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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



ARMY PREPARED FOR  
LONG HAUL AT LAC  
WITH CHINA



P4

'CENTRE WILL COME  
OUT WITH MORE  
INDUSTRY-FRIENDLY  
REFORMS'

P8



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

BELARUSIAN  
CHALLENGER FLEES  
TO LITHUANIA

P10

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P12

## WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with possibility of Moderate rain/ thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 32 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 8.6 MM

### RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 92% Min: 56%

### TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.8°C (+ 2) Min: 27.8°C (+ 1)

SUN RISES 05:50 hrs MOON RISES 0:17 hrs

SUN SETS 19:03 hrs MOON SETS 13:15 hrs

### THUMBNAILS



A medical worker collects swab sample for Covid-19 testing, at a primary school in the Capital on Tuesday.

**DCCA bars use of wide-body aircraft at Kozhikode:** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DCCA) has barred the operation of wide-body aircraft at Kozhikode airport this morning "out of abundant caution", a senior official said on Tuesday, adding that the regulator will conduct a special audit of airports that receive heavy rains. The decision was taken four days after a narrow-body B737 aircraft of Air India Express with 190 people on board overshot the runway and crashed at the Kozhikode airport amid the downpour.

**Covid breaks out again in NZ:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Tuesday that authorities have found four Covid cases in one Auckland household from an unknown source, the first cases of local transmission in the country in 102 days. Ardern said Auckland, the nation's largest city, will be moved to Level 3 from midday Wednesday.

P10

## Pranab Mukherjee's condition worsens, says Army hospital

**SNS&PTI**  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee has worsened and he remains on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said on Tuesday, a day after he underwent a brain surgery.

The 84-year-old was admitted to the military hospital around noon on Monday, and had also tested positive for COVID-19 prior to the surgery.

"Shri Pranab Mukherjee's health condition continues to remain critical at Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantonment. The former president, who underwent lifesaving emergency surgery for brain clot on 10 August 2020, has not shown any improvement and his health status has worsened. He remains on ventilatory support," the hospital said in its latest statement.

It earlier said the former

## All regular passenger trains suspended indefinitely: Rlys

**SNS&PTI**  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

President was admitted to the hospital at 1207 hours on August 10, 2020 in a critical condition.

"Workup at the hospital revealed a large brain clot for which he underwent emergency life saving surgery," the hospital earlier said.

A multidisciplinary team of doctors is constantly monitoring the health of the former president.

Mukherjee tweeted on Monday that he had tested positive for COVID-19 and urged people who had come in contact with him in the last week to isolate themselves and get tested for the novel coronavirus. Soon after the news of his hospitalisation, wishes poured in from various quarters for his early recovery and a number of leaders sent their wishes on Twitter.

President Ram Nath Kovind spoke to Mukherjee's daughter Sharmista Mukherjee and enquired about his health. He earlier said the former

The Railways has stated that all regular passenger train services will remain suspended till further notice, but 230 special trains will continue to be in service. "This is to bring to the notice of all concerned that as decided and informed earlier as well, regular passenger and suburban train services will continue to remain suspended till further notice," a statement from the Railways said.

However, all other regular trains and suburban trains run before the lockdown will remain suspended for the time being, it said. All special trains, 12 pairs running on the Rajdhani routes since May 12 and 100 pairs operating since June 1, will continue. Limited special suburban services will also run.

SNS&PTI

## There shouldn't be any vendetta politics: Pilot

**SNS&PTI**  
JAIPUR, 11 AUGUST

Congress leader Sachin Pilot here on Tuesday said he has not demanded any post from the party and there should not be any vendetta politics as he returned to Jaipur nearly a month after his revolt against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

On Monday, a meeting between Sachin Pilot and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had signalled an "amicable resolution" of nearly a month-long Rajasthan political crisis ahead of the crucial assembly session beginning August 14.

The Congress leader told reporters that he did not make any statement against the party and had gone to discuss issues with the Congress high command in Delhi. I have not demanded any post from the party, he added.

Pilot, however, said he was shocked at statements made against him.

"I am sad, shocked and hurt due to the kind of words used against me," Pilot said.

He said there should not be any space for personal ill-feelings in politics and there should not be any vendetta politics.

A large number of his supporters gathered outside his residence to welcome



Sachin Pilot addressing media persons at his residence in the Capital on Tuesday. ■ SNS

him as he drove down to Jaipur from New Delhi in his car.

Earlier today Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said he will address grievances of MLAs, a day after the Congress set up a committee to look into the issues raised by rebel legislators.

A meeting between Sachin

Pilot and Rahul Gandhi on Monday signalled an "amicable resolution" of nearly a month-long Rajasthan crisis ahead of the crucial assembly session from August 14.

Gehlot said he does not know why some MLAs rebelled and what promises were made to them.

"If any MLA is annoyed

with me, then it is my responsibility to address that. I have kept doing this in the past and will do this now also," he told reporters before leaving for Jaisalmer.

However, he evaded a question on using harsh words against Pilot including calling him a 'nikamta'.

Referring to the Congress meeting on Monday, he said decisions were taken and now the future strategy will be decided.

He said he has no idea about the formula for Pilot's return.

"High command knows this. He will tell his grievances to the three-member committee formed by the party," he said.

Asserting that the Congress government in the state will not only complete its five years but will also win the next assembly elections, Gehlot again accused the BJP of conspiring to topple his government at any cost.

## Road crash kills UP girl studying in US, kin allege bikers trailed her

**SNS&PTI**  
BULANDSHAH (UP), 11 AUGUST

A 20-year-old student from Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar, who was studying in a US college, died in a road crash here, with her family claiming the accident happened as some motorcycle-borne men were allegedly following her two-wheeler and harassing her, officials said Tuesday.

The incident took place in Aurangabad area here on Monday morning when Sudiksha Bhati was riding pillion on a motorcycle with her younger brother, a minor, they said.

The two were en route to their maternal uncle's home in Khanpur area here from their house at Deri Scanar village

in Gautam Buddha Nagar's Dadri tehsil, the officials said.

The eldest among six siblings, she had an envious academic record.

"She got admitted in our school in 2011 in Class 6. In 2018, she scored 96 per cent marks in class 12 examination and topped the district, said Bishwajit Banerjee, the principal of Sikandrabad Vidyagyan School, Bulandshah."

She then went onto win a Rs 3.8-crore scholarship from Babson College, Massachusetts (US), and was pursuing a graduation course in entrepreneurship, he said.

Her father runs a tea shop. Her family members said she had come to India due to the coronavirus pandemic and was scheduled to go to the US on

August 20.

They also alleged that while going to her maternal uncle's home, she was being harassed by the unidentified persons during the ride which led to the accident, prompting Bulandshah district administration to order a probe.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Atul Kumar Srivastava said, There was traffic on the route. A Bullet (a Royal Enfield motorcycle) which was moving ahead of them suddenly stopped due to braking, and the two-wheeler of Sudiksha Bhati and her brother rammed into it from behind."

"She suffered injuries in the crash and was taken to a community health centre but she

died," he said, citing preliminary information from her brother and others who witnessed the incident.

In a purported video that has surfaced on social media, her brother said, "We were on a motorcycle at a speed of 30 km per hour. The men on the Bullet were riding near us and applied brakes on their vehicle suddenly... The Bullet had 'Fat Boys' inscribed on its number plate and its number started with UP-13."

ASP Srivastava, however, said the woman's brother had not mentioned anything about harassment to the police at the time of the incident.

District Magistrate Ravinder Kumar said, We are enquiring into the allegations of harassment. We'll record

statements of people concerned and gather video footages. Arguments and counter-arguments will be taken into account and probe carried out as per evidence.

He also clarified that it was the younger brother of the woman and not the uncle, as being told by some people, who was riding the two-wheeler.

According to the woman's uncle, the younger brother, a minor, was riding the motorcycle without a helmet, the DM added.

He said officials in Bulandshah are trying to contact Sudiksha's family in Dadri, but have been unable to reach them over the phone. They have been sent to their home and further investigation is underway, he added.

## SC: Daughters have equal coparcenary rights in joint Hindu family property

**SNS&PTI**  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

same manner as a son with the same rights and liabilities.

Coparcener is a term used for a person who assumes a legal right in parental property by birth only.

The bench said, "The rights can be claimed by the daughter earlier with effect from September 9, 2005 with savings as provided in Section 6(1) as to the disposition or alienation, partition or testamentary disposition which had taken place before December 20, 2004. Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be living as on September 9, 2005."

The verdict makes it clear that the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect. The apex court said the appeals on the issue were pending before different High Courts and subordinate courts and the matters have already been delayed due to legal imbroglio caused by conflicting decisions.

"The daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality conferred upon them by Section 6. Hence, we request that the pending matters be decided, as far as possible, within six months," the bench said.



I leave it to the party to decide what is it that I need to do. I am committed to the people of Rajasthan, my constituents and the promises that I made to them

SACHIN PILOT  
CONGRESS LEADER

# Delhi records 8 Covid deaths, lowest in more than 2 months

The city however reports 1,257 fresh coronavirus cases a day after it recorded 707 new cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

**A** day after the single-day number of fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Delhi came down to 707, the city today reported 1,257 new cases of Covid-19 when the total number of Covid tests conducted was 19,440.

The cumulative total of coronavirus cases thus rose to 1,47,391 in the national capital, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The count of new Covid cases dipped to 707 in Delhi yesterday when 12,323 tests were conducted to identify coronavirus positive patients.

The number of deaths due to Covid-19, as recorded by the Delhi government in its health bulletin, however came down to 8 in the city from yesterday's 20, which took the cumulative total of such fatalities to 4,139 so far.

It was for the first time in



A medical worker collects a swab sample from a child for Covid testing, at a primary school in the Capital on Tuesday.

more than two months that Delhi recorded less than 10 deaths owing to the coronavirus infection. On 5 August, the city had recorded 11 deaths caused by Covid-19.

Taking note of the decline in the number of Covid-19 fatalities, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi, "Today there were only 8 deaths due to corona(virus) in Delhi. Less than 10 deaths occurred today after many days."

We have taken many steps to bring down the number of deaths due to corona(virus). We are making efforts so that there is not even one death (due to Covid-19).

Every human being is precious for us."

The total number of recovered patients in Delhi so far was 1,32,384, including 727 patients discharged from various hospitals over the last 24 hours. The recovery rate was 89.81 per cent whereas it was 90.09 per cent yesterday.

The health bulletin stated that there were now 10,868 active coronavirus cases in the national capital.

The Covid patients getting treatment under home isolation numbered 5,523, the bulletin stated.

The city's tally of coronavirus cases had risen to 1,46,134 yesterday.

The number of single-day Covid cases were 1,300 in Delhi on 9 August and 1,404 on 8 August.

There were 1,070 Covid patients who were reported to have recovered by yesterday, pushing the total number of recovered cases in Delhi to 1,31,657.

With this, the Covid recovery rate in the city had then crossed the 90 per cent mark to reach 90.09 per cent.

CM Kejriwal had then said, "Over 90% of Corona patients in Delhi have now recovered. Only 7 % cases are active now. Slowly and steadily, the people of Delhi are defeating Corona."

Online education: Sisodia takes feedback from teachers, parents



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday interacted with teachers and parents in Chirag Enclave's KGSBV School to review the online and semi-online education system being implemented in the city.

This was his eighth successive review of the system. He was accompanied by Aam Aadmi Party MLA from Greater Kailash, Saurabh Bhadrawaj.

Sisodia said on the occasion, "We wanted to take firsthand feedback from parents to improve the current online and semi-online education system. According

to the data available with us, this experiment is going well. But I have come here to understand the ground reality from you."

Emphasising on the importance of schools, he said students are major victims due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. The kind of exposure a child gets in a school cannot be compensated through the online system. However, the online education system could help reduce the loss students are suffering.

This system is the need of the hour, he pointed out.

Sisodia said the students who did not have resources for online education were contacted through phone calls.

A semi-online system was introduced by providing them the required study material.



## Released ₹98.35 cr to NrDMC for teachers' salary, Delhi govt tells HC

PTI

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The Delhi High court was informed by the Delhi government that it has released Rs 98.35 crore to North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NrDMC) for paying salaries to 9,000 teachers, engaged by the civic body, for July and August.

The Delhi government also said it has permitted the NrDMC to utilise the unspent balance of Rs 1,807.10 lakh of previous year for the purpose of paying salaries of the teachers.

A bench of Justices Hima



Kohli and Subramonium Prasad was hearing a suo motu PIL initiated by the high court with regard to the disbursement of unpaid salaries of teachers employed in schools run by the

NrDMC. The high court had initiated the PIL in June after hearing the petition filed on behalf of NrDMC teachers by Akhil Dilli Prathmik Shikshak Sangh,

seeking direction to the authorities to pay the salaries which were due since March, when the nationwide lockdown was imposed.

As Rs 98.35 crore has been released by the Delhi government in favour of NrDMC under the scheme of Primary Education, the civic body shall ensure that salary dues of the teachers from May onwards shall be cleared at the earliest, the bench said.

Besides the Grant-in-Aid received from the Delhi Government, NrDMC shall also chip in by making funds available for paying the salaries of teach-

ers teaching in schools being run by it, the bench said and directed the civic authority to file a fresh status report within two weeks.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on September 1.

The court was earlier informed by the NrDMC that it had paid salaries to all 9,000 teachers engaged by the civic body till March and 5,406 teachers, who are put on COVID-19 duty, have been given their dues for April.

The NrDMC had blamed the Delhi government for not releasing Grant-In-Aid to the

civic body due to which it is unable to pay the salaries of its employees.

The Delhi government had said that the Grant-in-Aid payable by it to the NrDMC for release of salaries to its teachers was Rs 147 crore for the first quarter, April to June, and it has been released in three month-tranches.

While initiating the PIL on June 26, the bench had remarked that teachers deployed on COVID-19 duty can be equated to corona warriors and was displeased that their salaries have not been paid since March.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020

DELHI POLICE  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Invites to the Independence Day 2020 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2020 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएँ:

### Prohibited Items

Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण
	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें
	Bag, Briefcase बैग, ब्रीफकेस
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एम्पी3 प्लेयर
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडीकैम
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस फ्लैक्स, जल की बोतल, कैन
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. आई-पैड, आई-पॉड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कॉम्प्यूटर, टैबलेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि
	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार की बैटरी रखने से बचे क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel. यदि, कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं।

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking. कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें। Please be alert to your surroundings. कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

Keeping in mind the threat of Covid-19, don't forget to wear face mask/cover and maintain Social Distancing कोविड-19 के खतरे को ध्यान में रखते हुए फैस कवर/मास्क पहनना और दूसरों से उचित दूरी बना कर रखना ना भूलें।

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/9245/2020

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090



*It is necessary to implement a scheme like MGNREGA for those suffering due to unemployment in cities, and the NYAY scheme for the poor people across the country*

RAHUL GANDHI  
CONGRESS LEADER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2020

03

# Punjab CM urges PM to ensure financial package for states

During PM Modi's video conference with CMs, Capt Amarinder Singh calls for a liberal financial package for states to bridge their revenue gaps caused by the coronavirus pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 11 AUGUST

**A**mid surge in coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and 50 per cent revenue decline for the first quarter of this fiscal in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday sought from Prime Minister Narendra Modi a liberal financial package for states to bridge the collection gaps caused by the pandemic.

During PM Modi's video conference with chief ministers of several states to review the Covid situation, Capt Amarinder also sought flexibility on Covid-related terms of expenditure in the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF). He said the current cap of 35 per cent in the SDRF for Covid-related expenditure was not sufficient to meet the current requirements.



Citing the rising Covid cases in Punjab, which have gone up to 24891 with 604 deaths, the CM urged the Prime Minister to review the University Grants Commission (UGC) decision on mandatory exams for exit classes to be held by September 30.

Punjab might not be in a position to conduct exams in September as it may be facing its coronavirus peak at that time, Capt said, suggesting that these students should be promoted on past performance

and internal assessment with the option to take exams later for those wanting to improve their performance.

He also sought the Central government's assistance for online school education, especially for poor children of Classes X and XII. More money was needed for creating the infrastructure needed to support online education, he pointed out.

Expressing concern over Punjab's Covid mortality rate of 2.4 per cent, Capt Amarinder said though it was lower than the all India deaths per million and 9 per cent of the fatality cases were with co-morbidity, it was still higher than neighbouring Haryana. The patients were coming to hospitals late and 86 per cent deaths were occurring in tertiary hospitals, he added.

Giving an update on the Covid situation in Punjab,

the CM said it had seen cases go up from 500 to 1000 in two weeks, with the positivity rate of the last five days standing at 8.73 per cent.

The majority of coronavirus cases were being reported from Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Patiala cities, though cases were increasing in all districts, Capt said. The number of micro-containment zones was being increased in high-incidence districts like Ludhiana, Patiala and Jalandhar, he said.

The concern at present was the rising number of Covid cases in the state, with the Punjabi spirit of "koyi gal nahin (no worries)" causing people to delay going for testing and treatment, said Capt Amarinder. While this was a "nice spirit", it could prove to be detrimental in certain instances, as amid the current Covid pandemic, he added.

## Shimla girl selected as IAF flying officer

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 11 AUGUST



Training Center Dundigal in Hyderabad.

Preerna Gupta did her schooling from Loreto Convent School

Shimla, graduation from Delhi University and later her post graduation from Annamalai University.

Her father Jitender Gupta retired as Naib Tehsildar from state Revenue department and her mother Kamlesh Gupta is working with the office of Regional Provident Fund Commission.

Gupta credited her success to her hard work, dedication and continued support from her parents, teachers, friends and her brother Samridh Gupta, who always stood by her.

### Delhi violence: HC grants bail to accused in case of rioting and arson

PTI

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court has granted bail to an accused who was allegedly involved in the case of rioting and arson during the north east Delhi violence in February this year.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani granted the relief to Mohd Anwar on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the like amount from blood-relatives.

The high court directed him not to leave the National Capital Region (NCR) without permission of the trial court and shall ordinarily reside in his place of resi-

dence as per prison records.

Another aspect which deserves attention is the effect that pre-trial detention has on an accused, especially on his right to brief and consult his lawyers and to prepare his defence, in order to afford to the accused a real and not merely chimerical right to fair trial, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the judge said.

The high court said till the time cognisance is taken on the charge sheet and the accused is summoned by the trial court, he shall present himself on every alternate Saturday before the investigating officer of the case.

new inmates owing to spiralling of crime rate, regarding which the recommendations were made by the high powered committee on the orders of Supreme Court.

The minister said that the average admission in special jails is around 3000 per month, due to which the present population of jails stands at around 17500, which is approximately 73 percent of total capacity. 449 prisoners and 77 prison officials have tested Covid positive till date. Most of the above cases have been detected in the last few weeks through two-levels of testing of all prisoners had started since mid-May.

The minister said since 80 per cent of total jail inmates are under-trials, the criteria for recommending the release of prisoners was of under-trials only, and mainly of those accused under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, with recovery upto intermediate quantity and not having more than three cases.

In addition to new criteria, interim-bail of all the prisoners presently out from jail on interim-bail may be extended further till the notification of Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 is in force. The Committee has also recommended that cases of Covid-19 positive prisoners may be taken up on priority basis by concerned Judicial officers for interim-bail.

### FLOATING PANORAMA



A trekker looking at clouds hovering over the hills and valleys from Churdhar Peak at an altitude of 11,965 feet, in Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

LALIT KUMAR

## Punjab to release up to 4K undertrial prisoners

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 11 AUGUST

in view of the spike in Covid-19 cases in Punjab, the state government has decided to bring the number of prisoners to 50 per cent of the authorised capacity in order to provide adequate space for keeping the prisoners under quarantine and ensuring social distancing.

In accordance with the decision, 3500 to 4000 prisoners would be released soon even as 9500 were released earlier. Disclosing this on Tuesday, the jail minister Sukhinder Singh Randhawa said that this exercise is being undertaken considering the relaxations in lockdown restrictions, increase in number of

new inmates owing to spiralling of crime rate, regarding which the recommendations were made by the high powered committee on the orders of Supreme Court.

The minister said that the average admission in special jails is around 3000 per month, due to which the present population of jails stands at around 17500, which is approximately 73 percent of total capacity. 449 prisoners and 77 prison officials have tested Covid positive till date. Most of the above cases have been detected in the last few weeks through two-levels of testing of all prisoners had started since mid-May.

The minister said since 80 per cent of total jail inmates


**DELHI POLICE**  
**SHANTI SEWA NYAYA**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

### FULL DRESS REHEARSAL ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY**

**TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT**

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4.00 AM to 10.00 AM and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO/Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
- Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass.

**ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 HRS TO 10.00 HRS:**

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid C-Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandir House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A Point Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT bridge and Outer Ring Road from IP Flyover through Salimgarh Bypass to ISBT and take the other routes as advised.

**North-South Access:**

**Alternative-1:** Aurora Marg - Safdarjung Road - Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuhan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard Road - Mori Gate - Puli Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

**Alternative-2:** Reach Connaught Place - Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg - Ajmeri Gate - Shradhanand Marg - Lahori Gate Chowk - Naya Bazar - Peeli Koti - S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

**Alternative-3:** Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna - Pushta Road - G.T. Road and cross Yuddhisthir Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

**East West corridor:**

DND - NH24 (NH9) - Vikas Marg - Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.

Vikas Marg - DDU Marg - Bhavbhuti Marg - DBG Road - Rani Jhansi Road/Outubut Road - Bar Khanha - Boulevard Road and vice versa.

Geeta Colony Bridge will be closed towards Shantivan. Similarly, traffic would not be permitted on lower Ring Road from ISBT Kashmere Gate towards Shantivan and from IP flyover towards Rajghat.

People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush & inconvenience.

**SIGNAGES:**

Adequate informative signages will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

**RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTER STATE BUSES:**

- Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge and Wazirabad bridge from the 12:00 midnight of 12.08.2020 to 11:00 AM on 13.08.2020.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In view of care to be exercised during Covid-19 situation, the invitees are requested to follow guidelines issued by MHA & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at all times while they are in the I.D.C. function area at Red Fort. In this regard, attention is invited to the following:

- In the event of any invitee experiencing/having a history of any symptoms of Covid-19 within 2 weeks of the Independence Day 2020, which is yet untested or confirmed POSITIVE for Corona (Covid-19), the invitee may consider refraining to attend the event.
- At the entry gates, markings will be available at adequate distance and invitees are requested to position/move on these markings while entering the gate.
- Controlling officers & Ushers will be on duty to assist & guide for seating inside the designated enclosures.
- Similarly on conclusion of the function at Red Fort, all invitees are requested to remain seated until requested/guided by the Controlling officers/Ushers of the designated enclosures to proceed to avoid crowding at exit.

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FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S M KRISHNA

EXPRESSING DISMAY OVER WHAT DMK MP KANIMOZHI FACED AT CHENNAI AIRPORT

## THUMBNAILS



Boatmen catch fish as the water level of the Ganges rises, in Allahabad on Tuesday.

■ AFP

**Kerala Covid-19 tally:** Kerala on Tuesday reported 1,417 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of persons affected in the state to 36,568. Death toll reaches 120. SNS

**Lalji Tandon's ashes:** Ashes of late BJP leader and former MP governor Lalji Tandon were immersed in the Narmada at Sethani Chat in Hoshangabad town on Tuesday. PTI

# YSR, KCR to PM: Ramp up medical facilities for Covid

T'gana health minister speaks tough on exorbitant billing by private facilities

SNS &amp; PTI

HYDERABAD, 11 AUGUST

**W**hile Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wanted

Centre's help to ramp up medical facilities in the state since it has no big metro cities, like Chennai or Hyderabad, Telangana chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase medical infrastructure in the entire country to tackle medical emergencies better in future.

"As our state is a newly formed state with no Tier-I like Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru, we look forward to your help in ramping up medical infrastructure in Tier-II cities," said Reddy.

He said Covid-19 cases in the state were being identified at an early stages, which would help to keep mortality rate low.

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao urged Prime Minister Modi to focus more on

increasing medical facilities in the country, learning from the experience of tackling the pandemic.

Hespoke for better doctor and people ratio as well as coming up with new medical colleges after taking suggestions from Indian Medical Association (IMA).

The state and Centre should cooperate to tackle medical emergencies which may come up in future.

Meanwhile, Telangana health minister has spoken tough on exorbitant billing by private facilities in the state and warned them the government will take over 50 per cent of the beds and ICUs to treat patients according to its own norms.

The private hospitals are accused of running a battery of unnecessary tests as well as urging patients to deposit a large sum of money before admission. The health department has received more than 1,038 complaints against private hospitals and has set up a committee to look into them. The department has also sent show cause

notices to the private hospitals named in the complaints.

Meanwhile, Medtronic, a global leader in medical technology, services and solutions has decided to invest Rs 1,200 crore in expanding its current research and development centre in Hyderabad into state-of-the-art engineering and innovation centre. It will be the largest global R&D centre outside US for the company and will help Hyderabad to cement its position as the hub of medical devices in the country.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh's Covid-19 tally went up to 2,44,549 on Tuesday as 9,024 fresh cases were added, while 87 more deaths pushed the overall toll to 2,203.

According to the latest bulletin, 9,113 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after recovering from the disease.

More positive cases were detected in rapid antigen tests as compared to RT-PCR, TruNat and other tests in the last 24 hours in the state.

## Ram Madhav questions 3-capital issue

HYDERABAD, 11 AUGUST

BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav on Tuesday questioned the necessity of having three capitals for Andhra Pradesh when a larger state like Uttar Pradesh has only one capital. Though the Centre has washed its hands off the issue taking a Constitutional stand that it is up to the state government to decide on the location of the capital city, BJP leaders have taken different stand in the past few months.

Madhav was speaking at a political programme where Somu Veeraj took over as the new president of the Andhra Pradesh unit. The party national general secretary also warned that three capitals should not mean triple corruption and wondered if BJP can fight against the corruption in Amaravati why not against this proposal.

He warned his party leaders in Andhra Pradesh not to bask in the glory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but work with a killer instinct to grab power in the state in 2024. SNS

# Army prepared for long haul at LAC with China: Gen Bipin Rawat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The Indian Army is preparing for a long haul along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in view of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops' reluctance to withdraw from some of the friction points in eastern Ladakh despite promising to do so, a Parliamentary panel is understood to have been informed by the Army leadership.

Arrangements were being made to ensure adequate clothing and ration for Indian troops to help them cope with harsh conditions in the area in view of the possibility of the current stand-off with China continuing during the winter months, Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), Gen Bipin Rawat informed the high-powered panel.

It was also brought to the notice of the committee that the PLA moved troops in the garb of a military exercise in the Xinjiang province on its side of the LAC and transgressed into Indian territory in the Ladakh region in April-May. The Chinese have brought in more than 40,000 troops and have been maintaining that strength since April-May.

Gen Rawat emphasised that India was fully prepared to face any onslaught. However, efforts were being made to reduce the trust deficit with China.

Govt approves procurements worth over ₹8,700 cr for Armed Forces

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

To strengthen country's defence preparedness and take forward the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) today approved proposals worth over Rs 8,722 crore for capital acquisitions of various platforms and equipment required by the Indian Armed Forces.

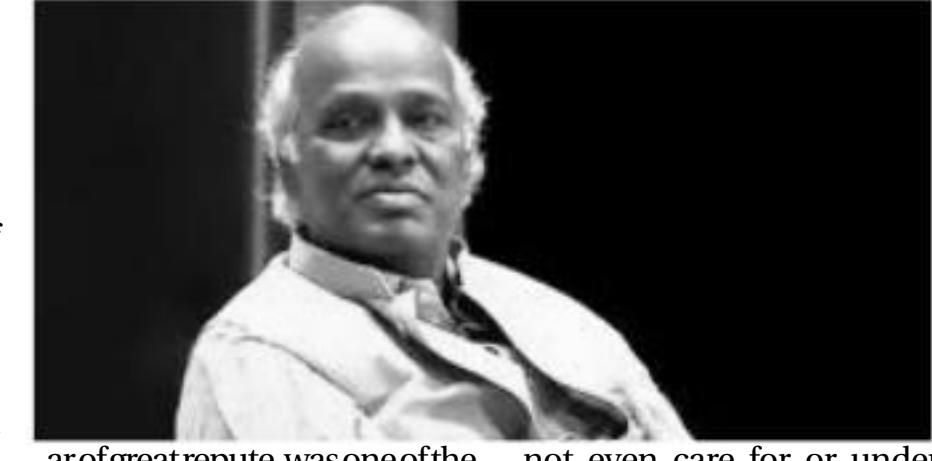
With Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) having successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) Prototypes and certification process under way, the DAC, which met under the chairmanship of defence minister Rajnath Singh, approved procurement of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft

India and China have held several rounds of military-level talks but in vain as China was not ready to retreat from the friction points.

India, too, has taken adequate measures to boost the strength of its troops and develop infrastructure to counter any threat from China.

This has already resulted in a major clash between the troops on the two sides on 15 June at the Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives while there were an unspecified number of casualties on the Chinese side.

# Satrathikar passes away

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
GUWAHATI, 11 AUGUST

## Renowned Urdu poet Rahat Indori dies in Indore hospital

PTI  
INDORE, 11 AUGUST

Famous Urdu poet Rahat Indori, whose powerful and lucid poetry filled halls and connected with the young and old alike, died of a heart attack at a hospital here on Tuesday while being treated for COVID-19, his son said. He was 70.

The teacher-turned-poet had been admitted to hospital on Tuesday morning after he tested positive for the disease. He is survived by three sons and a daughter.

"He was admitted for coronary thrombosis but died after suffering a heart attack," son Satyajit Indori, also a poet, told PTI. Indore District Collector Manish Singh said Indori was undergoing treatment at the Sri Aurobindo Institute of Medical Sciences.

In the morning, the lyricist poet tweeted about his COVID-19 diagnosis and said he will keep everyone updated through social media. "After initial symptoms of COVID-19, my corona test was done yesterday which came out positive. Pray that I defeat this disease as soon as possible," Indori said in what would be his last post.

With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori, an Urdu scholar

of great repute, was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country and someone who fearlessly called a spade a spade.

The wordsmith that he was, Indori translated the mood of the nation in his poetry that was emotive, direct and political.

Attacking religious divide and jingoism, Indori famously wrote, Sabhi khaon shaamil hai yahan ki mitti mein, kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai (Everyone's blood is mingled in this earth. Hindustan is no one's property). The lines were used on posters and banners during the anti-CAA protests, pushing him to almost cult status.

Indori was that rare poet who was easily connected with the young generation. In fact, his lines, delivered in a trademark rousing style, almost teasing as it were, were very popular with Tik-Tok users and those who did

not even care for or understand Urdu poetry. Earlier this year, his poem "Bulatihai magar ja ka nahi" went viral on social media, making him a sensation among the youth.

Memes using the poem's openning lines flooded social media during Valentine's Day.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi bid farewell to Indori Sahab" with a couplet - Abnamain hoona na baaki zamane mere. Fir bhi Shehron me mashhoor hain fasane mere (Neither me nor any era exists, but my stories are still famous in the cities).

Historian and author Ranajit Sen termed his death a "huge loss to a fearless voice and to the world of poetry".

In fellow poet Gulzar's view, Indori was the soul of a mushaira. "Mushaira loot ke le gaye" is a saying in Urdu. Toh Rahat saab mushairon ke loote re the (he stole the thunder at symposiums).

## Classified

### SALE BY AUCTION

E-Auction Ewaste, others on 20-08-2020, at 2:30. Inspection 18, 19-8-2020 from 11:00 to 4:00 at NIPCD, 5, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Delhi. Security Rs. 20,00/- detail Accurate 9868215515.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, BASANTI RANI, spouse of Harendra Nath Sarkar, resident of Vill. & P.O.: Tarai Nagar, P.S.: Hanskali, Dist.: Nadia (W.B.) have changed my name from Basanti Rani to Basanti Sarkar, vide affidavit dated 05.03.2020 before Court of the Lt. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Metropolitan, Kolkata. My VIRTUE of an affidavit before Notary Public Bhawanipatna on dt. 03.08.2020, I have changed my name from Manisha Garg to Manisha Agrawal. Henceforth I shall be known as Manisha Agrawal for all purposes.

### TENDERS

THE CHAIRPERSON, Board of Administrators, Katwa Municipality has invited tender against:

- Q.I.T. No.: 17 (DEV / 14th Fin. Commr / KM) 2020-21.
- Q.I.T. No.: 18 (DEV / 14th Fin. Commr / KM) 2020-21.
- Q.I.T. No.: 19 (DEV / 14th Fin. Commr / KM) 2020-21.
- Q.I.T. No.: 20 (DEV / 14th Fin. Commr / KM) 2020-21.
- Intending bidders are requested to visit Katwa Municipality Notice Board.

Chairperson  
Board of Administrators  
Katwa Municipality



*This is the time when we should not politicise...and work for the people*

WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER PARtha CHATTERJEE  
WHILE INAUGURATING FREE SWAB TEST CENTRE IN HIS CONSTITUENCY

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2020

05



A boy selling National Flags look for customers along a street ahead of 74th Independence day, in New Delhi on Tuesday. AFP

**BJP functionary shot dead:** Former district president of BJP Sanjay Khokhar was shot dead in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district on Tuesday morning. Two unidentified assailants pumped bullets on Khokhar's chest and head that became fatal near his agriculture farm in Chaprauli when he was out for a morning walk. Police has started the investigation and an FIR has been lodged naming four persons who had a brawl with the BJP leader in 2018.

SNS

**Air India pilot cremated:** Wing Commander Deepak Sathe (Retd), pilot-in-command of the Air India Express plane that crashed in Kerala last week, was cremated in Mumbai on Tuesday with state honours. Several mourners lined up the road as the funeral procession started from his residence in Chandivli. The Maharashtra government decided to accord a state funeral to the pilot, and said his life shall inspire young pilots.

SNS

**Leopard kills girl in Dahod district:** A 7-year-old girl has been mauled to death by a leopard near Sangasgar village in Gujarat's Dahod district, a forest official said on Tuesday. This is the third such incident in the region in less than a month, he said. The big cat dragged the victim away from outside her house in Dhanpur taluka on Monday evening, said Vasisya Dungri forest range officer Mahesh Parmar. PTI

# Six Manipur Cong MLAs give up Assembly membership

Also quit party due to lack of trust in leadership of Ibobi Singh for whom Cong failed to form govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IMPHAL, 11 AUGUST

**S**ix Congress MLAs in Manipur have submitted their resignation from the Legislative Assembly and also quit the party on Tuesday.

The six legislators who had handed over resignation letters to Speaker Yumnam Khemchand Singh the previous night, formally informed the Congress office here about leaving the party.

"Six Cong MLAs of Manipur have submitted their resignation letters to the Congress office," Hareshwar Goshwami, general secretary, Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee, told reporters.

The six are among the eight Congress legislators who had defied a party whip on Monday and skipped the one-day session of the assembly, in which the BJP-led N Biren Singh government had com-

fortably won the confidence vote. Those giving up their assembly membership as well as saying goodbye to the party included Okram Henry Singh, nephew of Congress Legislature Party leader, Okram Ibobi Singh. Other legislators are Oinam Lukhui, Md Abdul Nasir, Paonam Brojen, Ngamthong Haokip and Gimsuhau.

Secretary of the Manipur Assembly M Ramani Devi said that the speaker has accepted resignation of five of them and their Assembly seats have been declared as vacant.

The disqualification case of the sixth MLA P Brojen is already pending with the Speaker's Tribunal, which would be taken up on August 14, she said.

About reasons for resigning, Henry Singh said they all cited lack of trust in the leadership of Ibobi Singh because of whom the Congress failed to form the govern-

ment even when it was the single largest party in the state after polls in 2017.

The rest two of the eight, who had stayed away from the day-long special session of the house the previous day are Md Fazur Rahman and Yamthong Haokip.

The speaker said in the house Monday that the two had informed that they were in home quarantine.

Sources said that Fazur Rahman, who represents Wabagai assembly seat, has tested positive for the virus and has been admitted to a hospital here Tuesday.

On receiving resignation letters, they were summoned by the speaker after the assembly session on Monday night to get it verified, Henry Singh said.

Though the government's victory in the vote of confidence was a foregone conclusion, the absence of the eight Congress MLAs from

the crucial session showed smart political move by the chief minister.

The 60-member house has an effective strength of 53, including the speaker, who had the casting vote he could have used in the event of a tie.

Four members had been disqualified earlier and three of the BJP resigned sometime back.

The ruling coalition had 29

MLAs, including the speaker, while the Congress had 24, of whom eight abstained.

With this victory, Biren Singh, jolted by a string of desertions in the party mid-June, appeared to have consolidated his grip on the ruling coalition which has 18 BJP

MLAs, four each of NPP and NPF, one each of the TMC, Lok Janshakti Party and an Independent.

After failed attempt to unseat Biren Singh from the power in the wake of resignation of nine ruling coalition

legislators on June 17, the grand old party had aimed at putting the BJP-led ruling coalition on mat during trust vote, but it too could not come true for them.

Congress which had won a total of 28 seats to emerge as the single largest party in the 60-member Manipur house after the 2017 polls saw members leaving it from time to time.

Soon after the election, one of its legislator Thounaojam Shyamkumar was disqualified under the anti-defection law for joining BJP.

Further, three Congress MLAs - Kshetrimayam Biren Singh, Yengkhom Surchandra Singh and Sanasam Bira Singh - were disqualified from membership of Manipur Legislative Assembly by the speaker.

And now six have resigned from the Assembly and also given up membership of the party.

FESTIVE MOOD



A cyclist passes by a graffiti of Lord Krishna in Noida on Tuesday on the eve of 'Janmashtami'. AFP

## Families claim fake encounter, Army begins probe in Shopian killings

SNS & PTI

JAMMU, 10 AUGUST

The Army has initiated an enquiry into the killing of three alleged terrorists in Shopian on 18 July after the family members of three missing labourers from Rajouri in Jammu division alleged that the trio was killed in a 'fake encounter'.

Army's spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said: "We have noted social media inputs linked to the operation at Shopian on 18 July 2020. The three terrorists killed during the operation have not been identified and the bodies were buried based on established protocols. Army is investigating the matter."

Controversy on the issue erupted on Monday when certain Kashmir based political parties described it a "fake encounter" and sought action against the concerned security forces.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on termed the reports of three missing labourers killed in a staged encounter

at Shopian as shocking and extremely excruciating episode and has said that such 'repressive measures' have pushed Jammu and Kashmir in a precipice of a disaster.

PDP spokesman in a statement said that the reported killing of three missing labourers from Rajouri in south Kashmir's Shopian has raised questions on all such encounters in recent months especially in view of the new decision not to identify bodies, or hand them over to families and bury them reportedly in remote, inaccessible, unidentified places.

The spokesman alleged that in order to justify its repressive, unconstitutional, inhuman and extremely violent measures upon the people of Kashmir, all government of India needs is a military narrative. It is high time that impartial and high-level probes into recent encounters must be ordered, said the PDP spokesman.

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Youssuf Tarigami has

demanded timebound enquiry into the matter.

"There are unverified reports that the missing labourers have been killed in a fake encounter. This is shocking and must be probed by a sitting High Court judge in a time-bound manner," Tarigami said.

Meanwhile the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress demanded an independent probe into the alleged encounter.

"The circumstances demand immediate statement of facts by the authorities regarding the mystery of their death and an independent probe into the circumstances in view of the controversy so that rule of law prevails," JKPC chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

He said the government must come out with a detailed statement about the death of three young boys, whose family members claim that they had no connection with any unlawful activity and had gone for work to Shopian.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MATHURA, 11 AUGUST

Those who disrespected Brahmins earlier are now trying to gain their favour through idol politics, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said as he slammed the SP and BSP's efforts to woo the community by promising to build statues of Parshuram in the state.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati had on Sunday promised to build a statue and hospitals in the name of Parshuram and saints revered by other communities if voted to power in the 2022 assembly polls days after the Samajwadi Party said that it will build statues of Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Sharma said people cannot be misguided by such promises as they have not yet forgotten the slogan - 'Tilak, Tarazu Aur Talwar, Inko Maaro Joote Char' (reject Brahmins, Vaishyas, Thakurs/Jaats etc) which was allegedly coined by the BSP.

The maximum number of images of Parshuram were

dians of caste politics, ultimately will not succeed in their evil design, he firmly stated.

Asked about the state's law order situation, he said, deterrent action is being taken in 10 districts of the state and a favourable outcome will reflect shortly.

On the Covid-19 situation in the state, Sharma said people should not panic due to the spurt in cases since the recovery rate is above 86 per cent in the state while the situation in Agra and Mathura has improved.

He had earlier said that entry of devotees to temples on Janmashtami will be barred due to Covid-19, while temples would be richly decorated and their sanctity maintained.

Since Janmashtami of Mathura is famous all over the world, live telecast of the main function will give the devotees an opportunity to pay their obeisance to deity. But people will have to celebrate the festival in their homes this year, he concluded.

Sharma further said that there was no change in the private schools' fee structure declared by the state government.

## Parties using 'idol politics' to woo Brahmins: UP Dy CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MATHURA, 11 AUGUST

damaged during Samajwadi Party regime, he claimed, highlighting that four idols of Parshuram were broken in Ferozabad under the Akhilesh Yadav regime in the state. "If those who used to break idols are now talking about installing them, they know which community is supporting which party," he said referring to Brahmins who are seen as traditional voters of the BJP in the state.

The SP and BSP thrive on caste politics and the Congress, at times has been playing a supportive role, the deputy chief minister said.

On allegations levelled by Mayawati that President Ram Nath Kovind was not invited to the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya since he is a Dalit, Sharma said Kameshwar Chaupal, who placed the first brick of the temple, is a Dalit too. The BJP or Vishva Hindu Parishad does not play caste politics, the deputy chief minister said.

The fact is that these parties have realised that their base is eroding and are using new gimmicks to attract voters,

## Gujarat govt sets up judicial panel to probe hospital fire

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, 11 AUGUST

The Gujarat Government would set up a judicial inquiry commission into the 6 August early morning fire at a private hospital where eight Covid-19 patients were killed and a para-medical staff sustained burn injuries.

A fire in the ICU of the Shrey Hospital here on last Thursday had claimed the lives of eight people.

The decision to institute an inquiry commission was taken by CM after he went through the probe report submitted by the two-member committee comprising Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Mrs Sangeeta Singh and Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development) Mukesh Puri.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 tally in Gujarat has crossed 72,000 with 1,056 new cases registered in the last 24 hours.

## Wind of change blowing in RS functioning, says Venkaiah

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The winds of change are blowing in the functioning of the Rajya Sabha, with each recent session passing more Bills, and House committee meetings witnessing greater attendance of members.

This was stated by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu at the release of *Connecting, Communicating, Changing* on the completion of his three years in office today.

The book was released by defence minister Rajnath Singh at an event organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Upasrastripathi Bhawan. I&B minister Prakash Javadekar released the electronic version of the book.

Naidu said the productivity of the House was declining over the past 25 years, with the House reporting annual productivity of 100 per cent

session, 99 per cent during the historic 250th session and 76 per cent during the last and 251st session. The average productivity was 78.42 per cent during 2019-20 highest since 2010.

Referring to improvement in the legislative output, Naidu said of the 93 Bills passed by the Rajya Sabha during the past three years of his chairmanship, 60 accounting for 65 per cent of the total, were passed during the last three sessions.

Despite the given composition of the House and the stated positions of different parties, the Rajya Sabha passed some major Bills like the Triple Talaq Bill, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, he said.

Naidu said the attendance in the meetings of the eight Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees of RS had crossed the 50 per cent mark.

Since both the administrations are saying they will review later then why the matter be kept pending.

Venugopal further said that there was no case of contempt made out as the orders of the court were being complied with.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmad, appearing for petitioner NGO Foundation for Media Professionals, said this was a step forward but still some concern remains.

He raised the issue of publication and bringing in public domain the special committee's

orders as also its periodic reviews.

Ahmed said he was not pressing for contempt in view of the Attorney General's submissions.

The bench was hearing the contempt plea filed by the NGO seeking action against authorities for not complying with the apex court's direction on restoration of 4G internet services.

High speed internet services in J-K were suspended in August last year when the Centre announced revocation of special status and bifurcation of the state into two UTs -- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

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High speed internet services in J-K were suspended in August last year when the Centre announced revocation of special status and bifurcation of the state into two UTs -- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

A Maharatna PSU

## APPOINTMENT

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## Battle for democracies

The deep disagreement over the outcome of the Presidential election in Belarus underlines the presence of a second Europe – one that exists beyond the pale of the European Union – and follows a more authoritarian script than Brussels, Berlin or Paris would like. On the face of it, the incumbent, Alexander Lukashenko won 80 per cent of the vote and thus extended a reign that began in 1994. But the ferocity of the protests that have greeted the poll announcement within the country and the disbelief voiced outside suggest that many Europeans, like the Belarusians, do not accept the outcome and see in it confirmation of their previously voiced fears that the contest would be rigged. Germany has said it has “strong doubts” about the election result – a damning indictment of the process – and the United States has said it is “deeply concerned”. The protests in Belarus are not confined to Minsk, the capital, but have spread to other areas as Mr Lukashenko’s main rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who was shown to have got just 8.9 per cent of the vote, claimed she was the real winner. Ms Tikhanovskaya entered the fray in place of her husband, the original candidate, who was jailed by the regime and has demanded that Mr Lukashenko hand power over peacefully. Over the past weeks, her campaign drew huge crowds, giving rise to the belief that in a fair contest she would give the President a run for his money. Certainly, the dissatisfaction with the regime was apparent from public responses but was tempered by the suspicion that in the absence of any independent scrutiny, there would be widespread rigging. Mr Lukashenko did not permit independent observers, and in the days before the election launched a crackdown on activists and journalists to ensure that the poll process remained a tightly controlled one. The President has responded robustly to charges of a rigged poll and said he will not allow his country to be torn apart by protestors. Not surprisingly, he has received messages of support from China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Azerbaijan, and congratulations from Russian President Vladimir Putin who the Belarussian establishment had suspected of orchestrating the opposition. Mr Lukashenko has dismissed his opponent as a “poor little girl” manipulated by foreign “puppet-masters”.

As Belarus sets about putting down widespread protests, the President of the European Union, Ursula von der Leyen has said “Harassment and violent repression of peaceful protesters has no place in Europe.” That more than anything highlights the schism in Europe, between liberal democracies and countries that are inclined to be less tolerant of dissent. The mammoth EU Covid relief package that came to fruition last month nearly came unstuck because of this divide, when some countries had insisted that authoritarian regimes such as Hungary and Poland agree to follow the rule of law before they could get aid. As more and more leaders around the world find ways to perpetuate their rule and enhance their powers in the fashion of President Putin, Chairman Xi Jinping, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and President Lukashenko, democrats have a battle ahead of them.

## RBI at crossroads

The unanimous decision by the Reserve Bank of India's six-member Monetary Policy Committee decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at four per cent is a step in the right direction, especially when it is borne in mind that inflation is now on the rise. The central bank's earlier policy prescription – that giving a push to the economy was more important than keeping inflation under control in the economic environment created by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns – has proved to be a failure. A further cut in the rate would have fuelled price rises. Already the rise in food prices is significant and has begun to pinch. Besides, the repo rate has been cut continuously in the past few months. Experts believe the policy rate should be kept unchanged or even hiked marginally to allow the economy to absorb the rate cuts already made during the past several months. With the inflation rate hovering around six per cent in the first quarter, the economy is already in a difficult space. The MPC itself sees risks of food prices rising and elevated inflation during the July-September period. Inflation may only reduce in the third quarter. It is a matter of record that the earlier rate cuts did not have the expected impact on the economy – of reviving growth and stimulating demand. There is also no indication of when the situation will improve, or when the rate cuts already made will begin to have an impact on the demand for credit.

As far as loan recasts are concerned, the focus of the RBI's monetary policy on restructuring of loans needs to be carefully studied. It must be understood that loan restructuring or moratorium on repayments can at best be temporary measures. They cannot bring about a permanent solution. Rather, in the long-term, such measures could lead to a ballooning of non-performing assets. Special restructuring packages which involve deviation from established rules and regulations have had a bad reputation, and these may undermine the commercial banking system. Certainly, offering restructured packages to stressed borrowers did not yield good results in the past. In fact, the nation's banking system is yet to fully recover from its last cycle of bad loans offered under special dispensations. Already thousands of crore rupees have been turned into NPAs that dot the banks' balance-sheets and the authorities have been able to do precious little over the years to recover even a fraction of these bad assets. The central bank should focus on the real impact of macro-economic policies announced in the recent past before formulating its next monetary policy in October.

# A fragmented world

Globalisation is overwhelmingly a technological and economic process while fragmentation is primarily political. Even though they take place in different spheres, it is often assumed that there is a relationship between the two



Globalization as an economic model became popular following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990s. Capitalism's onward march no longer faced a barrier. Factors that had contributed to globalization were increasingly sophisticated information, communication and transportation technologies and services, mass migration of people, a level of economic activity that had outgrown national markets through industrial combinations and commercial groupings.

Globalisation has resulted in increasing economic integration and inter-dependence among countries leading to the emergence of a global marketplace. Multinational companies manufacture products across many countries and sell them all over the world. Money, technology and raw materials have broken international barriers. The developed economies have integrated with the less developed through foreign direct investment, reduction in trade barriers and economic reforms. According to the World Bank, globalisation is “the deepening of economic integration among countries of the world”.

However, globalisation has been complicated by widely differing expectations, standards of living, cultures and values, legal systems as well as unexpected global cause and effect linkages. The housing and banking crisis that originated in the United States in 2007-08 and then turned into a global economic crisis showed the more problematic side of globalisation. Globalisation is a negation of an egalitarian society. Social democracy has not yet lost its relevance. It is also considered that globalisation is an attempt to erode the Westphalia system that gave the state supreme and sovereign authority. Globalisation is a threat to national boundaries. If the collapse of the Soviet Union is taken as the cut-off date, globalisation has a history of only 30 years.

While the world has become more globalised and therefore, smaller, yet in some respects it has become more fragmented and larger. In 1945, the UN had 51 members, fewer than the number of countries in Africa today. As of now, there are more than 200 states of which 193 states are UN members. South Sudan is the newest member. The colonial empires were quickly dissolved after the Second World War. The colonies under Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal attained independence with amazing speed.

In 1989, the Soviet empire in central and eastern Europe disappeared within a half year, from elections in Poland to fall in Romania. In 1990-91, even the Soviet Union itself was dissolved into its 15 constituent republics. The not-so-large Yugoslavia broke into seven parts and Czechoslovakia into two. East Timor broke away from Indonesia; Bangla-

des from Pakistan. Canada has the Quebec question; France has its Corsica. In Britain, Scotland's independence is hotly discussed. Today, the US is virtually alone among the big powers to have unchallenged territorial unity. This is the picture of world fragmentation today. Nobody knows for certain how many nations are there in the world since it is up to the people to decide how they want to define their identity. It has been estimated that in only half of the world's states is there a single ethnic group that comprises at least 70 per cent of the population. If, eventually, most nations are to have their own states, the number may go up to 1000. In the early nineteenth century, many thought Belgium and Greece too small to become independent. In the early twentieth century, many thought Iceland and Malta too small. Such is the extent of fragmentation that today there are about 80 countries with a population of under 5 million, 25 have fewer than one million.

Globalisation is overwhelmingly a technological and economic process while fragmentation is primarily political. Even though they take place in different spheres, it is often assumed that there is a relationship between the two. It was the Industrial Revolution that had opened up opportunities for creation of nation states from advancement of communications and technologies. Studies have shown that globalisation influences forces of opposition and sows seeds of conflict and tension. Talking about the mid-twentieth century, Ian Clark wrote, “the century saw the creation of hitherto unattainable wealth but ever wider gaps in its distribution. Above all, the century was characterised by the greater interconnectedness of events on a global scale, while simultaneously being subject to political processes of rapture and disintegration. It has been an age of globalization and fragmentation”. Political fragmentation and disintegration have been seen to be the obverse of globalization.

The curious contradiction has been caused by the fact that with more than enough wealth at hand and with the tools of new technology giving completely new means of interaction between minorities, the way has been paved for a resurgence of nationalist thinking so that all over the western world and slowly in rest of the world minority groups are creating states of their own.

The theoretical underpinnings can be put to test in three case studies. The break-up of Yugoslavia occurred because of a series of political upheavals and conflicts during the early 1990s.

If Congress has to earn credibility, they must shed this kind of negative politics. The present leadership must be changed and handed over to a younger generation. Otherwise the Congress might be wiped out from Indian politics.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo, Kolkata, 10 August.

### PARTY NEEDED

SIR, The editorial ‘Shameful Neglect’ (9 August) is well intentioned and the subject needs greater media attention. ASHA workers are examples of extreme financial exploitation. Of late, there is a surfeit of national programmes into which they have been roped in such as NTEP, NPCDCS including vector borne diseases monitoring, immunization and ANC/PNC. Their monthly pay is poor despite Telangana and Kerala paying Rs 7000 and Karnataka Rs 10,000.

### PROSPECTS OF PEACE

SIR, A former Pakistani diplomat, Hussain Haqqani, has said that a jihad mentality will not solve India-Pakistan problems. True, but mutually intolerant religions are too powerful to be ignored by potential reformists though members of their hard-core will not be wished away or, more truthfully, want to tangle with priesthoods of any description that have government backing. Are there more blood-baths like 1946-47 round the corner? New weaponry is reported in the media to make us feel secure? Bullets, Covid and Nuclear arms.

Yours, etc., Saroj Kumar Mehera, Kolkata, 10 August.

## Remarkable transition of ASEAN

ASEAN will celebrate the 53rd anniversary of its establishment. Along this remarkable growth journey, ASEAN has undergone significant transitions. The bloc turned from a region of conflicts and diversity, which characterised the region until the 1980s, to a region “inspired by and united under One Vision, One Identity and One Caring and Sharing Community”. From a less developed region, ASEAN has become much more prosperous and a dynamic region. ASEAN successfully weathered economic headwinds such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and the global economic recession of 2008-2009. The region's gross domestic product (GDP) has been raised to early \$3 trillion in 2018, more than four times the figure of 1999, making it the fifth largest economy in the world. For almost two decades, ASEAN has been growing at an average annual rate of 5.3 per cent, consistently above the global average.

ASEAN has managed to balance economic growth with human development to lift millions of people out of poverty across the entire region. The development gap over the past 20 years has been gradually narrowed. If almost half the ASEAN population in 1990 lived below the poverty line (\$1.23 purchasing power parity per day), after 25 years, the proportion reduced to 14 per cent. Notably, the reduction was not restricted to the major economies, but also included the less developed CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) where poverty rates fell from 66 per cent of the population in 1990 to 18 per cent in 2015 when ASEAN Economic Community was announced to be established.

In terms of living standards, improvements in access to health care, increases in the availability of safe

**Viet Nam News**  
THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

water and sanitation facilities have helped strongly decrease the infant mortality rate which reached a figure of 26 per 1,000 live births in 2016, compared to a global average of 41. Access to education has also been improved with enrolment rate in primary education in the region reaching 96 per cent in 2016, seven percentage points higher than the global average. The rate in the CLMV nations beat expectations to reach 98 per cent in 2016. The positive transition of ASEAN is also recognised in terms of the openness of trade, investment, tourism and services, both intra-regional and interregional, and economic integration.

In 2018, ASEAN received \$154.7 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, the highest in its history and a 30.4 per cent increase from total FDI inflows of \$118.7 billion in 2015. ASEAN's efforts in economic integration have also paid off with intra-ASEAN accounting for the highest shares in trade and investment at 23 per cent and 15.9 per cent, respectively.

Efforts to boost intra-regional trade openness was manifested by the fact that 98.6 per cent of intra-ASEAN trade flows are now tariff free, not to mention the ongoing harmonisation of technical standards, a facilitation for greater labour mobility for eight industries (engineering, nursing, architecture, medicine, dentistry, tourism, surveying and accountancy).

From a divided ASEAN with a weak position in the global arena, the region has become a community internationally recognised with the role of “centrality” in initiating and developing various regional architectures. ASEAN's voice has gradually been raised strongly in regional and global forums, which is of great importance to international institutions. Despite disparities among member countries and rising global uncertainties, ASEAN is still able to maintain its stability, peace and development.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Congress' negativism

SIR, This refers to the news ‘Congress criticises MoD's embargo on defence imports’ (10 August). It is really unfortunate that the century-old Congress party presently does not have any issue to counter the BJP. Their only agenda is to oppose the BJP government at any cost even if it goes against the nation's interest.

The present leadership is so myopic and crippled that it does not understand it cannot come back to power by opposing the country's interests. The more they adopt this kind of mindset the more they will be alienated from the people of India. What is the harm if Government of India moves towards the path of becoming the self-reliant? Would not the

nation be benefited in future? Political differences might be there but that does not mean we should oppose every initiative taken by the government.

If Congress has to earn credibility, they must shed this kind of negative politics. The present lead-



ership must be changed and handed over to a younger generation. Otherwise the Congress might be wiped out from Indian politics.

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greater media attention. ASHA workers are examples of extreme financial exploitation. Of late, there is a surfeit of national programmes into which they have been roped in such as NTEP, NPCDCS including vector borne diseases monitoring, immunization and ANC/PNC. Their monthly pay is poor despite Telangana and Kerala paying Rs 7000 and Karnataka Rs 10,000.

Yours, etc., Basudeb Dutta, Durgapur, 9 August.

Parity on all-India basis should be introduced without further dragging of feet. The National Health Mission should also rationalise pay structure for their contractual employees. Some very competent young doctors are made to work as consultants with a meagre salary and without job security.

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RAJA MURTHY

## Living each moment in these difficult times

These difficult pandemic months may seem like days "dragging slowly" - a perception of time. Days pass neither slower nor faster. Time, life's primary factor, needs better understanding for a better life.

We know time's value, it being "more precious than gold". Our daily lives get defined by time, of deadlines and appointments to keep. We make plans for years. But what do we really know of time?

Time is the mind this moment. Conventional science knows much about the physical organ called the brain but knows little about the entity called the mind.

A better quality of life depends on how well we use the mind, and how well we use time. Stress lessens when the mind is with reality of the present moment. No pining for the past, no anxieties of the future.

The ancient practice of Vipassana trains the mind to be in the present moment - an extraordinary difficulty. My first 10-day Vipassana course in Dhamma Thali, Jaipur, was when I realized for the first time how much the mind wanders wildly to past or future - but rarely stays in reality of this present moment.

"The ultimate truth is the truth of this moment, not of moments that have passed, nor of moments that are yet to come," explained Principal Teacher of Vipassana Sayagi U Goenka (1924 - 2013). "The moments that have passed can only be remembered; the moments that are yet to come can only be imagined or desired. Only the present moment can be experienced, not past nor moments of the future."

All that is past and future is condensed in this present moment of time. What is the present moment?

Our mundane world functions with the base unit of time as a second. The International System of Units defines the second as about 9 billion oscillations of the caesium atom. In a second, the caesium-133 atom arises and passes nine billion times. So much activity at the subatomic level within a second - of time understood externally through science.

Life changes at a deeper level with experiential understanding - of experiencing realities of nature within, through using one's mind-body as laboratory.



careers - Sunil Gavaskar's trance-like concentration when batting, Sachin Tendulkar remarking his mind was a thought-free blank just before the next ball, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni emphasizing importance of being in the present moment.

Far greater benefits are reaped in the supra mundane life, when being in the present moment becomes the core of successful meditation practice. By being in the present moment, we master the mind instead of being its slave.

Not that the past is erased from memory and the future disappears. We access the storage of past experiences and make plans for the future from a conscious decision to do so, not from wild wanderings of the mind like a driver losing control of the car.

Mastery of the mind can be gained with practice of Anapana being taught online in these pandemic times ([www.vridhamma.org/register](http://www.vridhamma.org/register)). Anapana, the preparatory exercise for Vipassana, focuses on awareness of the natural respiration - the in-coming, outgoing breath, as it is, this moment. No artificial regulation of the breath as in pranayama.

"We have to experience the ocean of infinite waves surging within, the river of inner sensations flowing within, countless vibrations within every atom of the body," wrote Sayagi U Goenka. "We have to witness our continuously changing nature - all happening at an extremely subtle level. To reach this state, we have to start observing the flow of respiration."

Being in the present moment improves quality of work and life. A concentrated mind suffers no distractions from the task at hand. That is why successful people get immersed in the moment. Top athletes excel in "the zone", a bubble of impenetrable concentration focussed on the present moment.

India's favourite obsession of cricket has seen this in distinguished

These inner scientists can be Himalayan ascetics and householder meditators achieving high levels of purity of the mind, where life becomes this moment.

The fully enlightened super-scientist called the Buddha declared 2,500 years ago of all matter being made of indivisible subatomic particles called 'kalapas'. Kalapas arise and pass trillions of times in a moment. Life is a sum-total of such moments, of this present moment.

In Rangoon of 1951, Myanmar's incorruptible Accountant General and Vipassana teacher Sayagi U Ba Khin (1899-1971) gave a lecture on the Buddha's enlightened realisations to a study group of officials from the

Special Technical and Economic Division of the U.S. Government.

"By introspective meditation of the realities of nature within his own self, it came vividly to him that there is no substantiality, as there seems to be, in the human body," U Ba Khin said, "and that it is the sum total of innumerable millions of kalapas (subatomic particles), each about 1/46,656th part of a particle of dust from the wheel of a chariot in summer".

Each kalapa is in a continuous state of change. The Buddha experienced the subtler reality that quantum physicists search in their hunt for the 'god particle' such as the Higgs boson.

This 'I' to which we develop so much attachment is merely mind-matter phenomenon of subatomic particles arising and passing each moment. Being with this reality of impermanence decreases the ego - the biggest hindrance to meaningful success and peace of mind.

Being with the present moment improves quality of work and life. A concentrated mind suffers no distractions from the task at hand. That is why successful people get immersed in the moment. Top athletes excel in "the zone", a bubble of impenetrable concentration focussed on the present moment.

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## Memories of another Beirut



ABD NASIR

The devastating explosion in Beirut last week that bledied the beautiful Lebanese capital yet again, inflicting a tragic loss of over 150 lives, injuries to some 3,000 people and billions of dollars' worth of damage to the infrastructure, was heartbreaking.

Even by battered Beirut's standards this must have been the most significant single-day damage inflicted on the unfortunate city that has survived civil wars, Western occupation, Israeli invasion, air attacks and massacres over the years.

Videos shot by citizens from their flats at different distances from the port left no doubt about how this stockpile of ammonium nitrate was a disaster waiting to happen because it had not been removed from the port and disposed of, even after seven years of having been confiscated from a ship.

This devastation pained me as much as images of the civil war on TV screens through the 1970s and the destruction brought upon the city by the Israeli invasion in 1982 and the massacre by Phalangist militiamen in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in 1983.

I remember vividly a Yasser Arafat clip where he is being interviewed in a sandbagged position as Israeli rockets are flying overhead before slamming into civilian areas, and he points to the sky and says with great irony in his voice: "And they call us terrorists?"

The following year, once the Ariel Sharon-led Israeli military lifted its siege of the two Palestinian refugee camps, which had been enforced to enable the Phalange gunmen to run amok unchallenged and kill up to 3,500, mostly unarmed Palestinian (and Shia) men, women and children, the soul-destroying images started to reach the outside world.

An inquiry was to find Sharon responsible for facilitating the massacre but he faced no penalties apart from having to step down as defence minister. In fact, he later rose to the highest office in Israel and continued with his efforts to exterminate the Palestinians.

Lebanon's delicate power balance, representing its population mix with a powerful Maronite president, a Sunni prime minister and a Shia speaker put in place after the French occupation forces left in 1946, was coming under immense pressure with the influx of Palestinian refugees after the 1967 Arab-Israel war.

The war, which saw Israel capture the West Bank and other Arab/Palestinian territories, saw the large-scale expulsion of Palestinians including PLO fighters, many of whom relocated to Jordan. They launched attacks on Israel and King Hussein did not approve of this because he feared

Israeli retaliation.

In 1970, he ordered his forces, led by a Pakistani (on deputation) Brig Muhammad Ziaul Haq to launch a clean-up operation against the Palestinian camps. What the tanks and soldiers under the command of the cavalry officer carried out was a massacre that came to be known as Black September. This pushed many PLO cadres and civilian Palestinian refugees to relocate to Lebanon, causing friction there and altering the delicate demographic balance that had favoured the Maronite Christians whose decisive majority was now reduced to a minority.

All hell broke loose by 1975 when a full-scale civil war started with the Gemayel family-led Phalangists, Jumblatt-led Druze militia and the Nabi Berri-headed Shia Amal militia locking horns all over the country with Beirut and its suburbs being the major battleground.

Israeli backing and arming of the Phalange forces added a dangerous twist to the conflict. Not content with supporting proxies from afar, the Israelis finally invaded Beirut in 1982 and though they dislodged the Palestinians from there, there was a huge undesired consequence.

A breakaway faction of the Shia Amal militia formed the militant group Hezbollah which sought both spiritual and material support from Iran or Iranian ally, Syria, in the neighbourhood. It is one of the few forces in the region that have held their own against the Israeli Defence Forces and forced the latter to end its occupation of south Lebanon.

However, much before, in late October 1971, when I accompanied my parents on a road trip that took us from Pakistan to Lebanon via Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria, the young mind of a school-age boy could see none of the undercurrents.

All I remember to this day is the sheer, natural beauty of Lebanon and the jewel in its crown, Beirut. I recall

waking up in Damascus where, when we opened the hotel room window, we heard cries of 'Amman, Amman' and 'Beirut, Beirut, Beirut' as young men were trying to sell seats on shared taxis to prospective travellers. And later that morning, the fascinating drive on a beautiful road winding through the hills to Beirut. As we neared Beirut the hills around were dotted by beautiful villas with swimming pools and tennis courts surrounded by pines and cedars. It was clear these were the homes of the very rich.

Arriving at our hotel in Al Bourj Square (later renamed Martyrs Square) we marvelled at the rose and carnation bedecked wide central reservation. My first ever visit to a department store which was called Theophile Khoury took place.

Later, that evening we drove past the night and boat/yacht clubs dotting the seafront and throwing light on the gentle Mediterranean waves lapping the shore and stylish Lebanese arriving in droves at the clubs.

The next day we took the cable car up the mountain and then a more or less vertical railcar up to where 650m above the sea is gigantic statue of Virgin Mary as she stands, head dipped to a side, surveying the city. We took a break at a restaurant with stunning city-sea views.

Here as my parents sipped coffee we saw a sommelier pour alcohol from different coloured bottles in two thin glasses for a well-heeled couple. For a 12-year-old it was no less than magical that the different colours seemed to form horizontal stripes in the glass and did not mix.

From those serene images to an explosion that caused widespread devastation in one of the most beautiful cities in the world will never be easy to reconcile to. But then this world never ceases to shock and shake you endlessly.

Dawn/ANN.

## BOMBAY BEGGARS

Bombay, Aug 11

At a meeting of the Improvement Trust, the seriousness of the beggar problem in the city of Bombay was revealed. The chairman stated that Mr. Manley, Deputy Commissioner of Police, wanted the permission of the Board to use a part of Dadar Military Camp for putting up temporary structures for housing homeless beggars. The number of beggars dying of starvation in the streets of Bombay had been increasing, and as "Dharamsalas" were full, some land was required to give shelter to these helpless people. According to Mr. Manley it was a perfect scandal that hundreds of people die in the streets and a number of such deaths during the last fortnight was certified to have been due to starvation. The Improvement Trust Board agreed to giving the land asked for.

## SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION IN DACCA

A deputation representing guardians of girls reading in the Eden High School waited on the Hon. the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan. The deputation discussed the question of insufficient carriage accommodation for girls attending the school on which ground many girls were refused admission. The Hon. Member in charge said that it was a question of funds. The school had already got Rs 3,700 as carriage allowance for the current year and the school committee had asked for a sanction of Rs 9,000 which was under consideration of the Director of Public Instruction. He further said that motor buses were unsuitable for Dacca, but omnibuses might be provided. The Hon. the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur visited the "Dacca Sevasram" and the Ramkrishna Mission.

## TEA ESTATE SHOOTING CASE

Silchar, Aug 11

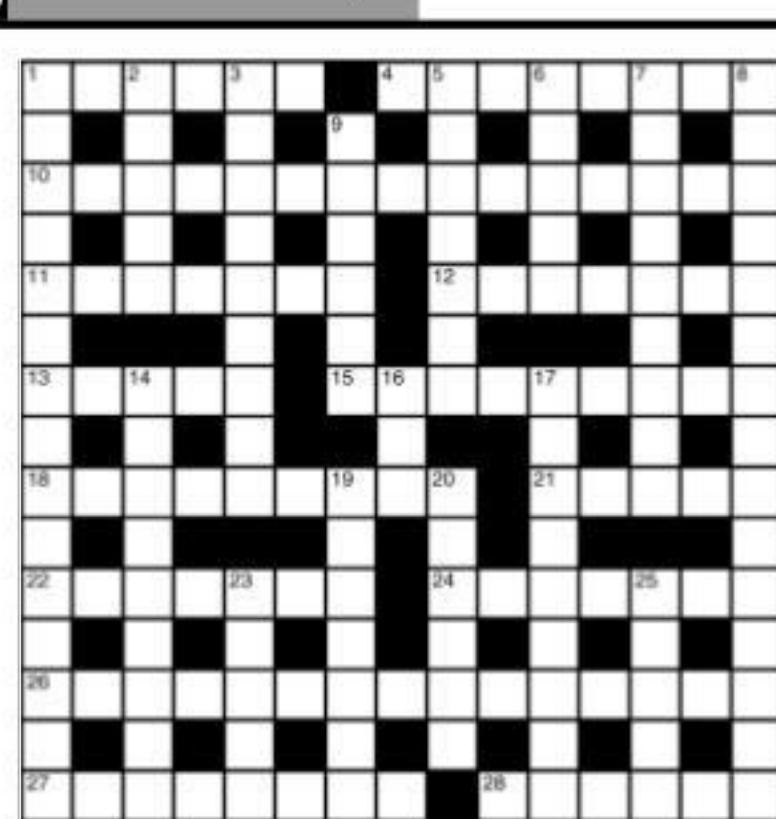
In connection with the Khoreal shooting case, in which the Deputy Commissioner of Silchar acquitted Mr. Reed, Assistant Manager of the Khoreal Tea Estate in Cachar, of the charge of shooting dead a coolie. A memorial was submitted to the Chief Commissioner of Assam on behalf of Taramani, the wife of the deceased. In that memorial the applicant prayed for an appeal against the order of acquittal. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar today served a notice on Taramani, informing her that the Chief Commissioner of Assam is willing to hear arguments of her pleader regarding the shooting case. Taramani is directed to intimate by the 13th instant if she is willing to engage any pleader to argue the case, and, if so, which place is preferred.

## PRESS STRIKE ENDED

Bombay, Aug 11

The strike which commenced nearly two months ago at the Times of India Press came to an end today. For some time it has been evident that the strike was broken. A large number of new employees who were engaged engaged the work to be continued, and many of the men on strike have been returning to work independently of their leaders. This morning the general body of the men offered themselves for re-employment unconditionally. Some were told their places had been filled, but most of them were again taken on.

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**ACROSS**

- 1 Weeps, dropping back in to doctors (6)
- 4 Cummings on COVID's return, embodying King Henry VIII, perhaps (8)
- 10 Barely any road cycling before a drink - spill each one (1,4,2,3,5)
- 11 Vegas trickster's entertaining a sort of band (7)
- 12 Rubbish former tennis player visits America (7)
- 13 Come to finger gangster (5)
- 15 Business degree for learner during a secret procedure - it'll make you sweat (5,4)
- 18 Axes chop and sharpen instrument ... (9)
- 21 good man suspect's axe stroke (5)

**DOWN**

- 22 Fetching last of quail eggs - half edible (7)
- 24 What a concert venue might have to give up (7)
- 26 It's painful below (10,5)
- 27 Artist starts to draw in a tiny, overcrowded room - it heats up (8)
- 28 Staunch Republican in office (6)
- 6 Groucho finally put on Zeppo's coat with the essence of manic energy - it's a gas (5)
- 7 Curious, hip career - unconvincing bear? (5,4)
- 8 Writer eagles on the smallest golf course (6,9)
- 9 Bags containing last of autumn's nuts, perhaps (6)
- 14 Support director covering Elvis' All Show Up for broadcast (9)
- 16 It's not about weight (3)
- 17 Hesitate as I pick up fish, wrapped in bacon, say (4,1,4)
- 19 Herby duck and orange cooked (7)
- 20 Nurse - don't open camel coat (6)
- 23 What lives and grows in a region - from Africa to Iberia - keeled over (5)
- 25 Baked bread hamper (5)

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

NO 28041



MSMEs will take at least seven to eight months to recover from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic

ARUN SINGH

GLOBAL CHIEF ECONOMIST, DUN & BRADSTREET

THUMBNAILS

**Embassy plan:** Leading realty firm Embassy group is exploring various options to monetise its warehousing and industrial parks business at an enterprise value of Rs 1,700-2,000 crore, sources said. Bengaluru-based Embassy group, which had in 2015 formed a joint venture with private equity firm Warburg Pincus to build industrial parks, is in talks with few potential buyers to monetise completed and under-construction assets of the joint venture. PTI

**Equinix buy:** Datacentres player Equinix on Tuesday announced the acquisition of GPX Global Systems' India operations for \$161 million (around Rs 1,202 crore) in an all-cash deal. GPX India has a fibre-connected campus in Mumbai with two datacentres and the deal is expected to close by March 2021 after mandatory approvals, the company said. PTI

**HDFC Bank:** HDFC Bank has been recognised as the "Best Bank in India" by global magazine FinanceAsia for the 4th consecutive year. The bank was adjudged as India's top bank at the publication's Country Awards for Achievement 2020 for its conservative retail lending policies and security of deposits, according to a Press release. SNS

**eMedicoz app:** eMedicoz app got listed in the Special Mention category in the "AtmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge" organised by the Government of India. It was organised to identify the best Indian apps that are already being used by citizens and have the potential to scale and become world-class apps in their respective categories, said a Press release. SNS

**Asus launch:** Taiwanese tech giant, Asus Republic of Gamers (ROG) has launched Zephyrus C14. Asus ROG's flagship product is powered by the latest AMD Ryzen 9 4900HS processor. Asus India also ramps up the AMD portfolio by adding ZenBook 14, VivoBook S 14, VivoBook Ultra K15, VivoBook Ultra14/15, VivoBook Flip14 and Zephyrus G15 to it, says a Press statement. SNS

**Kia Sonet:** Kia Motors Corporation has revealed the Kia Sonet to the world in a digital presentation. Manufactured at Kia's state-of-the-art production facility at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, the Sonet is Kia's all-new smart urban compact SUV and the brand's latest made-in-India global product after the Seltos, according to a company statement. SNS

**Minda issue price:** Auto components maker Minda Industries, in a regulatory filing to stock exchanges on Tuesday, said its board has fixed the issue price at Rs 250 per equity share for its Rs 250-crore rights issue. PTI

# Industrial production declines 16.6% in June

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Industrial production declined by 16.6 per cent in June, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation, as per the government data released today.

According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 17.1 per cent, while the output of mining and power fell by 19.8 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

In a Press release, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation issued a disclaimer saying that "it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic".

However, on a monthly basis, the Index of Industrial Production has shown improvement. The index, which was at 53.6 in April, improved to 89.5 in May and 107.8 in June, the data revealed.

The IIP had expanded by 1.3 per cent year-on-year in June 2019.

## LIMPING BACK TO NORMALCY

» According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 17.1 per cent, while the output of mining and power fell by 19.8 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

» The contraction in the consumer durables and capital goods segment was 35.5 per cent and 36.9 per cent, respectively, during June 2020.

» However, consumer

non-durables segment posted a growth of 14 per cent.



per cent, according to the data. It had registered a growth of 3 per cent during the same period of the last fiscal.

In view of the preventive measures and announcement of a nationwide lockdown by the government to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, a large number of industrial sector establishments were not operating from March-end 2020 onwards.

This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown. With the lifting of restrictions in the subsequent periods, industrial activity is now resuming.

Meanwhile, mines minister Pralhad Joshi today said the government will come out with more industry-friendly reforms in the mining sector very shortly.

"More industry-friendly, production friendly reforms will be brought to the mining sector very shortly," Joshi said during a webinar on "Indian Mining Industry: Contribution Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat" organised by Ficci.

"At this juncture, I would also like to urge the industry stalwarts and stakeholders to share their insights as to how collectively we can collaborate and innovate to make this sector self-reliant," he said.

The minister also invited investors, explorers and miners to come and explore the huge opportunities that the Indian mining sector offers.

Given the current interest rate scenario, investors are largely focusing on fixed income categories having a relatively shorter duration profile.

In addition to that, funds with pristine credit quality, especially from categories such as money market, short duration, corporate bond and banking and PSU, continue to gain traction, highlighting investors' preference for safety in this segment.

According to the data, mutual funds (MFs) that invest in fixed-income securities saw an inflow of 91,392 crore in July, as compared to Rs 2,862 crore inflow in June. The inflow stood at Rs 63,665 crore in May and Rs 43,431 crore in April. PTI

Debt MFs see ₹91,392 cr inflow in July

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Mutual funds focussed on fixed-income securities witnessed a multi-fold surge in investment to Rs 91,392 crore in July, with short duration funds contributing a major chunk of the infusion.

Barring credit risk funds, all the individual categories that invest in fixed-income securities or debt funds saw inflows, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

Given the current interest rate scenario, investors are largely focusing on fixed income categories having a relatively shorter duration profile.

According to Fitch, the scheme could open a window for banks to build capital buffers while putting off full recognition of Covid-19 pandemic's impact on loan portfolios, but is reminiscent of a strategy adopted over 2010-2016 that delayed and exacerbated problems for banks.

The RBI's recent proposal to allow banks to restructure many types of loans will extend uncertainty over the banking sector's asset quality, Fitch said.

The scheme, which is applicable till March 2021, allows rescheduling of most retail and corporate loans,

including MSME loans that were not impaired prior to 1 March 2020.

Rescheduling may take a number of forms, including moratoriums and extensions of loan tenors of up to two years, Fitch said adding that rescheduled loans are permitted to be classified as standard assets, even if they became impaired between 1 March and the implementation of the scheme.

Fitch noted that India's 2010-2016 experience with permitting broad-based debt restructuring was characterised by poor implementation and weak monitoring.

The central bank has tried to address this concern by tightening supervision, for example by setting up an expert committee which will vet all restructuring plans involving creditors with more than Rs 1,500 crore (\$200 million) of debt. However, this does not address the issue of oversight for most retail and MSME lending restructured under the programme.

In Fitch's view, these categories will account for a substantial portion of the future asset-quality stress linked to the pandemic.

# Fitch flags loan recast scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

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# Aramco doing due diligence for buying RIL stake: CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

the due diligence on that deal."

According to the transcript of the investor call, he went on to state that the deal to buy a stake in the world's largest single-location oil refining complex and India's biggest petrochemical assets "is a big deal. So, we need to take our time to review and then decide based on the outcome of the due diligence study".

Ambeani had at RIL's annual general meeting last month stated that: "The sell-down of a 20 per cent stake in the refinery and chemical business to Aramco for \$15 billion has not progressed as planned, given changes in market conditions. We believe a deal is still possible although at a lower valuation, closer to our estimate of \$57 billion gross".

To facilitate the deal, Reliance had earlier this year decided to spin off the O2C business into a separate subsidiary.

The deal may have been delayed over valuations, sources said.

Last month after RIL's AGM, Bernstein had stated that: "The sell-down of a 20 per cent stake in the refinery and chemical business to Aramco for \$15 billion has not progressed as planned, given changes in market conditions. We believe a deal is still possible although at a lower valuation, closer to our estimate of \$57 billion gross".

He neither said if the deal was on track nor gave any fresh timelines for its completion.

Nasser too did not give timelines for completion of the deal, saying discussions with Reliance were still on and

shareholders will be updated "in due course".

RIL's O2C business comprises the company's twin refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat, petrochemical plants, and 51 per cent in fuel retailing venture.

The deal may have been delayed over valuations, sources said.

These associations represent members engaged in retail sale and trade of bullion.

The pact is aimed at facilitating cooperation between BSE and physical markets represented by these two trade bodies in areas such as knowledge sharing, education and training, events as well as to explore areas of mutual interests to ensure the best interests of jewellers. PTI

BSE joins hands with bullion trade associations

NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Leading stock exchange BSE today said it has joined hands with two bullion trade associations for deepening the commodity derivatives market in the country.

BSE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Akola Sarafa Association and Akola Sarafa Va Savarnakar Yuva Sangh in this regard.

These associations represent members engaged in retail sale and trade of bullion.

The pact is aimed at facilitating cooperation between BSE and physical markets represented by these two trade bodies in areas such as knowledge sharing, education and training, events as well as to explore areas of mutual interests to ensure the best interests of jewellers. PTI

# PV sales down 4% in July; green shoots visible: Siam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

cycle sales were at 8,88,520 units, against 9,34,021 units in July 2019, down 4.87 per cent.

Scooter sales were also down 36.51 per cent at 3,34,288 units, compared with 5,26,504 units in the year-ago month.

"After a few consecutive months of plummeted sales in a post-Covid-19 scenario, there are signs of green shoots in passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, where the year-on-year de-growth is much lesser than the previous months," Siam president Rajan Wadhwa said.

The sales numbers in August would indicate if this is a sustainable demand and not just a pent-up demand, he added.

Two-wheeler sales were down 15.24 per cent in July to 12,81,354 units as compared with 15,11,717 units in the same month last year. Motor-

confidence in the industry. "Many OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) have registered improved sales vis-à-vis the past few months, and this brings back a sentiment of resolve to the sector," he noted.

As per Siam, the country's leading carmaker Maruti Suzuki India sold 70,090 units last month as compared with 71,486 units in July 2019.

Hyundai Motor India wholesales stood at 19,828 units as compared with 22,776 units in the year-ago month.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp wholesales last month stood at 5,06,946 units, down marginally from July 2019.

Besides, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India witnessed a dip of 32.02 per cent in its wholesales as compared with 3,09,332 units in July as against the year-ago month.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp wholesales last month stood at 5,06,946 units, down marginally from July 2019.

The sales numbers in August would indicate if this is a sustainable demand and not just a pent-up demand, he added.

Similarly, Siam director-general Rajesh Menon said the July sales were significantly better than the preceding months and it instilled some confidence in the industry.

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The paid-up equity share capital of the bank has now gone up to Rs 612 crore (over 3 crore shares of the face value of Rs 2 each) as compared to Rs 564 crore earlier.

Meanwhile, housing finance major HDFC Ltd today said it has raised Rs 10,000 crore equity capital by

issuing shares to qualified investors, including Government of Singapore and Invesco Oppenheimer Development Markets Fund.

Besides, the corporation has raised Rs 3,693 crore through an issue of non-convertible debentures. It also allotted 1,70,57,400 warrants at an issue price of Rs 180 per warrant, aggregating to around Rs 307 crore under the QIP issue, according to a regulatory filing.

"We wish to inform you that the committee of directors - QIP 2020 of the Corporation at its meeting held today approved the allotment of securities to eligible qualified institutional buyers pursuant to the issue," HDFC said in a regulatory filing.

Reliance had broken into the top 100 in 2012 ranking when it was ranked 99th but slipped in subsequent years to rank 215th in 2016. Since then it has risen steadily, according to the ranking.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) slipped 34 positions to rank 151st on the 2020 ranking while Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is ranked 190th, 30 notches lower than its last year's ranking.

The country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) has risen 15 ranks to 221st position.

Other Indian firms on the list include Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) at rank 309th, Tata Motors at 337, and Rajesh Exports at 462.

Fortune said companies are ranked by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before 31 March 2020.

While Reliance had a revenue of \$86.2 billion, IOC had revenue of \$69.2 billion. ONGC had revenue of \$57 billion and SBI had \$51 billion.

According to Fortune, the 2020 list is topped by Walmart with a revenue of \$524 billion, followed by three Chinese companies - Sinopec Group (\$407 billion), State Grid (\$384 billion), and China National Petroleum (\$379 billion). PTI

# Equity indices rise on positive global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 11 AUGUST

The BSE Sensex closed in the green for the fourth straight session today, propelled by index heavyweights HDFC twins and Reliance, amid robust gains in global equities.

A strengthening rupee, encouraging quarterly results and persistent foreign





I'm much more inclined to do it sometime  
after the election

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP  
WANTS TO HOST G-7 AFTER ELECTION

# Global Covid case count surpasses 20 mn

AP analysis of data through 9 Aug showed the US, India & Brazil together accounted for nearly two-thirds of all reported infections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME, 11 AUGUST

**T**he number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide topped 20 million, more than half of them from the United States, India and Brazil, as Russia on Tuesday became the first country to register a vaccine against the

virus.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the registration at a government meeting and added that one of his two adult daughters had already been inoculated. She's feeling well and has high number of antibodies, he said.

Russia has reported more than 890,000 cases. It took

six months or so to get to 10 million cases after the virus first appeared in China late last year. An AP analysis of data through August 9 showed the US, India and Brazil together accounted for nearly two-thirds of all reported infections since the world hit 15 million coronavirus cases on July 22.

Health officials believe the actual number of people infected with the virus is much higher than that tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, given testing limitations and that as many as 40 per cent of those with the virus show no symptoms.

In Europe, countries that appeared to have gotten their outbreaks under control during nationwide lockdowns and lifted many public restrictions worked to prevent a resurgence of the virus. Finland joined France and Germany in announcing it would test travelers from at-risk countries upon arrival. Spain, which along with Italy was hardest hit when the virus first exploded on the continent, now has the most confirmed cases in western Europe at nearly 323,000. The number of new cases have risen steadily in Spain since its strict, three-month lockdown ended on June 21, reaching 1,486 on Monday. In Greece, which imposed strict lockdown measures early and kept its reported cases low during the height of the European epidemic, the government announced new measures Monday to prevent an outbreak. Outside Europe, infection rates are exponentially higher. The number of

## Virus breaks out again in New Zealand after 102 days

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WELLINGTON, 11 AUGUST

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Tuesday said authorities have found four cases of the coronavirus in one Auckland household from an unknown source, the first reported cases of local transmission in the country in 102 days.

Ardern said Auckland, the nation's largest city, will be moved to Alert Level 3 from midday Wednesday through midnight Friday, meaning that people will be asked to stay at home, while bars and many other businesses will be closed.

These three days will give us time to assess the situation, gather information, make sure we have widespread contact tracing so we can find out more about how this case arose and make decisions about how to respond to it once we have further information, Ardern said at a hastily called news conference late Tuesday.

I know that this information will be very difficult to receive, Ardern said. We had all hoped not to find ourselves in this position

new cases reported daily continues to rise in India, hitting a rolling seven-day average of 58,768. In the US, which so far has more than 5 million confirmed cases.

South Africa has more than a half-million cases.

Caseloads are still rising quickly in many other countries, including Indonesia and Japan. In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, like Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and US President Donald Trump, seldom wears a mask and has resisted calls for a strict lockdown, saying Mexicans should be convinced to observe social distancing,

again. But we had also prepared for it. And as a team, we have also been here before.

She said that traveling into Auckland will be banned unless people live there and are traveling home. She said the rest of the country will be raised to Level 2 through Friday, meaning that mass gatherings will be limited to 100 attendees and people would need to socially distance themselves from each other.

Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said the infections were confirmed after a person in their 50s went to their doctor on Monday with symptoms and was swabbed twice, testing positive both times. Six other people in the person's household were then tested, with three more positive results.

Until Tuesday, the only known cases of the virus in New Zealand were 22 travelers who had recently returned from abroad and were being held in quarantine at the border. The country has been praised globally for its virus response.

not forced to do so by police or fines. With nearly 500,000 cases and more than 50,300 deaths, Mexico has struggled with how to curb outbreaks given that just over half its people work off the books with no benefits or unemployment insurance. India reported 53,601 new cases Tuesday as its count of total infections neared 2.3 million.

In Japan, where outbreaks have been widening as officials urge people to consider this year's summer holidays special and stay home, the rate of positive tests in Tokyo, the country's worst hit region, has been climbing but remains at 7 per cent.



People wearing protective facemasks stand in front of the Sacre Coeur basilica, in the Montmartre neighbourhood, in Paris, on Tuesday. ■ AFP

## UK jobs market hurtling toward cliff-edge moment in October

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, 11 AUGUST

The UK has kept a lid on unemployment so far during the coronavirus pandemic but, scratch beneath the surface, there are worrying trends that will likely see the jobless total soaring by the end of the year.

Figures released Tuesday from the Office for National Statistics showed that the number of people working fell in the April-June quarter by the most since the global financial crisis more than a decade ago, though the unemployment rate held steady at a historically low 3.9 per cent in June.

To be classified as unemployed, workers need to be actively looking for a job. Many have yet to do so.

The stable jobless rate is largely due to a government salary support scheme that will end in October, a cliff-edge moment that many economists think will lead to an



National Health Service workers hold placards as they march through the streets of London on to demand a pay rise. ■ AFP

government of \$44 billion. Though these employees have not been working, they are not counted as unemployed. The government has started phasing out the furlough program, with firms now having to cover some of the costs of the plan.

The government has said it will end the program in October on the grounds it gives false hope to furloughed workers while at the same time limiting their prospects of getting new jobs as their skills fade.

## Hate crime victim's arrest fuels anger at Portland protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PORTLAND (US), 11 AUGUST

One of the protesters arrested in Portland, Oregon, early Monday was a Black woman who was assaulted by a white supremacist in a high-profile case three years ago and who now leads a group of moms in racial justice protests each night. Demetria Hester, 46, was booked on suspicion of disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer during a protest that began Sunday night and stretched into the early morning hours.

Hester did not immediately return a call or text message seeking comment. It wasn't immediately clear if she was still in custody. Hester gained prominence in 2017 when she was assaulted by a white supremacist while riding a light-rail train.

The man who attacked Hester, Jeremy Christian, stabbed two men to death the following night and critically injured a third man when they came to the defense of two Black women one of them wearing a Muslim head-



Protesters hold their hands while marching toward the Portland Police Bureau North Precinct on the 75th day of protests against racial injustice and police brutality on Tuesday in Portland, Oregon. ■ AFP

covering who were being harassed by Christian as they rode the train.

Hester gave emotional testimony this spring at Christian's murder trial testimony that took a dramatic turn when Christian threatened to kill her in an outburst that ended with him getting dragged from the courtroom.

She also publicly criticized the police for failing to arrest Christian that night, which allowed him to commit the murders the following day.

Christian was convicted and given two life sentences without possibility of parole.

Hester has reappeared in public this summer as one of the main organizers of the Wall of Moms, a group of mostly white, self-described parents who have been protesting nightly.

She and others are demanding that the City Council defend the Portland Police Bureau and reinvest the money in the Black community. Hester became more visible in the group about two weeks ago when the original Wall of Moms group disbanded under accusations from some Black leaders that the white founders were seeking to monetize the

Black Lives Matter movement and weren't listening to Black voices. Since then, she has been leading a smaller number of moms on marches each night, using a bullhorn to lead chants in a voice cracking with fatigue. She is also a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the police.

Hester spoke to The Associated Press on Saturday, before her arrest, and said that the Wall of Moms now called Moms United for Black Lives had regained its focus after the internal leadership struggle. Our life is in danger just because we want to express the fact that we are being abused, killed, raped and no one is doing nothing about it. And that's why we're protesting and we will never stop because we want to be treated equal as people, she said. Hester's arrest was captured on video and posted on Twitter. Hester, wearing a yellow backpack, is seen standing in the street when an officer in riot gear approaches her and says, You're under arrest. Hester does not resist and is led away.

## Belarusian challenger flees to Lithuania amid protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MINSK, 11 AUGUST

The top Opposition candidate in Belarus' presidential vote who refused to concede her defeat has fled the country amid a massive police crackdown on protests, Lithuania's foreign minister said Tuesday.

Linas Linkevicius' said on Twitter that Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya is now safe in Lithuania.

Tsikhanouskaya previously dismissed the official results of Sunday's election showing authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko winning a sixth term by a landslide. Thousands of Opposition supporters who also protested the results met with a tough police crackdown in Minsk and several other Belarusian cities for two straight nights.

On Monday, a protester died amid the clashes in Minsk and scores were injured as police used

### Thousands of Opposition supporters who also protested the results met with a tough police crackdown in Minsk and several other Belarusian cities for two straight nights.

Tsikhanouskaya got 10 per cent.

When asked on Monday if she was planning to go abroad to avoid being arrested, Tsikhanouskaya said she had no such plan and saw no reason why she would be arrested. But after submitting her formal demand for a recount to Belarus' Central Election Commission, she said: I have made a decision, I must be with my children. She had previously sent her children to an unspecified European country after receiving threats.

Tsikhanouskaya, a 37-year-old former English teacher without any prior political experience, entered the race after her husband, an opposition blogger who had hoped to run for president, was arrested in May. She has managed to unite fractured opposition groups and draw tens of thousands to her campaign rallies the largest opposition demonstrations in Belarus since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER, CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH.  
(Plot No. 701, Industrial Area Phase - 1, Chandigarh)

No. 7381/CTU/CTU/2020  
Dated : 11-08-2020

### e-TENDER NOTICE

Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) invites e-tenders (on-line tenders) from the individuals/Companies/firms/Organizations etc for the allotment of Shops/Premises ISBT, Sector 43, Chandigarh on license basis/ on monthly rental basis for a period of 6 (Six) years on the terms and conditions specified by the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking, Chandigarh. These Shops/premises will be allotted on "As is and where is" basis. No extra facility will be provided at any later stage. The Shops/premises can also be inspected by the bidders during office hours on any working day by contacting General Manager, ISBT-43/Assistant Controller (F&A)/ Station Supervisor, ISBT-43/Care Taker (Bus Stand) Chandigarh. The bidders are advised to inspect the premises as mentioned at Annexure 'A' on the website to the tender documents and only after inspection; they may quote their rates after going through the reserve price.

1. Tenderers are required to quote their rates per month for a period of 6 (Six) years with annual increase of 5% (Five percent) of the immediately preceding monthly license fee/ rent. However, the shop/ premises will be allotted immediately on finalization of the tender or as per date mentioned in Annexure-A to the tender documents. But due to situation of pandemic of Covid-19, the rent of the allotted shop/premises will be charged from the actual date of resumption of interstate operation of buses at ISBTs Chandigarh.

2. Each Tenderer must submit EMD physical form in the shape of FDR/Bank guarantee for each shop/premises separately as mentioned at Annexure 'A' on the website to the tender documents as drawn on any Scheduled Bank at Chandigarh with validity of 60 days beyond the opening of bid (Total validity of 240 days) in favour of the Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh in the office of Divisional Manager, CTU & Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh, Plot No. 701, Industrial Area, Phase I, Chandigarh on or before 02-09-2020 upto 14.00 hours. Tenders without submission of Earnest Money Deposit through FDR/ Bank guarantee in physical form within the stipulated date and time shall not be considered and shall be rejected outright. Tender received without requisite EMD or without a copy of annual turnover or proof of experience (as required as the case may be) shall not be considered and rejected straightway.

3. The tenderers can download the detailed bid documents/detailed terms & conditions of e-tender from the website i.e. <http://chandigarh.gov.in> or <http://ctd.ctu.gov.in>.

4. The Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh shall have every right to (a) cancel/ withdraw/amend the advertisement or extend the due date at his sole discretion or (b) accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

5. The tenderers can approach the Nodal Officer, e-tendering, CTU Chandigarh on any working day between 9.00 am to 5.00 pm in case of any query/clarification regarding e-tendering process (Phone No. 0172-2679003 Extn. 216) or Helpline No. 0172-2740641 of Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration, Sector 9 D, Chandigarh.

Divisional Manager CTU &  
Director Transport  
U.T., Chandigarh

**Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd**  
**Office of the Chief Executive Officer**  
**IT & Communication Division , PDD Complex Bemina Srinagar**  
**E-mail: ceo.rapdrp.a@gmail.com**

### Extension Notice No. 1

The last date for submission of e-Bids against this office e-NIT no. NIT No. CEO IT & C / 01 of 2020 Dated: 09/07/2020 invited for Supply, Installation, testing & Commissioning of Two (2 No.) Battery Bank each bank comprising of 204 No. 2 V / 600 AH (VRLA ) sealed maintenance free batteries of Reputed brand for UPS (Emerson Make 200 KVA) installed in DATA CENTER at PDD Complex Bemina Srinagar, Kashmir with buy back of old batteries (Rocket make) from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or its Registered Suppliers/Distributors with onsite warranty of 5 Years & hosted on [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) vide tender ID 2020\_PDD\_100183\_1 is hereby extended . The extended timelines are mentioned below:

**Extended Last date and time for Submission of e-bid :- 14/08/2020 03:00 PM**

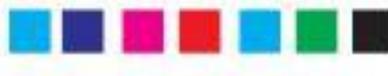
**Extended Date and time of opening of the Technical bid :- 18/08/2020 03:00 PM**

**Extended Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies :- 18/08/2020 12:30 PM**

**Sd/- Chief Executive Officer  
IT & C Division KPDC**

No. DIPK-NB-1756/20  
Dated : 11-08-2020

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer  
IT & C Division KPDC





S ANANTHANARAYANAN

**D**oes human activity select from the environment? Does it act like a filter – throwing out species that may do us, not harm, but no harm, and promoting those that are likely to carry disease?

Rory Gibb, David W Redding, Kai Qing Chin, Christ A Donnelly, Tim M Blackburn, Tim Newbold and Kate E Jones, from the departments of genetics, evolution and environment and public health, University College, London, department of statistics, University of Oxford and the Zoological Society of London, report in the journal, *Nature*, that this is just what the conversion, by humans, of natural habitats to agriculture or urban settlement has done. The finding is uncannily relevant at a time when the world is battling a pathogen that has crossed over from animals to humans, even as the Earth faces a bleak future arising from the injuries that humans have inflicted on the environment.

Many diseases come to humans from animal reservoirs and are then transmitted and spread by the high mobility and sociability of humans. Examples of bacterial diseases brought to us by animals or insects, zoonoses, as they are called, are anthrax, plague, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, Lyme disease. And examples of viral zoonoses are Zika, Dengue, Eastern Equine encephalitis, West Nile, Yellow Fever Chikungunya and

Rift Valley Fever. And then there are fungi and parasitical diseases, which come to humans from animal hosts.

Transfer of pathogens from animals to humans is a rare event. In the context of Covid-19, of the hundreds of viruses known as coronaviruses that are found in animals, there are just seven which have been able to cross over and infect humans. Pathogens, including viruses, evolve to co-exist with specific hosts. Infecting other species happens only when a virus, by mischance, develops a surface feature that enables its survival in cells of the other species.

There is a general impression that new pathogens, against which humans often do not have effective defences, have been appearing more often. And the paper in *Nature* cites evidence that human encroachment, which destroys natural habitats is associated with an increase in zoonotic diseases in humans. How this comes about, however, has been unclear, the paper says. One suggestion has been that the composition and diversity of animals, which are the reservoir of pathogens, may undergo a change when the animal habitat is disturbed. This could be because some species are more capable than others to resist the human invasion. There has not been, however, the paper says, a study of just how human land use affects the diversity and composition of animal populations.

This is the analysis the team undertook, with the help of a massive



database of information about how species on Earth respond to human pressures, collected from scientists, worldwide. The database is built up through a collaborative effort called PREDICTS – Projecting Responses of Ecological Diversity In Changing Terrestrial Systems, and has over 2.5 million biodiversity records from over 21,000 sites, covering more than 38,000 species.

This database was used in combination with the Enhanced Infectious Diseases Database, a tabulation, created by the University of Liverpool, of the relationships between human and animal diseases and their hosts, pathogens that cause disease and how they are transmitted. And then, the Global Mammal Parasite Database, a compilation of records of par-

asites and their hosts, and other databases of different animals that were zoonotic reservoirs.

The databases were surveyed to identify instances of animal hosts that shared at least one pathogen that affected humans – to classify species as zoonotic hosts. "The PREDICTS data compiles more than 3.2 million species records from 666 published studies that sampled biodiversity across land use gradients using consistent protocols," the paper says. A land use gradient is the path of increasing land use by humans, rising from natural environments, to mildly exploited forest, cultivated and urbanised land. "Records of 376 host species in a dataset of 6,801 survey sites from 184 studies across six continents," the paper says, enabled a

global comparison of how species diversity responded to the intensity of land use.

The survey resulted in a first estimation of the effect of human land use on two measures – the richness or diversity of the host species, and hence the diversity of the pathogens that affected humans, and then the numbers of these species. The remarkable discovery was that both the measures increased when land use increased – in contrast to declining diversity and numbers of species that were not hosts of pathogens that affected humans. What this amounts to is that the proportion of species that harbour pathogens that affect humans increases, and the risk of humans catching zoonotic infections increases with more intense land use. Coming to specifics, it was found that host species in perching songbirds (about half of all birds), bats and rodents increased, respectively by 14 to 96 per cent, by 45 per cent and 52 per cent, while non-host species declined by 28 per cent to 43 per cent, 13 per cent and 53 per cent.

And what could be the reason for this? One suggestion is that smaller and short lived animals, like rats and smaller birds, can afford less investment in the immune system and thus harbour more pathogens. In contrast, longer lived and larger animals, the rhino, for instance, need to keep pathogens away and are a smaller threat to humans. The smaller animals were also more resilient and able to cope with habitat change and thrived in habitat change.

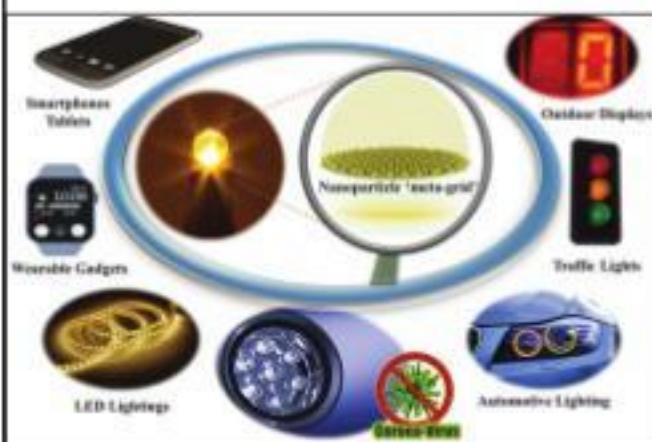
That Sars-CoV-2, the virus behind the current pandemic was of animal origin has created the apprehension that there is a reservoir of unknown diseases lurking in the wild. The results of the study are different – that disease-carrying animal life is concentrated in the spaces where humans have cleared forests, for planting crops or building cities.

The message is two-fold. First, encroaching on virgin land to grow more food carries the price-tag of rising health care costs. Second, it is in our immediate surroundings, not the deep woods, which we should expect new pathogens to arise.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

## PLUS POINTS

### Brighter & more durable



Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati and Imperial College London have developed a tailored "meta-grid" of nanoparticles that could make light-emitting diodes brighter, energy-efficient and durable.

In today's world, LEDs are deployed almost everywhere – from traffic lights to backlighting for electronic displays, smartphones, large billboards, decorative lightings, water purification, and decontamination of infected surfaces. An increase in LED light output would significantly reduce energy needs on a large scale, and therefore, contribute towards curbing global warming and climate change.

Over the years, a significant research drive towards this objective is in exploring new materials for LED-chip encapsulation, mostly by deploying either higher refractive index glasses or epoxy materials incorporated with filler powders or nanoparticle-loaded-epoxy or engineered epoxy resins, etc. However, these techniques either make the LED chips bulkier or their fabrication becomes more challenging and less economically viable for mass production. Debabrata Sikdar, assistant professor from IIT-Guwahati, along with Sir John B Pendry and Alexei A Kornyshev from Imperial College London, have developed a nanoparticle "meta-grid", which needs to be placed at an appropriate location within the epoxy casing of the LEDs, for improving light output. A "meta-grid" is a specially designed, optimised, two-dimensional array of specific nanoparticles, of a size much smaller than the wavelength of light. The findings have been recently published in Light: Science & Applications journal of the Nature Publishing Group. The technique has revealed optimal design parameters for such meta-grids to produce greater light output over any narrow/broadband emission spectrum, besides boosting LEDs' lifetime by eliminating heating of the chip from unwanted reflections within it.

The technique is deployable by itself or in combination with other existing techniques applied for increasing efficiency. The entire original theoretical framework needed for the invention has been developed in-house and is rigorously tested against standard commercial simulation tools. The research team plans to fabricate a prototype device within one year and corroborate their theoretical predictions with experiments.

Sikdar said, "With the continuous advancement in nanofabrication technology, it is now possible to fabricate metallic nanoparticles which are mostly monodisperse or having a very narrow spread. Still, there could always be some randomness in particle size and/or position, flatness of grid, and variation in refractive index due to fabrication error or material defects, which are unavoidable. Effects from most of these inaccuracies can be estimated from our tolerance study and it has shown the robustness of our scheme."

### Worrying trend



Last month was the world's third-hottest July on record, new data shows, the latest milestone in a global warming trend that has seen the three hottest Julys within the last five years.

With the heat has come a high level of ice melt in the Arctic, where the extent of sea ice last month hit the lowest level for July since the polar satellite record-keeping began four decades ago, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

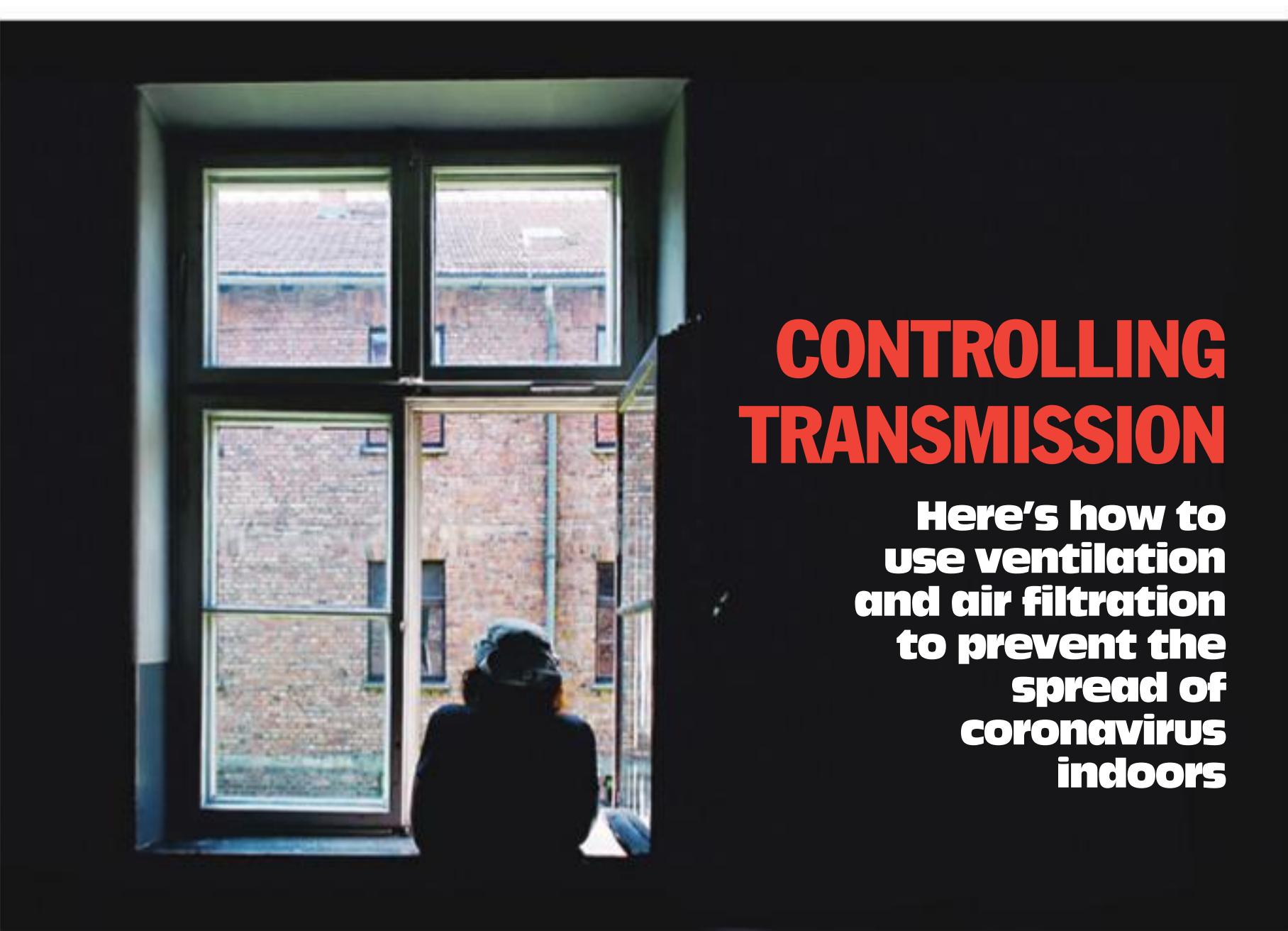
The new findings come as France and Belgium brace for a possible weekend heatwave, while Italian roads near an Alpine glacier were closed amid warnings that high temperatures could cause ice to collapse. In the Arctic, which has been warming at more than twice the global rate in recent decades, the expanse of sea ice shrank to its lowest level recorded for any July since 1979.

The data service said satellite images reveal ice-free conditions "almost everywhere" along the Siberian coastline – a shipping route that, until a few years ago, could be crossed only with an ice-breaking vessel. The heat has also been linked with wildfires that have been scorching patches of Siberian forest and permafrost since mid-June. An image from a Copernicus satellite showed a massive smoke cloud over the remote Russian region last week. Carbon monoxide levels over Siberia suggest the wildfires "really took off" in the past two years, said Mark Parrington, a senior scientist at Copernicus tracking wildfire emissions.

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

## CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION

**Here's how to use ventilation and air filtration to prevent the spread of coronavirus indoors**



**SHELLY MILLER**

**T**he vast majority of Sars-CoV-2 transmission occurs indoors, most of it from the inhalation of airborne particles that contain the coronavirus. The best way to prevent the virus from spreading in a home or business would be to simply keep infected people away. But this is hard to do when an estimated 40 per cent of cases are asymptomatic and asymptomatic people can still spread the coronavirus to others.

Masks do a decent job at keeping the virus from spreading into the environment, but if an infected person is inside a building, inevitably some virus will escape into the air.

Much of my work has focused on how to control the transmission of airborne infectious diseases indoors, and I've been asked by my own university, my kids' schools and even the

Alaska State Legislature for advice on how to make indoor spaces safe during this pandemic. Once the virus escapes into the air inside a building, you have two options – bring in fresh air from outside or remove the virus from the air inside the building.

**It's all about fresh, outside air**  
The safest indoor space is one that constantly has lots of outside air replacing the stale air inside. In commercial buildings, outside air is usually pumped in through heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems. In homes, outside air gets in through open windows and doors, in addition to seeping in through various nooks and crannies.

Simply put, the fresher outside air inside a building, the better. Bringing in this air dilutes any contaminant in a building, whether a virus or something else, and reduces the exposure

of anyone inside. Environmental engineers like me quantify how much outside air is getting into a building using a measure called the air exchange rate. This number quantifies the number of times the air inside a building gets replaced with air from outside in an hour. While the exact rate depends on the number of people and size of the room, most experts consider roughly six air changes an hour to be good for a 10-foot-by-10-foot room with three to four people in it. In a pandemic this should be higher, with one study from 2016 suggesting that an exchange rate of nine times per hour reduced the spread of Sars, Mers and H1N1 in a Hong Kong hospital.

Many buildings in the US, especially schools, do not meet recommended ventilation rates. Thankfully, it can be pretty easy to get more outside air into a building. Keeping windows and doors open is a good start. Putting

a box fan in a window blowing out can greatly increase air exchange too. In buildings that don't have operable windows, you can change the mechanical ventilation system to increase how much air it is pumping. But in any room, the more people inside, the faster the air should be replaced.

#### Using CO<sub>2</sub> to measure air circulation

So how do you know if the room you're in has enough air exchange? It's actually a pretty hard number to calculate. But there's an easy-to-measure proxy that can help. Every time you exhale, you release CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. Since the coronavirus is most often spread by breathing, coughing or talking, you can use CO<sub>2</sub> levels to see if the room is filling up with potentially infectious exhalations. The CO<sub>2</sub> level lets you estimate if enough fresh outside air is getting in. Outdoors, CO<sub>2</sub> levels are just above 400 parts per million. A well ventilated room will have around 800 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>. Any higher than that and it is a sign the room might need more ventilation.

Last year, researchers in Taiwan reported on the effect of ventilation on a tuberculosis outbreak at Taipei University. Many of the rooms in the school were underventilated and had CO<sub>2</sub> levels above 3,000 ppm. When engineers improved air circulation and got CO<sub>2</sub> levels under 600 ppm, the outbreak completely stopped. According to the research, the increase in ventilation was responsible for 97 per cent of the decrease in transmission. Since the coronavirus is spread through the air, higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels in a room likely mean there is a higher chance of transmission if an infected person is inside. Based on the study above, I recommend trying to keep the CO<sub>2</sub> levels below 600 ppm.

#### Air cleaners

If you are in a room that can't get enough outside air for dilution, consider an air cleaner, also commonly called air purifiers. These machines remove particles from the air, usually using a filter made of tightly woven fibres. They can capture particles containing bacteria and viruses and can help reduce disease transmission.

The US Environmental Protection Agency says that air cleaners can do this for the coronavirus, but not all air cleaners are equal. Before you go out and buy one, there are few things to keep in mind. The first thing to consider is how effective an air cleaner's filter is. Your best option is a cleaner that uses a high-efficiency particulate air filter, as these remove more than 99.97 per cent of all particle sizes. The second thing to consider is how powerful the cleaner is. The bigger the room – or the more people in it – the more air needs to be cleaned. I worked with some colleagues at Harvard to put together a tool to help teachers and schools determine how powerful an air cleaner you need for different classroom sizes. The last thing to consider is the validity of the claims made by the company producing the air cleaner.

#### Keep air fresh or get outside

Both the World Health Organization and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that poor ventilation increases the risk of transmitting the coronavirus. If you are in control of your indoor environment, make sure you are getting enough fresh air from outside circulating into the building. A CO<sub>2</sub> monitor can help give you a clue if there is enough ventilation, and if CO<sub>2</sub> levels start going up, open some windows and take a break outside. If you can't get enough fresh air into a room, an air cleaner might be a good idea. If you do get an air cleaner, be aware that they don't remove CO<sub>2</sub>, so even though the air might be safer, CO<sub>2</sub> levels could still be high in the room.

If you walk into a building and it feels hot, stuffy and crowded, chances are that there is not enough ventilation. Turn around and leave. By paying attention to air circulation and filtration, improving them where you can and staying away from places where you can't, you can add another powerful tool to your anti-coronavirus toolkit.

The writer is professor of mechanical engineering, University of Colorado Boulder, US. This article first appeared on www.theconversation.com



## PAK PANACHE

Inzamam-ul-Haq (*in photo, left*) believes Pakistan are better than England and they could win the current three-match Test series yet. "We should have won the first Test but Pakistan players looked under pressure after their second-innings batting collapse on the third day," Haq said.

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

## THUMBNAILS

**Alam backed:** Wasim Alram believes Pakistan should include Fawad Alam in the middle order in the second Test against England at Southampton on 13 August. "You will play with one spinner there and you will have to play with an extra batsman," he said.

**Lawrence unavailable:** Dan Lawrence, one of the reserve batsmen in the England squad for the three-Test series against Pakistan, has left the team's bio-secure bubble after a family bereavement. He will not be available for selection when the second Test starts.

**Atletico relieved:** Atletico Madrid breathed a sigh of relief on Monday after further coronavirus tests on their players and staff turned up negative, allowing the team to travel to Portugal on Tuesday for their Champions League quarter-final against Leipzig.

**Liverpool's gain:** Liverpool have signed Greece defender Kostas Tsimikas from Olympiakos Piraeus on a long-term contract, the Premier League champions announced on Monday. The 24-year-old left back made 46 appearances for Olympiakos last season.

**Net bowlers:** The Indian Premier League shifting its base to the United Arab Emirates for the 2020 edition may prove to be a blessing in disguise for at least 50 unheralded cricketers, who are set to travel with the eight teams as "exclusive" net bowlers. At least three franchises, Chennai Super Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals confirmed that they are preparing a roster of net bowlers. The list comprises mostly first-class, U-19 and U-23 state level cricketers.

**National cricket scholarship:** The Sports School, under the mentorship of veteran India cricketer Robin Uthappa, and in association with Center for Cricketing Excellence (CCE), on Tuesday announced a scholarship programme for students across India. "Cricket has tremendous potential and India is a goldmine of talent. Our scholarship program at The Sports School is a wonderful opportunity to train under a specialized curriculum built by us, under the guidance of our expert coaches and keeping in mind our world class facility," Uthappa, chief mentor at The Sports School, said.

**Best captains:** Faiz Fazal, a domestic veteran and Ranji Trophy-winning skipper with Vidarbha recently named Australia's Tim Paine and India's Virat Kohli as two of the best captains in the world right now. In a recent interaction on Sports Tiger's show 'Off the Field', on being asked who the best captain in the world, Faiz said, "I am a fan of Tim Paine, he is very good as a Test captain, Virat is also very good in Tests." He also shared his experience of being a captain and how difficult it is to be a captain.

[www.thestatesman.com](#)

## Emirates Cricket Board gets BCCI's official clearance to host IPL

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 11 AUGUST

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) on Tuesday said it has received the official clearance from the BCCI to host the IPL in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

The development comes a day after IPL chairman Brijesh Patel told PTI that the BCCI had received all necessary clearances from the Indian government to stage the tournament in the UAE.

The world's biggest T20 league has been moved out of India due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We feel extremely privileged to host what could be considered the pinnacle event of our favourite sport," said Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, cabinet member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, and ECB Chairman.

"The magnitude of being in a position to bring the IPL to the vast cricket-loving global community, during current events which have greatly impacted our daily lives, is one we take with extreme importance," he added in his statement.

The ECB had been waiting for the BCCI's final go ahead before intensifying its preparations for the tournament.

The UAE had partially hosted the event in 2014 due to the general elections in India.

With the COVID-19 situation under control in the Emirates, the BCCI picked it to host the entire event comprising 60 games.

"This is undoubtedly the highest-profile cricketing event to be held in the UAE and our team will continue to support all facets (of the tournament) and work toward delivering a successful event for the enjoyment of all sports fans; here in the UAE, in India and across the world," said Al Nahayan.

The IPL will be held at three venues: Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

The eight teams will start leaving for the UAE from August 20.

Upon their arrival, all players and officials will have to isolate themselves for at least six days before they can enter the bio-bubble. They will be tested thrice over six days.

"...we remain in very close contact with the BCCI, IPL committees, the UAE Government and Ministries, our Health Authority, as well as many other entities, who are all experts in their respective fields and it is our collective intent that the tournament be played in a safe, enjoyable environment," said Al Nahayan.

## Fernandes guides United past Copenhagen

Manchester United 1  
AET Copenhagen 0

THE INDEPENDENT  
LONDON, 11 AUGUST

**M**anchester United's long Europa League campaign will run on a little longer. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer would not have wanted his players to be subjected to extra time during this condensed, compacted mini-tournament in Germany after a long and hard domestic season, but they required an extra half-hour in order to overcome Stale Solbakken's spirited Copenhagen.

Bruno Fernandes' (*in photo, left*) spot kick - United's 21st penalty in all competitions this season, won by Anthony Martial at the start of the further 30 minutes - ultimately made the difference.

Progression to the last four would have come a lot more easily if not for the acrobatics of Copenhagen goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson and the woodwork, which United struck time and again. This was hard work, though. Copenhagen were the better side for spells and had opportunities of their own.

Unfortunately for Solbakken, the best of them fell to his left-back, Solskjaer, by contrast,



can now look forward to a semi-final against either Sevilla or familiar foes in the shape of Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday, though the concern will be just how much energy was expended in getting there.

United began poorly, sloppily in possession and sluggish out of it. The lively Mohamed Daramy - some two-and-a-half months younger than even Mason Greenwood - caused plenty of issues in the opening exchanges. It took Eric Bailly, a surprise selection alongside Harry Maguire in the centre of United's defence, to step in front of the 18-year-old and deny him a simple tap-in after a quarter-of-an-hour.

Bailly could do little to stop Daramy again a few minutes later when the teenager turned one way, then another, then rounded him inside the penalty area. This time, Maguire was on hand to block the goal-bound shot. The chance had come about after Fred's wayward pass in midfield, but several United players were just as guilty of being careless with the ball. Copenhagen were dominating. This was not in the script but United gradually began re-writing it, enjoying more and more of the ball in Copenhagen territory. Greenwood struck the

wood appeared to have found the breakthrough in added-on time at the end of the half, bursting in behind to collect Marcus Rashford's flicked header and finishing brilliantly, striking across goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson from an acute right-hand angle, against the post and in.

It would have been Greenwood's 18th goal of an astonishing debut campaign, if only he had not strayed a yard or so outside in the build-up. The goal was correctly ruled out after a lengthy VAR review and there would be more frustration in the early stages of the second half. Greenwood struck the

upright once again. This time, the ball bounced clear of goal for Rashford yet he was flagged while converting the rebound. Bruno Fernandes was next to hit the woodwork.

## Inter move up

Inter Milan's Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku scored and tormented the Bayer Leverkusen defence as he led his side into the Europa League semi-finals with a 2-1 win on Monday.

Nicola Barella put Inter ahead after 15 minutes, driving the ball home after Lukaku's shot was blocked, and six minutes

later the Belgian got on the score-sheet when he displayed his strength by holding off defender Edmond Tapsoba before firing home. Leverkusen winger Kai Havertz, reported to be a transfer target of Premier League club Chelsea, pulled a goal back for the Germans but it was goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky who kept them in the game with a string of fine saves.

Lukaku placed the ball on the penalty spot once in each half only for the Video Assistant Referee to overturn both decisions, but it did not stop Inter setting up a semi-final against Shakhtar Donetsk or FC Basel who meet on Tuesday.

## Sarfraz should retire from Tests, says Raja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI, 11 AUGUST

known for his aggression," he added.

Raja, who featured in 57 Tests, said a former captain and senior player of Sarfraz's stature carrying drinks, although not rare in cricket, is frowned upon in Pakistan.

"There is nothing wrong with that because even James Anderson carries drinks when he didn't play in the second Test against West Indies. But in our cricket culture these things are not looked upon nicely and if they involve a former captain," Raja said.

"I don't see him getting a chance in the Test format soon so he should focus on white ball cricket where he will play and be respected as well," he added. Raja feels the presence of Sarfraz in the squad also adds pressure on Muhammad Rizwan, who kept the wickets for Pakistan in the first Test.

## Stokes a game changer, will be a massive miss: Pope

AGENCIES  
SOUTHAMPTON, 11 AUGUST

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes (*in photo*) is a "game changer" and his absence from the remainder of the three-Test series against Pakistan will be a "massive miss," said England batsman Ollie Pope. Stokes has pulled out of the next two Tests due to family reasons.

The second Test starts on Thursday at the Ageas Bowl here.

"There are bigger things than cricket and it is important that Ben Stokes is able to spend time with his family - but he will be a massive miss for us for the rest of the series against Pakistan," Pope said in his column for Sky Sports.

"He is probably the best cricketer in the world at the moment, a game changer, and even if he does miss out with bat or ball, his aura on the pitch or slip catching still influences games." England had

registered a sensational three-wicket win over Pakistan in the opening Test at Manchester to take a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series. Stokes was out for zero and 9 in the two innings but claimed two crucial wickets in four overs in the second innings of the opening Test.

"To have him around is awesome but, as we showed in the previous Test, we are not reliant on one player. We have guys who step up to the mark."

Pope said. England were starting defeat after being reduced to 117 for five on the final day but Jos Buttler and Chris Woakes stitched a match-winning 139 run stand to take the team home. "Any Test match victory is special but winning in the fashion we did on Saturday does mean a bit more. I think everyone had written us off on the fourth morning and it then looked a pretty uphill task at 117-5 - if we are being completely honest, our hopes were pretty

low," Pope said.

"That's not because we didn't back our batsmen but purely because of the nature of some of the dismissals and the way the pitch was reacting with inconsistent bounce.

"The way Stokes got out to

one that bounced out of the rough, the way I got out to a ball that reared up and hit me on the wrist."

## Broad fined

England fast bowler Stuart Broad has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first Test against Pakistan in Manchester.

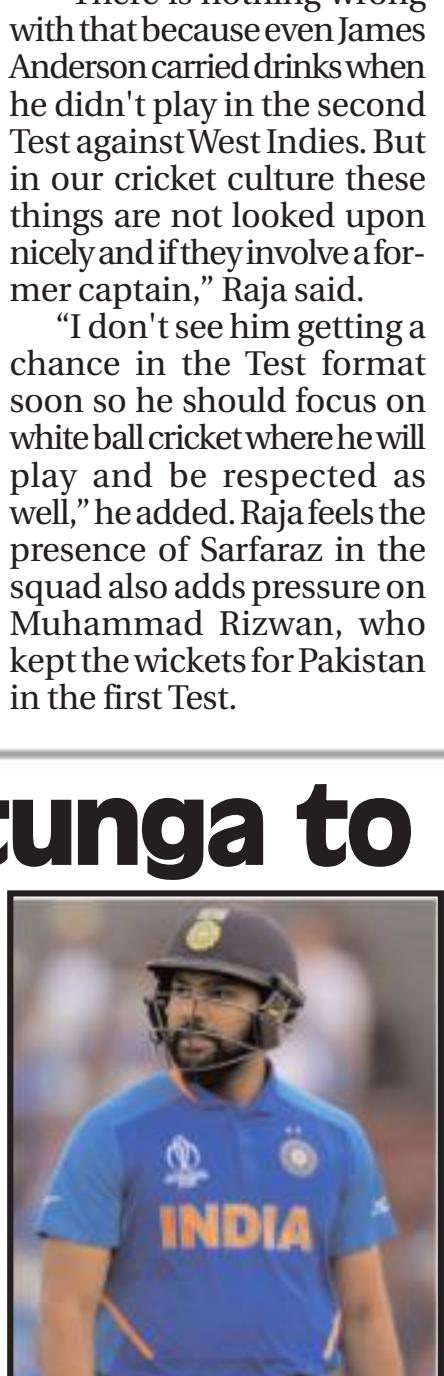
According to a ICC media release, Broad was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match". In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Broad, for whom it was the third offence in a 24-month period.

od, taking his cumulative demerit points to three.

Broad's previous breaches were on January 27 this year during the fourth Test against South Africa at the Wankhede, and on August 19, 2018, in the third Test against India at Trent Bridge.

The latest incident occurred in the 46th over of Pakistan's second innings on Saturday, when Broad used inappropriate language after dismissing Yasir Shah. Broad admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees and ratified by the ICC Cricket Operations department as per the COVID-19 interim playing regulations.

There was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth, third umpire Michael Gough and fourth official Steve O'Shaughnessy levelled the charge.



was chairman of cricket committee, the advisory arm of the executive committee of the board, and, in 2008, he headed the board.

But on both occasions, he was heavily involved in politics and his full focus wasn't on cricket. He has also had a few cracks

views, he decided to address a media briefing. It happened at SSC and after the briefing there was an interaction.

Ranatunga kept asking the visiting journalists the whereabouts of a player named Rohit Sharma (*in photo*).

Ranatunga went onto say that he had seen him during the U-19 World Cup and that Sharma was a special talent. He also told them that Sharma was going to break lots of records if he kept his head clear of distractions. Most of the journalists from India had no clue. But soon they started learning what impact Sharma could make. That is Ranatunga. He sees things differently and he is stubborn in holding onto those ideas regardless of the consequences. It is time for him to take guard again.

Ranatunga was SLC chairman in 2008 when India toured the island and with several requests coming his way from Indian journalists for inter-

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## It's time for Ranatunga to return to cricket

THE ISLAND  
COLOMBO, 11 AUGUST

On the day Arjuna Ranatunga retired from cricket, 10 August, 2000, there was a media briefing at the old Oberoi Hotel, now Cinnamon Grand.

There was an offer for him to join Sri Lanka Cricket as one of the directors. But, at the same time, then President Chandrika Kumaratunga requested him to join politics. He chose the latter, following in the footsteps of his father Reggie Ranatunga, a stalwart of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

A few months later the general elections that were held, he was elected to Parliament from Colombo District, winning handsomely. Since then, he has won four general elections in three different districts and

## New Zealand to host West Indies, Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh in summer season

AGENCIES  
AUCKLAND, 11 AUGUST

New Zealand Cricket CEO David White on Tuesday said Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh and the West Indies have confirmed they will tour the country during the summer.

White said New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is working to implement bio-secure bubble, similar to the one the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is using in their ongoing season, to resume international cricket in the country post the coronavirus forced hiatus. "We are making tremendous progress. I was just on the phone to the West Indies, they're confirmed,

government agencies on the managed isolation but they've been extremely supportive," White said.

According to the current Future Tours programme (FTP), New Zealand are slated to host West Indies and Pakistan for a Test and T20 series each. The red-ball series being a part of the World Test Championship.

Bangladesh are scheduled for ODIs and T20Is followed by Australia for T20 series. Cricketing activities in New Zealand came to a halt in late March owing to the pandemic. The country's top cricketers, including captain Kane Williamson, pacer Trent Boult and Ross Taylor, returned to squad training last month.

## The Statesman Sport

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