

SHORT TAKES

No proof against PC in 63 moons' plaint

Mumbai: The CBI on Thursday told the Bombay high court that it did not find any material to substantiate the allegations made by 63 moons technologies against former finance minister P. Chidambaram and two others. CBI lawyer Hiten Venegavkar told a division bench of Justices Sadhana Jadhav and N.J. Jamadar that the complaint filed by the firm has been forwarded to the chief vigilance officer of the department of economic affairs. The court was hearing a petition filed by the Jignesh Shah-promoted company, earlier known as Financial Technologies Ltd, questioning "delayed" action by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Mr Chidambaram and bureaucrats K.P. Krishnan and Ramesh Abhishek. On February 15, 2019, 63 moons technologies filed a complaint with the CBI. It alleged that the senior Congress leader and the other two abused their official positions. — PTI

Balasubrahmanyam condition is 'stable'

Chennai: Veteran singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, undergoing treatment for Covid-19, was "stable" and maintaining "normal oxygen saturation," the private hospital treating him said on Thursday. He was being monitored by an expert team at the MGM Healthcare, its director Prashanth Rajagopalan said in a bulletin. The singer-actor admitted with mild symptoms "continues to be stable and is maintaining normal oxygen saturation," he said. "He is being monitored by the expert team of clinicians in our High Dependency Unit (HCU), Dr Rajagopalan added. The 74 year-old singer, who has worked across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam film industries, was admitted to the hospital on August 5 after cold and "on and off" fever for two-three days then. — PTI

IAF Chief visits frontline base, flies MiG

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria briefed on readiness, operational status of lodger units

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria on Thursday flew fighter aircraft MiG 21 Bison on a frontline airbase under Western Air Command to send a message that the Air Force is all prepared to take any challenge from adversaries.

Western Air Command (WAC) looks after both the crucial borders with China in Ladakh and with Pakistan from Ladakh up to Bikaner in Rajasthan. The Indian Air Force said on Thursday that Air



Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria prepares to fly MiG 21 Bison.

Chief Marshal Bhadauria visited a frontline airbase in Western Air Command.

He was briefed by the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of the base on the

readiness and operational status of the lodger units located at the base.

The Air Force Chief reviewed the operational preparedness of the base and interacted with air force personnel serving on the frontlines. He urged the air force personnel to maintain the highest standards of readiness. He also appreciated their efforts in preserving IAF's combat potential during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The Indian Air Force has kept almost all its airbases under the Western Command at a "very high level of readiness" in view of the over three-month

border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

The Western Air Command has over 200 bases placed under its command and has been involved in all major operations in India since independence. Due to its geographical location the Command has always been the hub-centre of all operational activities during any operation including Kashmir Operations 1947-48, Sino-Indian Conflict 1962, Indo-Pak War 1965, Indo-Pak War 1971, Operation Pawan 1986 (Sri Lanka) and Operation Safed Sagar 1999 (Kargil).

Varun to bring Bill on organ donation

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

BJP MP Varun Gandhi will introduce a private member bill — Donation and Transplantation of Human Organ Bill, 2020 — promoting cadaver donation and making it compulsory for all Indian adults to be registered as organ donors unless a person opts out.

The Bill, which also seeks a National Registry of donors, non-donors and recipients which "shall have such information as may be prescribed to an ongoing evaluation of the scientific and clinical status of human organs and tissues."

The Bill also seeks state governments to maintain a registry and non-disclosure of identity of people in both databases in public domain unless regarding a complaint, a court case, bonafide medical research but with the consent of the person.

"According to the WHO estimates, three to four million lives per year can



be saved in India if we have such a system and most of these people will be from poor and middle class families who otherwise cannot afford.

Lets say even 5 percent of Indian population agrees to donate their organs and tissues, the number can be multiplied by 15 times in organ banks which is a very significant number as compared to the figures which we have now," said Mr Gandhi, who is likely to introduce the Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament. There is a need of 2,00,000 kidneys, 50,000 hearts and 50,000 livers for transplantation every year. The Bill states that in India, organ donation is largely from living donors and the rate of organ donation from deceased persons is very low at 0.8 million population as compared to more than 30 percent in other countries.

■ Body's meet with mantri creates resentment

'No single tribe of Nagas affiliated to Naga Hoho'

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, AUG. 13

A meeting between the Union minister of state Jitendra Singh and leaders of Naga Hoho in New Delhi has created resentment at the grassroots in Nagaland as all the 14 tribal hohos of Nagaland has made it clear that the "Naga Hoho does not represent the Nagas of Nagaland" and not a single tribe of Nagas of Nagaland are affiliated to the Naga Hoho.

A nine-member team of the Naga Hoho met Union minister of state for the ministry of development of north-eastern region Jitendra Singh on Wednesday and apprised him about the slow progress of the peace negotiations between the NSCN(IM) and the central government's representative.

In a statement, the media cell of the 14 tribal hohos of Nagaland at Kohima asserted, "The

al group has rejected the Naga Hoho which is alleged to have been claiming to be a supreme authority of Naga people in various political circle. The statement also warned that the 14 tribal hohos will unitedly take its course of action against any individual or organisation if any kind of threat is meted to the tribal leaders

Naga Hoho does not have the mandate of Nagas of Nagaland."

Expressing deep anguish over the ongoing campaign against the peace talks which is almost in its final stage with the PMO setting the deadline of September this year to conclude the talks, the 14 tribal hohos clarified, "Any matter that involves or concerns the Nagas of Nagaland should be routed through the 14 tribes of Nagaland. Any decision taken by the Naga Hoho or any other organisation on our behalf will not be honoured." It is significant that 80 per cent of Nagas live in Nagaland where the apex body of each trib-

Consider change in languages Act: Top court to govt

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Central government to consider amending the Official Languages Act to include languages, other than the Hindi and the English for the publication of gazette and other official notifications as people in some parts of the country do not understand either of the two languages.

"We think the spirit in which the high court has passed the order is correct. There may be people in Karnataka, rural Maharashtra, Nagaland and other places who may not understand the things in English and Hindi", Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading a three judge bench told the solicitor-general Tushar Mehta.

The top court's observation comes in the course of the hearing of an appeal by the Centre against the Delhi high court order directing the MoEF to publish the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification in multiple languages.

THE SC's observation comes in the course of the hearing of an appeal by the Centre against the Delhi HC order directing the MoEF to publish the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification in multiple languages.

The top court on Thursday stayed the contempt proceedings initiated before the high court against the MoEF's for its failure to comply with its direction.

"Your government could consider amending the Official Languages Act to include other languages as well. These days the translation is the easiest thing to do through Google," CJI Bobde said, pointing to the top court's experience in translating its judgments in different regional languages and instant translation in parliament through software. Apparently on a different page on the translation of original documents, the solicitor-general referred to attempts by Albert Einstein to translate Bhagavad Gita.

VIKAS DUBEY CASE: ED QUIZZES CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF GANGSTER

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The ED has decided to question Jai Vajpayee, close aide of Vikas Dubey, as part of its money laundering probe pertaining to the alleged illegal transactions and tainted assets created by dead gangster Vikas Dubey.

According to sources Dubey and Vajpayee have more than two dozen plots and houses in Kanpur, Uttarakhand,

Mumbai and Noida. Besides, Jai owns two bungalows, one each in Dubai and Bangkok, worth ₹25 crore, they said adding "Vajpayee will soon be called for questioning". It is also suspected that Vajpayee was converting the black money of Dubey into white, sources claimed. The ED will soon file a money laundering complaint against the slain gangster, his family members and associates.



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020



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, Bidies, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाइटर
	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



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

India, Nigeria partner for space research

New Delhi: India inked an MoU with African nation Nigeria on "cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes". "The MoU envisages India-Nigeria collaboration in space science, planetary exploration, ground stations, development of micro and mini satellites and joint Space R&D. It provides for capacity building assistance by Isro, exchange of scientific know-how, exchanges between academic institutes and joint symposiums/conferences. Cooperation in remote sensing, communications and navigation will benefit Nigeria in the fields of forestry, environment, agriculture, mining, watershed development and connectivity," the MEA said. Last year in September, minister S. Jaishankar had met permanent representative of Nigeria to United Nations Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

16 Naxals surrender in Chhattisgarh

Dantewada: Sixteen Naxals, including four women and some carrying cash rewards on their heads, on Thursday surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, citing disillusionment with the Maoist ideology, a senior official said. A rehabilitation campaign for Naxals being run by the police also helped the rebels in deciding to shun the armed movement and join the national mainstream, he said. All the 16 cadres, three of them carrying cash rewards on their heads, turned themselves in before police and CRPF officials in Dantewada town, Dantewada superintendent of police Abhishek Pallava said. Of these, Rajesh Bhaskar (26), Saade Parsik alias Sahdev (30) and Bheema Telam were active as jhannilia commanders of Maoists, he said, adding they were carrying reward of ₹1 lakh each on their heads. — PTI

Siddaramaiah tests -ve, discharged

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital here for Covid-19 infection has been discharged after recovery, his office said on Thursday. He has been discharged after reports of the second test also came out negative, it said. The statement said Siddaramaiah was admitted to hospital on August 3 for urinary infection and subsequently he had tested positive for the coronavirus infection. As per the advice of the doctors, he will take rest at home for one week, it added. The 72-year-old leader of opposition has thanked doctors and medical staff who took care of him at the Manipal hospital for the last 10 days. — PTI

Himachal sees big spike of 180 cases

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh registered its highest single-day spike of 180 Covid-19 cases on Thursday, while a 70-year-old man died due to the disease, taking the death toll in the state to 18. The total number of the cases in Himachal stands at 3,817. So far, 2,435 people have recovered from the disease, leaving 1,328 active COVID-19 cases in the state. — PTI

Rajasthan trust vote today

■ **Continued from Page 1**
been trying to save his government. The meeting with the leaders was followed by the Congress Legislature Party meeting, where sources said Mr Gehlot expressed his desire to seek a trust vote on the first day of the Assembly session itself. The Opposition BJP has already announced that it would seek a no-confidence motion against the Gehlot government during the session. The decision was taken at a BJP legislature party meeting held in Jaipur on Thursday. After the meeting, Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria told the media that the motion of no-confidence will be moved in the Assembly session on Friday. The Congress has 107 MLAs in the 200-member House, and the BJP has 72. Meanwhile, the Congress on Thursday revoked the suspension of two of its MLAs, Bhanwarlal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh, who had rebelled along with Mr Pilot last month.

India unveils economic aid for Maldives

\$500m package to boost cargo service and connectivity project

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

In a major move towards cementing close bilateral Indo-Maldivian strategic ties and keeping Chinese influence in the maritime neighbourhood at bay, India on Thursday announced a "financial package consisting of a grant of \$100 million and a new line of credit (LoC) of \$400 million" for the ambitious Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) in India's south-western maritime neighbour Maldives.

The announcement was made by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar after a meeting with Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid through video-conference. India also decided to continue quotas for supply to the Maldives of food items like potatoes, onions, rice, wheat, flour, sugar, dal (pulses) and eggs that will ensure food security to the tiny archipelago nation, besides announcing "creation of an air travel bubble between India and Maldives" from August 18 and a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives that will commence soon. India will also extend in-principle urgent financial assistance to the Maldives by way of a soft loan arrangement amid the Covid pandemic.

The complex GMCP project will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting the Maldivian

► **THE PACKAGE** consists of a grant of \$100m and a new line of credit of \$400m for the Greater Male Connectivity Project. Male with three neighbouring islands — Villingili, Gulhifahu (where a port is being built under Indian LoC) and Thilafushi (new industrial zone) — by construction of a bridge-and-causeway link spanning 6.7 km. It is reliably learnt that the 6.7 km GMCP will dwarf in magnitude the 1.39 km Maldives-China friendship bridge (connecting Male with Hulhule and Hulhumale to its east) built earlier and render that insignificant in comparison.

It is also learnt that India's total financial commitment in the Maldives covering all loan and grant projects is now well over a whopping \$2 billion since November, 2018, when the Maldivian government under President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih assumed office.

Once completed, the GMCP will boost economic activity by generating employment and promoting holistic urban development in the Male region". South Asian foreign policy watchers and observers point out that the GMCP will help in demonstrating India's overarching presence in Maldives through a high-visibility project in the Greater Male region and showcase India's expertise in conceptualising and implementing a complex infrastructural project of this scale.



Children wave tricolours ahead of the Independence Day celebrations at a village in South Dinajpur district, West Bengal, on Thursday. — PTI

■ Punjab, Haryana, HP to get fairly widespread showers

IMD forecasts heavy to very heavy rainfall across country

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Large parts of the country are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the next two-three days, the India meteorological department (IMD) said on Thursday.

The IMD said a low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha and West Bengal coasts.

There is also a monsoon trough plus a convergence of southwesterly winds with moisture from Arabian Sea is likely to continue during the next two days, which will lead to heavy rains over several parts of the country.

Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places are very likely over major parts of north India



People wade through a flooded bridge near submerged houses after heavy rainfall in Satna on Thursday. — PTI

— Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan — during the next two days and decrease thereafter, the

IMD said.

"Moderate to severe thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chandigarh,

Delhi, east Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours," the IMD said.

Several parts of western India are also expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall. This includes Gujarat, Goa, Konkarn, the ghat areas of central Maharashtra, and parts of central India during next 4-5 days, the IMD said.

"Isolated extremely heavy falls are also likely over Gujarat state during next 2-3 days and over ghat areas of central Maharashtra during next 24 hours," the IMD said.

Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy falls are likely over Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during next 2-3 days, the IMD added. — PTI

■ BJP objects, says Uddhav's son inexperienced, ineligible

Aditya to head Maha panel for Padma

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

Maharashtra government's decision to anoint Aaditya Thackeray as the head of the panel to recommend Padma awards has kicked off a controversy in the state. The BJP has opposed the move, saying Aaditya is inexperienced and ineligible for the position.

"It is not correct to form the Padma awards committee under the leadership of Aaditya despite having several experienced and senior ministers in the state cabinet. The decision has been taken in a haste. Aaditya is too inexperienced to head the commit-



► **A DECISION** to form the nine-member Padma awards committee was taken after the Centre's directives asking the state government to recommend the names for the awards that will be declared on January 26, 2021

tee for such prestigious awards," said senior BJP leader Pravin Darekar, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council.

Referring apparently to the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, Mr Darekar also said that Aaditya's name has surfaced in a court case. "Aditya Thackeray has been mentioned by one of the

A decision to form the nine-member Padma awards committee was taken after the Centre's directives asking the state government to recommend the names for the awards that will be declared on January 26, 2021.

The other members of the committee are industries minister Subhash Desai, animal husbandry minister Sunil Kedkar, medical education minister Amit Deshmukh, higher and technical education minister Uday Samant, social justice minister Dhananjay Munde, minister of state for industries Aditi Tatkare, minister of state for forests Dattatraya Bharnre.

DMK expels MLA who praised Modi, met BJP chief in Delhi

Chennai, Aug. 13: The DMK on Thursday expelled its MLA Ku Ka Selvam from the party after he virtually embraced the BJP. The legislator's reply to the show cause notice sent by the party, when he was suspended on August 5 for violating party discipline and bringing disrepute, was 'unacceptable', the party said. "The reply he gave was unacceptable and hence he is dismissed from the primary membership of the party and all his posts," DMK president M.K. Stalin said in

a release adding the removal was a disciplinary action.

Asked on his dismissal from the DMK, Selvam told PTI that he would consult his lawyers adding he would air his views later.

Recently, Selvam praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and met-saffron party chief J.P. Nadda in Delhi.

Virtually embracing the BJP, the MLA who was formerly the DMK headquarters office secretary and executive committee member had asked people to join the saffron party. — PTI

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, AUG. 12

Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, who allegedly abetted the suicide by actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has opposed handing over of the investigation to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In her submissions, Rhea has said that the Patna FIR could be regarded as a zero FIR and transferred to Mumbai police. And the transfer of the probe to the CBI at the behest of the Bihar Police is "without jurisdiction".

The Maharashtra government has also opposed the CBI probe, pointing out that the investigations by the Mumbai Police were already in an advanced stage.

On the other hand, the Bihar government has said that the Patna FIR is the only case registered by the police on Sushant Rajput's suicide and the same has already been taken over by the CBI.

No impediment could be allowed to come in the way of CBI to undertake and complete the investigation expeditiously, says the Bihar note.

Sushant's father Krishna Kishore had contended that Rhea's plea to transfer the FIR to Mumbai has become infructuous after investigation into Patna FIR lodged by him was taken over by the CBI.

After taking over the investigation, the CBI has already registered an FIR

Sanjay Raut wants all to keep quiet till cops complete probe

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said that everyone, including the family of Sushant Singh Rajput, should remain quiet for some time and let the Mumbai Police conclude their investigation in the actor's death case. He also termed the transfer of the case to the CBI as illegal.

The actor was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra on June 14 and since then Mumbai Police has been probing the case. "The day is not far away when the probe is completed," he added.

Mr Raut's statement came a day after NCP Chief Sharad Pawar had said that if someone still wants a CBI or other agency's probe into it, then there is no reason to oppose it.

and named several people in the case. Rhea Chakraborty, the Maharashtra and the Bihar governments have stated their respective positions in their written submissions before the top court. The top court had given all the parties including Rhea, Krishna Kishore Singh, the Maharashtra and the Bihar governments three days to file written notes on their arguments.

The top court had on August 11, reserved the order on the point whether the Mumbai police or the CBI will probe the death of actor Sushant Rajput who committed suicide on June 14 last.

Rhea was a live-in partner of Sushant until a few days before he was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his apartment in Bandra area in Mumbai.

Bihar polls likely to be held in November

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Bihar Assembly elections could be held in five or six phases in November and the Union home ministry is likely to deploy 500-600 companies, roughly 60,000 personnel, of Central paramilitary forces for the same. Ministry officials claim they were going ahead with all necessary arrangements anticipating the polls would be held on schedule.

Home ministry officials claimed that though finalising poll schedule was the prerogative of the Election Commission, the Centre was going ahead with all security and other necessary arrangements anticipating that Bihar elections will be held as per schedule which is in first week of November.

While the 2015 Bihar elections were also held in five phases, this time in view of the Corona pandemic it is believed that polling would be completed in six phases or maybe even in another additional round.

Another big challenge, sources added, would be to ensure proper health protocols during both polling and counting in view of the Corona scare. The home ministry, sources said, will soon hold detailed discussion with the Election Commission, health ministry and other concerned agencies to draw a detail blueprint for the health precautions that would be taken during the elections.

Bihar has seen a sharp increase in number of Corona cases while a large parts of the state have also witnessed heavy rainfall leading to floods.

Rhea opposes CBI probe into Sushant suicide case

Parth visits NCP Pawar's home

Mumbai, Aug. 13: NCP leader Parth Pawar met party supremo Sharad Pawar at latter's residence here, a day after the veteran leader publicly censured his grand-nephew for seeking CBI probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The meeting lasted for a little over two hours. Parth did not speak to the media after the meeting. His father and Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar too has remained tight-lipped over the episode so far. The meeting between Sharad Pawar and Parth took place after NCP MP Supriya Sule met her cousin Ajit Pawar at Mantralaya earlier in the day. — PTI

Rahat Indori's unpublished works to see light of day

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, AUG 13

Unpublished works of famed Urdu poet Rahat Indori, who passed away in Indore on August 11, may see light of the day soon.

His son Satlaj Rahat Indori, who has emerged as the claimant of his late father's rich legacy by already making a mark in the world of 'mushaira' (an evening social gathering at which Urdu poetry is recited), is compiling

the latter's unpublished works to release them.

"My father has left behind a large collection of poems which has remained unpublished. My family has decided to release all his unpublished works in the coming days as a tribute to him," Satlaj, an Urdu poet himself, told this newspaper on Thursday.

Eight books, compilations of poems, authored by late Indori, have been published. His work *Naraz* was a best-seller.



► **INDORI'S SON** Satlaj Rahat Indori, who has emerged as the claimant of his late father's rich legacy by already making a mark in the world of 'mushaira', is compiling the latter's unpublished works to release them

His other published works such as *Maujood*, *Mere Baad*, *Rut*, *Chand Pagal Hai* and *Shabdanachal* have also received wide acclaim by the connoisseurs of "shayari". Satlaj, who has a

journalism background, has been groomed as an accomplished poet under his late father's tutelage. "I have been greatly influenced by my father's writings of 'shayaris' as well as their presentations

before the audience. Many Urdu poets try to imitate his writing and presentation styles. But I always try to cultivate my own style, although many say my presentation of couplets at the mushairas resembles that of my father," Satlaj said.

Satlaj has given performances at the "mushairas" in the country and abroad in the past one decade. "I feel proud that I have given performances in the presence of my father several times", he said.

THE ASIAN AGE

14 AUGUST 2020

Kamala Harris: A smart choice by US Democrats

The Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's pick of running mate in Kamala Harris is historic in more ways than one. Her selection will resonate with a large section of American voters even as it spotlights the growing importance of Black voters, more so of Black women who have fought for decades since the suffragette revolution for their voices to be heard and their ambitions given equal opportunity. Her Afro-Caribbean-Jamaican and Indian parentage brings to the centrestage once again the immigrants' American dream and middle class aspirations that have been threatened in four years of Trump and at a time when the world is in the grip of a raging pandemic.

The USA of today is far more of a racial and cultural melting pot than it was when a Chennai woman broke her Indian shackles and set forth to study in the USA back in 1958 and her daughter now represents eloquently the fight for equal opportunity and equal justice. The Democratic ticket needed this burst of energy to back the 78-year-old Joe Biden. Whether he is to be viewed as a transitional leader or not, what Democrats have right

Her Afro-Caribbean-Jamaican and Indian parentage brings to the centrestage once again the immigrant's American dream and middle class aspirations that have been threatened in four years of Trump

now is a Vice President candidate acceptable to a large section of the population besides the fundraising ability of a prosperous West Coast Senator who is married to a Jew. Far from damaging the handy lead pollsters are giving Biden, she may add value.

Biden's choice predictably ignited the misogynistic, sexist Donald Trump into offending nearly half the US population by bringing back affront to women's dignity in his attitude that is more suited to the Middle Ages. It is at an inflection point in contemporary history of civil strife in the time of the tragic George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement that his death inspired

bringing Harris into the limelight and making her presence on the ticket a smart choice indeed. Furthermore, when the Donald Trump administration is seen to be not only ineffective in handling the Covid-19 pandemic but also deliberately and cynically contemptuous of a threat that has killed more than 1.66 lakh Americans, she brings strength with substance and not just symbolism to a Democratic ticket promising at least the much-needed empathy to a difficult situation.

The far right may have reason to believe Harris, brought up more as a Black kid singing in the church choir than a Tamil Brahmin (and yet mindful of her mother's legacy) is too far to the left while the liberals believe she is, like Biden, too much at the centre. The Chinese are already annoyed by her brave and moral stand on the discriminatory treatment of Uighur Muslims. Harris' strong views on CAA, Kashmir and other home policies may be seen as abrasive by official India. Most Indian-Americans would, however, sense a chance to be more of a mainstream community in their adopted country with their votes likely to be valuable in battleground states. An antidote to the most divisive president in modern history is bound to come with ideologies and philosophies that are principled and are not only in her animus towards Trump that a politician such as this must be seen as a champion to fight the forces in these conflicted times.

Show no mercy to rioters

The vandalism that followed an inflammatory Facebook post and the police firing which cost the lives of three youngsters in Bengaluru on Wednesday point to the urgent need for the authorities to be on a state of high alert against attempts to flame communal passions and throw life into disarray. Hurting religious sentiments is a punishable offence in India. So, anyone who does it knows about its implications, and as such, must be brought to book. The same logic works for believers, too, and they must know that the legal system is capable of dealing with deliberate attempts to denigrate religious figures.

The Bengaluru rioters deserve no mercy as they torched the home of a legislator, set fire to vehicles and even attacked a police station. The Social Democratic Party of India, which now stands accused of having a role in the violence, has a history of portraying themselves as the champions of the Muslim cause in India while pursuing an often-counterproductive path of violence to achieve their ends. Such forces must be made to understand that rule of law prevails in the country.

The BJP, which is ruling the state, was quick to condemn the riot and blame "apposement" saying the Congress was silent about the vandalism though a Congress legislator, who is a dalit, was at the receiving end. The Opposition party must respond to the charge and take an unequivocal stand against communal elements in society.

Bengaluru police stopped the violence from turning into a communal riot. However, the assertions by the ministers and senior police officials that the violence was planned beg the question why the police did not take preventive action. They must do more and prevent its recurrence. This country can ill-afford more calamities, manmade or otherwise.

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Cops slug it out to the beat of Bihar poll drum

This looks like a nightmarish end to federalism as we know it. Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic death has turned into deplorable political one-upmanship. The unprecedented face-off between Bihar Police and Mumbai Police on the investigation of the suicide has far reaching consequences. Many experts are of the view that sending a team of Bihar Police personnel to Mumbai after Rajput's father filed a FIR demanding a probe into the "crime" was out of step. In India, police is a state subject and crimes are investigated by the police depending on where they occurred. If states start to interfere and go after crimes committed against their citizens in another state, we have a recipe for disaster. With the further likely addition of the CBI into this pot, the stew has grown thicker.

Had some worthies shown some prudence, we wouldn't have had to see the DGPs of the two states sling-

ing at each other on the TV news. TV newsrooms or Twitter are not the place to conduct a serious investigation into the death of a popular actor.

The case has grown much bigger with the respective state governments getting into the ring. The Bihar CM has given his nod for a CBI probe, bowing to pressure from the actor's family, while Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray refusing to give in to the demand. Both chief ministers have decided to stick by their police chiefs. The Enforcement Directorate has also opened an investigation into alleged money laundering. It is pretty much a no-holds-barred affair now, teetering dangerously on the edge of turning into a farce.

None of this would have merited so much focus and energy were it not for the Assembly elections in Bihar, due in October. The Bihari "sentiment" seems to have taken the frontstage, a thinly veiled euphemism for votes. The politicisa-

tion of the police is one of those vexing issues that no amount of reform has been able to deal with. The recent Vikas Dubey encounter and the police custodial deaths in Sathanakulam town near Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu are already forgotten. The Sushant case will likely drag until it is no longer convenient. Sadly, if this lack of restraint and willful flouting of procedure by the police persists, it will end badly for the country.

CONTROVERSIAL NITI AAYOG EXIT

The repatriation of Niti Aayog adviser Alok Kumar to his cadre state Uttar Pradesh has set tongues wagging. Barely less than two months ago, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had given Mr Kumar a one-year extension of tenure at the think tank. He was relieved on July 31.

The government's U-turn has left many observers bemused. Some say that since the UP government had

agreed to an extension for Mr Kumar in May, it is unlikely that it would recall the 1993-batch IAS officer. This then implies that the Centre's U-turn may have been caused by some rift among the higher-ups in Delhi over the babu. The buzz is that there are some differences between the Niti Aayog and the health ministry over policy matters, and possibly Mr Kumar was in the middle of the spat. But that may not be the only reason, certainly not enough to warrant this U-turn. After all, Mr Kumar was reportedly handling the majority of the key assignments at the nation's premier think tank. We may never know.

However, some observers believe that Mr Kumar's unexpected exit from Niti Aayog will cast a cloud over the empanelment of 1983 batch IAS officers for additional secretary-level posts at the Centre.

ROOPA K'TAKA HOME SECY

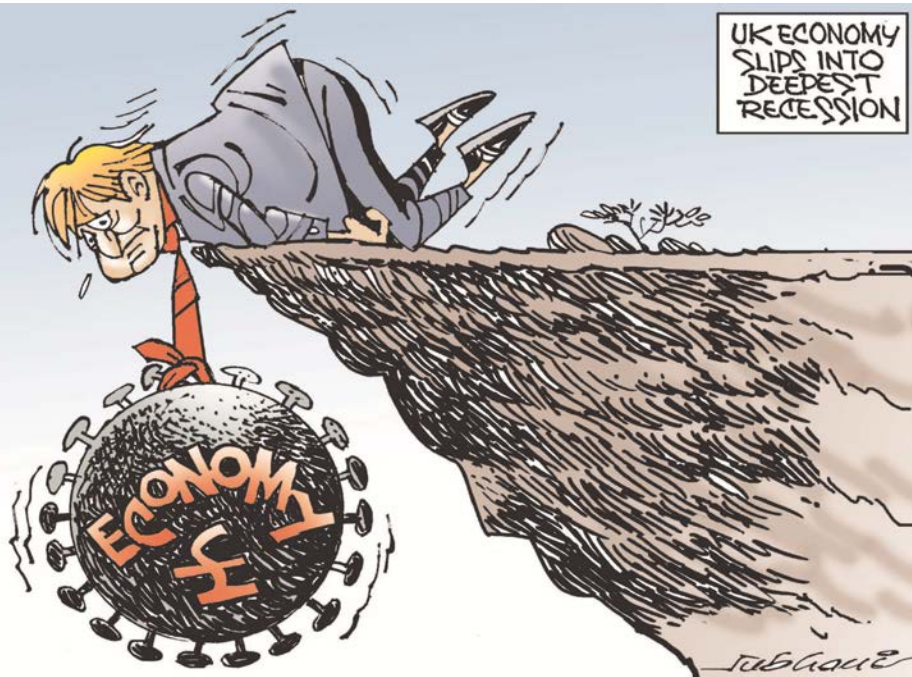
Roopa D. Moudgil is the first woman IPS officer of Karnataka and has

now become the first woman police officer to be appointed the state's home secretary. The decision is unpalatable for IAS officers who might have been eyeing the post for themselves. It's not often that an IPS officer is appointed to a post traditionally associated with the IAS. The violence this week in Bangalore may, however, quieten naysayers.

This posting comes amid a major rejig that has been happening within the government. Thirteen senior IPS officers were given different posts, and 19 ranked officers were transferred. This 2000-batch IPS officer, however, has many firsts to her credit, having become well-known for taking up cases that involve either senior IPS officers or politicians. Most recently, late AIADMK chief Jayalalitha's aide Sasikala.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani



Why Ayodhya was not like battle for freedom



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

We are limping toward our 73rd Independence Day with little enthusiasm. The mood cannot but be downbeat after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's morale eroding recent Ayodhya foray.

The most narrow-minded Hindu, who (even if inadvertently) takes his cue from an outfit with a militaristic anti-democracy mindset that espouses antagonism toward particular religions, and weakens the core concepts of modern Indian nationhood rooted in our freedom movement, may have been charged up that day. But even such people have to think of their home fires, the pandemic at the door, and the push of expansionist China's army inside our borders.

Their evidently pseudo "Ram bhakti", or devotion to the exalted ideals exemplified by Lord Ram, has no basis in religion. Its fundamentals lie elsewhere — in the corrosive alleyways of politics that seek religion-based domination of society and the political space — as in Pakistan, for instance, and can without exaggeration be called non-sacred devotion to the divine.

The entire Ayodhya temple project has, in fact, been a massive enterprise in the politics of bigotry in which religion is whipped up as a mobilising tool with the aim of acquiring and retaining power on premises that are unconnected with the demands of everyday life. And this is why, eventually, it is likely to prove of little avail against such powerful counter-urges as have been noted above — those of pressing concerns of the country.

Even if an ideologically-crazed and politically greedy Prime Minister is

not ready at present to comprehend this, he is likely to be brought down to earth when ordinary Indians begin to feel the pinch and hold him and his buddies to account.

A (probably modified) Turkish proverb runs thus: "The forest was shrinking but the trees kept voting for the axe, for the axe was clever and convinced the trees that because his handle was made of wood he was one of them." In this the metaphor of our present politics (and indeed that of Turkey) becomes clear as day.

Just 10 days before India was to mark the 73rd anniversary of its freedom from colonial rule — and of attaining in that process the composite identity of a common nationhood, which is an overarching canopy across our complex identities of religion, caste, language and ethnicity — the Prime Minister struck at the fundamental precepts enshrined in the idea of Indian independence. These had even served as a model to many countries as the process of decolonisation unfolded across the world.

It was careful choreography that the temple-building trust (which seems an extension of the PMO) chose August 5 — the very date last year on which the constitutionally-ordained autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, was snatched away by the Centre by adopting illegal and irregular ways that have been challenged in the Supreme Court, and the region brought under militarised suppression with not even a semblance of democratic governance — to lay the foundation of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The Kashmir-to-Ayodhya common template was clearly intend-

ed to overtly demonstrate the suppression of Muslim aspirations in India by the Indian State under the RSS-BJP aegis, although Muslims were equal participants in the freedom movement.

The RSS-BJP cohorts had declared from the start that the temple of their dreams would be erected at the exact spot where the Babri Masjid, a 16th century mosque of no particular significance (the Supreme Court rejected the propaganda that the mosque was on built on the ruins of a temple), had stood and was violently pulled down on December 6, 1992.

This was ruthlessly ensured through an illogical and justifiably condemned decree of the Supreme Court in November last year. A judgment in favour of Ram Lalla (beloved Ram) would hardly have presented a problem since it is widely recognised now that many of democracy's characteristic institutions appear to have been all but superseded by the executive under the Narendra Modi government.

Mr Modi is known to bring communal mobs to their feet without breaking a sweat, and for full theatrical effect he seldom fails to appear in the attire of ancient Hindu sages as depicted in kitsch art. For him, it would have been quite enough to satisfy the faithful by just being around to lay the first symbolic brick for the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, no matter how constitutionally unseemly this is.

And yet, the PM thought it best to make a big deal about invoking the freedom movement, and giving the (patently false) impression that

Truth to tell, the PM has already made his Independence Day address, and it had little to do with the core values of India and the immediate concerns of all Indians

building the temple was the second edition of the glorious struggle for independence, which is imprinted in the psyche of every Indian. Why did he do so?

The reason seems clear. He wanted to steal the emotional association every Indian has with the long-drawn freedom struggle for an act of violent bigotry at Ayodhya — arguably the most reprehensible in free India. Even if no one dared to inform him of this earlier, the Prime Minister may as well be made conscious that his August 5 speech in Ayodhya eviscerates the ideas that underlie the independence of India.

"The soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance," Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said as the midnight hour struck proclaiming the emergence of India on the world stage as a new kind of free nation, one whose very concept had mesmerised the world on account of its perplexing diversity, plurality, and its ambition for democracy. But the present PM presses the delete button on such thoughts every single day. Yet, nothing bestows legitimacy like favourable allusions to the independence movement.

So, speaking from Ayodhya, Mr Modi engaged in yet another act of misappropriation by falsely linking the temple project with the freedom movement. He sought to portray the construction of the Ram temple as an act of "liberation". But we have been a free country for over 70 years, and no one in India feels enslaved except by caste, class, gender or communal oppression. That makes Mr Modi's "liberation theology" a grand deception.

Truth to tell, the PM has already made his Independence Day address on August 5, and it had little to do with the core values of India and the immediate concerns of all Indians. From the Red Fort on August 15, he can only give us a round of rituals and some more propaganda.

LETTERS

PROBLEM OF ORDER

The violence in Bengaluru where several vehicles were torched, people killed and police injured over a Facebook post is totally unwarranted. People should maintain etiquette and display civic sense while expressing their freedom of speech in responding to a post on social media. Those who vandalised the police station had no right to do so or even to disrupt normal life in the city. They could have argued back on the same platform or maintained restraint. They should immediately be arrested.

V. Nagendra Kumar
Hyderabad

WHY JUST JAINS?

GLAD TO READ that the Maharashtra government told the Bombay high court that it cannot order reopening of Jain shrines for the Paryushan festival from August 15 to August 23 due to spread of coronavirus when two Bhandup residents filed a petition and the court asked the question. However, by the same token, all other temples, including the Venkateswara Temple at Tirupati should be closed too, without further delay.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

STAND BY THEM

FROM BONGAON to Bombay, despite masks, humanity's true face stands exposed in public. We, the people of India, are divided along religious lines even as Covid-19 makes rapid strides. From 1899 to 1920, be it the plague, cholera or the Spanish flu, epidemics in Bengal saw lakhs of deaths, including the daughter of Abanindranath Tagore, son of Rabindranath Tagore and Dr Radhagobindo Kar himself. But that was when people also stood by one another. Vivekananda, who was about to sell the Belur monastery land, wrote, "If there is a plague in the city where I was born, I have decided to sacrifice myself for its cure." It is time today to remember their spirit of sacrifice.

Ardhendu Banerjee
Kolkata

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

IN BRIEF

Saudi King rests after surgery

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman arrived at a planned Red Sea megacity to "rest and recuperate", state media said Thursday, after the 84-year-old ruler underwent surgery to remove his gall bladder. The kingdom has sought to quell speculation over the health of the ageing monarch, who has ruled the top oil exporter and the Arab world's biggest economy since 2015. "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman arrived in NEOM, where he will spend some time to rest and recuperate," the official Saudi Press Agency said in a brief statement.

US: Iran forces board ship

Dubai: Iranian forces boarded a tanker in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, using a helicopter and two ships to take over the vessel, US officials said. They also posted grainy black-and-white footage of the helicopter hovering low over the vessel and special forces personnel fast-roping onto the deck. "Today in international waters, Iranian forces, including two ships and an Iranian 'Sea King' helicopter, overtook and boarded a ship called the 'Vila'," the US Central Command said in a tweet on Wednesday. A US defence official said the Iranians released the vessel, a Liberian-flagged oil and chemicals tanker, after holding it for four to five hours. It occurred in international waters of the Gulf of Oman, 32 kilometres off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

Israel halts Gaza fuel supply

Gaza City: Israel announced Thursday it was halting the "import of fuel into the Gaza Strip", the latest punitive measure over a wave of airborne fire bombs from the Palestinian territory. The defence ministry announcement came hours after Israeli jets and tanks hit targets affiliated with Hamas, the enclave's Islamist rulers. No casualties were reported. The latest round of hostilities has seen firebombs attached to bunches of balloons floating into Israel, setting scrubland ablaze. Sometimes kites are used in the makeshift attacks. In response, Israel has closed a goods crossing with Gaza and slashed the territory's permitted coastal fishing zone. The fuel sanction was "in light of the continued launching of incendiary balloons from the Strip toward the territory of the State of Israel and of the undermining of security stability", the defence ministry said.

LEBANON NOD TO EMERGENCY POWERS

Beirut, Aug. 13: Lebanon's parliament on Thursday approved a two-week state of emergency imposed by the government after last week's deadly port explosion that gives it legal authority to suppress resurgent protests.

Calls had circulated on social media networks for protesters to prevent lawmakers from entering the session — the first since the August 4 blast that ravaged swathes of the capital. But turnout was too low on Thursday morning, ahead of official visits by French Defence Minister Florence Parly and David Hale, the top career diplomat at the US State Department. Security forces outnumbered the dozen or so demonstrators who had gathered on a street near parliament.

Demonstrators tried to heckle tinted vehicles dashing to the debate but they could not stop it reaching a quorum.

The colossal explosion that killed 171 people and wounded at least 6,500 others has rekindled calls for the ouster of Lebanon's decades-old political elite, many of whom are former warlords from the 1975-1990 civil war.

There has been widespread anger against a political leadership which allowed a large shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate fertiliser to rot for years in a port warehouse despite repeated safety warnings.

An AFP investigation found that up until the day before the deadly blast, officials had exchanged warnings over the cargo, but did nothing despite experts' fears it could cause a major conflagration.

As he presented his government's resignation on Monday, Prime Minister Hassan Diab blamed the blast on decades of corruption and official mismanagement.

Biden, Harris vow to rebuild US

V-P nominee says citizens crying out to overcome pandemic, racial bias, poor economy

Wilmington, United States, Aug. 13: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris launched their joint White House bid Wednesday, with the newly minted vice-presidential nominee saying Americans are "crying out for leadership" to overcome the triple crisis of a pandemic, racial injustice and a ravaged economy.

Making their first appearance as running mates, before a small crowd of reporters and staffers at a Delaware high school closed to the public due to coronavirus concerns, the Democratic duo vowed to end Donald Trump's presidency and, in Biden's words, "rebuild this country". "Everything we care about," said Harris. "It's all on the line."

A formidable 55-year-old US senator from California and a daughter of immigrants, Harris has already made history as the first woman of colour tapped for a major party presidential ticket.

Describing a country at the crossroads, she left little doubt of her determination to go on the attack, saying Trump "just isn't up for the job" and has left the nation "in tatters".

"America is crying out for leadership, yet we have a president who cares more about himself than the people who elected him," said Harris.

Despite the awkwardly intimate setting, a far cry from the typical campaign rollout featuring an audience of thousands, Harris appeared telegenic and confident in her first speech as vice presidential nominee — for which she and Biden both arrived wearing facemasks.

"The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," said the former California attorney general as she assailed the president's "failures of

leadership" on containing the deadly pandemic and an economy hobbled by measures to fight the contagion. The daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants to the United States sought to tap into the nationwide upheaval over police violence and racial disparities.

"We're experiencing a moral reckoning with racism and systemic injustice that has brought a new coalition of conscience to the streets of our country demanding change," she said. For Biden — who leads Trump in most national polls and in swing states like Florida and Wisconsin despite conducting the campaign mostly from his Wilmington, Delaware home — his V-P reveal marks a crucial moment as he aims to build a broad coalition of voters to defeat Trump.

Biden spoke of why he chose Harris as his partner, stressing she was a tough and experienced legislator who is "ready to do this job on Day 1".

And he said that Harris' story as the child of immigrants and a woman of colour who fought her way to the top ranks of US legal and political circles would inspire the country.

"Her story's America's story," Biden said. "She's worked hard (and) she's never backed down from a challenge."

He also laced his remarks with optimism about the future, promising that a Biden-Harris administration will do what it takes to "turn the corner on this pandemic". The event capped a 24-hour flurry since Biden's running mate announcement, with Biden saying they raised an impressive \$26 million during the period, the campaign's one-day record.

— AFP



Democratic presidential nominee and former US Vice-President Joe Biden along with vice-presidential running mate and US California Senator Kamala Harris, participate in a virtual grassroots fundraiser at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday.

— AFP

Israel ties could ease Obama-era tensions

Jerusalem, Aug. 13: During Joe Biden's first trip to Israel in 1973, he met prime minister Golda Meir, who chain-smoked as she detailed regional security threats days before the Yom Kippur War.

Biden, a newly elected US senator at the time, later described that meeting as "one of the most consequential" of his life.

In the more than four decades since, his career has been marked by a staunch defence of Israel, especially in its handling of the Palestinian conflict.

Biden, set to become the Democratic Party's presidential nominee next week, will face in Donald Trump a president whom Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described as Israel's best friend to ever sit in the White House.

The warm ties contrast with Netanyahu's acrimonious relationship with Biden's old boss, former president Barack Obama.

But some experts say a Biden win would be welcomed across Israel's political and military establishment — not just by Netanyahu's rivals on the left.

Biden has long been a vocal supporter of the Jewish state, declaring in a 2015 speech that the US must uphold its "sacred promise to protect the homeland of the Jewish people". Kamala Harris, Biden's vice-presidential

nominee, is also regarded as a staunch backer of the Jewish state.

After hosting a delegation from the main pro-Israel lobby AIPAC in her office in California last year, she wrote on Twitter of the "need for a strong US-Israel alliance, the right of Israel to defend itself, and my commitment to combat anti-Semitism in our country and around the world".

A strong commitment to defending Israel is key to winning the trust of Israeli leaders, perpetually sensitive to international criticism. "We like people who love us," said Nadav Tamir, a former diplomat and foreign policy advisor

to president Shimon Peres. "There is no doubt Biden is a friend who has very strong emotions for Israel," he said.

Experts suggested Biden could also restore the traditional American role of interlocutor between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority has cut ties with Trump, accusing him of egregious bias towards Israel.

Biden "will do much better than Trump on the real issues because he understands that the Israel-Palestinian issue is not a zero-sum game," Tamir said.

Biden served in an Obama administration that often clashed with Israel.

— AFP

Miandad: Will challenge Imran Khan in politics



Imran Khan

PAK ARMY CHIEF BIDS TO PLACATE SAUDI ARABIA

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, AUG. 13

Pakistan army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa will visit Saudi Arabia this weekend in a bid to remove misunderstandings as financial support for Islamabad hangs in the balance. Pakistan has long pressed the Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting to highlight alleged Indian violations in Kashmir. But the OIC has only held low-level meetings so far.

"If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris."

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said last week.

Last year, Islamabad had pulled out of a Muslim-majority countries forum at the last minute on insistence by Riyadh, which said the gathering was an attempt to challenge its leadership of the OIC. Qureshi's remarks have revived Riyadh's anger.

Saudia Arabia had already made Pakistan pay back \$1 billion two weeks ago, forcing it to borrow from another close ally China, and Riyadh is yet to respond to Pakistan's request to extend the oil credit facility.

"The first year (of the oil credit facility) completed on 9th July 2020. Our request for an extension in the arrangement is under consideration with the Saudi side," an official said.

Saudi Arabia is also asking for another \$1 billion back.

backbone of the then Pakistan team and is remembered for many memorable innings. — PTI



Svetlana Alexievich

NOBELIST SVETLANA TELLS BELARUS PREZ TO LEAVE

Minsk, Aug. 13: Belarusian Nobel prize-winning writer Svetlana Alexievich has condemned police violence against protesters in her country and urged President Alexander Lukashenko to go peacefully. The 72-year-old author won the 2015 Nobel literature prize for her work chronicling the horrors of war and life under the repressive Soviet regime, including the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

In her first public reaction to the protests that have broken out across Belarus over Sunday's disputed presidential election, the writer told Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe that Lukashenko should step down peacefully to prevent a bloody civil war.

"Leave before it's too late, before you've thrown people into a terrible abyss, into the abyss of civil war," she appealed to Lukashenko, whom she has long criticised.

— Agencies

New Zealand mulls lockdown extension as Covid-19 spreads

Wellington, Aug. 13: New Zealand health officials said Wednesday a Covid-19 cluster in Auckland had grown, raising the prospect a lockdown imposed on the country's biggest city after the virus returned will be extended.

National health director-general Ashley Bloomfield said a high school student in Auckland had tested positive, taking the number of confirmed infections to five, with another four probable cases.

"This is someone who was a close contact with one of our existing confirmed cases," Bloomfield told TVNZ.

Health authorities rushed to implement a lockdown in the country's largest city after testing revealed four family members had contracted the virus from an unknown source.

It ended New Zealand's much envied run of 102 days without community transmission, and resulted in a three-day stay-at-home order in Auckland which ends at midnight Friday. Bloomfield said it was "almost certain" more cases would emerge, and teams of health workers were racing to find the cluster's origin.

"We want to find out how large it is as soon as possible, so we've been testing all close contacts, casual contacts, workplace, family related," he said.

US braces for eviction crisis

New York, Aug. 13: Activists and relief groups in the United States are scrambling to head off a monumental wave of evictions nationwide, as the coronavirus crisis leaves tens of millions at risk of homelessness.

The jobs catastrophe sparked by the global health emergency and the tepid rebound in the world's largest economy have left Americans struggling to pay rent and vulnerable to eviction. Hopes for relief in the form of a fresh aid

package from Washington were dashed as partisan bickering scuppered the latest negotiations.

The housing crisis is "already a tsunami", said Bambi Hayes-Brown of Georgia Advancing Communities Together, a coalition of nonprofit housing and community development groups.

"We got some funding from the United Way and we went through it so fast. We were just inundated," said Mariatou Diallo, who lives in New York. — AFP

DUTERTE TO SKIP TRIAL OF RUSSIA VIRUS VACCINE

Manila, Aug. 13: The Philippines will begin large-scale human testing of Russia's coronavirus vaccine in October, but President Rodrigo Duterte will not receive the inoculation until regulators guarantee its safety.

Duterte had offered himself up as a guinea pig for the very first jab. But his spokesman Harry Roque said the president was scheduled to receive the vaccine no earlier than May 1, weeks after the Russian-funded clinical trial is due to end in March. — AFP

VACCINATION IN RUSSIAN REGION AFTER MONGOLIA BUBONIC PLAGUE

Moscow, Aug. 13: The head of a remote Russian region on Thursday said that herders and other residents of two districts on the border with Mongolia should be vaccinated against bubonic plague.

The order was issued after Mongolia's health ministry said Wednesday that bubonic plague killed a man in the country's west. It was the latest in a

handful of cases to emerge there and in neighbouring China this year.

The leader of the Siberian region of Tuva, Sholban Kara-ool, said all residents of the region's two border districts, Ovyursky and Mongun-Taiginsky, should be inoculated.

The two districts are home to some 14,000 people. — AFP

FANTASY FILM

Author Woodward made name with coverage of Watergate scam

Trump book to reveal letters with Kim

Seoul, Aug. 13: Kim Jong Un said his relationship with Donald Trump was like a "fantasy film", according to the publishers of a new book on the US president set to unveil 25 private letters exchanged between the two leaders.

The relationship between the pair has been a key driver of recent diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang, veering from mutual insults and threats of war to a declaration of love from Trump.

Investigative journalist Bob Woodward obtained messages between the two leaders "that have not

been public before" for his upcoming book, according to Simon & Schuster.

In the letters, "Kim describes the bond between the two leaders as out of a 'fantasy film', as the two leaders engage in an extraordinary diplomatic minuet", the publisher revealed on the book's Amazon page. The book, titled "Rage" and a follow-up to 2018's "Fear", is due out on September 15. Trump and Kim have met three times, beginning with their landmark summit in Singapore in June 2018, but little progress has been made on efforts to denuclearise the North.

● **TRUMP HAS** sought to discredit several of the claims made in "Fear", which offered an inside glimpse into his chaotic White House and sold 1.1 million copies in its first week. Trump — who was not interviewed by Woodward for "Fear" — has called that book a "joke" and "a scam".

A few months after Singapore, Trump told a rally of his supporters that the two men had fallen in love. "No, really, he wrote me

beautiful letters, and they're great letters. We fell in love," he said. Negotiations have been deadlocked since the collapse of a second summit in Hanoi in February last year. But even with diplomacy at a standstill, Trump has frequently boasted of receiving "very beautiful" and "excellent" letters from Kim. Woodward, a *Washington Post* reporter, made his name with his coverage of the Watergate scandal and the role it played in the Richard Nixon's resignation from the presidency in 1974.

Trump has sought to dis-

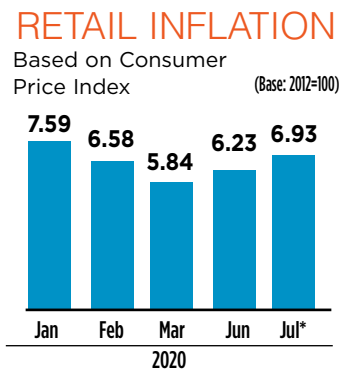
credit several of the claims made in "Fear", which offered an inside glimpse into his chaotic White House and sold 1.1 million copies in its first week.

Trump — who was not interviewed by Woodward for "Fear" — has called that book a "joke" and "a scam". But in January this year, Trump said he had sat down with Woodward for the upcoming work. "I was interviewed by a very, very good writer, reporter," Trump said. "I can say Bob Woodward. He said he's been doing something and this time I said, 'Maybe I'll sit down.'" — AFP

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,310.49	-0.15
Nifty 50	11,300.45	-0.07
S&P 500*	3,385.05	0.14
Dollar (₹)	74.84	0.00
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.87	-0.12
Euro (₹)	88.52	0.62
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	53,132.11	0.02
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	45.02	-0.41
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.895	0.011
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.685	-0.001

* As of 9:30 PM IST



SIP inflows hit 22-month low in July at ₹7,830 cr



Investments in mutual funds through systematic investment plans (SIPs) hit a 22-month low of Rs 7,831 crore in July amidst market volatility. This was the lowest level since September 2018, when investment through this route stood at Rs 7,727 crore. Inflows through SIP have slowed down in the past four months. Investment in June 2020 dropped below Rs 8,000 crore for the first time since November 2018.

Cadila launches remdesivir at \$37 per vial

Zydus Cadila launched the cheapest generic version of Gilead Sciences' antiviral drug remdesivir in India to treat Covid-19 following reports of shortages at hospitals. Zydus has priced it at Rs 2,800 per 100mg vial. It will be sold under the brand name Remdac to government and private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients. Officials in some states had a few weeks ago complained of supply issues.

Mi India pledges 2,500 phones to support students

Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi said its arm MI India will distribute 2,500 handsets worth Rs 2 crore to support online education of children. "MI India distribution and retail came up with a fantastic idea. Together they will be contributing 2,500 smartphones to enable children most impacted by the pandemic to access quality education. In this endeavour we found the right partner Teach for India," COO Muralikrishnan B. said.

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J&J ties up with Biological E for making Covid-19 vaccine in India

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Biological E. Limited, India's oldest biological products company, said on Thursday that it has tied up United States-based Johnson & Johnson to manufacture the latter's Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India.

"We are very pleased indeed to collaborate with an organisation like Johnson & Johnson. Given

the magnitude of the Covid-19 pandemic, our ability to mount an effective response will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally and in significant quantities. This is best achieved through collaboration," said Mahima Datla, the managing director of BE.

J&J is developing a vaccine candidate 'Ad26.COV2.S' for the coronavirus through its pharmaceutical arm Janssen

Pharmaceutica NV. The vaccine candidate is currently in phase 1/2a clinical trials.

The phase 1/2a study will involve more than 1,000 adults aged between 18 and 55. The study will also include testing the vaccine in people 65 and older. Human trials in the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Japan will follow.

Johnson & Johnson chief scientific officer Paul

Our ability to mount an effective response (to Covid-19) will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally and in significant quantities

— Mahima Datla
MD, Biological E Limited



Stoffels had told a conference call last month that the company expects initial human results in September and phase 3

efficacy testing could start the same month itself. "The vaccine could be ready by early 2021," he said.

The tie-up with Biological E. would help J&J to ramp its manufacturing capabilities in India.

"We look forward to deploying our manufacturing infrastructure to support Johnson & Johnson's commitment to global access for its Covid-19 vaccine," said Narender Dev Mantena, director of BioE Holdings Inc., who heads BE's novel vaccine initiative.

According to the World Health Organisation data, people around the world are working on 42 vaccine candidates for the coronavirus, including two from India, which are at different stages of development.

"Six vaccine candidates are in phase-3 trials, two candidates in phase 2 trials. Ten vaccine candidates, including two being developed in India, are at phase 1/2," claims the WHO data as on August 10.

■ Investigation wing, TDS directorate to decide on surveys

Curtains on I-T raids at will

New Delhi, Aug 13: The income tax surveys to collect information for scrutiny assessment will be undertaken only by the investigation wing and the tax deducted at source (TDS) directorate with effect from Thursday, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

In an order, the CBDT said officers in Directorate General of Income Tax (DGIT) (Investigation) and Principal Commissioner of I-T (TDS) "only and exclusively" shall be the competent authority for approving survey actions with effect from August 13, 2020.

"The survey action u/s 133A of the Act being an intrusive action, it is expected that the same should be carried out with utmost responsibility and accountability," the CBDT said, adding that with faceless assessment the department is moving towards minimal interface with taxpayers.

MEASURES TO EASE COMPLIANCE BURDEN: FM

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the faceless tax scrutiny assessment and appeal would ease the compliance burden of taxpayers and increase fairness and objectivity in the tax system.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the platform 'Transparent Taxation Honoring the Honest' which provides for launch of faceless assessment and adoption of a taxpayer charter.

Also the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which administers personal income tax and corporate tax, will launch faceless appeals beginning September 25.

"Today is a landmark day in the history of tax administration," Sitharaman said.

"The CBDT has given a framework and put in place a system in the form of this platform...It uses technology, data analytics, and also uses artificial intelligence," she said. —PTI

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Aravind Srivatsan said the previous regime allowed taxmen from inspector onwards, jurisdictional assessing officer to initiate the survey with prior approval of joint commissioner of income tax.

"In effect the powers of the assessment authorities which were exercised in the normal course will now have to be backed by credible evidence to seek such approval from now permitted higher authorities. This shows the govern-

ment intention to ensure only genuinely deserving cases would go through this procedure," he said.

In an I-T survey, tax officers visit business premises of the taxpayer to gather information by way of examination of books of accounts, data stored electronically and also access email communication.

Srivatsan said it can be inferred from the order that the faceless assessment scheme could subject the taxpayer to more rigorous audit based on his profiling and industry situation and requires a careful maintenance of supporting documentation with regard to significant tax positions.

AKM Global's tax partner Amit Maheshwari said it will increase accountability in conducting surveys.

"Surveys by nature are very intrusive and sensitive. Now, only a selected division of the tax department can conduct a survey," he said. —PTI

States' sales tax receipts from fuel may go up by 9%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 13

The recovery trend in sales volumes and increase in excise duties will see sales tax receipts of states on petroleum products going up by 7 to 9 per cent this fiscal, despite the negative impact of the pandemic, finds Crisil.

Firmer crude oil prices will also add to the increase in receipts. If volumes rebound amidst increased central and state taxes and firmer crude oil prices, there could be a 7-9 per cent rise in sales tax receipts over last year to Rs 1.96 lakh crore, despite an expected 25 per cent fall in collections in the first quarter.

"The first quarter saw petrol and diesel sales volume plunging by a third because of the Covid-19 induced lockdown. But with the economy slowly unlocking and industrial and commercial activities clawing back, vehicular traffic has started to improve," said Manish Gupta, senior director of Crisil Ratings.

In April combined monthly volume of petrol and diesel sales, which account for 90 per cent of sales tax collections from petroleum products, were 43 per cent of the pre-Covid levels. This moved up to 85 per cent in June and is around 83 per cent in July. If economic activity rebounds to pre-pandemic levels by November, the annual volume decline may be restricted to 11-12 per cent this fiscal.

Further, the central excise duty and state sales tax rates of petrol and diesel were increased several times in the past few months. Between March and May weighted average diesel retail price had gone up by Rs 16 per litre. By July another Rs 2.8 per litre hike was also implemented.

An increase in excise duty increases the taxable value of petrol and diesel for the levy of state sales tax. This higher taxable value of the fuel is providing additional sales tax of Rs 3 per litre to states.

I-T Charter: Every taxpayer to be treated as honest & with courtesy

New Delhi, Aug 13: The tax department has committed to treat every taxpayer as honest, unless proven otherwise, and provide fair, courteous and reasonable treatment, according to the taxpayers' charter adopted on Thursday. The charter also expects taxpayers to pay taxes on time and be honest and compliant.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the platform 'Transparent Taxation Honoring the Honest' which provides for adoption of a taxpayers' charter, which defines the tax department's commitment and its expectation from the taxpayers.

The tax officers will now be committed to a 14-point charter, which includes collecting "only the (tax)

amount due" as per the law, while taxpayers would have to be "responsible" and fulfill six-point expectations of the I-T Department, including being honest and compliant.

The charter mandates the I-T Department to hold its "authorities accountable for their actions" and states that the department would provide fair, courteous, prompt and reasonable treatment as well as professional assistance to all taxpayers.

The officers shall treat taxpayers as honest "unless there is a reason to believe otherwise", it said.

The charter also bars the tax officers from disclosing taxpayer information unless authorised by law and also respect privacy of

taxpayer.

The department will have to periodically publish standards for service delivery and provide a fair system to resolve tax issues in a time-bound manner.

The charter also mandates the department to allow every taxpayer to choose an authorised representative of his choice and provide mechanism for lodging a complaint, and its prompt disposal.

The charter expects the taxpayers to honestly disclose full information and "fulfill his compliance obligations". Also, the taxpayer is expected to keep accurate records and know what information and submissions are made by his authorised representative. —PTI

PAYTM STARTS TRADING PLATFORM

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

Fintech firm Paytm announced the launch of stock trading on its online investment & wealth management platform Paytm Money with lower brokerage charges than currently offered by traditional and discount brokers. Cash delivery trades are free and intraday trades are charged at Rs 10 only, the firm said.



fraudulent and deceitful manner and their excess OI positions created a false or misleading appearance in the market.

The SCN further said that Ruchi Global and Ruchi Soya Industries and National Steel & Agro Industries belonged to one distinct group, while Secunderabad Oils and UKS Oils belonged to another distinct group.

"In the absence of any material to show that these two distinct groups were connected to each other and traded in the castor seeds contracts in a concerted manner to manipulate the market, it is not correct to allege that the five noticees together cornered the derivative market in castor seeds contract...in violation of PFUTP Regulations, 2003 and at the expense of other clients," Sebi said. —PTI

NBFC bond sales jump to levels before 2018 crisis

DIVYA PATIL
AUG. 13

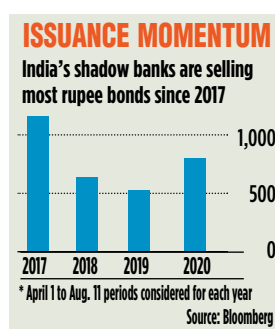
Indian shadow lenders are selling the most local-currency bonds since before a financial crisis engulfed the sector two years ago, in a sign that record stimulus is easing their fundraising burden.

The financiers have raised Rs 81,300 crore (\$10.9 billion) through rupee notes since April 1, making it the best start to a financial year since 2017. Offerings from non-bank firms had declined in 2018 and 2019 as at least three shadow lenders defaulted on their repayments, battering investor demand for the sector's debt.

More cash for shadow banks is good news for the economy, which relies on these firms to provide financing to everyone from tailors to business giants. Non-bank lending is crucial in supporting Asia's third-largest economy, which is forecast to contract for the first time in four decades this year due to fallout from the pandemic.

To help non-bank financiers counter the economic impact of the outbreak, the government in May announced a Rs 30,000 crore credit line for these financiers, and said it will fully guarantee investment-grade securities issued under this plan.

To further assist lower-rated shadow banks, the administration agreed to



also provide a partial guarantee to debt rated AA and below, injecting another Rs 45,000 crore. The central bank, meanwhile, funded banks' purchases of bonds issued by these lenders to the tune of Rs 12,850 crore.

But challenges remain, with signs investor demand for the debt is uneven. It's largely banks, which have to implement the economic stimulus steps, that are buying notes sold by shadow lenders. Other key players in the local credit market, such as mutual funds, halved their holdings of the bonds in the two-year period to June.

Moody's Investors Service warned in June that the stress among these lenders may be deeper and broader than it thought and S&P Global Ratings cut credit scores of several such firms citing liquidity risks.

The financiers are at least benefiting from lower borrowing costs as a result of the stimulus package. —Bloomberg

BROADER MARKET OUTPERFORMS SENSEX, NIFTY

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

A broader market rally led to outperformance by medium and small sized companies in the stock market while the Sensex and Nifty-50 indices closed in the red for the second day, compared to 1.5 to over 2 per cent gains registered by the mid-cap indices.

The Sensex closed 0.15 per cent or 59.14 points lower and Nifty-50 ended down 0.07 per cent, or by 7.95 points.

The Nifty Midcap-50 Index rose 2.20 per cent and the Nifty Midcap-100 gained 1.57 per cent while the BSE Midcap Index gained 1.59 per cent and the BSE Smallcap gained 0.76 per cent.

Domestic institutions remained net sellers by Rs 763.54 crore while the foreign portfolio investors were net buyers by Rs 416.28 crore.

Some big midcap gainers on NSE included Bharat Forge (15.67 per cent), Ashok Leyland (14.46 per cent), BHEL (8.18 per cent), Cholamandalam Investment & Finance (8.07 per cent), Tata Power (5.67 per cent).

Sameet Chavan of Angel Broking said, the Nifty-50 is clearly struggling to surpass the 11350-11400 hurdle.

Maruti Alto crosses 40 L sales milestone

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, AUG 13

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Thursday said its entry level small car Alto has crossed the cumulative sales milestone of 40 lakh units in the fiercely competitive India market.

Launched in September 2000, Alto has been the most selling car for 16 consecutive years in the country. "Alto is the preferred

choice of Indian car buyers with 76 per cent of Alto customers choosing it as their first car," the company, which sells one car out of the two bought in the country, said.

Shashank Srivastava, executive director at Maruti Suzuki India, said Alto has been ranked as the No 1 for 16 years in a row. "We are immensely proud to announce another remarkable milestone of 40 lakh cumulative sales. This has become a record," he said.



AMAZE CLOCKS 4 LAKH SALES

Pune, Aug. 13: Honda on Thursday said its popular family sub-compact sedan Honda Amaze has cumulatively sold 4 lakh units since its first introduction in the country in 2013.

The Amaze, now in its second generation, is currently Honda's largest selling model in India.

—Michael Gonsalves



SHORT TAKES

INOX to sponsor India at Olympics

New Delhi: The INOX group will be the official sponsor of the Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced on Thursday.

The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's promotions through its entertainment company — INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said, "We are happy to announce this partnership with INOX Group which will be beneficial for all our athletes and the organisation. I would like to thank INOX Group and Mr. Jain for showing their support for Team India, even under the current circumstances."

INOX Group has earlier supported various sporting events, teams and leagues in table Tennis, football, badminton, running, basketball and cricket, and building awareness among masses through effective promotional initiatives. — PTI

Archery camp from August 25

New Delhi: The national archery camp for Olympic hopefuls will resume at the Army Sports Institute in Pune on August 25, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Thursday. The camp was called off midway in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 16 recurve archers — eight men and as many women, along with four coaches and two support staff will report for the camp on August 25 and undergo the mandatory 14-day period inside the ASI campus before starting their training sessions.

"...in view of the ensuing 2021 Olympics, the Sports Authority of India has sanctioned the National Archery Camp for Olympic-bound athletes from August 25, 2020 at the Army Sports Institute in Pune," the SAI said in a statement.

While the men's team has earned an Olympic quota, the women's team is yet to claim one. The players will strive to seal their Tokyo tickets at the Olympic qualification event in Paris next year.

— PTI

Tiger Shroff joins India Run as One

Mumbai: Youth Icon Tiger Shroff joins Sunfeast India Run As One — India's largest citizen movement to restart livelihoods, beginning this Independence Day.

The actor has been at the forefront of fitness and active living. However, this time he isn't there to promote fitness, but to lead from the front and encourage citizens to join this first-of-its-kind virtual participatory movement, for purposeful giving and wellness from within India and across the world.

Since the nationwide lockdown, it is estimated that over 140 million workers have lost their livelihoods. "I believe that in the current scenario, when things are difficult, we should focus on keeping our mind and our bodies healthy and try to help those who are lesser fortunate. India Run As One is a great movement through which we can make contributions to help the people who have taken a heavy blow due to the pandemic," Tiger said.

PEREZ SET TO RACE AT SPANISH GP

Montmelo, Spain: Sergio Perez will race at the Spanish Grand Prix this week after testing negative for the coronavirus. Governing body FIA cleared him on Thursday to return to the paddock for the race in Montmelo on the outskirts of Barcelona.

The Racing Point driver missed the past two races at Silverstone in England after contracting the virus on a visit back home to Mexico last month. He flew by private plane to visit his mother in hospital. "I've definitely missed racing and it was hard to watch from the outside," Perez said. — AP



Neymar (left) and his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe celebrate after Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored PSG's second goal during their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon on Thursday. PSG won 2-1. — AFP

Billions & 25 years

Later PSG make Champions league semis

Barca dial Messi for Bayern tie

Lisbon, Aug. 13: After years of failing to live up to their billing in Europe, Paris Saint-Germain are within 90 minutes of the Champions League final thanks to their dramatic win over Atalanta on Wednesday, and coach Thomas Tuchel now knows "everything is possible" for his team.

PSG were on the verge of another disappointing Champions League exit as they trailed Atalanta 0-1 into the 90th minute in Lisbon.

Mario Pasalic's 27th-minute strike for the Italians was finally cancelled out by Marquinhos, who scrambled in a last-gasp leveller.

Then, three minutes into injury time, Kylian Mbappe set up fellow substitute Eric Choupo-Moting to convert the clinching goal.

The money ploughed into the French champions by their Qatari owners has increased the pressure on PSG to deliver.

After all, Atalanta's entire wage bill is believed to be equivalent to what PSG pay Neymar per year (about 36 million euros). This is the club's first semifinal since 1995 and the first since they were taken over by Qatari owners, who pumped in money for the elusive Champions League trophy.

— Agencies

Madrid, Aug. 13: Lionel Messi might never have been faced with a more daunting task at Barcelona than engineering a victory against Bayern Munich in Lisbon on Friday.

The only surviving former winners of European club football's greatest prize — with five titles each — meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarterfinal behind closed doors at the Estadio da Luz.

It is not often that Messi's Barcelona come into such a big European tie as the underdogs, but they have this time, with Quique Setien's team having lost out to Real Madrid in the Spanish title race while Bayern appeared flawless on the way to winning a German league and cup double.

Messi is now 33, yet Barcelona appear more reliant on him than ever.

He scored twice against Bayern in the quarter-finals in 2009 when Barcelona went on to win the Champions League under Pep Guardiola.

He hit four against Arsenal the following year and five against Bayer Leverkusen in 2012

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL
Barcelona vs Bayern Munich
from 12.30 am (Saturday)
on Sony Ten 2, HD

FORMULA ONE
Spanish Grand Prix
Practice 1 from 2.25 pm;
Practice 2 from 6.25 pm
Star Sports Select 2, HD

but on both occasions, Barca were favourites.

Messi also sank Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in 2011 when his double in the first leg of the semi-final, including one of the finest goals the competition has ever seen, transcended a rivalry that had been dragged to its ugliest point.

And he was part of perhaps the tournament's greatest comeback, the 6-1 destruction of Paris Saint-Germain in 2017 after Barcelona lost 0-4 in the first leg of that last-16 tie. Yet this time threatens to be different.

With Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann

● **The only surviving former winners, Spain's Barcelona and German's Bayern Munich, of European club football's greatest prize — with five titles each — meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarterfinal behind closed doors at the Estadio da Luz.**

alongside him, Frenkie de Jong and Sergio Busquets behind him and Jordi Alba out wide, Messi should not be on his own.

Even in defence, Gerard Pique still has a claim to be the best defender in Spain and Marc-Andre ter Stegen is among the most impressive goalkeepers in the world.

But the sense remains that Messi must perform if Barcelona are to defeat Bayern, widely seen as the favourites to lift the trophy on August 23.

It will take something very special not only to lift his own team out of the doldrums but also to neutralise an opponent that many believe are the most complete side in Europe.

— AFP

Englishman Anderson strikes

Southampton, Aug. 13: James Anderson returned to form with a double strike against Pakistan on Thursday as the England great moved closer to becoming the first pacer to take 600 Test wickets.

Pakistan were 85-2 at Tea on a rain-interrupted first day of the second Test at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl.

Anderson had figures of 2-24 in 12 overs, having come into this match, having taken just six wickets in three previous Tests this season at an expensive average of over 41.

Abid Ali, dropped twice in the slips, was 49 not out.

By his own admission, Anderson had not been at his best with a match haul of 1-67 during England's three-wicket win in the first Test at his Old Trafford home ground last week.

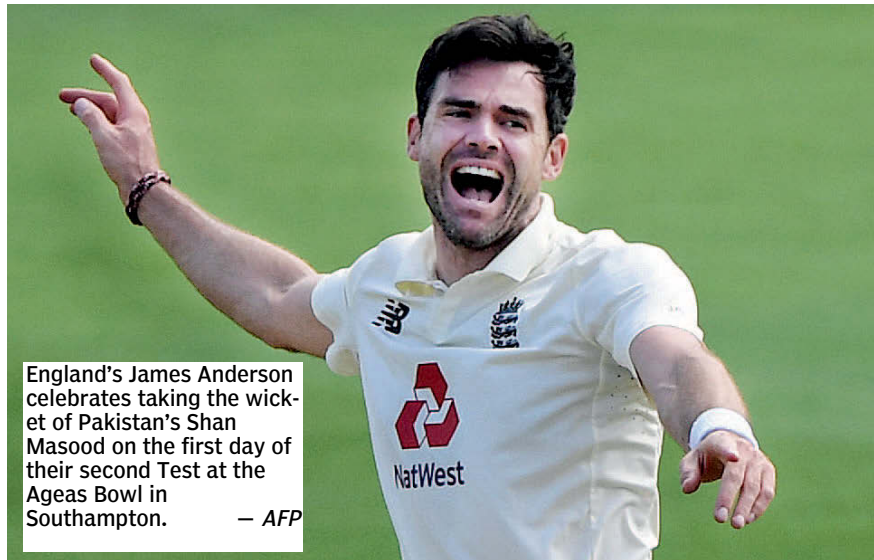
In humid conditions conducive to Anderson's bowling, the 38-year-old needed just eight balls to strike and have Shan Masood, fresh from his Test-best 156 last week, lbw for one with an inswinger to the left-hander.

Masood was so clearly out, he did not bother to review the decision.

His exit brought in Azhar, under pressure after a run of just one fifty in 10 innings since becoming skipper in November.

— AFP

Brief Scores (at Tea):
Pakistan 85/2 in 33.5 overs
(Abid Ali 49 n.o., Babar Azam 7 n.o., J. Anderson 2/28) vs England.



England's James Anderson celebrates taking the wicket of Pakistan's Shan Masood on the first day of their second Test at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. — AFP

Sachin recalls his maiden international ton 30 yrs on

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Test-saving hundreds have become extinct now but Sachin Tendulkar carved out one such innings exactly 30 years ago, the seeds of which were sown during one afternoon in Sialkot, eight months prior to that gloomy Manchester day.

It was on August 14, 1990, that Tendulkar scored the first of his 100 international centuries, a majestic 119 not out on a fifth day track to save the game for India.

Asked about that special first, and it seemed like yesterday.

"I scored that 100 on August 14 and next day was our Independence Day, so it was special. The headline was different and that hundred at least kept the series alive till next Test at the Oval," Tendulkar said on the eve of the 30th anniversary of his first ton.

So what exactly was the feeling, apart from the pure joy of achieving the milestone? "The art of saving a Test match was a new experience for me," Tendulkar said but added he knew he could save a game when he batted with a "bloodied nose" and a

blood-soaked jersey after being hit by Waqar Younis. "In Sialkot where I got hit and scored 57, we saved that Test match, too, from 38 for 4. Waqar's bouncer and playing through pain defined me. After those kind of hits you are either stronger or you are nowhere to be seen."

As scary as it may seem now, Tendulkar, in the first innings of that Manchester match, was hit on the back of the head by one of the fastest pacers in the world back then, Devon Malcolm.

— PTI

Sikki, physio test Covid-19 positive

Gopi academy is shut for sanitisation as Coronavirus strikes Games camp

AGE CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Barley a week after probable and Olympics bound shuttlers returned to courts at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy N. Sikki Reddy and physiotherapist Kiran George have tested positive for Covid-19 at the ongoing national camp in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Sikki and Kiran, who have been attending the national camp at the academy, are both asymptomatic.

They had undergone the Sports Authority of India's mandatory Covid-19 test for players, coaches and support staff before the start of training on August 7 at the facility.

With Sikki and Kiran being tested positive for the virus, the Gopichand Academy has been closed for sanitisation, SAI said on Thursday.

"SAI's mandatory Covid-19 test was given to all athletes, coaches, support staff and administrative staff at the badminton national camp, and two campers have tested positive for Covid-19," Gopi said.

"All necessary precautions as per protocol are being taken so that players can come back for training safely and as soon as possible," he added.

Both Sikki and Kiran are from Hyderabad and have been attending the camp from their homes. All primary contacts of Sikki and Kiran are undergoing the RT-PCR test again.

The badminton camp was allowed by SAI for eight Olympic hopefuls, including Rio Games silver-medallist and world champion P. V. Sindhu, following the approval from the Telangana government on August 1.

Sikki was seen training with three Indonesian doubles coaches — Namrih Suroto, Agus Dwi Santoso and Miftah — besides two sparring partners from that country on August 7.

She was pictured on the first day of training where all of them could be seen along with another physio Johnson Solomon and the Indonesians who also trained with world champion Sindhu and world championships bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth.

KOSOVO LETS GO OF TIE DUE TO COVID-19

Nyon (Switzerland), Aug. 13: A club from Kosovo had to forfeit its Champions League qualifier because players tested positive for Covid-19, the first time UEFA had to make such a ruling during the pandemic.

UEFA said on Wednesday that KF Drita must forfeit its preliminary round game in the 2020-21 competition and awarded it as a 3-0 win for Northern Ireland's champion Linfield. The teams could not play a scheduled game on Tuesday at an empty stadium next to UEFA's headquarters after the Drita squad was put into quarantine.

Two players had tested positive for Covid-19 in Switzerland since last Thursday.

— AP

Efficient, Reliable and Affordable Delivery of your Goods

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A time-tabled freight service for MSME Sector

TEEVRA Service

(Time-tabled, Efficient, Economically Viable Railway Service)

Special features

- Time-Tabled freight train Service
- You can book even a single wagon
- Assured Delivery time of your goods
- Weekly service (frequency can be increased on demand)

Route
Hardoi-Shahjahanpur-Bareilly-Rampur-Moradabad-Dhampur-Deoband-Muzaffarnagar-Meerut-Ghaziabad-Delhi Kishanganj-Patel Nagar-Rewari-Gandhidham-Ahmedabad

Stoppages
Dhampur, Deoband, Patel Nagar, Gandhidham (New stoppages can be introduced based on demand from customers)

Time Table

Station Code	Station Name	HARDOI-GANDHIDHAM Teevra Spl.	
		Arrival	Departure
HRI	HARDOI	-	05:40
DPR	DHAMPUR	19:00	02:15
DBD	DEOBAND	09:35	17:50
PTNR	PATEL NAGAR	23:00	06:30
GIMB	GANDHIDHAM	02:55	-

For Calculation of Freight Charges

1. Visit our website fois.indianrail.gov.in or download "RAIL SUGAM" app.
2. Click "Freight Calculator."
3. Enter from and to station.
4. In wagon type, enter "BCN" — BOGE
5. In Tariff lines, select "General"
6. Enter "Commodity category"
7. Enter "Commodity name"
8. Under column "Wagon Load" — You will get the freight rate/tonne for your cargo.

For any further query, contact:

TEEVRA Service will commence from 15th August, 2020

Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Moradabad Division, Mobile No. **9760534900**

Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Delhi Division, Mobile No. **9717631900**

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