

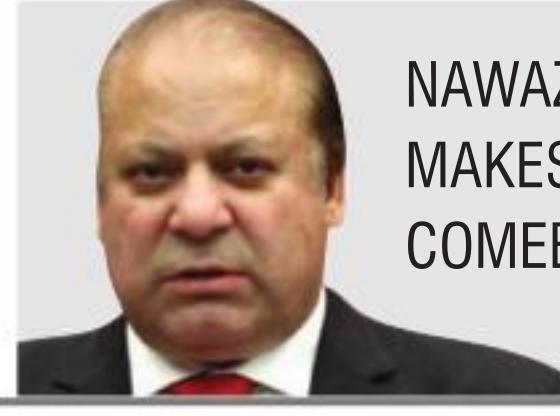


PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



'PR EXERCISES  
POOR SUBSTITUTE  
FOR GOVERNANCE'

P5



NAWAZ SHARIF  
MAKES A POLITICAL  
COMEBACK

P9



TRUMP PLEDGES TO  
REPLACE GINSBURG  
WITH WOMAN

P10



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The (BJP) government bulldozed the anti-farmer Bills at the cost of well established parliamentary procedures, rules and traditions

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

# Delhi House panel issues fresh notice of appearance to FB

Delhi Assembly Peace and Harmony Committee gives 'one last opportunity' to Facebook India for deposing before it on 23 Sept with regard to allegations of its 'complicity' in Northeast Delhi riots

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee has issued a fresh notice to Facebook India managing director Ajit Mohan for deposing before the Committee on 23 September in "one last opportunity" as a witness representing his company with regard to the allegations of "deliberate inaction on the part of (the) social media platform to apply hate speech rules".

A statement issued by the Committee said any disregard to this notice would be deemed as a "willful act of breach of privilege" of the Committee and thus entail various proceedings to be initiated against Facebook India.

The fresh notice was issued after the Facebook India executives ignored a call to appear before the Committee headed by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party legislator, Raghav Chadha, on 15 September, taking the position that they had already appeared before a parliamentary committee on the issue even as they sought withdrawal of the summons issued by the Delhi Assembly



panel.

Taking a strong note of the conduct of Facebook India, the Delhi Assembly Committee came to the conclusion that Facebook was

"deliberately" trying to evade the process of law as well as showing "absolute non-cooperation" in enabling the panel to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made against

it, the statement said.

Keeping in view Facebook India's "disobedience", the panel mulled over exercising its powers and privileges conferred on it by the Constitu-



tion of India by applying its penal jurisdiction against the company after affording it "one last opportunity to appear before the committee". In pursuance of this, a subsequent notice for appearance has now been issued to Ajit Mohan.

Chadha had clarified that the notice of appearance issued to Facebook was directly related to the incidents of violence or riots that occurred in Delhi in February 2020 whereas the parliamentary panel proceedings were on the subject of "safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on

women security in the digital space".

Chadha had said the non-appearance of the top Facebook India official before the Committee was a contempt of the Delhi Legislative Assembly as well as the people of the national capital. He had insisted that Facebook must honour the proceedings taking place under Delhi's state legislature in the same manner as they did for a parliamentary panel.

The Delhi Assembly Committee had reportedly taken cognisance of the accusations against Facebook for its alleged "complicity" in the February Northeast Delhi riots on the premise of the "incriminatory material" produced on record by the witnesses as well as their depositions in its previous meetings.

The Assembly panel's hearing in the matter started in the wake of a Wall Street Journal expose that reported that a senior Facebook India policy executive had intervened in internal communication to stop a permanent ban on a BJP legislator from Telangana after he allegedly shared communally-charged posts on the social media platform.

Capital records 3,812 fresh Covid cases, 37 deaths, over 52K tests



People wearing face masks amid the Covid pandemic, in the Capital on Sunday.  
DEEPAK

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

The national capital today recorded 3,812 fresh novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, which took the cumulative total of such patients in the city to 2,46,711, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The number of total tests conducted in Delhi was 19,62,120 on 10 September. It rose to 25,55,007 today.

The case positivity rate during the last 24 hours was 7.27 percent while the cumulative positivity rate was 9.66 percent.

The number of active cases increased by over 190 percent in the city since mid-August. There were 11,068 active Covid cases on 18 August, which increased to 32,097 today.

According to the health bulletin, 18,910 Covid patients were getting treatment in the city under the home isolation system.

The containment zones (hot zones) in the national capital numbered 1,872.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain had yesterday said that there has been a downward trend in Covid-19 positivity rate in the national capital and that it will lead to good results by next week. "The positivity rate was 6.76 per cent on Friday. It has remained below 7 per cent in the last two-three days. Last week, it was around 8 per cent," Jain had then said.

The cumulative positivity rate also dropped below 10 per cent for the first time, he said.

## 40-year-old man found hanging inside police lock-up in Delhi, kin allege custodial torture

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

A 40-year-old man arrested on charges of raping a minor girl was allegedly found hanging with a bedsheets inside the lock-up of Samaypur Badli police station following which a constable has been suspended, police said on Sunday.

The deceased, Dharmendra, who was lodged in jail in a case of murder-cum-robery was released on parole in March this year. But due to the successive lockdowns amid COVID-19, his parole period got extended. He is a resident of Bulandshahr

in Uttar Pradesh but was present-staying at one of his relative's house in Kadipur area here, they said.

Constable Yashveer, who was posted in sentry duty in Samaypur Badli police station where the man was found hanging, has been placed on suspension for the negligence, police said.

The family members of the deceased alleged that police thrashed him inside the lock-up and also forced him to consume liquor. Police, however, refuted the allegations.

According to police, the matter came to notice on Saturday,

when a complaint was received against Dharmendra at Swaroop Nagar police station alleging him of entering a neighbour's house and raping a 14-year-old girl who was alone at her house while her mother, a labourer, was out for work.

With the minor girl's father having passed away, her mother is the only earning member of their family. Based on her complaint, a case under Section 376 (punishment for rape), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered.

The accused was arrested after he was found hiding at the house of his relative in Samaypur Badli area, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said.

After being arrested in connection with the rape case, the accused was lodged in a lock-up of Samaypur Badli police station since there is no lock-up in Swaroop Nagar police station, he claimed.

On Sunday, the accused hanged himself with a bedsheet tied around the bars of the lock-up gate. He was immediately rushed to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital but was

declared brought dead by the doctors, the officer said.

The Metropolitan Magistrate has been informed regarding the incident and proceedings are being carried out as per law. CCTV footage has also been preserved to facilitate the enquiry, the DCP said.

The police said the accused was previously convicted in a case of sodomy registered at Alipur police station, wherein he entered the house of a 10-year-old boy and forcefully committed sodomy on him.

He had also been convicted in a case of murder-cum-robery registered at Khajuri Khas

police station.

The deceased man's lawyer Rakesh Kaushik said Dharmendra was in jail for the last five-six years in connection with a case of murder but was out on parole in the last five months.

He said, "The man was brought to Swaroop Nagar police station by police personnel for questioning but around 11.30 pm, his relatives got a call asking them to visit Dharmendra at the police station. The family has alleged that the victim was tortured and beaten up inside the lock-up and was also made to consume alcohol."

## Be cautious of both dengue and Covid: Kejriwal

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday asked people of Delhi to be cautious of both dengue and coronavirus and spread awareness about measures to prevent the vector-borne disease.

The Delhi government's dengue awareness campaign "10 Hafe 10 Baje 10 Minute" entered its third week on Sunday.

While inspecting his residence at 10 am, Kejriwal said collective efforts will help Delhi defeat dengue like last year. There was a significant decrease in the number of cases.

"Right now, we are dealing with the coronavirus

pandemic but it is also the season when dengue cases increase significantly. We have to be conscious about both dengue and coronavirus," he said.

"Citizens must help in spreading awareness about measures to prevent dengue. They must pick up the phone and call 10 of their friends and relatives and advise them on the good practices such as draining stagnant water and replacing it," he said. "They must also advise their friends and relatives to take all measures to remain safe from coronavirus," he added. He later tweeted, "Delhi will defeat dengue again."

On the third Sunday of the campaign at 10 am, I

checked my house and replaced stagnant clean water. You must also check your house every Sunday and ask your 10 friends/relatives to do the same. Last year, similar cooperation and collective measures from all RWAs, religious and cultural associations, ministers, MLAs, public leaders and influencers had played a huge role in reducing the impact of dengue in the city.

Only 2,036 dengue cases and two deaths were recorded in the city last year as against 15,867 cases and 60 deaths in 2015. The first edition of the anti-dengue campaign 10 Hafe 10 Baje 10 Minute was launched in 2019.

**Be cautious of both dengue and Covid: Kejriwal**



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal draining stagnant water from a flowerpot at his house as part of his government's anti-dengue campaign. In the Capital on Sunday.

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Senior advocate Adish Aggarwala, who is representing the journalist, alleged that the police's claim of finding incriminating evidence from his possession was "not true".

"We are not denying that he was working for a Chinese news organisation. The only dispute is the police's claim that they have found incriminating evidence, which is not true."

The evidence was planted later on. On September 14, when the police took him in custody, they searched his house that night and no incriminating evidence was found. He is being framed in a false case. He has not committed any offence," Aggarwala told PTI.

The advocate said the police could have informed the media on the day of the arrest itself, but they did not

"as nothing incriminating was found".

"Once they (police) analysed and could not find any anything incriminating, they planted the evidence," he further alleged.

"They are not interrogating any official from the Defence Ministry."

He must have found the documents from someone. It isn't that he printed them at his home," he claimed. Aggarwala also alleged that Sharma's family was not allowed access to him, nor was any information regarding the allegations furnished to them.

"No copy of the FIR is uploaded online. Despite multiple requests, the police have not furnished a copy of the FIR. He was not given access to a lawyer when he was produced before a judge through video conferenc-

ing," he said and termed it "illegal".

The lawyer said the only thing the police had was that Sharma was working with a Chinese media organisation.

"Our country has not stopped business with China. A lot of people from China are working here and a lot many Indians are working there. There's nothing wrong in that," he said.

Sharma's counsel has filed a bail application which is scheduled to come up for hearing on September 22 before a Delhi court. In the application, the counsel has said that there is "no risk of him running away from the process of justice".

"The applicant has deep roots in society and is a respected senior journalist. His wife is also Associate Professor at Venkateswara Col-

lege, Delhi University. Therefore, there is no risk of him running away from the process of justice."

"There is no chance of influencing any witness or tampering with any evidence. The investigation would no longer require custodial interrogation of the applicant, and he can join the investigation as and when directed," the application stated.

It added the accused was of 61 years old and was suffering from an acute case of sinus problems, and requires constant treatment from a nebulizer.

"He has also undergone two surgeries for the same. Due to the same, he stands to be high risk to COVID-19. He is also a patient of high blood pressure, and taking medication for the same for the past decade," it said.



**S**mall businesses in the national capital are resorting to opening grocery shops or selling vegetables in order to grapple with the humungous crisis which the stringent lockdown brought on them. A neighbourhood tour and travel office in Mayur Vihar turned into a grocery shop overnight. But perhaps the owner loved his previous business and, therefore, did not do away with its signboard which said "Tours and Travels". He may have plans to resume his travel business once the situation returns to normal. Similarly, many who used to run eateries have become vegetable vendors because they wouldn't be shooed away by the police. But, a business tactic adopted by a local gro-

cery shop left everyone in the area surprised. One fine morning, the grocery shop owner also had vegetables among the items he was selling. A smart way indeed to supplement the profits! Restaurant owners in Delhi have also realised that they cannot expect many people to visit their restaurants to have food in view of physical distancing norms and other restrictions. So they have started reaching out to their customers. Earlier, restaurants used to provide the "Free Home Delivery" facility within a radius of 3-4 kms. Now many restaurants have extended this facility even up to 10 kms. All they had to do was to hire a few more delivery boys. And, they are thus generating employment too.

Parliament's 2020 Monsoon Session will be remembered not just for defying the Covid-19 pandemic, but for the way MPs sat in the two Houses. The pandemic's protocols forced the Lok Sabha members to sit across the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers, and their galleries. The Rajya Sabha members too spread across the two Houses, and the gallery of their own chamber. The members' seating was determined by the social distancing norms. The unprecedented sitting arrangements meant the two Houses could not meet at the same time, and so they sat one after another during the day. When members spoke, they often announced where they were speaking from. It made no difference to the proceedings, except that the Lok Sabha's seats are green and the Rajya Sabha's are red. The TV cameras telecasting the proceedings live had to often search across the two Houses and large galleries to locate the speakers. In fact, the members' speeches from their new seats did not lose any force. They were still heard with the same attention; they held their ground to make their points, and pleaded for more time to speak.

### MENTAL HEALTH

**A**ctor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case has divided people — friends, families and significantly, the media. There are those sympathising with "innocent Rhea Chakraborty" who may be a "small fish" being targeted, and facing consequences of typical gender biases for being a modern upwardly mobile female. And there are those who fervently see her as the main villain of the entire tragedy. There are also people who seek a genuine probe with due processes and procedures — after all, a promising life has been lost. Then, there are those who feel there

are more important issues before the nation, which need to be addressed rather than continuing with this frenzy. But, for sure, the case has highlighted the difficult media behaviour, especially the electronic media, and misinformation, stigma and biases against mental ill-health. While Rhea and even Sushant's sister have faced mobs during their visits to interrogation centres, jeopardising their privacy, safety and health in the midst of the Corona crisis, Sushant's mental state and whether there was some underlying or imminent condition are being seen by many people as a major determinant of which direction the case

duly heard. Only the two presiding officers had to often remind them to keep their masks on and speak while seated. The members' seats were provided microphones which could be used only while seated. When Rajya

Sabha member Chhaya Verma (Congress) spoke for the first time, she said she was a member of the Upper House but was

speaking from the Lok Sabha. Another Rajya Sabha member Vandana Chavan (NCP) greeted the newly-elected Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh from the Lok Sabha chamber. GVL Narasimha Rao (BJP) took part in the Aircraft Amendment Bill discussion in the Rajya Sabha from his seat in the Lok Sabha chamber. He was ruthless as ever in answering charges made by new Congress member KC Venugopal in his maiden speech. Jharna Das Baidya (CPI-M) of the Upper House also sat in the Lok Sabha chamber. Former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambidurai (AIADMK) said he was now a member of the Rajya Sabha, but was still sitting in the Lok Sabha. P. Bhattacharya (Trinamul Congress), speaking from the Lok Sabha chamber, wore a green cap and a green mask, provoking Naidu to say that he looked like a doctor. Not used to giving speeches with face-masks, members often brought their masks down. Jaya Bachchan (Samajwadi Party) pleaded to speak with her mask down. The members were reminded that they must respect social distancing and not approach the officials' tables for queries.

### TAILPIECE

"If these last few months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet, particularly among politicians and bureaucrats," said a veteran journalist alluding to some of the controversial measures taken by the authorities to grapple with Covid-19.

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

# India

## Body remains of 4 more victims of Kedarnath disaster recovered

Altogether 703 dead bodies or skeletal remains of the victims of the Kedarnath flash flood calamity have been recovered so far during various search operations conducted since the 2013 disaster

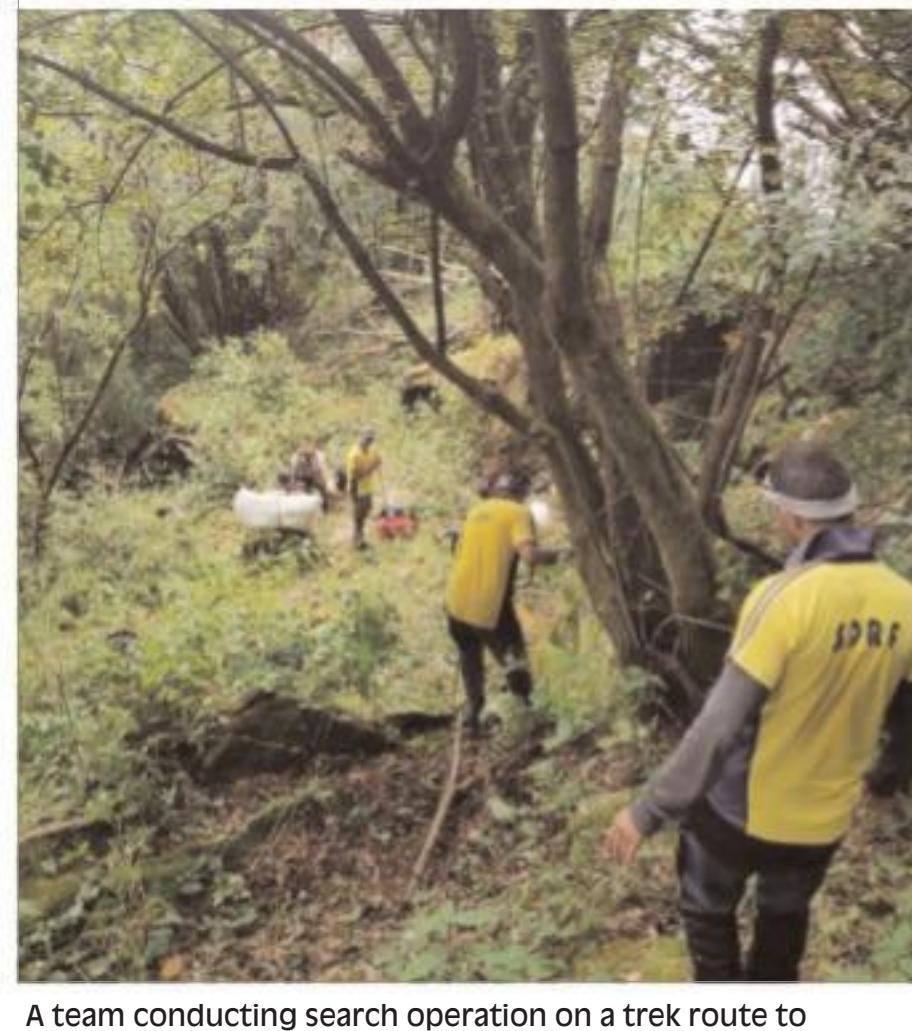
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 20 SEPTEMBER

**T**he body or skeletal remains of four more victims of the 2013 Kedarnath flash flood disaster have now been recovered from the Kedarnath belt in Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand after seven years of the disaster.

An intense search operation was conducted in the Kedarnath pilgrimage town and its adjoining areas afresh by joint teams of the Uttarakhand Police and the State Disaster Relief Force personnel. One of these teams found the body remains of four victims at Gauri Mai Kharak.

With this the week-long operation came to an end. This special search operation was launched following an order passed by the Uttarakhand High Court in this regard earlier this year.

The body remains of the



SNS

four pilgrims was brought to Sonprayag where DNA samples were collected and other official formalities were completed before the last rites of the victims was performed at the confluence of Mandakini and Sona rivers today.

Superintendent of Police (Rudraprayag) Navneet Singh Bhuller said, "The body remains were found by one of our teams while conducting a search from Gau-mukhada to Gauri Mai Kharak path."

Ten search teams were deployed on different trek routes linked with Kedarnath. After a devastating flash flood hit Kedarnath on 16-17 June 2013, the pilgrims were left with little options but to run in various directions in their desperate attempts to save their lives.

The rescue work had then started late and the complex terrain of the belt had made

the search operation difficult. Many stranded pilgrims lost their lives due to hypothermia and hunger among other factors.

This week-long fresh search operation was conducted along trek routes connecting Kedarnath via areas like Chorabari, Gomukhada, Toshi, Triyuginarayan, Garuda Chatti, Chaumasi, Basukital, Rambara, Jungle Chatti, etc. The body remains of four victims were found on the trek route along Triyuginarayan via Toshi.

Kedarnath was the epicentre of the 2013 flash flood disaster.

Thousands of pilgrims lost their lives and went missing in this devastating calamity. A total of 3,886 persons were reported to be missing. So far, altogether 703 dead bodies or skeletal remains of the victims have been recovered during various search operations conducted since 2013.

## Nauni university bags ₹ 25 cr ICAR project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 20 SEPTEMBER

The learning and teaching environment at the Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni is set for a major overhaul under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s National Agricultural Higher Education Plan (NAHEP). The project is funded by the World Bank and under the NAHEP, the Nauni varsity has been awarded the prestigious Institutional Development Project (IDP).

The total outlay of the three-year project is Rs 25 crore with ICAR share of Rs 20 crore and Rs 5 crore funded by the state.

An official of Nauni varsity said this is one of the biggest projects in UHF's history and a major achievement for the university.

It will help to provide a holistic learning and teaching environment to the students and faculty as scientists and students will be exposed to foreign universities to learn

and exchange researchable ideas and issues.

"The main objective of the project 'Quality Education in Horticulture and Forestry to generate Human Resource' is to revamp the university's UG education through innovative and modern pedagogy, skill development, improving placement opportunities and catalyzing entrepreneurship through global thinking and input."

Under IDP, the university will look to strengthen collaborations with leading academia and industry for student exchange and faculty development programmes," he added.

He said around 150 UG students and 50 faculty members will be selected through competition, to visit top-flight foreign universities for a period of 3-6 months.

Organization of webinars and seminars, workshops and capacity building, and engaging industry experts as adjunct faculty is also included in the project. In addition to the creation of sev-

eral student amenities, the university will establish UG and language labs for improving soft skills, eight smart and two virtual classrooms.

The project will also push green initiatives like the use of solar energy for cooking, lighting, use of battery-operated vehicles, solid waste management and recycling, campus landscaping and development of nature parks, he said.

He further stated that one of the highlights will be the development of Short Term International Certificate course on temperate horticulture and forestry crops and the strengthening of Student Development and Career Development Cell.

"A review meeting of the core project team and the statutory officers under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor Dr Parvinder Kaushal in which Director, Extension Education Dr PK Mahajan, Deans Dr Bhupinder Gupta and Dr ML Bhardwaj were also present," he added.

## Over 1L HP farmers get compensation under crop insurance scheme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 20 SEPTEMBER

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (crop insurance scheme) is proving "beneficial" to farmers in Himachal Pradesh and over 1 lakh farmers have got compensation for their crop losses in natural calamities, HP Agriculture Minister Virender Kanwar said on Sunday.

Kanwar said during the tenure of present government, compensation of Rs 19.54 crore had been given to

the 1,01,585 affected farmers for crop loss in the state till date. This includes 8,436 farmers in Bilaspur district, 1,081 in Mandi district, 1,764 in Sirmour district, 2,659 in Solan district, 3,108 in Chamba district, 22,997 in Kangra district, 15,652 in Una district and 13 farmers in Kullu district.

"These farmers were provided compensation under the Central government's crop insurance scheme for damages to their Rabi and Kharif crops," he added.

The premium rate of sum assured has been kept at maximum 5 percent for farmers to insure their crop under this scheme, whereas for weather-based crop, the sum assured for Kharif is two percent and 1.5 percent for Rabi crop.



If the premium rate is more than five percent then the state and Central Gov-

ernment will bear it in the ratio of 50:50," he said.

State Agriculture minis-

ter said climatic conditions had also been included in the crop insurance scheme and in case a farmer was unable to sow the crop in time due to less rainfall or unfavourable climatic conditions, then too, he can avail insurance cover.

Besides this, if the crop kept for drying in the field after harvesting is damaged within 14 days due to cyclonic rain, cyclone, hail and unseasonal rain, then in that case, estimate of the crop loss would be done at field level and the farmer will be provided with compensation.

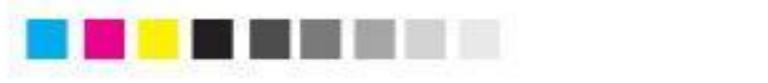
"The scheme is voluntary for non-indebted farmers while all the farmers taking loan for farmers will be automatically insured by the financial institutions under the scheme."

"If the debtor does not want to avail crop insurance under the PMFBY scheme, they can submit self declaration to the concerned bank and exit the scheme."

"But this declaration will have to be given by the debtor to the concerned bank branch seven days before the last date of getting the insurance of the season concerned," he added.

He further stated that the state government is committed to secure the interests of the farmers of the state, for which the government is providing all possible facilities to the farmers.

"The PMFBY has been implemented in the state in the interest of farmers to compensate farmers for their losses due to various types of disasters," he added.





A labourer carries boxes on his head along a street in the old quarters of New Delhi on Sunday. APP

**Clone trains:** With the Railways rolling out 40 clone trains from Monday, wait-listed passengers on high traffic routes can hope to reach their destinations two-three hours before the corresponding parent train. PTI

**Kerala Covid tally:** Kerala on Sunday reported 4,696 new Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of persons affected with the virus to 1,35,721. With 16 more deaths the toll has risen to 535. SNS

**AP CM tests negative:** Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu, who had tested positive on 15 September, tested negative for the virus for the second time on Sunday. PTI

**Torrential rains:** Heavy rains in the past few days wreaked havoc in several parts of Karnataka, especially in coastal Udupi where houses and crops have been submerged, prompting the government to rush disaster response personnel for rescue operations. PTI

## 'Centre murdered Parl democracy'



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 20 SEPTEMBER

The Centre murdered Parliamentary democracy today, alleged Trinamul Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Derek O'Brien after the Rajya Sabha passed two key farm Bills, amidst unprecedented unruly scenes over the objection of opposition members who were demanding that the proposed legislation be referred to a House panel for greater scrutiny.

O'Brien, who was in the thick of the action, later said outside Parliament: "The government did not allow the Opposition a vote on the farmers' bills. It is a sad day for Parliamentary democracy."

The Upper House passed by voice vote the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, amidst pandemonium after four opposition sponsored motions to send the two bills to a House panel for greater scrutiny were negated by voice vote, even as the Congress, TMC, CPM and DMK members sought a division of the Bills.

"They cheated. They broke every rule in Parliament. It was a historic day. In the worst sense of the word. They cut RSTV feed so the country couldn't see. They censored RSTV," he wrote on Twitter.

## Mamata postpones North Bengal tour, reschedules to 29-30 Sept

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has postponed her north Bengal tour due to forecast of inclement weather condition.

Official sources today said that Miss Banerjee's north Bengal district review meetings are being postponed to 29 and 30 September.

"In view of meteorological forecast of depression and inclemency of weather in West Bengal in next few days, and in the context of the state government's decision to keep the district officers in situ in this evolving situation, the chief minister's ensuing north Bengal district review meetings are being postponed to 29 and 30 September,"



said an official.

Miss Banerjee would arrive at Siliguri on 28 September instead of 21 September and leave for Kolkata on 1 October instead of 24 September. During her trip, she would hold two administrative review meetings with five districts at Uttarkanya state secretariat in north Bengal.

The first meeting will be held with the district magistrates and senior officials of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri and the second meeting with their coun-

terparts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Coochbehar. She is also likely to lay the foundation stones of a few projects.

Along with taking stock of the Covid pandemic situation, Miss Banerjee would take a detailed account of the progress of the ongoing projects, discuss the performance of districts that are performing well and those that are lagging behind and review some of the state's flagship projects namely Kanyashree, Rupashree, Sabuj Sathi, Samabhyathi and others.

Incidentally, this will be Miss Banerjee's first district tour in the last six months since Covid pandemic outbreak. During this period Miss Banerjee held the review meetings through video conference from Nabanna.

Sunday had a bigger drama in store. The chain of events in the Rajya Sabha

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*Right now, we are dealing with Covid-19 pandemic but we have to be conscious about dengue and coronavirus*

**DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL**

ASKING PEOPLE OF DELHI TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT STEPS TO PREVENT VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE



# Farmers block roads, burn farm Bill copies

Forced to end rally at Haryana border Punjab protesters set fire to a tractor

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHANDIGARH, 20 SEPTEMBER

**F**armers on Sunday blocked roads in Haryana and burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in neighbouring Punjab, protesting against the farm Bills passed in Parliament.

Farmers occupied portions of roads and highways at several places in Haryana between 12 and 3 p.m., following a call given by the state unit of the Bhartiya Kisan Union against the agri-marketing Bills, two of which were passed in Rajya Sabha on Sunday.

In Ambala, Haryana Police used water cannons at the state's border to stop Punjab Youth Congress workers from entering the district and travelling ahead to Delhi as part of their tractor rally.

Punjab protesters set fire to one of their own tractors when they were forced to end their rally at the Haryana border, police said.

Farmers were joined by 'arthyas' - or the commission agents at mandis - during their protests at many places in Haryana.

There was heavy police deployment across the state, particularly where the bigger gatherings were expected.

Police diverted traffic to alternative routes. Executive magistrate were stationed along with police at many protest venues.

Ambala-Nahan national highway near Naraingarh, Jind-Patiala and Jind-Delhi roads near Julana and Sonipat-Gohana highway were among the roads blocked in Haryana.



Farmers burn in effigy Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar on the outskirts of Amritsar on Sunday. AFP

### BJP hails farm Bills' passage, condemns Opp for ruckus in RS

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

He termed their behaviour "highly irresponsible".

Opposition members also violated Covid-19 protocols by storming the Well of the House, he told reporters.

Slogan-shouting opposition members, including those from the TMC, Congress and Left with several of them in the Well, created a ruckus after Deputy Chairman Harivansh did not consider their demand for a division of votes on a resolution to send the two bills to a select committee, noting that a division can happen only when members are in their seats.

barricaded by police, who also used water cannons to disperse the protesters.

Farmers at several places in Punjab burnt effigies and copies of the farm Bills, claiming that the new laws will

destroy their livelihood.

The three Bills are aimed at giving farmers the choice to sell their produce at competitive prices. But many farm organisations fear they will lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system. Varun Chaudhary, the Haryana Congress MLA from Mullana and Ambala who joined the protest at Mandour village near Panjokhra Sahib in Ambala district, said the bills were not a shield for farmers but for hoarders.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, who also joined the Youth Congress protesters, said all parties except the Akali Dal and the BJP are with the farmers.

He slammed Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, accusing him of earlier supporting these "black laws". The SAD has pulled out of the Union government in protest against the bills.

Joining the tractor rally, Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas BV said his party stands shoulder to shoulder with the farmers.

This government wants to destroy 80 crore families. Former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the 'Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan' slogan, but under the present regime the farmers are ruined, Srinivas said.

On Sunday, Rajya Sabha passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. The Bills were passed by Lok Sabha on Thursday. A third bill is yet to be passed in Rajya Sabha.

The Central agencies are keeping a close watch on the inter-state rackets that bring in Bangladeshi illegally to Kerala as migrant labourers from Bengal after providing them fake IDs. The migrant workforce is so high in Kerala that operatives can

## Central agencies keep watch on terrorist groups in Kerala

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 20 SEPTEMBER

settle in places like Perumavoor without being noticed.

Congress and BJP attacked the LDF government in the state alleging the state has become a safe haven for terrorists. KPCC president Murlappally Ramachandran alleged the state police failed to trace the presence of Al-Qaeda terrorists in Kerala.

BJP state president K Surendran said Kerala had become a hideout for terrorists under the rule of both LDF and Congress-led UDF. The BJP leader alleged that terror groups were operating in the state with the connivance of the state home department and a section of the police.

Central agencies say many of these terrorist groups are active on social media and have accounts registered in Kerala. The arrest of the three terrorists came days after the Central government acknowledged the presence of militants in Kerala and other southern states and warning issued in a report by the United Nations Organisation (UNO) two-and-a-half months ago.

The UN committee that monitors global terrorism said in its 26th report that terrorist groups had presence in Kerala and Karnataka.

It is suspected that terrorist groups, especially Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) which has roots in Bengal and Assam, are active in Kerala. It was found that some of the JMB operatives arrested from these two states had stayed in Kerala. Last year, Bengal police arrested Abdul Matin from Malappuram in the 2014 Burdwan blast case. Another JMB operative was arrested by NIA in 2018.

The Central agencies are keeping a close watch on the inter-state rackets that bring in Bangladeshi illegally to Kerala as migrant labourers from Bengal after providing them fake IDs. The migrant workforce is so high in Kerala that operatives can

Gujarat mulls financial aid to Brahmins hit by income loss

AHMEDABAD, 20 SEPTEMBER

Probably taking a cue from Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, the Gujarat government, too, is toying with the idea of providing financial assistance to Hindu priests whose incomes have been adversely affected by the prolonged lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Bengal government has recently announced a financial aid of Rs 1,000/- per month to Hindu priests whose livelihoods have been affected due to lockdown, a move the state BJP has dubbed as an 'election-oriented stunt'.

Gujarat's Pavitra Yatracharam Vikas Board has initiated the compilation of a list of all priests who earn a living by performing Hindu rituals but have been adversely affected by lockdown.

Collectors in all districts have been asked to gather details of the priests for whom performing rituals is the only livelihood. Though this scheme in Bengal was preceded with a similar gesture to the state's Imams, the Gujarat government has not made any such move.

The Shree Samast Gujarat Brahmin Samaj, a nodal organisation of 459 Brahmin sub-groups, had demanded that a 'Brahmin Development Commission' should be set up for the welfare of the 62 lakh Brahmins in Gujarat. They even threatened to stop performing 'shradh' if their demands were not met by the government that would be elected to power. SNS

### RAISING POINT



An artist paints a facemask on a girl to raise awareness about measures to be taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19, in Hyderabad on Sunday. AFP

## Why is govt running away from giving legal responsibility for MSP?

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

As agriculture-related Bills were tabled in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress on Sunday stepped up its attack on the Centre over the issue and accused it of "running away" from giving legal responsibility for the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Terming the Bills "anti-agriculture black laws", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also asked how will MSP be ensured with the ending of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) or farmers' market. Why is there no guarantee on MSP, he asked.

"Modiji is making farmers 'slaves' of capitalists, the country will not allow this to succeed," the former Congress chief tweeted in Hindi with the hashtag 'Kisan Virodh (anti-farmer) Narendra Modi'.

"The farmers grow gold from land, but the arrogance of the Modi government is making farmers shed tears of blood," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Days after their passage in the Lok Sabha, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar introduced the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 in the Rajya Sabha.

Tomar said minimum price or MSP-based procurement of crops from farmers will continue and is not related to the farm Bills that seek to give cultivators freedom to market their produce.

Congress' chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said the Modi government will get the "three black Bills" passed in the Rajya Sabha through whip.

"But no answer - how will the 15.5 crore farmers' land get MSP? Who will give?" Surjewala said.

"Why is the government running away from giving legal responsibility for MSP? Who will take the responsibility for MSP outside the 'Mandi'?" he said.

The Bills are also facing staunch opposition from farmer bodies as well as from within the ruling coalition. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, the food processing minister from the Shiromani Akali Dal party, resigned from the government last week.

Under the MSP, the government guarantees the procurement of crops such as wheat and paddy at minimum prices from farmers.

A third Bill - the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 - that seeks to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onion, and potatoes from the list of essential commodities and will do away with the imposition of stock limit, is to be moved in the Rajya Sabha separately.

## Central probe team visits VBU, meets varsity authority

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
BOLPUR, 20 SEPTEMBER

The four-member probe committee team appointed by the Calcutta High Court today visited Shantiniketan, inspected the Poush Mela ground and held meetings with the district administration and the Visva Bharati University (VBU) in Bolpur.

The members consist of Justice Sanjib Banerjee (Chairman), Justice Arijit Banerjee, additional solicitor general, Y.J. Dastoor, state advocate general, Kishore Dutta. They have been accompanied by DM of Birbhum, Moumita Godara Basu and SP of Birbhum, Shyam Singh.

### Week in Parliament

**DEEPAK RAZDAN**  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Until it began, there were doubts the monsoon session of Parliament could be held during the Covid-19 days. Going by the heat it generated in its first week, the session could pass off as one from late summer, with the two farmers' Bills approved by the Rajya Sabha amid chaos on Sunday.

A strong sentiment during the week was the Centre was encroaching upon states' powers while promising to uphold cooperative federalism. Food processing industries minister Harshimrat Kaur, representing Akali Dal in the government, made the same point, while resigning on Thursday, when the Lok Sabha passed the farmers' Bills.

Till Friday, the high-point of the week was four continuous adjournments in the Lok Sabha when Congress members objected to minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur's remarks against Jawaharlal Nehru in the context of the PM's National Relief Fund.

Incidentally, this will be Miss Banerjee's first district tour in the last six months since Covid pandemic outbreak. During this period Miss Banerjee held the review meetings through video conference from Nabanna.

showed social distance between government's floor managers and the Opposition, extended beyond Covid-19 requirements.

Otherwise, extension of a House sitting for some more minutes, or the Opposition's demand for sending the Bill to a select committee, could have been sorted out earlier.

As agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar began his reply to a three-and-a-half-hour discussion, at about 1 pm, the Opposition demanded adjourn



Construction workers erect structures at the site of an upcoming residential complex in Mumbai on Sunday. ■ AFP

**Man found hanging inside police lock-up:** A 40-year-old man arrested on charges of raping a minor girl was allegedly found hanging with a bedsheets inside the lock-up of Samaypur Badli police station following which a constable has been suspended, police said on Sunday. PTI

**Boat capsizes in reservoir:** A man drowned and five people were rescued after their boat capsized at the reservoir of Utkal dam in Tapi district in Gujarat, police said on Sunday. Six people from Manekpore village had gone fishing late Saturday evening but their boat toppled due to a strong gust of wind, an Uchhal police station official said. PTI

**Fire at Bhilwara hospital:** On Sunday a fire broke out at a private hospital in Rajasthan's Bhilwara due to short-circuit, forcing safe evacuation of over 50 patients admitted there, according to police. PTI

**Sonowal orders probe into police recruitment test paper leak case**

GUWAHATI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal today ordered an inquiry into the leak of question papers relating to the written test for police sub-inspectors' recruitment in the state.

Sonowal directed state police chief Bhaskarjioti Mahanta to expeditiously conduct the probe to find out the culprits for punishments. Mahanta is also understood to investigate if any vested interest group conspired to derail the government recruitment process.

**PM to address IITG convocation:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the 22nd convocation of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) on 22 September virtually because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The prestigious institute has already created a virtual reality-based award distribution program with an aim to celebrate the graduate's accomplishments online.

Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal will be present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Assam increases its total tally of Covid-19 positive individuals to 1,55,453, with death toll rising to 548 persons till Sunday afternoon.

Presently the state has 29,362 active cases after 12,554 persons were discharged from hospitals after medical interventions. SNS

# Tejashwi slams Centre's rollout of devp projects

Says 'grandiose PR exercises' are a poor substitute for governance



**W**ith the Centre rolling out a slew of development projects for Bihar ahead of the Assembly polls, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday said "grandiose PR exercises" are a poor substitute for governance, and the real issues in the elections would be unemployment, "corporatisation of agriculture" and handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an interview, Yadav also asserted that it is "undisputed and settled" that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is the "natural leader of the 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance)" and seat sharing will be settled soon.

Hitting out at the Modi government over the issue of the three farm Bills, leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly said that the RJD has always fought for the rights of farmers and will fight "tooth and nail" against this "corporatisation of the agriculture sector".

"These Bills will strip farmers of their financial security which has been safeguarded by provisions like public procurement and MSP (minimum support price)," Yadav said. Why did a Union cabinet minister resign if the bills were not "anti-farmer", he asked referring to Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal quitting the Cabinet last week over the farm bills issue.

The Opposition has been hitting out at the government

over the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, alleging that they are anti-farmer, a claim the government has denied, stressing that they will be beneficial for the agriculture sector.

Asserting that his party will fight the Bihar polls on people's issues, Yadav said this is going to be an election between "unemployed youths, pro-democracy and pro-Constitution forces versus an authoritarian, divisive and anti-constitution regime".

"Bihar is the land of revolutionary political movements like the Champaran Satyagraha, and I am sure this election will be a watershed moment in the current political discourse plagued by authoritarianism," the former Bihar deputy chief minister said.

Asked if the Sushant Singh Rajput case could be a poll issue with many leaders raising it, Yadav said, "We were the first to demand a CBI inquiry into Sushant's death and now, since the investigation has begun, we shall have faith in

it and wait for its results."

"We never made it a political issue and it shouldn't be one. The major problems and issues in Bihar are rising unemployment, corporatisation of agriculture, rampant corruption, crippled healthcare, deteriorating law and order, education, unchecked bureaucracy, among others," he said.

Yadav said the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and the treatment meted out to migrant labourers are also important issues.

Claiming that chief minister Nitish Kumar has "failed miserably" on all these fronts in his nearly 15-year-long rule, Yadav said the RJD will ensure that poll issues are these real issues pertaining to the lives and future of the people of Bihar. "Our state should not suffer due to shrewd deflection strategies of the BJP-JD(U)," the former deputy chief minister said.

On whether he would be the Opposition alliance's chief ministerial candidate and the RJD's standing in the 'mahagathbandhan', Yadav asserted that it is "undisputed and settled that the RJD is the natural leader of the mahagathbandhan and still the single largest party of the state".

"I have been honestly discharging the responsibilities entrusted to me and shall be doing so in future too. At the moment, I am working tirelessly to oust the most corrupt and anti-people government of Bihar," he said.

Yadav asserted that unemployment was the most critical challenge the country

and Bihar in particular should address. "Over 4.5 lakh posts are lying vacant since long and I assure the youth of Bihar that in the first cabinet meeting our government will initiate floating of these vacancies and the process will be completed within a stipulated time frame," he said, adding that he would also bring in a 'domicile policy' in government jobs if voted to power.

Asked about the Centre rolling out a slew of development projects and schemes for Bihar, Yadav alleged that announcing projects on the eve of election to lure voters were "hallmarks" of both chief minister Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bihar wants to know the outcome and status of the 1.65 lakh crore package which Modi announced during his 2015 election campaign, the RJD leader said.

"Biharis know who are the best 'overrated salesmen', high on promises and low on delivery. What happened to the promise of special status to Bihar," he said.

"Grandiose PR (public relations) exercises are a poor substitute for governance. Nitish ji cannot cheat Bihar again, 'kaath ki haandi baar baarni chadhti', " Yadav said.

Asked about the Lok Jan Shakti party chief Chirag Paswan's jibes at Nitish Kumar and JD(U), Yadav said he would not comment as it's NDA's business, but added that people are observing how an NDA ally is questioning their own government, its policies and echoing opposition's voice.

## Mosque in Ayodhya may be square-shaped like Kaaba: Trust official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 20 SEPTEMBER

The mosque to come up in Ayodhya pursuant to the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi case may be square-shaped like the Kaaba Sharif in Mecca and will not be named after any emperor or king.

Secretary and spokesman of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) Athar Hussain said on Sunday, "A mosque measuring 15,000 square feet will be built in Dhamnipur village. It will be of the same size as that of the Babri mosque. The shape of the mosque may be completely different from that of other mosques. It may be square-shaped like the Kaaba Sharif in Mecca, as hinted by architect SM Akhtar."

To a question on whether the mosque will have no domes or minarets like the Kaaba Sharif, Hussain said it could be a possibility. He said the architect has been given a free hand in this regard.

"The mosque will not be named Babri Masjid. It will not be named after any king or emperor. My personal opinion is that it should be called the Dhamnipur Masjid," Hussain said. He informed that the trust is making its portal so that people can donate for the mosque and the museum, hospital and research centre which will be built inside the complex. Write-ups by national and international Islamic scholars will also appear on the portal.

He said some work on the portal is yet to be completed and hence, donation is yet to begin. The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board will play Ram, while Kavita Joshi will play Sita.

With Delhi BJP MP and actor Manoj Tiwari playing the role of Angad (Ram's emissary), Gorakhpur BJP MP and actor Ravi Kishan playing Bharat (Ram's brother), and Vindu Dara Singh enacting the role of Hanuman, Ayodhya ki Ramlila will be a star-studded gala.

Pilot to campaign for Cong in MP Assembly by-elections

BHOPAL, 20 SEPTEMBER

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has roped in Rajasthan leader Sachin Pilot to campaign for the party candidates in the by-elections for 28 Assembly seats in the state, a party spokesman said on Sunday.

Most of these seats are in the Gwalior-Chambal region, considered to be the bastion of Pilot's former party colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is now a BJP Rajya Sabha member.

The Election Commission is yet to announce the schedule for by-elections in these 28 seats, which are lying vacant due to the resignation of 25 Congress MLAs and death of three sitting legislators.

"Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath requested Rajasthan's former deputy chief minister Pilot to campaign for the party candidates, especially in Gwalior-Chambal region. He has readily agreed for it," said state Congress spokesman Bhupender Gupta.

Pilot is familiar with Madhya Pradesh and its politics given that Rajasthan is a neighbouring state, he said.

During the by-election of Ratlam-Jhabua Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh in November 2015, Pilot campaigned for party candidate Kantilal Bhuria, who won the seat, he said.

Gujaris (who are called Gurjars in Madhya Pradesh) have an influence in 16 Assembly seats of Gwalior-Chambal region where by-elections are due.

Pilot, who belongs to the Gujarati community, will help to woo the voters during the by-elections, Gupta said.

### RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT



People from the Maratha community demand employment quotas in government jobs while maintaining social distancing, during a demonstration in Mumbai on Sunday. ■ AFP

## Secret chamber found at house of suspected al-Qaeda terrorist: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BAHARAMPUR, 20 SEPTEMBER

A secret chamber was found on Sunday by sleuths of the NIA at the residence of suspected al-Qaeda terrorist Abu Sufiyan, one of the six arrested from Murshidabad district in West Bengal, officials said.

The chamber, measuring 10x7 feet, was found during a raid at the house in the Raninagar area of the district, a senior district police officer said. Several electronic gadgets and a board of bulb were also found during the hour-long raid at the single-storyed house, Police added.

It was dug for a septic tank for an attached toilet. "We have told the cops about this," she claimed.

Special NIA court judge Prasenjit Biswas remanded the six persons, arrested from Murshidabad, in NIA custody. They have been charged under various sections of the

During the interrogation, Sufiyan told the investigators about the chamber, the officer said. Interrogation of the six continued in Kolkata during the day, officials said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested nine suspected al-Qaeda terrorists from West Bengal and Kerala. While six of them were arrested from Murshidabad district, three others were nabbed from Ernakulam in Kerala.

It said that the group was planning terrorist attacks at vital installations in India with an aim to kill innocent people and strike terror in their minds.

Digital devices, documents, jihad literature, sharp weapons, country-made firearms, a locally fabricated body armour, artifices and literature used for making home-made explosive devices have been seized from them, the NIA statement said.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Those arrested from Murshidabad were identified as Najmus Sakib, Abu Sufiyan, Mainul Mondal, Leu Year Ahmed, Al Mamun Kamal and Atifur Rehman, according to an NIA spokesperson.

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## BSF foils Pak terrorists' bid to smuggle Chinese pistols, narcotics into India

JAMMU, 20 SEPTEMBER

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday foiled an attempt of Pakistan-backed terrorists to smuggle Chinese pistols, narcotics and ammunition through the international border in the Arnia sector of Jammu.

Acting on a BSF intelligence input, the vigilante troops of Border Observation Post at Budhwar (Bullechak) observed suspicious movement of Pakistani elements across the IB during night hours and challenged them but they fired at BSF troops.

The BSF troops immediately retaliated in self-defence. However, taking advantage of darkness and thick foliage, the Pakistani terrorists managed to flee back.

During the ensuing search of the area, 62 packets of heroine, 2 Chinese pistols, 3 magazines and 100 rounds of 9mm ammunition concealed in plastic bags were recovered near IB on Indian side.

Three terrorists, who had travelled from south Kashmir to collect the consignment, were arrested.

The recovery includes two AK-56 assault rifles, six AK magazines with 180 rounds, two Chinese pistols, three pistol magazines with 30 rounds, four grenades and Rs 1 lakh in cash.

J&K DGP Dilbag Singh, who was reviewing security in the Rajouri and Poonch districts, accused Pakistan of trying to arm the terrorists in Kashmir by smuggling weapons.

SNS

## In Shopian terrorists build underground bunkers to escape Army's pursuit: Col

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHOPIAN, 20 SEPTEMBER

Hideouts in higher reaches and seeking refuge in local houses are a thing of the past as terrorists in Kashmir Valley now dig underground bunkers in dense orchards and even in seasonal streams to escape the dragnet of army and security forces.

"This trend has been witnessed off late in twin districts of Pulwama and Shopian with the latter having a majority of them in view of dense apple orchards and jungles," says Colonel A K Singh, heading the 44 Rashtriya Rifles, the Army's counter-insurgent unit which earned a distinction of having maximum kills of terrorists as well as surrenders or apprehensions.

Col Singh and his team is always seen engaging with locals to sort out their problems which may even include career counselling or guidance in education but when it comes to countering the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the movement of some individuals, who are under security protection, got restricted to ensure their safety and security after the abrogation of Article 370 a year ago.

"At present, there are no restrictions on movement of any individual, including the members of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)."

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said in Lok Sabha that based on inputs received from the law enforcement agencies in view of the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the movement of some individuals, who are under security protection, got restricted to ensure their safety and security after the abrogation of Article 370 a year ago.

"At present, there are no restrictions on movement of any individual, including the members of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)."

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STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 20 SEPTEMBER

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday while welcoming implementation of the National Education policy (NEP) in Jammu and Kashmir hoped that determined efforts will be made to make this paradise a hub of knowledge, innovation and learning.

President Kovind was addressing a conference

## High Court & VB

Faced with the bumbling administration of Visva-Bharati University, Calcutta High Court has finally stepped in. Several weeks after the proposed wall around the Pous Mela complex had roiled the campus, the court has appointed a four-member committee, helmed by Justice Sanjib Banerjee and including Justice Arijit Banerjee to ascertain what it calls "ways and means for appropriate resolution" of issues relating to Rabindranath Tagore's creation, but which now showcases the gradual degradation of the legacy bequeathed by the poet. The authorities of Visva-Bharati have, therefore, failed to fulfil their primary task. The other members of the panel are West Bengal's Advocate-General and the Additional Solicitor-General of India. Sad to reflect, this degradation of an institution has happened over the years and over a welter of facets; the theft of Tagore's Nobel medal from Rabindra Bhavan (March 2004), the cancellation of this December's Pous Mela, and the vandalism that marked the demolition of the wall under construction - allegedly by Trinamul Congress activists - which are merely the exemplars of the rot within. Suffice it to register that the campus is today virtually a turf for the underlying issue of a conflict between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Trinamul Congress. As Visva-Bharati is a central university, it was only to be expected that the Union government would indulge in strong-arm posturing. It is a measure of the escalating crisis within that a Division Bench (coram: TBN Radhakrishnan, CJ; and Sampa Sarkar, J) has directed that the matter will be treated as a suo motu public interest litigation. The court has directed the committee to look into different aspects of the university's functioning - "fundamentally in the mode of mediation and conciliation among the different stakeholders". The stakeholders are one too many, and their political affiliations have exacerbated the crisis. The Vice-Chancellor, who has often been accused of playing to the gallery in Delhi, has been asked by the Bench to provide "appropriate assistance as may be required by the committee". A few weeks ago, Professor Bidyut Chakraborty, the political scientist from Delhi University who helms the university, had boycotted the meeting convened by Birbhum's District Magistrate. "We hope to get interim reports as and when the chairperson of the committee may desire us to see any such interim report," the Bench ruled. It is a stark message to the university authorities.

We do not know if the historical Pous Mela ground is safe. Yet we do know that the Bench has directed that "there will be no construction activity or demolition, modification or removal of any structure in any part of the land belonging to Visva-Bharati or over which it has claims, except with the permission of the committee". This is a fairly resounding message for both the activists of the BJP and Trinamul. Altogether, the lilting lyrics of the theme song, *Amader Santiniketan*, must sound jarring.

## Gilgit-Baltistan

Pakistan's resolve to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to the status of a full-fledged province has predictably ruffled feathers to the east of the Radcliffe Line. India has been consistent in its stand that the Government in Islamabad or its judiciary has no locus standi in areas that have been "illegally" or "forcibly occupied" by Pakistan. India has often iterated its stand that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, are an integral part of this country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession. In effect, there will be five provinces across the western flank in addition to the historically dominant Punjab, Sind, NWFP and Baluchistan, not to forget the federally-administered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa whose MP happens to be the Prime Minister, Imran Khan. Going by present indications, the elevation will be marked by suitable grandstanding, with Mr Khan scheduled to visit Gilgit-Baltistan very shortly to make the formal announcement. The area will be given adequate recognition in all constitutional entities, notably the National Assembly and the Senate. After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government in Islamabad has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan. The move has been vehemently rejected by India not the least because of Pakistan's frequent efforts to bring about changes in the Pakistan-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of External Affairs wants Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its "illegal occupation".

Another announcement by Imran Khan's government that is expected to benefit Pakistan is that work on the Moqpondass Special Economic Zone will begin under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC, which connects Gwadar port in Baluchistan province with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPEC showcases infrastructure and other projects under construction in Pakistan since 2013. Originally valued at \$46 billion, the projects were worth more than \$60 billion as of 2017. India has protested to China against CPEC as well as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. More basically, the upgrade of Gilgit-Baltistan represents a new spin to Pakistan's geostrategy. The government is quite obviously playing to the local gallery. It is obvious too that Islamabad is intent on using the PoK - a geographical symbol of a festering bilateral dispute - to give an impetus to its game theory at a critical juncture for India, which is fast approaching the United States of America in terms of coronavirus afflictions and deaths. India has already surpassed South Africa and Brazil. On closer reflection, the upgrade of Gilgit-Baltistan is arguably of lesser moment in the overall construct.

# Unreformed Police

The tag line *dil ki police* shows the availability of immense amounts of money for branding even though no branding is possible when the product is nowhere near its claim. Police may carry cutting edge ammunition, mimic armed forces in weaponry, vehicle fleet, accoutrement and mess culture duly encouraged by the political class, but what is the use if rubber does not meet the road



Solutions are not obliged to dance to the abracadabra of police reforms. Any change packaged as reforms need not necessarily give the desired payoffs or fix the problem. Often they surprisingly reappear as deformities. The first cry is for police independence from politics, when the cases of police impunity such as the encounter killings in Uttar Pradesh take place.

Politicians who are beneficiaries of the system are unlikely to concede to it. Judiciary in the past thought that they would be able to bring the system under control. In India, judiciary lacks the bandwidth, training and aptitude to call police to account as police lacks acculturation to act humanely and to do community policing. Taking advantage, the political class introduced their carrot and stick policy, that is more budget and more unaudited special funds which are an invitation to malfeasance.

The tag line, *dil ki police*, just shows the availability of immense amounts of money for branding even though no branding is possible when the product is nowhere near its claim. Police may carry cutting edge ammunition, mimic armed forces in weaponry, vehicle fleet, accoutrement and mess culture duly encouraged by the political class, but what is the use if rubber does not meet the road. If electoral politics is about entrustment of monopoly of state coercion to a party, there is incentive for converting police into warriors.

Meanwhile, the eco-system remains unchanged and with every act of impunity, there would be more undeserving awards, enhancements of budgets and improvements in perks, pelf and power. Huge

tolerance for sleaze, corruption, complicity in crime and extrajudicial excesses develops.

Justice Madan Lokur in an article correctly pointed out that if the guards are not guarded, we invite destruction of the rule of law. What police gives us is the rule of force and the money that is paid to police as the heavily armed agent of the state is to do things which it is not trained to do. Judiciary cannot and the politician will not abdicate. Another suggestion is to put the right officer, right judge and right politician together. This matchmaking is a logical impossibility. The most cynical view is that nothing will happen as no one is beyond reproach. With unfettered powers, and if there is no control, how can impunity decrease, when it is incentivized to increase? When that is not a solution, the only answer is institutional ring fencing. The British had introduced the system of magistracy to have checks and balances. Incidentally, the brutality under them looks anodyne compared to what happens today.

Following the American system, where the gun was a problem, the police has grown into a militia and has ensured that it remains a problem because of the police-criminal-politician unholy trinity.

My suggestion here is that before we launch a seemingly impressive set of reforms with convoluted results in the end, we should just follow what the exist-

ing law contemplates and says. Maybe strengthen it too. These suggestions emanate from experience of working as a judicial magistrate in tribal areas as was the practice in my cadre as well as working as the District Magistrate. After all, a diamond is nothing but a coal which stuck to its job. Apex judiciary can play a positive role here. The suggestions are:

\* The Indian Police Act 1861, police manuals and several executive instructions make the police function under the general supervision and control of the district magistrate. Over the last thirty years, this system has declined to become anaemic or even non-existent in most states. The apex judiciary needs to order resuscitation of this arrangement as it has served the country well for 150 years. Comparable responsibility and pri-

macy should be given to every level of the executive magistracy. In police commissioner systems where this arrangement does not exist, it should be brought in with associated manpower and support system. Even summons cases can be transferred to executive magistrates to decongest the court system. This arrangement will complement the judicial system in protection of the fundamental rights which the Constitution enshrines.

\* Police transfers, postings and promotions should come within the remit of an independent Civil Service Board and loose funds should be restricted.

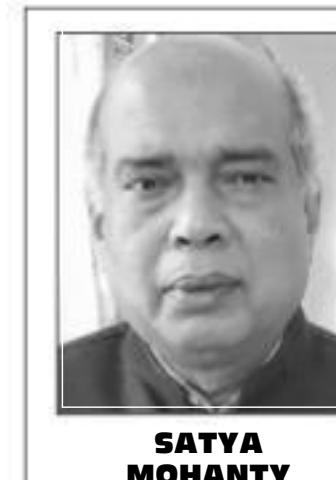
\* As per the police commission report, every community should have a warden to register First Information Report, in addition to the extant arrangement, and report to the district magistrate.

\* At the station house level, there should be separation of investigation and law and order duty. Most criminal cases fail because of shoddy investigation and politician-criminal complicity. With professional investigators in place, the strike rate of conviction should improve.

\* Not allowing police to do what they should not be doing is more important than enabling them to do what they are doing. Foisting cases, filing improper charge sheets, denying FIR filings and forgetting about the accused clogs up the criminal justice system and crowds jails. The prosecution wing should sit at the Collectorate with a deputy collector and a DSP assisting the DM to sieve out unnecessary cases, deleting false cases and ensuring that the investigation is adequate before filing the charge-sheet.

These may not be tectonic reforms. They are just attempts to stick to what the law says but the politician has upturned. Whatever works in advanced countries may not work in India. Everyone forgets that the world over policing is a county function and when centralized it becomes more rapacious and politically driven.

Even when led by very bright officers, institutions show this trend. The only way out is not to allow the criminal justice system to become deeply flawed. Otherwise, it would be a cruel joke not only on citizens but on a large body of bright and conscientious men and officers who are forced to metamorphose beyond their own cognition.



SATYA MOHANTY  
The writer is a former Secretary to the Government of India

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

editor@thestatesman.com

## Hounding a family

SIR, I endorse the views expressed by Sanjukta Dasgupta in her letter dated 12 September. The unfortunate death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput has raised a few questions, specifically whether it was a suicide or homicide or abetment of suicide; what role Rhea Chakrabarty and/or her family had in the matter, and did the Maharashtra government and Mumbai police act deliberately to cover some powerful people.

In the early stages, there was dilly-dallying on the part of Mumbai Police, and hence questions about their willingness to unravel the truth. There was a verbal duel between the governments of Bihar and Maharashtra. It looked as if the two states were fighting against each other. Then suddenly Bengal and Bengalis were dragged into the controversy, because Rhea is a Bengali. Fortunately, the Bengal issue did not get momentum, apart from some abuse in social media.

Allegations of nepotism are pointless. In every sphere of life, one must struggle to gain a foothold, not only in Bollywood. It is a fact that if someone is already in a profession, his offspring gets an initial advantage. But later, talent



matters. While arguments raged, the apex court decided to take the investigation away from Mumbai Police and handed over responsibility to the CBI. People thought all questions would be answered. But nothing concrete has come out. CBI did not find any case against Rhea. No money from Sushant's account had been transferred to Rhea. Neither did the abetment to suicide charge stick. Then Rhea was indicted on a drugs charge as if she and her family had to be humiliated by hook or by crook.

Ganja is available in every nook and corner of the country. It is beyond comprehension why Sushant had to take the help of Rhea or her brother to procure it. The homicide/suicide issue has been forgotten. If anyone in power had any role

## BLOOD SHORTAGE

SIR, I was shocked to learn that the blood bank in a reputed hospital like the Raiganj Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) went dry a few days ago, as reported in your columns today. There has been an acute shortage of blood, due to which doctors have been compelled to postpone some operations too. It is hard to imagine the trials and tribulations of the relatives of patients. Apparently, in this unprecedented health pandemic, people are not willing to donate blood, due to obvious apprehensions. This might turn out to be a severe and critical problem in our country. I would like to appeal to readers of your esteemed newspaper to take cognisance of this grave problem and to do their best or advise suitably on ways to cope with this serious issue.

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi, Kolkata, 15 September.

in the matter, that has also been forgotten. Now it has become a drugs case.

The media has played a very negative role, highlighting this daily on prime news slots, ignoring important global and domestic matters. That one is innocent until a crime is proved seems to hold good only for politicians. In doing so the media has devastated a middle-class family. This is unacceptable.

Yours, etc., Protush Chatterjee, Kolkata, 14 September.

## AS BANKERS BEG...

SIR, Today I received a phone call from a nationalised bank asking me to avail a loan of Rs 2.5 lakh offered to the salaried class if an account is maintained with their bank. On hearing this, I was reminded of a quote by

Bob Hope, "A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it". Banks prosper due to credit growth if loan repayments are promptly made by the borrowers. Borrowers suffer if the loan is availed with a hefty interest component attached to it, if the borrowed amount is not put to proper use and if the investment of such borrowed amount does not yield a fair return to him for liquidation of the loan taken.

If prompt repayment does not come from the borrowers, it becomes NPA (Non-performing Assets) for banks. If coercive steps are taken to recover the amount, borrowers are forced to commit suicide and there are umpteen number of cases where this has happened. The financial health

of the banks collapses when the government announces and implements waiver of the loan and interest thereon. Ultimately, the burden of banks is shifted to honest depositors by way of reduced interest rate and increased charges for service. Banks cannot render efficient services to the needy unless they become independent and free from interference from law makers. It is a pity that banks have plunged into a situation where they are forced to beg people to take loans.

Yours, etc., KV Seetharamaiah, Hassan, 15 September.

## TAKE A BREAK

SIR, It was a bit of a surprise that Novak Djokovic of Serbia has been defaulted, the tennis equivalent of ejection, from the ongoing US Open (Djoker sent packing from US Open (September 8). As it had happened, the No.1 seed was trailing 5-6 in the opening set of the tournament, which is being played now in the Arthur Ashe stadium in New York. At that point of time, as he walked on the sideline for a changeover, Novak suddenly hit the ball at the backline, which unfortunately hit the throat of the lineswoman standing there. She was hurt and slumped to her knees. The tournament referee, the Grand Slam supervisor and

the chair umpire discussed the issue with Djokovic on the sidelines. The player, though he defended himself by stating that the act was unintentional and tendered an apology for the same, was given the 'go-away' signal. He also forfeited his tournament earning of \$250,000.

This is a very unfortunate day for the tennis world. Incidentally, Novak Djokovic had earlier contracted Covid-19, along with his wife and one of his coaches. Prior to that, he had taken part in a series of exhibition matches which he organized in Serbia and Croatia in June, with zero social distancing. A few players who took part in the series also tested positive with the viral infection. Djokovic has also gone on record to say that his body belongs to him and nobody can insist on inoculating him with a Covid-19 vaccine. Such statements in this time of the pandemic border on fanaticism. It looks as if the tennis-great really needs some psychological advice. He should realize that once a person gets infected, he increases risks for others. Novak Djokovic has nothing more to achieve in the tennis world. He needs rest, and, he should restrain himself from erratic behaviour.

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

A MEMBER OF THE ANN  
ASIAN VOICES

TikTok early diplomatic test for Suga

With the United States now adopting an all-country approach to blunt China's technological edge globally, it is no surprise that Beijing-based ByteDance has been under constant threat from Washington to divest its popular video-sharing app TikTok in the US on the grounds of personal data concerns.

Washington has threatened to ban the app in the US by Sunday if ByteDance refuses to give TikTok up in a deal that is nothing but an act of extortion.

Other countries are now following the US' lead. In Japan, a close ally of the US, some Japanese politicians are pushing a similar agenda targeting TikTok, the fifth most downloaded app in Japan, with an estimated 10 million users.

Data security has once again been cited as the reason, with a working group of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party reportedly probing the alleged risks associated with China-developed apps and what effect they might have on Japan's national security.

"Since there are so many countries pointing out the risks, Japan cannot just stand by and watch," Akira Amari, who heads the LDP group on regulatory policy, said in a recent

## CHINADAILY

interview. "When looking at IT devices and software in this day and age, we have to be even more aware of how information is being collected and used."

That offers food for thought, as such concerns about potential digital security risks seem to be solely directed at those developed by Chinese companies.

If the regulators are really interested in what data are acquired by who and for what purposes why don't they question Google about it requesting the GPS data of users, or show same kind of concern over the Facebook privacy breach that affected tens of millions of users? The answer is not hard to find.

As a local Japanese newspaper reported, the US expects its ally Japan to join it in banning or restricting Chinese apps such as TikTok, the first Chinese app that has a truly international user base.

And in the context of the global geopolitical rivalry posited by the US administration, compliance with the US is often considered more important than Japan's own sovereignty.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said he would implement policies to beef up Tokyo's alliance with the United States, while hoping to establish a stable relationship with China.

How Tokyo handles TikTok may be an early test of how Suga manages that delicate balancing act.

SUNIL SHARAN

**B**lacks constitute about 15 per cent of the American population, and many of them are disaffected. But it is not the black-white divide that is dividing America as much as abortion rights.

Men and women are roughly equal in number in America. Assume that half the women are liberal, i.e. pro-choice, and half are conservative, i.e. anti-choice, the schism within women runs larger than the black-white polarization.

In 1973, in a case called Roe v. Wade, the US Supreme Court gave American women the legal right to have an abortion. No single issue rankles American conservatives more. It is their fervent wish that this law be repealed. Until now, the Supreme Court, which has nine justices in all, all of whom serve for life (unless they want to retire themselves), has trod the middle path and supported Roe v. Wade.

Now with Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing, Donald Trump gets a chance to appoint another justice. He would dearly want to appoint an anti-abortion justice. This seems like a dream come true for conservatives.

But this dream is about to turn into a nightmare. The president appoints the justice, who then has to be confirmed by simple majority in the US Senate. The Senate has 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats. It is clear that three Republican senators - Mitt Romney, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski - will vote against Trump's appointee. In the event of a 50:50 tie, US Vice President Mike Pence would get to confirm the appointee.

The Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, wants Trump to fill the vacancy. But Trump's list of potential nominees is only going to inflame the liberals. Roe v. Wade is at stake. Nothing in America is more important.

Trump had been running an energetic campaign, running from pillar to post to address rallies. Joe Biden, his Democratic challenger, has thus far been running an insipid campaign, occasionally coming out of his basement to address a press conference. In addition, Biden can

## The judge who, in death, may be Trump's nemesis



fall between two stools.

He is a moderate. The far-left wing of the Democratic party is just not enamoured of him. To placate them he has had to move left on green energy and healthcare. But Ginsburg's death and the prospect of another Trump appointee on the Supreme Court is going to enrage the far-left so much that they will come out in droves to vote for Biden.

Biden can thereby revert to his more moderate stance on climate change, healthcare, everything. That will inspire the moderate Democ-

rats and some disillusioned Republicans to vote for him.

If Trump and McConnell were acute enough, they would wait until after the election to even release a list of justice candidates. If Trump wins, then they will get the person of their choice on the Court. If Trump loses, then he can try in the three months he'll have remaining as president, but the country will not accept a lame duck foisting his choice on the nation.

But Trump and McConnell are giddy with power. Power makes you obtuse. Just ask the Indian ruling

elite. Trump and McConnell will, in all probability, lunge at the chance to appoint a justice now. Getting their justice in before the presidential election might give them the White House.

The confirmation hearings of a US Supreme Court justice nominee can be transfixing for a country. This promises to be one of those appointments that would roil the nation. The presidential election might end up becoming an afterthought, an anti-climax.

Compared to Biden's supporters, Trump's are much more

pumped up. The election could be decided by a mere difference of one or two percentage points. Trump getting his person in on the Court might give him a boost of five points. Trump trying to get his person in on the Court could boost Biden by ten points.

Just before she died, Ginsburg wrote that her replacement be made by a new president. With their head-in-the-sand approach, Trump and McConnell are making sure that Ginsburg's last wish comes true.

The writer is an expert on energy and

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

## A Missing Reporter

**S**he was striking. The oversize, old-fashioned glasses gave her an academic look, but her brisk, almost brusque, manner might suggest a commercial repout for a quick deal. That impression was belied in turn by the unusual clothes she affected: the long loose outfit she claimed to have been inspired by a Lebanese designer.

Of middle height, she walked with an amazingly long stride. She spoke with her hands; those were perpetually whirling in mid-air. Yet, for all her ebullience, her voice was soft and soothing. Yes, that voice is my strongest recollection of her. That and her occasional whimsical, staccato messages from all corners of the globe.

An enterprising journalist, she had reported extensively from Mexico, and later from Honduras and Costa Rica. Lately, she had been on the trail of drug routes and had filed disturbing reports that had drawn interest and admiration. She wanted to follow up and found a way to be assigned to Colombia. After the first few weeks in and around Bogotá, she ended up, like others before her, in Medellin. She used her excellent Castilian to gain the credence of villagers in the countryside and the residents of the poorest barrios.

Then she disappeared.

The disappearance of a young Western reporter, even in what Time had once called the crime capital of the world, drew some attention. I was sure she would reappear in a week or two and send me a cryptic message as usual. No such message came. In fact, nothing happened for weeks beyond idle speculation. Then two youngsters who had strayed in the woods reported a stench from an abandoned hut. The police took some time to check, doubtless

because the report was from slum kids. The body was far too decomposed for detailed analysis, but the investigators decided that she had been stabbed and left to die. It was declared a case of robbery and murder, despite the fact that her small apartment in the city had also been rifled and cleaned of all papers and notebooks. There the matter rested, though some of her colleagues tried for a more thorough probe. In vain. The file was closed after a year or two.

When I returned to the US six months later, I had an acute sense of unfinished business. I knew her parents were divorced, but I hoped one of them might have some information. I made a special trip to New York to see her father, who worked in the school system as a bus driver. I met him on a Saturday morning, reeking of beer, and he kept asking why I was so interested in his daughter's fate. The explanation that I was a friend seemed insufficient to him. I had to leave after an hour without gathering much. Her mother lived in a Maryland suburb and it was a long but easy drive to her place. Though a Canadian citizen, her Latvian accent shone through, and she appreciated my admiration for her only child.

She said that the local consulate, at her urging, had pressed the government for a thorough inquiry, but it hadn't yielded more than some peripheral information. A few local miscreants had been rounded up and interrogated, but none had been indicted. The inquiry had simply stalled.

When I returned to Washington,



ILLUSTRATION: DEBABRATA CHAKRABARTY

One could only speculate that she had, perhaps boldly and rashly, as was her wont, entered on a search that some unknown others thought perilous. They had then decided that the search should end.

I came back home, disappointed, with a sense of defeat.

I felt I was the only one who cared that a lively and fascinating young woman had disappeared from the world, without a word and or a trace. Not even a shred of a report, that could tell us anything about the byways of the drug trade or strategies of a cartel. She was simply gone.

This was the end.

It wasn't.

The following weekend I was looking through her messages and letters when I suddenly remembered a small package she had sent me when she first arrived in Bogotá. She knew of my interest in Chilean poetry. The package contained a well-known book of Spanish poems. Leisurely, I turned the pages. Maybe I hoped, desperately, that I would find a little note inside that I had overlooked. No, there was no note.

But, as I was about to close the book, I suddenly noticed, practically

at the end, a few lines she had underlined that I had overlooked (I am using Donald Walsh's translation):

All that we were bringing like dead medals We threw to the bottom of the sea All that we learned was of no use to us We begin again, we end again Death and life.

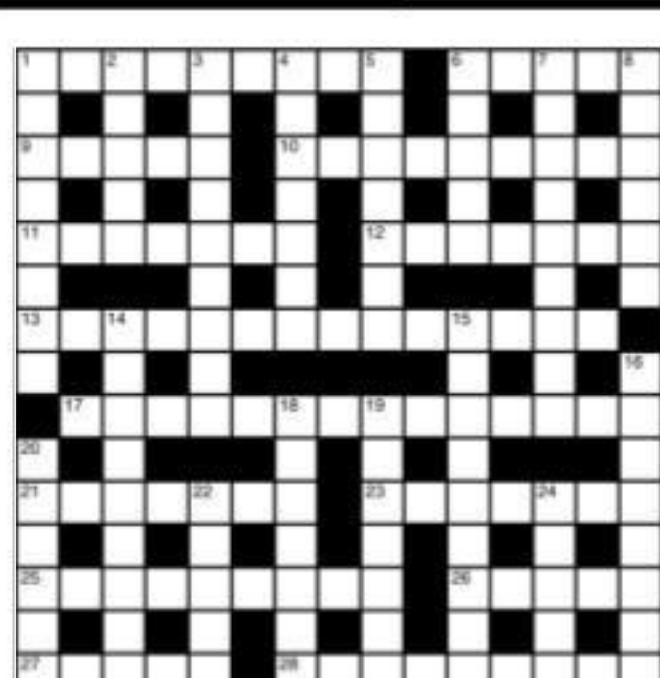
Neruda had two lines she hadn't underlined that came as an uncanny message of solace:

We have met We have lost nothing.

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

NO 28080

CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Note, Pop's dancing with daughter on ice (9)
- 6 Location around River Wear (5)
- 9 Central to Cairo, a strip joint (5)
- 10 Dummy run follows company beginning to muster strength (9)
- 11 One that files from socialist vote (7)
- 12 Labour retains original manifesto, initially creating disquiet (7)
- 13 Extremely vulgar man cited some funny quotes (8,6)
- 17 Patronising husband staggered I

### DOWN

- 21 Student's set back by small mistakes (4-3)
- 23 Have I the skill to be friendly? (7)
- 25 Not very smart? That's rather unfair (1,3,5)
- 26 Earl introduces artist to one inspiring poet? (5)
- 27 Subsequent change, reversing Article 50 (5)
- 28 Born again Christian finally given rise after religious teaching (9)
- 1 Likeness to rap artist regularly is awkward (8)
- 2 Grave of dictator's endured (5)
- 3 Beaten up prior to producing medley (9)
- 4 Sodium battery covers energy for part of aircraft (7)
- 5 Popular recording grabbing one, volume is turned up (7)
- 6 Parody mostly is on right track (5)
- 7 Promise to include perhaps Milton Keynes's last regressive therapist (9)
- 8 Slavery unlikely to be found around Croatia (6)
- 14 Musician, 6, appearing with Solti in Brahms and Liszt (9)
- 15 Machismo shown by island's housing policies (9)
- 16 3 is 27's cue to rob cast (4,4)
- 18 Upset Irish winter sportsman? That's more dangerous (7)
- 19 Listen and learn, gaining knowledge (7)
- 20 Prime minister loses case for state (6)
- 22 Unmarried German 14, say (5)
- 24 Noble's heading for birthday party (5)

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

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

Mr. William Parker Burton, who has been superseded in the office of racing master of the Shamrock, is one of the most distinguished amateur yachtsmen in the world. One of the delegates who formulated the International Rules of Yacht Racing and Vice-President of the Yacht Racing Council, he has sailed yachts in more than a thousand races and won more than five hundred prizes. An all-round sportsman, he is as much at home in the saddle as at the helm; has been master of staghounds, and is now master of foxhounds. When it was announced that Sir Thomas Lipton had invited him to take charge of the Shamrock in the races at Sandy Hook it was generally agreed that, although Mr. Burton is 56 years of age, a better man could not have been chosen. Why and how he is thought to have failed is not even hinted in the brief telegram announcing his supersession, but the facts that the challenger was a full minute behind the defender in crossing the starting line on Thursday, and that on Saturday she only succeeded in weathering the first mark at the fifth attempt, seem on the face of them to point to errors in judgment. If Mr. Burton's years have proved too many for the strain of handling a big racing yacht in an international contest it is well that the failure has been discovered before the challenger has lost a race.

### NEWS ITEMS

### IMPROVED TEA CHESTS FROM CHINA

A recent complaint from American buyers of badly constructed chests having caused loss and deterioration in the transit of tea has caused some discussion locally as to a means of improving the workmanship. It is generally held that Ceylon chests are of fair average workmanship. One well-known Colombo merchant is advertising the advantages of Chinese half chests. He has just imported a sample and is so delighted with it that he has placed an order at Foochow for a number of these half chests by way of experiment. The Chinese chests consist first of an inner package of handmade lead with outside paper lining, which gives considerable additional strength. This paper is also provided and put inside the lead package to keep the weight of the tea off the lead.

### THE ATTEMPT ON NESSIM PASHA

Barely had the Commander-in-Chief's decision in the Shafik case been promulgated, when an attempt was made on the life of the new Prime Minister. H.E. Nessim Pasha was on his way to his office when a bomb was thrown at his car. The bomb missed him, but injured his chauffeur and four passers-by. The aggressor got away, but was followed by a policeman who captured him, although he used his revolver. The attempt on the life of the new Premier was quite expected, since each of his predecessors have attracted to themselves the attention of the "direct action" element. At that time he was merely Minister for the Interior, and the general public had no knowledge of the imminence of a ministerial crisis, or of the possibility of Nessim Pasha becoming Premier.

### A PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

At a meeting held on the beach under the auspices of the Madras Provincial Congress Committee resolutions were passed demanding the repeal of the Indemnity Act and the Rowlett Act, the trial and punishment of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, General Dyer, and other military and civil officers responsible for the Punjab tragedy, and to provide pensions for all those who are left helpless as a result of these events. Another resolution expressed disappointment with the Punjab debate in the House of Commons. The last resolution repudiated the whole scheme and basis of the draft rules put before the Joint Committee, as calculated to whittle down reforms.

### BENGALEE REGIMENT

For some time past there has been correspondence between Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief and the Hon. Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, with regard to the disbandment of the Bengal Regiment. The last letters from Their Excellencies announce that His Excellency the Viceroy, in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief, has decided that the cadre of the Bengal Battalion should be kept in existence so that it may form a suitable guard of honour on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and also that it may serve as a connecting link between the regular battalion and the territorial battalion should such a battalion eventuate. The strength of the Bengal force to be maintained will be six Indian officers and one hundred and fifty rank and file.

### MADRAS POSTAL WORKERS' DEMANDS

The Postmaster-General of Madras has issued a circular to the postal staff pointing out that it is impossible for the Director-General to take any independent action in the matter of revision of pay until the recommendations of the Postal Committee are received. He says that neither threat of strike nor repeated demands can in any way expedite matters. Any precipitate action will be extremely unwise, and will spoil their prospects when they are very near the goal. He should be very sorry if any of the men under his control took the foolish and unnecessary step of going on strike.





Country would be back to a high growth path through reforms announced by the government, after overcoming Covid-19 pandemic

KRISHNAMURTHY SUBRAMANIAN  
CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

## THUMBNAILS

**Ecom Express hiring:** End-to-end logistics firm Ecom Express said it will be hiring over 30,000 people as part of its seasonal recruitment exercise for its hubs and delivery centres, among others, to meet the festive season demand. These seasonal positions have been created across the country with 75 per cent of the total hiring for beyond metros as well as cities, including Ahmedabad, Surat, Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Indore, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhopal and Jaipur, the company said in a release.

**Dabur foray:** Leading ayurvedic and natural health-care company Dabur India has forayed into the edible oil segment with the launch of its cold-pressed mustard oil. Dabur Cold Pressed Mustard Oil has been launched exclusively on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and MilkBasket. According to the company, the cold-pressed technology ensures that the natural properties and health benefits of mustard are intact.

**Company registration:** More than 51,800 companies were registered in the country during April-August period and steps have been taken to provide several incentives to companies during the lockdown to reduce burden related to Covid-19, according to the government. Minister of state for corporate affairs Anurag Singh Thakur also told the Lok Sabha that a general extension of three months to hold annual general meetings for 2019-20 fiscal beyond 30 September has been given to companies.

**Consumer confidence up:** Consumer confidence index has shown a marginal uptick of 1.1 percentage points in September 2020, according to a monthly survey. The Refinitiv-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index for India has shown upturn across all its four sub-indices in September.

# GDP to contract 8.6% in FY21: UBS Securities

The Swiss brokerage also calls for a second round of stimulus from government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

**S**wiss brokerage UBS Securities said it foresees a GDP contraction of 8.6 per cent in financial year 2020-21 as against its earlier prediction of 5.8 per cent, citing factors including the modest government response to the crisis for its estimate.

It said the country's potential rate of growth has also come down to 5.75-6.25 per cent as per its estimate as against 7.1 per cent, driven by factors including the weak government response to arrest the growth slide.

Some improvement is being observed in the high-frequency data, but much of it is pent-up demand and economic recovery will be gradual after the September quarter, its chief economist Tanvee Gupta Jain told reporters.

It can be noted that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by nearly a fourth in the June quarter as the Covid-19 pan-

## ADVISORY TO GOVT

» India needs a credible fiscal stimulus, UBS Securities chief economist Tanvee Gupta Jain said, adding that the response has to be coupled with reforms.



» The government needs to spend on infrastructure development and construction activities and undertake more employment generation works in both the rural and urban areas.

demic-fuelled lockdowns chilled all economic activity. The infections continued to increase, making India the second most affected country.

Jain said the modest recovery which we are seeing right now cannot be sustained because of the rising infections and also income uncertainty, which is holding back people from consumption in the economy that relies 60 per cent on consumption.

We are a little bearish as against the consensus and feel

that the GDP will contract by 8.6 per cent in FY21 before growing by 10 per cent in FY22, she said.

She also revised down the potential rate of growth in the economy, citing the permanent damage done by the pandemic and also income uncertainty, which is holding back people from consumption in the economy that relies 60 per cent on consumption.

There is a rise in savings in the country despite the absence of a corresponding rise in incomes, she said, pointing out that these are precautionary spendings undertaken by cutting expenditure and may be temporary.

The fiscal stimulus is only

1.8 per cent and there is an urgent need for a second round of the same, she said.

India needs a credible fiscal stimulus, she said, adding that the response has to be coupled with reforms.

The government needs to spend on infrastructure development and construction activities and undertake more employment generation works in both the rural and urban areas and broaden the incentives for manufacturers shifting base to India as part of the global supply chain realignment, she said.

The country is among the few world over where the brokerage has down wardly reviewed its growth estimate, she said, adding that in many other countries, it is an upward revision from the previous estimates given right after the pandemic began.

There is a rise in savings in the country despite the absence of a corresponding rise in incomes, she said, pointing out that these are precautionary spendings undertaken by cutting expenditure and may be temporary.

LICI made ₹13K cr profit from equity portfolio till Aug

KOLKATA, 20 SEPTEMBER

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI), which is preparing for its initial public offer (IPO) despite volatility in the stock market, has already made a profit of Rs 13,000 crore from its equity portfolio till August this year, a top official has said.

The insurer has collected about Rs 87,300 crore of renewable premium till August this year, registering a growth of 13.5 per cent over the same period of the last fiscal, he said.

"The insurance industry had lost about Rs 45,000 crore in new and renewable premiums in the last fortnight of FY20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we have recovered well since unlocking and registered healthy growth," LICI managing director Raj Kumar said at a webinar organised by Merchants' Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He further said: "The market has recovered by 32 per cent from the March lows. LICI has booked a profit of Rs 13,000 crore from equity operation and is still a net investor of Rs 28,000 crore in the market."

The RBI asked banks to put in place or upgrade their IT sys-

# RBI tells banks to use automated system for asset classification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Concerned over manual identification of bad loans by some banks, the RBI has asked lenders to introduce automated IT-based system for asset classification and provisioning.

In a circular, the RBI said in August 2011 banks were advised to put in place appropriate IT systems for identification of non-performing assets (NPAs) and generation of related data and returns, both for regulatory reporting and bank's own management information system (MIS) requirements.

It is, however, observed that the processes for NPAs identification, income recognition, provisioning and generation of related returns in many banks are not yet fully automated.

"Banks are still found to be resorting to manual identification of NPA and also overriding the system generated asset classification by manual intervention in a routine manner," it added.

The RBI asked banks to put in place or upgrade their IT sys-

tems in order to ensure the completeness and integrity of the automated asset classification and income recognition processes latest by 30 June 2021.

All borrowing accounts, including temporary overdrafts, irrespective of size, sector or types of limits, should be covered in the automated IT-based system for asset classification, upgrade, and provisioning processes, it said.

"Banks' investments shall also be covered under the system," it said, adding that asset classification rules should be configured in the system, in compliance with the regulatory stipulations.

Further, calculation of provisioning requirement should also be system based as per pre-set rules for various categories of assets, value of security as captured in the system and any other regulatory stipulations issued from time to time on provisioning requirements. "The system shall handle both downgrade and upgrade of accounts through straight through process (STP) without manual intervention," the RBI said.

## No layoffs, salary cuts review in Jan: Vistara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Vistara, which has implemented various cost-saving measures amid the coronavirus pandemic, will review salary cuts in January but has not laid off any of its nearly 4,000 employees, according to the airline's chief.

Domestic airlines industry has been significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent suspension of local and international flight services.

Vistara's Chief Executive Officer Leslie Thng told PTI that there have been no job cuts at the airline in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"There have been no job cuts at Vistara, and therefore, the staff strength remains the same as earlier – nearly 4,000 employees," he said in

an e-mail interview.

Many airlines globally as well as some domestic carriers have resorted to salary cuts as well as layoffs and furloughs in efforts to reduce expenses due to challenging business conditions.

When asked about future plans regarding employees, Leslie Thng said salary cuts will be reviewed in January next year. "With the intent of protecting all jobs at Vistara, we have had to make the difficult decision of reducing some staff costs by implementing salary cuts. This will continue to be in effect until December 2020 and will be reviewed in January 2021," he said.

Scheduled commercial flights were suspended from March 25 to May 24 while scheduled international services continue to remain suspended since March 23.

## Banks' NPAs in large industry, services fall 31%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Banks' non-performing assets in large industry and services declined 31 per cent in over two years to about Rs 4.36 lakh crore in June this year, Parliament was informed.

On whether the non-performing assets (NPAs) of big industries and corporate houses have increased sharply as compared to small businesses due to non-repayment of loans to banks during the last three years, minister of state for finance Anurag Singh Thakur replied in negative.

"As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on domestic operations, NPAs of scheduled commercial banks pertaining to large industry and services have come down to Rs 4,36,492 crore as on 30 June 2020 (provisional) from Rs 6,35,971 crore as on 31 March

2018, registering a decline of 31 per cent," Thakur said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

He said a number of steps have been taken for recovery of loans from the corporate houses, which enabled the banks to recover Rs 5,48,749 crore during the last five financial years.

This included a record recovery of Rs 1,56,692 crore during fiscal 2018-19, the largest proportion of which was on account of recoveries made in NPAs of large industry and services.

On the measures taken by the government to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, Thakur said the RBI has permitted banks and NBFCs to restructure GST registered standard MSME accounts with exposure of up to Rs 25 crore, without downgrading them as NPA among others.

Under this, the public sec-

tor banks (PSBs) have restructured over 6,51 lakh MSME accounts till March 2020, he said.

Also, the government has revised the definition of MSME units to allow more enterprises to avail the benefits and removed ceiling on credit for loans to MSMEs in the services sector.

Besides, the Reserve Bank

of India (RBI) has mandated banks to not accept collateral security in case of loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the micro and small enterprises, among others.

The minister said various steps have also been taken to provide relief during the pandemic to these units, including the launch of pre-approved loans under emergency credit line guarantee scheme, relief to banks in their cash reserve ratio requirement from February to July 2020 for incentivising lending to MSMEs, automobiles and residential housing, among others.

In a separate question on bad loans from domestic operations of the public sector banks (PSBs) that were generated in five specific categories, the minister said the NPAs from these categories stood at over Rs 6.44 lakh crore by end of March 2020.

As per data reported by the RBI for domestic operations, data on bank-wise and category-wise NPAs of PSBs from loans granted to "agriculture and allied activities", "industry", "retail loans-education", "retail loans-housing", and "other categories" stood at Rs 6,44,417 crore as on 31 March 2020, Thakur said in a written reply.

"RBI has apprised that data on "business" and "personal loan" categories are not collected and maintained by it," Thakur said.

Among these five categories, the highest non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans in the "industrial" sector stood at Rs 3,33,143 crore, followed by "other categories" loan at Rs 1,77,275 crore, "agriculture and allied activities" Rs 1,11,328 crore, "housing loan" Rs 17,045 crore and "education loan" at Rs 5,626 crore.

## Small finance banks may need ₹6,000-cr equity infusion: Icra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Small finance banks (SFBs) may need an equity infusion of close to Rs 5,000-6,000 crore for the industry to attain a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15-20 per cent till FY2023 and to absorb losses, Icra said in a report.

The industry is expected to report losses at consolidated level in the current fiscal, driven by high operating costs and elevated credit costs of around 3.5-4 per cent, the report said.

"SFBs may require an equity infusion of around Rs 5,000-6,000 crore for industry to achieve a CAGR of 15-20 per cent till FY2023 and to absorb expected losses and maintain gearing levels at 7-8 times," Icra said.

The rating agency's vice-

president and sector head (financial sector ratings) Supreeta Nijjar said external capital will be needed not only to manage Covid-19 related credit costs and medium-term growth, but also to manage regulations related to reducing promoter shareholding below 40 per cent.

Currently, eight out of 10 SFBs are yet to comply with the requirement of bringing down promoter shareholding to 40 per cent within five years of commencement of banking operations, she said.

Additionally, SFBs are required to list themselves on the stock exchanges within three years of reaching a net worth of Rs 500 crore and some SFBs are approaching the three-year timeline in FY2021," Nijjar added.

The rating agency said

growth in assets under management (AUM) of domestic SFBs is projected to more than halve to 10-15 per cent for FY21 as compared to a growth of 30 per cent in FY20.

The total asset base of SFBs crossed Rs 1,30,000 crore as on 31 March 2020 and AUM crossed Rs 90,000 crore with a growth of 30 per cent in FY20, helped by continued healthy traction on resource mobilisation.

SFBs have made good progress on deposit mobilisation, with 70 per cent of their borrowings being through deposits as on 31 March 2020.

While deposit growth and stability has been good, SFBs still need to build low-cost deposit base as a large portion of deposits comprises bulk deposits and the share of CASA deposits remained low

at 16 per cent as on 31 March 2020, Icra said.

Their interim funding requirements have been met from funding from refinancing institutions like Sidbi, Nabard and Mudra, which accounted for 24 per cent of their borrowings as on 31 March 2020.

It has also led to a favourable asset liability maturity profile with shorter-tenor assets, high share of non-callable deposits and rise in long-term funding from refinance institutions, the report said.

"While bulk deposits and funding from refinance institutions support the near-term liquidity position, SFBs' ability to develop a strong franchise and hence, a stable retail deposit base, is critical from a long-term perspective," Nijjar added.

During 2019-20, FDI further came down to \$163.77 million, he said in a written reply.

With regard to outflow from India, he said, it was \$20.63 million in calendar

year 2020 as against \$27.57 million in the corresponding period last year. To curb opportunistic takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the government issued Press Note 3 earlier this year, he said.

"A non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the government route," he said quoting the Press Note 3.

Further, he said, "a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the

government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment."

Replying to another question, Thakur said, the department of expenditure has released the Central share of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the states including Maharashtra in the first week of April 2020 in the view of the pandemic.

Further, to provide additional resources to states to fight against Covid-19 and considering the request of the states for relaxation of the existing Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act limit of 3 per cent of GSDP, additional borrowing limit of up to 2 per cent of GSDP has been allowed to states for the year 2020-21, he said.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) said asset base of all the exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tracking Nifty 50 index in the country has crossed Rs 1 lakh crore, which indicates growing investors' interest in such products.

Also, the total assets under management (AUM) of the ETF (equity and debt) have reached Rs

PAKISTANI NOBEL LAUREATE MALALA YOUSAFZAI  
ON THE EFFECT OF PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

# Nawaz Sharif makes a political comeback

Says Pakistan's powerful establishment manipulated polls to install Khan as PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 20 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday staged a political comeback by criticising the powerful Army and said the Opposition was not against Prime Minister Imran Khan but against those who brought an "inefficient" man to power.

Addressing the All-Parties Conference (APC) hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) via a video link aimed at launching a protest movement against the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the three-time premier launched a scathing attack on the ruling party for its failure to address the basic problems of the people.

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

On Friday, PPP chairman Asif Ali Zardari talked to him over phone and invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led All-Parties Conference (APC) scheduled to be held on Sunday. Addressing the conference, Sharif criticised the country's powerful establishment for allegedly supporting Khan.

"Our struggle is not against Imran Khan. Today, our struggle is against those who installed him and who manipulated him."



ulated elections (of 2018) to bring an inefficient man like him into power and thus destroyed the country, he said. Sharif said that the foremost priority should be to remove this selected government and this system, adding that "if the change is not brought, it will bring irreversible loss to this country."

He asked the powerful Army to stay away from politics and follow the Constitution and vision of the country's father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

It is very important that our armed forces stay away from our governmental system according to our Constitution and the Quaid's speech, and not interfere with the people's choice. We have made this country a joke in our own eyes and internationally as well, he said.

Sharif pointed out that former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani once said that there was "a state within a state" in Pak-

istan. It is saddening that the situation has escalated to a state above the state. This parallel government illness is the root-cause of our problems, he said.

Courts gave dictators the right to play with the Constitution and acquitted someone (Musharraf) who suspended the Constitution twice. Whereas the ones who follow the Constitution are still in jail, he said. The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Before Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari also addressed the conference through a video-link and criticised the government which he said was using the tactics to suppress the Opposition.

It is important that all parties join hands to get rid of this government, he said. PPP chairman Bilawal is presiding over the conference with several opposition parties attending to chalk out a course of action to launch protests against the government.

ocratic system becomes meaningless. When it is decided before the election process as to who will win and who will lose, then it can be guessed how the public is betrayed and how the public's mandate is stolen, he said.

He said that military dictators ruled for multiple years but none of the elected prime ministers had been allowed to complete the allotted five years. Without naming former military dictator Musharraf, he said that the court did not act against him for suspending the Constitution.

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Pakistan has been constantly deprived from a democratic system. When the vote is dishonored, the entire demo-

## World War II submarine found in murky waters of Strait of Malacca

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN  
BANGKOK, 20 SEPTEMBER

In the murky waters of the Strait of Malacca, about 145km south of Phuket, Thailand, four divers discovered a World War II submarine that was scuttled 77 years ago, now teeming with marine life.

The wreckage, believed to be the USS Grenadier, was found last October by divers Jean Rivoire, Lance Horowitz, Benoit Laborie and Ben Reymenants, the team announced this month.

Over the subsequent six months, the men completed six dives to study and identify the submarine, Horowitz, 36, said last Friday.

After measuring parts of the submarine and comparing them with technical drawings from the National Archives and Records Administration, the

**The wreckage, believed to be the USS Grenadier, was found last October by divers**

underwater archaeology branch.

"Confirming the identity of any potential discovery, as in the case of USS Grenadier, is a process that is given much weight by the US Navy, as it not only affords legal protections to the site through the Sunken Military Craft Act, but the Act can also provide closure to the families of those sailors lost in the line of duty," Mr Neyland said in an e-mail.

Robert Palmer, a sailor aboard the Grenadier, wrote in *The Silent Service In World War II* that in the early morning of 22 April, 1943, crew members fired at a Japanese plane, which dropped a bomb nearby.

All 76 men survived but were picked up by a Japanese armed merchant ship, Mr Palmer said, and tortured. Four died in Japanese captivity.

## Sweden spared virus surge but questions remain

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
STOCKHOLM, 20 SEPTEMBER

A train pulls into the Odenplan subway station in central Stockholm, where morning commuters without masks get off or board before settling in to read their smartphones.

When most of Europe locked down their populations early in the pandemic by closing schools, restaurants, gyms and even borders, Swedes kept enjoying many freedoms. The relatively low-key strategy captured the world's attention, but at the same time it coincided with a per capita death rate that was much higher than in other Nordic countries.

Now, as infection numbers surge again in much of Europe, the country of 10 million people has some of the lowest numbers of new coronavirus cases - and only 14 virus patients in intensive care. Whether Sweden's strategy is

succeeding, however, is still very uncertain. According to the European Center for Disease Control, Sweden has reported 30.3 new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days, compared with 29.2 in Spain, 17.2 in France, 61.8 in the U.K. and 69.2 in Denmark, all of which imposed strict lockdowns early in the pandemic.

The way Sweden's strategy was viewed outside the country seems to depend largely on what stage of the pandemic the observer was experiencing at the time.

Today, as fears of a second wave grow across Europe, it's fashionable to praise Sweden, with reporters from France, the U.K. and elsewhere traveling to Stockholm to ask about its success.

But a Swedish government commission investigating the handling of the pandemic will, undoubtedly, have hard questions to answer:

Did authorities wait too long to limit access to nursing homes, where about half of the deaths occurred? Were they too slow to provide personal protective equipment to staff in those homes when shortcomings in the elderly care sector had long been known? Tegnell also refuses to rule out a second wave of coronavirus infections in Sweden. A particular concern is the return of students to high schools for the first time since March.

We need to be very careful and find the first sign that something is going on so that we can do as much as possible to prevent it from escalating, he said.

Localised outbreaks are expected, but rather than fight them with nationwide rules, officials plan to use targeted actions based on testing, contact-tracing and isolating patients rapidly.

From the beginning, health officials argued that Sweden was pursuing a sustainable approach toward the virus that the population could adopt for years, if necessary. This is a marathon, not a sprint, became a slogan repeated by ministers at every opportunity, given that neither a vaccine nor a cure yet exist.

While the rest of the world watched with envy at the freedoms that Swedes enjoyed amid lockdowns elsewhere, there were not as many as people or use a phone.

"I offer my profound apologies to Navalny for the fact that I took part in this criminal business, developing this substance that he was poisoned with," said Mirzayanov, who now lives in US and wrote the first articles on Novichok's development in the early 1990s.

His apology comes as another scientist who worked on the programme denied that Mr Navalny could have been poisoned with Novichok.

So far three scientists, now in their 70s, have made public statements after working on the top-secret Soviet project. Mirzayanov predicted that Navalny would eventually recover.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 1 Native American people (5)
- 4 Thin outer layer (6)
- 9 Ice cream flavour (7)
- 10 Auspice (7)
- 11 Quick look (4)
- 12 Order to attend (7)
- 14 Musician (11)
- 17 Saying (7)
- 18 Egg part (4)
- 21 Hard dark wood (5)
- 23 Bell tongue (7)
- 24 Being defeated (6)
- 25 Rear of a ship (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Except (4)
- 2 Unit of weight (5)
- 3 Percussion instrument (9)
- 5 Age (3)
- 6 Absorb (7)
- 8 Shift responsibility (informal) (4,3,4)
- 13 Rich person (informal) (9)
- 15 In love (7)
- 16 Power to attract (6)
- 19 Drop in standard (5)
- 20 Measure of herring (4)
- 22 Desir (informal) (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

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

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

54599, 5676747

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 18001801407

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES 23466262 (City)

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi

City Office 43513185, Call Cen-

tre 09910383383,

18001803838, Reservation

43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

port 011-25671580; Terminal I-

23860562, 23861576, Palam Road

25671579, 18001803838

RAJASTHAN Roadways

23864470

U.P. Roadways 23868709

#### FLIGHT INQUIRY

AIR FRANCE Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 23466262 (City)

INDIA AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 41528181

KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 23354373

#### SCRABBLE® BRAND

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SCRABBLE® SOLUTION BY JUDD

PACK 1 = 70

PACK 2 = 68

PACK 3 = 63

PACK 4 = 16

PAIR SCORE 140-150

JUDD'S TOTAL 217

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE® BRAND

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Instructions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the rack letters available.

Add points of each word, using scoring table below. Add 10 points for each 7-letter word.

Letters in words are worth points based on their frequency in English language books.

All double letters are worth double points.

All triple letters are worth triple points.

All quadruple letters are worth quadruple points.

All words must be valid words in the Official Scrabble Dictionary (Merriam-Webster's Official Scrabble Dictionary).

Judd's Solution tomorrow.

10-25-12

Answer to previous puzzle

5/18/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with 3x3 boxes.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, column and no 3x3 box contains the same number.

The difficulty level increases through the week.

Difficulty Level ★★★

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US is approaching a certain defeat in its sanctions move... It faced defeat and negative response from the international community

IRANIAN PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	29	26 H
HONG KONG	28	26 H
TOKYO	24	20 CL
LONDON	24	12 CL
DUBAI	38	28 S
SAN FRANCISCO	21	15 CL
NEW YORK	20	10 S
MOSCOW	16	11 CL

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

THUMBNAILS



Myanmar's de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, waits to wave to supporters in Naypyidaw on Sunday. AFP

Afghan government airstrikes kill 24 civilians: Government airstrikes in the north of Afghanistan killed 24 civilians, including children, and wounded six others, witnesses said. Taliban-controlled Sayed Ramazan area in northern Kunduz province was targeted. The Afghan Defence Ministry, however, said the airstrikes killed 30 Taliban fighters. AP

Former Canadian PM John Turner dies at 91: John Turner, a Liberal party politician who served stints as Canada's justice and finance ministers before a very brief turn as the country's 17th prime minister, has died at age 91, his family reported on Saturday. AFP

WeChat removal: A US judge on Sunday blocked the Commerce Department from requiring Apple Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google to remove Chinese-owned messaging app WeChat for downloads by late Sunday. AFP

Storm Beta approaches: Tropical Storm Beta on Sunday was making a slow crawl toward the shores of Texas and Louisiana, stirring worries about heavy rain, flooding and storm surge across the Gulf Coast. AP

Hefty fines for quarantine breaches in UK

LONDON, 20 SEPTEMBER

The UK government on Sunday announced new rules, which make it a legal requirement for people with coronavirus to quarantine, with fines of up to 10,000 pounds imposed on repeat breaches of the stipulated 14-day self-isolation period to control the spread of the virus.

Downing Street said the new requirements, which will be enforced from 28 September, also come with support payments of 500 pounds for those on lower incomes who cannot work from home, such as construction workers, and stand to lose income due to the mandatory self-isolation.

The rules come in as PM Boris Johnson considers further tougher measures after he warned that the UK may now be seeing a second wave coming in of the deadly virus, with the number of cases continuing to rise.

We need to do all we can to control the spread of this virus, to prevent the most vulnerable people from becoming infected, and to protect the NHS (National Health Service) and save lives, said Johnson. I don't want to see a situation where people don't feel they are financially able to self-isolate. That's why we're also introducing a new GBP 500 Test and Trace Support payment for those on low incomes.

New fines for those breaching self-isolation rules will start at 1,000 pounds - bringing this in line with the penalty for breaking quarantine after international travel - but could increase to up to 10,000 pounds. PTI

# Trump to replace Ginsburg with a woman

The impending clash over the vacant seat ~ when to fill it and with whom ~ scrambles the stretch run of the presidential race

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 20 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump is promising to put forth a female nominee in the coming week to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, pushing the Republican-controlled Senate to consider the pick without delay.

Taking the stage on Saturday night at a North Carolina rally to chant of "Fill that seat," the president said he would nominate his selection despite Democrats' objections. And, after conducting what he joked was a "very scientific poll" of the Fayetteville crowd as to whether supporters wanted a man or a woman, he declared the choice would be "a very talented, very brilliant woman."

He added that he did not yet know whom he would choose.

"We win an election and those are the consequences," said the president, who then seemed to signal that he'd be willing to accept a vote on his nominee during the lame-duck period after the election. "We have a lot of time. We have plenty of time. We're talking about January 20th."

But one Republican senator had already broken ranks. Maine's Susan Collins, who is in a tough reelection battle, said earlier Saturday that she believed replacing Ginsburg should be the decision of the president who is elected on 3 November. Three more defections from the GOP ranks would be needed to stop Trump's nominee from joining the court.

At stake is a seat held by a justice who was a champion of women's rights and spent her final years on the bench as the unquestioned leader of the court's liberal wing. Sen-



Envelope addressed to White House contained ricin: Federal officials intercepted an envelope addressed to the White House that contained the poison ricin, a law enforcement official said on Saturday. The letter was intercepted at a government facility that screens mail addressed to the White House and President Donald Trump, the official said. A preliminary investigation indicated it tested positive for ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans, the official said.

Federal investigators were working to determine where the enveloped originated and who mailed it. The FBI, the Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service were leading the investigation. AP

ate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. vowed to call a vote for Trump's nominee, but Democrats countered that Republicans should follow the precedent that GOP legislators set in 2016 by refusing to consider a Supreme Court choice in the run-up to an election.

The impending clash over the vacant seat ~ when to fill it and with whom ~ scrambles the stretch run of a presidential race for a nation already reeling from the pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 people, left millions unemployed and heightened partisan tensions and anger.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said any selection should come after 3 November. "Voters should pick the president and the president should pick the justice to consider," he said. Biden has promised to nominate a Black

woman to the high court if given the chance, but he has said he will not release names of possible nominees before the election.

Trump this month added 20 more names to his roster of potential court nominees, and aides in recent days have focused on a short list heavy on female candidates, according to four White House aides and officials close to the process.

Those under close consideration for the high court include three women who are federal appeals court judges: Amy Coney Barrett, beloved among conservatives and an early favorite; Barbara Lagoa, who is Hispanic and comes from the battleground state of Florida; and Alison Jones Rushing, who clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas and for Neil Gorsuch, when the current Trump-

appointed justice was an appeals court judge.

At least one man, appeals court Judge Amul Thapar, has also been under consideration. A McConnell ally from Kentucky, he has been screened by Trump's team for past openings and he would be the first Asian American on the high court.

McConnell, who sets the calendar in the Senate and has made judicial appointments his priority, declared unequivocally in a statement that Trump's nominee would receive a confirmation vote.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York convened a conference call with Democratic senators at midday Saturday. He told senators the "No. 1 goal" must be to communicate the stakes of the confirmation vote.

Schumer also warned that if Republicans push through the nominee, "nothing is off the table" for Senate rules changes to come, the person said.

Ginsburg's death seemed certain to stoke enthusiasm in both political parties as the election could now be viewed as referendum on the high court's decisions, including the future of abortion rights. Democrats raised more than \$71 million in the hours after Ginsburg's death, indicating her passing has already galvanized the party's base.

Hundreds of mourners gathered for a second night outside the Supreme Court building, holding candles in honor of Ginsburg and listening to a succession of testimonies and rallying speeches. Among the speakers was Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who eulogized Ginsberg as "an icon, a trailblazer and a friend" and accused McConnell of seeking to cynically hijack the confirmation process.

"Today Mitch McConnell and his henchmen think they can ram through a Supreme Court justice only 45 days before the election," Warren said. "What Mitch McConnell doesn't understand is that the fight has just begun." A confirmation vote in the Senate is not guaranteed, even with a Republican majority.

Typically, it takes several months to vet and hold hearings on a Supreme Court nominee, and time is short before November. Key senators may be reluctant to cast votes so close to the election. With a slim GOP majority, 53 seats in the 100-member chamber, Trump's choice could afford to lose only a few.

Democrats immediately denounced McConnell's move as hypocritical, pointing out that he refused to call hearings for Garland 237 days before the 2016 election. A look at what key Republican senators were saying in the past- and what they are saying now- about filling a seat on the Supreme Court during an election year:

Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell: McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, vowed in a statement, hours after Ginsburg's death, to call a floor vote on Trump's nominee, although he did not specify a date.

McConnell's statement on the latest vacancy stands in stark contrast to the position he took in 2016, when he refused to consider President Barack Obama's choice for the court months ahead of the election. McConnell blocked hearings for Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge, saying the choice should be left to voters in an election year. Democrats said Republicans should follow the precedent they set in 2016 by not

considering a Supreme Court choice in the run-up to an election, but McConnell's comments make it clear he has no intention of doing so.

Senate judiciary committee chairman Lindsey Graham: Graham, who will oversee the vetting of the nomination as Judiciary chairman, tweeted on Saturday that he will support Trump "in any effort to move forward regarding the recent vacancy created by the passing of Justice Ginsburg." Graham's comment contradicts his statements in 2018 and 2016 that a Supreme Court nominee should not be considered in an election year.

If an opening comes in the last year of President Trump's term, and the primary process has started, we'll wait to the next election," Graham said in 2018 at an event hosted by The Atlantic magazine. Two years earlier, in the midst of the Garland battle, Graham told listeners on a Judiciary Committee meeting to "use my words against me. If there's a Republican president (elected) in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said, 'Let's let the next president, who ever it might be, make that nomination.'

Senator Susan Collins: Collins, a Maine Republican who is considered a moderate, said on Saturday that "in fairness to the American people," the Senate should not vote on a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court until after the election.

## A rapper, an elevator and a camel: The stories Ginsburg told

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 20 SEPTEMBER

In recent years Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was surprised to find herself so popular that everyone wants to take a picture with her. The justice, who died on Friday at 87, had become a feminist icon, with books, movies, clothing and even colouring books devoted to her.

People wanted to give her awards. They wanted to hear her talk. Ginsburg was invited to speak so often that inevitably she was asked the same questions and delivered the same punch lines, always, it seemed, to a delighted new audience. Some of the things Ginsburg liked to do:

On equal parenting, Ginsburg's son James was what she called a lively child," and she would often get calls from his New York City school about his latest caper. Ginsburg finally told the school: This child

has two parents. Please alternate calls. It was Ginsburg's husband's turn, she said.

So Ginsburg's husband went to the school and was told James had had stolen the elevator, taking a group of kindergarteners for a ride. Ginsburg liked to

explain.

On facing discrimination, Ginsburg often noted that she had three strikes against her in trying to get a job when she graduated from Columbia's law school in 1959, despite graduating at the top of her class. She was Jewish. She was a wife. And she was a mother.

Getting the first job was hard for women of my vintage, she'd say. But once you got the first job you did it at least as well as the men and so the next step was not as hard.

Ginsburg also liked to note something Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would say: Sandra said, Where would the two of us be if there had been no discrimination? Well, today we'd be retired partners from a large law firm.

Her friendship with Antonin Scalia: The genuine friendship between the liberal Ginsburg and conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016, puzzled many audiences. Ginsburg explained: The number one reason why I loved Justice Scalia so is he made me laugh.

Scalia would sometimes call to point out grammar errors in Ginsburg's opinion drafts. Ginsburg, for her part, would sometimes tell him: This opinion is so overheated, you'd be more persuasive if you tone it down.

Ginsburg often described a famous picture of the two of them riding an elephant together in India, the heavy-set Scalia in front and diminutive Ginsburg in the rear. Ginsburg's feminist friends were

horrorified. Why was she in the back? Weight distribution, she explained.

On changing the Constitution: When asked how she might change the Constitution if given the opportunity, Ginsburg liked to point to the effort in the 1970s to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell three states short of ratification.

I have three granddaughters, Ginsburg liked to say. And I'd like to be able to take out my pocket Constitution and say that the equal citizenship status of men and women is a fundamental tenant of our society. Ginsburg, the second female justice, was sometimes asked when there would be enough women on the Supreme Court. Her response: When there are nine.

## USA unilaterally reimposes UN sanctions against Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 20 SEPTEMBER

notified the council that Iran was in significant non-performance with its obligations under the accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

The United States took this decisive action because, in addition to Iran's failure to perform its JCPOA commitments, the Security Council failed to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, which had been in place for 13 years, Pompeo said in a statement released at precisely 8 p.m.

In accordance with our rights... we initiated the snap-back process to restore virtually all previously terminated U.N. sanctions, including the arms embargo, he said. The White House plans to issue an executive order on Monday spelling out how the U.S. will enforce the restored sanctions, and the State and Treasury departments are expected to outline how foreign businesses will be penalized for violations.

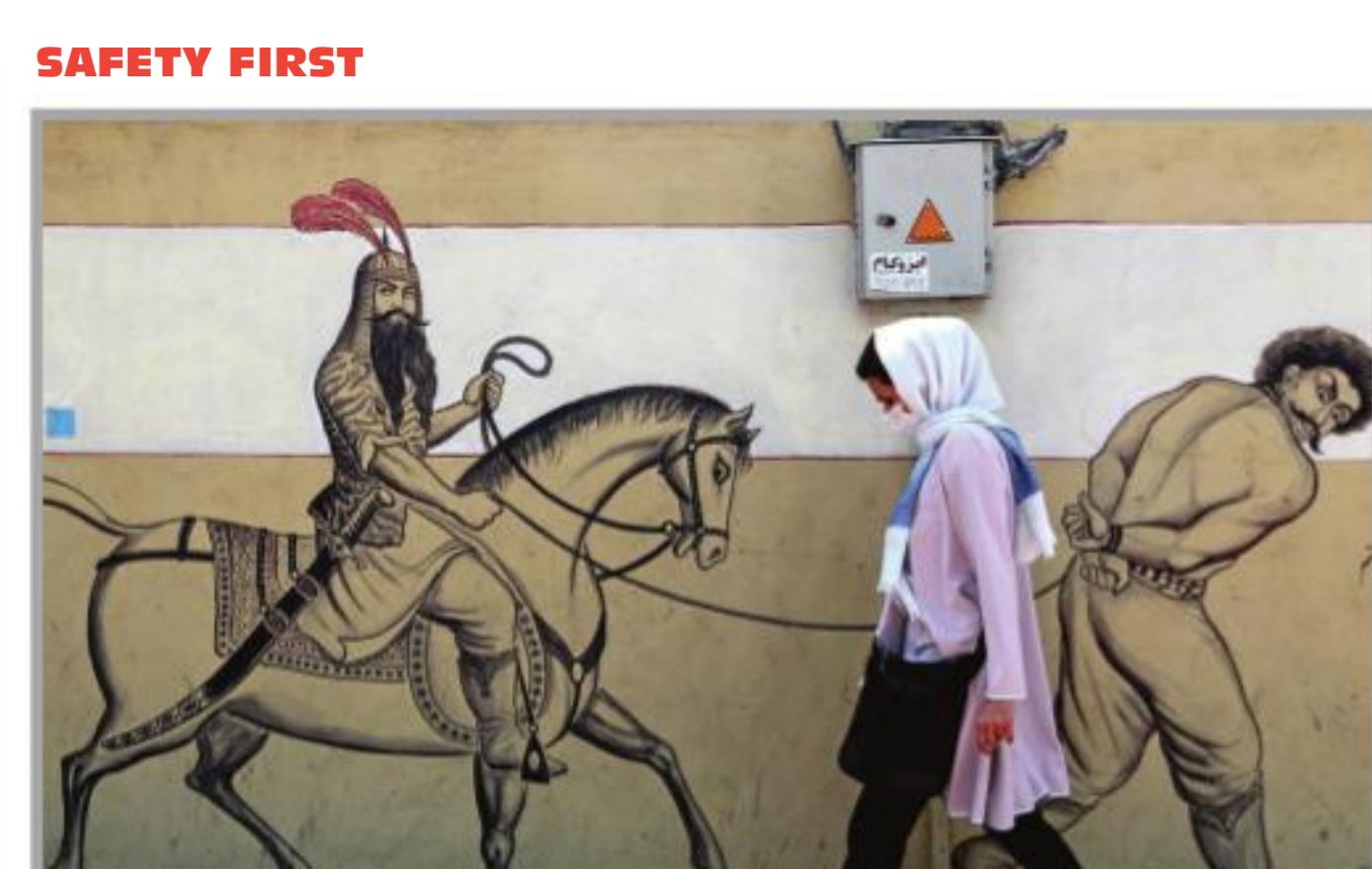
The US expects all U.N. member states to fully comply with their obligations to implement these measures, Pompeo said. If U.N. member states fail to fulfil their obligations, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those failures and ensure that Iran does not reap the benefits.

That is 30 days after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified the council that Iran was in significant non-performance with its obligations under the accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

Police in the capital of Belarus cracked down sharply on Saturday on a women's protest march demanding the authoritarian president's resignation, arresting more than 300 including an elderly woman who has become a symbol of the six weeks of protest that have roiled the country.

More than 2,000 women took part in the march in Minsk. Such anti-government

### SAFETY FIRST



Among those detained was Nina Bahinskaya, a 73-year-old former geologist whose defiance and tart tongue have made her a popular figure in the protests. Many of the women in Saturday's march chanted We're walking! referring to when police told Bahinskaya that she was taking part in an unauthorized protest and she snapped back I'm taking a walk.

Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, Lukashenko's main opponent in the election, praised the women's march in a video statement from Lithuania, where she took refuge after the election.

They have frightened and put pressure on women for the second month, but despite this, Belarusians are continuing their peaceful protest and showing their amazing fortitude, she said. Several top members of the Coordination Council the opposition has created to push for a new election have been jailed and others have been forced to leave the country. Maxim Znak, a leading member of the council, declared a hunger strike in prison on Friday. Last month thousands of protesters were detained and some displayed deep bruises from police beatings.

Still, that did not stop the protests from growing to include strikes at major factories that had previously been a source of support for the embattled Lukashenko. Some residents fled as blowing embers sparked spot fires, hitting some homes. AP

# World

US is approaching a certain defeat in its sanctions move... It faced defeat and negative response from the international community

IRANIAN PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI

WHILE PROMISING 'CRUSHING RESPONSE' TO 'AMERICA'S BULLYING'

## GOP senators confront past comments on SC election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 20 SEPTEMBER

Republican senators weighing what to do about the vacancy on the Supreme Court are facing questions about their own past comments amid complaints by Democrats that their views have shifted with changing political reality.

President Donald Trump on Saturday urged the GOP-run Senate to consider "without delay" his upcoming nomination to fill the seat vacated by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday.

Typically, it takes several months to vet and hold hearings on a Supreme Court nominee, and time is short before November. Key senators may be reluctant to cast votes so close to the election. With a slim GOP majority, 53 seats in the 100-member chamber, Trump's choice could afford to lose only a few.</

## Wrestling for peace

**A physical duel has traditionally been an important tool for conflict resolution in Naga society**

BY JEFFREY WOUTERS

What football is to the average Englishman, baseball or basketball to the American, ice hockey to the Canadian, and cricket to many Indians, wrestling is to the highland Naga. Especially for the Tenyimia Naga (a cluster of Naga tribes spread across Nagaland, Manipur and Assam), it is a game that is always also more than a game; it stirs up intense passions that swirl around sentiments of pride and pleasure, status and standing, conquest and domination, a topic of endless speculation and conversation, and the carrier of a distinct heritage locally.

George Orwell famously called sports "war minus the shooting". From this angle, sporting contests channel radical nationalist sentiments into a competitive, agitated but distinctly non-violent confrontation. This is what historian Eric Hobsbawm too observed. Between the World Wars in Europe, he wrote, international sports gradually ceased to be the pastime of a middle-class public, or the object of integrating different national components of states and empires (such as the British Empire Games), and increasingly turned into "the unending succession of gladiatorial contests between persons and teams symbolising state-nations"; an *as if* war, that is, between rivalling nations with patriotism and pride at stake. Or, for that matter, as an expression of national struggle, as in the movie *Lagaan* in which Indian villagers defeating a team of Britishers in a game of cricket resulted in colonial officials evacuating their local cantonment and departing, seemingly forever.

However, rather than the symbolic pseudo-wars between rival nations, among the Naga, wrestling traditionally functioned as a safety valve to release social tensions internal to the village community, mostly between clans and *khels* (village wards) but also between antagonistic individuals. My broader argument is this – among the (Tenyimia) Naga the social significance of wrestling lies in its traditional capacity to temporarily



absorb, channel and deflect the internal rivalries, irritations, and disputes that occasionally threatened the cohesion and survival of the village community. What is more, wrestling constituted a Naga annotation in themselves, in the sense that wrestling both communicated pivotal cultural values – of strength, bravery, and pride – and embodied kinship and social networks. As such, wrestling carried out important social and political work.

Even more than symbolic fights, though, winning or losing a wrestling match could have real social consequences, which were commonly acknowledged across Naga villages.

Disputes over property, for instance, could be settled with a wrestling contest and the contender ending on top – literally so by working his opponent to the ground – being recognised as the disputed property's now undisputed owner. Interpersonal dislikes and disagreements also found expression during village wrestling contests with those having a "problem" in real life challenging each other to a fight. Not infrequently, such animosity and its social translation in wrestling duels reproduced themselves across generations, from father to son to grandson challenging their social equivalents of the rivalling family. Those who won would assert their superiority in social life, at least until the time of the next wrestling contest.

Clans competing over status and sway within the Naga village, too, could be ranked in terms of the wrestling achievements of its strongest men, who were seen as

magnifications of the clan's self. In preparation for wrestling, selected men were temporarily excluded from agricultural toil and fed enormous amounts of rice, rice-beer, and meat of many kinds to build their bodies, and to whose expenses the entire clan would contribute. Recounted a Chakhesang Naga elder and former wrestler, "In my time, I could eat two chickens a day and drink rice-beer from morning till evening in the weeks leading up to wrestling. If I said my stomach was full my clan members would scold me and force me to eat more."

If anything, the energy and expenses invested in "building" a wrestler's body attests to wrestling's significance in traditional Naga village life. Read against a broader Naga cultural canvass, wrestling reflected a wider traditional principle that saw physical strength as virtue; that accepted that "might" connoted certain "rights". So important was the value of physical strength that, during the early beginnings of formal education, quite a few families expressed reluctance to admit their children into village schools, fearing that long days of sitting would make them too weak to wrestle.

In match days, the physical strength on display, boisterousness of the wrestlers, verbal challenges that went back and forth, and the sheer adrenaline all around gave wrestling contests – which were ever the mass spectacles – an appearance of a violent conflict, one that was fought as though about life and death. However, when the dust of a wrestling tour-

nament had settled and bruises and other small injuries began to heal, what had occurred was not just a physical duel. In effect, the tournament had released social tensions and deflected the potentially more serious violence such tensions could otherwise result in, so that a cohesive and clear-cut sense of village unity and solidarity could be restored. At least temporarily.

In deep history, the channelling of social tensions through wrestling was a culturally directed possibility within Naga villages. It was not a self-evident possibility between Naga villages, however. In fact, one way of reading Naga political history is in terms of seemingly unending inter-village feuds, vendettas, raids and retaliations over power, status and dominance in the hills. Consequently, the social distance that existed between villages was often considered to be too large to be resolved through the social ritual of wrestling.

Naga wrestling's more recent history reveals the enlargement of its social catchment. As a case in point, among the Chakhesang Naga, the period between 1940 and the early 1970s witnessed three major mass-wrestling events between two large, historically antagonistic villages, and so on neutral grounds. The explicit aim was peace-making. As one participant recalled, "Before each match, the two wrestlers had to introduce themselves and promise that whenever the opponent would come to his village, he would find shelter and food, including meat, in his house." In this way, the equation between

wrestling and conflict-resolution gradually expanded from an intra-village affair to inter-village contests of comradery.

Wrestling's enlargement was to continue, and wrestling tournaments are today a regular occurrence at village, range, district and state levels where they draw large and enthusiastic crowds and advertise cash-prizes and – at the state level – government jobs to those crowned champions. And this year, the Nagaland Wrestling Association celebrated its 50th anniversary through a golden jubilee tournament with the Nagaland chief minister as chief guest.

There is a flipside to Naga wrestling's professional and, some lament, commercialised institutionalisation. Some of its earlier inner workings as a form of conflict-resolution receded into the realm of forgotten cultural practices. Whereas in the past, individuals, families or clans in a dispute might say, "Wait, we will face you in wrestling", today these social groups are more likely to say, "Wait, we will face you during the next election". The social outcome of this shift is very different. If wrestling contests traditionally functioned to restore and regenerate a sense of village community, elections don't resolve divisions but intensify them, making it a more corrosive form of working through interpersonal and social differences.

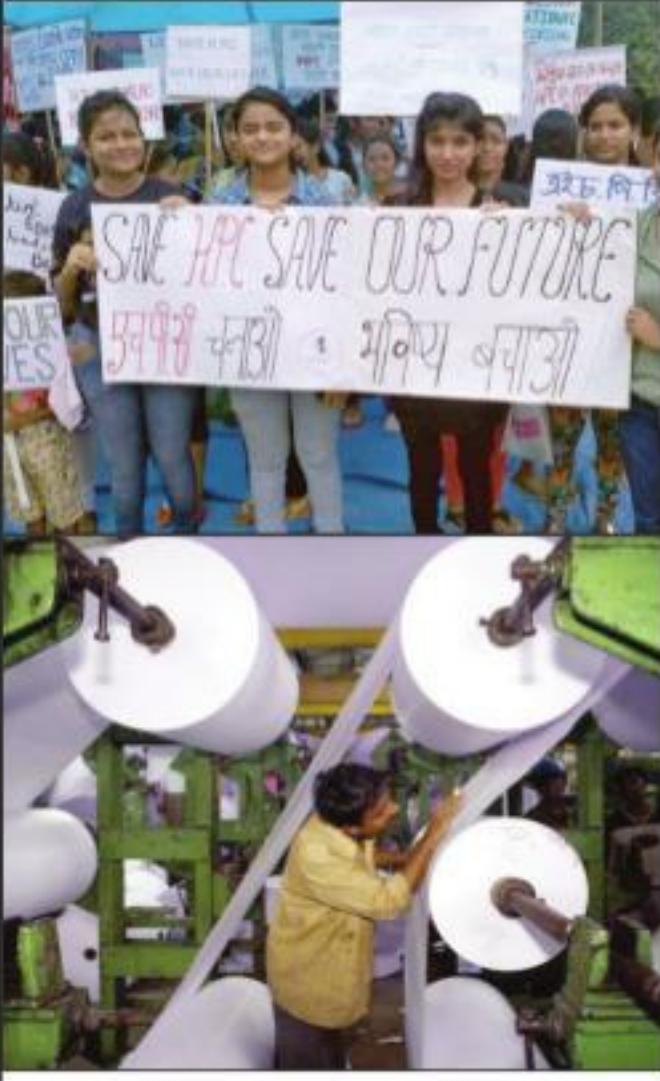
The writer is a social anthropologist and teaches in the department of social sciences at Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan

### PLUS POINTS

#### HPC mills issue



The state government in Assam is likely to take up the issue of revival of the Hindustan Paper Corporation mills at Jagiroad and Panchgram, Cachar with the Central government, in perhaps a last ditch effort to avoid their liquidation, says a report in the Guwahati-based *Assam Tribune*.



In a letter to the liquidator at the National Company Law Tribunal, Assam's industry secretary said the state government has "always taken a stand that the closed HPC mills must be revived at the earliest". "Due to closure of the mills, thousands of workers and employees have been rendered jobless. The local economy has also been severely affected," the letter stated, seeking one month's time from the NCLT.

"The chief minister has been personally pursuing the matter with the highest level in the Central government for revival of the mills and clearance of all dues of the employees and workers," it stated. A hearing on the matter was scheduled for 14 September but the NCLT, which has commenced the liquidation proceedings, has deferred it to today.

According to an estimate, an amount of Rs 1,900 crore would be required to revive the mills. "That was the amount mentioned by the state government when it had sent a revival package proposal to the Centre long ago. The amount is huge. No private player is likely to invest so much if there is no government support," sources privy to the developments indicated.

If the property of the mills goes under the hammer through the liquidation process of the NCLT, industry department officials feel they are unlikely to fetch more than Rs 500 crore, which will fall short even to repay creditors who are owed over Rs 550 crore. The suppliers' credit also stands at a whopping Rs 200 crore, while the Assam government, which is still supplying electricity to the quarters, has to get Rs 200 crore of royalty and other bills. The total liability stands at over Rs 1,200 crore. The outstanding dues to 1,200-odd employees of the paper mills are around Rs 350 crore, which include salaries for three years.

The Union ministry of heavy industries had floated a tender for 100 per cent divestment of the Government of India stake in Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited a few years ago but no serious buyers evinced any interest. After some vendors and suppliers, who were not cleared their dues for supplies made to the paper mills, approached the NCLT for recovery of their dues, the tribunal first made attempts to sell the units as "going concern" to strategic buyers who were willing to submit a comprehensive revival package.

Since there was no result even after around two years of initiation of the exercise, the last resort left to the NCLT was to go for complete liquidation to give relief to the financial institutions and bankers, besides the vendors and suppliers whose dues remain unpaid by the HPC management.

An India-born NRI billionaire businessman recently showed interest in taking over the paper mills but later backed out. Another local group had in June submitted an Rs 800-crore revival scheme, about which the state government is not enthusiastic for reasons best known to it. The NCLT is looking into the scheme.

The HPC also has some 100 residential flats in Kolkata's Salt Lake area and a large company-owned office space at the posh location of Park Street in Kolkata. The paper mill at Jagiroad is on a plot of 570 acres, while the Cachar mill has an area of 1,200 acres.

## CHALLENGING A POLITICAL BEHEMOTH



**Ahead of the Assembly polls next year, several parties in Assam are striving to come together for a united Opposition alliance**

BY NAVA THAKURIA

As Assam approaches the Assembly elections next year, the contours of a grand Opposition alliance has surfaced. Mainstream as well as alternate media spaces are now inundated with ideas and strategies about how to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Dispur.

The expectation for a grand Opposition alliance started taking shape after the main Opposition, the Congress Party virtually joined hands with the All India United Democratic Front. Recently, a new political party has also been launched by the All Assam Students' Union and Assam Jatiyatabadi Juva Chatra Parishad. A few more regional parties are expected to crop up with the sole aim of defeating the ruling alliance.

The issue of the Congress Party-

AIUDF friendship became the talk of the state as both parties came together to help senior Assamese journalist Ajit Kumar Bhuyan to get elected to Rajya Sabha as an independent candidate. Bhuyan, known for his hardcore Assamese "nationalism", came close to the Congress Party and AIUDF during outrages against the Centre's much debated Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 in the Brahmaputra valley.

A series of public demonstrations was observed, even though it was not visible in the Barak valley, where Aasu, AJYCP and the Krisak Mukti Sangram Samiti, with many other non-political Assamese-speaking groups, hit the streets to protest against the government initiative to grant Indian citizenship to Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Christian and Parsi religious migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Friendship calls to the Congress Party were always initiated by AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal, a perfume baron turned politician, but it was veteran Congress leader Tarun Gogoi who

opposed it. Even after Parliamentarian Ajmal supported the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government in New Delhi, then chief minister Gogoi continued opposing the alliance. Ajmal repeated his call prior to the 2016 Assembly elections too, but once again Gogoi prevented it.

Founded by Maulana Ajmal in October 2005 with a pledge to protect the interests of Bangladeshi Muslim settlers in Assam, soon after the Supreme Court scrapped the Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunals Act, the AIUDF remains active in state politics. The party won 18 seats in the 2011 Assembly polls. Presently it has 13 legislators in the 126-member state Assembly and one member (Ajmal himself) in the Lok Sabha.

The AIUDF candidates, with support bases among Bangladeshi-origin immigrants, performed relatively well in western and some parts of southern Assam. It emerged as the third largest party in the state Assembly after the BJP (60) and Congress Party (23). The saffron party's two allies, the Asom Gana Parishad won 14 seats and Bodoland People's Front won in

12 constituencies. Assam being the second-largest Muslim-inhabited state in the country, no political party can ignore minority voters. Both the Congress Party and AIUDF remain more dependent on minority vote shares and hence, they seemingly would not take the risk of going it alone in the forthcoming Assembly polls. Three-time chief minister Gogoi admitted that the situation had changed and he wants an alliance with the Ajmal-led AIUDF, so that the sizable Muslim votes are not divided.

Terming the BJP as a greater evil and to prevent the party from pursuing divisive politics, Gogoi even emphasised on electoral alliances with the CPI, CPI-M and ethnic outfits for the forthcoming polls scheduled for April-May 2021. He also said that the anti-CAA groups (read Aasu, AJYCP, KMSS, etc) would pave the way for a greater alliance against the ruling coalition.

But not everyone in the Congress Party is happy with the alliance, apprehending that it would only help the BJP to nurture more Hindu-cen-

tric voters in the polls. Even the Congress Legislature Party leader Debabrata Saikia, son of former chief minister Hiteswar Saikia, was reluctant to accept the AIUDF as their political ally. Then the idea of a grand alliance comprising everyone, who stands against the BJP, was meticulously floated.

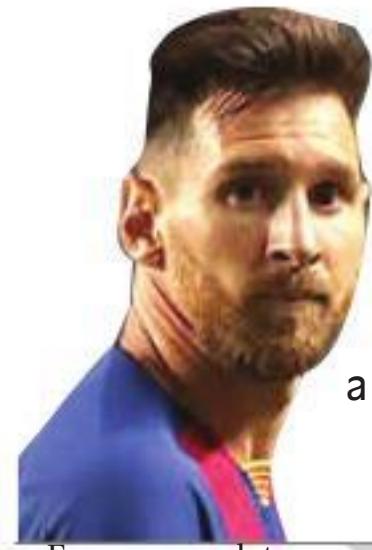
Meanwhile, leaders of the Aasu and AJYCP have jointly launched the Assam Jatiya Parishad, a new regional political party targeting the next Assembly polls. The party is expected to enrol active members from all districts along with various ethnic communities of the state. Its slogan *Ghare Ghare Ami* (we are in every household) indicates their aim to connect with each family of the state irrespective of caste, creed or religion. The party is understood to field candidates in around 80 seats in the Assembly polls.

It barely warrants mention that the BJP's ally, the AGP was also formed by then Aasu leaders in 1985 and it even came to power in Dispur defeating the Congress Party. The performance of the AGP-led government was quite poor, and it was uprooted in the next elections. The regional party returned to power, but it faced a humiliating defeat to the Congress Party in the 2001 Assembly polls. AGP leaders came closer to the saffron party in the 2016 Assembly polls and became a part in the coalition government.

Assam may witness the birth of more political parties with anti-BJP agendas in the coming days. Peasant leader Akhil Gogoi-led KMSS may go for a party if his followers are not entertained by the newly launched AJP. The RTI activist, presently in jail, recently announced that he would contest the Assembly polls. Similarly, Rajya Sabha member Bhuyan is working for a new political party. Many Guwahati-based advocates, journalists and social workers are also dreaming of a party that would ensure the bright future of Assamese people.

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





## 'NO CONFLICT WITH MESSI'

FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has urged everyone to look beyond the Lionel Messi (*in photo, left*) transfer saga. The star forward tried to quit the club last month. "As president, I will not enter into any conflict with Messi," Bartomeu said. Bartomeu also said he has no plans to step down from his position despite a motion to remove him.

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

## THUMBNAILS

**Nadal beaten by Schwartzman:** Rafael Nadal's first tournament in seven months ended with a 6-2, 7-5 loss to Diego Schwartzman in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open. Nadal, a nine-time champion in Rome, had never lost to the 15th-ranked Schwartzman in nine previous meetings.

**Villarreal win:** Ten months after he was fired by Arsenal, Unai Emery was back to winning ways with his first victory as Villarreal coach in the Spanish league. Gerard Moreno scored once and set up Paco Alcer for another goal in Villarreal's 2-1 comeback win against Eibar on Saturday.

**Rennes beat Monaco:** Defender Adrien Truffert had a dream debut, coming off the bench to set up the equalizer and score the winner as Rennes beat Monaco 2-1 to move top of the French league. The 18-year-old left back was only on the field because of an injury to Faitout Maouassa in the first half.

**Man Utd slump:** Manchester United began its Premier League campaign with a performance as disjointed as its offseason. Maybe the 3-1 home loss to Crystal Palace on Saturday shouldn't really have come as a surprise. In another match Eddie Nketiah came off the bench to score an 85th-minute winner as Arsenal beat West Ham 2-1 for a second straight victory to open the Premier League.

**Online shooting:** Seeing the interest generated by online tournaments, the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is planning to experiment with organising virtual competitions of its own in a world altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Former India shooter Shimon Sharif has organised a few online championships and a month-long league during the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

**Two Bhawanipore FC footballers return positive:** Bhawanipore FC's preparations for the upcoming I-League qualifiers suffered a setback after two of their players were found positive for COVID-19 on Sunday. Goalkeeper Akash Mondal and mid-fielder Sudipto Malakar were found positive following RT-PCR tests of all the 40 players and support staff during their camp, confirmed coach Sankar Chakraborty.

**Mushtaq Ali tourney:** Mumbai Cricket Association Apex Council member and noted curator Nadim Memon has urged the BCCI to organise the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy in Mumbai saying the city has enough grounds to host the domestic T20 tournament.

**Ishant sustains back injury:** Delhi Capitals fast bowler Ishant Sharma has reportedly sustained a back injury during a practice session in Dubai and looks doubtful for Sunday's IPL game against Kings XI Punjab.

**Buttler to miss Royals' opening game:** England wicket-keeper batsman Jos Buttler will miss Rajasthan Royals' opening IPL game against Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday as he is in the middle of his mandatory quarantine period, having arrived in Dubai with his family.

**Carlsen and So emerge joint winners:** World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and American Wesley So finished joint winners in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament while a below-par performance in Blitz-2, in which he managed only three points from nine rounds, saw Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna finish joint seventh.

# Kohli begins hunt for elusive IPL title as RCB face Sunrisers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

**V**irat Kohli (*in photo*) will begin his quest for an elusive IPL title when perennial under-achievers Royal Challengers Bangalore take on David Warner's low profile but consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad in their opening IPL encounter here on Monday. Both teams possess dangerous batsmen who can single-handedly take the game away from the opposition.

Kohli has always led from the front but he knows his search for a maiden title will remain incomplete if the team doesn't perform in all departments. The addition of Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch to the squad gives the star-studded batting line up more firepower. Expectations are also high from highly rated young opener Devdutt Padikkal.

On the other hand, Warner, whose exploits in the IPL include winning the 'Orange Cap' thrice and leading his side to a maiden title triumph in 2016, will once again pair up with the dangerous Jonny Bairstow.

The formidable opening duo, that shattered multiple records including the highest-opening partnership in IPL history against RCB last season, will hope to emulate the previous edition's exploits.

Sunrisers also have the batting prowess of Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mitchell Marsh and Fabian Allen.

Following a nightmarish 2019 season when they finished last, RCB seem to have much better balance but there ability to hit late in the innings is yet to be tested.

Sunrisers' blind spot also lies in the lack of depth in their batting order. The franchise has invested in youngsters like Virat Singh, Abhishek Sharma, Priyam Garg, and Abdul Samad and the management in the hopes that one of them could become the vital cog



in the middle order.

A team that is known for its depth and variation in bowling, Sunrisers' core unit remains unchanged. Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace department with Sandeep Sharma, Siddarth Kaul and Basil Thampi playing secondary roles.

Armed with presence of the top T20 bowler Afghanistan leggie Rashid Khan and no.1 all-rounder in the format Mohammad Nabi, who was in a terrific form in the recently-concluded CPL, Sunrisers have one of the best spin bowling attacks in the tournament. They also have left-arm Shahbaz Nadeem. RCB also boasts of a potent spin

unit, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal will again be the key as he has been over the past seasons with Washington Sundar, Pawan Negi, Adam Zampa and Moeen Ali lending more options.

RCB have also addressed

the issue of their weak death bowling that plagued their campaign last season. The franchise has bought South African bowling all-rounder Chris Morris. At the helm of both sides are Australians, Sunrisers have appointed Trevor Bayliss, who guided England to their maiden ODI World Cup title last year, as coach, RCB has placed its faith in Simon Katich to lead them.

*Match starts at 7.30 IST.*

## We should certainly be talking about it: Ponting on taking a knee

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

"We should certainly be talking about it," said Australian batting great Ricky Ponting while elucidating current limited overs skipper Aaron Finch's recent stand on not taking a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

While players from the England and West Indies teams took the symbolic position on the field before the start of every match in their three-Test series in July, the same has not happened during Australia's tour of England. Finch had said his team decided against taking a knee after raising the matter with England skipper Eoin Morgan because "education around it is more important than the protest."

Asked about the remarks that did not go down well with West Indian pace legend

## Stoinis takes Delhi Capitals to 157/8 against KXIP

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Australian batsman Marcus Stoinis stole the thunder from Mohammed Shami with a beligerent 21-ball-53 which lifted the Delhi Capitals to 157 for eight against Kings XI Punjab in their IPL match, here on Sunday. A stellar show from Mohammed Shami (3/15), backed by valuable shifts put in by debutant Ravi Bishnoi (1/22) and Sheldon Cottrell (2/24) made it look like Kings XI Punjab may have a small target to chase in the second match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) season on Sunday, but Capitals scored 57 runs in the last 18 balls with Stoinis producing a whirlwind knock that had seven fours and three sixes.

The pitch had a tinge of grass, the ball was swinging and pacer Mohammed Shami (*in photo, from Twitter*) relished the bowling on a helpful track.

His wicket-taking and run-choking act seemed to have

made the difference before Stoinis' outstanding hitting changed the complexion of the game in matter of minutes.

It was a pitch that required patience from the batsmen but reckless shots was how Delhi Capitals began after being invited to bat, with Prithvi Shaw (5) paying the price for his extravagance and Shimron Hetmyer (7) failing to check his shot. Shikhar Dhawan (0) was run out to a horrible mix-up and the scoreboard was not a pleasant sight for the Delhi side at 13 for 3. However skipper Shreyas Iyer (39) and Rishabh Pant (31) respected the conditions to raise 73-run stand for

the fourth wicket while Stoinis' knock towards the end put Capitals in a psychologically advantageous position.

Iyer launched into Gowtham for a massive six, first of the innings, in the ninth over, taking the run-rate to a modest five-an-over. Iyer and Pant largely relied on singles to keep the scoreboard moving. Iyer took Gowtham to the cleaners in the 13th over, creaming off 15 runs with two well-measured straight sixes. Suddenly, Iyer seems to be snatching the momentum and it forced Punjab captain KL Rahul to bring back his best bowler -- Shami, who did not disappoint and got rid of Iyer.

## SCOREBOARD

Delhi Capital innings	
P Shaw c Jordan b Shami	5
S Dhawan run out	0
S Hetmyer c Agarwal b Shami	7
S Iyer (c) Jordan b Shami	39
R Pant (wk) Bishnoi	31
M Stoinis run out	53
A Patel c Rahul b Cottrell	6
R Ashwin c Shami b Cottrell	4
K Rabada batting	0
Anrich Nortje not out	3
Extras: 9 (b 1, lb 0, w 6, nb 2, p 0)	
Total: 157 (8 wkt, 20 Overs)	
Bowling: Cottrell 4-0-24-2, Shami 4-0-15-3, Jordan 4-0-56-0, Gowtham 4-0-39-0, Bishnoi 4-0-22-1	



## Bubble life is very challenging, says Warner

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) captain David Warner (*in photo*) is one of the players who traded one bio-bubble for another when he came to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Warner as part of the Australian team that toured England for three ODIs and three T20Is between September 4 and 16. "Bubble life is very challenging," Warner said at his pre-IPL press conference. "It is the hardest thing not to have family with us due to restrictions. But they are unprecedented

times due to Covid-19. The BCCI and the organisers have done a fantastic job by putting this up."

"Obviously the next few months will be challenging. In Australia, we can go out, play golf and drive a car. Hopefully, we can do some recreation

stuff [here too]. But first and foremost is that the tournament gets going. It makes a difference."

SRH are expected to bank on Warner and Jonny Bairstow at the top of the order once again to provide the runs. "It's good to play alongside him," said Warner. "We know each other's game well. We have a good understanding like I have with Finch (Aaron Finch) for Australia. Looking forward to good opening partnerships with him." Warner also spoke about the team's youngsters.

"Yes, it is good to have a lot of youngsters in the middle-order. They bring a lot of enthusiasm and show the

right kind of attitude, too. I have been hearing some very good reports about it on social media and hope they translate their talent into performances."

The Australian is happy to have the presence of experienced campaigners such as Kane Williamson in the Sunrisers ranks. "We have plenty of experience with the likes of Kane (Jonny) Bairstow, Vijay Shankar to name a few. We got a job on our hand for sure," he said.

Speaking about his opening partner Bairstow, Warner said, "We know when to take those calculated risks and it is time to go this year again."

## Olympians Bolt, Blake, Rathore could have been successful cricketers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
DUBAI, 20 SEPTEMBER



(JAE) on Saturday. A report on olympicchannel.com highlighted the stories of champions who had tried their hand at cricket early on in their lives. India's Rajvardhan Singh Rathore, who became a household name in the country in 2004 when he won a silver in the men's double trap event at the Athens

Olympics, was also exposed to multiple sports including cricket, volleyball, basketball. Jamaican sprinter Blake was a pacer at St. Jago High School, and it was during one of the matches that the principal took a note of how quickly he ran to the wicket. Blake was consequently urged to try his luck in sprinting.

Another Jamaican, Bolt was introduced to cricket by his father who admired the West Indies fast bowlers Michael Holding and Courtney Walsh. Bolt played cricket throughout his school days but his father took the decision of asking his son to step into athletics.



Happy that I don't have to bowl to McCullum anymore: Cummins

AGENCIES  
ABU DHABI, 20 SEPTEMBER

Kolkata Knight Riders' star paceman Cummins (*in photo*) is happy that he does not have to bowl to Brendon McCullum anymore with the Kiwi great now heading the coaching staff of the franchise.

McCullum, who set the inaugural IPL on fire with a spectacular 158 not out 12 years ago, is back at KKR as the chief coach, while the Australian fast bowler is also returning to his old franchise after 2014.

"The first thing that I am really excited about is that I don't have to bowl to him (McCullum) anymore! He was one of the best and most feared hitters I have come up against in my career," Cummins was quoted as saying by KKR website. Cummins, who is serving room-quarantine following his return from the limited overs series in England, said he always admired the former New Zealand captain's aggressive approach.

"Whether it was his stint as the captain of the New Zealand team or his approach in the IPL clashes, I just love the way he goes about it. He really wants to put on the show and take the game on," Cummins said. Cummins became the most expensive foreign buy in IPL history in last year's auction after KKR picked him for Rs 15.5 crore. The world number one Test bowler will spearhead KKR's pace attack which will also have talented Indian youngsters like Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivaam Mavi, Prasidh Krishna and Sandeep Warrier.



Fresh from guiding Trinbago Knight Riders to their title triumph in Caribbean Premier League, McCullum will take over as the KKR coach in the 13th edition of the T20 tournament underway in the UAE.

"Whether it was his stint as the captain of the New Zealand team or his approach in the IPL clashes, I just love the way he goes about it. He really wants to put on the show and take the game on," Cummins said. Cummins became the most expensive foreign buy in IPL history in last year's auction after KKR picked him for Rs 15.5 crore. The world number one Test bowler will spearhead KKR's pace attack which will also have talented Indian youngsters like Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivaam Mavi, Prasidh Krishna and Sandeep Warrier.



It can be the first ball of the match and he might be hitting over your head for a six! So, I am happy that he is in my team as a coach and that I don't have to bowl to him. He is someone I really admire for his fire."



World number one Test bowler will spearhead KKR's pace attack which will also have talented Indian youngsters like Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivaam Mavi, Prasidh Krishna and Sandeep Warrier.



Another Jamaican, Bolt was introduced to cricket by his father who admired the West Indies fast bowlers Michael Holding and Courtney Walsh.

Cricket and Olympics crossed paths only once, at the Paris 1900 Games, but there are Olympic legends who have had tries with the game which saw its cash-rich T20 tournament, the Indian Premier League (IPL), begin in the United Arab Emirates. Bolt played cricket throughout his school days but his father took the decision of asking his son to step into athletics.