

IN BRIEF

Tiwari invites L-G to inaugurate 2 flyovers

New Delhi, Sept. 3: With the completion of two flyovers — Seelampur and Shastri Park — in his Northeast Delhi Lok Sabha constituency, MP and former Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, on Thursday, wrote to Delhi lieutenant-governor Anil Bajjal requesting him to inaugurate both the facilities. He pointed out that the project had become a reality because of Mr Bajjal, who intervened and got the money sanctioned in a late meeting with the concerned officials. Urging Mr Bajjal to inaugurate the flyovers, Mr Tiwari also wished that all concerned elected representatives and officials should be invited to the opening ceremony as per protocol. Interestingly, the Delhi government didn't invite Mr Tiwari to the inauguration of the iconic Signature Bridge in 2018 despite the area being part of his constituency. The two flyovers aim at providing signal-free ride between Welcome in Northeast Delhi and Kashmir Gate interstate bus terminus (ISBT), which is one of the most congested and traffic-heavy stretches in the national capital.

Gahlot inspects CCTV in buses, control room

New Delhi: Delhi transport minister Kailash Gahlot on Thursday inspected the control room and buses with recently installed CCTV surveillance cameras at Rajghat Bus Depot. The project envisages the implementation of surveillance systems in DTC and Cluster buses through video surveillance and automatic vehicle tracking system in accordance with the highest standards available for monitoring the activities of the commuters. The objective of the project is to ensure safety and security of the passengers, particularly of women passengers through IP based CCTV surveillance cameras, panic button and GPS in the buses of DTC and Cluster scheme.

India: China bid to change status quo set off LAC row:

■ **Continued from Page 1**
that external affairs minister S. Jaishankar would also travel to Moscow for a SCO foreign ministers' meeting on September 10. All eyes are on that visit to see if Mr Jaishankar would meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi or not.

In yet another signal to Beijing, the MEA also said India looked forward to hosting a meeting of the four-nation "Quadrilateral" — comprising India, the United States, Japan and Australia — that focuses on the maintenance of a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. The MEA added a meeting of the 2+2 bilateral dialogue at the foreign and defence ministers' level with the United States would also be held.

But it was New Delhi's firm message on Thursday on developments in Ladakh that are being seen as an indication of the Indian government's resolve to continue to hold firm. In a statement at his weekly briefing on Thursday evening, Anurag Srivastava said: "I can say that the ground commanders are still holding discussions. We reiterate the consensus reached between the two foreign ministers and special representatives that the situation at the border should be handled in a responsible manner and none should not take any provocative action."

84k Covid cases in 24 hours as govt claims higher tests

■ **Continued from Page 1**
by Brazil — 40 lakh as per worldometers.info and 39.97 lakh according to Johns Hopkins. Officials said India has 49 deaths per million population compared to the global average which is 111 per million population. The highest is in the UK, 611 per million population, followed by Brazil (582) and the US (573). However, officials said 87 per cent of the deaths in India have been in the age group of 45 years and above, while 50 per cent of the deaths have been in the age group of 60 years and above. According to the health ministry five states — Maharashtra (24.77 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (12.64 per cent), Karnataka (11.58 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (6.92 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (6.42 per cent) — account for 62 per cent of the total cases in the country.

**■ Highest single-day spike in 2 months ■ 4,500 deaths so far
City records 2,709 Covid +ve cases, 19 deaths in 24 hours**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3**

A day when the national capital recorded the highest single-day spike in nearly two months, health minister Satyendra Jain said on Thursday. "It can't be said that Delhi is witnessing a second wave of Covid." According to Delhi government health department data, 2,737 new coronavirus cases and 19 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the total to over 1.82 lakh. The city has reported 4,500 deaths due to Covid. The recovery rate is 87.82 per cent.

Speaking to the media person, Mr Jain said that people should not stress about numbers. The minister said the Delhi government is increasing the testing for Covid and it wants that there should be no positive cases in the city.

After a brief lull, Delhi has seen a rise in the number of Covid cases over

224 cases in Gurgaon as Haryana records highest single-day spike

New Delhi, Sept. 3: Haryana on Thursday reported its highest single-day spike in Covid deaths with 19 new fatalities, while the total number of infections also rose by a record 1,881, officials said. The rise on Thursday pushed the cumulative figures to 740 deaths and 70,099 cases, according to the state health department's daily bulletin. Three fatalities each were reported from Karnal and Kurukshetra, two each from Jind, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Ambala and Gurgaon, and a death each was reported from

the last few days. Asked if Delhi is heading towards the second wave of coronavirus infections, Mr Jain said, "You cannot say it is a second wave. We could have called it a second

Faridabad, Panchkula and Sirsa districts.

For the past few weeks, the state has recorded a surge in Covid cases.

On July 31, the total number of cases in Haryana was 34,965, which soared to 64,732 by August 31.

The districts that reported fresh cases include Gurgaon (224), Sonapat (190), Faridabad (150), Panipat and Panchkula (128 each), Sirsa (115), Karnal (112), Hisar (111), Kurukshetra (100), Rewari (94) and Yamunanagar and Ambala (92 each), as per the bulletin. — *PTI*

wave if there were no positive cases for one or two months and then cases would have started coming again. The virus is still there in Delhi. You should not stress about

numbers."

"Delhi's case fatality ratio was 0.75 per cent on Wednesday, which is a good sign. "Overall, it is 2.5 per cent. Yesterday, it was less than one per cent, which is a good sign. At one time, it was 3.5 per cent," he added.

Mr Jain pointed out the Delhi government is working to increase testing for Covid. "We are increasing (the number of) tests. We are emphasising on testing and working aggressively on it. Yesterday, the number was around 30,000 and today the number of tests will be around 35,000. If a case is isolated at home or hospital, he won't be able to infect 10 people. We want that not one positive case should be there," he said. Last week, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that his government will double Covid tests from 20,000 to 40,000. On Wednesday, a total of 28,835 tests were conducted, the maximum since March.

‘Metro won’t stop at stations where travel rules violated’

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3**

The Delhi Metro is all set to resume operations from Monday in a graded manner. The Metro travel experience is set to change with thermal scanning and social distancing rules across stations as well as inside trains. The urban development ministry has announced that if violations of guidelines are found at any station, trains will not stop at that station.

The Metro services have been closed since March 22 due to the coronavirus cri-

sis. "The Delhi Metro services will resume in a graded manner in three stages from September 7-12 with the Yellow Line or Line 2 connecting Samaypur Badli in Delhi to HUDA City Centre in Gurgaon and Rapid Metro to be the first ones to be made operational on September 7," the DMRC said in a statement.

Trains will not stop at stations falling in containment zones and such stations will remain closed. Similarly, some stations may be skipped if social distancing is not followed by passengers, the DMRC

said. DMRC's statement comes after the Union home ministry announced the Unlock 4.0 phase and allowed resumption of Metro train services in a graded manner across the country from September 7.

The Centre, however, has barred Maharashtra government from starting the Metro services.

In compliance with the home ministry's guidelines, the DMRC has decided that trains will operate in batches of four hour each from 7.00-11.00 am in the morning and 4.00-8.00 pm in the evening.

Martyr laid to rest in Hoshiarpur

Family members mourn near the mortal remains of martyr Subedar Rajesh Kumar of 60 SATA regiment during his funeral at Kalichpur Kalota village in Hoshiarpur on Thursday. Kumar died in an unprovoked firing by the Pakistan Army in Rajouri sector on Tuesday night. — *PTI*

Police thwarts bid by PDP leaders to meet in Srinagar

**YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 3**

The J&K authorities on Thursday thwarted PDP leaders' attempt, the first in past thirteen months, to meet up at the party headquarters here to discuss the prevailing political situation in the erstwhile state and other "important issues"

"The meeting had been convened by the PDP general secretary, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, who in his open communiqué to its senior leaders and office-bearers earlier this week had said "a threadbare discussion would be held on the prevailing political situation and general party affairs".

However, the police neither allowed him nor any of the invitees to relocate to the PDP headquarters in Emporium lane along Srinagar's Residency Road from their respective residences. Mr Hanjura and another former minister and senior party leader

Naeem Akhtar released videos through social media showing them being prevented from leaving their homes by the policemen.

Mr Hajura when contacted over the phone asked why PDP leaders alone are not being allowed to meet, continue to be under house arrest and the detention under J&K's stringent PSA of its president and former CM Mehbooba Mufti was extended for another three months recently.

"Evidently, the government is afraid of us and it's all claims that there are no curbs on people's liberty and political parties are free to exercise their political rights including freedom of assembly are farce."

PDP spokesman Syed Suhail Bukhari while speaking inside the party headquarters added, "Our leaders who were invited to this meeting continue to be under illegal house detention."

**■ Not on social media site since 2019, T'gana legislator claims
FB bans BJP MLA for policy violation**

New Delhi, Sept. 3: Under pressure from opposition parties for alleged political bias and handling of hate speech content, Facebook on Thursday said it has banned BJP Telangana MLA T. Raja Singh from its platform and Instagram for violating its policy on content promoting violence and hate, even as the legislator from Telangana claimed that he had no account with the social network-

ing site for over a year.

In a separate communication, Facebook also told the Congress that the company was non-partisan, denounces hate and bigotry in all forms, and strives to ensure that its platforms remain a space where people can express themselves freely. It was



Raja Singh

responding to the opposition party's allegation that the social media giant was soft on members of the ruling BJP while applying its hate speech rules.

"We have banned Raja Singh from Facebook for violating our policy prohibiting those that promote or engage in violence and hate from having a presence on our platform."

"The process for evaluating potential violators is

extensive and it is what led us to this decision," a Facebook company spokesperson said in a statement.

Facebook — which counts India among its largest markets with over 300 million users — has been in the eye of a storm after a *Wall Street Journal* report alleged that the social media platform's content policies favoured the ruling party in India. — *PTI*

Court extends custody of Sharjeel till Oct. 1

New Delhi, Sept. 3: A Delhi court Thursday sent JNU student Sharjeel Imam to judicial custody till October 1 in a case related to communal violence in north east Delhi in February.

Imam, arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police on August 25, has been booked under the stringent anti-terror law the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, for allegedly being part of a "premeditated conspiracy" in connection to the riots during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The counsel of Imam said that the accused has been sent to judicial cus-



Sharjeel Imam

tody till October 1 and earlier during the day, he erroneously construed that Imam has been sent to jail for 14 days.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat sent Imam to jail considering the nature of the investigation in the case.

"Considering the nature of the investigation as also

the case record, application is allowed. Accordingly, Sharjeel Imam is remanded to judicial custody till October 1," the court said in its order.

Police had moved an application for 30 days judicial custody of Imam.

The court had earlier sent him to police custody for three days.

Pinjra Tod members and JNU students Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, Jamia Millia Islamia students Asif Iqbal Tanha and Gulfisha Khatoon, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, Meeran Haider, President of Jamia

Alumni Association Shifa-Ur-Rehman, suspended AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain, activist Khalid Saifi, and former student leader Umar Khalid have also been booked under the anti-terror law in the case.

Umar Khalid has not been arrested in the case yet. The police had claimed in the FIR that Umar and his associates had instigated people to start riots in the area and it was a "premeditated conspiracy".

Imam was also arrested on January 28 in the case related to violent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act near the Jamia Millia Islamia University in December last year. — *PTI*

Cleared by HC, Dr Kafeel wants to be reinstated

Jaipur, Sept. 3: Days after a court quashed his detention under the National Security Act, Dr Kafeel Khan on Thursday said he will ask the UP CM to give him back his job in the state medical services.

Dr Khan was addressing a press conference in the Rajasthan capital, where he said felt safe as it is a Congress-run state indirectly comparing it with Uttar Pradesh.

He was suspended from Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College after several children died there in 2017, apparently due to the lack of oxygen cylinders at the government hospital.

A departmental probe later cleared Dr Khan of most of the charges, but he found himself in trouble for an allegedly provocative speech in Aligarh over the amended citizenship law.

He was detained under the stringent NSA, which the Allahabad high court on Tuesday ruled was illegal. As the high court has quashed the charges under the NSA lodged against me, I would write to the UP CM to reinstate me, he told reporters. — *PTI*

**The Disciple returns India to Venice fest race**

Seoul, Sept. 3: A film about a classical musician's struggle to balance his career dreams and life in contemporary Mumbai will this week return India to the main competition at the Venice Film Festival for the first time in nearly two decades.

Writer-director Chaitanya Tamhane's *The Disciple* is among the 18-films selected for competition at the festival, which opened Wednesday. The last Indian film in competition was

Monsoon Wedding by Mira Nair, which in 2001 won the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion.

Tamhane spent four years researching, filming and editing *The Disciple*, which follows a would-be classical music vocalist who struggles to balance his craft's centuries-old traditions with contemporary Mumbai.

His film is slated to premiere on Friday and despite travel restrictions and precautions due to the coronavirus pandemic, Tamhane



Chaitanya Tamhane

plans to be there.

"It's been my dream, in a way to, you know, (to) be in competition at the festival," he said. "You

know, there would be no bigger high than presenting the film in person at Venice."

"I started off almost like a journalist, you know, attending concerts, interviewing musicians and hanging out in these spaces that they inhabit. So it took me two years to do the research, travel around the country and write the script," Tamhane, 33, said in an interview last month.

"Indian classical musicians — there is a general perception that they are

very serious and, you know, and they are very sort of solemn and also somber. And once you start hanging out with them and once you start kind of talking to them, you realize that they're just as normal, as ordinary as all of us," he said.

"And they're also in their respective field facing the same kind of issues, the same kind of problems that, you know, a journalist would be facing or an athlete would be facing." — *AP*

Bareilly, UP: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped and beaten up with an iron rod by three men here, police said on Thursday. According to SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey, the accused took the girl to a secluded place and raped her on Wednesday. When the girl tried to resist their attempts to rape her, she was beaten up with an iron rod by the three men, Pandey said. One of the three men also recorded the act and threatened to post the video on social media if she told anyone about the incident, the police said. Based on a complaint lodged by the teenager's father, a case was registered against Mohit (25), Sumit (27) and Ankit (24). While Mohit and Sumit were arrested on Wednesday, Ankit was still absconding, the SSP said. — PTI

Bhubaneswar: A man allegedly stabbed his mother to death with a knife at Chandapur village under Raghunathpur police limits in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district late on Wednesday night. According to reports, accused Nityananda Das was being questioned by police at his house over attacking a person in the locality when his mother Kalyani (65) criticised his acts and reprimanded him. In a fit of rage, Nityananda thrust a knife into the woman leaving her grievously injured. She was rushed to Raghunathpur hospital, where the doctor declared her dead. In another gruesome act, a man allegedly attacked and slit the throats of his father and elder brother over property dispute at Ganesh Bazaar in Daspalla in Nayagarh district on Wednesday night.

Singrauli, MP: In a suspected case of human sacrifice, a 50-year-old man allegedly beheaded his wife to please a deity and buried the body in his house in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday in Basauda village, located about 25 km from the district headquarters. The accused was arrested on Thursday after his two sons alerted the police, district additional superintendent of police Pradeep Shende said. The man allegedly beheaded his 45-year-old wife in the early hours of Wednesday. He then buried the head and torso separately in the puja room of their house and later fled, the official said. — *PTI*

Hyderabad: A suspected Maoist was killed in an "encounter" with police in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. The incident occurred during vehicle check in Gundala mandal at around 4.15 am, they said. On Wednesday night, police got information on the movement of Maoist action teams on bikes in the local areas with weapons. At around 4.15 am on Thursday, during vehicle checking, a police party noticed two bike-borne men and tried to stop them. However, they fired on the police party and in retaliation police also fired on them. After the firing, police found the body of an unidentified Maoist, aged around 25 from the spot, besides recovering one weapon and one motorcycle. Further investigations were on. — *PTI*

Lakhimpur Kheri, UP: A three-year-old girl was found dead on Thursday morning in a suspected case of murder in a village in Singahi area here, police said. Bearing injury marks on the head, the toddler's body was recovered from a sugarcane field in the vicinity of the girl's village from where she was missing since Wednesday. In his complaint lodged with the police, the victim's father alleged that one Lekham, a resident of the same village, had abducted and killed his daughter due to an old enmity with the family. Efforts were on to catch hold of the accused while further action would be taken after the autopsy report is received, police said. — *PTI*

It is upto China to answer why there are thousands of its troops on the border with India, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday evening, adding that he is convinced that the "way out is through diplomacy".

This comes ahead of a virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of the multilateral BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa)



Artisans give finishing touch to an idol of goddess Durga, made of fiberglass, at a studio in Kumartuli in Kolkata on Thursday. — PTI

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

In a relief to the borrowers from the banks faced with financial crunch in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered that bank loan accounts not declared as non-performing assets (NPA) till August 31, 2020, will not be declared NPA till further order.

The top court passed the interim order while adjourning till September 10 the hearing on a batch of petitions — both by the individual borrowers and different sectors of industry — challenging the charging of interest and compound interest on the

HC tells m exercise re in Sushant

EMI, whose payment was deferred during the six-month moratorium period that ended on August 31.

Taking on record a statement by senior counsel Harsh Salve appearing for Indian Banks Association that no account shall become NPA atleast for a period of two months, Justice Ashok Bhushan, heading a three-judge bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah in an interim order said: "In view of the above, the accounts which were not declared NPA till 31.08.2020 shall not be declared NPA till further orders."

As Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court to include word "eligible" mean-

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, SEPT. 3

The Bombay high court on Thursday said it expects media organisations to exercise restraint while publishing or reporting any details about investigation in the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. The high court said the media should report in such a manner that it does not hamper the investigation.

A division bench of Justices A.A. Sayed and S.P. Tavade was hearing two petitions which claimed a "media trial" was going on in the case of Rajput's death and sought for it to be stopped. One of the petitions was filed by eight former IPS officers against the "unfair, malicious and false media campaign" against the Mumbai police.

The other petition was filed by filmmaker Nilesch Navlakha and two others who claim to

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 3

The high floods in coastal Odisha districts have shattered hopes and dreams of thousands of students as many of them have lost their textbooks, clothes and other study materials, rendering them handicapped to resume their studies.

Besides, complete breakdown of power supplies and collapse of telecommunication in the affected areas have



Sushant Singh Rajput

The court said Navlakha shall once again serve copies of his petition to news media channels that are respondents in the petition. Navlakha's advocate Devadatt Kamat told the court that they are not demanding a prohibition on reporting in the case, but only seeking the media to adhere to journalistic and ethics.

The plea said a section of TV channels has been trying to influence the course of investigation being carried out by central agencies like the CBI, ED and Narcotics Control Bureau, and is running a false propaganda.

also contributed to the complete disruption in virtual learning.

"The high floods in the Baitarani and Kani rivers entered our houses and damaged everything. My son Subham's textbooks have got completely soaked and are very unlikely to be restored to readable conditions. He will now be deprived of continuing his studies," said Satyasekhara Nayak of Jagannathpur under Binjharpur block in Jajpur district.

New Delhi: An “extraordinary” meeting of the G-20 countries’ foreign ministers was held on Thursday on ways to further tackle the coronavirus pandemic. External affairs minister S Jaishankar represented India at the meeting.

border disputes bilaterally” and so “don’t accep

countries outside the region pointing fingers, let alone meddling or making instigation, which will only endanger the regional peace and stability".

China also claimed it had "never provoked a war or conflict over the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949" and had "always insisted on resolving territorial and maritime disputes with neighboring countries through consultations and negotiations on the basis of respecting

historical facts, to maintain regional peace and stability".

This comes amid fresh Sino-Indian military tensions in the Ladakh sector which has seen thousands of troops deployed on both sides there in full battle-preparedness.

Reiterating that the "solution (to the current situation in the Ladakh sector) has to be found in the domain of diplomacy", Mr Jaishankar also made it clear that "what happens at the border will impact the (Sino-Indian) relationship".

NEET/JEE EXAMS

National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts both the exams is holding JEE Main Exams from September 7 to September 6, while NEET exams will be held on September 13.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, B.R. Gavai and Krishna Murari will consider the review plea in chambers. The review matters in the top court are usually considered 'in-chambers'.

through circulation of the petition among all the judges of the bench. The judges then decide in-chambers' whether there is any merit in the review petition to re-examine the case in the open court hearing.

The apex court's August 17 order, which allowed the exams to be held has become a political battle as the ministers of six states -- ruled by parties like Congress, TMC, JMM, NCP and Shiv Sena -- sought postponement of the exams.

<p align="center">Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr. Abstract of e-Tender. e-N.I.T. No:- PHE/GWDS/ 20of 08/2020 Dated: 31 -08-2020</p>							
<p>For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system for "Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells" in below mentioned place with 60 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.</p>							
S.No	Constituency	No. of Hand Pump wells for constituency	Estimated Cost Rs. in Lacs	EMD In Shape of CDR/FDR (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Programme Languishing
01	Devsar	07	Rs.18.06 Lacs	Rs. 36,120/-	Rs.1000/-	45 Days	LUP Code 0462
02	Kupwara	11	Rs. 28.38 Lacs	Rs. 56,760/-	Rs.1000/-	45 Days	LUP Code 2389
03	Langate	40	Rs. 103.00 Lacs	Rs 2.06 000/-	Rs.3000/-	45 Days	LUP Code 2389
<p align="right">Position of Funds: Available AAA: Accorded</p>							
Critical Dates/Information.							
1.	Publishing Date		01-09-2020				
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids		01-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) to 11-09-2020 (2:00 P.M)				
3.	Period of Submission of bids		01-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) to 11-09-2020 (2:00 P.M)				
4.	Date of opening of Tender.		12-09-2020 at (2:00 P.M)				
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water SrinagarKashmir -190011						
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar(at Saddar Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)						
7.	Earnest Money: The Earnest Money shown against each constituency in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar.						
8.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days						
<p>No: PHE/GWDS/1861 Dated: 31-08-2020 DIPP-4894/20 DATED 03.09.20</p>							
<p align="right">Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division, Srinagar.</p>							

 GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA 						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	PROCUREMENT OF 33KV VCBs (630A)	03.09.2020 01.10.2020	92.28 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
2	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	PROCUREMENT OF RELAYS	01.08.2020 16.09.2020	40.25 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL, ROHTAK	CONST. OF 33 KV CAPACITOR BANK AND ODG FOUNDATION AT 220 KV S/STN. NUNA MAJRA (B.GARH) (CIVIL WORKS ONLY)	CLOSING DATE 17.09.2020	336593/6740.00 for General and Rs. 3370/- for registered L&C Society (Except in case of Haryana based MSMEs and KVI units).	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL, BHIWANI	REPAIR & CIVIL MAINTENANCE WORKS IN 29 NOS. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS IN HVPNL COLONY AT 132 KV S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI DURING THE YEAR-2020-21 ON THROUGH RATE TENDER ID:- 2020_HBC_142215_1).	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	7.10 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
5	HVPNL, BHIWANI	REPAIR & CIVIL MAINTENANCE WORKS IN NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 132 KV S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI OLD DURING THE YEAR-2020-21 ON THROUGH RATE TENDER ID:- 2020_HBC_142204_1).	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	2.90 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
6	HVPNL, ROHTAK	THE WALK WAY, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED SURVEY FOR VARIOUS LINES I.E. 220/132 KV UNDER XEN TS DIVISION HVPNL, ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 08.09.2020	6.02 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
7	DHBNV, HISAR	PROCUREMENT OF SOLID PRESS BOARD 1 MM OF NATURAL COLOUR TYPE-D AS PER IS:1576/1992 SIZE 875*1500 MM (SENAPATHY/ RAMAN/ PADAM JI) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBNV, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-37)	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	1.96 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9050254440 cos@dhbnv.org.in
8	DHBNV, HISAR	SOLID PRESS BOARD 1.50 MM OF NATURAL COLOUR TYPE-D AS PER IS:1576/1992 SIZE 875*1500 MM (SENAPATHY/ RAMAN/ PADAM JI) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBNV, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-38)	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	1.96 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9050254440 cos@dhbnv.org.in
9	DHBNV, HISAR	NEOPRENE BONDED CORK COMPOSITION SHEET (2*3, 6 MM THICK) AS PER 4253(PART-II - 1980 GRADE RC-70C) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBNV, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-39)	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	1.96 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9050254440 cos@dhbnv.org.in
10	DHBNV, HISAR	DELTA COPPER WIRE 1.72MM (10 LAYER INSULATED) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBNV, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-40)	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	1.94 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9050254440 cos@dhbnv.org.in
11	DHBNV, HISAR	ZINC CHROMATE (BURGER/ASIAN/ NEROLAC) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBNV, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-41)	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	1.95 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9050254440 cos@dhbnv.org.in
12	UHBVN, PANCHKULA	HIRING OF BUILDING FOR OFFICE PURPOSE OF SDO OP S/DIVN PINJORE HAVING CARPET AREA OF 3500-4500SQ.FT.	CLOSING DATE 17.09.2020	Rs. 5000	uhbvnpn.org.in xenoppanchkula@org.in	xenoppanchkula@uhbvnpn.org.in
13	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISHAD	PRINTING & SUPPLY OF KADAM TOOL KIT FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21	03.09.2020 17.09.2020	1.80 LACS	www.hsspp.in	0172-2590500 pohsspp@gmail.com
14	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE RANJA	RFP FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION, SEGREGATION, TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PROCESSING OF WASTE AND ROAD/STREET SWEEPING AND LIFTING OF GARBAGE FROM WARD NO 1,2,3,14,15	01.09.2020 07.09.2020	90000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01698-250026 Secymrcranja@gmail.com
15	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF LIVESTOCK, ANIMAL FARMS, CHAFFING & FEEDING TO BULLS & OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN SEMEN BANK, HLDG, GURUGRAM	01.09.2020 15.09.2020	EMD 72000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416172558 hldb-hry@nic.in
16	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NARNAUL	CONSTRUCTION OF 02 PARKS CUM VYAMSHALA IN NARNAUL CITY + 1 OTHER WORK	01.09.2020 07.09.2020	109.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicage/app	9812892869 eomcnarnaul1@gmail.com
17	KARNAL SMART CITY	TOTAL 2 NOS. WORKS IN KARNAL CITY UNDER KARNAL SMART CITY PROJECT	03.09.2020 15.09.2020	-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	smartcitykarnal@gmail.com
18	UHBVN, KARNAL	1 NO. VEHICLE (INDIGO, DZIRE, VERITO, ESTEEM OR ANY OTHER SEDAN MODEL) WITH DRIVER FOR SE 'OP' CIRCLE, UHBVN, KARNAL.	Sale of tender form 17.09.2020 upto 12:30 P.M. & tender form Submission on same day upto 15:00 P.M.opening after 15:30 P.M.	6000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in	0184-2268351 xenopsu2karnal@uhbvnpn.org.in
19	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT BRIDGE AND APPROACHED ROAD PROVIDING AND FIXING 60MM IPB TILES AT NADA SAHIB UPPARLA VAAS ,WARD NO.19, PANCHKULA. (RECALL) + 8 OTHER WORKS	04.09.2020 15.09.2020	81.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
20	HVPNL HISAR.	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO 220/132-100MVA (T-4) PLINTH, ADDITIONAL ODG FOUNDATION AND ODCT IN BAY NO A-4 AT 220 KV SUB-STATION HUMKAWALI (R-5)	CLOSING DATE 15.09.2020	4.81 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
	HVPNL, KARNAL	AUGMENTATION OF EXISTING 20/25 MVA TO 40/50 MVA 132/33 KV T-2 T/F AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 33 KV BAY (D-6) FOR GANGAR AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, RAMBA.	02.09.2020 09.09.2020	5.41 LACS	WWW.HVPNL.ORG.IN	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
22	HVPNL, PANCHKULA)	PROCUREMENT OF 66KV CTS (CURRENT TRANSFORMERS)	03.09.2020 01.10.2020	33.88 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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IN BRIEF

Eight gunned down in Mexico

Cuernavaca, Mexico: Gunmen killed eight people, including two minors, and wounded more than a dozen others in an attack on a wake in central Mexico, prosecutors said. The assailants opened fire at a house in the city of Cuernavaca using military-type rifles, the state prosecutor's office reported. Initial indications suggested the attack was the result of a fight between criminal gangs in Cuernavaca, a picturesque colonial city popular with tourists just south of the capital, the authorities said. Four bodies were found outside the wake, which was held for a young man killed in a motorcycle accident, while the remaining victims died after being taken to hospital. Another 14 people were wounded, according to prosecutors, who noted that high-calibre firearms had been used in recent gang-related crimes.

Jihadists kill 9 Nigerian troops

Kano, Nigeria: At least nine Nigerian troops were killed in an offensive by jihadists in northeast Borno state, two security sources said. Fighters from the so-called Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in 10 trucks fitted with machine guns overran a military position in the town of Magumeri late on Tuesday, killing nine troops, they said. "The terrorists took over the (military) post around 4:00 pm (1500 GMT) and dispersed the troops, killing nine," the first source said. The militants burnt three vehicles at the base, including an armoured tank and an excavator used in digging fortifications to stave off jihadist incursions, said the second source who gave the same toll. A military reinforcement from the regional capital Maiduguri engaged the retreating attackers in a fight and killed 20 insurgents.

Pacific War: China marks 75th anniv

Beijing: China on Thursday commemorated the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific, during which it endured a brutal invasion and occupation of much of its territory by Japan. Communist Party leader and head of state Xi Jinping led government officials in a minute of silence and presentation of floral wreaths at a memorial hall dedicated to soldiers and civilians who participated in the struggle. Japan launched a full-on invasion of China in 1937, marked by urban warfare and atrocities such as the notorious Rape of Nanking. While armies under Nationalist Party leader Chiang Kai-shek fought most of the major battles, Communist Party guerrillas under Mao Zedong forced Japan to divert soldiers and resources from battlefields elsewhere with low-level engagements.

PAK: CONSULAR ACCESS TO JADHAV VALID

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 3

Pakistan Thursday said that the offer of third consular access to Indian prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav was still valid. "India should move forward and cooperate with the courts of Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri during his weekly media briefing.

Speaking on the issue of Indian prisoner, the Foreign Office spokesperson said that Pakistan was committed to implementing the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). India should move forward and cooperate with the courts of Pakistan.

During the second consular visit, Indian diplomats left the meeting. However, Pakistan's offer of a third consular access was still valid. He said that Pakistan was aware of its responsibilities, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) issue should be resolved on technical rather than political grounds.

Foreign Office spokesman regrets that some members of the Security Council Sections Committee blocked the ban on two Indian nationals. "Pakistan has always insisted on depoliticizing the issue of UN sections. Ankara Appaji and Gobind Patnaik are wanted by Pakistan for terrorism," he added.

He said that Pakistan has provided documentary evidence to the UN sections committee and will continue to expose Indian-sponsored terrorism.

Another PoC shot dead by cops in US

18-year-old was shot as officers were following up on a tip about guns allegedly stashed in a vehicle

IN KENOSHA, BIDEN TO TEST HIS VOW TO UNIFY THE NATION

Wilmington, Sept. 3: Campaigning for more than a year as a calming, unifying figure, Joe Biden and his core pitch for the presidency face the most intense test yet when he travels to Kenosha, Wisconsin, a city wracked by police and protest violence that makes it a microcosm of the nation's election-year reckoning with systemic racism.

The 77-year-old former vice president, travelling two days after President Donald Trump visited the same city, plans to meet Thursday with family of Jacob Blake, who remains hospitalised after being shot seven times in the back by a white police officer as authorities attempted to arrest him. Biden also plans a community discussion.

— AP

VIDEO IN NEW YORK MAN'S SUFFOCATION SHOWS GROUP OF POLICE OFFICERS PUT HOOD ON HIM

Rochester, Sept. 3: A man who had run naked through the streets of a western New York city died of asphyxiation after a group of police officers put a hood over his head, then pressed his face into the pavement for two minutes, according to video and records released Wednesday by the man's family.

Daniel Prude died March 30 after he was taken off life support, seven days after the encounter with police in Rochester. His death received no public attention until Wednesday, when his family held a news conference and released police body camera video.

— AP



Video grab of cops putting hood on the man who died of asphyxiation. — Agencies

FOOTAGE SHOWS EXCESSIVE FORCE, HENCE DEPUTY FIRED

Columbia, Sept. 3: A deputy in South Carolina has been fired and charged with assault after body camera footage showed he yanked a woman to the ground by her hair, a sheriff said. Kyle Oliver (29), reported using force on January 7, but what he wrote in his report did not match the footage from another officer's body camera, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said at a news conference. Lott said he reviewed the camera footage on Monday after receiving a tip. He said the woman never reported the excessive force. Lott decided to fire Oliver and after prosecutors reviewed the footage, they charged him with misdemeanor third-degree assault. "His actions are unacceptable, and I will not have it from any of my deputies," Sheriff Lott said.

— AP

Prez wants voters to cast two ballots in Nov. election

Don trumpets US strength, scoffs at Biden

Wilmington, Sept. 3: As thunderstorms threatened, President Donald Trump sped through a V-J Day speech on Wednesday, trumpeting American strength and managing to squeeze in a swipe at Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump stood before an iconic World War II-era battleship to declare the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina, a World War II "Heritage City". He pointed to a bolt of lightning and said it was God saluting the event. He honoured war veterans, including 97-year-old Hershel "Woody" Williams, the sole surviving Marine from the war to receive the Medal of Honour. The West Virginia native fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. "He's 100 percent sharp," Trump said of Williams, who travelled to the key battleground state with the president aboard Air Force One.

"I know a 78-year-old who's not so sharp," Trump added, a clear allusion to Biden. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany had insisted earlier this week that there was no "political purpose" to Trump's visit to North Carolina. But when the president landed in Wilmington, Trump lost no time in criticising Biden.

"This is the most important election in the history of our country. I really believe that, because we're running against people that have got some big issues," he told supporters on the airport tarmac. "They have got some big, big problems. They're stone cold crazy."

Trump also encouraged those who cast votes by mail to cast two ballots in November's election, one by mail and another in person as a check to see if the mailed vote was counted.

"They'll go out and they'll vote and they're going to have to go and

FB TO TARGET MISINFORMATION BEFORE POLL

Washington, Sept. 3: With just two months left until the US presidential election, Facebook says it is taking more steps to encourage voting, minimise misinformation and reduce the likelihood of post-election "civil unrest." The company said Thursday it will restrict new political ads in the week before the election and remove posts that convey misinformation about Covid-19 and voting. It also will attach links to official results to posts from candidates and campaigns declaring premature victories.

"This election is not going to be business as usual. We all have a responsibility to protect our democracy," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Thursday. "That means helping people register and vote, clearing up confusion about how this election will work, and taking steps to reduce the chances of violence and unrest." FB and other social media companies are being scrutinized over how they handle misinformation.

— AP

check their vote by going to the poll and voting that way because if it tabulates then they won't be able to do that. So, let them send it in and let them go vote," Trump said in an interview with WECT-TV at the Wilmington airport.

"And if their system's as good as they say it is, then obviously they won't be able to vote. If it isn't tabulated, they'll be able to vote. So that's the way it is, and that's what they should do."

— AP

Protest in Bulgaria



Protesters clash with police during an anti-government demonstration in Sofia. Bulgarians gathered in downtown Sofia for another anti-government protest Thursday after a demonstration the night before led to violence, injuries and arrests. Several thousands faced off against riot police in front of the parliament building while demanding the resignations of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and chief prosecutor Ivan Stoimenov Geshev late Wednesday. A small group began hurling explosives and firecrackers at officers. Police put a water cannon between parliament, and the offices of the government and the president and cordoned off the area. Violent clashes erupted.

— AFP

Covid-19 vaccine shows promise

Washington, Sept. 3: An experimental vaccine that boosts the production of specific proteins could be effective against the Coronavirus that causes Covid-19, according to a study conducted in mice. Scientists at The Ohio State University in the US manipulated a natural cellular process to ramp up levels of two proteins used by the virus to infect other cells, packaged the protein-boosting instructions in nanoparticles and injected them into mice.

Within a month, the mice had developed antibodies against the SARS-

CoV-2 virus, according to the study published on Wednesday in the journal *Advanced Materials*. The technique involves altering specific sequences of messenger RNA, molecules that translate genetic information into functional proteins, the researchers said.

While these sequences are not translated to proteins, the researchers changed their structures to promote higher-than-usual levels of proteins. The sequences are known as untranslated regions, or UTRs.

— PTI

UK working on a test that gives results in 20 minutes

London, Sept. 3: The British government says it is investing in a coronavirus test that gives results in as little as 20 minutes, as critics say tests for the virus are being rationed because the system can't cope with demand. Health Secretary Matt Hancock says the government is expanding trials of two new tests — a no-swab saliva test and another that gives results in minutes.

It's also running a trial on the benefits of repeat testing of people without symptoms. Britain has hugely expanded its testing capacity since the start of the pandemic. Anyone with symptoms is eligible for a test, but the BBC reported that people who enter their postcode into the government's website are sometimes being directed to drive-through centres hundreds of miles away.

— AP

NBW issued against ex-Pak PM Nawaz

Lahore, Sept. 3: A Pakistani court on Thursday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to execute a non-bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a 34-year land allotment case, according to media reports. During the plot

allotment hearing, Model Town Police Inspector Bashir Ahmed told Lahore Accountability Court's Judge Asad Ali that Sharif was not at his residence.

Last month, the accountability court had issued a bailable arrest warrant and served summons at all

known addresses of the three-time prime minister, who is currency in London for medical treatment. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMN-N) leader Ata Tarar confirmed to the court on Thursday that the 70-year-old party chief Sharif had

been abroad for six months, the *Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Responding to this, Special Prosecutor Harris Qureshi, appearing on behalf of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), asked the court to issue a non-bailable arrest

(NBA) warrant against Sharif. The court issued the NBA warrant and directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to execute the arrest through the Pakistan High Commission in London, the report added.

— PTI

NEW DATA

87 per cent of the world's extreme poor live in Central and Southern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa

Female poverty rate in S. Asia to rise due to Covid: UN

United Nations, Sept. 3: The female poverty rate in South Asia will increase in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and more women than men in the 25-34 age group will be poorer in the next decade, according to new data released by the UN. The UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said that the Covid-19 pandemic will disproportionately affect women and push 47 million more women and girls into extreme poverty by 2021, reversing decades of progress to lift this demographic above the poverty line. The report, "From

Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the wake of Covid-19", said that the gender poverty gap will worsen further still in South Asia.

Central and Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, home to 87 per cent of the world's extreme poor, will see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 54 million and 24 million people, respectively, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic. "The expected rise of poverty in South Asia as a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic

showcases the vulnerability of women and girls living in households that have only recently been able to escape poverty, the report released on Wednesday said.

The pre-pandemic female poverty rate in South Asia was projected to be 10 per cent in 2021 but is now expected to reach 13 per cent. "Moreover, before the pandemic, projections for the region suggested that by 2030 only 15.8 per cent of the world's poor women and girls would be living in South Asia. The revised projections now put that figure at 18.6 per cent," the

report said.

The report pointed out that the resurgence of poverty due to the pandemic threatens to deepen gender poverty gaps, especially for people aged 25 to 34, which is a key productive and family formation period for both women and men. In 2021, it is expected there will be 118 women in poverty for every 100 poor men globally, and this ratio could rise to 121 poor women for every 100 poor men by 2030.

While sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will be the most impacted, "significantly more women than

men in South Asia will be affected. In the 25-34 age group, there will be 118 poor women for every 100 poor men in South Asia, and that ratio will increase to 129 women for every 100 men by 2030. Globally, the poverty rate for women was expected to decrease by 2.7 per cent between 2019 and 2021, but projections now point to an increase of 9.1 per cent due to the pandemic and its fallout. The "pandemic will push 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, 47 million of whom are women and girls. This will increase the total

number of women and girls living in extreme poverty to 435 million, with projections showing that this number will not revert to pre-pandemic levels until 2030," the UN agencies said.

"The increases in women's extreme poverty are a stark indictment of deep flaws in the ways we have constructed our societies and economies," UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said. "We know that women take most of the responsibility for caring for the family; they earn less, save less and hold much

less secure jobs — in fact, overall, women's employment is 19 per cent more at risk than men's."

Mlambo-Ngcuka said that the evidence of multiple inequalities is critical to drive swift, restorative policy action that puts women at the heart of pandemic recovery. While the pandemic has posed a serious threat to the prospects of eradicating extreme poverty by the end of this decade, the reality is even grimmer as these projections of increased poverty rates for women and girls only account for the downward revision of GDP.

— PTI

THE ASIAN AGE

4 SEPTEMBER 2020

Axing Question Hour lets govt avoid accountability

The Narendra Modi government's move to use the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to scrap Question Hour in Parliament's coming Monsoon Session, starting September 14, should cause little surprise: in the past six years it has always tried to avoid being held accountable for its actions before the House, despite overwhelming numbers in the Lok Sabha. It seems Shashi Tharoor's prediction four months ago that "strongmen leaders will use the pandemic excuse to stifle democracy and dissent" was not far off the mark. In our parliamentary system, where the executive is responsible to the legislature, the device MPs can most effectively employ is to put questions to ministers, and if not satisfied with the minister's reply, by asking follow-up questions on the floor of the House. If a minister fails to answer these properly, the government's prevarication will be visible to all in the House, and since the telecast of parliamentary proceedings from the 1990s, to the country. This is what the government was so desperate to

The government says Zero Hour, where MPs raise vital issues, will continue, though curtailed. But there's a critical difference. Ministers, even if present in the House, need not respond there, unlike in Question Hour, when they must.

avert, as there are many questions out there — on its tackling of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, its economic mismanagement, the Chinese aggression in Ladakh and its occupation of Indian territory — which it is reluctant to answer.

What, really, is Parliament's main function? For the government, the answer is to pass the legislation the Cabinet recommends, rubber stamp ordinances promulgated in between sessions, and not stop the executive doing whatever it wants. But for most people, or constitutional experts, it is to hold the government accountable to those who put it in power. Cancelling Question Hour deprives MPs of the lone device they have to exercise some control over the executive.

The government says as Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha sessions will be in shifts, to allow "distancing" in MPs' seating, there is no time for Question Hour. The fact is while a "normal" session sits 30 hours a week, six hours daily, the coming session will have 28 hours: four hours a day, but sitting all days of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays. Of this, half an hour will be saved daily as Zero Hour is cut to 30 minutes, and there will be no private members' business on Fridays. Trinamul Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien calculated that due to the cuts, the coming session has an extra 30 minutes, more than enough time for Question Hour. Then the Centre argued officials would have to visit Parliament to assist ministers, increasing visitors in pandemic times, but the solution is simple: to allow ministers and officials to communicate via phone or video conferencing.

While the government claims some Opposition leaders were consulted, MPs asked why an all-party meeting wasn't called, as this will be the first time in India's history that a regular parliamentary session will be held without Question Hour. Several MPs said this would make Parliament a "notice board", saying questioning the government was the "oxygen of parliamentary democracy". Others likened it to the general climate of intolerance, with TMC MP Mahua Moitra tweeting: "Asking questions in court is contempt. Asking questions outside Parliament is sedition. And now asking questions inside Parliament is forbidden."

The government says Zero Hour, where MPs raise vital issues, will continue, though curtailed. But there's a critical difference. Ministers, even if present in the House, need not respond there, unlike in Question Hour, when they must.

Banning apps will achieve little

India has fired the second round of its soft ammunition on China by banning 118 mobile apps, including the very popular gaming app PUBG. Even as India-China border skirmishes take a hard turn and India preemptively occupies strategic peaks and ridges on the southern side of Pangong Tso, India had banned a batch of 59 mobile apps, including TikTok, as the border tension showed signs of escalation in June this year.

The government has stated that these apps were "prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order", mostly the grounds for putting reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom and expression under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution.

The governmental move could offer people the satisfaction that India is getting even with China it but the hard fact is that it is not. China casts its net wider and deeper. Latest reports say Chinese exports have ballooned during the pandemic and matched those in the pre-Christmas season which saw the highest numbers; the US's tough talks and tax barriers could little dent its business. China is the only major economy in the world that has recorded a GDP growth in the last quarter when every other economy, including the United States and India, contracted to historic levels. The latest on the defence front is a report of the US department of defence that says the Chinese Navy with 350 vessels is the largest in the world, dwarfing even the US Navy that has 293 of them. The way India's eastern neighbour occupies key infrastructure projects in our neighbourhood and how it invests in strategic assets, including in lithium mines around the world, are an indicator of its future plans. Mobile apps are hardly the tools to contain it, should we aim at that?

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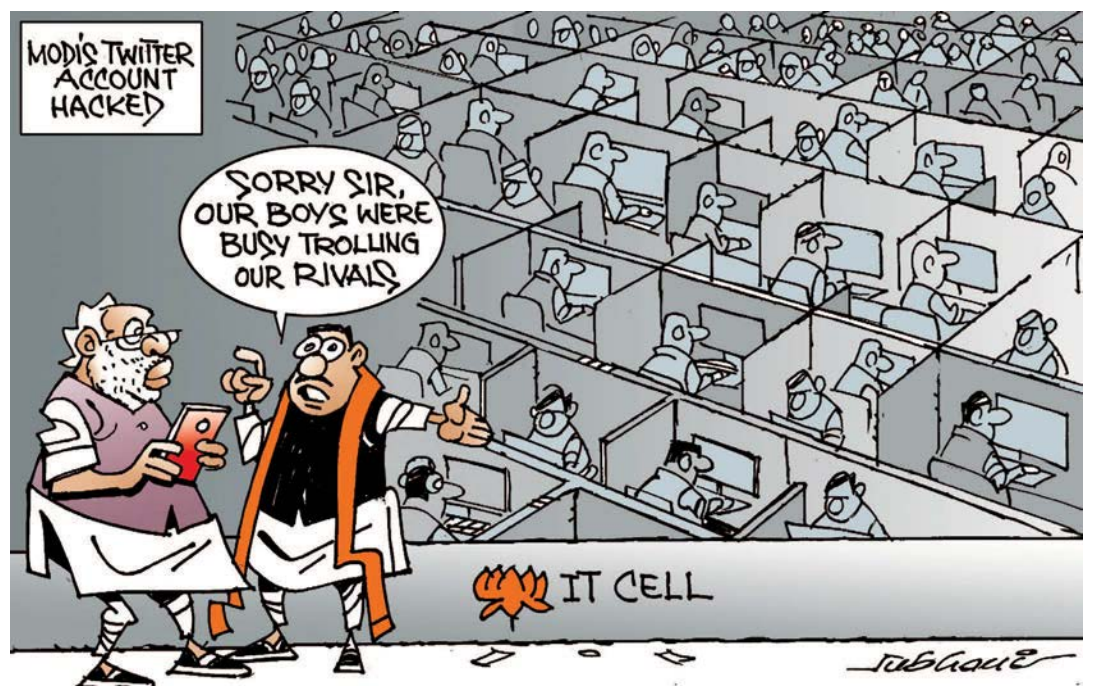
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Subhani



In any crisis, take care of the most vulnerable



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

Is geography destiny? Those who inhabit placeless utopias like global citizens with much sought-after skills tend to argue that digital technologies and virtual communications have now erased the inconvenient boundaries of the physical world.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has sledgehammered the brutal lesson that geography's death has been hugely exaggerated. Surroundings matter. Where we are affects what happens to us. Mostly.

One area where this has been most visible is education.

Covid-19 has not only revealed vulnerabilities and inequalities in the education systems across the world, it has also made the situation worse.

Students living in areas reeling from floodwaters or where the roads got washed away or where there is no public transport and private transport is beyond what their family could afford trying to reach examination centres far away were not in the same place, literally and figuratively, as those in the big cities. The South Delhi or South Mumbai student who reached the test centre in a private vehicle was not in the same situation as someone else who had to use multiple modes of transport, negotiating difficult terrain, and great uncertainty, even if both were equally well-prepared or at par academically.

Competitive exams like the JEE (Joint Entrance Exam) for top-tier engineering courses and NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) for undergraduate medical and dental courses in India are framed as markers of merit.

But every aspirant does not have the same backstory. In several districts of West Bengal, for instance, many JEE aspirants left home as early as

3.30 am to reach the examination hall, battling lack of transport, persistent rain and floods. This is despite the efforts by state governments and civil society outfits to arrange transport for students in difficult situations. Students are also not equally placed when it comes to accessing healthcare. That is why there were students who campaigned to postpone the exam. Students from low-income families in flood-hit areas are handicapped. We don't yet know what awaits them, whether they will get a second chance on a different date without losing a year.

In a country where standardised testing is the attempt to gauge a young person's worth, overlooking a lifetime's experience of inequities of various kinds, and the heart-breaking inadequacy of the state-run schooling system in many instances, millions still see competitive exams as the only way out of the ghetto, and a passport to a stable and secure job and a brighter future.

What happens to those who don't "make it" to the exam hall, for no fault of theirs?

And it is not just about the JEE and NEET. There are many other competitive tests like National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) — which millions of young Indians aspire to crack because they see it as the only way out of their social and geographical limitations.

"The education crisis during Covid-19 was fuelled by deep pre-existing inequalities," says a recent report by Unesco.

"Education systems responded with distance learning solutions, all of which offered less or more imperfect substitutes for classroom instruction," said the report, noting that while many poorer countries opted for radio and televi-

sion lessons, 55 per cent of low-income, 73 per cent of lower-middle-income and 93 per cent of upper-middle-income countries adopted for online learning platforms for primary and secondary education.

The Covid-19 lockdown has exposed the all-too obvious fact that Digital India does not quite mean the same thing for every Indian.

The number of wireless Internet users in the country have been rising but there is still a glaring divide between urban and rural India. Just a little over four per cent of rural households have a computer, against 23.4 per cent of households in urban areas; 14.9 per cent of rural households have access to the Internet against 42 per cent households in urban areas, according to the 75th round of the National Sample Survey conducted between July 2017 and June 2018.

Within cities too, where you live matters.

Sonal Kapoor, founder and chief executive officer of Protsahan India Foundation, a non-profit organisation working with adolescent girls in slum communities of Uttam Nagar in West Delhi, likes to talk about the "slum digital lab" project that her NGO is running. It was shut during the lockdown months of April and May. It reopened early June. "None of the girls we work with have computers at home. Most families have one mobile phone of a most basic type; it is typically with the father or the brother. So, girls come here, follow up on their school homework, do their projects, prepare for competitive exams, learn coding, apply for government schemes online to avail other benefits for their families."

Many state governments are making efforts to circumvent the prob-

The Covid-19 lockdown has exposed the all-too obvious fact that Digital India does not quite mean the same thing for every Indian

lems on the ground. Even though school education has gone online, states are using parallel methods to try and ensure that geographically or financially disadvantaged students don't completely miss out on learning. They have been using a variety of different approaches simultaneously, alongside online classes. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for example, the department of education has also taken steps to telecast the pre-recorded digital classes through the local cable TV networks for the students of Class 8 to Class 12. These telecasts started on local cable TV channels from April. An alternative learning method was also started for primary and upper primary classes through audio classes on All India Radio, Port Blair.

In Bihar, during the lockdown, classes for students of Class 1 to Class 12 are being run on Doordarshan. Classes on television are run in the same way as in the normal classroom.

These may seem minor details in the broader narrative of the pandemic, but they impact millions of lives. They also show there are local resourceful adaptations to deal with the education crisis, worsened by Covid-19. This is especially true of school education.

These are not perfect solutions, but they grapple with exclusion, which remains a stark reality even in developed and socially progressive states. A Class 9 student set herself ablaze in Kerala's Malappuram district because she missed online classes. The family had no television or smartphone at home.

The key lesson — policy-makers have to factor in the needs of the most vulnerable. Those on top of the food chain will, and do manage better, even during a crisis. It is those at the bottom who need to be at the top of our policy priorities.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Mission Karmayogi, a national programme aimed at closing the gap between the bureaucrat and the citizen ensuring citizen-centric governance, aims to teach civil servants best practices in governance across the world. Quality of governance does not solely depend on civil servants but more on the political leadership. The secretary, DoPT, has counted qualities required in civil servants but what about politicians at the helm of affairs? They also need, perhaps more than bureaucrats, to be covered by Mission Karmayogi.

M.C. Joshi
Lucknow

ONLY WORDS

THE GOVERNMENT raises slogans like Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, etc., but does nothing to fix the economy. The GDP has contracted by 23.5 per cent, the state governments are scrounging for funds and unemployment is ubiquitous. Manufacturing toys or frying pakodas or exporting Kohlapuri slippers — how far can these revive the economy or even slow the bleeding? Banning Chinese apps, in which China actually shares a meagre stake, as border tensions escalate, is also a token measure. India still continues to do business with China, and the masses have not stopped buying Chinese-manufactured LEDs. For every crisis, be it deteriorating international relations or a tanking economy, the government weaves a web of words to enthrall and comfort the masses.

Saundarya Jain
New Delhi

CARTOONS FINE

I WON'T CONDEMN cartoons of Prophet Muhammad, French president Emmanuel Macron has said, even as he battled for dialogue between communities, upholding free speech and freedom of thought and expression. There needs to be introspection into why the burning of the Bible does not start a riot but that of the Quran does as happened in Sweden in recent days. There also needs to be questioning from within the Muslim community as to why so many members of the faith are leaving it, especially in the Middle East. One owes it to one's faith to ask these questions.

Shaheen Mohammed
Mumbai

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

Nilofar Suhrawardy



Bank on Gandhis, test non-Gandhis, start early for '24

The storm created over a letter demanding change in the Congress Party's leadership has certainly dominated newspaper headlines for a while now. Given that no basic change is expected in the party's leadership, what can be inferred from this political drama? One can call it nothing but, considering the nature of the letter, the political stature of its writers and subsequent developments ending in Sonia Gandhi continuing as interim president. Ms Gandhi has held this post since Rahul Gandhi's resignation as president following the dismal performance of the Congress in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

Now let us consider this issue from another angle. The letter writers certainly don't seem to have any inclination either to quit the party or be considered for heading it. Also, neither of their names are as strongly associated with the Congress nationwide as are those of the members of the Gandhi family. Their political reach is limited to their regional domain, while others are known more for their professional and intellectual

accomplishments than anything else. Without taking any names, in all probability, the average Indian from outside their states is hardly aware of their political importance. And perhaps even their association with the Congress Party.

This is not surprising. How many people outside West Bengal know the names of anybody other than Mamata Banerjee with the Trinamul Congress? The same can be said about Mayawati and her Uttar Pradesh-based BSP, Mulayam Singh Yadav/Akhilesh Yadav and the SP as well as Lalu Prasad's RJD in Bihar.

Of course, the Congress is not a regional party and it is expected to give greater importance to a democratic process for electing its leaders. The Left parties, too, attach importance to following party rules and protocol. Strict adherence to these rules has prevented their senior leaders from rising in political stature. This was why Jyoti Basu of the CPI(M) could not become the country's Prime Minister in 1996. In 2008, Somnath Chatterjee chose to stick to his guns; as Speaker of Lok Sabha, he did not

vote along the party line. He was expelled from the party for this decision. These two examples show that at times strict adherence to party rules can prove extremely costly. Deviation by the CPI(M) in these two cases may have spelled its rise instead of decline. India's political map may not have been the same as what it is today.

Now surely, the democratic culture of any political party cannot solely be decided by its top-ranked members, mostly hailing from the elite and privileged classes? How can that be? Also, it might just be difficult for the average Indian to understand whatever may be communicated to them by elites.

Undeniably, Sonia, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra belong to the privileged classes. Nevertheless, party propaganda coupled with media coverage has definitely led to their moves being taken greater notice of by people compared to those by other Congress leaders. Additionally, the effect of their huge presence in nationwide electoral campaigns cannot be ignored. Besides,

their party is not the only one that performed miserably in the 2019 general election.

Hence, at present, the selection of a non-Gandhi to head the party demands building their image from the grassroots on an extensive scale. Can the party afford to do this? Every Congress leader does not hold the same appeal to the people as the three Gandhis do. Crowds drawn by these leaders certainly help them gain media coverage and also spell a headache for rival parties. Can the same be said about other Congress members? It will probably take a decade for the party's political culture to reach a stage where that is the fact. The party needs to start according importance to image-building exercises for other members, too, from now on. It has nothing to lose by testing and judging the electoral potential of non-Gandhi members in the national domain. The big question is, whether other members are willing to take the risk. Electoral campaigning is not a cakewalk. Gaining media coverage is also not easy for all. It may perhaps be more appropriate for

Congress members to deliberate at present on teamwork and possible alliances advantageous to them in the coming Assembly elections. Besides, they need to start planning for the 2024 parliamentary polls from right now and not leave crucial decisions till the last minute. This refers to the formal induction of Priyanka in the party as general secretary of Uttar Pradesh's east wing when just a few months were left for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The political drama that followed the letter has certainly helped the letter writers garner attention. Their simple message apparently is that their roles in party politics must not be sidelined. They have made a point, democratically speaking. The party needs to give greater importance to functioning as a team. A united Congress has a chance to strengthen its ranking; divided, the futures of all party members are at stake!

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

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,990.94	-0.24
Nifty 50	11,527.45	-0.07
S&P 500*	3,475.64	-2.94
Dollar (₹)	73.48	0.60
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.68	0.21
Euro (₹)	86.86	0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,755	774 0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.93	-0.50
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.896	-0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.636	-0.015

* As of 9:30 PM IST

FASTag must for pre-Dec 2017 vehicles from Jan.

The central government has proposed to make FASTag mandatory for vehicles sold before December 1, 2017, the road transport ministry said. It said a notification has been issued in this regard and post amendment to rules, FASTag will be mandatory for old vehicles from January 1, 2021. It is also "proposed to make having a valid FASTag mandatory while getting a new third party insurance."

Ramakrishnan to be MD & CEO of South Indian Bank



South Indian Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has approved appointment of Murali Ramakrishnan as its MD and CEO with effect from October 1. Ramakrishnan had retired from ICICI Bank as senior general manager at strategic project group on May 30, 2020, and joined the South Indian Bank as an advisor on July 1. Ramakrishnan was heading a business transformation project of SME business at ICICI Bank.

UP's August revenue higher by ₹600 cr YoY

The Uttar Pradesh government it has collected Rs 600 crore more revenue in August as compared to the year-ago period. "Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, there was a significant decline in the state's revenue in April, May and June. But economic activities gained momentum from July. In August, the state collected about Rs 600 crore more revenue than the same month (August) last year," state finance minister Suresh Khanna said.

April-August NH construction surpasses target

The government said it constructed 3,181 km of national highways in April-August, surpassing the construction target of 2,771 km. The length of national highway works awarded during this fiscal also more than doubled compared to last fiscal. The figure includes 2,104 km constructed by state PWDs, 879 km by the NHAI and 198 km by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.

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Lenders asked to roll out scheme by 15th FM sets deadline for debt recast scheme

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

In order to help borrowers hurt by the pandemic, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday asked banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to roll out loan restructuring schemes for Covid-19-related stress by September 15. She also asked lenders to identify eligible borrowers, reach out to them and quickly implement resolution plans for the revival of every viable business.

While urging lenders to support distressed borrowers, Sitharaman also reminded them that loan restructuring should not impact the lenders' assessment of their creditworthiness.

The government move comes three days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted a moratorium on loan repayments on August 31. The central bank offered the moratorium as the coronavirus lockdown, effective March 25, shuttered businesses and left millions jobless, pushing India's economy toward a full-year contraction in more than four decades.

In a video conference with heads of scheduled commercial banks and NBFCs, the finance minister urged lenders to immediately put in place a board-approved policy for resolution. "There should be a quick implementation of a sustained resolution plan by lenders for the



KEEPING BANKERS ON THEIR TOES

► Sitharaman also asked lenders to identify eligible borrowers, reach out to them and quickly implement resolution plans for the revival of every viable business

revival of every viable business," she said.

Banks are in the process of getting a restructuring framework in line with the RBI's framework and eligibility defined by the central bank in its notification on August 6. In the meeting, bankers assured the finance minister that they are ready with their resolution policies and have started the process of identifying and reaching out to borrowers and that they will comply with the timelines stipulated by the RBI.

An official statement said Sitharaman advised lenders to ensure that regularly updated FAQs on the resolution framework are uploaded on their websites in Hindi, English and regional languages, and also circulated to their

offices and branches. Besides, the minister also reviewed the schemes announced under Aatmanirbhar Bharat—the Rs 20-lakh crore post-pandemic financial rescue package.

The RBI last month permitted one-time restructuring of both corporate and retail loans without them getting classified as a non-performing asset (NPA). Restructuring benefit is available for accounts that are standard on March 1, with default of less than 30 days. Besides, K.V. Kamath committee is working on recommendations on financial parameters like debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans.

Dubai seeks to attract wealthy retirees

ABBAS AL LAWATI SEPT. 3

Dubai started a programme to attract wealthy retirees as the Middle East business hub faces a flight of expatriates amidst an economic downturn.

Foreigners over the age of 55 will be eligible for a five-year renewable visa if they meet certain criteria, according to the Dubai Media Office. In its initial phase, the programme will focus on UAE residents working in Dubai.

Candidates should meet one of the following requirements: Monthly income of 20,000 dirhams (\$5,445); savings of 1 mn dirhams; or own property in Dubai worth 2 mn dirhams.

The United Arab Emirates passed a law in 2018 allowing expatriates to stay beyond retirement age. Foreigners form about 90 per cent of Dubai's population, but their residency is tied to employment, discouraging many from setting roots in the city.

The programme "will contribute toward our tourism economy by facilitating frequent visits from families and friends of the retirees and increasing visitation from markets with a high retiree population," said Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, D-G of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs.—Bloomberg

Services pick up, but still in contraction zone

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

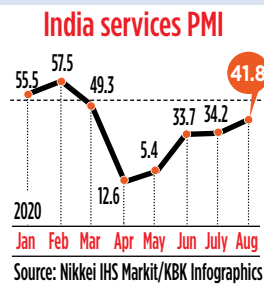
Despite showing a rise over July, services Purchasing Managers' Index continued in the contraction zone in August. Pandemic restrictions and job losses have been weighing heavily on services PMI.

The Services Business Activity Index of IHS Markit rose sharply from 34.2 in July to 41.8 in August, the highest since March. Nevertheless, the latest reading, by coming in below the 50 neutral value, indicated continued decline in business activity.

The ongoing pandemic restrictions continued to adversely impact client demand and business operations. New business and output continued to contract at marked rates, albeit slower than the records seen in April and May. Restrictions also contributed to a record increase in outstanding business.

Reduced business activity saw the Indian service sector operating below rate, which has been falling after April, increased from 7.4 per cent in July to 8.4 per cent in August. As a result, the employment rate fell from 37.6 per cent to 37.5 per cent in the same period, finds think-tank CMIE.

This deterioration in labour market conditions in August was essentially located in rural India. While in urban India 3.4 million got jobs, employment was slightly faster than seen



in July, but marginal overall. Higher fuel costs were cited as the key reason behind higher input prices. In line with rising cost burdens, output charges grew at a margin-

al pace. Firms mentioned the passing on of higher costs to customers.

"August highlights another month of challenging operating conditions in the Indian services sector...Output and new work continue to fall at solid rates, while restrictions meant that firms were often unable to complete projects. Backlogs of work accumulated to the greatest extent in almost 15 years of data collection. That said, the survey showed signs of a potential recovery," said Shreya Patel, economist at IHS Markit.

RURAL JOBS DROP, URBAN RISE IN AUG.

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

Rising unemployment in rural India brought down overall employment in the country by 0.2 million in August from July levels. What hurt rural unemployment was lower farm and MGNREGA jobs.

The unemployment rate, which has been falling after April, increased from 7.4 per cent in July to 8.4 per cent in August. As a result, the employment rate fell from 37.6 per cent to 37.5 per cent in the same period, finds think-tank CMIE.

This deterioration in labour market conditions in August was essentially located in rural India. While in urban India 3.4 million got jobs, employment was slightly faster than seen

declined by 3.6 million in rural India, thus, accounting for the 0.2 million overall decline.

Rural India, that led the recovery story till July has pulled back hard. Rural India faced a double whammy in August. It saw a fall in MGNREGA employment, which is non-farming related employment, and kharif sowing-related employment.

As per the initial data available, compared to July, person-days generated in August were down by 55 per cent. August person-days were also 72 per cent lower than that in June. The fall in MGNREGA employment coincided with a fall in farming activities in August. By July-end, 83 per cent of the kharif sowing was complete.

EV startup launches e-bike Atum at ₹50,000



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 3

Atumobile, a Hyderabad-based electric vehicles start-up, has launched Atum 1.0, a new generation electric bike priced at Rs. 50,000 at Hyderabad showroom.

The cost-effective café-racer styled electric bike with a top speed of 25 km will be made available across India through Atumobile's online portal within a week.

Vamsi Gaddam, founder director at Atumobile told *Financial Chronicle* that the company was also testing two more e-bike models with a top speed of 80 km and 100 km which would be launched over the next 12 months.

Powered by a portable lithium-ion battery pack, that charges in 4 hours, Atum 1.0 offers a range of 100 kmph in a single charge.

The electric bike comes with a two-year battery warranty and is claimed to be developed using indigenous parts.

"After three years of hard work and a vision to introduce a sustainable way to commute, we have launched Atum 1.0," Gaddam said, adding that the factory at Telangana has an annual capacity to produce 15,000 bikes, and scale it up to 1,00,000 electric bikes depending on market demand.

He claimed that the cost effective Atum 1.0 bike consumes around 1 unit per charge, which translates to Rs 7-10 per day (for 100 km) as compared to the traditional ICE bikes, which cost almost Rs 80-100 a day for 100km.

Vodafone Idea plans \$1.5 bn fundraising

BAIJU KALESH, ANTO ANTONY & P. R. SANJAI SEPT. 3

Vodafone Group Plc's India unit is planning to raise about \$1.5 billion as it seeks to turn around its fortunes in the country's fiercely competitive wireless market, people familiar with the matter said.

Vodafone Idea Ltd is discussing a funding plan that could include a share sale, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. It is working with advisers, including New York-based investment bank PJT Partners Inc, as it seeks potential strategic partners to buy stakes, the people said.

The telecom operator is working to identify potential investors in the US, the people said. It could also raise part of the funds through other methods such as an offering of equity-linked securities, one of the people said.

Vodafone Idea plans to discuss the options at a board meeting on Friday. Details of the plan are still

being finalised, and the size and structure of the fundraising could change, according to the people.

Vodafone Idea extended gains in Mumbai trading, rising as much as 30 per cent. The stock closed at Rs 12.56 on the BSE, up 26.74 per cent. Shares of Vodafone Idea have fallen about 85 per cent since 2016 the launch of Reliance Jio Infocomm.

Vodafone Idea's fundraising plan comes after the firm won some legal relief earlier this week in a near two-decade payment dispute with the government.

The venture between Vodafone and billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla's conglomerate has been weighed down by a \$7.8 billion bill from the government, eight straight quarterly losses and over \$14 billion of debt.

The fine print of a Supreme Court judgment published late on Tuesday showed Vodafone Idea doesn't need to make any immediate payments as a three-judge panel allowed phone operators 10 years to pay a combined \$19 bn in back fees. — Bloomberg

Sebi's new margin system derails stock exchanges' settlement cycle

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 3

Sebi's new margin system has impacted the settlement cycle of stock exchanges and clearing corporations and for the first time in NSE's 25 years of operations, settlement could not be completed on due date, according to the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (Anmi), a brokers' body.

Anmi on Thursday made a submission to the Department of Economics Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Securities and Exchange of Board of India, stock exchanges and clearing corporations requesting for waiver of penalty for short margining in all the segments till September 15, due to severe challenges in streamlining processes.

"Forced implementation of a new margin system has derailed the entire settlement cycle of stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

"Investors are badly affected too, as regular pay-in and pay-out of



funds and shares isn't happening since the last two days, resulting in members involuntarily contravening the provisions of applicable regulatory directions. First time in the history of NSE of 25 years and more, settlement could not be completed on due date (i.e. 2nd Sep. 2020 between 1.30 to 2.30 PM) and clearing corporations released the payout only after 3.00 am in the morning of the next day i.e. 3rd Sep. 2020," Anmi said.

There are multiple technical glitches with regards to release of securities, OTFs, pledge and re-pledge issues, delay in pay-in and pay-out process

and thereby resulting into disruptions in margin collections and reporting though the margins were sufficiently complied before the onset of the new system, Anmi said.

Deven Choksey, managing director, K. R. Choksey Shares & Securities, said, "New margin system introduced since Sept. 1, 2020 has derailed the entire settlement cycle of stock exchanges and clearing corporations. Investors are badly affected too, as regular pay-in and pay-out of funds and shares isn't happening since the last two days."

"Finger pointing is happening now, blaming forced implementation of a new system. The flaw is in the ecosystem which isn't ready! This isn't the first time that new systems are introduced without readiness! Past experiences reveal that under preparedness and knee-jerk implementations have been a regular method whenever new systems are introduced. And it has always caused so much stress on the entire market," Choksey said.

‘Scrap old & new coal plants to save ₹1.45 L cr’

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

Shuttering old coal plants and freezing under-construction plants can save over Rs 1,45,000 crore for the country, finds a report. This will also improve the financial health of the power distribution companies, or discoms.

After looking at 11 major coal power states which account for over 50 per cent of discom overdues, Bengaluru-based Climate Risk Horizons has identified possible areas for savings and cost rationalisation, starting with the retirement of coal plants that are over 20 years old and are less efficient than newer plants.

Shutting down 36.5 GW of old coal plants will avoid 18,000 crore worth of capital expenditure that needs to be incurred on retrofits to bring the plants in compliance with the 2015 emission norms. Replacing scheduled generation from these old plants with cheaper electricity, either from new renewables or from the



market, would save another Rs 7,000 crore annually and Rs 35,000 crore over a five-year tariff period, as electricity from most of these plants is relatively more expensive.

"Our analysis shows that it is far more efficient and cost-effective to shut down these old plants by 2022, rather than spend thousands of crores to retrofit them... Given state governments' precarious finances and the level of

stressed assets in the banking sector, incurring debt for additional capex is difficult. These costs would also have to eventually be recovered from discoms and consumers via higher tariffs", said Ashish Fernandes, CEO and lead analyst of Climate Risk Horizons, in the report.

The report also identifies 14 GW of state-owned plants in the early stages of construction in Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Freezing expenditure on these projects would save over Rs 92,000 crore.

Given the country's power surplus situation and the cost advantages now enjoyed by renewable energy, there is no requirement for these new plants, and they could in fact end up worsening state finances if construction were to proceed.

According to Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD of Tata Power, around 60,000 MW of old coal-based power plants can be closed down quickly.

An internal study by Tata Power had found that there were about 280 coal-fired plants of a total capacity of 35,000 MW, which were over 25 years old. Further, there are another 200 of a capacity of about 25,000 MW. The debt raised for these had already been fully paid back. That makes a total of 60,000 MW that can quickly go out of the system", Sinha said while attending the webinar by Climate Risk Horizons.

Subdued power demand due to Covid-19 and difficulties in revenue collection, the overdues of discoms to generators have increased to Rs 114,733 crore. Replacing electricity from older coal plants with cheaper renewable sources will reduce the gap between cost of supply and revenue generation for discoms.

The Centre is in the process of disbursing Rs 1,00,000 crore by way of relief to discoms to enable them to pay their dues to generators. This is expected to be a temporary fix, says the report.

"The council has already requested the government for a Free Trade Agreement with the US," said Shaktivel.

Besides, the AEPC has sought a review of the trade pacts with the EU, UK, US, Australia and Canada to remove the disadvantages.

SHORT TAKES

Punia, two more wrestlers +ve

New Delhi: Three senior male wrestlers, including world championship silver-medallist Deepak Punia, have tested positive for Covid-19, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Thursday.

Besides the Olympic-bound Punia (86kg), the other two wrestlers who have tested positive for the virus are Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg). All three are part of a national camp at the SAI Centre in Sonapat ahead of which the wrestlers are in quarantine. "Three senior men's wrestlers, who had reported to the National Wrestling Camp at SAI Centre in Sonapat, have tested positive for Covid-19 virus," the nodal sports body said in a statement.

With his silver at the worlds, Punia had secured a place for himself at the Tokyo Olympics. They have been moved to a SAI empanelled hospital as a precautionary measure for further monitoring.

All wrestlers were tested, upon arrival, as per the SAI SOP for resumption of sports activities. — PTI

Cyclist Lutsenko claims Stage 6

Mont Aigoual, France: Kazakh rider Alexey Lutsenko won his first stage in his fifth Tour de France with a solo effort up Mont Aigoual on Thursday.

The Tour's top contenders were still racing far behind the 27-year-old Lutsenko on the mountain when he crossed the line at the top with towering views of southern France. Lutsenko was among a group of eight breakaway riders that surged ahead of the main pack on the 191-kilometre (119-mile) Stage 6. The stage sped south-west from the start town of Le Teil in southern France.

Lutsenko, riding for the Astana team, shook off his breakaway companions on the day's punishing final climb, up to the Lusette pass, scaled for the first time by the 117-year-old Tour. — AP

Waqar for one ball brand for Tests

Karachi: Pakistan pace great Waqar Younis on Thursday said the ICC should consider using only one brand of ball in Test cricket as fast bowlers find it difficult to adjust while playing in different conditions across the world.

The Pakistan cricket team played with the Dukes ball during their recent tour of England, where the visitors lost 0-2 a three-Test series.

"I have been a big advocate of the Dukes ball for many years but I feel that only one brand of ball should be used around the world for Test cricket," Younis wrote in a column for the Pakistan Cricket Board. "It doesn't matter which brand but the ICC should make that decision. It's hard for bowlers to adjust," he added. — PTI

English take on Aussies in T20s

London: One of England's most extraordinary seasons will end with them facing arch-rivals Australia as both sides try to strike a balance between playing their strongest limited-overs teams and keeping an eye on the future.

The Coronavirus pandemic threatened to wipe out England's entire home season yet they are now set to complete all 18 scheduled men's internationals, albeit the fixtures have been played behind closed doors. They face Australia in three Twenty20s in Southampton starting on Friday before taking on their oldest foes in a further three one-day internationals in Manchester later this month. — AFP

Live on TV

FORMULA ONE

Italian Grand Prix First Practice One from 2.25 pm; Second Practice from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

CRICKET

England vs Australia 1st T20 From 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

US OPEN

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, 2 HD

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Caroline Garcia of France celebrates her 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) win over Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in their women's singles second round match at the US Open tennis championships in New York on Wednesday. — AP

OH! KAROLINA Garcia shocks top seed Pliskova at US Open

New York, Sept. 3: France's Caroline Garcia produced the biggest upset of the US Open on Wednesday, sending top seed Karolina Pliskova tumbling out of the tournament.

Garcia, the world number 50, scored one of the biggest wins of her career with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) second-round victory at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

The 26-year-old's 1hr 33min victory sends her into a third round meeting on Friday with American 28th seed Jennifer Brady.

If she can reproduce Wednesday's polished performance, Garcia will fancy her chances of extending her run at Flushing Meadows.

Garcia — whose talent propelled her to fourth in the world rankings in September 2018 before a protracted slump sent her sliding down the standings in 2019 — attacked Pliskova from the outset.

Garcia raced into a 5-0 lead after scoring two early service breaks before taking the first set.

SELECTED RESULTS

Men's singles second round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Kyle Edmund (GBR) 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Jan-Lennard Struff (GER x28) bt Michael Mmoh (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; Pablo Carreno-Busta (ESP x20) bt Mitchell Krueger (USA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; Ricardas Berankis (LTU) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7/1); Denis Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt Kwon Soon-woo (KOR) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Taylor Fritz (USA x19) bt Gilles Simon (FRA) 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; Filip Krajinovic (SRB x26) bt Marcos Giron (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; David Goffin (BEL x7) bt Lloyd Harris (RSA) 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x4) bt Maxime Cressy (USA) 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4; Borna Coric (CRO x27) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG) 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-3; Alexander Zverev (GER x4) bt Brandon Nakashima (USA) 7-5, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3, 6-1.

Although Pliskova improved in the second, she was unable to find the crucial service break when it mattered, and was unable to convert a set point in the second to level the match.

In the tie break, Garcia raced into a 6-2 lead and then completed victory when Pliskova hit a return into the net.

It was a disappointing exit for Pliskova, who had been elevated to No.1 seed after a slew of high-ranking player withdrawals due to the coronavirus.

SELECTED RESULTS

Women's singles second round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Caroline Garcia (FRA) bt Karolina Pliskova (CZE x1) 6-1, 7-6 (7/2); Jennifer Brady (USA x28) bt Catherine Bellis (USA) 6-1, 6-2; Angelique Kerber (GER x17) bt Anna-Lena Friedsam (GER) 6-3, 7-6 (8/6); Ann Li (USA) bt Alison Riske (USA x13) 6-0, 6-3; Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) bt Marketa Vondrousova (CZE x12) 6-1, 6-2; Yulia Putintseva (KAZ x23) bt Vera Lapko (BLR) 6-3, 6-3; Varvara Gracheva (RUS) bt Kristina Mladenovic (FRA x30) 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0; Petra Martic (CRO x8) bt Katerina Bondarenko (UKR) 6-3, 6-4; Naomi Osaka (JPN x4) bt Camila Giorgi (ITA) 6-1, 6-2; Marta Kostyuk (UKR) bt Anastasiya Sevastova (LAT x31) 6-3, 7-6 (7/5); Anett Kontaveit (EST x14) bt Kaja Juvan (SLO) 6-4, 6-1; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt Elena Rybakina (KAZ x11) 7-5, 6-1; Petra Kvitova (CZE x6) bt Kateryna Kozlova (UKR) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

While Pliskova fell by the wayside, there were no such problems for fourth seed Naomi Osaka of Japan, the 2018 champion. The 22-year-old dominated hard-hitting Italian opponent Camila Giorgi in a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, Petra Kvitova advanced to the third round with a straight sets defeat of Katerina Kozlova of Ukraine, winning 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Kvitova, chasing a third Grand Slam crown after wins at Wimbledon in 2011

and 2014, needed 1hr 40min to claim her place in the last 32.

Gracheva, ranked 102nd in the world, upset France's 30th-seeded Kristina Mladenovic 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0.

Mladenovic suffered a meltdown for the ages as she slid to defeat, collapsing from a 6-1, 5-1 lead and blowing four match points along the way.

Another seed to tumble was the Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova. The out-of-sorts 12th seed was beaten 6-1, 6-2 in little

more than an hour by Belarus' Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Germany's Angelique Kerber, the 2016 US Open champion, booked her place in the third round with a straight sets win over compatriot Anna-Lena Friedsam.

The 17th seed progressed with a 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) victory in 1hr 40min, and will now face Ann Li, who knocked out 13th seed Alison Riske 6-0, 6-3.

SHARAN-CACIC BOW OUT IN OPENING ROUND

India's Divij Sharan and his Serbian partner Nikola Cacic fought hard before going down in three sets to eighth seeds Nikola Mektic and Wesley Koolhof in the first round of the US Open men's doubles event here.

Sharan and Cacic lost 4-6 6-3 3-6 against Croatia's Mektic and Koolhof of the Netherlands in a tough contest that lasted one hour and 46 minutes on Wednesday. The winners will next play Simone Bolelli and Maximo Gonzalez. — Agencies

CAPITAL BOYS BOWL OVER COACH RYAN

Dubai, Sept. 3: Delhi Capitals bowling coach Ryan Harris is impressed with the pace at which the players are getting back into shape after months of inactivity.

After completing the mandatory six-day quarantine, Harris was finally out of his room on Wednesday evening, and oversaw his first nets session at Delhi Capitals.

Harris said it didn't look like the boys were out of practice in the past few months.

"I know that the boys haven't been able to train in the past few months due to the pandemic, but watching them bat and bowl, and seeing some shots flying over the fence, I've been impressed with them," said Harris in a team statement.

"Their work ethic is unbelievable and they seem in very good space for guys who haven't done a lot of training — they look in excellent condition," he added.

Having been allowed to set foot outside after after six days in isolation, Harris says it felt good.

"Honestly, six days isn't a lot, but it felt like three weeks for me. But when I got the message this morning from the doctor, saying I've cleared my quarantine and my tests, that was probably the best message I've ever got (laughs)," he said. — PTI



Ryan Harris

Messi vs Barca still a stalemate

● Despite 90 minutes of meeting between Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu and Jorge Messi, Lionel's father-cum-agent, there was no clear picture on whether the Argentine would leave the Catalans this season or not.

The person said club president Josep Bartomeu on Wednesday met for more than 90 minutes with Jorge Messi to discuss the the Argentine star's request to leave the club, but that neither part made any concessions.

Lionel last week told the club that he wanted to leave the club and invoked a contract clause that allowed him to leave for free at the end of the season.

But Barcelona claimed the clause expired in June and said he must see out his contract until June 2021, unless the buyout clause of 700 million euros (USD 837 million) is paid.

Also in the meeting were Barcelona official Javier Bordas and Messi's brother, Rodrigo.

A lawyer for the Messi family was also present. In what was described as a cordial meeting, all parts made their positions clear. Jorge Messi said the player

wants to leave and Barcelona said it will not accept his transfer request.

No other meeting was immediately scheduled, and the next steps were unclear. Barcelona has said it still hopes Lionel could change his mind.

In addition to meeting with Messi's father, Barcelona said it also wanted to meet personally with the player to try to change his mind about leaving. The club said it has been doing everything to try to convince Messi to finish his career at the club where he started nearly 20 years ago.

Lionel Messi hasn't met with club officials since announcing his decision to leave.

— AP



Indian chess player P. Iniyan in this file photo.

Iniyan is World Open chess star

AGE CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

Close to the heels of India's historic gold at the Olympiad, another chess player has achieved a unique feat. Tamil Nadu's P. Iniyan emerged champion in the 48th annual World Open chess tournament. The online event — a nine-round classical time control format — concluded on August 9, but the results were declared on Thursday after a thorough 'fairplay' analysis.

A total of 122 players from 16 countries took part in the event that had more than 30 Grandmasters in the fray. The 17-year-old Erode boy scored seven-and-a-half points out of a possible nine. He had six victories and three draws. Iniyan and Russian GM Sanan Sjugirov were tied for the top spot, but the Indian had a better tie-break score.

Iniyan said the World Open was the most memorable event since becoming India's 61st GM last year. "The game against Georgia's Jobava Baadur was a special one. Jobava, with an unconventional style, is a unique player and the win against him was a great achievement," Iniyan said.

En route to the title, Iniyan also defeated GMs Sam Sevian and Sergey Erenburg of the USA and Nyzhnyk Illia of Ukraine.

Since the event was happening in US time, Iniyan had to burn midnight oil. "I was playing from 9.30 pm to 6 am every day. I had to prepare specifically by practising all night for a few days before the tournament," said Iniyan. who had pulled off a stunning win over World No.2 Fabiano Caruana in an online blitz event.

City find James hard to get past

Miami, Sept. 3: James Harden's shooting touch deserted him, but the Houston star came up big on the defensive end in the Rockets' 104-102 series-clinching win over Oklahoma City in the NBA playoffs on Wednesday.

Harden leapt to block a potential game-winning three-point attempt by Thunder rookie Luguentz Dort with 4.8 seconds remaining as the Rockets held on through a frantic finish to win the best-of-seven Western Conference series four games to three and book a second-round showdown with LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

In a closely contested game, Houston took the lead for good, 103-102, on PJ Tucker's driving basket with 1:25 remaining.

The ball changed hands several times before the Thunder got it into the hands of Dort, whose dream night was ended by Harden's big block.

Houston's Robert Covington drained a free throw with 1.4 seconds left to make it 104-102.

Then Harden was called for a foul on Danilo Gallinari before the ball was inbounded, giving the Thunder a free throw and the ball.

Gallinari missed from the foul line and the Thunder turned the ball over on the final inbound pass.

Earlier in the NBA's coronavirus quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida, the Miami Heat went down to the wire to take a 2-0 lead over the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks in their Eastern Conference second-round series.

Jimmy Butler, fouled on a potential game-winner at the buzzer, calmly made two free throws to seal a 116-114 victory.

Goran Dragic scored 23 points — his sixth straight playoff game with at least 20 — to lead seven Heat players in double figures.

— AFP



लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी



“ आओ बनायें
नया बिहार, युवा बिहार
चलो चलें
युवा बिहारी के साथ ”

**बिहार 1st
बिहारी 1st**

**वो लड़ रहे हैं हम पर राज करने के लिए
और हम लड़ रहे हैं बिहार पर नाज़ करने के लिए**

धर्म ना जात - करे सबकी बात