

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2020



WORLD | 6

Belarus Opp. leader leaves for 'safe' Lithuania after rejecting election results



NATION | 4

MP CM Shivraj tests negative for corona, set to end isolation



TABLOID | 9

Pentala Harikrishna reflects on his latest win and talks of his life after marriage

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WINDOWS

Reports: Sanjay Dutt diagnosed with lung cancer

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has been diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer, reports said late Tuesday. It has also been reported that the 61-year-old actor will soon be flying to the US for medical treatment. A close friend of the actor was quoted in a report as saying, "Baba is devastated. He has little children. Fortunately, they are in Dubai right now with their mother. But breaking this awful news to them would be an ordeal." The friend also added that though Sanjay Dutt is pretty shaken he is also certain of being cured. "It is curable. He needs instant and rigorous treatment for which he leaves immediately," the friend was quoted as saying.



Sanjay Dutt



A mother holds her child, dressed as Lord Krishna, during the Janmashtami celebrations in Prayagraj on Tuesday. — PTI

Trump rushed out of WH after shooting

Washington: The US Secret Service abruptly escorted President Donald Trump out of the White House press room in the middle of a briefing on Monday because of a shooting outside the White House. Trump returned to the media room several minutes later and said a person had been shot by law enforcement and taken to the hospital. He said he understood the suspect had been armed. ■ **More on Page 6**

COUNTERPOINT



He is unable to understand online classes... let's arrange online tuitions!

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 27°C
RH: 79%
Rain: 20%

Forecast: Cloudy sky

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Shravana Bahula
Ashtami till 11.14 am
Star: Kritika till 3.24 am
(Thursday)
Variyam: 2.09 pm to 3.55 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11.56 am To 12.47 pm
Rahukalam: 12 noon To 1.30 pm

SUNSET TODAY 7.02 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.49 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.16 PM
MOONSET TODAY 1.15 AM

Daughters have equal right to father's property as sons: SC

New Delhi, Aug. 11: In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that daughters have equal right in parental property as sons even if their father died before the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act 2005 came into force, and observed that "a daughter always remains a loving daughter".

The top court, while overruling its earlier decision, held that "rights under the amendment are applicable to living daughters of living coparceners as on 9-9-2005, irrespective of when such daughters are born".

A three-judge bench, headed by Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, said, "Once a daughter... a son is a son till he is married... until

Once a daughter, always a daughter... a son is a son till he is married... The daughter shall remain a coparcener throughout life, irrespective of whether her father is alive or not... Daughters must be given equal rights as sons.

— SC



► The judgement sets aside a some previous decisions by the Supreme Court which said daughters can have coparcenary right only if both the father and the daughter were alive as on September 9, 2005, when the amendment was notified

he gets a wife. The daughter shall remain a coparcener (one who shares equally with others in inheritance of an undivided joint family property) throughout life, irrespective of whether her father is alive or not... Daughters must be given

equal rights as sons... daughter remains a loving daughter throughout life."

The question that urged the top court to make the remarks today was, "Does the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, which gave equal right to daughters in ancestral

property, have a retrospective effect?" The verdict makes it clear the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect. The judgement is also

crucial as it sets aside a clutch of previous decisions by the Supreme Court that said daughters can have coparcenary right only if both the father and the daughter were alive as on September 9, 2005, when the amendment was notified

The bench, which also included S. Nazeer and M.R. Shah, said on Tuesday the provisions contained in substituted Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, confer the status of coparcener on the daughter born before or after amendment in the same manner as a son with the same rights and liabilities. The court said Tuesday, "The rights can be claimed by the daughter

■ **Turn to Page 4**

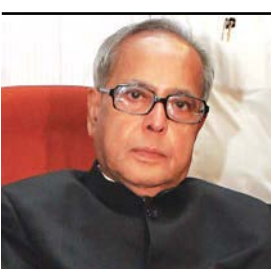
Ex-Prez on ventilator, no improvement after surgery, says hospital

Pranab health worsens, still critical

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

Former President Pranab Mukherjee's health worsened Tuesday and he continues to be critical, on ventilatory support, at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi. Hospital officials said Mr Mukherjee had not shown any improvement since Monday, when he was operated upon for a clot in the brain.

"The former President, who underwent life-saving emergency surgery for brain clot on 10 August 2020, has not shown any improvement and his health status worsened. He remains on ventilatory support," the hospital said in an evening bulletin.



► Hospital officials said Pranab Mukherjee (left) had not shown any improvement since Monday, when he was operated upon for a clot in the brain. The 84-year-old was detected with Covid-19 on Monday.

letin. Mr Mukherjee was President of India from 2012 to 2017. The 84-year-old was detected with Covid-19 on Monday when he was tested prior to his surgery. Mr Mukherjee himself tweeted about his Covid status and urged those who had come in contact with him in the past one week to isolate and get tested.

Congress stalwart before being elected India's 13th President. Prior to this he had held the portfolios of finance, defence, external affairs, commerce, industry and shipping in the Congress and UPA governments. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

He entered politics in 1969 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi brought him into the Rajya Sabha, and he went on to become one of her most trusted advisers, joining her Cabinet in 1973.

Known as the "man for all seasons", he had played a crucial role in getting the controversial India-US nuclear deal through.

'If 10 states can beat Covid, India to gain'

PM talks to CMs, pushes hike in testing

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

As coronavirus deaths continue unabated, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said 10 states, including his native Gujarat, have 80 per cent of active cases, which must be arrested.

Interacting with these states' chief ministers, Mr Modi said there was an urgent need to ramp up testing in Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana. He noted daily tests had reached almost seven lakhs and rising, which helped in identification and containment.

The CMs of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra were also present at the meeting, along with Karnataka's deputy CM. The PM said as these 10 states had 80 per cent active cases, if they could "defeat" the virus, the country would gain.

India, among the world's top 20 countries in coronavirus cases, however, ranks 17th in conducting tests. It is testing only 18,000 people per million, and only Pakistan, Mexico and Bangladesh are behind it in testing terms. Britain and the US test 2.70 lakh and two lakh people per million.

WHO: Rigorous safety data review of 'Sputnik V' needed

Russia launches world's 1st Covid vaccine

Moscow, Aug. 11: Russia on Tuesday declared itself the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine with President Vladimir Putin saying one of his daughters had been inoculated.

Dubbing the vaccine "Sputnik V" after the Soviet-era satellite that was the first launched into space, Russian officials said it provided safe, stable immunity and denounced Western attempts to undermine Moscow's research.



► President Putin said one of his daughters had been inoculated with the vaccine. 'In this sense she took part in the experiment,' Putin said, adding that she had a slight temperature after a second injection and 'that's all'.

The World Health Organisation said its stamp of approval on a Covid-19 vaccine candidate would require a rigorous safety data review.

"We are in close contact with the Russian health authorities and discussions are ongoing with respect to possible WHO pre-qualification of the vaccine."

"This is a reckless and foolish decision," said Francois Balloux of University College London. "Any problem with the Russian vaccination campaign would be disastrous both through its negative effects on health, but also because it would further set back the acceptance of vaccines in the population."

But clinical trials are not yet complete and final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people is to start only on Wednesday. Mr Putin has pushed hard for Russia to be the first to announce a vaccine but many scientists have warned of the risks.

— Agencies

Kerala plane crash pilot cremated



Wife Sushma Sathe, elder son Shantanu Sathe and younger son Dhananjay Sathe pay homage to the mortal remains of captain Deepak Sathe, pilot-in-command of the Air India Express plane that crashed in Kerala last week, during the state funeral at Tagore Nagar crematorium in Mumbai. — **RAJESH JADHAV**

■ **Report on Page 4**

Noted poet Rahat Indori passes away

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, AUG. 11

Noted Urdu poet and Bollywood lyricist Rahat Indori, who used to leave his audience both in tears and splits with his politically biting and sometimes humorous couplets died of cardiac arrest in a hospital in Indore on Tuesday.

He was 70. He was admitted to Sri Aurobindo in Indore on Sunday after testing positive for coronavirus. "He suffered massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday

and could not be saved. He was also suffering from pneumonia, diabetes and high blood pressure. He also suffered damages to his lungs," hospital director Vinod Bhandari said.

One of Indori's popular couplets, which became a sort of anthem during the anti-CAA protests across India, read, "Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein; kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai (Everybody's blood is mingled in this soil; Hindustan does not belong to merely one)." Indeed.



Rahat Indori

■ **More on Page 4**

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR, AUG. 11

I don't crave for any post or hanker after any position. The party has given a position and can take it back. I wanted that the respect be maintained and those who have worked hard in the formation of Congress govt in Rajasthan be rewarded accordingly. — **Sachin Pilot, Cong leader**

If any MLA is annoyed with me, then it is my responsibility to address that. I have kept doing this in the past and will do this now also. — **Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan CM**

Before taking off for Jaisalmer, Mr Gehlot said, "How can I forget MLAs who stayed with me through this time? They will always be in my heart."

The MLAs are feeling "let down and disillusioned", say sources, and senior Congress leaders have been trying to calm them down. Mr Gehlot has decided to stay overnight in Jaisalmer.

The special session of the Rajasthan Assembly is slated to be held later this week. Insiders claim the 19 rebel MLAs, including Mr Pilot, will be present with the government.

PAGE 3

► **I never left Congress, never hankered for any post: Sachin Pilot**

4G facility in 2 J&K dists from Aug. 15

New Delhi, Aug. 11: A special committee looking into the issue of restoring high-speed Internet in Jammu and Kashmir has decided to allow 4G services on a trial basis in one district each in the Jammu and Kashmir divisions after August 15, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Attorney-general K.K. Venugopal told a bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramanna that while the threat perception remained high, a calibrated easing of some restrictions was possible in less sensitive areas. The court then closed the contempt petition in this regard.

— Agencies

IN BRIEF

Fake call centre busted, 7 arrested

New Delhi: Delhi police's cyber cell busted a fake call centre and arrested seven people, who allegedly duped more than 500 people on the pretext of providing them loans in the name of a reputed company offering financial services. The fake call centre was being run from Vikas Nagar. The police claimed that more than 500 people have been duped of over ₹2.5 crore. The police said a probe was initiated after a complaint was received from a man who alleged he was trying to avail a personal loan online and came across a contact number of a reputed firm offering financial services. Upon contacting, the alleged receiver promised him loan at a low interest rate and induced him to deposit more than ₹2 lakh in various bank accounts on some pretext or the other. Subsequently, under ACP Aditya Gautam, a team was formed comprising of SI Sunil Vijender, ASI R. Subramonian, HC Ram Kumar, Neeraj Pandey, Satish, Ct. Rameshwar, Ravi Nandan, Veer Pratap, Rahul, Ashish Mallik, Pankaj, Sushil, Rakesh, Rohit Sirohi, and Ankit Mallik. DCP (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy said, "Irfan and his associates would post ads on various platforms offering a loan. When contacted, they would induce the victim to first deposit money and later win their trust."

Released at least 47 prisoners, says Jain

New Delhi: The Sentence Review Board of Delhi government decided to release at least 47 prisoners, home Minister Satyendra Jain said on Tuesday. Talking to reporters here, Jain, who also heads the board, said that no Pakistani national, terrorist or gangster has been released by the SRB. A senior government official said that a meeting of the board was held last week on the matter. — PTI

■ 1,257 new coronavirus cases reported, total at 1,47,391

City records 8 Covid deaths, lowest in over two months

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

The 'plasma bank' in the national capital has administered plasma to 710 Covid patients and 921 patients recovered from virus infection have donated plasma. The Delhi government claimed that plasma therapy helped streamline the recovery of critically ill Covid patients in the city.

As many as 1,257 new cases and eight deaths were reported in the last 24 hours. Of the total 1,47,391 cases, 10,868 are active and 1,47,391 patients have recovered. The virus-related fatalities have gone up to 4,139. Arvind Kejriwal said that the plasma banks established by the Delhi government in ILBS and LNJP hospitals are providing free of cost convalescent plasma to all hospitals, including the central government, state government, private, and MCD hospitals in Delhi. "Until now, around 710 units of convalescent plasma have

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plasma therapy," he said. After the successful model of administering plasma therapies on Covid patients in Delhi, plasma banks are also established in many states across the country. Nations across the world are also establishing plasma banks to aid the recovery of Covid patients.

Recovered patients belonging to different professions such as police officials, doctors, nurses, army officials, and patients recovered in home isolation have donated plasma at the ILBS hospital. "A total of 921 Covid recovered patients have donated plasma at the ILBS plasma bank, including 86 healthcare workers, 209 entrepreneurs, 8 media personnel, 28 police officials, 50 students, 32 government officials, and 508 recovered people including service men, self-employed professionals, non-residents of Delhi, etc. Around 14 recovered patients have donated plasma more than once," said the chief minister.

been provided, enabling recovery of patients across hospitals in Delhi." According to Mr Kejriwal, the convalescent plasma has been provided to patients of all blood groups, including the rare blood group type AB for which 90 units of AB plasma have been issued. Apart from this, 171 units of A blood group plasma, 180 units of O blood group plasma, and 269 units of B blood group plasma have also been issued for the recovery of Covid patients in the city.

CM pointed out that plasma therapy has shown encouraging results in the recovery of critically ill patients. "To date, 388 units of convalescent plasma have been issued to patients below 60 years of age, and 322 units have been issued to patients above 60 years of age, who are gradually at a high risk of getting critically ill due to Corona. The youngest patient to receive plasma is 18, and the oldest patient is 94 years. Around 522 males and 188 female patients have been administered

NORTH DMC

Govt: Released ₹98cr for 9,000 teachers' salaries

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

The Delhi high court was informed by the Delhi government that it has released ₹98.35 crore to North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NrDMC) for paying salaries to 9,000 teachers, engaged by the civic body, for July and August. The Delhi government also said it has permitted the NrDMC to utilise the unspent balance of ₹1,807.10 lakh of the previous year for the purpose of paying salaries of the teachers.

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

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

SDMC approves redevelopment work of Meharchand Market

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The SDMC on Tuesday approved the redevelopment of Meharchand Market located in Lodhi Colony. According to SDMC's standing committee chairman Raj Dutt Gehlot, the corporation has approved the redevelopment scheme.

"All the existing structures will be demolished and new construction will be started. Under the approved scheme, 90 per cent ground coverage with 350 FAR have been accepted," said Mr Gehlot. He pointed out that the market

may be declared as a 'pedestrian shopping street' due to non-availability of parking facilities in the premises. Apart from collecting conversion charges, the SDMC will get ₹10 crore from the owners for approving the layout plan. Among the conditions for the redevelopment, the individual owner shall get the building plan approved from the building department as per the standard façade control drawing prepared by the SDMC. The other requirements like staircase, size of different components, etc. shall be as per the prevailing master plan.

salaries which were due since March, when the nationwide lockdown was imposed. As ₹98.35 crore has been released by the Delhi government in favour of NrDMC under

the scheme of Primary Education, the civic body shall ensure that salary dues of the teachers from May onwards shall be cleared at the earliest, the bench said.

Cong leader, others booked for flouting Covid-19 rules

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The Delhi Police registered a case against Congress leader Mohammad Usman and others for reportedly violating the social distancing norm in Hauz Qazi area, officials said on Monday. Usman, president of Chandni Chowk district committee of Congress, organised a flag hoisting programme to mark the 78th anniversary of Quit India Movement. Former Congress MP J.P. Aggarwal and Delhi

Congress president Anil Kumar Chawdhary were the chief guests in the programme. The event was also attended by several other Congress leaders, they said.

The police also said that the party did not have requisite permission to hold the event. "They applied for the permission, but it was denied. Despite not having the permission, they organised the event and violated the social distancing norm," police said. — PTI

US scholar killed in road mishap, kin alleges eve-teasing

Sudiksha Bhati

Bulandshahr, Aug. 11: A 20-year-old student from Gautam Buddha Nagar, who was studying in a US college, died in a road crash here, with her family claiming the accident happened as some motorcycle-borne men were allegedly following her two-wheeler and harassing her, officials said Tuesday.

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

maternal uncle's home in Khanpur area here from their house at Deri Scanar village in Gautam Buddha Nagar's Dadri tehsil, the officials said. The eldest among six siblings, she had an envious academic record. "She got admitted

in our school in 2011 in Class 6. In 2018, she scored 98 per cent marks in class 12 examination and topped the district," said Bishwajit Banerjee, the principal of Sikandrabad Vidyagyan School, Bulandshahr.

She then went to win a ₹3.8-crore scholarship from Babson College, (US), and was pursuing a graduation course in entrepreneurship. Her father runs a tea shop. Her family members said she had come to India due to the coronavirus pandemic and was scheduled to go to the US on August 20. They also alleged that while

going to her maternal uncle Monday, she was being harassed by the unidentified persons during the ride which led to the accident, prompting Bulandshahr district administration to order a probe. Additional superintendent of police (City) Atul Kumar Srivastava said, "There was traffic on the route. A Bullet (a Royal Enfield motorcycle) which was moving ahead of them suddenly stopped due to braking, and the two-wheeler of Sudiksha Bhati and her brother rammed into it from behind."

"She suffered injuries in the crash and was taken to a community health centre but she died," he said, citing preliminary information from her brother and others who witnessed the incident. Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet, "There is no fear of the law in UP and women are getting insecure. It appears that the state does not take incidents of eve-teasing seriously." She said that a sweeping change was needed and the "government should adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards crime against women". — PTI



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL ON 13TH AUGUST 2020

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like para- gliders, para motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi upto 15.08.2020.



★ NO HGV / MGV / LGV & INTER STATE BUSES ALLOWED ON RING ROAD (BETWEEN LOOP ISBT BRIDGE RING ROAD TO 'T' POINT NIZAMUDDIN FLY-OVER) FROM MIDNIGHT OF 12-08-2020 TO 11:00Hrs ON 13-08-2020

NO HGVs/LGVs FROM MIDNIGHT OF 12-08-2020 TO 11:00Hrs ON 13-08-2020

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

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

1. Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail.
2. Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail.
3. S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
4. Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
5. Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
6. Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
7. Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
8. Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass.

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 Hrs TO 10.00 Hrs:-

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

North-South Access

Alternative-1:- Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjung Road – Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Road and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.

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

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

East West corridor:-

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

Vikas Marg – DDU Marg – Bhavbhuti Marg – DBG Road – Rani Jhansi Road/Quib Road – Barf Khana – Boulevard Road and vice versa.

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

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

SIGNAGES

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

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

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

2. INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE KHAN ISBT FROM 12.00 midnight TO 11.00 AM ON 13.08.2020.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS:

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 12.00 midnight AM to 11.00 AM on 13.08.2020 between ISBT and Ring Road – NH-24 (NH-9)/NH 'T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take alternative route available.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- 1) Opposite Ramlila Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi.
- 2) At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge.
- 3) At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 10:00 AM

How to Approach/Reach Important places:-

- 1) **Old Delhi Railway Station:**
 - a) From West and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Flyover – Azad Market – Boulevard Road – Mori Gate – Pul Dufferin – S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
 - b) From North: Mori Gate – Pul Dufferin – S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
- 2) **New Delhi Rly. Station:** There is no restriction.
- 3) **ISBT Kashmere Gate**
 - a) From New Delhi and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Road and Rani Jhansi Flyover – Boulevard Road.
 - b) From North Delhi: There is no restriction.
- 4) **J.P.N. Hospital:** There is no restriction.
- 5) **Kasturba Hospital:** Ajmeri Gate – Ajmeri Bazar – Chowk Hauz Quazi – Chawri Bazar – Chowk Barshabullah – Urdu Bazar.

IMPORTANT NOTE

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

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

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

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL Download App from   24 Hours Traffic Helpline 011-25844444/1095 / For immediate Help Call 112 to Share Information call 1090

SHORT TAKES

Man holds mother hostage in Puri dist

Bhubaneswar: A man held his mother hostage to evade arrest after attacking and injuring his elder brother at Laxminarayanpur village in Odisha's Puri district late on Tuesday evening over a land dispute. According to the police, accused Dilip Rath (42) attacked his elder brother Niranjana (50) and sister-in-law Jharana Rani (45) with a knife as they fought over the ownership of a piece of homestead land. The couple sustained grievous injuries in the incident and was admitted to a private hospital for treatment. High drama unfolded as Dilip held his mother Manika Rath (70) hostage by locking her inside the house when the police tried to arrest him. Dilip threatened the cops to kill the elderly woman and himself if they used force to arrest him. The local village head assured Dilip to resolve the dispute by mutual negotiation, after which he opened the door and came outside.

₹1.3cr compensation to ex-Isro scientist

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government on Tuesday handed over ₹1.30 crore compensation to former Isro scientist Nambi Narayanan, who was falsely implicated in the 1994 espionage case. The compensation has been given for settling the case filed by 78-year-old Narayanan against the government in a sub-court here seeking enhanced damages for his illegal arrest and harassment. Sources in the chief minister's office confirmed to PTI about the payment of the amount. The government had earlier handed over ₹50 lakh to Mr Narayanan three weeks after the Supreme Court ordered the relief holding that he was "arrested unnecessarily, harassed and subjected to mental cruelty", besides the ₹10 lakh recommended by the National Human Rights Commission. The espionage case hit headlines in 1994. — PTI

I never left Congress, never hankered for any post: Pilot

'Have differences with Gehlot on policy issue, not personal ones'

After being the cause of rebellion, Sachin Pilot, the former deputy CM of Rajasthan, is back into the Congress fold. In an interview to ASHHAR KHAN, he outlines his issues and reasons for his "ghar wapasi"...

Q. What suddenly changed for you that you had to do a "ghar wapasi"?

A. Well the assertion made by you is wrong. I had never left the party. I had always maintained that I am with the party. There were certain issues that were not being addressed so it was incumbent upon me to raise these issues in a proper party forum and I was just doing that. I had categorically stated that I am not joining any other party. I have never said anything against the party or the leadership of the party. I did raise certain points that I am entitled to I feel there is nothing wrong in it.



Congress leader Sachin Pilot and party MLAs at his residence in Jaipur on Tuesday. — PTI

Q. Then why did the party sack you from the post of deputy CM and the party state chief?

A. Lets be clear on one thing. I have never hankered after any post. Posts come and go, it's the truth and principles that are important in my scheme of things. For the last six-and-a-half years I was the state unit chief. Out of these, five years we were in the Opposition. We protested against the then BJP government. Did dharnas, yatras,

were arrested and cases were foisted against us. It was not me alone, the entire Congress was responsible for the ouster of the previous government. Now when we are in power and our party workers are being ignored, how can I let that happen? It was necessary that I raise their voice in the party forum.

Q. There have been several allegations against you. Infact CM Ashok Gehlot had some very harsh words for you.

A. Name-calling and ascribing motives is very easy in politics. Mr Gehlot is a very seasoned leader of the party. I have differences with him on policy issues but not personally. My issues were what we had promised before coming to power... Certainly the issues were not addressed and there was acrimony that is why we had to come to Delhi and raise these issues.

Q. What were the issues you were upset about?

A. As I said the workers who were with us were being slighted by the government. The promises that we had made to the people were not being fulfilled and there was no course correction. I am also sad because of the way a sedition notice was given and then withdrawn within a month. There were several other issues also like lack of communication between the organisation and the government

4G services on trial basis in 2 J&K dists after Aug 15, SC told

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

In a relaxation of curbs on 4G Internet service in J&K, the Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that there would be a "carefully calibrated easing of 4G Internet restrictions" on trial basis in two districts of Jammu and Kashmir after August 15 subject to "strict monitoring".

The two districts — one in Jammu region and other in Kashmir — that will see the return of speedier 4G services will not be in any area adjoining international border/LoC and will be those which have low intensity of terrorist activities.

The lifting of curbs on 4G services — that is in force since March 26 this year — will be for two months after which it will be reviewed.

J&K administration by its March 26 order had temporarily suspended telecom services restricting the internet speed to 2G and providing Net connectivity only through Mac-binding.

After drugs, illegal fish trade on rise along Bangla border

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, AUG. 11

After the smuggling of cattle, gold and drugs, a new trend of illegal fish trade worth several lakhs across the India-Bangladesh border has been unearthed by the Border Security Force (BSF) in West Bengal in the past one week.

At around 5.10 pm on Monday, the BSF jawans of 112 battalion at border outpost Tarali in North 24 Parganas under Sector Kolkata spotted a gang of eight men carrying some

plastic drums and approaching towards the Indian side from Bangladesh. BSF (South Bengal Frontier) stated on Tuesday.

When the BSF team challenged the gang to stop, the smugglers fled by taking the advantage of jute field and built up area. But they left behind the drums. Four drums were found lying by the BSF team at the spot. They were filled with Singi fish larvae of 1.8 lakhs in quantity which has a total worth of ₹7.20 lakhs, the BSF added.

Amid map dispute, India & Nepal will hold talks Aug. 17

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

At a time when Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli is perceived to be completely leaning towards China at the expense of India, a crucial meeting will be held between the Indian ambassador in Kathmandu and the Nepalese foreign secretary in the Nepalese capital on August 17 to "review ongoing bilateral economic and development projects".

Indian government sources confirmed the meeting would take place on August 17, just hours after reports by the Nepalese media in this regard but at the same time pointed out that such meetings are "part of a regular and periodic interaction" between the two countries.

Ties between India and its Himalayan neighbour had soured in the past few months after Nepal went ahead and unveiled a new map that showed

that showed portions of territory in Uttarakhand —

Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipu Lekh — as part of Nepal. New Delhi had objected to that move. Nepalese PM Oli had also recently made certain controversial observations regarding Ayodhya and the birthplace of Lord Ram.

But the meeting on August 17 is not expected to discuss the discord between the two countries on the new Nepalese map.

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (Elect. & Auto)/RZ & NZ
ZONAL OFFICE BUILDING SECTOR-05, ROHINI, DELHI-110085
NIT No. EE(Elect. & Auto)/RZ&NZ/2020-21/TC/4 Dated: 29.07.2020
DUEL BID NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Issue of Tender Document From : 29.07.2020 17:00
Issue of Tender Document To : 18.08.2020 15:30
Tender Closing Date and Time : 18.08.2020 15:31
Technical bid Open Date and Time : 19.08.2020 15:00
Financial bid opening : 24.08.2020 11:00 (Tentative)

For ON-LINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER-
www.tenderwizard.com/ NORTHDMCETENDER. The Executive Engineer (Elect. & Auto)/RZ & NZ on behalf of Commissioner, North invited on-line item rate tenders in dual bid format for the under mentioned work from the firm dealing in line and will be received as per time table. The firms dealing in line are only eligible to purchase the tender subject to the condition that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of purchase of tender.

S.N. 1, Name of work: Hiring of 10 Nos. Tipper Trucks for lifting and transportation of garbage from all Wards of Narela Zone under the Jurisdiction of North DMC for 3 months, **Estimated cost (INR):** 78,06,730/-, **Head of Account:** 61-1064, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,51,600/-, **Time of Completion:** 03 Months, **Cost of Tender:** Rs. 1000/-, **Rates hold good for:** 180 days from the date of opening of financial bids.

The complete detail of work is available at www.tenderwizard.com/ NORTHDMCETENDER for at the office of the undersigned.

R.O. No. 18/DPI/North DMC/2020-21 E.E.(Elect. & Auto)/RZ&NZ

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M)
Technical Laboratory Campus, Ghaziipur, Delhi
No.EE-E&M/EDMC/ENGG/2020-21/109 Dated: 10/8/20
CORRIGENDUM

In view of pre-bid meeting held on 06/08/2020 and queries raised, the revised schedule with extended date of Press NIT No EE-E&M/EDMC/ENGG/2020-21/06 dated: 21/07/2020 (Tender No 318995) are as detailed below:-

Purchase and Download of Tender Document Start Date & Time: Original: 21-07-2020 at 1501 Hrs, Revised: 21-07-2020 at 1501 Hrs
Bid Preparation and Hash Submission Start Date & Time: Original: 21-07-2020 at 1501 Hrs, Revised: 21-07-2020 at 1501 Hrs
Purchase and Download of Tender Document Expiry Date & Time: Original: 04-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs, Revised: 17-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs
Bid Preparation and Hash Submission Expiry Date & Time: Original: 11-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs, Revised: 20-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs
Technical & Financial Lock Start Date and Time: Original: 11-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs, Revised: 20-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs
Technical & Financial Lock Expiry Date & Time: Original: 11-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs, Revised: 21-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs
Re-Encryption of Technical Bid & Financial Bid Start Date & Time: Original: 11-08-2020 at 1701 Hrs, Revised: 21-08-2020 at 1701 Hrs
Re-Encryption of Technical Bid & Financial Bid Expiry Date & Time: Original: 14-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs, Revised: 24-08-2020 up to 1500 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bid Start Date & Time: Original: 14-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs, Revised: 24-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bid Expiry Date & Time: Original: 14-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs, Revised: 24-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs
Opening of Financial Bid Start Date & Time (Tentatively): Original: 17-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs, Revised: 26-08-2020 at 1501 Hrs
Opening of Financial Bid Expiry Date & Time (Tentatively): Original: 17-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs, Revised: 26-08-2020 up to 1700 Hrs

Kindly upload the revised schedule on the MCD website <http://mcdetenders.com>

Sd/-
R.O. No. 37/DPI/EDMC/2020-21 Ex. Engineer (E&M)
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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

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

Prohibited Items	वर्जित वस्तुएं
Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण	Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण
Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें	Cigarettes, Bidi, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर
Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस	Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, इत्र, स्प्रे
Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरेकार्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी3 प्लेयर	Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडिकैम	Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेज़र, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कंप्यूटर, टैब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

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

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking.
कृप्या तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

Please be alert to your surroundings.
कृप्या अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

PUBLIC NOTICE

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly **till 15.08.2020** vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.
- Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

SHORT TAKES

Two sisters found dead in MP well

Seoni: Two sisters, one of them a minor, allegedly committed suicide after their family found out about their love affairs in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, police said on Tuesday. Bodies of the victims, aged 16 and 18 years, were found floating in a well at Kondra village, said Ishwar Patle, in-charge of Aadegaon police station. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the boyfriend of one of the victims had sent a message meant for the girl to her father's phone, which was also seen by the other members of the family, he said. The victims panicked when they got to know that their family had found out about the affairs and allegedly left their home on Monday evening, the official said. — *PTI*

32 Covid deaths in Punjab in 24 hrs

Chandigarh: Punjab on Tuesday reported a record 32 fatalities due to Covid-19, pushing the death toll to 636, while 1,002 fresh cases took the state's infection tally to 25,889. Eleven fatalities were reported in Ludhiana, four in Sangrur, three each in Amritsar, Patiala, Jalandhar and Mohali and one each in Gurdaspur, Bathinda, Kapurthala, Muktsar and Tarn Taran, according to a medical bulletin. Among districts which reported new cases are Ludhiana (252), Patiala (118), Amritsar (118), Mohali (83), Hoshiarpur (77), Pathankot (64), Jalandhar (54) and Bathinda (38). A total of 1,055 coronavirus patients were discharged after recovering from the infection. — *PTI*

CRPF jawan booked for rape in Tripura

Agartala: A case was registered against a CRPF personnel for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl repeatedly for seven months, as a result of which she became pregnant, in Tripura's Unakoti district, police said on Tuesday. The girl had filed a police complaint on Sunday accusing the 35-year-old Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan, who is her neighbour, of raping her repeatedly for seven months in her village in Kaliashahar sub-division, they said. The accused, serving in the 124th battalion of the CRPF at Salbagan near Agartala, was booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act, Kaliashahar women police station in-charge Rinki Debbarma said. — *PTI*

BJP worker shot dead in Baghpat

Baghpat: A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) functionary was shot dead in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district on Tuesday morning, police said. Sanjay Khokhar (52), former district unit president of the BJP, was out for a morning walk when the incident took place, they said. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath condoled Khokhar's death and directed officials to take action against the guilty within 24 hours. "Sanjay Khokhar, a resident of Tilwara area of the district, was going towards his tubewell in the morning when he was shot at by some criminals," said the police.

Daughters have equal right to property: SC

■ **Continued from Page 1** born earlier with effect from September 9, 2005, with savings as provided in Section 6(1) as to the disposition or alienation, partition or testamentary disposition which had taken place before December 20, 2004. Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be living as on September 9, 2005." The apex court said the appeals on the issue were pending before different high courts and subordinate courts and the matters have already been delayed due to legal imbroglio caused by conflicting decisions. "The daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality conferred upon them by Section 6. Hence, we request that the pending matters be decided, as far as possible, within six months," the bench said. — *Agencies*

■ Sooraj Pancholi submits application to cops

ED grills Sushant sister, friend over laundering

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday recorded the statement of first family member of deceased actor Sushant Singh Rajput in connection with the money laundering probe. The ED questioned Meetu Singh, Rajput's sister. The questioning comes amidst his former manager Shruti Modi's statement that Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty had changed most of the staffers of the actor for unknown reasons. The Central agency also grilled Rajput's flatmate Siddharth Pithani again on Tuesday. He and Modi landed at the ED office around 11 am whereas the actor's sister reached there to record her statement post noon, officials said. This is the second round of questioning Pithani, who was present in the Bandra flat when Rajput hung himself to death.

"Other family members of the deceased actor will also be summoned soon and the Chakraborty family may be questioned again," said ED officials. Meanwhile, actor Sooraj Pancholi submitted an application to Mumbai Police objecting him being linked to the suicide. The application was handed over to the Versova police stating he is being defamed on various social media platforms. The officials will take further action based on the findings.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also

SC reserves order on issue of jurisdiction

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The Supreme court on Tuesday reserved order whether Mumbai police or the Central Bureau of Investigation will probe the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput who committed suicide on June 14, 2020. Justice Hrishikesh Roy reserving the order gave the Centre, Maharashtra and Bihar governments, actress Rhea Chakraborty's, late actor's father Krishna Kishore Singh time till tomorrow to file written note on their submissions.

The hearing, that lasted over two hours, witnessed Mumbai police raising the issue of jurisdiction. Bihar government and K.K. Singh alleging bias against Mumbai police and Centre contending that there is a strong case for an independent probe by a central agency.

Hammering the point of jurisdiction of Mumbai police to investigate the case, senior counsel

Abhishek Manu Singhvi appearing for Maharashtra government said, "You may have screaming headlines, screaming anchors, comments from everywhere but that does not change the law. The court should look at the law. It's not about Mumbai police and Bihar police. It's about federalism and jurisdiction."

Referring to the Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, that mandates prior consent of the State government for CBI taking over the investigation of a case, Singhvi said, "The only exception to state consent is if and when the Supreme Court of India comes to a conclusion that there are 'extraordinary circumstances' then it (Supreme Court) can transfer investigation to CBI." Senior counsel Maninder Singh appearing for Bihar government said, "It cannot be said that Bihar does not have territorial jurisdiction to investigate the case."

recorded statement of Rajput's father KK Singh. The Bihar police's case is based on the father's statement alleging that Chakraborty was the reason his son committed suicide. The ED is yet to ascertain laundering and is probing Chakraborty's declared income between

₹14 lakh and ₹18 lakh for last two years while her investments being higher by several lakhs. The actress has told the ED that the 500 sqft residential property in Khar (east) was bought using her money and that she had not taken any monetary help from Rajput.

‘CBI must probe Loya, Munde deaths’

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Fuming over the Centre's decision to hand over the Sushant Singh Rajput death case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Shiv Sena has demanded that the deaths of BJP leader Gopinath Munde and justice BH Loya should also be investigated by the central agency.

Former Union minister and Sena leader Arvind Sawant said, "Even we demand CBI inquiry into the death of Gopinath Munde and Justice Loya. Let the truth come out in



Munde



Loya

these cases." "Demand for CBI inquiry is not made very often. It's not right to conduct a probe just because someone has demanded it. There is some procedure, which needs to be followed for carrying out a CBI probe. But an attempt is being made to undermine the Constitution, which is based on the federal struc-

ture of governance," he said.

Mumbai police was investigating Sushant Singh's death case impartially. But the decision to hand over the case to CBI is an attempt to demoralise them, Mr Sawant added. Foul play was suspected in the death of Mr Loya, who was hearing the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case of Gujarat involving current Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mr Munde had died in a road accident in 2014, but a US hacker claimed he was murdered as he was aware of EVM hacking.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil has slammed the Shiv Sena saying it's demand of a CBI probe into the deaths of Mr Munde and Mr Loya was due to its confused state.

"There is no connection between the Sushant Singh's case and these two deaths. There is no point in again raking up the Justice Loya issue, which is already over. The entire world knows that Mr Munde had died in a road accident," he added.

Rajput, 34, was found dead in his apartment in Bandra on June 14.

Assam Accord Clause 6: Aasu releases 'confidential' report

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, AUG. 11

Bogged down by delay by New Delhi in taking note of recommendations of the high-powered committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, the All Assam Students' Union (Aasu), which was a part of the Centre's high-level committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, here on Tuesday released the confidential report, saying that the public has the right to know the contents.

The Aasu leaders and another committee member and senior advocate Nilay Dutta, who is also the advocate general of Arunachal Pradesh, told reporters that they are releasing it only because the "government is just sitting idle". Regretting

■ **CLAUSE 6** of the Assam Accord proposes to provide constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, to protect and preserve the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people

that it has been more than five months since the high power committee submitted the report but there is simply no action from the government, AASU chief advisor Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya said, "People are asking us daily what happened to our report. We have finally decided to release it as the people have the right to know."

The Clause 6 of the Assam Accord proposes to provide constitutional,

legislative and administrative safeguards, to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

The committee in its recommendation has also proposed that those who are living in Assam since January 1951 and their descendants should be treated as "Assamese". It is significant that since the signing of the Assam Accord the definition of Assamese people has been the bone of contention.

The high-level committee on the implementation of Clause 6, headed by Justice (ret'd) B K Sharma, had submitted the report on February 25, to chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal for handing it over to Union home minister Amit Shah.

For 1st time, women soldiers posted along LoC



Indian Army's women soldiers patrol at Sadhna Pass in Kupwara district on Monday. For the first time, women soldiers have been deployed along the LOC in order to keep a check on weapons and drug smuggling in the area.

— *PTI*

Pilot cremated with state honours

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Wing Commander Deepak Sathe (ret'd), pilot-in-command of the Air India Express plane that crashed at the Kozhikode airport in Kerala last week, was cremated on Tuesday with state honours. The last rites were performed at the Tagore Nagar electric crematorium in Vikhroli in the presence of his relatives, friends and the BMC mayor Kishori Pednekar. The number of people allowed to attend the last rites was restricted in view of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Wing Commander Sathe (ret'd.) was showered with flowers and chants of Amar Rahe ahead of his

KERALA CRASH

cremation. The Maharashtra government had decided to accord a state funeral to the pilot and said his life shall inspire young pilots.

Wing Commander Sathe (ret'd.) lost his life in the ill-fated plane crash at Kozhikode last week. The flight from Dubai had 190 people, including a six-member crew, on board and amidst heavy rains the Boeing 737 failed to come to halt overshooting the tabletop runway and landing in a 35 feet deep ravine. The accident killed 18 people, including both the pilots.

The armed forces arranged for transfer of Wing Commander Sathe

(ret'd.) mortal remains that was flown to Mumbai on Sunday. It was kept at the Air India facility near Terminal 2 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji international airport for some time before being taken to Bhabha Hospital in Bandra.

On Tuesday morning, the body was brought from the hospital to the family home in Chandivali. Residents of the housing complex paid tributes to the pilot. Some were seen saluting him from their balconies. The pilot's father, Colonel Vasant Sathe (Ret'd), 87 and mother Neela, 83, were present at their Chandivali residence. They reside in Nagpur and reached Mumbai on Monday.

Wide-body jets barred by DGCA

New Delhi: The DGCA has barred the operation of wide-body aircraft at Kozhikode airport this monsoon "out of abundant caution", a senior official said, adding that the aviation regulator will conduct a special audit of airports that receive heavy rains. The decision was taken four days after a narrow-body B737 aircraft of Air India Express with 190 people on board overshoot the runway and crashed. Asked about the duration of the ban, the DGCA official said, "No date has been fixed as of now."

CHHATTISGARH ASSEMBLY

Glass partitions, sanitisers to keep members safe

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, AUG. 11

The Chhattisgarh Assembly is set to have a new look when it sits for its monsoon session, scheduled to commence on August 25, amid coronavirus pandemic.

Erection of glass partitions between MLAs and provision of sanitization bottles and hankies on the desk of the each member of the house are some of the measures mullied by the Chhattisgarh government to protect the lawmakers during the session, a senior officer of the state assembly secretariat said on Tuesday.

"The seats of the MLAs will be divided by glass partitions. Periodic sanitization of the house will be done during the session to protect the members from the virus contraction", Chhattisgarh assembly secretary C S Gangrade said. "Modalities for holding the monsoon session of the assembly are still being worked out", sources in the Chhattisgarh assembly secretariat told this newspaper.

Among the measures proposed to be undertaken during the session are provision of sanitisation bottles and handkerchiefs on the desk of each member of the house for the use by the lawmakers to

cover their faces when they feel like sneezing or coughing, sources added. There would be regulation of outsiders in the assembly during the period.

The Assembly staff essential for conducting the proceedings of the house would only be allowed to attend office.

"The press and visitor galleries will remain closed during the session", sources said.

"It is estimated that the state government would incur an additional Rs 20 lakh to make the house virus-proof during the session", a senior officer of the assembly secretariat said.

Incidentally, Madhya Pradesh assembly had to take an unprecedented step of cancelling its monsoon session, convened on July 20, to protect the members from contracting the virus.

The budget session of Chhattisgarh Assembly in March this year was adjourned midway following nationwide lockdown induced by a coronavirus outbreak that was enforced on March 25.

As on Tuesday, Chhattisgarh has reported 12,625 coronavirus positive cases and 99 deaths.

Raipur has topped the chart of coronavirus positive cases in Chhattisgarh recording 4100 confirmed cases. The capital city has recorded 45 deaths.

Indori, whose poem became anti-CAA anthem, dies

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, AUG. 11

Noted Urdu poet and Bollywood lyricist Rahat Indori, who used to leave his audience in splits with his humours but biting couplets, died of cardiac arrest in a hospital in Indore on Tuesday. He was 70.

He was admitted to Aurobindo Hospital in Indore on Sunday after testing positive for coronavirus.

"He suffered massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday and could not be saved. He was also suffering from



► **EARLIER THIS YEAR**, the poet's words had transformed into a rallying cry as anti-CAA protests erupted across the country. The line, "*Kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai,*" taken from ghazal *Agar khilaaf hain hone do* gave a voice and purpose to dissent.

pneumonia, diabetes and high blood pressure. He also suffered damages to his lungs", hospital director Vinod Bhandari said.

Indori who had retired as professor of Urdu literature in Ahilya University in Indore a decade ago was also a painter.

He had penned many Bollywood songs.

He had huge followers across India and used to sway his audience with his hilarious but sharp couplets reflecting the current social and political situations in the country.

Before being admitted to the hospital, he had informed his social media followers of his contraction of coronavirus in a twitter post and appealed to them not to call him or his home to know about his health condition.

One of his popular couplets read, "*Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein; kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai* (Everybody's blood is mingled in this soil; Hindustan does not belong to merely one).

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi paid a poetic tribute to him with a couplet in a Twitter post.

THE ASIAN AGE

12 AUGUST 2020

Truce in Raj Cong, but rift still needs solution

The defusing of the rebellion within the Rajasthan Congress after former deputy CM Sachin Pilot met Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi Monday, days ahead of Friday's Assembly session, is welcome news for the party, which feared the loss of yet another state government due to the BJP's mischief. But while the first signs of a possible rapprochement are evident, the rift between Mr Pilot and chief minister Ashok Gehlot is far from over, and the contours of a peace deal still need to be worked out, for which Congress president Sonia Gandhi has set up a three-member committee. Mr Pilot is said to have demanded he be reinstated as state party chief and made chief minister in the last year of the current government's term. That is extremely unlikely, given that a large majority of MLAs want Mr Gehlot as CM. The chief minister, in turn, who is clearly not happy at these developments, has advised the Congress high command to accommodate Mr Pilot in a central role in New Delhi. It was suggested he be made an AICC general secretary, but it doesn't seem this will be acceptable to Mr Pilot.

For the BJP, the developments in Rajasthan are a wake-up call — that there are limits to its ability to bring down elected governments and come to power through the backdoor

For the BJP, the developments in Rajasthan are a wake-up call — that there are limits to its ability to bring down elected governments and come to power through the backdoor. After its successful dislodging of the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh earlier this year, with the help of another Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, and several other such instances in the past, the saffron party had hoped for a repeat in Rajasthan, cashing in on the rebellion by Sachin Pilot (who had always insisted, though, that he had no plans to join the BJP). But Mr Pilot, who initially claimed that 30 Congress MLAs were backing him, finally saw he had no more than 18 legislators in his camp, which was insufficient to dislodge the Gehlot government. State BJP leader and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who was allegedly caught on tape while conspiring to wean away MLAs, ended up with egg all over his face. The role played by Rajasthan's governor Kalraj Mishra in the whole affair — including impeding the CM's bid to hold an Assembly session to prove his majority — also clearly shows that the BJP has not given up trying to misuse the Raj Bhavans to further its political ends. The Congress and other Opposition-led state governments need to watch out in the months ahead.

Mr Gehlot, who had an abrasive relationship with his former deputy all through their government's first 18 months, said Tuesday he would listen to the grievances of all party MLAs, including the rebels, and try to address them, but was opaque about whether he would try to repair ties with Mr Pilot, against whom he had used extremely harsh language in the past few weeks, calling him a “*nikamma*”, among other things. And while the younger leader can be faulted for much of the friction between the two, the senior leader too should share some of the blame. Political differences, especially in the same party, cannot be resolved by bringing in the police. That said, the CM may have been right to suspect the BJP of plotting with some Congress leaders to bring down his government, but that needed to be handled politically.

For the BJP, the developments in Rajasthan are a wake-up call — that there are limits to its ability to bring down elected governments and come to power through the backdoor. After its successful dislodging of the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh earlier this year, with the help of another Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, and several other such instances in the past, the saffron party had hoped for a repeat in Rajasthan, cashing in on the rebellion by Sachin Pilot (who had always insisted, though, that he had no plans to join the BJP). But Mr Pilot, who initially claimed that 30 Congress MLAs were backing him, finally saw he had no more than 18 legislators in his camp, which was insufficient to dislodge the Gehlot government. State BJP leader and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who was allegedly caught on tape while conspiring to wean away MLAs, ended up with egg all over his face. The role played by Rajasthan's governor Kalraj Mishra in the whole affair — including impeding the CM's bid to hold an Assembly session to prove his majority — also clearly shows that the BJP has not given up trying to misuse the Raj Bhavans to further its political ends. The Congress and other Opposition-led state governments need to watch out in the months ahead.

How green is this valley!

With the deadline of India's first commercial coal auction affixed on September 29, the Narendra Modi government is once again well on the path of destroying its own ecological riches and jeopardising its carbon credits. The auction initially put on sale 18 coal blocks spread over Hasdeo Arand's 4.2 lakh acres in Chhattisgarh. Among bidders are the usual suspects — the Adani Group, despite stray contrarian assurances. It is as if a plutocratic insurgency is all set to stamp out the ancient forests, at incalculable human, social and environmental costs. India is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Located in the valley of a Mahanadi tributary, Hasdeo forest sits on an estimated five billion tonnes of coal. It is also home to 86 species of trees, 51 species of medicinal plants, 34 species of mammals, 14 species of reptiles, 111 species of birds and 29 fish species. Already, mining operations are on in two coal blocks — Parsa East and Kete Basan, and Chotia — since ministry approval in 2011. Proposals concerning four other blocks are being considered.

The mining has hurt livelihoods of the local population — consisting chiefly of Gond who subsist on collection and sale of forest produce. That has depleted drastically. Processing of dirty coal, the only kind available here, causes severe air and water pollution, in the absence of regulation, leading to climate and health hazards, including lung cancer. The people now face the nightmare of displacement en masse, in lieu of a meagre, one-time compensation. The Lemru elephant reserve coming up on a small, unmined area of the forest — there have been 325 human and 70 pachyderm deaths due to conflict in the last five years — will cause more displacement. The reserve itself defeats its own purpose — it is to be located safely away from the proposed mines and will act as a veritable prison for the animals.

In its eagerness to usher in private investment, the Centre has kept the revenue share of the state governments dramatically low. This was perhaps one reason why at least four states — West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh — opposed the auction. Five coal blocks that belong to Hasdeo forest have been dropped from the auction, thanks to the effort of the Chhattisgarh government. It is a short breather.

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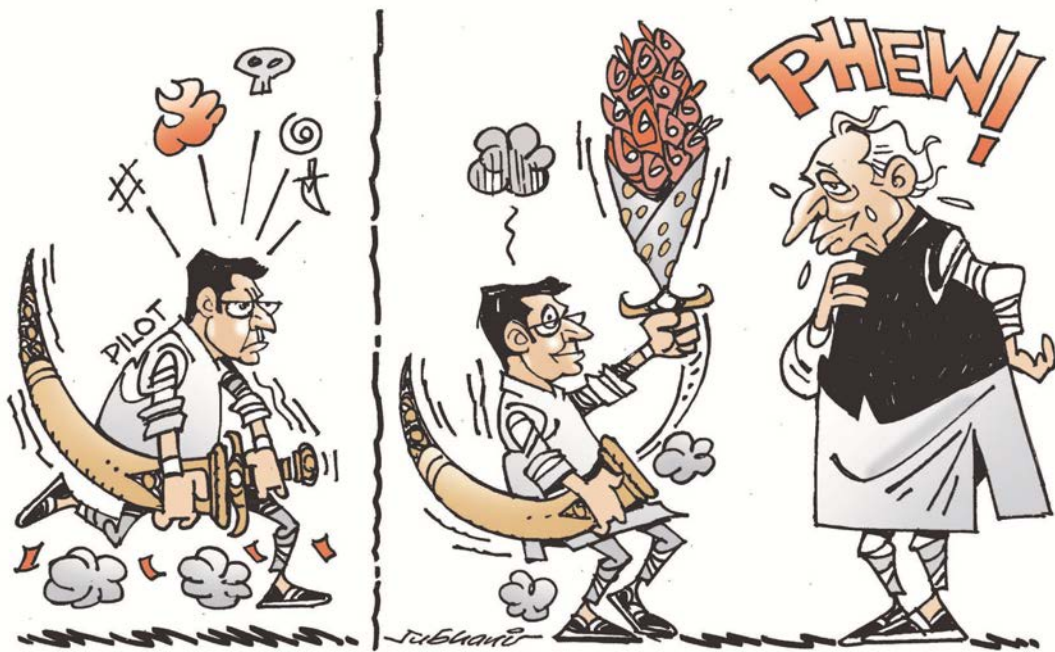
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Subhani



Afghans face turmoil: Back to a dark future



N.V. Subramanian

Afghanistan is becoming the Balkans of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and there is almost no one of Otto von Bismarck's sagacity and vision to prevent the place from blowing up and damaging the neighbourhood. April 2021 is the last month of the American and allied troops' occupation of Afghanistan and there is little likelihood of a change of plans regardless of whether Donald Trump or Joe Biden wins the US presidential elections in November.

Countries sharing a border with Afghanistan, which include the Central Asian states, Iran, Pakistan and China, have an equal stake in keeping the situation from blowing up, as do countries and big powers that don't like the United States, Russia, India, Turkey and the Arab nations. Afghanistan has never known unbroken central rule as it is usually defined, and it doesn't have a strong centralising army, like another xenophobic state, Myanmar. Tribes and warlords determine the power structure on the ground and this phenomenon often defies the Islamic impulses.

Afghanistan has an excess of local and foreign actors compounding its misery. Its chief local and foreign actors, respectively, are the Taliban and the United States. Afghanistan is America's longest war and next year will be its inglorious 20th anniversary. Although Washington's objectives of its post-9/11 intervention were met with the dislodgement of the Taliban government and the ouster of Al Qaeda from all power structures, the US returned from the distraction of the Iraq War with new nation-building pledges for Afghanistan, in which India has so far spent \$3 billion. The objectives of foreign inter-

ventions amended and enlarged mid-course usually end in stalemate.

The situation with the principal actor opposed to the United States, the Taliban, is equally fraught and troublesome. Although it controls 20 per cent of Afghanistan, contests another 50 per cent with the international coalition and Afghan forces, twice has held populous Kunduz city in the north, and is close to encircling six to eight other cities whose road links it can sever at will, its future still depends on the gains from the February 2020 peace agreement with the US.

The Taliban's hardliners were opposed to the peace deal, which binds it and allies like Al Qaeda, the semi-autonomous anti-India, pro-Pakistan Haqqani Taliban of Sirajuddin Haqqani, etc, from attacking the US and its allies. One of the biggest beneficiaries of disenchantment in the Taliban is the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), originally constituted from leaders of the Pakistan Taliban facing Pakistan Army persecution. In the months leading up to the peace deal, the US and Afghan forces on one side and Taliban on the other decimated IS(K), claiming no collusion. Since the Taliban must sustain violence against the US and Afghan forces and others generally considered “outsiders” to preserve its raison d'être, it has, so to speak, outsourced bloodletting and mayhem to IS(K), with the Haqqani Taliban acting as intermediaries. The Jalalabad jailbreak on August 3, while attributed to IS(K), benefited Taliban inmates the most. IS(K) attacks on a Kabul gurdwara and a maternity ward were particularly gruesome but were, however, not meant to help the Taliban cause entirely. IS(K) mirrors its mother organisation, Islamic State of Iraq and Levant,

by making extreme violence an end in itself to gain influence, strength and resources. This has proved a magnet for disenchanted Taliban hardliners. The key test ahead is if the United States leaves a residual counter-terrorism force of upto 5,000 after the April 2021 withdrawal. A sort of guarantee for the peace deal, it can also increase the Taliban's problems with its hardliners to the benefit of IS(K).

Between the Taliban and the IS(K), most states affected by Afghanistan's instabilities prefer the Taliban, which is an insurgent movement with no revolutionary ambitions abroad. These grudging supporters include the leading powers, the US, Russia, China, the Central Asian Republics, Iran, Pakistan, etc. Although Indian agencies have contacts with the Taliban through Iran, it doesn't translate to meaningful political traction, this being scuppered by Pakistan's closeness to the insurgent outfit, and the Taliban's own supportive role in the IC-814 hijack. The Haqqani Taliban through its violent attack on Indian interests and assets in Afghanistan guided by Pakistan's ISI also makes accommodation with the Taliban remote for now.

On the other hand, India's support of the Afghan government and its training of Afghan defence forces makes it anathema to the Taliban. Nevertheless, the IS(K) represents a bigger challenge, with recruits from India and with a chapter dedicated to terrorism in India. Once the US departs, India's non-military investments of \$3 billion in Afghanistan will go up in smoke and India's security interests will come under severe

strain. It is unlikely that the isolated civilian government with a depleted military can withstand Taliban pressure for long. If this is accompanied by an ascendancy of Pakistan, it can provide no comfort to New Delhi. Between a rock and a hard place is what confronts India in Afghanistan.

The situation of other states is, however, only slightly better. The United States has to keep an eagle eye on Afghanistan in the foreseeable future with the possibility of repeat military deployments which are politically controversial. Russia, China and Iran have to tolerate a hardline Taliban in their backyard because the alternative of IS(K) is unacceptable. Having spearheaded the Islamic “revolution” in the 1990s, the Taliban cannot go soft and still hope to retain its radical base which is ever ready to switch to the IS(K). The last of its hardcore 400 fighters in Afghan government captivity are to be released after US threats of aid cuts and this only makes the situation more precarious.

All of Afghanistan's neighbours and near-neighbours have deepened partnerships with one another to manage the new flux after the US withdrawal, except for India whose differences with Pakistan over Kashmir and now China on the border question stand in the way. Once a conduit for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and quiet manoeuvres with the Taliban, Iran has also moved away over differences over compliances with US sanctions and internal issues related to Muslims and Kashmir. Busy retrenching, the US has nothing to offer except vague promises of protecting Indian interests. The only big player left is Russia, with which India has a defence suppliers' relationship after the United States displaced it as the most valued political partner. All at once, history is being turned back 20 years and the prospects are dark.

The writer is an analyst and journalist based in New Delhi

One of the biggest beneficiaries of disenchantment in the Taliban is the Islamic State-Khorasan, originally constituted from leaders of the Pakistan Taliban facing Pakistan Army persecution

LETTERS

GODS MUST EVOLVE

With regard to Pavan K. Varma's “Will ‘Ram Rajya’ lead to a more tolerant India?” (August 10), given its bloody history as well as agenda of subjugation of a community, how can it be expected that the Ram temple would lead to a more tolerant India? It is a shame that all commentators, irrespective of party preferences, are rushing to claim a piece of Ram rather than cutting him to size, given that he is only one of many avatars of one of the Hindu Trinity and a flawed one at that. His views on women, dalits and Dravidians — do they not matter? Let's espouse an evolution of the gods.

Kajal Chatterjee
Kolkata

HELP HONGKONGERS

HONG KONG media mogul Jimmy Lai, one of the most vocal critics of Beijing, was among the seven people arrested on Monday under a new national security law. Lai owns pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper and Next Magazine. In a recent interview, Lai had described the new security law as “a death knell for Hong Kong”. Last month, a dozen high-profile pro-democracy figures were disqualified from standing in local elections for holding “unacceptable” political views. Critics believe that the law has ended the key liberties and autonomy that Beijing promised Hong Kong could keep after its 1997 handover by Britain. The free world should come forward against suppression of democracy and violation of the Hong Kong treaty by Beijing.

M.C. Joshi
Lucknow

SAFETY AUDITS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, “Covid-19 facility fires offer safety lesson” (11 August). The shocking deaths of at least 19 people in special facilities for COVID-19 management in Vijayawada and Ahmedabad have exposed the deep rot in regulatory processes for institutional and commercial building safety. Health-care centres lack fire safety because governments pay lip service to regulation. There must be safety audits.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Nilofar Suhrawardy



Ayodhya glory will fade amid Covid tension before long

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has certainly gone overboard in making a grand show of his presence at Ayodhya. He has proved to be a master strategist, ahead of seniors in his own political camp and, of course, his political rivals. Clearly, he can claim to have achieved what apparently was not visualised and perhaps not even seriously considered by others. True, around a year ago, the apex court's verdict regarding this controversial issue had set the clock ticking speedily in this direction. Apprehension prevailed in certain quarters about the verdict and subsequent developments, including the latest ceremonies, leading to communal tension. Thankfully, Indians at large adopted a mature and secular approach then as well as now (August 5), with there being no report about any major communal disturbance from any part of the country.

And this certainly proves that the Ayodhya-issue can no longer be viewed as a communal bomb that it once seemed to be. Against this back-

drop, what can Mr Modi expect to gain by the grand “religious” show displayed at Ayodhya on August 5? Of course, constitutionally, he has as much a right to be as religious he wants to be. After all, India is a multi-religious, secular country. Besides, most politicians do indulge in display of their religious as well as secular images for political gains. Almost all key leaders, including Mr Modi, flaunt their “secularism” by sending a token symbol to Ajmer Sharief every year. During electoral season, substantial importance is given by most to gain media coverage of their visiting temples and so forth. Well, this is India.

Mr Modi's Ayodhya-show cannot but be viewed as a grand step taken by him in style, to enhance his image, particularly his “religious” credentials in the eyes of Indian voters. Considering that it has been taken at a time when a vicious virus is sending distress signals from all directions, Mr Modi is probably hopeful that this Ayodhya-move will be of some help in distracting the people's attention. Will it? This may be

viewed as a million dollar question.

The nature of comments coming from even his key political rivals suggests that they cannot afford to criticise his Ayodhya-show. This may be viewed as a political “victory” for Mr Modi. There is nothing wrong with politicians of various parties expressing appreciation for the Ayodhya Ram temple ceremony.

Indians have come a long way from December 6, 1992, when communal violence engulfed practically the entire country following the demolition of Babri Masjid, for construction of the Ram temple. Nevertheless, there lurks a fear in certain sections, whether the underlying motive of the ruling party and its leaders is to pay greater importance to their Hindutva-agenda than to the country's Constitution. It is hoped that this is not the case and substantial attention is paid not to provoke communal violence in name of religion, constitutionally.

Mr Modi is apparently well aware that he cannot afford to openly use the communal card for political gains. It is not without reason that

he donned a secular mask when he first chose to come on the national stage by contesting the 2014 parliamentary elections. Also, each time communal frenzy targeting minorities of some nature, particularly Muslims, hits headlines, protests and demonstrations against it do not take long to surface. A greater number of secular non-Muslims (largely Hindus) participate in these demonstrations than Muslims. This suggests that the question of his Ayodhya-show being viewed communally by people in general is as good as non-existent. Even if this were not a Covid year, the prospects of people adding communal fervour to the Ayodhya-show would probably not have prevailed.

It is possible that Mr Modi has his eye on gaining votes in the Hindi belt with the Bihar Assembly election round the corner. He has his right to make political use of religious shows, if he wants to, as long as communal violence and hatred are not provoked. In recent years, some noise has been made about certain leaders hoping for polarisation of vote banks

along religious lines. Perhaps, a motive of the Ayodhya-show is this. It may be, but with Hindus as well as Muslims divided into numerous groups, castes, sub-castes and also regional, the question of there being any Hindu or Muslim vote-bank is as good as non-existent.

So Mr Modi's Ayodhya move may certainly be viewed as a master card as it has helped him gain substantially a positive image that had suffered in recent days because of crises caused by the coronavirus. He hopes to dominate headlines for some time. It cannot be ignored that the virus has left Indians a little too tense to remain distracted by his Ayodhya show for long. Nevertheless, he has once again proved to be a master strategist who knows how to steal a march on his rivals in the political race. He has, for the moment, all the reason to talk about his “56-inch” chest and feel proud!

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also the author of several books.

IN BRIEF

Millennium-old Mexico skeleton

Mexico City: A millennium-old skeleton of a pre-Hispanic man has been unearthed in northeast Mexico, archeologists said Monday, describing it as one of the first of its kind to be discovered complete.

The body of the man, believed to be between 21 and 35 years old, had been placed inside a woven mat with a small mortar as an offering, the National Anthropology and History Institute said. His remains lay untouched for more than 1,000 years and the skeleton and its position were preserved along with a ceramic relic, the institute said.

13 die in Sudan ethnic clashes

Khartoum: Sudan said Tuesday 13 people were killed and 42 injured in days of clashes between rival ethnic groups in its Red Sea port, state media reported. Violence broke out in the eastern city of Port Sudan on Sunday evening, the SUNA news agency said, quoting medics who had treated the wounded. Police sent in reinforcements and have imposed a night-time curfew, the statement added. Fighting began when protesters from the Nuba people, demonstrating against a new governor, entered a district of the Beni Amer group. There is long standing hostility between the groups. The Nuba originate from the South Kordofan region, an area that suffered from the decades of civil war. The Beni Amer people come from eastern Sudan.

Gunmen kill 13 in Nigeria

Lagos: Gunmen have killed 13 villagers in central Nigeria's Benue state following a long-running "chieftaincy" dispute, police said on Tuesday. The attack on Edikwu in the Apa district on Monday, also left several people injured and many houses burnt, said Catherine Anene, the state police spokeswoman. "About 20 armed men invaded the community and shot sporadically at members of the community," she said in a statement. "A team of police officers was deployed to the scene where 13 corpses were recovered," she said. Anene said police had launched an investigation, adding that a dispute over "chieftaincy" matters was to blame for the violence. "Edikwu... was experiencing incessant crises over chieftaincy affairs until May 25 when the Benue government convened a peace meeting, headed by the deputy governor, Mr. Benson Abounu, to put an end to the rancour," she said. She said peace was restored until Monday when the gunmen invaded. Communal clashes over land rights, water and access to political opportunities are common in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with 200 million people.

MARYAM SUMMONED BY NAB

SHAFQAT ALI
ISLAMABAD, AUG. 11

Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Tuesday said that it had summoned the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) vice president Maryam Nawaz to hear her stance on the case registered against her.

In a statement after a violent clash between PML-N workers and police, he anti-graft watchdog alleged that PML-N workers pelted stones and were involved in hooliganism at the time of her appearance.

The Bureau also said that it will register FIRs against PML-N representatives and leaders for interfering in the legal process. Earlier, clash erupted between outraged the PML-N workers and police as party's vice-president Maryam Nawaz reached NAB office in a case pertaining to illegal transfer of 180 acres of land in Raiwind.

The PML-N workers — who accompanied Maryam Nawaz from Jati Umrah to the NAB office in a convoy — pelted stones at police officials and tried to break the barriers outside the anti-corruption watchdog's office.

In retaliation, the police resorting to aerial firing, shelling and baton charge to disperse the infuriated crowd. Several protesters, including women, were arrested. PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident of pelting stones and teargas shelling on workers on the occasion of party vice-president Maryam Nawaz's appearance before NAB.

Belarus poll challenger safely reaches Lithuania
Protests: Poland ready to mediate

Minsk, Aug. 11: The main challenger in Belarus's disputed presidential election is "safe" in Lithuania, the Baltic state's foreign minister said, after a second night of street clashes between police and opposition supporters left a protester dead.

Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, who has claimed victory over authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko in Sunday's vote, "arrived in Lithuania and is safe", Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius said. He did not provide any further details but EU and NATO member Lithuania, which like Belarus was once part of the Soviet Union, has a history of granting refuge to Belarusian and Russian opposition figures.

Tikhonovskaya's whereabouts had been unclear after campaign staff said they had lost contact with her and there had been concern for her safety. Her surfacing in Lithuania came after thousands took to the streets of the capital Minsk for a second night on Monday to contest claims by authorities that longtime ruler Lukashenko had secured a sixth term with 80 percent of the vote.

Tikhonovskaya, a political novice who has energised the opposition, came second with 10 percent and protesters are backing her claim to have won the election. For the second night in a row, police used rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas to disperse demonstrations, though protesters fought back with stones and fire-works and built makeshift barricades, reporters, protesters and witnesses said. "Too many people are against Lukashenko," Pavel, a 34-year-old protester said.

"Our goal is to depose Lukashenko. He is not worthy of being president." Dozens of people have been injured in the violence and the first fatality was confirmed on Monday when police said a man died after an explosive device went off in his hand. Olga Kovalkova, a member of Tikhonovskaya's staff, said she believed the candidate had left the country against her will after meeting with officials on Monday at the Central Election Commission.

"The Belarusian authorities took Svetlana to Lithuania. She had no choice," Kovalkova said. "Before entering the Central Election Commission, she had no plans to leave the country. It was not her decision." Her spokeswoman Anna Krasulina said the opposition movement would continue even if Tikhonovskaya was no longer in the country.

"Her departure does not change anything, she did what she could, raised and

Riga, Aug 11: Poland is ready to mediate between Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and the opposition, the foreign minister said on Tuesday after a second night of protests following the disputed election.

"Poland is ready to act as a mediator between Belarus opposition and president Lukashenko," Jacek Czaputowicz told a joint press conference in Riga after meeting his Estonian, Finnish and Latvian counterparts. "There is still a place for dialogue but we will have a hard time trying to convince other Western countries not to impose sanctions against Belarus if the violent crackdown on protesters will continue," he said. Poland has called for an emergency European Union summit on Belarus, a former Soviet republic where strongman Lukashenko won a sixth term in office in a vote disputed by opposition challenger

Svetlana Tikhonovskaya. The candidate has now sought refuge in Lithuania. Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said his country too would be willing to take in "political refugees from Belarus if that will be necessary". But he called for a "cautious approach" to imposing sanctions on Belarus, warning that this "will only enlarge their overall dependence on Russia". Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto also said that any sanctions "should be imposed in a way that they do not hurt regular Belarusian citizens". Estonia's Urmas Reinsal added that since the election in Belarus was not free and fair "we should not recognise the legitimacy of its outcome". The foreign ministers were meeting on the 100th anniversary of the Riga Peace Treaty, which confirmed Latvia's independence from Soviet Russia.

— AFP

Video recorded under pressure, say allies

Minsk, Aug. 11: Belarus election challenger Svetlana Tikhonovskaya appeared in a video published by state media Tuesday urging supporters not to protest, but her allies said it was recorded under pressure.

In the video published by state news agency *Belta*, Tikhonovskaya appeared to read from a prepared statement calling for "respect for the law" and for Belarusians not to take to the streets.

Her head lowered, she was shown sitting on a black sofa in front of a window with the blinds closed. Tikhonovskaya, who says she defeated longtime authoritarian ruler Alexander Lukashenko in Sunday's vote, has left the country to seek

refuge in Lithuania after two nights of clashes.

"We believe that this video was recorded under pressure from law enforcement," Maria Kolesnikova, a key Tikhonovskaya ally, told reporters.

"A person who has been receiving threats and whose husband is in prison can record any video," Tikhonovskaya decided to run for president after the authorities jailed her husband, popular blogger Sergei Tikhonovsky, and barred him from contesting.

Her campaign galvanised the opposition, presenting a historic challenge to former collective farm director Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, brooking no dissent.

— Agencies

inspired the people," Krasulina said. "The people will act without her, they are protesting not for Tikhonovskaya but for themselves." Lukashenko's opponents have called for running protests against his regime and there were calls for a nationwide strike. The 37-year-old mother of two decided to run for president after the authorities jailed her husband, popular blogger Sergei Tikhonovsky, and barred him from contesting.

Her campaign galvanis-

ed the opposition, presenting a historic challenge to former collective farm director Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, brooking no dissent and earning the nickname of "Europe's last dictator". Western governments have widely condemned the police crackdown, with some in the European Union suggesting it may reimpose sanctions on Lukashenko's regime that were lifted several years ago.

— AFP

China trying to turn Taiwan into HK: FM

Taipei, Aug. 11: China is trying to turn democratic Taiwan into another Hong Kong, the island's foreign minister warned Tuesday as he met with a senior US official making a historic diplomatic trip. A crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong has gathered pace since China imposed a sweeping security law on the financial hub in June, with opposition politicians disqualified and activists arrested.

That has caused alarm in

Taiwan, a self-ruled island of 23 million people that Beijing claims as its own territory and has vowed to one day seize, by force if necessary. Foreign minister Joseph Wu said Taiwan lives under the constant threat of having its freedoms taken away by China, during a rare meeting with US cabinet official Alex Azar in Taipei on Tuesday. "Our lives have become increasingly difficult as China continues to pressure Taiwan into accept-

ing its political conditions, conditions that will turn Taiwan into the next Hong Kong," he said.

"The people of Taiwan are all too familiar with dealing with threats, be it military, diplomatic or the threats of epidemics," Health Secretary Azar is in Taipei for a three-day visit billed as the highest-level visit from the United States since it switched diplomatic recognition from the island to China in 1979. Beijing has ramped up



Police cars block the entrance to Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House shortly after Secret Service guards shot a person who was apparently armed, outside the White House on Monday while US President Donald Trump was speaking to the press in the Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

— AFP

Trump evacuated after man shot outside WH

Washington, Aug. 11: US Secret Service agents shot and wounded a man who was apparently armed outside the White House on Monday, President Donald Trump said, after being briefly whisked away in the middle of a press conference. A 51-year-old male approached a Secret Service officer standing at the corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, one block from the White House, according to Tom Sullivan, the chief of the Secret Service Uniformed Division. The suspect told the officer he had a weapon and ran "aggressively" towards him, drawing an object out of his clothes, Sullivan said in a statement that was broadcast on Twitter. He then assumed a "shooter's stance" as if he intended to fire, whereupon the Secret Service officer shot him in the torso, Sullivan added.

Officers on the scene administered first aid, and emergency medical services were called. Both the suspect and the officer were taken to hospital. "The Secret Service Office of Professional Responsibility will be conducting an internal review of the officer's actions," Sullivan said, adding the DC Metropolitan Police Department had been contacted.

As the President was speaking to reporters in the White House briefing room, a Secret Service bodyguard abruptly approached him and interrupted, saying in a quiet voice, "Sir, could you please come with me?" Trump and staff members left. Doors to the briefing room, still filled with

Saudi arms sales: Pompeo cleared

Washington, Aug. 11: An internal probe has cleared US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of wrongdoing in a disputed arms sale to Saudi Arabia, a senior State Department official said Monday, although the report on the investigation has not yet been released.

Pompeo was accused of abuse of power after he used an obscure emergency procedure to ram through \$8.1 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies in May of last year, despite opposition from the US Congress. The Inspector General's report on the investigation has concluded that the State Department had "acted in complete accordance with the law and found no wrongdoing in the administration exercise of the emergency authorities that are available under

the arms export control act," the senior official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official did not say when the report would be published, but the State Department released excerpts in a statement.

Congress had sought to block the arms sale in protest against the October 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which was attributed by US intelligence services to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Then-inspector general Steve Linick had been investigating Pompeo's 2019 declaration of an emergency that permitted the Trump administration to sell arms and bypass Congress, where lawmakers have voiced horror at civilian casualties in the Saudi-led offensive in Yemen.

— AFP

EUROPE VISIT: POMPEO IN PRAGUE

Plzen, Czech Republic, Aug 11: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Prague on Tuesday, public TV footage showed, to open a five-day visit to central Europe with a hefty agenda, including China's role in 5G network construction.

Pompeo will spend two days in the Czech Republic before moving on to Slovenia, Austria and close

ally Poland, which is eager to welcome some of the US troops leaving Germany to guard against historic adversary Russia.

The focus will be on his campaign for nations to shun Huawei, the Chinese telecom giant considered a threat by Washington as it takes a lead in fifth-generation internet, and to reduce Europe's energy dependence on Russia.

— AFP

WHO to review Russian vaccine

Geneva, Aug. 11: The World Health Organisation said any WHO stamp of approval on a Covid-19 vaccine candidate would require a rigorous safety data review, after Russia announced Tuesday it had approved a vaccine.

President Vladimir Putin said Russia had become the first country to approve a vaccine offering "sustainable immunity" against Coronavirus.

"We are in close contact with the Russian health authorities and discussions are ongoing with respect to possible WHO pre-qualification of the vaccine," the United Nations health agency's spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva at an online press briefing.

"Pre-qualification of any vaccine includes the rigorous review and assessment of all the required safety and efficacy data," Russia's Sputnik V vaccine has been developed by the Gamaleya research institute in coordination with the country's defence ministry.

A total of 165 candidate vaccines are being worked on around the world, according to the latest WHO overview produced on July 31.

Of those, 139 are still in pre-clinical evaluation,

COVID-19 CASES RETURN TO NZ AFTER 102 DAYS

Wellington, Aug. 11: New Zealand's dream run of 102 days without locally transmitted Coronavirus ended Tuesday, prompting a stay-at-home lockdown order for the country's largest city.

After receiving global praise for successfully containing the virus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said four cases had been detected in a single family in Auckland from an unknown source.

"After 102 days, we have our first cases of Covid-19 outside of managed isolation or quarantine facilities..." Ardern said.

— AFP

while the other 26 are in the various phases of being tested on humans, of which six are the furthest ahead, having reached Phase 3 of clinical evaluation.

The Gamaleya candidate being produced in Russia, which is among the 26 being tested on humans, is listed as being in Phase 1.

— AFP



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,407.01	0.59
Nifty 50	11,322.50	0.46
S&P 500*	3,374.37	0.41
Dollar (₹)	74.77	0.22
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.76	0.02
Euro (₹)	87.83	0.35
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	54,763▼1,317	2.40
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	45.16	0.17
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.903	0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.632	0.058

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Embassy looking to monetise warehousing biz

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

Medtronic to put in ₹1,200 cr in H'bad R&D centre



Global medical technology major Medtronic plc said it will invest Rs 1,200 crore to scale up and expand its current R&D facility in Hyderabad into a state-of-the-art engineering and innovation center. Medtronic Engineering and Innovation Center (MEIC) will be its largest global R&D centre outside the US. "This investment planned over five years will provide a boost to Telangana's MedTech plans," it said.

Top solar maker raises cell prices by 11%

Tongwei Solar, a unit of Tongwei Co, raised multicrystalline solar cell prices by 11 per cent to 0.6 yuan per watt, according to an Aug. 10 notice on its website. The company, the world's leading cell producer, also increased prices for three types of monocrystalline cells by 0.08 yuan per watt each, about a 9 per cent increase. The hike is the second in less than three weeks after it increased prices on July 24.

Hyundai Creta crosses 5 lakh sales milestone

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said its SUV Creta has crossed five lakh cumulative sales mark in India. The model also remains the best-selling SUV for three consecutive months, May-July, this year. Its new version was launched in March this year. "Creta has been the blockbuster model in the Indian automobile industry ever since its launch in 2015," HMIL director (sales, marketing and service) Tarun Garg said.

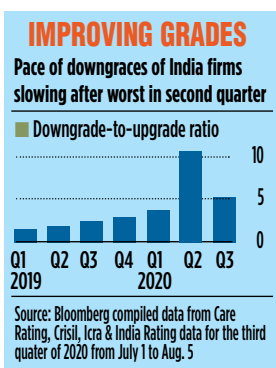
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■ The worst seems behind in the long road to recovery
Stimulus slows credit downgrades of firms

ANURAG JOSHI
AUG. 11

The country's unprecedented stimulus measures to fight the coronavirus crisis seem to have slowed the worsening of corporate credit quality. There have been around five downgrades for every one upgrade of rupee debt of companies since July 1. That's a major improvement when compared with a ratio of almost 11 to one in the quarter ended June 30, a record rate, according to a review of rating moves by four main credit assess-

sors-Care Ratings, Crisil, Ica and India Ratings & Research. "The stimulus has brought incremental relief to firms in India, helping them to stay afloat and avoid the risk of closures," said T.N. Arun Kumar, chief ratings officer at Care Ratings Ltd. "The measures have helped corporates tide over cash problems and boosted their short-term credit profiles." Borrowing costs have declined for local companies due to a barrage of stimulus steps. The central government unveiled \$277



billion of stimulus in May, while the Reserve Bank pumped \$50 billion of cash

into domestic banks in March and it has cut its benchmark repurchase rate to the lowest level ever. The lower funding rates are important for the corporate sector, which faces a bill of about Rs 1.5 lakh crore (\$20 billion) in bond repayments in the September quarter. Yield premiums for AAA-ranked 10-year rupee company notes over similar-maturity sovereign debt have declined to 80 basis points from 152 at the end of May, the highest since 2009.

— Bloomberg

IIP CONTRACTS 16.6% IN JUNE

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

With gradual lifting of lockdowns, India's industrial output has seen a slight improvement. The Index of Industrial Production, or IIP, contracted by 16.6 per cent in June compared with 34 per cent in May. The contraction was mainly due to lower output in manufacturing, mining and power generation. Manufacturing sector output declined by 17.1 per cent while mining and power output fell 19.8 per cent and 10 per cent. The IIP for June 2020 improved to 107.8 in June from 89.5 in May and 53.6 in April, but dipped below 129.3 in June 2019.

UTILITY VEHICLES LEAD REVIVAL

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, AUG. 11

While the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is still visible in automobile sales, there are some early green shoots. The sales of passenger vehicles (PV) in July merely declined 3.86 per cent year-on-year at 182,779 units from 200,790 in July 2019. The numbers hint at a good and quick recovery of the segment, even as it also creates doubts over demand sustenance in the long-term. "After a few consecutive months of plummeted sales in a post-Covid scenario, there are signs of green shoots in PVs and two-wheelers, where the

YoY de-growth is much lesser than the previous months," Rajan Wadhwa, president at Siam, said. The sales numbers in August would indicate if this is a sustainable demand or just a pent-up demand, he pointed out. Similarly, Rajesh Menon, director-general at Siam, said the July sales were significantly better than the preceding months and it instilled some confidence in the industry. "Many original equipment manufacturers have registered improved sales vis-à-vis the past few months, and this brings back a sentiment of resolve to the sector," he noted. From a month-on-month perspective July seems to

have fared much better compared to June when PV sales had dipped to 105,617 units, thus, marking a 73 per cent growth. While the passenger vehicle segment has been in the red for all of FY2020, it is the utility vehicles within PVs that have been leading the charge for the entire class of vehicles towards recovery. With sales of 71,384 units in July, utility vehicles registered a 13.88 per cent growth, while PVs posted a 12 per cent decline, with overall sales of 102,773 units. The two-wheeler sales were down 15.24 per cent in July to 12,81,354 units as compared with 15,11,717 units in the same month last year.

AAI puts GoAir on 'cash and carry' over dues

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The Airports Authority of India has decided to put GoAir on a "cash and carry basis" from Tuesday because of non-payment of dues, meaning the low-cost airline will have to pay charges daily at AAI airports to operating flights from there, an official said. The official said the AAI issued an order to its regional executive directors on Monday, which said, "The competent authority has approved to put the operation of GoAir on cash and carry basis out of all AAI airports with effect from 0001 hrs of 11th August 2020". An airline has to pay various charges—air navigation, landing, parking etc.—to the AAI, which works under the civil aviation ministry, to use facilities at any of its more than 100 airports. The airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad are managed by private companies. "GoAir is engaged in constructive discussions with AAI," the airline's spokesperson said. —PTI

Bira talking to foreign beer makers for stake sale

ADITYA KALRA, ANIRBAN SEN & RITSUKO ANDO
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU/
TOKYO, AUG. 11



adding that the company was in the "intermediate stage" of raising funds. "We've been talking to beer companies that are not competitive in India or have minimal operations in India." Data provider PitchBook estimates New Delhi-based

Bira was valued at \$210 million in 2018. US-based Sequoia Capital holds a roughly 45 per cent stake in the company, while CEO Jain and his family own around 30 per cent. Jain declined to name the companies with which it is in talks, but four industry sources said Bira had been in talks with Kirin Holdings, one of Japan's biggest beer makers which has limited sales in India. A Kirin spokesman said there was "absolutely no discussion at the moment" on taking a stake in Bira. A Kirin source said the

company sees India as a growth market and that it has looked at Bira, but that it was part of a broader study into global markets. One of the Indian industry sources said that Bira and Kirin had discussed a deal which would also allow the Japanese brewer to offer its brands directly—which include Kirin Lager and Ichiban Shibori—in India's estimated \$7 billion beer market. Bira, launched in 2015, is one of the smallest players in India, but its craft beer offerings have become popular. —Reuters

Cyber threats rise with WFH trend

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH
HYDERABAD, AUG. 11



Dipesh Kaura. Kapersky "Some employees might be having sensitive information. They have to be sure that the information

they have doesn't fall into the wrong hands," he said, adding, "Working from home has a new kind of discipline; people who are working on a computer need to draw a boundary and restrict their screen time. This kind of discipline might also prevent them falling prey to new kinds of cyber threats." In the midst of these concerns he said that digital hygiene has become an arsenal for companies and

employees. "In the office people are used to working in a controlled environment. But at home, you have to control the environment. I would suggest using Virtual Private Network. The adaptability to such technologies is steadily rising." He said hackers are rather playing with the psyche of the user than using sophisticated machinery to prey on victims.

Gap between temp, perm jobs narrow as salaries de-grow

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 11



De-growth in salaries in several job profiles has led to the reduction of gap between temporary and permanent jobs in a large number of sectors, says TeamLease Services. As per the Jobs and Salaries Primer survey, 15 out of 17 sectors have achieved near pay parity between temporary and permanent salaries. These sectors include automobile and allied sectors, BFSI, BPO, construction and real estate, educational services, fast moving consumer durables, FMCG, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, IT, hospitality, industrial manufacturing and allied sectors, media and entertain-

ment, power and energy, retail and telecommunications. Among these 15 sectors, BFSI, construction and real estate, media and entertainment as well as telecommunications have seen variance which is significantly less than 5 per cent. These sectors also fall under the category of bottom paymasters. "The narrowing of the gap between the temporary and permanent jobs

had been happening even before the pandemic. The economic slowdown had already been affecting the salaries," said Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive vice president of TeamLease Services. According to her, if the average variance was 4.7 per cent in 2019, it came down to 4.3 per cent in 2020. "Covid-19 would have reduced the temporary gap further. Our

estimate is around 4 per cent," she said. The pandemic has seen de-growth in salaries of several permanent job profiles in these sectors. According to Chakraborty, across sectors an estimated 79 per cent of job roles have been affected by a salary stagnation or salary de-growth. However, the study also finds that a few select jobs are still commanding a salary growth despite the Covid-19 impact on the sectors. These include Hadoop developer in BFSI, animators working in the educational services, Collection Officer in industrial manufacturing and allied and digital marketing heads in information technology and knowledge services.

Foreign flows may dictate market momentum again
Inflows slowing for MFs, insurance firms

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 11



The market may face rough weather again, much like in March this year, and move in the direction of foreign flows, as inflows from domestic institutions have started slowing down, especially from mutual funds and insurance companies, as indicated by June and July monthly data.

In August too domestic institutions have been booking profit and brisk inflows from the foreign portfolio investors are keeping the market momentum intact. In August so far FPIs have invested Rs 10,420 crore, surpassing the July month investment of Rs 7,563 crore. On Tuesday domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 1,415.54 crore while the foreign portfolio investors were net buyers by Rs 1,013.66 crore. Whether these are sticky investments from the long only funds or short-term investments by fly by night operators, only time will tell. India witnessed foreign portfolio investment outflow of \$16.05 billion in March 2020 and \$1.97 billion during April-May 2020, triggered by the Covid-19 fallout on domestic and global economy. Upcoming US presidential election and continuing threat of Covid-19 are likely to drive investors away from risky asset classes. Mutual fund flows have

fallen sharply in June and July to Rs 240.55 crore and an outflow of Rs 2,480 crore respectively compared to inflows of Rs 6,212.96 in April and Rs 5,256.52 crore in May 2020. "Net flows in the open ended equity fund category have been on a downward spiral since April and barely positive at Rs 240 crore in June. In July, the trend continued, leading to net outflows of Rs 2,480 crore. On the positive side, flows through systematic investments plans (SIPs) have sustained around the Rs 8,000-crore mark till June (numbers for July are yet to be released), said a report by rating agency Crisil.. Private life insurance players' premium declined 7.1 per cent in July 2020, similar to the decline in June 2020 while the life insurance industry as a whole posted a decline of 0.3 per cent. The overall decline has moderated considerably from the levels seen over March-May 2020. For FY21 year to date, private players' individual premium received declined 18.1 per cent year-

HDFC garners ₹10K cr via QIP

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, AUG. 11



Mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) on Tuesday said that it has raised Rs 14,000 crore through qualified institutional placement of equity shares and secured redeemable non-convertible debentures simultaneously with warrants. The proceeds of the issue, it said, will be used towards general corporate purposes and financing organic and inorganic business opportunities that may arise. The Corporation has raised Rs 10,000 crore by issuing 5.68 crore equity shares at an issue price of Rs 1,760 per share to qualified investors, including Government of Singapore and Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund. Besides, it raised Rs 3,693 crore through an issue of non-convertible debentures at par for a tenor of three years carrying an annualised coupon rate of 5.40 per cent per annum. The lender also allotted 1.7 crore warrants at an issue price of Rs 180 per

warrant, aggregating to around Rs 307 crore under the QIP issue, according to a regulatory filing. The warrants entitle the warrant holder to exchange each warrant for one equity share of the corporation at any time over the next three years i.e. until August 10, 2023, at a pre-agreed price of Rs 2,165 (warrant exercise price). The warrant issue price together with the warrant exercise price represents a premium of 32 per cent to the closing price of the corporation's equity shares on the BSE/NSE prior to the launch of the Issue. "The equity shares and warrants offered in the QIP have been subscribed to by 326 diverse marquee institutional funds," said HDFC Ltd.

Technology giants join battle against Trump's visa ban

ROBERT BURNSON
AUG. 11



Some of the largest tech companies—including Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft—are the latest to join the court battle against President Donald Trump's ban on new visas for temporary foreign workers. The group asked a court on Monday to be allowed to add the industry's voice to a lawsuit opposing the ban, saying it's causing "irreparable harm on businesses and the nation's economy." Trump issued a proclamation on June 22 that suspends a host of non-immigrant visa programmes, including H-1B visas for high-skill specialty occupations, H-2B

visas for non-agricultural workers, and L-1 visas for intra-company transfers. Among the other tech companies seeking to weigh into the federal court case in Oakland, California, are Adobe Inc, GitHub Inc and Intel Corp. The 52 companies separately filed a similar request in a challenge to Trump's actions pending in Washington.

"The president's suspension of non-immigrant visa programmes, supposedly to 'protect' American workers, actually harms those workers, their employers, and the economy," the group said in its friend-of-the-court filing. "Rather than shielding domestic workers from the threat of foreign competition, the proclamation all but ensures that firms will need to hire abroad to fill highly skilled positions, for which the domestic demand far exceeds the available supply of workers." Separately, Google, Spotify USA Inc and Bloomberg LP submitted a request to add their support for a court order blocking Trump's policy. — Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Hockey camp hit by positive tests

New Delhi: The upcoming training camp for India's male hockey players in Bengaluru looks uncertain after half a dozen of them tested positive for Covid-19 but the women can resume practice after all of them tested negative for the dreaded virus. Six Indian men's team players — skipper Manpreet Singh, striker Mandeep Singh, defenders Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, drag-flicker Varun Kumar and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak — have tested positive after reaching Bengaluru for the national camp, scheduled to start on August 20. Of these, Mandeep has been hospitalised after his blood oxygen levels dropped on Monday. "The men's camp is in doubt after six positive results, more reports are still awaited from the state government," a SAI source confirmed. "But the women's camp is still on course after all the players tested negative. They are currently under 14-day quarantine period and the light intensity camp will begin once its over," the source added. — PTI

Coach for more boxers at training

New Delhi: Resumption is done and expansion can now follow, said Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva, revealing that addition of seven more boxers has been proposed at the ongoing national training camp for the Olympic-bound in Patiala. Nine male boxers and a few of their women counterparts are training at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala, taking the first step towards a restart amid the Covid-19 pandemic. These include top medal hope Amit Panghal. "We are looking to add seven more boxers, two coaches and a support staff member to this list in the next few weeks. Approval has been sought (from SAI). We are assessing things one month at a time," Nieva said. "The boxers who are here are training under the strict health safety protocol given to us and things have been smooth. I can't give you names but the ones we want included next are second in rankings of their respective categories," he said. — PTI

Senior scribe Menon no more

Mumbai: Veteran sports journalist G. K. Menon died in suburban Mumbai on Tuesday morning. He was 93 and is survived by his wife, son and a daughter. He worked with the *Indian Express* and *The Times of India* and ended his freelance career in the early 1990s. Menon played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai. He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru. That side included future Test players like Chandu Patankar, Nari Contractor, Ramnath Kenny, Naren Tamhane and GR Sunderam. Menon was also instrumental in the emergence of former India pacer, late Ramakant Desai. — PTI

CHAMP TRUMP IS DUMPED AT SNOOKER SHOW

London: Judd Trump suffered a shock exit from the World Snooker Championship as the title holder crashed to a 9-13 quarterfinal defeat against Kyren Wilson on Tuesday. Trump became the last victim of the so-called 'Crucible Curse' which has seen 18 first-time winners of the world title fail to retain the crown since the event moved to the Sheffield venue in 1977. Trump trailed 6-10 from Monday's opening session and fired three breaks over 50 in the first four frames on Tuesday to reduce the deficit to just two. But eighth seed Wilson moved one frame from victory after winning the 21st frame in two visits. — AFP

BOWL BABY BOWL CSK, KKR to carry 10 net bowlers for IPL

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The Indian Premier League shifting its base to the United Arab Emirates for the 2020 edition may prove to be a blessing in disguise for at least 50 unheralded cricketers, who are set to travel with the eight teams as "exclusive" net bowlers.

At least three franchises, Chennai Super Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals confirmed that they are preparing a roster of net bowlers. The list comprises mostly first-class, U-19 and U-23 state level cricketers who will get to bowl to the likes of MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Rishabh Pant for close to a month.

The convention all these years has been using local bowlers for nets apart from the junior fringe players but the strict bio-security measures for the tournament means that all franchise will have to arrange for quality bowlers during practice sessions.

While BCCI has capped the squad strength (players) to 24, the franchises have not been specified contingent volume which will vary from team to team.

"If all goes well, we are planning to take around 10 bowlers exclusively to UAE for the practice sessions. They will be accompanying the team and will remain till the tournament starts," Chennai Super Kings Chief Executive Officer Kashi Vishwanathan said.

The Kolkata Knight Riders also confirmed that they will also have 10 net bowlers in their roster, likely to be handpicked by former cricketer Abhishek Nayar.

"It will be a blend of players of who have played Ranji Trophy while some of have played U-23 and U-19 national level tournaments," someone who is privy to developments in the KKR camp informed. — PTI



Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming (left) speaks with his captain M. S. Dhoni in this file photo.

Maskless Jadeja wife in row with cop

Ahmedabad, Aug. 11: Wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja entered into an argument with a police constable in Gujarat's Rajkot after the latter asked her the reason for not wearing a mask, police said on Tuesday.

The cricketer was driving the car at the time of the incident on Monday night. While he was wearing a mask, his wife Rivaba wasn't, a senior officer said.

The cricketer's wife had a heated argument with head constable Sonal Gosai when the latter stopped her car at Kisanpara Chowk after noticing that she was not wearing a mask, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Manoharsinh Jadeja said.

"Our primary investigation has revealed that Rivaba Jadeja was not

MUMBAI CA TO MEET ON RESUMPTION OF CRICKET

Mumbai, Aug. 11: Resumption of cricketing activities in the megalopolis will top the agenda of the Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) Apex Council meeting to be held here on August 14.

Cricket in the megalopolis has come to a grinding halt since mid-March due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and Mumbai is one of the worst affected cities in the country.

"We will discuss resumption of cricketing activity and also the Standard Operating Procedures sent by the BCCI to all the state associations in this regard," an Apex Council member said.

Issues related to the formation of Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC) will also be discussed.

The MCA had shortlisted three names — Lalchand Rajput, Raju Kulkarni and Samir Dighe — as members of the CIC. — PTI

wearing a mask. While it is a matter of investigation why the issue escalated, we have learnt that

both the parties entered into a verbal spat," the DCP said. Following the argument,

● **Ravindra Jadeja's wife, Rivaba was driving a car without wearing a mask and got into an argument with a head constable at the location while being questioned for not wearing a mask.**

Gosai, the head constable at the location, complained of uneasiness and was taken to a nearby hospital, he said.

The wife of Chennai Super Kings allrounder was discharged after half an hour and is fine now, the officer said, adding that no FIR has been lodged as yet. — PTI

DAN OUT OF SECOND TEST

Southampton, Aug. 11: Uncapped England batsman Dan Lawrence, who was one of the reserves in the ongoing Test series against Pakistan, has left the team's bio-secure bubble due to a family bereavement, the country's board said.

The 23-year-old has scored 3804 runs in 70 first class matches.

"Lawrence, is yet to make his Test debut, was named as one of the reserves in the #raisethebat Test series against Pakistan. He will not be available for selection when the second Test starts at the Ageas Bowl," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement. — PTI

EUROPA | LEAGUE

Fernandes takes United to semis

Cologne (Germany), Aug. 11: Manchester United needed an extra-time penalty from Bruno Fernandes to scrape into the Europa League semifinals after beating Copenhagen 1-0.

In sweltering heat, United's young team controlled the lion's share of possession but had a hard time creating clear chances until Andreas Bjelland brought down Anthony Martial in the penalty area. Fernandes blasted the ball past the otherwise excellent goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson to give United the 95th-minute lead.

Mason Greenwood and Fernandes hit the woodwork with shots during normal time and earlier video reviews cost United two of its best opportunities to score.

First, VAR scratched off a United penalty for offside in the buildup. Just before the break Greenwood put the ball in the net after a lightning break down the right flank but the replay showed he'd been just offside when Marcus Rashford's pass was played.

That decision was a par-

● **Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes scored an extra-time penalty to help his side scrap into the last-four stage of the tourney.**

ticular blow for United after the apparent breakthrough goal came just as the English team had seemed to be getting frustrated and taking increasingly speculative shots against a Danish team playing its first ever European quarterfinal.

LUKAKU STARS AS INTER ADVANCE

Romelu Lukaku scored one goal and set up another as Inter Milan defeated a tenacious Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 to reach the Europa League semifinals.

Lukaku was the driving force from the start, imposing himself on the game and disrupting the Leverkusen defense to keep Inter in the hunt for its first trophy in nine years. Inter last played a European semifinal on its way to the Champions League title in 2010. — Agencies



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes (in red) vies for the ball with FC Copenhagen's Jason Wood (left) during their UEFA Europa league quarterfinal match in Cologne, Germany, on Monday. United won 1-0.

Atalanta brace for PSG strike

Milan, Aug. 11: Atalanta take on Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with the tournament debutants the surprise standard bearers for Italian football in Lisbon.

Serie A champions Juventus and Napoli were felled in the last 16, leaving Atalanta to carry the nation's hopes of a first major European trophy since Inter Milan's 2010 triumph.

PSG will not have superstar Kylian Mbappe available, but Atalanta look set to be without top scorer Josip Illicic, who found the net 21 times in all competitions, including five in the Champions League.

"We miss Illicic very much," said coach Gian Piero Gasperini.

The 32-year-old Slovenian was on form until the coronavirus engulfed Italy and

Live on TV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL

Atalanta vs Paris Saint-Germain from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2

in particular the team's home city Bergamo, where at one point the army was called in to take away coffins because local morgues could not cope with the number of virus deaths.

Illicic was overwhelmed by personal and psychological difficulties and has been sidelined for the team's final games of the season. But Atalanta's strength has been the number of players who have contributed to their all-competitions tally of 118 goals. — AFP

Kuznetsova pulls out of US Open

New York, Aug. 11: Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova withdrew from this year's tournament on Monday citing concerns over the Covid-19 outbreak.

The 35-year-old Russian, who won the first of her two career Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows in 2004, joins a lengthening list of players from Europe who have opted to skip the event. "Due to the unfavourable situation due to Coronavirus... I made the difficult decision for myself to refuse to participate," Kuznetsova said in a post on her *Instagram* page.

The world number 32 will also miss the ATP/WTA Western and Southern Open, which is being played in New York this year instead of Cincinnati as a warm-up event for the August 31-September 13 Open.

"I'm sorry as I've been waiting for these tournaments, but the pandemic

Due to the unfavourable situation due to Coronavirus... I made the difficult decision for myself to refuse to participate. I hope that the situation in the world will become more stable.

— SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA on withdrawing from the US Open

changed all plans. I hope that the situation in the world will become more stable by the next competition," Kuznetsova said.

In a separate announcement on Monday, the US Tennis Association confirmed the Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova had also withdrawn from the US Open, along with China's Wang Xiyi.

The US's Ann Li and Australia's Priscilla Hon have been elevated to the main draw as a result of the withdrawals. — AFP



England cricketer Stuart Board (left) with his father Chris Board in this file photo.

tures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

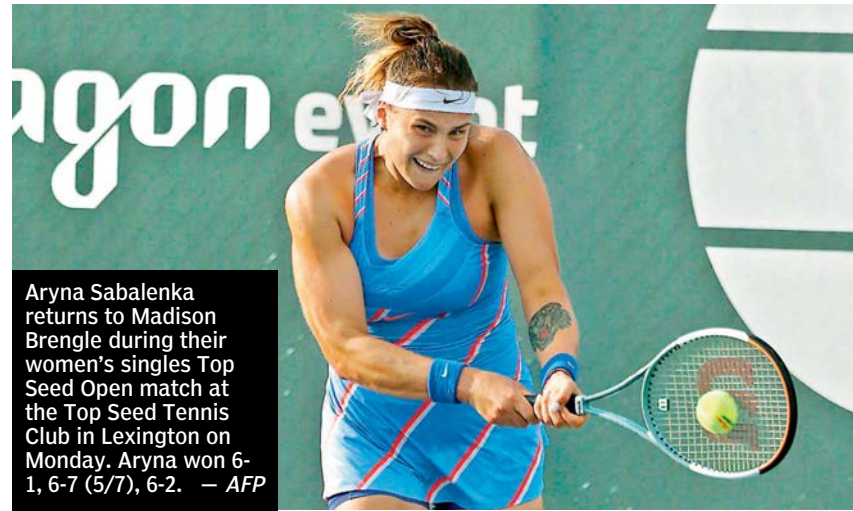
In addition to this, one merit point has been

added to the disciplinary record of Broad, for whom it was the third offence in a 24-month period, taking his cumulative demerit points to three. Broad's previous breaches were on January 27 this

year during the fourth Test against South Africa at the Wanderers, and on August 19, 2018, in the third Test against India at Trent Bridge.

"Broad admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees and ratified by the ICC Cricket Operations department as per the Covid-19 interim playing regulations," the release added.

On-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth, third umpire Michael Gough and fourth official Steve O'Shaughnessy levelled the charge against Broad. — PTI



Gritty Konta goes down

Lexington (USA), Aug. 11: Britain's Jo Konta suffered a health scare as she crashed out of the opening round of the WTA Top Seed Open in Lexington on Monday with a straight-sets defeat to the Czech Republic's Marie Bouzkova.

Third seed Konta requested medical attention just a few minutes into her 4-6, 4-6 first round loss to the unseed-

ed Bouzkova. The 29-year-old Briton looked uncomfortable and kept holding two fingers to her neck to check her pulse before eventually resuming play.

Konta later explained that she is prone to sudden palpitations that can send her heart rate soaring.

Other seeded players in action made it safely into the second round, with

Polish sixth seed Magda Linette beating the United States' Lauren Davis 6-2, 6-2, and Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, seeded eight, downing another American, Caty McNally, 6-2, 6-4.

Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus was taken to three sets by Madison Brengle before claiming a 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 win. — AFP