THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

NATION 3

Shivraj showers sops on farmers ahead of bypolls, promises ₹4K per annum



NATION 4

Veteran actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar dies of Covid-19 infection at 79

TABLOID 16

Newcomer Sharvari Wagh bags a mega 3-film deal with Yash Raj Films



www.asianage.com



Britain's Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, reacts during a visit to Battersea Park as she met up with some mothers in London on Tuesday. -A

Major decline: 75,083 new Covid cases in 24 hours

New Delhi: A major decline in fresh cases of novel coronavirus was recorded in the last 24 hours as newly detected cases came down to 75, 083. This is the fifth consecutive day when cases are found to be reducing from 97, 894 on September 17. Union Health Secretary Mr Rajesh Bhushan said that the decline in fresh cases has nothing to do with lesser testings. This coincided with over 1 lakh recoveries in one day for the first time taking the country's Recovery Rate to 80.86 per cent.

More on Page 4

Building collapse toll rises to 25 in Maha

Mumbai: The death toll in the Bhiwandi building collapse in Maharashtra rose to 25 on Tuesday, with the recovery of seven more bodies overnight, police said. Bodies of a two-and-ahalf-year-old boy and a young couple were recovered 24 hours after the crash, police said. - PTI

Nasa plans to send

1st woman to moon

Washington: Nasa is preparing to launch its Moon Mission for the year 2024 To achieve the return of humanity on the moon, Artemis mission is all set to propel to take the first woman and the next man, to further the innovative research with advanced level technology. — Agencies

More on Page 6



No need to rush... all your party MPs have been suspended!





Max: 32°C Min: 25°C **RH:** 69% **Rain: 20%**

Forecast: Partly cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha Saptami till 8.02 pm Star: Jyeshta till 6.29 pm

Varjyam: Nil **Durmuhurtam:** 11.44 am to Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30

> **SUNSET TODAY 6.16 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.10 AM** MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.25 PM

> > **MOONSET TODAY 10.58 AM**

RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

Opp. joins ranks, boycotts RS till suspension of 8 MPs is revoked

■ Various Opp. parties boycott

Lok Sabha in solidarity with

■ Government adamant, says apologise first; 'dy chairman acted with utmost restraint'

suspended RS members AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

A number of Opposition parties on Tuesday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha and decided to boycott proceedings of the House till the suspension of eight members is revoked, even as the government insisted on an apology from the "unruly" Among the parties that boycotted the proceedings

After Opposition parties boycotted proceedings, Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed seven Bills, includ-Essential

out, followed by members of the CPI-M, TMC, **Anguised Harivansh** observes 1-day fast DMK, New Delhi: Rajya Sabha

deputy chairman AAP. Harivansh declared of Leader of Tuesday that he was Harivansh declared on Opposition observing one-day fast in Rajya till Wednesday, expressin Rajya till Wednesday, ex S a b h a , ing anguish over G h u l a m Opposition attacks in Nabi Azad, Parliament during the they vote on the governwould boy- ment's farm Bills in the

cott the proceedings till the suspension of members is revoked and also demanded that the government bring another Bill to ensure that no private player should buy food grains from farmers below the MSP fixed by the gov-

of the House included the

Congress, which was among the first to walk

RJD,

ernment. Joining their colleagues in the Upper House, Opposition parties in the Lok Sabha also boycotted House proceedings later. Congress leader in Lok Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said all Opposition parties are boycotting Parliament in solidarity with the Raiva Sabha members who were suspended on Monday. Along with Congress MPs, TMC, BSP and TRS members also walked out of the Lok Sabha.

Mr Chowdhury did not specify for how long the boycott would continue. For Lok Sabha, Monsoon Session likely to end on

With the Opposition deciding to boycott the Raiva Sabha, its eight suspended MPs on Tuesday ended their overnight sitin inside the Parliament House complex and said they would take their fight against the farm Bills to the street.

Commodities

(Amendment) which is one of the three farm sector related Bills w h i c h Opposition farmers' organisations have been protesting against, say-

PAGE 3 ing they are "anti-farmers" while the Modi government asserts that they are "revolutionary." "I demand that the gov-

ernment brings another Bill in the House which should ensure that no pri-vate player can buy food grains from farmers below the MSP. The government should also ensure that the MSP is fixed as per c2 formula under Swaminathan Committee and the should also ensure that all procurement done by central state governments and FCI be not done below MSP. The colleagues who have been suspended for the rest of the session, their suspension be revoked. Till the government does these three things, we will boycott the session," Mr Turn to Page 4

Suspended Rajya Sabha MPs end dramatic sit-in



Deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh offers tea to suspended MPs at the premises of Parliament House as they stage a protest over their suspension from the remaining Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

LS likely to end today, 8 days before schedule

After Opp. bovcott. RS passes

Commodities (Amendment) Bill

7 Bills, including Essential

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha is likely to be adjourned sine die on Wednesday, eight days ahead of the scheduled end of the Monsoon Session, amid concerns of spread of coronavirus among legislators, sources said on Tuesday. The House, which will meet at 3 pm on Wednesday is likely to be adjourned sine die (when there is no decided date for resumption) around 5 pm after taking up an extended Zero Hour, the sources said. The decision to curtail the session has been conveyed to floor leaders of parties in the

LS passes 3 Labour Codes amid boycott by Opposition

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Amid boycott of Lok Sabha proceedings by Opposition parties led by the Congress in protest against the suspension of eight Rajya Sabha members, three key Bills related to labour reforms were passed by the Lower House.

"The labour reforms that are being undertaken by the government will prove to be a milestone for the welfare workers, labour minister Santosh Gangwar said while introducing the Bills in Lok Sabha on Tuesday

Mr Gangwar told the Lok Sabha that the amendments in labour laws were a realisation of the dreams of Bhimrao Ambedkar, wrote

THE INDUSTRIAL Relations Code, 2020. seeks to consolidate and amend the laws relating to trade unions, conditions of employment in

industrial establishments or undertaking, investi-

gation and settlement of

industrial disputes. Constitution. While moving the Bills for consideration and passage, the minister said the government has come out with changes in the legislations after extensive consultations with state gov-

holders. He said about threefourth of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, which scruti-

ernments and other stake-

nised the labour Codes, have been incorporated in the Bills On September 19, Mr Gangwar had introduced

the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, and the Code on Social Security, 2020. Over 29 labour laws have been merged into four codes and one (Code on Wages Bill, 2019) of them has already been passed, according to minister. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, will strengthen and amend the laws regulating the occupational safety, health and working conditions of persons employed in an establishment and othr matters. ■ Turn to Page 4

India, China to not send more troops to front

No breakthrough over pullback; 7th round of military talks soon

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

India and China said in a statement on Tuesday that during the sixth round of the corps commanders' talks, both sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the ground situation and avoid taking any action that may complicate the situation.

'They agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen communications on the ground, avoid misunder-standings," said the joint

standings," said the joint statement.

It said the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on stabilising the situation along the LAC in the India-China border areas.

"The two sides also

"The two sides also agreed to hold the seventh round of military com-mander-level talks as soon as possible, take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tran-quility in the border areas," said the state-

The sixth corps commanders' meeting was held after foreign ministers of both nations met in Moscow and agreed on a five-point agenda. Sources said, however, that at the sixth round of corps commanders' talks. no breakthrough could achieved on disengage-

This means that despite the joint statement, the 30,000-40,000 more troops which India rushed to Ladakh after the Chinese transgression in early May will remain at the forward posts during winter when sub-zero temper-

THEY (INDIA and China) agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen communications on the ground, avoid misunderstandings, said the joint statement

THE TWO SIDES also agreed to hold the seventh round of military commander-level talks as soon as possible, take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas, said the statement.

atures and bone-chilling winds at extreme heights make survival difficult and continuing logistics supplies to these points is a nightmare.

The corps commanders' meeting, that started around 9.30 am Monday at Moldo, on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control, went on till beyond 11 pm.

The Indian delegation was headed by 14 Corps commander Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh. Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, who is liketo replace Lt. Gen. Singh next month, was also present. For the first time, a representative from the external affairs ministry, joint secretary (East Asia) Srivastava, took part in the corps commanders' meeting. The Indian offiwho cials Tuesday's meeting debriefed their senior offi-

There is a lot of concern that if the Chinese troops don't move out soon or are ■ Turn to Page 4

SSR death: NCB may question Deepika as well

SAURABH JOSHI MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The list of Bollywood actors on the radar of the Narcotics Control B u r e a u Deepika (NCB) has Padukone

gone up further with name of Deepika Padukone surfacing in the drugs angle being probe in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide. The investigators allegedly found chat messages between Padukone and her manager Karishma Prakash where she reportedly asked her manager for

■ More on Page 4

Rhea and brother move HC for bail

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Chakraborty and her brother Showik, both arrested by the NCB which is probing drugs case linked with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, on Tuesday filed a fresh bail application in the Bombay High Court. A special NCB court same day extended judicial custody of both the

persons for 14 days. More on Page 4

1cr guest workers returned, 29,415 died on road: Centre

New Delhi, Sept. 22: More than one crore migrant labourers returned to their home states on foot during March-June 2020, including those who travelled during the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown, the government said on Tuesday

"Covid-19 has resulted in migration of a large number of workers from destination states to the homestates," minister of state for road transport and highways V.K. Singh told Lok Sabha in a written reply. As per the data compiled by the ministry of labour and employment, more than 1.06 crore migrant workers, including those who travelled on foot during the lockdown,

returned to their home states, he said. As per provisional available information, 81,385 accidents occurred on the roads (including national highways) during the period March-June 2020 with fatalities, 29.415

informed Parliament. However, he said that the ministry does not maintain separate data in respect of migrant workers who have died in road accidents during the lockdown. "This ministry had assisted the movement of migrant labourers walking on foot on the various national highways all across the country by providing them food, drinking water, basic medicines and foot wears,

I-T dept notices sent to Pawars, Thackerays over poll affidavits

BHAGWAN PARAB with agency inputs MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The income-tax department has issued a notice to NCP supremo Sharad Pawar seeking a clarification on his poll affidavits submitted to the Election Commission. He took a dig at the Centre, saying the notice was sent to him because the government "loves us".

The veteran Maharashtra leader on Tuesday confirmed he has received a notice from the Centre asking for a "clarification and explanation' on his election affidavits. "I got the notice yesterday. We are happy that they

I got the notice yesterday. We are happy that they (Centre) have a special love for us (Pawar family) among all members. The notice was served by the I-T department after the **Election Commission** asked (it) to... We will reply to the notice.

-Sharad Pawar NCP supremo

(Centre) have a special love for us (Pawar family) among all members. The

T department after the Election Commission asked (it) to... We will reply to the notice," he

The notice was in reference to the affidavits submitted in 2009-10, 2014 as well as 2020. Mr Pawar said the department was seeking some information and clarifications related to the last three elections, and similar notices were also sent to his daughter Supriya Sule, a Lok Sabha MP, Mr Pawar said.

Besides the NCP chief and Ms Sule, similar notices were also sent by the I-T department to Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray ■ Turn to Page 4

Serum Institute starts making **Covid vaccine**

New Delhi: Codagenix Inc said on Tuesday Serum Institute of India has started manufacturing the US biotech firm's potential Covid-19 vaccine and it expects to begin early-stage human trial of the vac-cine by the end of 2020 in the UK.

Serum Institute, the world's largest vaccine maker by number of doses produced, will develop Codagenix's CDX-005, which is delivered intranasally rather than via an injection.

The Serum Institute is working on several vaccine candidates for the novel coronavirus.

Peeved at Israel deal, Palestine quits Arab League chair "Palestine has decided to

Ramallah, West Bank, Sept. 22: Palestine has quit its current chairmanship of Arab League meetings, the Palestinian foreign minister said on Tuesday, condemning as dishonourable any Arab agreement to establish formal ties with Israel.

Israeli-occupied territory. Palestinians see accords which the United Emirates Bahrain signed with Israel in Washington a week ago as betrayal of their cause relations with Israel. and a blow to their quest for an independent state in



Palestinians see the accords which the UAE and Bahrain signed with Israel in US a week ago as betrayal of their cause and a blow to their quest for an independent state

to chair Arab League meet-Earlier this month, the ings for the next six Palestinians failed to permonths, but foreign minissuade the Arab League to ter Riyad al-Maliki told a condemn nations breaking news conference in the ranks and normalising West Bank city of Ramallah that it no longer Palestine was supposed wanted the position.

concede its right to chair the League's council [of foreign ministers] at its current session. There is no honour in seeing Arabs rush towards normalisation during its presidency, Maliki said. In his remarks, he did not specifically name the UAE and Bahrain, Gulf Arab countries that share with Israel concern over Iran. He said Arab League secretary-general Ahmed A. Gheit was informed of the Palestinian

ED attaches ₹203 cr worth Dubai assets of Mirchi kin

The

Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached Dubai-based assets worth over Rs 203 crore of late gangster Iqbal Mirchi's family in connection with a money laundering case. According to a statement issued by the Central probe agency here on Tuesday, the attached assets include 15 commercial and residential prop-

Delhi:

New

to Mirchi's "fammembers" Midwest Hotel Iqbal Apartment, is Mirchi among the prop-

erties belonging

erties attached Mirchi, who died in 2013, was alleged to be the right hand man of terrorist Dawood Ibrahim in drug trafficking and extortion.

More on Page 4















IN BRIEF

Man arrested for kidnapping cabbie

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man booked a cab for an outstation ride and then kidnapped the driver for slapping his friend a few days earlier over a petty issue. police said on Tuesday after arresting him. The accused has been identified as Rabbani, who works as an AC mechanic and his friend Ashif, who was slapped by the cab driver is absconding, they said. According to the police, the incident took place on Monday. After being kidnapped, the victim Mohammad Nazim – somehow managed to send his location via phone to his brother who immediately informed the police. The victim was then safely rescued by the police from a house in Zakir Nagar in southeast Delhi"s Jamia Nagar area where he was confined after abduction. The accused was also arrested from the house, police said. deputy commissioner of police (Southeast) R.P. Meena said, During investigation, Nazim told the police that he works

10 'trafficked'

children rescued

as a driver for an app-based cab service."

New Delhi: The Delhi **Commission for Protection of** Child Rights (DCPCR) claimed on Tuesday that it had rescued 10 children who were allegedly trafficked to work as child labourers, even as the police said they were in the process to ascertain the trafficking angle. The DCPCR said it conducted rescue operation of 10 child labourers from the New Delhi Railway Station in coordination with teams of the police, NGOs Bachpan **Bachao Andolan and Prayas** ChildLine, and the Karol Bagh 'tehsildar' on Tuesday. The children were being trafficked from Jainagar in Bihar to work in the National Capital Region and Ambala, Haryana, and most of them were found unaware of being forced into child labour, it said in a statement, adding that they were in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. The children were rescued by the teams successfully and provided with masks, sanitisers and refreshments, the DCPCR said. Statements of the rescued children have been recorded, followed by medical and coronavirus tests. The children will be produced before a child welfare committee (CWC) on Wednesday over video conference and they will, meanwhile, stay at

1 held for stealing mobile phone

the child care institution at

Lajpat Nagar, it added. — PTI

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was arrested after he allegedly snatched a mobile phone and also made a fake PCR call of his motorcycle robbery to mislead investigators, police said on Tuesday. Khush Dutta was standing near a petrol pump at Hari Nagar Ashram on Monday when a motorcycle-borne man snatched his mobile phone. The snatcher was caught by the public while trying to escape, but he managed to flee leaving behind his bike at the spot, according to police. A case was registered and while police were checking the scene of the crime, the suspect, Saurabh Sharma, returned to spot and made a fake PCR call regarding the robbery of his bike and also to mislead the police. Sharma was then arrested after a detailed interrogation, during which he confessed to have snatched the phone, DCP (Southeast) R P Meena said.

Body found hanging

from tree in Gr Noida Noida: The decomposed body of a man was found hanging from a tree in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Tuesday, officials said. The body was found hanging from a mulberry tree by a saree along a road in Dadri area, they said. "The body is decomposed and it appears that the man died a few days ago. It looks like the man was aged around 30 years. "Forensic teams are working on the case and efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the deceased and unrave

the case," a police spokesperson said. The 5.8 feet tall man was wearing a track-pant and a shirt, had a 'kalaava' (a Hindu religious thread) on his right arm and had a tattoo of the letter 'U' in Hindi on the backside of his palm, the official said. A case has been lodged and further proceedings are underway, the police said.



National Conference president & MP Farooq Abdullah and other lawmakers protest demanding restoration of special status of J&K and other issues in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue during the ongoing Monsoon Session at

■ 6-member expert panel likely to submit its report by Sept. 30

L-G asks experts to suggest measures to tackle Covid-19

New Delhi, Sept. 22: In view of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday asked a six-member expert panel to come up with suggestions to deal with the current Coronavirus situation and ramp up health facilities in the national capital, sources said.

Mr Baijal held a meeting with the members of the panel among who are Indian Council of Medical Research Director-General Balram Bhargava, AIIMS director Randeep Guleria and Centre Disease Control Director

Sujeet Kumar Singh. The expert panel will hold another meeting in the next few days to discuss the strategy to arrest the spread of the coronavirus in the national capital and it is likely to submit its report by September 30, the sources said.

'The L-G has asked the six-member expert panel to come up with suggestions on how to tackle the current Covid situation in Delhi. Also, it will suggest

'Chartr' app of

6,600 buses by

Nov. 1st week

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Transport

Corporation (DTC) has

successfully completed

the phase-2 trial of a

contactless e-ticketing app, 'Chartr,' in its

The app is likely to be

implemented in 6,600 cluster and DTC buses

by the first week of

November. The trial was conduct-

ed by a special task

force constituted for

this purpose by the

transport minister. The

task force consisted experts from the trans-

Indraprastha Institute

Technology (IIIT-D), Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd. (DIMTS), DTC, and

The second phase trial

from September 7 to 21 covered more than 60

routes from four depots

Depot, Kushak Nallah

Depot, and Sunehri

Pullah Depot and one

route from two depots

of Delhi Transport

Corporation (DTC), namely Hasanpur Depot and Gazipur

According to the

Delhi government, out

of the 51,644 total tick-

ets purchased through

this app in this 14 day

period, 79.4 per cent were free Pink tickets

for female passengers.

An average of six per

cent ticketing was done through the app

during the trial, whereas the air-condi-

tioned buses buses

observed seven per cent tickets sold

through the app.

Depot.

DIMTS, namely Dilshad Garden, Kair

Institute (WRI).

department,

Information

Resources

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

DTC to cover

Only 44% people are compliant in wearing mask, finds survey

SHASHI BHUSHAN NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

A survey revealed that despite 90 per cent people being aware about the importance of wearing face masks to contain Covid-19, only 44 per cent are completely compliant in terms of wearing it correctly and in all relevant situations.

Breathing problems (50 per cent) followed by discomfort and inconvenience (44 per cent) are key reasons for not covering the face. About 45 per cent respondents believe that as long as social distancing is maintained, they were not required to wear a mask.

The survey was initiated

measures to ramp up heath facilities, including beds." a source said. Before September 20, the national capital recorded over 4,000 Covid cases a

AGE CORRESPONDENT

In a major relief to resi-

dents of unauthorised

colonies, the North Delhi

Municipal Corporation

has rolled out an amnesty

North Delhi mayor Jai

Prakash said that as per

the terms of the scheme,

taxpayers of residential

properties in aforesaid

colonies are required to

pay property tax for the

financial years 2019-20

and 2020-21 and all out-

standing tax prior to the

financial year 2019-20 shall be exempted.

According to Mr Prakash, similarly in the

case of non-residential

properties in aforesaid colonies, if the tax payer

pays outstanding proper-

ty tax of last three years

and the current year, his

property tax arrears for

the prior period shall be

exempted.
"The benefit of the

amnesty scheme will be

NEW DELHI, SEPT, 22

scheme.

day for five consecutive days. The city recorded 4,071 cases on September 19; 4,127 on September 18; 4.432 on September 17: 4,473 on September 16 and

available only upon filing

of property tax return and making the payment

of the aforesaid tax dues

without any interest and

penalty only till October

Property tax depart-ment of all six zones will

organise special camps in

these colonies in associa-

tion with the respective

"Residents of these colonies are from poor

and middle class families

and generally are not in a

position to make payment

of their pending property

tax dues of last so many years. Now, with this

scheme of payment of tax

for the current and last

year in respect of resi-

dential property, all the

prior dues shall be

exempted and upon pay-

ment of current year's

and last three years' tax

in respect of non-residen-

tial property, all out-

standing dues shall be exempted," said the

North Delhi mayor.

councillors.

31," Mr Prakash added.

North DMC announces amnesty

scheme for illegal colonies

by 'ApnaMask,' an initia-tive by EkDesh, a not-for-

profit platform supported

by ACT Grants to spread

awareness among Indians

on the importance of

wearing masks and main-

taining social distance to

prevent Covid, to under-

stand the overall compli-

ance towards wearing

When it comes to proper usage of masks, the sur-

vey revealed that only 50

per cent respondents wear

mask during the entire

duration while out of

home, around 30 per cent put on mask only when

someone is in close vicini-

ty, and over 73 per cent

respondents ensure their

masks cover mouth and

nose when stepping out.

On Monday, 2,548 new cases were reported as only 33,733 tests were conduct on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, the
Delhi High Court stayed

4,263 on September 15.

the AAP government"s order directing 33 big private hospitals to reserve 80 per cent of ICU beds for Covid patients.

However, the Delhi government said it would challenge the high court order on Wednesday.

A Delhi government functionary said that it is extremely important to reserve ICU beds in private hospitals to deal with rising coronavirus cases in the city.
Since August 18, cases

again have been coming in four-figure count in the city. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of 15,804 beds in Covid hospitals, 8,753 are vacant. It said that 1,620 beds in Covid care centres are

under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat bubble Mission and

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Delhi chief minister

Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday targeted the gov-

ernment over the passage

of the "dangerous" farm

Bills without division of

votes in Rajya Sabha,

while lauding the sit-in protest on the Parliament

premises by the eight sus-

pended MPs. The eight

Rajya Sabha members,

including AAP MP Sanjay

Singh, were suspended for

the remaining part of the

Monsoon Session over

"unruly behaviour" dur-

ing the passage of the farm Bills in the Upper House of Parliament.

The other MPs are Derek

O"Brien, Rajeev Satav,

Elamaram Kareem, K.K.

Ragesh (CPI-M), Syed Nazir

Hussain, Ripun Boren and

Since their suspension on Monday, the eight MPs

Dola Sen (TMC).

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Covid: Govt wants 80% ICU beds reserved, to challenge HC order

City records 3,816 cases, total tally over 2.53 lakh

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT 22

Delhi has recorded 3,816 new Covid-19 cases taking the tally to over 2.53 lakh, while the death count climbed to 5,051. Delhi government, meanwhile, said it will challenge the High court order on Tuesday, staying reserva-tion of ICU beds for Covid-19 patients in pri-

vate hospitals.
Of the total 2,53,075 patients, 31,263 are active and 2,16,401 patients were recovered. With 37 deaths in the last 24 hours, total death counts rose to 5,051. The count of over 3,800 fresh cases came after 59,013 tests were done the previous day. The tally of active cases on Tuesday stood rose to 31,263 from 30,941 the previous day. The death count from Covid-19 in Delhi stood at

5,014 on Monday.
The Delhi High Court stayed city government's decision to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds for Covid-19 patients in 33 private hospitals. "It is extremely important to reserve ICU

OF THE total 2,53,075 patients, 31,263 are active and 2,16,401 patients were recovered. With 37 deaths in the last 24 hours, total death

counts rose to 5,051 ▶ THE COUNT of over 3,800 fresh cases came after 59,013 tests were done the previous day. The tally of active cases on Tuesday stood rose to 31,263 from 30,941 the previous day

beds in private hospitals to deal with increasing corona cases. We are challenging this order tomorrow," said a Delhi government functionary.
The High Court bench of
Justice Navin Chawla

said prima facie Delhi government's September unreasonable and violative of fundamental rights of citizens" guaranteed under Constitution. The court issued notices and sought responses of the Delhi government and the

Centre on a plea by 'Association of Healthcare Providers' to quash the order to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds for Covid-19 patients.

The Delhi government, however, defended its decision in the court, saying it is only for 33 hospitals and 20 per cent ICU beds remain for the non-Covid-19 serious patients and it has been done keeping in view the sudden spike in cases of the

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said 30 per cent of the Covid-19 patients admitted to city hospitals are from other states and most of them have been occupying ICU beds at private facilities.

The number of containment zones in Delhi jumped to 1,937 on Tuesday from 1,889 on Monday.

The positivity rate on Tuesday stood at 6.47 per cent while the recovery rate was over 85 per cent, the bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate stood at two per cent.

Covid death toll in Noida rises to 50, total at 11,663

Noida, Sept. 22: Uttar Gautam Buddh Nagar recorded one more fatality linked to Covid that pushed the district"s death toll from the pandemic to 50 on Tuesday, official data

showed. The district also recorded 244 new coronavirus patients and its tally of cases reached 11,663, while the number of active cases climbed to 1,623, according to the data released by the UP health department for a 24-hour period.

On the brighter side, 198 more novel coronavirus patients got discharged during the period, bringing the recovery count to 9,990 in the district, the data showed.

The district, adjoining Delhi, has so far recorded 50 deaths linked to the pandemic, with one of

CM targets Central govt

over passage of farm Bills

have been holding a protest

on the Parliament premis-

es. They called off the

MPs were fighting for the

rights of farmers without worrying about heat, mos-

quitoes or other inconven-

iences and have spent the

night protesting in the

anything for themselves.

They are fighting for

Constitution. They are

struggling for the farmers

of the country," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. Farmers

across the country are say-

Delhi Police alleged

that JNU student

Sharjeel Imam, who

is one of the key con-

spirators in the com-munal violence, was

in touch with the

Student of Jamia

and

"They are not asking for

Parliament complex.

democracy

Kejriwal said these eight

protest around noon.

Arvind Kejriwal

— 0.42 per cent — in the state, it showed.

Meanwhile, the recovery rate of patients reached 85.65 per cent, slightly down from 85.75

per cent on Monday, as per the statistics.
Gautam Buddh Nagar now ranks ninth among the 75 districts in the state in terms of active cases, seventh in recoveries and 31st in death toll

according to the official

figures.
There were 63,148 active Covid cases across Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. So far, 2,96,183 patients have recovered from the infection in the state, while the death toll linked to Covid climbed to 5,212, the data showed.

The state"s average recovery rate stood at 81.25 per cent on Tuesday, up from 80.69 per cent on Monday, according to gov-

ing that these laws will end

was passed without division of votes. Then what is

meaning

Parliament, what is the meaning of elections? If

you have to pass the law

this way, then why did you

call a Parliament session,'

Kejriwal asked in another

tweet in Hindi. Delhi

Manish Sisodia compared

the present government to the British colonial rulers.

same way. They would

commit atrocities on the

farmers, labourers and

businessmen. They would

make black laws to perpet-

uate the atrocities. And

when they met Gandhiji

and other leaders, they (the

British) would offer them

tea. Our rulers are run-

ning the government in the

same way still," Sisodia

the students of JMI in this

regard. The date, time and

venue of protest against

the SC order was on December 6, 2019, at 4.30

pm at Polytechnic lawn

'On December 6, 2019, the

JMI university.

said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The British ruled the

chief Minister

"Such a dangerous Bill

them, he added.

Govt releases ₹32.1cr to 6 colleges of DU

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The AAP government on Tuesday released a grant-in-aid of Rs 32.1 crore to six Delhi University colleges fully funded by it to pay salaries to staffers.

However, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) called the grants inade-The government has

released ₹4 crore to Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, ₹6.80 crore to Acharya Narendra Dev College, ₹4.65 crore to Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, ₹5.80 crore to Maharaja College, ₹6.35 crore to Bhim Rao Ambedkar College and ₹4.50 crore to Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences.

The government and 12 of the colleges fully funded by it have been locked in a tussle over the release of grants.

colleges nave alleged that the grants released by the city dispensation have been inadequate and they have not been able to pay salaries to their staffers since May, while the government has said it has released adequate funds.

Mechanic driving Merc crashes into auto, 3 hurt

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

A car mechanic who was driving a Mercedes in an inebriated state hit an auto-rickshaw injured three pedestrians in south Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area, police said on Tuesday.

The mechanic has been identified as 28-year-old Alam, a resident of New Seelampur, they said.

During patrolling at 8.55 pm on Sunday, police found a Mercedes car had crashed into an auto-rickshaw near a Sarai Kale Khan red light, a police official

Enquiry revealed that the car after hitting the auto-rickshaw at the rear side jumped the divider and injured three pedestrians on the opposite side of the road, he said.

"On further enquiry, it was revealed that the car was driven by Alam and his two women friends accompanied him. He was drunk at that time and some beer bottles were found in the vehi-cle," deputy commis-sioner of police (south-east) R.P. Meena said.

The accused said that he works as a car mechanic at Seelampur in northeast Delhi and the vehicle belonged to one of his clients who had left it at his workshop for repairing, the deputy commissioner of police said.

DELHI VIOLENCE

Radical group called for protests against Babri verdict: Cops Babri Masjid issue and pamphlets were distrib-uted by SOJ for mobilising

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

A radical communal group named "Student of Jamia" (SOJ) had distributed pamphlets to moblise students of Jamia Millia Islamia University against the Supreme Court's judge-

Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, police have alleged in the charge sheet. Delhi Police alleged that JNU student Sharjeel Imam, who is one of the key conspirators in the

communal violence, was in touch with the SOJ group. The charge sheet filed on September 16 in a court here also stated that WhatsApp group of

Students of JNU" (MSJ) was formed and Imam was the main and active member of the

Police said on December 2019, the Cabinet Committee gave nod to present the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in both the houses of parlia-

"Thereafter, in the intervening night of December 5/6, 2019, a WhatsApp group of "Muslim Students of JNU" (MSJ) was formed and Sharjeel Imam was the main and Imam was the main and active member of the group, the creation of the WhatsApp group was the brain child of Imam.

student of Jamia Millia University, Islamia revealed that Imam was in touch with a radical communal group of "Student of Jamia" (SOJ). Chat also revealed that both MSJ and SOJ were distributing pamphlets in various mosques in Delhi," it

"WhatsApp chat between Police alleged that on Imam and Arshad Warsi,



December 6, 2019, the pamphlets printed by MSJ were

Muslim community" SOJ's pamphlets distrib-

so printed that it would create a "sense of fear and insecurity among the "Chats also revealed that

uted on December 6, 2019 were against the verdict of the Supreme Court on November 9, 2019 in the

pamphlets printed by MSJ were distributed in the area of Jama Masjid and Nizamuddin. Contents of the pamphlets were written by Imam, as revealed in his chat with Arshad Warsi of SOJ. Pamphlets so printed were having content, which would create a "sense of fear and insecurity among the Muslim community," the charge sheet alleged.

SHORT TAKES

BJP red-faced over

mantri statement

Bhopal: A statement given by Madhya Pradesh agriculture minister Kamal Patel in the just-concluded monsoon session of the assembly admitting that 27 lakh farmers in the state have been benefited by crop loan waiver scheme launched by the previous Kamal Nath government has left the ruling BJP red faced. In a written reply to a question by Congress MLA Bala Bachhan, Mr Patel said crop loans of total 26,453,91 farmers amounting to ₹11,646.98 crore have been written off in two phases during the previous Kamal Nath government. Farm loans up to ₹1 lakh each of 17,043 farmers have been waived during the period, he added. The minister's reply given in the one-day monsoon session of the house convened on September 21 has landed BJP in acute embarrassment with the ruling party always maintaining that the Kamal Nath government had gone back on its

Postpone coal block

promise to waive crop loans

of the farmers.

e-auction: Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Tuesday urged the Centre to postpone e-auction of coal blocks in the state for at least three months in view of the sluggish market situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Odisha steel and mines minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick wrote a letter to Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi, saying that mineral trading activities have been badly hit due to the coronavirus outbreak. Nine of the total 38 coal blocks listed by the Centre for the Centre for coal mining in the first phase are from Odisha. The coal ministry in early September had revised the list of mines to be auctioned for commercial mining with 38 blocks to go under the hammer instead of 41 mines announced earlier. At least 10,750 million tons of coal are reserved in these nine coal blocks, the

Punjab singers support bandh

Chandigarh: Many Punjabi singers have extended their support to the September 25 Punjab 'bandh' call given by farmers' unions against the new farm bills. Around 30 farmers' outfits have given a call for the complete shutdown of Punjab on against the bills. Puniabi singer and actor Harbhajan Mann has appealed to people to support the bandh call. Mann, in a tweet, said he, along with several other artists, would be participating in the Punjab bandh protest. Another famous singer Babbu Mann also came out in support of the 'chakka jaam' on September 25.

Rajasthan ex-mantri dies of Covid-19

Jaipur: Veteran Congress leader and former Rajasthan minister Zakia Inam has died at a hospital here due to Covid-19. She was 71. She died hours after she was admitted to Rajasthan University of Health Sciences Hospital (RUHS) Monday evening as she complained of breathing issues. "She was admitted with symptoms of classic Covid pneumonia. Her lungs were badly affected, a senior doctor said. Another doctor at the RUHS informed that her Covid-19 test report came positive on Tuesday. Inam was a three-time MLA from Tonk. Rajasthan reported the biggest single-day jump of 1.912 Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. — PTI

Sonia, Rahul return from foreign trip

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi returned from abroad early Tuesday, sources said. Mrs Gandhi, 73. had gone to the United States for her routine medical check up on September 12, two days ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, Rahul Gandhi had accompanied her during the visit. Sources had said her medical check-up was overdue and was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Mrs Gandhi had cleared the Congress' organisational

restructuring before leaving

Harivansh writes to Prez over 'unruly behaviour' by RS MPs

Deputy chair on fast, PM says letter strengthens belief in democratic values

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Invoking his humble origins in Bihar, a state which will soon be witnessing crucial Assembly polls, Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Harivansh on Tuesday penned an emotional letter to the President Ram Nath Kovind over the Sunday's incident that took place in the Upper House of Parliament, when House was taking up two farm sector related bills.

He announced his 24-hour fast, while mentioning his anguish over the Sunday's ruckus in the House. Eight Opposition parties members have been suspended for their "unruly behaviour" over the incident. Opposition parties had moved a noconfidence motion against Mr Harivansh for the manner in which the bills were passed amid din but the motion was rejected by Chairman M. Venkaiah

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Mr Harivansh's letter, saying it "reaffirms faith in democracy," "is inspiring and praiseworthy," "contains truth and sensitivity" and urged citizens to

Rahul says Modi govt only works for crony capitalists

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The Congress on Tuesday stepped up its attack on the government over the farm bills issue, with Rahul Gandhi accusing the Modi government of working for the development of crony capitalists at the cost of farmers.

The Congress and some other opposition parties have been protesting against the farm bills, alleging these would harm the interest of farmers and benefit corporates, a claim denied by the government.

that the bills would be beneficial for farmers and increase their income.

The Centre has asserted

read it. Mr Modi also appreciated Harivansh's gesture to personally serve tea in the morning to eight suspended members of the Upper House, who had been protesting and camping since Monday in Parliament premises, he has been blessed with a humble mind and a big

"2014- Modi ji's election promise of Swaminathan commission MSP (minimum support price) for farmers. 2015- Modi government said in court that this will not be possible. 2020- Black agriculture laws," Gandhi tweeted in

Then, in a four-line verse in Hindi, the former Congress president sarcastically said, "Modi ji's intention is 'clear'" with his new "anti-agricul-

ture" attempt.
Development of crony capitalist "friends" at the cost of farmers, he said, according to a rough translation of his Hindi

heart. However, the members refused the deputy chairman's gesture.

Opposition However, parties labeled his letter as a political ploy with Congress's Ramesh, through a tweet, said the shadow of the forthcoming Bihar elections has fallen over Parliament now. Bihar

NDA leaders, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi had decried the "insult" meted out to Mr Harivansh and said the people of the state will teach the opposition a lesson.

"It is all very well for Constitutional authorities to demand respect. They must, in fact, command respect by their non-partisan actions," he said in an apparent jibe at the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman.

Recounting the ruckus in the House, Mr Harivansh said the opposition members engaged in a "violent" conduct in the name of democracy, tried to frighten the Chair, and tore to shreds every norm and convention of the

He wrote that the sight of disrobing of democracy jolted his mind and heart and he could not sleep for the whole night. He said paper missiles were thrown at him amid brazenly aggressive behaviour and raising of tasteless and unparliamentary slogans by members, a reference to several opposition MPs who created uproar in the House during passage of farm



Indian Youth Congress president B.V. Srinivas (centre) with party workers raises slo-

gans during a protest against the Central Government over farm bills and unemploy-

Farmers to get ₹4K/year

Shivraj showers

RABINDRA NATH

BHOPAL, SEPT. 22

Madhya Pradesh chief

minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday

ahead of crucial byelec-

tions in 28 Assembly con-

stituencies in the state,

expected to be held by end

of October this year. In a major sop for the farmers,

Mr Chouhan announced

that the beneficiaries of

the Pradhan Mantri Samman Nidhi Yojana, a

scheme launched by the Centre guaranteeing min-imum income support for

the farmers, in the state

would get additional

₹4,000 annually, apart from the ₹6,000 they are

already getting.
The farmers in the state

henceforth would receive

₹10,000 annually under

the scheme launched by

the Union government in

2019. "This is the first phase of the new chief

minister's farmers' wel-

fare scheme", he said,

indicating more sops for

the farmers in the pipeline by his govern-ment. He was launching

the farm loan (at zero per-

cent interest) and farm-

ers' credit card distribu-

He also announced to re-

launch the zero percent

interest farm loans in the

state. Mr Chouhan had

tion programmes here.

CHOUDHURY

Shivraj Chouhan ing his previous terms in

power in the state. "All the farmers' welfare schemes like crop damage relief, PM Samman Nidhi, zero percent interest loans, crop insurance and others would be implemented through a comprehensive package. The first phase of CM's farmers' welfare scheme is in the direction", he said. By-elections in 28

assembly constituencies in the state, necessitated following resignation of 25 Congress MLAs from the assembly and death of 3 legislators, may decide fate of Shivraj Singh Chouhan government.

Congress MLAs, supporters of Jyotiraditya Scindia, resigned from the assembly as well as from the party in March this year leading to fall of the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government.

They later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party after Mr Scindia switched over to the saffron party

Crocodile tears by Mamata, says gov

RAJIB CHOWDHURI

In a blistering attack, West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday compared

chief minis-ter Mamata Banerjee's complaint against the two key bills, passed in the Parliament, on the farmers with "crocodile tears" after the Trinamul Congress

supremo called all other Opposition parties for a united fight against the BJP at the Centre. "Why @MamataOfficial bene-

fit ₹8,400 crores to 70 lac WB farmers by failure to participation in PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi! So far every farmer has lost ₹12,000/- that would have come to his bank account. Urge CM -Crocodile Tears will not relieve pain of farmers,' he tweeted, posting a copy of his fresh letter to her.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar also wrote, "If timely and due steps had been taken by the State Government, over 70 lakh farmers in the State of West Bengal would have been benefited so far over ₹8.400 crores. Each of the over 70 lakh farmers would have so got ₹12.000 direct in the bank account, with-

Farm Bills would 'ruin' our farmers, claims Sidhu

Chandigarh, Sept. 22: Punjab MLA and former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday termed the farm bills passed in Parliament "black laws" which would "ruin" the farming community.

The cricketer-turned-politician announced that he would take to the streets in support of the protesting farmers, and said all political parties, farmers' outfits and every Punjabi should join hands to strongly oppose implementation of these farm bills.

A few days back, he had voiced his support for farmers by taking to Twitter to say, "Punjab, Punjabiyat and every Punjabi are with the peasants".

The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection)
Agreement on Price
Assurance and Farm
Services Bill were
passed in both houses of Parliament, amid protests by opposition parties like the Congress, TMC, DMK and the Left, as well as some farmer groups.

Essential The C o m m o d i t i e s (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was passed in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. Speaking on

Youtube channel 'Jittega Punjab' on Tuesday, Sidhu stressed that he was in favour of approaching the Supreme Court against these bills.

CENTRAL VISTA

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The

Central Vista redevelop-

ment project would gener-

ate large-scale direct and

indirect employment

which could become an

"important fulcrum of

economic revival", Union

minister Hardeep Singh

Puri told Lok Sabha on

The redevelopment proj-

ect of Central Vista — the

nation's power corridor

gular parliament build-

ing, a common central

secretariat and revamp-

ing of the 3-km-long

Rashtrapati Bhavan to

In his written reply to a

question by All India

Γrinamool Congress MP

- envisages a new trian-

Tuesday.

Rajpath,

India Gate

Project to help revive

economy, says Puri

With the Opposition gone, RS passes 7 Bills in 3.5 hrs New Delhi, Sept. 22: In one

of the most productive days in its history, Rajya Sabha on Tuesday in a matter of three and half hours passed seven key bills including one that removes cereals, pulses and onion from the essential commodities list and another that abolishes

offences by companies.
This after most of the Opposition including the Congress, Left parties, the TMC, the Samajwadi Party and the NCP decided to boycott House proceedings in protest against the suspension of eight MPs for the remainder of the session for unruly behaviour. Only members from the ruling BJP and its ally JD-U and those of parties such as AIADMK,



Union ministers Pralhad Joshi. Ravi Shanker Prasad. Thawar Chand Gehlot and others during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday.

port to the Modi government on various issues, participated debates on the bills.

In most bills, the members participation was sparse and the minister's reply brief.

The Upper House took up government legislative Congress and TDP, which hour of discussion over the conduct of Opposition for assent.

MPs during the passage of two agriculture reform bills on Sunday, with Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu saying the suspension could be revoked if the members expressed regret over their action.

All the seven bills have already been passed by business after nearly an Lok Sabha and will now be sent to the President

launched the scheme dur-■ Concerns over spread of coronavirus among legislators Monsoon Session likely to end today

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The Lok Sabha is likely to be adjourned sine die on Wednesday, eight days ahead of the scheduled end of the Monsoon Session, amid concerns of spread of coronavirus legislators, sources said on Tuesday.

The House, which will meet at 3 pm on Wednesday is likely to be adjourned sine die (when there is no decided date for resumption) around 5 pm after taking up an extended Zero Hour, the sources said. The session. began September 14, witnessed

project shall

generate

large number of direct and

indirect

employment

which could

be an impor-

Parliament

tant fulcrum for economic revival." Mr Puri said that the estimated cost for

construction of new Parliament building is

₹971 crore. Explaining the

rationale behind the need

of the project, the Union

housing and urban affairs

minister said that the

House building was start-

ed in 1921 and commis-

sioned in 1927 and hence,

the building is already 93

existing

LOK SABHA

THE DECISION to curtail the session has been conveyed to floor leaders of parties in the Lower House, the sources said. The Monsoon Session is scheduled to end on October 1

passage of several bills by the Lok Sabha, including those which sought to replace the ordinances issued recently. The decision to curtail the session

floor leaders of parties in the Lower House, the said. Session is Monsoon scheduled to end on October 1. Several MPs, including a few ministers, have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last days. Various Opposition parties, including the Congress and the TMC, on Tuesday boycotted the Lok Sabha in solidarity with the eight Rajya Sabha members who were suspended

for unruly behaviour. Congress leader in Lok Adhir Ranjan

has been conveyed to Chowdhury said all opposition parties are boycotting Parliament in solidarity with the Rajya Sabha members who were suspended on Monday. Opposition parties, including Congress, TMC, BSP and TRS, walked out of the Lok Sabha after Chowdhury's announcement. Meanwhile,

Congress on Tuesday said its boycott of Rajya Sabha will not end till the government brings another bill making it illegal for private players to buy food grains from

■ Many historic 'blunders' fixed: MoS J&K Language Bill passed, Urdu no longer only official language current NDA regime. The minister said that

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed through voice vote the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 which facilitates adoption of Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu and English as official languages in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This officially ends more than a century old era of Urdu being the sole official language of the now newly created Union Territory.

Interestingly, by enacting this legislation, the Centre seems to have encroached upon the jurisdiction of the legislative Assembly.

Dogri, Urdu and English now official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

While introducing the bill in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said that only 0.16 per cent people spoke Urdu in the region, whereas Kashmiri which is spoken by 56 per cent population, even after so years, had not been given the status of an official language. Mr Reddy termed it a blunder', 'historical

adding that all such blun-

of 2011, only 0.16 percent of the state's population speaks Urdu, which has remained the sole official language in the He said that Kashmir,

spoken by over 56 percent population, Dogri, the language of over 20 percent people and Hindi, spoken by over 2 percent people were all ignored in the state for 70 However, National

according to the Census

Conference leader Hasnain Masoodi said that the Centre was misleading the House by saying only 0.16 per cent people spoke Urdu language in the Valley.

House passes Bill to further amend **Companies Act**

Various offences decriminalised

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The Parliament on Tuesday passed a bill to further amend the Companies Act and decriminalise various compoundable offences as well as promote ease of doing business in the coun-

try. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by a voice vote in Rajya Sabha, amid several opposition MPs boycotting the proceedings of the House to protest suspension of eight members. The Lok Sabha had given its approval to the bill on September 19.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to decriminalise various penal provisions, permit direct overseas listing of Indian corporates and introduce a new chapter related to producer organisations in the legislation.

Reduction in penalties for certain offences as well as in timeline for rights issues,

relaxation in CSR compliance requirements and creation of separate benches at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) are also among the proposed changes.

Speaking on the bill after a brief discussion in Rajya Sabha, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government keeps coming to Parliament with amendments Companies Act 2013 still has issues.

She said the stakeholders keep giving inputs as they say the law was not still helping them and they were facing issues related to compliances.

Around 48 sections of the Companies Act, 2013 are being amended to decrimi-

nalise various offences. Sitharaman said there are currently around 124 penal provisions compared to 134

Companies Act.

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TENDER NOTICE (3rd Call) APPOINTMENT OF MANUFACTURERS/ DISTRIBUTORS/ DEALERS FOR SUPPLY OF 4625 UNITS OF UNIVERSAL MOISTURE METERS TO RHYTHU BHAROSA

KENDRAS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FOR STRENGTHENING OF PADDY PROCUREMEN OPERATIONS AT VILLAGE LEVEL THROUGH AP e-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites Tenders for Appointment of Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites Tenders for Appointment of Manufacturers/ Distributors/ Dealers for Supply of Universal Moisture Meters. Interested Manufacturers/ Distributors/ Dealers from all over India may visit www.apscscl.in or www.apeprocurement.gov.in to view and download tender documents

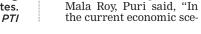
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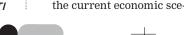
Interested tenderers to submit bids should be registered in the websitwww.apeprocurement.gov.in and should obtain digital Signature Certificates from an Certifying Authority in India. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature certificates are mentioned in the website www.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact the helpdes are mentioned in the website www.apeprocurement.gov.in or ent portal, Phone numbers: 08645-246370/71/72/73/74.

PM of 28.09.2020 and tentative date for online e-auction three Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR







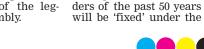




























SHORT TAKES

Two 91-yr-old men

recover from Covid Bhubaneswar: Two nonage-

narian Covid-19 patients in Odisha have got fully cured of the highly infectious disease. The two patients -Satchidananda Mohanty and Dhirendranath Das — both aged 91, were on September 5 admitted to designated Covid-19 hospitals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar respectively after being diagnosed with

the disease. Satchidananda, an eminent advocate in Kendrapara town, was also suffering from hypothyroid and neurological ailments. He was immediately shifted to the ICU after his admission to the hospital.

Dhirendranath Das, a former senior official with the Press Information Bureau and the All India Radio, defeated the disease by religiously following the regimen of the Covid hospital.

Tusker kills woman in Chhattisgarh dist

Jashpur: A 40-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district, a forest official said on Tuesday. The victim, Phulmati, was attacked by the jumbo in Kudkelkhajri village under Pathalgaon forest range on Monday night when she was walking with her husband, he said. While her husband managed to escape, the elephant caught hold of Phulmati and slammed her on the ground with its trunk, he said. A team of forest personnel rushed to the spot and chased away the pachyderm, he said. The kin of the

ed an instant relief of ₹25,000 while the remaining compensation of ₹5.75 lakh will be given later, the official added. — PTI **Woman crushed**

deceased have been provid-

to death by truck Amethi, UP: An elderly woman riding pillion with her husband on a motorcycle died after she fell off the vehicle and her head was crushed by a truck here on Tuesday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Yashoda Devi, 62, they said. Devi was going somewhere with her husband Vardan Singh on the motorcycle. She fell on the road when the motorcycle was going over a speed breaker near Sahjipur railway crossing in Sangrampur area here, the police said. A truck, which was passing by. crushed her head, killing her on the spot, they said. The truck driver fled the spot with his vehicle. Efforts are underway to nab him, the police

Pawars, Thackerays receive I-T notices

■ Continued from Page 1

and his son Aaditya, the state environment minister. The Election Commission is learnt to have reminded the Central Board of Direct Taxes of its request to probe the allegations of false affidavits being filed by Uddhav and Aaditya Thackeray and Supriya Sule. Mr Pawar has also refuted the possibility of the imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra, saying that the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA coalition government had a clear majority in the Maharashtra Assembly. "Is there any reason for (imposing President's President's Rule)? Is President's Rule some joke?"

he asked. Union minister of state for social justice Ramdas Athawale had said that President's Rule should be imposed in Maharashtra, alleging that the MVA government had failed to handle the law and order situation in the state. Independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana had also demanded that President's Rule be imposed in the state.

LS passes 3 Labour Codes amid boycott

■ Continued from Page 1 The Industrial Relations Code 2020, seeks to consolidate and amend the laws relating to trade unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishments or undertaking, investigation and settle-

ment of industrial disputes. The Code on Social Security 2020. will amend and consolidate laws relating to social security with the goal to extend social security to all employees and workers in the organised sector and the unor-

ganised sector. Mr Gangwar said efforts have been made to work out a balance between welfare of workers and ease of doing business for the industry.

NCB may quiz Deepika in Sushant death case

'Chat messages show actress asked her manager for drugs'

SAURABH JOSHI

The list of Bollywood actors on the radar of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has gone up further with name of Deepika Padukone surfacing in the drugs angle being probe in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput suicide. The investigators have found online chat messages from her number where she allegedly asked her manager for drugs. The NCB has summoned Ms Padukone's manager and may also grill the actor later.

The officials earlier came Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh and interior designer Simone Khambatta who were found to be doing drugs. The probe also revealed that Sara had even visited Rajput's farmhouse at Lonavala with others and partied together where they also did drugs. The NCB is likely to question all of them in the coming

Meanwhile the NCB has found chats between Ms Padukone and her manager Karishma Prakash who was summoned for ques-

India, China

not to send

more troops

■ Continued from Page 1

not pushed out from the

places where they have

transgressed, they may

permanently change the

At the meeting India

also asked for complete

disengagement from all

points in eastern Ladakh

where China has trans-

gressed into Indian terri-

tory, including Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs. The Chinese

Army has also been pre-

venting Indian soldiers

from patrolling the Depsang sector. India has made it clear that since it

was China which had

first transgressed, it will

have to make the first

move towards disengage-

ment. India wants

restoration of the status quo of April 2020 in east-

The Chinese side has

demanded that India

vacate the strategic

heights it has occupied

on the Kailash range

which overlook the entry

points of the Spanggur

Gap in the Chushul sec-

tor during the pre-emp-

tive action on August 29-31. The fifth and last

meeting had been held

on August 2, also in Moldo.

commanders'

ern Ladakn.

alignment of the LAC.

to front

Rhea, brother move HC for bail, **NDPS court extends custody**

SHAHAB ANSARI MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik, both arrested by the NCB which is probing drugs case linked with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, on Tuesday filed a fresh bail application in the Bombay High Court. A special NCB court same day extended judicial custody of both the persons

for 14 days. Their lawyer Satish Maneshinde confirmed filing of bail pleas in the HC. Refusing to divulge any details mentioned in the bail applications, he said,

tioning. On Tuesday the agency also grilled Dhruv Chitgopekar, CEO of talent management agency KWAN. He was interrogated in connection with the ongoing probe and his connection with the arrested peddlers. The

"The matter is likely to be heard on Wednesday before the single bench of Justice Sarang V. Kotwal and details would be out during the hearing."
A special NDPS court on

Tuesday extended their judicial custody October 6. This court had rejected Rhea's bail application on September 11.

The NCB had arrested Showik on September 5 and Rhea was arrested on September 8. They had filed bail pleas as soon as they were remanded to judicial custody. The court had rejected their bail applications on the ground that the investigation was still on.

tioned the deceased actor's talent manager Jaya Saha "The probe is moving ahead to unearth the larg er nexus of drugs in the film industry. More actors my be questioned in the coming days," said an offi-

cer privy to the investiga-NCB on Monday ques-Yeddy to remain CM, no leadership change in K'taka'

Bengaluru, Sept. 22: The BJP in Karnataka on Tuesday termed as baseand misleading reports about leadership change in the state by replacing chief minister B. S. Yediyurappa. State BJP spokesperson

Captain Ganesh Karnik said a few TV channels have repeatedly reported that there is going to be a change in the leadership of Chief Minister Yediyurappa.

"BJP strongly refutes this report," he clarified in an official statement. We categorically state that such reports are absolutely baseless, misleading and far from truth," he added.

There have been strong speculations about possi-ble change in leadership the future, considering Yediyurappa's age. The speculation had gained momentum during the 77vear-old leader's recent visit to New Delhi, during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several union ministers and BJP national president J P Nadda.

There were reports that Yediyurappa might be replaced after the Bihar assembly polls or after him presenting the budg-



B. S. Yediyurappa

et in March 2021.

They suggested that looking at BJP's policy towards seniors crossing 75 years of age, the party was considering honourable exit to the Lingayat strongman by giving him a gubernatori al position and a key post for his younger son B Y Vijayendra, who is now the state BJP vice president. Several state BJP ieaders, including state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel, minister R. Ashoka among others have rejected reports.

Despite this, there were rumours that several Lingayat legislators, especially from the north Karnataka region, were unhappy with the chief minister and were rallying behind a leader from the community who belongs to their region. — *PTI* to their region.

MANOJ NAND

future of India.

GUWAHATI, SEPT. 22

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Tuesday urged the

youth to be future ready

and future fit, and said that

their dreams and aspira-

tions would shape the

Addressing the 22nd convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology

(IIT), Guwanan video-conferencing on the Prime

Tuesday, the Prime Minister said: "I firmly

believe that the future of a

nation is what its youth

abrogated, there has been a Valley in last one year and the security scenario in the Valley and has shown a drop in number of terrorthe statistics reveal the same picture. This clearly

Commuters wade through a waterlogged street following heavy rainfall in Guwahati on Tuesday.

in the same corresponding

period. Interestingly, there

has been a sharp drop even

in incidents of stone pelt-

ing to 310 since August 2019

as compared to 703 between

What has come as a huge

respite to the security forces is the fact that even

the number of security

personnel killed since

Article 370 was repealed is

49 in comparison to 125

during the same corresponding period. There was a drop in the civilians

killed in terrorist incident

Security forces have had

upper hand in dealing

with terrorism in the

from 54 to 45.

August 2018 to 2019.

J&K violence dropped by 50%: Govt

VINEETA PANDEY

AGE CORRESPONDENTS

There has been a marked

improvement in the overall

security scenario in the

Kashmir Valley since abro-

gation of Article 370 last August in the former state

of Jammu & Kashmir

which has now been con-

verted into a Union

Territory. Key security parameters reveal a drop of

almost 50 percent in incidents of violence in the

Latest data analysis by

the security forces have

revealed that in the last one

year, since Article 370 was

entire Valley.

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR,

A major decline in fresh cases of novel coronavirus was recorded in the last 24 hours as newly detected cases came down to 75, 083. This is the fifth consecutive day when cases are found to be reducing from

97, 894 on September 17. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that the decline in fresh cases has nothing to do with lesser testings. This coincided with over 1 lakh recoveries in one dav for the first time taking the country's recovery rate to 80.86 per cent. The total number of recovered patients is almost 45 lakh while India's case fatality

rate is 1.60 per cent. "On September 19, we had conducted 8.81 lakh tests and detected 93, 337 cases. On September 20, we conducted over 12 lakh tests and found 92,605 cases, on September 21 we tested 7.31 lakh people and **COVID WATCH**

55.63 LAKH CASES ACROSS NATION

45 LAKH PEOPLE CURED SO FAR

got 86, 961 positive while on September 22 we tested 9.33 lakh samples and found 75, 083 positive. So testing is not less and the number of positive cases are not determined by tests. We are monitoring this data on a daily, weekly and monthly basis to keep a track of the trend of Covid-19," Mr Bhushan

On Tuesday, a substantial decline in new cases was noted in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

burden states — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu,

ase tatanty average of 8.52 per cent,

As per Union health ministry data, India's total Covid-19 infections

Policy 2020 is meant for the needs of the 21st century and to make India a global leader in science and technology. Mr Modi pointed out that the NEP 2020 has been made multi-disciplinary and offers flexibility of choosing various cours

entry and exit points. He asserted that the NEP also proposes a National Research Foundation for better coordination with all funding agencies regarding research fund-

on the death of the veter-

an actress, who had fea-

tured in several Marathi

and Hindi films in a

es and allows multiple

senior security official remarked.

One of the key reason for improvement in the security situation is a much improved intelligence network which has been substantially strengthened at the ground level. Focused and specific human intelligence has led to many successful security operations again subversive elements.

The local Kashmiri watchers, however, say it could be the 'lull before the storm'. Various political parties and leaders endorse the view and insist on there being "urgency of holding a political dialogue on Kashmir". Their explanation is; people of Kashmir will not settle for

Ration to sex

workers: SC

asks Centre,

states to clarify

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The

Supreme Court has taken note of problems

faced by sex workers on

account of Covid-19 pan-

demic and directed the

Centre and state govern-

ments to apprise it about

modalities for distribu-

tion of monthly dry

rations and cash trans-

fer to them without

insisting on proof of

A bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara

Kao said the issue raised

in the PIL filed by the

NGO needs immediate

attention. Additional

solicitor general R.S. Suri and the counsel

appearing for the state

governments are direct-

ed to get instructions

regarding the modalities

monthly dry rations and

cash transfer to the sex

workers without insist-

ing on proof of identity,

the bench also compris-

ing Justice Hemant

distribution of

identity.

Covid cases decline for 5th day; 75,083 test +ve in 24 hrs

will chair a meeting with

chief ministers and health ministers of seven high-

J&K police seized two AK

assault rifles, one pistol,

three AK magazines and

Akhnoor region.

90 rounds from a village in

shows that if given a free

hand our security and

intelligence grid is fully

competent in dealing with

Delhi and Punjab — on Wednesday to review the Covid-19 situation. "Along with the other five states, Punjab and

Delhi have reported an increase in the number of cases being reported recently. Maharashtra, Punjab and Delhi are reporting high mortality with more than 2 per cent Other than Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, their positivity rate is observed to be above the national a statement from PM office said.

so far reached 55.63 lakh while overall death figures reached close to 89,000 with 1,053 new deaths.

> Gupta said. Appearing for an NGO senior advocate Anand Grover argued that a survey among 1.2 lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana found that 96 per cent of sex workers had lost their source of earning

in the pandemic. Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, who has been appointed as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, submitted that the plight of sex workers could be solved if they were provided ration cards insisting on identity

Opp. boycotts RS till suspension of 8 MPs is revoked

■ Continued from Page 1 Ghulam Nabi Azad said in the House while walk-

Mr Azad also said members should get more time to speak and time constraint has become a major issue of discontent among Opposition parties.
He said the sense of the

House should not mean mere numbers, but by political parties as 18 political parties are on one side demanding more time. Maintaining that the voice of the Opposition and rights of members are not heard and Bills are not sent for scrutiny to the select or standing committees, Mr Azad said, "I think the day before yesterday was the last straw that broke

the camel's back.' The Congress leader said the government now wants "one nation, one market" with which they have no problem. "The government earlier said 'one nation, one tax' and then 'one nation, one ration card', but for God's sake, don't go towards 'one nation, one

of other Leaders

Opposition parties in Rajya Sabha, including Ramgopal Yadav, TRS' K. Keshava Rao, DMK's T. Shiva and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda requested revocation of suspension of eight members.

'We will consider withdrawal of suspension only after suspended members apologise for their behaviour in Rajya Shankar Prasad told reporters outside Parliament.

Replying to Mr Azad's remarks on division of votes, as sought by Opposition MPs over two farm Bills on Sunday, Rajya Sabha chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said records of House proceedings show chairman Harivansh asked 13 times to members who were in the well of the House to go back to their seats and he will allow

go.
Mr Naidu asserted that the deputy chairman with restraint and handled the situation in a very deft manner.

division, but they did not



the country self-reliant in Narendra Modi

'NEP will make India global leader in S&T'

thinks today, your dreams are going to shape the real-

spite of the difficulty in conducting academic sessions and continuing research work during the pandemic

ity of India. This is time to be future-ready." Lauding the efforts of the

IITs in contributing towards making the coun-

trv self-reliant in spite of the difficulty in conducting academic sessions and continuing research work during the pandemic, the Prime Minister said that the National Education

ing and provide funds for all disciplines.

Noted Hindi, Marathi film actress dies of Covid

Satara, Sept. 22: Veteran Ashalata Wabgaonkar, who had worked in a number of Marathi and Hindi films, died on early Tuesday morning at a private hospital here after battling Covid-19, hospital author-

ities said. She was 79. Wabgaonkar was also a noted Marathi theatre personality and had featured in several plays. The actress had tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to the private hospital on September 17 where she on was diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia, a senior

doctor from the medical facility said. "Her condition wors-

ened on Monday evening and she was put on ventilator support. She breathed her last today (Tuesday) morning," he

The actress was in Satara in western Maharashtra for shooting of a Marathi TV serial. Marathi actress Alka Kubal, who was with her during the shoot, said the shooting was going on for the last one month.

"Till yesterday, she was talking to us and sudden-Ms Kubal said. Condolences poured in ly she slipped into a



coma. She was then put on ventilator support, but died early Tuesday morning. We never imagined that this pandemic will take her away from us," decades-long career. Expressing grief over Wabgaonkar's death, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray paid rich tributes to the actress and described her

as a versatile artist. 'We have lost a versatile actress who left her mark in Marathi theatre, films and the mind industry with her permission Mr

Thackeray said. He said Wabgaonkar excelled as a poetess,

immortalised characters she portrayed in films.
State PWD minister
Ashok Chavan also paid
tributes to Wabgaonkar, saying a talented personality made her exit from the world of art. "She was known in households for playing several mem-orable roles in theatre and on small and big screens. My tributes to Ashalata, the Congress

singer and writer and

leader tweeted. NCP Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule said Wabgaonkar had a good Supriya understanding of music.













THE ASIAN AGE

23 SEPTEMBER 2020

As India reopens, we need more tests, infra

s coronavirus figures skyrocket in India amid reports of a second wave sweeping much of mainland Europe, comes renewed confirmation of bad news that SARS-CoV-2 reinfections are real. The official caseload, meanwhile, has surpassed the 5.5 million mark. A vaccine, while it is only going to be seasonal, is still several months away and, by all estimates, will take longer to reach every ordi-

But the economy, which has taken the worst hit in recorded history, must now be opened at all costs. It will take a minimum of two months to restore it to its pre-Covid health, a report by a committee headed by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor C. Rangarajan, advising the Tamil Nadu government on medium-term measures, has suggested, and the Centre is certainly seen implementing what it has somewhat cheesily dubbed Unlock 4.0 with older students returning to school in parts of the country, international flights beginning to

and we have done some good work on the count of expanding laboratory and testing

operate in air bubble arrangements and Taj Drug manufacture is Mahal accepting visitors. The ongoing our area of strength Monsoon Session of Parliament, however, has been unfortunately curtailed by several days, jeopardising important legislative decisions.

Autumn's lower temperatures plus the reopening will undoubtedly bring on the second wave of coronavirus in India. The crisis seems to be unfolding here in a worse manner than we could have imagined, with the virus having reached the rural heartlands.

Experts suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic will peak at different rates in different regions of the country. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh currently have the most infections; of these the last three states experienced late surges. Hence, a renewed urgency for health infrastructure, doctors, drugs, ventilators and a prompter and more localised administrative response coordinated by state governments and effectively bolstered by central funds and support is the absolute need of the hour. Of these, drug manufacture is our area of strength and we have done some good work on the count of expanding laboratory and testing infrastructure.

The Delhi high court on Tuesday stayed the Delhi government's September 13 order making it mandatory for 33 private hospitals in the city to reserve 80 per cent of their Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds as prima facie violative of fundamental rights. It is a welcome ruling. Most coronavirus patients improve with administration of palliatives and home isolation is sufficient to contain the disease. That is indeed a silver lining. India has topped the world both in the daily infection rate as well as number of recoveries. Health workers have put their shoulder to the wheel and are working heroically against odds.

If only these odds were fewer in number. The governments — state and Centre — have no choice but to perform or face electoral ire.

Regulate, don't strangle NGOs

here are certain hallmarks for most of the doings of the Narendra Modi government: a popular, presentable reason that can be easily sold to the public to achieve certain motives outside and a halfboiled, unworkable plan that will put a lot of people to inconvenience inside. Demonetisation, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the bills to rework the functioning of Indian farming are the classic examples. The latest to join the league is the amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, that Parliament has passed now.

The government is sure the piece of legislation is a must to control the waywardness of non-governmental organisations, including the religious ones. The main feature of the new bill is that it makes it mandatory for all the key people of the organisations to present their Aadhaar numbers to the authorities for getting the registration. The government, which got the Aadhaar Act passed in Parliament as money bill, had assured the Supreme Court that Aadhaar numbers will be made mandatory only when a person receives government largesse. It will be interesting to note how the government will defend this provision in the bill, should it be challenged in court. It defies logic when the government mandates the recipient organisation to open an account at a particular bank in the national at a time when banking has becor ne a mohile annli regulators get real time information on any transaction of agencies on their watch if they wanted. The bill empowers the government to make the organisations use the fund after a summary inquiry, whereas the existing law allows such an action only if the organisation concerned is found guilty of violating the law. The bill has many such crippling provisions. Regulating a sector is part of governance, but strangulating it is not. The government must realise it.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY

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To rule India, history of our geography vital tool



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

oes geography have a history es, it does. It's political geography: of maps and atlases, covering the globe. Political geography maps, accurately drawn in meticulous detail, depicts the world we live in. Naming and numbering all countries, islands, oceans, seas, mountains, the physical topography, and the rulers and the ruled in each of those pages, along with economic figures. It shows the evolution of geography of demography through the ages. Hence, it's important for aspiring, or established, leaders to have fair idea of the history of the geography that they represent, rule or reign.

In the context of the vast demography of South Asia, the learning process is all the more important for potential leaders because India has always been volatile, susceptible to internal discord and ing in frequent changes of political geography maps. So much so that it's a reality of the history of South Asian geography that the Indian ruling class tradi-tionally proved utterly myopic, being unable to see beyond their noses, thus resulting in their chronic failure to unite the vast, diverse elements of the countryside. The history of Indian geography thus, as seen from the changed/changing maps, stands as a mute, yet profound, testimony to this sordid scenario. The ruling class has always liked to fight among its own spectrum and colour. Little wonder that this collective band of the disparate ruling class inevitably ended up factors and invariably fed ing, and invariably fadbefore foreign invaders. The tradition goes on, as can be found from the 21st century aggression by the Communist Party of China (CPC), on whom

have abiding trust, faith and confidence to mutual ly turn the "Line of Actual Control" into a "border area" resolution, from foreign soil, as was catastrophically done, at the behest of a third party arbiter, in 1966 at the high table of Tashkent. One would like to sug-

gest that the reader go through the 376 pages of 'A Historical Atlas of South Asia", published in 1978! To understand better; as to how fragile and fractious has been the map or geography of India, through the vicissitudes of history. Should it not, therefore, be obligato-ry for each and every aspiring Indian ruler, from all corners of the country, irrespective of his or her political colour, to learn a lesson or two. and study the atlas of the history of India's geograalong with Constitution of India? Today, for example, Delhi's geography is at the nous signature on the

horizon visible? Indeed, five critical geographical areas, which this writer perceives as the "red zones" of India, are fast emerging under the Chinese Communist Party's active short to mid-term action plan. All indications point to its deep thought, firm belief and definite action plan. From the Belt and Road Initiative, to the CPEC, through Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The CPC think tanks are focused on breaking/destroying India through the creation of a new geography of "Greater" countries, cutting through India's

topography. To reiterate what I have written earlier in these columns, I firmly believe that India's entire political class and its diplomats cannot match the cunning, deception and deceit of the Han Chinese in the international arena. Hence, the Chinese have

ally, undoubtedly helped by the lack of ideology of the post-Mao People's Republic. Given the congenital blunders made by New Delhi and its failure to tackle the Dragon for the past 70-plus years; there is nothing to indicate that the contemporary mandarins of Lutyens' Delhi will be able to out-match or reverse the evil designs of the Dragon any better than their predecessors or anytime soon. I sincerely hope that I am proved wrong about this.

To start with, India needs to start preparing to face the worst, with an ultra-defensive mechanism: first identify the areas which the CPC is targeting, and study and analyse its past record of action. As they say, to be "forewarned is fore-

There are five "Greater" geographical zones where the Chinese are planning to target India – and the action on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh is just the start. The five emerging areas are: Greater Pakistan; Greater Nepal; Greater Burma; Greater Bangladesh and 'Greater China": with Beijing hoping to turn Bhutan into another Xiniiang owing to its tiny size and dearth of demography! These five might become reality mainly through indirect, invisible and divisive CPC machinations. Not necessarily through the visible CPC-controlled PLA militia, but through unethical operations undertaken, at times reluctantly or under duress, by some of

India's neighbours. The tell-tale signs are already visible. Can't most of India see the Dragon-inspired defiance by Nepal, making bizarre

The five emerging areas are: Greater Pakistan; Greater Nepal; Greater **Burma**; Greater Bangladesh and "Greater China": with Beijing hoping to turn **Bhutan into another** Xinjiang owing to its tiny size and dearth of demography!

claim over India's territory? Has anyone gone through some of the claims being articulated mass-circulating Nepalese media, with Dehradun and Nainital being openly claimed by some elements in Kathmandu. The
"Greater Nepal" campaign is already on. What
will be claimed next –
from Himachal Pradesh to Sikkim? Nepal is neither a

Muslim-majority nor a Christian-majority country. It's an overwhelming-ly Hindu nation, which earlier used to be the world's only Hindu kingdom, before the monarchy was abolished. Now Beijing has managed to turn this landlocked nation against Hindumajority India.

Look at India's West Bengal state. The Communist influence there was once all-perva-sive, with China's Chairman Mao an icon to many. The first salvo was fired on May 24, 1967 across three police stations — Naxalbari, Kharibari, Phansideoa? It took an Indira Gandhi to tackle the CPC's "malevolence and perfidy", douse the Naxalite fire and save India. The CPC learnt its lesson, and didn't mess around with India's iron lady, more so after her triumph in the 1971 Bangladesh war.

"Greater" Pakistan has

taken shape, with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir already in place, and "Greater" Bangladesh and "Greater" Myanmar will automatically follow if the "Greater" Nepal movement turns into a hydra-headed monster that will impact Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, Geography will automatically navigate the foreign demography to cut down India's topography. Make no mistake, most of India's Northeast will be targeted by a "Greater" China, with some adjacent irredentist areas marked for Dhaka and Rangoon. Will India wake up in time to see through the Dragon's

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. Views expressed are personal.

TRIPLE WHAMMY

Indians may boast of their exaggerated "respect" for elderly, but here more then 60 per cent of senior citizens have no pensions or other social security benefits. Most, therefore, live off interest on various saving schemes and deposits. In six months, interest on bank deposits and post office small savings schemes have fallen by two per cent. Food inflation has risen during the same period. Seniors are also worst affected in this pandemic. There is an urgent need on the part of the government to address these problems.

> D.B. Madan New Delhi

NO MIDDLEMEN

RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN M. Venkaiah Naidu has done well to suspend eight Opposition MLAs for their unruly behaviour during pas-saging two farm bills while rejecting a no-confidence motion moved against deputy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh on tech-nical grounds. The suspended MPs had stooped low by entering the well of the House, throwing papers, breaking microphones and abusing Mr Singh. The Opposition must realise that the new law will not only ensure a minimum support price (MSP) for farmers but will also eliminate middlemen.

N.J. Ravi Chander

PUT MSP IN LAW

THE WAY THE government brought the controversial farm bills and managed their clearance in the Upper House are questionable. Neither farmers nor Opposition par-ties were consulted by the government on the provisions. The deputy chairman's refusal to send the bills to a select committee and clearing them through voice vote also seemed motivated. Farmers are agitated on discontinuance of the minimum support price regime via the new laws. An MSP clause should be incorporated in these and confirmed by the PM inside Parliament. M.C. Joshi

Lucknow

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

Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



Restructuring of Railways: Most officers are unhappy

odi *sarkar* is pushing ahead with restructuring of the Indian Railways board and services. The Cabinet recently greenlit the revamping of the powerful railway board that governs the railways. The board will now have five members. The present chairman of the board, V.K. Yadav, will be the first CEO of the Board. The board will also have independent members in non-executive roles. The Cabinet also decided to merge all central railway service cadres into a single Indian Railways

Management Service (IRMS). While Mr Yadav is now chairman and CEO, Pradeep Kumar has been appointed member, infra-structure, P.C. Sharma has been appointed member, traction and rolling stock, P.S. Mishra has been made member, operations and business development. Manjula Rangarajan has been appointed member, finance. In the new structure, the chairman shall be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a director general level officer. Three apex level posts shall be surrendered from railway board, and all the remaining posts of the railway board shall be open to all officers regardless of the service to which they belonged.

some Indians still seem to

The government says that the reform will end "inter-departmental rivalries" that, many say, have been hampering growth and efficiency of the railways for decades. But not all railway babus are pleased with the decision. Their first objection is to the proposed merger of cadres, which they claim is "unscientific and against established norms" since the government is proposing to merge "fundamentally dissimilar" entities. Instead, they argue for two distinct services instead of one separating the civil services and the engineering wings.

NEW HEFT TO PMO The appointment of three IAS officers to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will add heft to the already most powerful PMO ever. The officers are Raghuraj Rajendran of the Madhya Pradesh cadre as director, Amrapali Kata of the Andhra Pradesh cadre as deputy secretary and Mangesh Ghildiyal of the Uttarakhand cadre as under-secretary.

Mr Rajendran was earlier serving as private secretary to the minister for steel and petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan. Amrapali Kata is an officer of the 2010 batch was deputy secretary in the cabinet secretariat (intelligence). Mr Ghildiyal was working with the Uttarakhand government.

The appointments make these three officers seem like "highfliers" in babudom. They have clearly been chosen for their track record. In the presidential-style Modi PMO they are now expected to be team players who must focus on tough decisions and showing

UP'S DUBIOUS CRACKDOWN

Though public perception belies it, the Uttar Pradesh government claims it has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. And it backs it up with data. According to sources, since coming to power three years ago, chief minister Yogi Adityanath has cracked the whip on around 800 state government officials. Just recently the state government suspended two IPS officers, Abhishek Dikshit, SSP of Prayagraj, and Manilal Patidar, SP of Mahoba, for their involvement in corrupt practices

and "lax policing" The state data claims that it has acted against more than 775 officials so far, including some retired officials who were found complicit in malpractices. The government has forcibly retired 325 officials and suspended and demoted over 450 babus.

But, sources say, despite the Yogi government's crackdown on corrupt babus, some suspended

officers seem to have wiggled back into the administration on plum postings. J.B. Singh, the Gonda DM, was suspended in June 2018, along with Kumar Prashant, the DM of Fatehpur, and faced disciplinary action over irregularities in the procurement of wheat. But Mr Singh's bureaucratic wilderness was short-lived. In 2019 he was appointed the DM of Etawah. Kumar Prashant, too, found himself back in favour. Last year he became the DM of Badaun, a more important district than Fatehpur. There are other instances, say sources, where after a brief period of lying low, suspended officials find themselves back in the sad-

According to sources, murmurs of protest are rising, and railway unions are planning a series of protests against the move.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

IN BRIEF

John Lennon killer says sorry

New York: Mark Chapman, the man who killed John Lennon, has apologised to the late Beatle's widow, Yoko Ono, 40 years after his death. Chapman shot Lennon four times outside his New York Manhattan apartment as Ono looked on, in 1980. He was denied parole for the eleventh time following a hearing last month. During the hear-ing, Chapman said he killed the 40-year-old rock star for "glory" and that he deserved the death penalty. He added that he thinks about the "des-picable act" all the time, and accepts he may spend the rest of his life in prison. "I just want to reiterate that I'm sorry for my crime," Chapman told the parole board at the Wende Correctional Facility in New York.

Finland bans

neo-Nazi group

Helsinki: Finland's Supreme Court on Tuesday banned a neo-Nazi group on the grounds that its activities are "significantly contrary to law.' Finland's national police had sought to dissolve the rightwing Nordic Resistance Movement, known for being violent and openly racist, and two lower courts of law confirmed the ruling. Finland's highest court ruled that the group's activities "did not enjoy freedom of expression or freedom of association, as the association's activities by their nature entailed an abuse of these rights." National Police Chief Inspector Heikki Lausmaa told Finnish broadcaster YLE that the Supreme Court ruling is "a clear statement that an organisation that is violent and uses speech deemed racist or otherwise violating human dignity should not have a place in Finnish society.'

Nasa moon return

to cost \$28b

Washington: Nasa on Monday revealed its latest plan to return astronauts to the Moon in 2024, and estimated the cost of meeting that deadline at \$28 billion, \$16 billion of which would be spent on the lunar landing module. Congress, which faces elections on November 3, will have to sign off on the financing for a project that has been set by President Donald Trump as a top priority. The \$28 billion would cover the budgetary vears of 2021-25. In a phone briefing with journalists on Monday on the Artemis mission to return human beings to the Moon. Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine noted that "political risks" were often the biggest threat to Nasa's work, especially before such a crucial election. Barack Obama cancelled plans for a manned Mars mission, after his predecessor spent billions of dollars on the project.

MET ARMY CHIEF BEFORE APC: SHEHBAZ

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 22

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday confirmed meeting Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa ahead of All Parties Conference (APC) on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), the PML-N leader said discussion on Gilgit Baltistan matters was held during the meeting with the army chief. All the parliamentary leaders were also present, he added.

Shehbaz, the Opposition Leader in National Assembly, said the incumbent government led by the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) was trying to oppress PML-N. The decisions taken during APC will be implemented at any cost, he said.

On September 20, 2020, the 11party opposition's APC hosted by Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhut-to Zardari had demanded resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The 26-point resolution passed by the APC stated that the opposition had decided to form a national alliance in the name of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).

The APC had also decided to hold a long march against the government in January 2021.

The government, it said, had ruined the common man's life with rising inflation, unemployment, and taxes, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said in joint news conference after

the APC. The "selected" government was responsible for the fall of Kashmir, the APC members

Spanish medics stage protest



Medical Residents protest against their working conditions on the second day of a strike called by the collective in Barcelona, on September Tuesday, amid a Covid surge in the country. Spain is struggling to contain a second wave of the virus, which has infected over 670,000 people and claimed over 30,000 lives, one of Europe's highest.

Sikh taxi driver assaulted, called 'Taliban' in Britain

London, Sept. 22: An India-born Sikh taxi driver was subjected to verbal and physical abuse by passengers he drove from a casino in the city of Reading in south-east England, prompting a United Kingdom police force to launch an investi-

Vaneet Singh, 41, said that a group of four men slapped and shoved him, and asked "are you Tali-ban" after he received them from the Grosvenor Casino in Reading, Berkshire, in the early hours of

Sunday. One of the four also tried to remove his turban. "It was horrible, really frightening, I will never work white, pulled at his turban the nightshift again. I'm as he was driving and

still very scared," he said. Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses as they investigate the report of an assault.

Singh, who worked as a music teacher at a school in Slough, Berkshire, turned to taxi driving after his teaching job was stalled during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The musician, who lives in Tilehurst with his wife and three children, said he has been left shaken up by the assault and will be avoiding night shifts. "It's very bad experi-

ence. It's my religion so I respect my turban," he said. One of the four passengers, all described as white, pulled at his turban

slapped him on the head, while others kicked and punched the back of the driver's seat.

He says he tried to explain the religious sig-nificance of the turban to them and asked them not to touch it.

He recalled the passengers being well behaved at the start of the journey but "totally changed" as it went on. Singh, who is suf-fering from aches and pains since the incident, is convinced the attack was of a racist nature and believes he was a victim of

hate crime.
Thames Valley Police are yet to confirm their line of inquiry in the

according to authorities.

A police spokesman on

the scene said there was

another adult in car who

was not struck by gunfire.

In a tweet, the city's

police department said

they were "stunned at this

callousness and violence

and that they would not

rest until finding out who

was responsible for the

shooting.

The child's death is the

148th homicide this year in Kansas City. At this time last year, 114 homicides

had been recorded. "My heart breaks again," said

Mayor Quinton Lucas, who

Police release footage after officers shoot 13-year-old boy

autism was shot by police after his mother asked for help getting him hospital mental-health treatment and officers agreed to talk with him, police footage released Monday showed.

The videos show Salt Lake City officers chasing him down an alley after they arrive at his home, then yelling at him to get on the ground. The boy collapses after a series of shots ring out, moaning, "I don't feel good. I don't feel good."

He survived but suffered broken bones and pierced organs, the family's attornev has said. His mother. Golda Barton, had warned police that her son said earlier that day, September 4, that he had a gun and had threatened to shoot her male coworker and break windows in the house, the video showed. But she told officers she thought it was a BB gun or pellet gun.

There were no indications he was armed. She wanted him to be hospitalised for help with his mental health issues. Officers said they would have to proceed as though the boy did have access to a real gun, the videos show. Barton told officers the boy was "triggered" by seeing police.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 22: A 13-year-old Utah boy with autism was shot by police the second short of the second sec Child killed, 2 hurt

Kansas City, Sept. 22: A boy under the age of 5 died and two adults were injured when someone opened fire on their vehicle Monday afternoon, Kansas City police said.

After the shooting that was reported just before 3 pm. the driver of the car pulled up to a local fire station to ask for help, according to authorities. Fire and EMS personnel tended to the unidentified man, woman and child, police said, adding that they were taken to a hospital where the boy later died.

The preliminary investigation shows that the vehicle was stopped in front of a home when someone fired numerous shots into the vehicle from outside, striking three people,

"He sees the badge and he automatically thinks you are going to kill him or he has to defend himself in some way," she said. "He freaks out." The video was made pub-

lic under a Salt Lake City ordinance requiring the release of video from

was also present at the scene. Both the mayor and police officials asked for anyone with any information on the shooting to contact detectives. -AP

police shootings within 10 business days. The shooting has raised new questions about how police deal with people with mental health issues amid nationwide calls for police

STOP PLAYING BREXIT 'GAMES', EU TELLS UK

clinch a free trade deal over the next month.

The sides committed to a new meeting to discuss Britain's plans to disregard part of the withdrawal agreement it had signed with the 27-nation EU amid acrimony that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson would even contemplate to break an agreement he himself signed.

EU countries' ministers for European affairs met in Brussels on Tuesday and German chairtremely" worrisome since it "violates the guiding principle of the withdrawal agreement," which officially allowed the United Kingdom to the United Kingdom to leave the bloc last Jan. 31.

A transition period now runs until Dec 31, during which time both sides are negotiating a trade agreement to replace the open and unfettered economic relations that are currently in place.

Brussels, Sept. 22: The European Union is pleading with Britain to stop playing "games" as time is running out to blinch a free trade deal.

man Michael Roth said the British plan was "ex-

The EU has repeatedly expressed its exasperation at what it sees as British stubbornness and refusal to compromise on some key points. Without a deal on future trade relations, chaos is expected at the borders

Taiwan: China must back off

Taipei, Sept. 22: Taiwan on Tuesday demanded that China "back off" and accused it of threatening peace, after a Beijing official rejected a largely respected marine boundary following recent incursions.

Foreign minister Joseph Wu urged Beijing to "return to the civilised international standards" after a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said there was no so-called median line in the Taiwan Strait "as Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory". Wu told reporters: "The

median line has been a symbol of preventing military conflicts and maintaining peace and stabili-ty in the Taiwan Strait for many years. The Chinese foreign ministry's comment is equivalent of destroying the status quo." "I call on the international community to condemn the CCP for its dangerous and provocative words and deeds threatening peace... China must back off," he added in a tweet

China considers Taiwan part of its territory, to be absorbed into the mainland, by force if necessary, even though it has been self-ruled for more than seven decades.

Beijing has ratcheted up pressure on the democratic island since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who rejects its view that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Last year, Taiwan accused China of violating a long-held tacit agreement after its fighter jets — for the first time in years - crossed the median line of the waters that separate the two sides. of trade and security Washington's increased issues, as well as the

against NYC cop fiction, says Beijing **JINPING CRITIC**

Spying allegations

Beijing, Sept. 22: China on Tuesday said allegations against a New York City police officer charged with being an "intelli-gence asset" for the Chinese government are a "pure fabrication" and part of a US plot to smear Chinese diplomats in the United States.

Baimadajie Angwang, a naturalised US citizen from Tibet, allegedly agreed to spy on US sup-porters of the Tibetan independence movement since 2018 as an agent for China in its effort to suppress the movement, according to a criminal complaint filed Brooklyn federal court.

It says he secretly worked for unnamed han-dlers from the Chinese Consulate in New York. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Tuesday said the indictment against Angwang was full of hedging terms such as "seems" and "possibly," giving the appearance that prosecutors were straining to make their case.

The relevant accusations made by the US side

outreach to Taiwan under Coronavirus pandemic. President Donald Trump has become yet another flashpoint with Beijing, as the United States and China clash over a range

GETS 18 YEARS IN GRAFT CASE

Beijing, Sept. 22: The former chairman of a Chinese state-owned real estate company who publicly criticised President Xi Jinping's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday in a corruption case, the government announced. Ren Zhiqiang, who had become known for speaking up about censorship and other sensitive topics, disappeared from public view in March after publishing an essay online that accused Xi of mishandling the outbreak.

are pure fabrication," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

The US plot to discredit the Chinese Consulate personnel in the United States will not suc-

In recent months Taiwan has reported a sharp rise in incursions Chinese warplanes into its air defence identi-

fication zone (ADIZ).

If Biden wins, China wins: Don

Washington, Sept. 22: Former US vice president Joe Biden has enormously harmed the US economy in his five decades as a politician, President Donald Trump has said, adding that if the Democratic leader wins the

November 3 polls it would be a win for China. Biden, 77, and his running mate Kamala Harris are challenging incumbents Presiaent Trump, 74, and vice President Mike Pence in the presidential election.

"Joe Biden spent the last 47 years shipping your iobs to China and foreign countries. You know that. I've spent the last four years bringing the jobs back to our country and back to Ohio," Trump said at a rally in Dayton, Ohio on Monday. The Republican leader described the November 3

polls as the most important in recent memory. "On November 3rd, Americans will decide whether we lift our nation to soaring new heights of prosperity or whether we will allow Joe Biden — Sleepy Joe — to shut down our economy, impose a \$4 trillion tax hike, abolish Ohio clean coal, oil, natural gas, and ship your jobs factories overseas to China and countries that you never even heard of," he said.

The democratic tax plans for the 2020 election lists a gradual increase in proposed taxes by \$4 trillion in the next decade, placing a greater burden

on the super-rich category "Put simply: If Biden wins, China wins. If we win, Ohio wins and most importantly, in all fairness, America wins. Because you finally have the president who puts America first, and I do put America first," Trump said to applause from the audience. Trump has held election rallies in the last two weeks, notwithstanding the risks posed by the coronavirus. Thousands attend the events without masks and breaking social-distancing norms.

Trump has called the rallies "protest against stu-pidity". "You know this is really not a rally. This has to do with workers, programmes, all the things we love," he said. — *PTI*

Charlie Hebdo HR manager moved from home in the wake of threats

Paris, Sept. 22: Police have moved the head of human resources at French satirimagazine *Charlie* Hebdo from her home following death threats received last week, she told a French magazine.

Marika Bret, who has been living under police protection for nearly five years in the aftermath of the deadly assault on Charlie Hebdo in January 2015, said the threats were "sufficiently concrete to be taken seriously".
Bret said she would not

be returning.

"I had 10 minutes to gather my things and leave my home. Ten minutes to leave behind a part of my life, that's a bit short, that's very brutal." she told weekly news magazine Le Point published Monday.

The threats coincide with the trial of 14 suspected accomplices of the perpetrators of the massacres at Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish supermarket that left a total of 17 dead. Twelve people, including

some of France's most celebrated cartoonists, were killed on January 7, 2015, when brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi went on a gun rampage at the offices of Charlie Hebdo, whose no-taboo style, including publishing cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, had divided the country. There is "a crazy amount

of hatred surrounding Charlie Hebdo", Bret told Le Point, saying the forced departure from her home "translates the unprecedented level of tension

that we are having to deal

with" Since the start of the trial, which prompted Charlie Hebdo to republish controversial cartoons, "we have received all kinds of horrible messages, notably threats from Al-Qaeda, and calls to finish the job started by the Kouachi brothers, Bret said.

Al-Qaeda earlier this month threatened Charlie Hebdo with a repeat of the massacre of its staff.

SEA OF IJOY Filipino primary school teacher happy to give it back after social media alerts the owner Surfboard drifts 8,000 km from Hawaii to Philippines

Manila, Sept. 22: When big wave surfer Doug Falter lost his board in a wipeout in Hawaii, his best hope was for a local fisherman to pick it up. He never imagined it would be found more than 8,000 kilometres (5,000 miles) away in the southern

Philippines. More than two years after watching his pale blue custom-shaped board disappear in the huge swell of Waimea Bay, Falter was alerted via social media that it had been found near the remote island of Sarangani. And the new owner — local primary school teacher and

aspiring surfer Giovanne Branzuela — was happy to give it back to him.

'When I saw the picture of it, I couldn't believe it, I thought it was a joke almost," Falter, 35, said via Zoom. "I was certain that the board would never be found again." Branzuela, who bought the badly weathered surfboard from his neighbour a couple of months ago for 2,000 pesos (\$40), said fishermen had found it floating in the sea in August 2018 — six months after Falter lost sight of it.

They thought it may have

fallen off a passing yacht and sold it to Branzuela's neighbour for a few dollars. Despite months drifting across the Pacific Ocean, the name of the board's shaper, Hawaii-based Lyle Carlson, was still visible on the nowvellowish surface.

Curious, Branzuela looked him up on Facebook and sent him a photo of the board. Carlson shared the picture on Instagram, tagging Falter. "It turned out it's a surfboard from Hawaii. I couldn't believe it myself,' Branzuela, 38, said via telephone. "It's been my dream to learn to surf and ride the

big waves here," he added. "For now I can use his surfboard. I told him I will take good care of it.

The pair have been chatting on Facebook and Falter plans to visit the small island to retrieve his board after Coronavirus travel restrictions are lifted.

"That board meant so much to me because of my accomplishments on it, said Falter, a commercial nhotographer who took up surfing about 15 years ago in Florida before moving to

"It was my first big wave surfboard custom shaped

for myself. I surfed it on the biggest days I've ever surfed in my life", he said, including the 2016 Eddie Aikau big wave surf contest in Waimea Bay when the swell was

20 metres (60 feet) high. Falter said he wants to give Branzuela a beginners surfboard in exchange for his and show him how to catch waves around Sarangani and neighbouring Balut island.

In the meantime, Falter shares short YouTube videos on surfing basics and is raising money to send supplies to Branzuela's - AFP



This undated handout photo shows Filipino teacher Giovanne Branzuela (L) posing with his surfboard, once owned by big wave surfer Doug Falter who lost it while surfing in Hawaii, along with his villagemates on Sarangani island in the Philippines.

WEDNESDAY | 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 | NEW DELHI

quick

INDICATORS -0.79 37,734.08 Nifty 50 11,153.70 -0.86 S&P 500* 3,275.25 -0.18 73.58 -0.25 Dollar (₹) 94.33 0.06 Pound Sterling (₹) 86.39 0.39 Euro (₹) 0.20 50,570▲99 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 0.21 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 41.65 IN 10-Yr bond yield 6.010 -0.005 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 0.666 -0.005

Amazon to come in four southern languages

* As of 9:30 PM IST

In a major move to break the language barrier for online shopping and expand e-commerce access to the next 30 crore customers, ahead of the festive season, Amazon is launching amazon.in shopping experience in four new Indian languages - Kannada. Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. With this, Amazon.in customers can now discover great deals and discounts, and read detailed product information.

Ducati launches new Scrambler 1100 Pro in India



Italian superbike maker Ducati on Tuesday said it has launched all-new Scrambler 1100 Pro and the 1100 Sport Pro in India, priced at ₹11.95 lakh and ₹13.74 lakh, respectively (ex-showroom). The bikes come with an 1100-cc engine mated to a six speed gearbox. "The new Scrambler 1100 Pro range takes those qualities a notch higher, said ucati India Managing Director Bipul Chandra.

Global cues pull down gold price further in India

Gold prices tumbled ₹672 to ₹51,328 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a weak global trend. The vellow metal had closed at ₹52,000 per 10 gram in the previous trading session. Silver also witnessed massive selloff with prices tanking ₹5,781 to ₹61,606 per kg from ₹67.387 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi plunged ₹672, reflecting selloff in international prices despite rupee fall.

Bayer gets DCGI nod for injection to treat DME

New Delhi: Bayer in India on Tuesday said it has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India for its intravitreal injection Aflibercept, for the treatment of a new indication Diabetic Macular Edema (DME). The approval of Aflibercept injection for intravitreal use presents a new and alternative treatment option to currently available therapies, for patients with DME, Bayer said.

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Ambani plans ₹4K phone LIC plans Covid policy,

Jio asked local handset makers to ramp up their capacities

Reliance Industries Ltd has asked local suppliers to ramp up production capacity in India so they can make as many as 20 crore smartphones over the next two years, according to people familiar with the matter, a potentially enormous boost for the country's technology ambitions and a warning shot to rivals such as Xiaomi Corp.

India's most valuable company is in talks with domestic assemblers to make a version of its Jio phone that would run on Google's Android and cost about ₹4,000 (\$54), said the people, asking not to be identified since the plans are private. The inexpensive phones will be marketed with low-cost wireless plans from Reliance Jio, the parent company's carrier, they said.

chairman Reliance Mukesh Ambani is aiming to remake the country's smartphone

BOOST TO MAKE IN INDIA

• Reliance's target of selling 15 crore to 20 crore phones over two years would represent a massive boost for local factories.

 India assembled an estimated 16.5 crore smartphones in the year ended March, and about an equal number of basic feature phones.

much like he did in wireless services, where his aggressive prices and simple plans quickly made him the dominant force. The billionaire is also aligning himself with India's plans to build more domestic manufacturing, a possible boost for local assemblers like Dixon Technologies India, Lava

Karbonn Mobiles. "We are of course trying Representatives

Reliance's target of selling 15 crore to 20 crore phones over two years would represent a massive boost for local factories. India assembled an estimated 16.5 crore smartphones in the year ended March, and about an equal number of basic feature phones, according to Mohindroo's association. About a fifth of the smart-

Reliance rival Bharti Airtel is also in talks with assemblers to build its own 4G device, local

alliance broad Google, in which the Alphabet Inc. unit would invest \$4.5 billion and cooperate on technology initiatives. The partnership is still under regulatory review so Reliance is proceeding with the mobile phone initiative on its own for now.

Reliance declined to com-

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22 With the rising numbers of deaths in India due to Covid19 disease, the country's life insurance behemoth, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), is all set to come out with a Covid-specific cover. The new Covid product is under consideration and awaiting a 'green signal' phones cost less than ₹7,000, or about \$100. from the insurance regulator Insurance Regula-tory and Development

Authority of India (Irdai). "We have already filed a Covid-specific product with IRDA and are waitmedia has reported. Reliance in July struck a ing for its approval. How-ever, the forthcoming new

product will be of a shortterm duration for the customers," Mukesh Gupta, managing director of LIC, told Financial Chronicle. Covid-19 related deaths in the country have already reached 88,935, while the Coronavirus case tally has crossed over 55 lakh mark. However the insurer feels that the

awaits IRDA's approval **MADHUSUDAN SAHOO** We have already filed a Covidspecific product with IRDA and are waiting for its approval. However, the new

> short-term duration **MUKESH GUPTA,**

product will be of a

to bring more and more people under the life insurance cover during the pandemic.

While refusing to divulge more details about benefits and premium of the new product, Gupta said, "It is still in the works. After the approval from the regulator, we will make it public.

Though the insurer has also been providing the life cover for all its 28.92 crore LIC policyholders against the pandemic, the new cover is expected to charge a different premium as well as offer different benefits for its cus-

that the number of death claims for the corporation is still low. LIC has so far, he said, settled a total Covid claims worth ₹42.48 crore against 956 policies, covering 430 lives.

"In case of the death of any policyholder due to Covid-19, we are paying the death claim immediately after getting the required documents. We have even relaxed our norms for receiving the required documents physically and accepting the

online submission via

Whatsapp," he said. "LIC has settled more claims than all other insurance companies if put together. Due to the killer pandemic, more people are buying insurance and I hope the trend would continue with peo-ple buying adequate life coverage for themselves and their families as well. LIC is currently running its month-long awareness drive for the revival of existing policies to increase its renewal pre-

mium by 5-6 per cent," he

Gupta, however, feels

RBI SAYS NO PLAN TO REVIVE PMC BANK YET

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday said that it is yet to come up with a workable plan to revive fraud hit Puniab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, and appointed a new administrator for the bank as the present administrator is

stepping down.
While it has been exploring various options for resolution of PMC Bank along with the administrator, the RBI said several factors such as huge losses incurred by the bank resulting in its entire net worth getting wiped out, steep erosion in deposits, among others continue to pose serious challenges in finding a workable plan for revival of the bank.

The bank has also been making efforts for recovery of NPAs although the progress has been con-strained because of the pandemic and legal complexities. Nevertheless, in the interest of the depositors, PMC Bank and RBI are continuing to engage with the stakeholders to explore the possibility of finding a viable and workable solution for the resolution of the bank," said RBI in a statement.

The RBI appointed former Union Bank of India executive A K Dixit as the new administrator of PMC Bank.

Mumbai, Sept. 22: The billionaire Mistry family, the

largest minority share-

holder of the Tata Group,

said that it needs to sepa

rate its interests after

India's biggest conglomer-

ate took steps to block the

family's attempt to borrow

Tata Sons informed the

Supreme Court Tuesday

that it's open to buying

out the 18 per cent stake

owned by the Mistry fami-

ly's cash-strapped Shapoorji Pallonji Group

against Tata

Trump seeks to end social media shield

to build our domestic com-

panies. We have a sweet

spot in entry level phones," said Pankaj

Mohindroo, chairman of

the India Cellular &

during an interview on

Bloomberg Television.
"The world has realised

that India is a great place

to do business and a great

place to do manufacturing

Association,

Electronic

To consult state attorneys to make social media companies liable for user content

Washington, Sept. 22: US President Donald Trump plans to meet on Wednesday with a group of Republican state attorneys general about revising a key law that shields social media companies from liability for content posted by their users and allows them to remove lawful but objectionable

"Online censorship goes far beyond the issue of free speech, it's also one of protecting consumers and ensuring they are informed of their rights and resources to fight back under the law," White House spokesman Judd neys general are on the front lines of this issue and the President wants to hear their perspectives.'

A person briefed on the said Trump expected to meet with the state attorneys general of Arizona, Utah, ana, Arkansas, Louisiana. Mississippi. South Carolina and Missouri.

The planned meeting was reported earlier by the Washington Post. In May, Trump signed an

executive order that seeks new regulatory oversight of tech firms' content moderation decisions and backed legislation to scrap

Today, it is with a heavy heart that

separation of interests

would best serve all

stakeholder groups

believes that a

the Mistry family

SHAPOORJI PALLONJI

if the latter needed to

raise money for paying maturing debt. The SP

Group instead wanted to

borrow funds using the

shares as collateral, a

GROUP STATEMENT

 US President Donald Trump plans to revise a key law that shields social media companies from liability for content posted by their users, but gives them right to remove objectionable posts Trump's A group representing

LETHAL ATTACK

move comes days after Twitter warned readers to factcheck his posts about unsubstantiated claims of fraud in mailin voting



limit protecor weaken the law, Section

He directed the commerce department to file the petition asking the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to limit protections under Section 230 after Twitter Inc warned readers in May to fact-check his posts about unsubstantiated claims of fraud in mail-

in voting.
FCC Chairman Ajit Pai opened the petition to a 45day public comment. Earlier this month, the Republican state attorneys general of Texas,

Louisiana, Indiana and

move that the Tata Group

considers as potentially

ties may end up falling in

the hands of unfriendly

to block this crucial fund

raise, without any heed

for the collateral conse-

quences, is the latest demonstration of their vindictive mind-set," the

SP Group said in a state-

"The SP-Tata relation-

ship spanning over 70

years, was forged on

ment late Tuesday.

"The action by Tata Sons

investors.

Mistry family may exit Tata group

Missouri backed Trump's arguing social media platforms cannot be truly free "unless the participants understand the rules of the forum, and competition is able to provide alternatives when speech restrictions go too

major inter-

net compa-

nies urged

US communi-

FCC to reject

cation body

Trump's

petition to

A group representing major internet companies including Facebook Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google urged the FCC to reject the petition, calling it "misguided, lacks grounding in law, and poses serious public policy concerns." — Reuters

mutual trust, good faith,

and friendship. Today, it is

with a heavy heart that

the Mistry family believes

that a separation of inter-

stakeholder groups.

ests would best serve all

It didn't specify what

any separation would entail. A representative

for Tata Sons declined to

comment. Feud between the Tata Group and the

Mistry family began after

Cyrus Mistry was dis-

missed from the post of

Tata Sons chairman a few

years back. — Bloomberg

India witnesses jump in import of lab diamonds

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 22

While the import of rough natural diamonds was down due to voluntary stoppage by the industry, the purpose of the restriction was defeated due to doubling of cut and polished diamond imports by special economic zones. The import of rough labgrown diamonds too has doubled in August.

idea behind launching a

Covid-specific product is

The industry body had requested exporters to consider voluntarily stopping the import of rough diamonds for a month starting from May 15. The decision was intended to clear the inventory in the pipeline before buying new roughs. India had around\$2 billion worth of rough diamond inventory and some \$5 billion polished diamonds in the pipeline at that time. So the import of rough

diamonds fell in the subsequent months. However,

imports have started picking up, but are still down from year-ago levels. Between April and August, rough diamond imp orts were down 72 per cent at ₹9,095 crore against ₹37,413 crore in the same period last year. In the month of August, imports were down by 40 per cent. However, the purpose

seems to have been defeated as SEZz imported cut and polished diamonds worth ₹1,175 crore in August against ₹508 crore in the yearago period. Similarly, the period between April August, imports were up by 212 per cent to ₹4,663 crore against ₹1,491 crore in the yearago period. The import of rough lab-

grown diamonds went up by 110 per cent in August as China and Hong Kong opened up and the demand rose in Europe and the UK ahead of the

INVESTORS FIND PUBLIC ISSUES A LOT ATTRACTIVE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

Action appears to have shifted to the primary market with Computer Management Services' ₹2,242-crore IPO getting fully subscribed a day ahead of its closure on Wednesday. The Sensex and the

Nifty, however, fell for the fourth consecutive session as the secondary market faced selling pressure due to the second wave of Covid-19 in many parts of the world.

As per information available on the stock exchanges, the CAMS public issue has been subscribed 1.93 times on the second day of bidding. The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 2.91 times. Qualified Institutional Buyer and Non-Institutional Investor category scribed 0.83 and 1.22 times

respectively.
Another IPO floated by Chemcon Speciality Chemicals for raising ₹318 crore has also been subscribed 12.62 times a day ahead of its closure on Wednesday. Angel Broking's ₹600-crore IPO received a good response on the first day and was subscribed 0.76 times.

Kerala all set to get medical devices park

CHENNAI, SEPT. 22

Kerala will get one among the four medical device parks proposed by the Central government. The park will provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry, including research and development support, testing, and evaluation.

MedSpark to be located at Life Science Park, Thiruvananthapuram, is a joint initiative of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the department of sci-

(DST) and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC).
This medical device

park will produce medical implants and extracorporeal devices. It will benefit small and medium-sized medical devices industries, which dominate the medical devices sector.

The Centre had earlier announced plans to set up medical devices parks in India as part of becoming self-reliant in the sector. Other three parks are expected to come up in Tamil Nadu, AP and Telangana.

NSE, SGX END ARBITRATION OVER NIFTY

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

NSE and Singapore Exchange (SGX) have decided to withdraw arbitration proceedings over the Indian bourse's decision to stop licensing its index Nifty to foreign bourses.

They have also agreed to cement terms for opera-tionalising the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect to create a bigger liquidity pool for Nifty products at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).

COVID IMPACT

Lay-offs in Gulf countries force migrant workers to send all money home before flying back

Spurt in remittance hints at workers' final return

Karachi/Manila, Sept. 22: Migrant workers from Asia's developing countries have managed to send home record amounts of money in recent months, defying pandemic expectations and propping up home economies at a critical time.

Remittance doomsayers see something else in the bigger-than-usual transfers: a coming crash, triggered by a bleak job market, particularly in the Middle East. As they see opportunity drying up along with demand for oil,

workers are sending money home in advance of their own return. The Philippines govern-

ment, for example, expects almost three lakh overseas Filipinos to come home this year, with potentially severe consequences: Remittances make up about 10 per cent of the economy and have pushed the peso to a threeyear high against the dol-

lar.
"People are returning home," said Thomas Isaac, the finance minister for Indian state of Kerala,

which accounts for the country's largest share of remittances. "Therefore, they bring back all their

India is the world's top recipient of transfers and a leading supplier of labour to the Gulf; it took in \$83 billion last year, exceeding the \$51 billion it took in as foreign direct investment. Overall, remittances to

the Asia-Pacific region will drop 12 per cent in the second half of 2020 compared with the same period last year, Fitch Ratings

said this month. "That will drive a decline in remittances as the temporary supporting factors ' said Jeremy Zook, a director at Fitch Ratings based in Hong Kong. Unlike Latin American

countries, which continue to benefit from a tentative US recovery, Asian countries are vulnerable to economic austerity in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East.

More than 60 per cent of remittances to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan from

Cooperation Council countries, said Khurram Schehzad, chief executive officer at Karachi-based advisory Alpha Beta Core Solutions.

The region is also the top destination for workers from the Philippines, one of the world's largest suppliers of overseas labour.

Saudi Arabia has already raised taxes and import fees to make up for falling oil revenue. Job in the kingdom appear to target foreigners first, with Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment estimating more than a million foreign workers will leave the labour market this year.

After eight years of sending money to family in Karachi, Abdul Hanan Abro is one of the workers who will follow his money home. He was laid off from his accounting job in Dubai in May and hasn't found a new gig — and he's not the only one.

"No one is getting anything," said Abro. "Two to three of my friends have already moved back to Lahore. People are selling

their cars and stuff, doing their final settlements. For Abro, coming home

means starting over. He wants to use the savings he accumulated overseas to start a business. "It's high time to just focus on what I was planning for two to three years now, Abro said. "It's better than wasting more time in finding a job in this market.'

In April, the World Bank predicted overseas workers would send home 20 per cent less this year, the biggest drop since at least Bloomberg SHORT TAKES

Original 9 in line for Tennis Hall

Newport: Billie Jean King and the other members of the Original 9 who laid the groundwork for the women's professional tennis tour are the first group nominated together for the International Tennis Hall of Fame. They join Jonas Bjorkman, Sergi Bruguera, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Lleyton Hewitt, Lisa Raymond and the late Dennis Van der Meer on the ballot announced on Monday for the Hall's Class of 2021. Wednesday is the 50th anniversary of when King, elected to the Hall in 1987 for her accomplishments on the court, and eight other players Peaches Bartkowicz, Rosie Casals, Judy Dalton, Julie Heldman, Kerry Melville Reid, Kristy Pigeon, Nancy Richey and Valerie Ziegenfuss signed 1 contracts to participate in the first women-only tennis tournament, taking a stand against the disparity in prize money between men and women at the time.

Ankita advances, Ramkumar out

Paris: India's Ankita Raina progressed to the second round of the French Open qualifiers with a hard-fought win over Jovana Jovic on Tuesday but Ramkumar Ramanathan's bid to qualify for his maiden Grand Slam singles main draw fell flat. In a marathon two-hour 47 minute contest, Ankita pre-vailed 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 against the Serbian. The 27-year-old Indian won 106 points to 100 of her rival. It was first meeting between the two players since 2014 when Ankita had lost to Jovic in Anning on clay courts. Ankita will next take on Japan's Kurumi Nara, seeded 22nd. In the men's singles, Ramkumar bowed out after a straight set defeat against French wild card Tristan Lamasine.

The Indian Davis Cupper, ranked 198, lost 5-7 2-6 to lower-ranked Lamasine in one hour and 27 minutes. — PTI

Suarez in Italian language test row

Rome: Authorities are investigating whether Barcelona striker Luis Suarez was illegally helped to pass an Italian language exam last week in order to receive a European passport that could help him transfer to

a new club.

While Suarez is not under investigation, the director and general director of the Perugia university where the Uruguay forward took the exam are being investigated for allegedly neiping him pass the test, Italian reports said Tuesday. Su rez had been linked with a possible move to Italian champion Juventus

Suarez's test grade was allegedly fixed before he took

Suarez is from Uruguay but has Italian ancestors. If he can obtain Italian citizenship, he wouldn't have to occupy a non-EU spot with a new club. - AP

Tour team under

dope scanner Paris: French judicial authorities

have opened a preliminary investigation into suspected doping during the Tour de France targeting the Arkea-Samsic team, the French outfit confirmed

Following reports in the French press that two persons close to the squad led by Colombian rider Nairo Quintana a former Giro d'Italia and Spanish Vuelta champion were being held for questioning, cycling governing body the UCI later said it has been in touch with a special public health unit as part of the operation carried out by French

Live on

IPL: Kolkata vs Mumbai from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

England Women vs West Indies nen: Second T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

ATP Hamburg European Open: Sony Six, HD **WWE NXT**

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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ROYAL HIGHNESS Mumbai look

Both teams score 200 but Rajasthan beat Super Kings

Sharjah, Sept. 22: Rajasthan Royals beat Chennai Super Kings by 16 runs in an IPL game on Tuesday riding on brilliant performances from Sanju Samson (74 off 32 balls), Steve Smith (69 off 47 balls) and Jofra Archer (27 off 8 balls, 1/26).

Batting first Royals scored 216/7 with the help of 17 sixes hit by their batsmen and nine by Samson alone.

In reply, CSK could manage 200/6 with Faf du Plessis scoring 72 off 37 ball with the help of seven sixes. Mahendra Singh Dhoni scored 29 off 17 balls but it was Rahul Tewatia's leg breaks that caused a lot of damage to top order. Tewatia took 3/37 in his four overs while Archer bowled a brilliant 19th over to seal the match.

Sent into bat, Rajasthan lost young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) in the third over but then Samson joined hands with Smith as the duo played sensibly initially before the Kerala wicket-keeper batsman went hammer and tongs at opposition

spinners. Samson (74 off 32) looked in great nick, while Smith, returning to competitive cricket after recovering from concussion suffered before the ODI series against England, made 67 off 49 balls to lay the base for Rajasthan's total.

In the final over, Jofra Archer (27 off 8 balls) hit four sixes off Lungi Ngidi as Royals got 30 runs to take the score past 215. In all, Royals hit 17 sixes

with Samson accounting for nine of them and Smith and Archer having four each in their

While Smith played the second fiddle initially, Samson took the CSK spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Pivush Chawla to task



Steve Smith of the Rajasthan Royals plays a shot on way to his half-century against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

taking 95 runs of eight overs collectively.

Introduced into the attack in the seventh over,

Jadeja was clobbered for consecutive sixes Samson before Chawla went for four sixes in his first over — three by Samson and one by Smith. Samson, thus, brought

just 19 balls with the help of one boundary and six hits over the fence. If that was not enough for Chawla, the leg-spinner again leaked in his

next over as both Samson

and Smith took him to

up his quickest IPL fifty in

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c & b Chahar 6, Steve Smith c Jadhav b Curran 69. Saniu Samson c Chahar b Ngidi 74. David Miller run out (Gaikwad/Jadhav) O, Robin Uthappa c du Plessis b Chawla 5, Rahul Tewatia Ibw b Curran 10, Riyan Parag c Dhoni b Curran 6, Tom Curran (not out) 10, Jofra Archer (not out) 27. Extras: (b-1, nb-3, w-5) 9. Total: (for 7

wkts, in 20 overs) 216. FoW: 1-11, 2-132, 3-134, 4-149, 5-167, 6-173, 7-178

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-31-1, Sam Curran 4-0-33-3, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-56-1, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-40-0, Piyush Chawla 4-0-55-1.

Scorecard Chennai Super Kings: Murali Vijay c Tom Curran b Shreyas Gopal 21, Shane Watson b Rahul Tewatia 33. Faf du Plessis c Sanju Samson b Jofra Archer 72, Sam Curran st Sanju Samson b Rahul Tewatia 17, Ruturaj Gaikwad st Sanju Samson b Rahul Tewatia O, Kedar Jadhav c Sanju Samson b Curran 22, Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out 29, Ravindra Jadeja not out 1. Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-3) 5. Total: (in 20 overs) 200/6. FoW: 1-56, 2-58, 3-77, 4-77, 5-114, 6-179. Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-44-0, Jofra Archer 4-0-26-1, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-38-1, Tom Curran 4-0-54-1, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-37-3.

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 22: Grace and strength will be on one

to bounce back

side while poise and killer instinct on the other when a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders take on Mumbai Indians, who have once again faltered in the beginning of the IPL, on Wednesday. Since 2013, MI have never

won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings, who took control of the match during the last overs of the first innings. They will be keen to bounce back while KKR would look for a perfect

begining as it will be a battle between big hitters on both sides on a sluggish Abu Dhabi track. It will be Shubman Gill's

third IPL, the one where he would like to own the stage with his languid grace and effortless hitting, which he is so capable of. He can hit sixes over extra cover with grace and caress the ball through covers too.

These are exactly the traits that made Rohit Sharma, the great white ball exponent that he is. Seasoned Rohit versus young Shubman is one for the keeps and makes this battle enticing. But it's not just grace which makes T20 so appealing. The brute masculinity of power that sends the ball soaring into the orbit is

what makes it so special. Hardik Pandya, who is back with a chiselled body. Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against **Chennai Super** Kings, who took control of the match during the last 10 overs of the first innings.

There is no doubt that he can unleash his firepower against Sunil Narine and Kuldeep Yadav as well as KKR's highest paid multi million dollar recruit Pat
Cummins. The second
pacer could be between Prasidh Krishana and Kamlesh Nagarkoti. But Hardik will find his match in Andre Russell, easily the most destructive hitter in current T20 cricket.

Russell had openly criticised the team management last year for sending him down the order. He had hit 52 sixes during one of KKR's worst editions.

But this time, he has been promised a promotion to number three slot and this could spell doom for any opposition.

"If it benefits the team and helps us win games, why not. If that meant Russell comes in at three and bats 60 balls, he might actually make a double hundred. Anything can happen with Dre Russ," KKR mentor David Hussey had said recently.

NUMBERS GAME — MI vs KKR

OVERALL: Matches: 25 Mumbai won: 19

Kolkata won: 6 **MEETING IN 2019**

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Mumbai Indians by 34 runs in Kolkata Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets in Mumbai

FOR THE RECORD Andre Russell's strike rate is the best in IPL. He made 1342 runs off 711 balls in 48 innings of 57 runs at a strike rate of

Nieron Pollard will become the 14th player to appear in 150 or more matches in IPL. The West Indian all rounder played all 149 matches for Mumbai Indians in IPL

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

Kohli goes gaga over Chahal **Dubai, Sept. 22:** Crediting Yuzvendra Chahal's

three-wicket burst for his side's 10-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL-opener, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain virat Konii said the wrist spinner proved that he can get purchase on any wicket.

Chahal (3/18) removed in-form Englishman Jonny Bairstow (61) and Vijay Shankar in successive balls in the 16th over to tilt the game decisively in RCB's favour. He had earlier gotten rid of Manish Pandey (34) in the

"It's amazing to be honest. Last year, we were on the other side of the result, 6-nil to start. It is nice to be 1-nil. We kept our composure tonight," Kohli said at the postmatch presentation on Monday.

Yuzi (Chahal) comes in and completely changed the game for us. Not many spinners got much out of the pitch, but tonight he showed that you can turn it if you have it in your wrists. He showed he can get purchase on any wicket. The way he came in and

PADIKKAL IMPRESSES ON DEBUT

Sept. Considered a future India star, Devdutt Padikkai impressive IPL debut with a scintillating fifty but the young Kerala batsman says he was nervous when his place in the playing XI was confirmed to him.

Displaying a range of shots and confidence in striking the ball hard and clean, the 20-yearold scored a 42-ball 56 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore post 163 for 5 against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"I was very nervous upon hearing the news of making my debut. But when I came to bat I settled down after playing a few halls "Padikkal told Chahal during an inter-

bowled attacking lines, he changed the game.' Talking about his side's batting, Kohli said, "We started really Devdutt Padikkal was really good on debut, Finchy as well. AB bat-



the match award on Monday.

action after the match. Padikkal said he has learnt a lot from RCB and India skipper Virat Kohli. "The last one month that we practiced, I learnt a lot from Virat

past 160. Player of the match

ting in the last three overs helped us push it

Chahal said, "When I bowled my first over, I realised I need to bowl stump-to-stump line and

bhaiva. I kept asking him questions whenever I was around him. Even today, when I was playing with Finch, he showed a lot of confidence in me.

backed myself.

"At one point they were batting well and I was trying to bowl loopy ones and wide of the reach which helped in building

MARSH MAY BE RULED OUT OF IPL

Sept. Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is likely to be ruled out of the remainder of the IPL as the ankle injury he suffered during the game against RCB has turned out to be "serious", team sources said on Tuesday.

Playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad, Marsh was handed the ball by skip-per David Warner to bowl the fifth over but he could bowl only four deliveries.

Marsh, whose career has been marred by a series of injuries, twisted his ankle in the second ball while trying to stop a drive by Aaron Finch in his follow through but managed to bowl two more balls before hobbling out.

He later, courageously, came out to bat at number 10 in SRH's chase but it was evident that he was finding it even difficult to stand. "It seems a serious injury. I am not sure if he be able to compete in any of the matches," a team source said.

W L N/R Pts NRR Teams 1 1 0 0 2 +0.800 Rajasthan Royals Royal Challengers Bangalore 1 1 0 0 2 +0.500 Delhi Capitals 1 1 0 0 2 +0.000 Chennai Super Kings 2 1 1 0 2 -0.145 Kings XI Punjab Kolkata Knight Riders Mumbai Indians 0 0 -0.486 1 0 1 0 0 -0.500 Sunrisers Hyderabad Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

Wadia calls for better umpiring standards

New Delhi, Sept. 22: Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia wants the BCCI to ensure better umpiring standards and optimum use of technology in the IPL, following an umpiring howler which cost his team a match against Delhi

Wadia expressed his views after KXIP appealed against on-field umpire Nitin Menon's controversial 'short run' call at a crunch time of the game held on Sunday in Dubai.

"It is exceedingly unfortunate that today with tremendous use of technology, we still do not use technology to ensure the total fairness and transparency in cricket game, Wadia said.

"I would request BCCI to ensure better umpiring and to ensure henceforth that technology is used to the maximum so as to ensure fairness and transparency in a game which is used across the best leagues in the world.'

IBRAHIMOVIC'S BRACE GIVES AC COOL START

Milan, Sept. 22: Zlatan twice as AC Milan got their Serie A campaign up and running with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Monday.

Ibrahimovic, who turns 39 next month, showed he has lost none of his goalscoring skills having also last against Irish side Shamrock Rovers in the Europa League.

"If I had been 20 years old I would have scored two more goals. I'm like Benjamin Button, born old, but I'll die young. Seriously, the team has worked well: you can see we're not at 100 per cent yet, but it was important to start

Ibrahimovic grabbed the opener in the 35th minute, rising higher than Danilo to get his head to a Theo Hernandez cross, and celebrated in front of the 1,000 spectators allowed into the San Siro for the first time since the pandemic mostly invited frontline health workers who had toiled during

well," said the Swede.

the worst of the crisis. The Swede missed a chance for a second shortly after when he was denied by a sliding tackle from Brazilian defender Danilo. But six minutes after the break he added a second from the penalty

Manchester City's Phil Foden (right) is congratulated by teammate Raheem Sterling after he scored against Wolverhampton Wanderers in their Premier League match in Wolverhampton on Monday.

'Incredible' Foden keeps Wolves at bay Wolverhampton, Sept. 22: Pep Guardiola labelled Phil Foden as "incredible" after Manchester City survived a scare to start their Premier

League title challenge with a 3-1 win against Wolves on Monday. City's delayed start to the campaign — due to their involvement in last season's Champions League – had allowed Liverpool to build a six-point lead over them before they had even kicked a ball. Guardiola's side could not afford to slip up at Molineux if they wanted to keep pace with the champi-

> Bruyne's penalty Foden's cool finish. and City's swaggering first half gave way to an anxious spell as Wolves dominated after the interval and they

ons and they raced into a

two-goal lead before half-

time thanks to Kevin De

THE RESULTS Aston Villa (Konsa 63)

Sheffield United Wolves Manchester City (De Bruyne 20-pen, Foden 32, Jesus 90)

had to cling on afer Raul Jimenez got one back before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points in stoppage time. Foden's goal was a welcome morale boost in his first match since the midfielder was sent home in disgrace, along with United's Mason Greenwood, after the pair invited local women into the England team's hotel. The breach of

coronavirus protocols after

England's Nations League

match in Iceland was publicly condemned by City, but the 20-year-old retains Guardiola's trust.

"For the goal and in the second half Foden played incredibly well, he helped keep the Guardiola said.

While City equalled Aston Villa's record of winning 10 consecutive opening fix-tures to a season, there is little doubt Liverpool remain the League's preem-

inent force for now. Guardiola delighted to open with a victory given the shorter than usual pre-season.

"We could not run much because we are tired in our legs but in general we did a good game," he said.

It feels like a crucial season for City and Guardiola as they look to regain the

title they won in 2018 and