills.

On the other hand, Biren Singh has not tolerated any critical comments against his government and policies. He has silenced his critics individually through the use of legal instruments of state power.

The mass stifling of college teachers with the imposition of CCS rules is an indication of the state inching towards an Orwellian dystopia. The Manipur CM seriously needs to rethink and act before he has done enough of "suppressing voices", which would soon become his legacy.

The writer is assistant professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

## PLUS POINTS

### Hitting a snag



Exposing the inefficiency of the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, the passenger ropeway over the Brahmaputra River, connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati, developed a technical snag within 48 hours of its inauguration. The ropeway was inaugurated by Assam finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the presence of Guwahati Development Department minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya. Significantly, a section of people also termed the project as a "fantastic political gimmick" of the ruling party ahead of the Assembly election in the state, says a report in the Guwahati-based *Assam Tribune*.

In what has come as a big embarrassment to the GMDA and the state government, besides raising serious questions over the safety of the cable car, the entrance gate of the ropeway site at Kacharai Ghat was found closed. When the Assam Tribune visited the site, the security personnel informed that no person, including media professionals, would be allowed to enter the premises as some maintenance works were under way.

Later, GMDA chief executive officer Umananda Doley said that the operation of the ropeway has been suspended due to some technical issues caused by electricity voltage fluctuation. He added that direction has been made to Samir Damodar Ropeway Company, which will look after maintenance work of the project until March 2021, to address the issue immediately.

"Actually the project has received an overwhelming response from the public. Yesterday we ran 37 trips with as many as 648 passengers and many people were in the queue for two or three hours to buy the tickets. Even this morning, we have sold a number of tickets, but later we refunded the money. Fortunately, our staff detected the technical snag before starting the operation," Doley said.

It is India's longest ropeway over a river with a length of 1.82 km and as stated in its official website, for the project GMDA has spent Rs 5,608.20 lakh. Unfortunately, it may also be the first ropeway project in the country which developed a technical snag within 48 hours of its inauguration.

Notably, the ropeway project has been facing a number of issues and challenges since the first stage of its initiation. The project got administrative sanction in 2006 and was scheduled to be commissioned by May 2011. But it hit a roadblock after the Archaeological Survey of India refused permission for tilt rectification of a trestle.

### Expressing concern



In view of the Centre's purported move to conclude the decades-old Indo-Naga peace talks by September, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union said that the frontier state should be kept out of any territorial changes that might come during settlement of the Naga political problem, according to a report in the *Assam Tribune*.

"We want peace and also welcome the Naga talks, but it should not affect the territory of Arunachal Pradesh and its people in any way," Aapsu general secretary Tobam Dai said at a press conference in the Arunachal Press Club. The Aapsu leader said, "Our stand is that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of Arunachal and we will not tolerate any kind of administrative intervention from outside the state while reaching the final solution."

Expressing discontent that no member or stakeholder from the state was invited to the many rounds of talks going on in Delhi, Dai said, "Arunachal Pradesh is still being kept in the dark from the entire gamut of the Indo-Naga peace talks." He, however, expressed ignorance about two other North-eastern states, Manipur and Assam.

The Aapsu reiterated that the peace talks between the stakeholders should include the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, and the indigenous people of the state.

## VAMBIEM LABIA

Only a few months after this reporter pointed out the drama involved in awarding the "contract" for the construction of the National Sports University in Manipur to a blacklisted Kolkata-based firm called Simplex Infra Limited by Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case in the matter.

It has booked the managing director and a few others for having received a sum of Rs one crore as bribe for awarding the contract. Those booked include people from places such as Visakhapatnam, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad. The ones who appear on the list are Mayush Bhandari, then managing director of the HSCL, now merged with the public sector undertaking National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited; Anant Saxena, MD of Zillion InfraProjects Private Limited; V Ajay Kumar, MD of Vijay Nirman Private Limited and its director, N Krishna Rao, and one T Nmai Singh, the authorised signatory of NT Enterprises.

However, one can say that a total sum of Rs 5.17 crore was misappropriated by Bhandari and others in HSCL without spending a single paisa or executing a spadeful of earthwork.

The saga began in March 2018 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the NSU at Koutruk, 15 kilometres from Imphal. An entire hilltop was razed to the ground so that the PM could address an audience and there was only a proposal to construct a helipad. Neither tenders were floated nor contract work awarded to anyone. Subsequently, the PM landed at Imphal and laid the foundation there.

Following that, a photograph of a pre-existing playground constructed by the state public works department in the vicinity was taken, shown as the newly razed and built ground, and a utilisation certificate issued. The HSCL, at that moment of time, had only two officials on the ground – a manager engineer and a junior engineer. No labourers or contractors

were present.

## GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE

### Mired in allegations of misappropriated funds and flouting academic norms, the National Sports University in Manipur is setting all the wrong examples

According to information culled by this reporter from ministry sources in Delhi, the administrative sanction, bearing Number 70-77/2014 SP-VI dated 04/08/2017, was issued by the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports with deputy secretary Garg signing it. He was thereafter replaced by SPS Tomar, who was a frequent visitor to Imphal and had an allegedly close association with the HSCL. He was apparently privy to what was happening in Manipur inter alia the goings-ons within the NSU.

The matter was brought to the notice of then secretary of the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports, Rahul Bhatnagar in the bi-annual review meeting held in Delhi towards the fall of 2018. When the NBCC/HSCL officials present there reported that the amount of Rs 5.17 crore had been utilised, the tender notice and name of the contractor was asked for. They couldn't produce the necessary papers. When the minutes of the bi-annual meeting were recorded, no mention of having spent the money was found. Bhatnagar was replaced by RS Juiliani as the secretary but the latter did not convene a single review meeting.

The mantle of the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports landed on the shoulders of Kiren Rijiju who was elected from Arunachal Pradesh. At the end of 2019, he was informed about the embezzlement in

writing but apparently, for reasons best known to him, he did not give it a second look.

After Parliament passed the National Sports University Act, the government had to name a VC for the university. As per University Grants Commission norms, a formal advertisement calling for applications has to be put out, followed by the formation of a search committee and a formal interview has to be conducted before the final selection is announced. There were at least two people from Manipur who had applied for the post of VC – Lieutenant General (retired) Konsam Himsingh, the first Manipuri soldier to be raised to that rank, and Hawaibam Dilip Singh, former sports commissioner of Manipur and also a former VC of Dhananjani University. None of the norms were followed.

The Union ministry of youth affairs and sports unexpectedly named RC Mishra, a former secretary of the Union ministry of culture, as the VC. That was on 21 October 2019 and he has not been present in Manipur for more than 30 days till date. His only qualification seemed to be that he had earlier served in Manipur as the deputy commissioner of Churachandpur district and secretary/commissioner (power) in 1994.

While in the latter post, Mishra was involved in a controversy as he had decided to pay outstanding bills for contractors of the power department

to only those who hailed from outside the state. He has no experience in sports management or sports science.

*The Statesman* had earlier pointed out various lacuna in the management of the NSU in its nascent stage. It related to the actions of the dean, Jayshree Acharya, who had flouted norms established by the UGC while appointing guest lecturers and also purchased various items without calling for tenders. They were mentioned to Bhatnagar by Radhakumar Singh, a former commissioner of the Manipur government, who was then serving as registrar of the NSU. When no action was forthcoming even after Singh wrote a strong letter of protest, he put in his papers. Acharya continues to hold office till date.

Manipur has been acknowledged for long as the powerhouse of Indian sports. The state has produced stalwarts like Padma Bhushan Mary Kom, now a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), and Kunjarani (Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee) among hundreds of internationals and numerous Olympians.

But the manner in which the NSU has been running from its inception leaves a lot to be desired. It still does not have an executive committee or academic council, as mandated by UGC guidelines, and no representative from the Government of Manipur is in its management.

It is a sorry reality that the VC's appointment was hurried through

only after people from Koutruk village, who had donated 300 acres of land for the NSU, protested over the lethargic attitude of the Central government.

And although the stated aim of the NSU was to take new strides in the fields of sports science, technology, management, psychology and coaching, all it has been doing is produce Bachelor's degrees in physical education – a subject offered by more than 50 institutes across the country.

To make amends, one feels the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports must first replace Mishra as VC of the NSU with a person who has knowledge of sports science alongside the requisite academic or administrative experience. A pro-VC should also be there to assist and establish the necessary councils or committees.

Finally, orders should be given to thoroughly probe the misappropriation of the Rs 5.17 crore in the name of the PM's visit to Koutruk.

The writer is the Imphal-based Special Representative of *The Statesman*



Zlatan Ibrahimovic (*in photo, left*) is back in Italy and ready to sign a new contract with AC Milan. "Finally everything is in place and finally I can return to where I feel at home," Ibrahimovic said upon his arrival at Milan's Linate airport late Saturday. The 38-year-old Ibrahimovic is expected to sign a one-season deal worth 7 million euros (\$8.3 million). "As I've always said, I'm not here to be a mascot. I'm here to bring results and to help the team, the coach and the squad return to where Milan should be," Ibrahimovic said in a video on Milan's website.

For more updates [www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

## THUMBNAILS

## Waiting to challenge Kohli:

Record-setting England pacer James Anderson relishes the challenge of getting the best batsmen out and is looking forward to a tough contest against Virat Kohli when his side travels India next year. "It's always tough bowling at batsmen of that quality. It will be a tough battle but that's something I do enjoy," Anderson told the Test Match Special podcast.

## Arsenal win Community Shield: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang clinched the Community Shield for Arsenal with his penalty securing a 5-4 shootout victory over Liverpool in the curtain-raiser to a season that is beginning late and without fans due to the pandemic.

**India, Russia declared joint winners of Online Chess Olympiad:** India and Russia were on Sunday declared joint winners of the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection and server malfunction. Russia were initially declared winners after two Indian players – Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh – lost out on time in the final after suffering a disconnection with the server. India lodged a protest against the controversial decision which was reviewed. This was the first time FIDE, the international chess federation, was holding the Olympiad in an online format, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich made a decision to give gold medals of FIDE Online #Chess-Olympiad to both teams - India and Russia," the world chess body tweeted.

## Djokovic wins 35th Masters

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, 30 AUGUST

**F**or all that's been on Novak Djokovic's (*in photo*) plate of late including a painful neck and his efforts to start a new players' association in men's tennis he just keeps winning.

The Western & Southern Open normally is held in Ohio but was moved to Flushing Meadows this year because of the coronavirus pandemic as part of a two-tournament controlled environment.

Djokovic will be seeking his 18th Grand Slam title, which would move him one behind Nadal and two behind Roger Federer's men's record of 20. Neither of those rivals entered in the U.S. Open – although both spoke out via Twitter on Saturday against Djokovic's bid to start a new group to represent men's tennis players.



"We want to have our own organization and association that is 100% ours," Djokovic said. On court, Djokovic was listless in the first set, looking exactly the way one might have expected given that he labored through a three-hour semifinal a day earlier, when he repeatedly grabbed his stomach and twice had his neck massaged by a trainer.

Azarenka won her first tour title since 2016 when Naomi Osaka pulled out of the women's final because of a left hamstring injury. "I just hope I'm giving myself, you know, the opportunity and the chance to have enough time" to recover ahead of the U.S. Open, Osaka said.

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## Federer, Nadal object to Djokovic proposal for men's player union

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, 30 AUGUST

Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and other members of the ATP Player Council spoke out against a plan put forth by top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Vasek Pospisil to start a men's-only union of sorts for tennis – bringing the sport's politics into the spotlight just before the U.S. Open.

Federer and Nadal joined player council representatives Kevin Anderson, Jürgen Melzer, Sam Querrey and Bruno Soares in sending a note to players raising questions about the proposal and saying they're against it. "The world is living a difficult and complicated

situation. I personally believe these are times to be calm and work all of us together in the same direction. It is time for unity, not for separation," Nadal tweeted.

"These are moments where big things can be achieved as long as the world of tennis is united. We all, players, tournaments and governing bodies have to work together. We have a bigger problem and separation and disunion is definitely not the solution," Federer quote-tweeted his own court ruling to say he agrees and added: "These are uncertain and challenging times, but I believe it's critical for us to stand united as players, and as a sport, to pave the best way forward."

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## Messi skips required Covid testing with Barca

AGENCIES  
MADRID, 30 AUGUST



In another sign that Lionel Messi's (*in photo*) time with Barcelona is coming to an end, the player did not report for required coronavirus testing scheduled for the whole squad on Sunday.

Barcelona said Messi was the only player who did not undergo the tests at the club's training center. The team is set to resume training on Monday ahead of the upcoming start of the season. The club also reiterated its stance not to negotiate Messi's early release, saying president Josep Bartomeu will only sit down with the player if it is to extend his contract beyond next season.

Messi last week expressed

leave at the end of the season for free, but the club claims that the clause had already expired.

A legal battle is expected to unfold as Messi will contend that the season was extended beyond the date the clause expired because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Argentine great reportedly said he wanted to negotiate with the club, but Barcelona said Saturday it was not willing to facilitate his exit. The club said it would like for Messi to finish his career with the Catalan club. There were rumors earlier in the week that Messi would show up for Sunday's tests to avoid breaking team rules while negotiating his departure, but his people reportedly told the club on Saturday of his intentions not to attend the testing.

## Was scared to hit nets for first time in 5 months: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, 30 AUGUST



Indian captain Virat Kohli (*in photo*) admitted he was "pretty scared" to hit the nets for the first time in five months but said his first training session ahead of the IPL went "better than expected". The Royal Challengers Bangalore captain resumed training after a five-month coronavirus-forced hiatus. The net session was also attended by South African pace legend Dale Steyn and RCB team director Mike Hesson.

"(It went) much better than expected, to be honest. I was pretty scared. I hadn't picked up a bat for five months, but yeah it came out better than I thought, to be honest," Kohli was quoted as saying by the franchise's website.

The 31-year-old, who was RCB's highest run-getter last year, said staying fit during the lockdown helped him to react better during the net session even though he was training after a long break.

Besides Kohli, spin trio of Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar and Shahbaz Nadeem and a few pacers also trained and Kohli was pleased with the way they went about their business in the first session.

"Otherwise you come heavier into the season, the body isn't moving as much, and it starts playing on mind, but yeah, as I said it went much better than I expected."

RCB arrived in Dubai last week ahead of the 13th IPL, which is scheduled to begin on September 19. The cash-rich RCB event was moved out of India due to the rising COVID-19 cases in the country. The team hit the nets on Saturday after successfully ending its quarantine period.

"I've trained quite a bit during the lockdown, so I'm feeling quite fit and that helps. Because the body is light and you react better, I feel like I have more time on the ball. That's a big plus," he said.

"Otherwise you come heavier into the season, the body isn't moving as much, and it starts playing on mind, but yeah, as I said it went much better than I expected."

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EXTRACT OF THE AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH' 2020								EXTRACT OF THE AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH' 2020													
Rs. In Crores								Rs. In Crores													
Sr. No.	Particulars	Current Year ending 31.03.2020	Previous Year ending 31.03.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2020	Quarter ending 31.12.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2019	Current Year ending 31.03.2020	Previous Year ending 31.03.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2020	Quarter ending 31.12.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2019	Current Year ending 31.03.2020	Previous Year ending 31.03.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2020	Quarter ending 31.12.2019	Quarter ending 31.03.2019					
1	Premium Income (Gross)	13996.01	13484.75																		
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1498.70	-428.99																		
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	-1498.70	-428.99																		
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	-1515.30	-290.91																		
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Not Applicable	Not Applicable																		
6	Equity Share Capital	200.00*	200.00																		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	1544.60	3045.98																		
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/-each) for continuing and discontinued operations: 1. Basic: 2. Diluted:	-75.76 -75.76	-14.55 -14.55																		

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Annual Financial Results filed with the National Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The full format of the Annual Financial Results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and the Company ([www.orientalinsurance.org.in](http://www.orientalinsurance.org.in)).

\*Excluding share application money of Rs. 50 Crores received on 19.03.2020 and allotment of Equity Shares to Government of India under rights issue on account of capital infusion approved by Board of Directors on 06.05.2020.

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 29.08.2020

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