

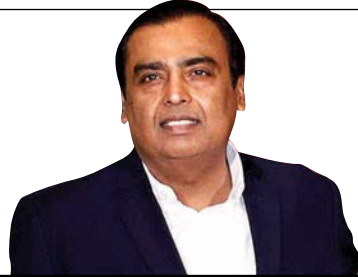
# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020



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**‘Wife-beater’ DGP’s spouse faces attack from daughter, mediaperson**



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**India’s wealthy got thrice rich in 5 years, claims new survey**

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**Aamir Khan has started filming in New Delhi for *Lal Singh Chadha***



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**Bilkis Bano, who became the face of Shaheen Bagh’s protests, after being felicitated in New Delhi on Tuesday. Bilkis was named as one of the world’s ‘100 Most Influential People of 2020’ in a list released by *Time* magazine.**

— PTI

## AIIMS docs rule out poisoning in Sushant’s death

**Mumbai:** The investigators in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case on Tuesday revealed that the viscera report from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has ruled out poisoning as the cause of death of the actor. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), meanwhile, stated that more actors are likely to be summoned in connection with the probe.

**Full report on Page 4**

## Amnesty exits India, alleges ‘witch-hunt’

**New Delhi:** Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an ‘incessant witch-hunt’ over unfounded and motivated allegations. However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving funds illegally.

**Full report on Page 3**

## Kuwait ruler Sheikh Sabah dies at 91

**Dubai:** Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruler of Kuwait who drew on his decades as the oil-rich nation’s top diplomat to push for closer ties to Iraq after the 1990 Gulf War and solutions to other regional crises, died Tuesday. He was 91. Sheikh Sabah is expected to be succeeded by his half brother.

## COUNTERPOINT



**I promise to get you the first dose of vaccine!**

## WEATHER



**Max:** 32°C  
**Min:** 22°C  
**RH:** 43%  
**Rain:** Nil

**Forecast:** Clear sky

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Adhika Ashwayuja  
Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.27 am  
**Star:** Purvabhadra till 3.14 am (Thursday)  
**Varjyam:** 7.51 am To 9.37  
**Durmuhurtam:** 11.42 am to 12.29 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 12 noon to 1.30  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.09 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.14 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.09 PM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 4.38 AM**

**■ In fresh sparring, Delhi warns Beijing not to act unilaterally**

## India hits back, tells China ‘59 version of LAC not acceptable

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India has never accepted the so-called Chinese unilaterally-defined 1959 version of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and therefore the “insistence of the Chinese side now that there is only one LAC is against the solemn commitments made by China” in previous agreements, New Delhi told Beijing on Tuesday evening, in the latest round of diplomatic sparring between the two sides. India also said it was China which did not show any willingness after 2003 to pursue the then ongoing exercise by both sides “to clarify and confirm the LAC”. Stating firmly that China should “refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC”, India reiterated it was “the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the western sector (of the LAC), and has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo” in the Ladakh sector in the past few months.

The latest strong reaction from New Delhi followed reported remarks by the Chinese foreign ministry from Beijing on the LAC that was quoted in an Indian newspaper report. Both nations have different perceptions of the LAC. According to reports, the Chinese foreign ministry was cited as saying that China abides by the LAC proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to India’s then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated November 7, 1959.

The external affairs ministry said: “India has never accepted the

**■ Turn to Page 3**

## Jaishankar in Tokyo Oct. 6-7: ‘Quad’ to send signal to China

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI/TOKYO, SEPT. 29

In a major step that will send a strong signal to China during heightened tensions in Ladakh and elsewhere, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar will visit Japan on October 6-7 to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the four-nation “Quadrilateral”, or “Quad”—the United States, India, Japan and Australia. He will also hold individual bilateral consultations with each of the other foreign ministers.

But interestingly, a statement by the external affairs ministry made no mention of “Quad”, but only that the four nations’



Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

ministers of the four nations would “discuss regional issues and collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific”, apart from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Just last week, senior officials of the four nations held a virtual meeting for consultations, obviously in a preparatory meeting for the foreign ministers’ meeting next month. The Quad’s significance has

become even more after Beijing’s increased military posturing in the South China Sea and the larger Indo-Pacific region. All four Quad nations have strained ties with China.

In a statement, the MEA said: “Dr S. Jaishankar will visit Tokyo from 6-7 October 2020 for bilateral consultations with the Japanese foreign minister. The two ministers are expected to discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest... EAM will also hold bilateral consultations with the foreign ministers of Australia and the United States during his visit to Japan... He will also participate in the second India-Australia-Japan-US

**■ Turn to Page 3**

## Uneasy ‘no war, no peace’ in Ladakh now: IAF Chief

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria, said Tuesday that the present security scenario along the country’s northern frontiers was an uneasy one a “no war, no peace” status. He was referring to the five-month-old India-China military standoff in eastern Ladakh. “Our defence forces are prepared for any eventuality,” he stressed.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria noted the Indian Air Force had responded to the situation with rapidity and was



IAF Chief R.K.S. Bhadauria

fully resolved to counter any “misadventure” in the region. “Air power will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is therefore imperative the IAF obtains and maintains a technological edge over our adversaries,” he said. The Air Chief said the

recent induction of Rafale fighter jets along with the previous acquisitions of C-17 Globemaster aircraft as well as Chinook and Apache helicopters have provided the IAF with substantial tactical and strategic capability enhancement. The Rafale jets have already flown sorties over the Ladakh sector and other regions where they are expected to undertake operations.

After India received the Rafale jets, Chinese J-20 fighters were spotted at the Hotan airbase, that is around 200 miles from Ladakh. The J-20 is China’s most advanced fighter jet.

## Bypolls to 56 Assembly, 1 LS seats on Nov. 3 and 7

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Bypolls for 56 Assembly seats in 12 states and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar will be held on November 3 and 7. The results will be declared on November 10 alongside Bihar Assembly polls results.

The Election Commission of India (ECI), however, said in a statement that it has decided not to hold Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal at this stage. There are two vacancies each in the assemblies of Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, while one seat is vacant in West Bengal. The term of the legislative Assemblies of these four states ends on different dates between May and June next year.

According to ECI, bypolls for 54 Assembly seats would be held on November 3 while that for one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar and two assembly seats in Manipur would be held on November 7.

“The decision has been taken based on inputs received from the chief secretaries and poll officials in these states”, ECI said.

## ■ Venkaiah Naidu tests +ve, asymptomatic 1 in 15 exposed to Covid-19 virus: Second sero-survey

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

One in 15 individuals aged 10 years and above were exposed to SARS-CoV2 (the virus that leads to Covid-19 disease) by August 2020, the second sero-survey conducted by ICMR revealed on Tuesday.

ICMR director general Dr Balram Bhargava said that though lockdown, containment and behavioural changes have managed to check the potential spread of SARS-CoV2, survey findings show that

about 90 per cent of the population is still vulnerable.

Dr Bhargava added that 6.6 per cent of the 29,082 people (aged 10 and above) surveyed between August 17 to September 22 showed evidence of past exposure to Covid-19 and 7.1 per cent of the adult population (aged 18 and above) showed evidence of past exposure to it.

Meanwhile, vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu tested positive for coronavirus during a routine test, his office said in a tweet on Tuesday evening. The 71-year-old,

who is in home quarantine, is asymptomatic and in good health, the tweet read.

Worldwide, the total number of people who have died of the novel coronavirus crossed the 1 million-mark on Tuesday even as Covid-19 cases continue to pile up in countries like the US, India, Brazil and others.

Reuters said, globally, more than 5,400 people are dying every day due to Covid-19. “That equates to about 226 people an hour, or one person every 16 seconds,” it said in a report.

## 100 die in Nagorno-Karabakh fighting: Pak troops involved?

**Armenia claims Turkey shot down jet; Azeris, Turks deny**

**Yerevan (Armenia), Sept. 29:** Armenia said one of its warplanes was shot down Tuesday by a fighter jet from Azerbaijan’s ally Turkey, killing the pilot, in fighting over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Both Turkey and Azerbaijan denied it. The move would be a major escalation in the decades-old conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It followed numerous calls

from around the globe for a ceasefire. Pakistani troops were also reported to be fighting in Azerbaijan against Armenia, according to some sources. A telephonic conversation between two Azerbaijani locals referred to the presence of Pakistani soldiers in the territory.

At least 100 people have been killed and dozens more wounded since the fighting broke out.

Armenian officials said its Air Force SU-25 was shot down in Armenian airspace by a Turkish F-16 fighter that took off from Azerbaijan, and the pilot was killed. The allegation was “absolutely untrue,” said Fahrettin Altun, communications director for Turkey’s President. Azerbaijani officials called it “another fantasy of the Armenian military propaganda machine.” — Agencies

## Protest over Hathras rape victim’s death



**Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad along with party workers protest outside Safdarjung Hospital over the death of Hathras gang-rape victim in New Delhi on Tuesday. A 19-year-old dalit woman from Hathras**

died at Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday, days after she was raped by four men. Security has been beefed up outside the hospital where Congress and Bhim Army activists are staging a protest. Meanwhile, the

Congress on Tuesday questioned the ‘silence’ of PM Narendra Modi and women leaders of his party, and alleged UP under the Yogi govt has become the ‘crime capital’ of the country.

— PTI

**■ Report on Page 2**

## PM: One party’s frustration set off farm law stir

**Dehradun, Sept. 29:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on those opposing the farm reform laws, saying they don’t want farmers to have the freedom of selling their produce in the open market.

Without naming the Congress, he said the frustration of “one party”, which had ruled for four generations, was at the root of this politics of opposition for opposition’s sake. The PM was speaking at the launch of mega projects in Uttarakhand via video conference.

“The Opposition has got just one way of doing politics, and that is by opposing,” he said, adding that those protesting against the farm bills are favouring middlemen. The PM said by opposing the Centre’s



Narendra Modi

reformative steps, such forces were making themselves socially irrelevant. Mr Modi said “one party” opposed everything, from Jan Dhan accounts, GST, one rank one pension, Rafale, Statue of Unity, 10 per cent quotas for the poor to celebration of November 26 as Samvidhan Diwas.

“The frustration of a party which ended up riding the shoulders of others despite wielding power for four generations is behind this politics of Opposition,” Mr Modi said.

— PTI

## BIHAR POLLS

## Kushwaha forms new front with Maya’s BSP

**NAYEER AZAD**  
PATNA, SEPT. 29

Former Union minister and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) chief Upendra Kushwaha announced on Tuesday that he was forming an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Janwadi Party Socialist (JPS).

Political analysts see this as Mr Kushwaha’s attempt to form a third front after he failed to strike a seat-sharing deal with the BJP and the grand alliance. Reports suggest that the RLSP was demanding a “sizeable” share of seats from the NDA which did not materialise due to the JD(U)’s unwillingness. Mr Kushwaha had quit the grand alliance a week earlier due to differences with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and was trying to return to the NDA fold. RLSP insiders said that Mr Kushwaha wanted more than 35 seats in the Assembly elections but the RJD was willing to spare only 10-12 seats for smaller partners like RLSP.

Mr Kushwaha said that the yet to be named front will contest all 243 Assembly seats.



## IN BRIEF

**Wanted criminal held after gunfight**

**Noida:** A wanted criminal was held by police in Greater Noida after an encounter in which he suffered a bullet injury, officials said Tuesday. The gunfight broke out late Monday night on a road stretch between LG Chowk and Sharda University roundabout in the Knowledge Park police station area, a senior officer said. "Two men on a motorcycle were intercepted by police. While one of them escaped, the other got hit on his leg during a gunfight. He was taken to a hospital and held," deputy commissioner of police, Greater Noida, Rajesh Kumar Singh said. "The accused has been identified as Salman, a native of Bulandshahr. He had nearly a dozen cases, including those of loot and under Gangsters Act, lodged against him," Singh said. He said Salman, around 25 years of age, was carrying a reward of ₹25,000 on his arrest. Two stolen mobile phones and one illegal firearm along with ammunition were seized from him, while his motorcycle has been impounded, police said. — PTI

**Punjab Youth Cong chief detained in city**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police on Tuesday detained Punjab Youth Congress (PYC) president Brinder Dhillon in connection with the tractor-burning incident near India Gate, officials said. The Congress' youth wing activists on Monday morning set a tractor ablaze near India Gate, a few hundred metres from the Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament, to protest the contentious farm laws. A senior police officer said that Dhillon has been detained in the case. Six of the PYC activists were arrested on Monday and police had also seized two vehicles in the matter. Police had said that around 20 people carried a tractor on a truck to Rajpath, Man Singh Crossing, unloaded it from the truck and set it on fire. According to police sources, the Punjab Youth Congress activists entered Lutyens' Delhi along with a Punjab Police car.

**Air quality likely to be 'poor' by Friday**

**New Delhi:** The national capital's air quality was recorded in the 'moderate' category on Tuesday, while a government forecasting agency said it is likely to turn 'poor' by Friday. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 177, which falls in the 'moderate' category. It was 159 on Monday. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. "Favourable ventilation condition is likely to keep Delhi's AQI in the 'moderate' category for the next two days," the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) said. The late withdrawal of monsoon and associated stagnant winds are likely to influence Delhi's air quality negatively by the weekend. By October 2, the air quality is likely to slip to the "lower end of the poor category", SAFAR said. — PTI

# Delhi Mahila Cong workers stage protest after victim dies

## Hathras gangrape: Bhim Army demands death for all culprits

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and his supporters held a protest on Tuesday at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, where a 19-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh's Hathras died days after being gangraped, demanding the culprits be sentenced to death. The Dalit woman succumbed to her injuries Tuesday morning. At the protest, the Bhim Army chief said: "I appeal to all members of the Dalit community to take to the streets and demand death penalty for the guilty. The government should not test our patience. We won't rest until the culprits are hanged." Azad had earlier demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government shift the woman to AIIMS for better treatment. "The

▶ The woman was gangraped a fortnight ago. The accused had tried to strangle her to death as she resisted the rape attempt. The four accused were arrested.

▶ She was admitted to Aligarh Muslim University's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital and shifted to Safdarjung Hospital on Monday.

state government is equally responsible for the death of our sister," he alleged.

The woman was gangraped a fortnight ago. The accused had tried to strangle her to death as she resisted their rape attempt and in the process, she had also ended up biting her tongue and suffering a severe cut on it. The four accused have been arrested.

She was admitted to Aligarh Muslim University's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital and shifted

to Safdarjung Hospital here on Monday.

Members of the Delhi Mahila Congress staged a protest at Vijay Chowk here on Tuesday demanding justice for the Hathras gangrape victim, following which they were detained by police.

Congress Rajya Sabha member P L Punia and former MP Udit Raj also joined the protest which was led by Delhi Mahila Congress president Amrita Dhawan. The protesters were taken to Mandir Marg police station, a senior police officer said.

The Delhi Mahila Congress members demanded that the culprits in the Hathras gang rape case be hanged.

Dhawan said the Mahila Congress members were trying to march towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan to demand justice for the victim when the police detained them. Punia and Raj were also detained by the police, she said.

A total of 25 men and 11 women protesters were detained and taken to Mandir Marg police station, said Deepak Yadav, additional deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi).

The victim, a 19-year-old Dalit woman, was allegedly raped by four men on September 14 in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras when she had gone to the fields with her mother. The accused tried to strangle her to death as she resisted their attempt.

**Cardiac patients avoid visiting hospitals due to Covid fear: Docs**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Covid lockdown witnesses an upsurge in patients suffering from advanced cardiac complications as patients fear visiting hospitals due to the fear of contracting the virus, health experts claimed.

Head, Cardiology, Paras Hospitals, Dr D.K. Jhamb said: "There has been a drop in patients reporting with acute coronary syndrome (ACS). Evidently, people are postponing hospital visits until it is absolutely unavoidable. In a nutshell, patients with cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and diabetes etc are experiencing delays in diagnosis and treatment, which in turn will significantly increase the burden of heart disease and preventable deaths".

Director, cardiology, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Dr. Anand Kumar Pandey said: "In the time of Covid pandemic heart patients are not only more at risk of infection rather their treatment process was also disturbed due to the lockdown and fear of infection. Many of the patients lost their lives as they did not come to the hospital on time due to the same fear of getting infected."

Head of Cardiac Sciences, Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka, Dr Yugalk Mishra pointed that not only delay of treatment or follow up due to fear of the Covid-19 infection, but the pandemic has also severely affected the heart and lung health of the infected patients.



Police detain a Mahila Congress activist during a protest over the death of a Dalit woman from Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, who was gangraped on September 14, near Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— PTI

## City records 48 Covid deaths in 24 hrs, highest since July 16

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The national capital reported 48 Covid-19 fatalities on Tuesday, the highest in over 70 days, as the toll climbed to 5,320, while 3,227 fresh cases pushed the tally to over 2.76 lakh, authorities said.

This is the highest number of deaths reported in a day since July 16, when the city recorded 58 fatalities.

On September 26, Delhi had recorded 46 deaths, 42 the next day and 37 on September 28. The fresh cases reported on Tuesday came out of the 59,102 tests conducted the previous day.

Forty-eight new fatalities have been recorded, taking the death toll to 5320, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The active cases' tally on Tuesday rose to 27,524 from 27,123 the previous day.

The death toll from Covid-19 in Delhi stood at

**Sisodia discharged from Max hospital**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who was suffering from Covid-19 and dengue, was discharged from hospital on Tuesday, officials said. Mr Sisodia, 48, was shifted to a hospital in Saket on Thursday evening, considering his "falling" blood platelet count and low oxygen level. "He was tested negative today and his condition is better. He has been discharged from the hospital," said an official from the deputy chief minister's office.

5,272 on Monday. The Tuesday bulletin said the total number of cases has climbed to 2,76,325. The number of containment zones in Delhi jumped to 2505 on Tuesday from 2,465 on Monday. The positivity rate on

Tuesday stood at 5.46 per cent while the recovery rate was over 88 per cent, the bulletin said, adding the case fatality rate stood at 1.93 per cent. The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing in the past few days. The number of tests conducted and corresponding fresh cases reported, ranged from 24198 (2312) on September 1 to 61,973 (4071) on September 19.

The number of Rapid Antigen Tests conducted on Tuesday stood at 4,9526 while the RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests figures were 9576 in all adding to 59,102, according to the bulletin. The number of tests done per million, as on Tuesday was over 1.58 lakh while the total number of tests crossed the 30 lakh mark.

Meanwhile, in a post shared on his Facebook page, Delhi health minister Satyendra Jain said over 77,000 Covid-19 patients have recovered in September, an average of 3,500 patients each day.

**SI held for killing father-in-law, shooting at a female friend**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested its sub-inspector Sandeep Dahiya who allegedly shot at and injured his female friend here and later killed his father-in-law in Rohtak, officials said.

"Dahiya was arrested from Sector -3, Rohini around 11 am by the joint teams of special staff, cyber cell and Lahori Gate police station," a senior police officer said. He was traced through electronic surveillance and manual information. The weapon and the vehicle used in offence have been recovered, the officer said.

While interrogation, it was revealed that Dahiya has animosity against his in-laws. He also had some altercation with his woman friend, police said.

On Sunday, while he was with his woman friend, they had a quarrel, after which he shot her and

fled from the spot, they said.

He went towards Narela and Kundli and reached near his wife's village Bansri in the night. He shot his father-in-law in the morning and fled to Kundli where he stayed overnight before he was arrested, the officer said.

Dahiya, 35, was posted at Lahori Gate police station from December 21, 2017. According to the Delhi Police, Dahiya had allegedly shot at his woman friend on Sunday during a quarrel with her in his car in north Delhi's Alipur area.

Another Delhi Police sub-inspector, Jaiveer, posted at Shahbad Dairy police station, had spotted the woman lying on the side of the road while he was crossing the Sai Mandir on the G.T. Karnal road and had taken her to a nearby hospital. On the way, the woman had revealed that she has been shot by Dahiya, presently posted at Lahori Gate police station.

**Notice to DU, govt over salary dues of 1,500 teachers**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued notices to Delhi University, Delhi government and several colleges on a petition claiming non-payment of salaries to approximately 1,500 teachers of several government-funded colleges. A division bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad also directed four colleges to file status reports in two weeks and thereafter for the Delhi government to file a response on the status report. The matter was fixed for further hearing on November 4.

Advocate Ashok Agarwal, appearing for teachers, sought directions to the Delhi government to immediately release grant to colleges. Several professors and teachers from different colleges of the Delhi University have approached the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the respondent colleges to pay the petitioners' salary due from the month of May 2020 to date.

The petition, filed by assistant professor Udaibir Singh and others through advocates Ashok Agarwal and Kumar Utkarsh, also sought to ensure timely payment of salaries in the future. Meanwhile, one of the colleges — Indra Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (University of Delhi) — in its reply said that it has already paid the salary of teaching and non-teaching staff till 30th June.

The plea submitted that the impugned inaction (not paying salaries) on the part of respondent colleges is violative of the fundamental right of the petitioners as guaranteed to them under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution read with the provisions of Delhi University Act 1922. It said that the impugned actions are unjust, unfair and arbitrary.

— PTI

## Delhi Jal Board issues notices to Central govt for ₹6,811 cr debt

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Delhi Jal Board vice-chairman Raghav Chadha on Tuesday said the utility has issued notices to several central government departments, including the Railways and Delhi Police, and municipal corporations asking them to pay outstanding dues amounting to ₹6,811 crore within 30 days.

Addressing a press conference, Mr Chadha said notices were also issued to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and the Delhi Development Authority between September 1 and September 15.

There was no immediate response from the Railways, Delhi Police and CPWD. However, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash rejected the allegations as "baseless" and said, "The charges were being levelled to hide the failures of the government". Chadha said the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the economy hard and governments across the country were facing financial chal-

▶ **THERE WAS** no immediate response from the Railways, Delhi Police and CPWD. However, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash rejected the allegations as "baseless"

lenges. "Is it imperative that these outstanding dues are paid so that the DJB can deal with the financial challenges," he said.

"Railways owes ₹3,283 crore to the DJB for the services provided by it... the Delhi Police is yet to pay bills worth ₹614 crore, while the CPWD has to clear dues amounting to ₹190 crore," Chadha claimed. "The DDA owes ₹128 crore, East Delhi Municipal Corporation ₹49 crore, North Delhi Municipal Corporation ₹2,466 crore and South Delhi Municipal Corporation ₹81 crore," the DJB vice-chairman said.

If the dues are not cleared within the stipulated time, the board will be left with no other option but to initiate coercive actions until the full and final payment is recov-

ered, he said. Chadha hoped that the need to press penal provisions will not arise.

"We also have our financial obligations... We would like to urge that all agencies pay the outstanding dues within 30 days," he said, adding some departments have written to the DJB seeking clarification and the utility is ready to help.

Northern Railways PRO Deepak Kumar said the national transporter has been "regularly paying the monthly water bills to DJB for water supply".

"However, the Railways has reservations with regards to a significant number of water bills as some connections do not exist on-site and a large number of connections are unmetered," he said.

"The railways has made references to the DJB for the same. However, water bills of each connection need to be reconciled jointly by the DJB and railway officials along with site survey and the payment of reconciled amount thus arrived will be made," Kumar added.

## Court: Riots accused can't be jailed for infinity bec cops yet to name co-accused

**New Delhi, Sept. 29:** A Delhi court, on Tuesday, granted bail to two persons in a case related to the February riots in Northeast Delhi saying they cannot be jailed for "infinity" merely on account that the co-accused have yet to be identified and arrested.

Additional sessions judge Vinod Yadav granted the relief to Javed and Gulfam on furnishing a bail bond of ₹20,000 with one surety of like amount each. Gulfam and Javed were arrested in May and July respectively in a case in which one Bhai Sahab was grievously injured when he was allegedly attacked by a mob of rioters in Chand Bagh Pulia area during the communal violence.

The court said the duo has not been named in the FIR and there were no specific allegations against them.

"The investigation in the matter is complete and the charge sheet has already been filed. The trial in the matter is likely to take a

▶ **Additional sessions judge Vinod Yadav granted the relief to Javed and Gulfam on furnishing a bail bond of ₹20,000 with one surety of like amount each**

▶ **They were arrested in May and July respectively in a case in which one Bhai Sahab was attacked by a mob of rioters in Chand Bagh Pulia area.**

long time. The applicant (Gulfam) cannot be incarcerated for infinity merely on account of the fact that other persons, who were part of the riotous mob, have to be identified and arrested in the matter," it said in its similar but separate orders passed in the two bail applications.

It, however, clarified that anything stated in the order should not be construed as expressing any opinion on the final merits of the case as it is at a "pre cognisance/pre committal stage."

The court further directed them not to tamper with evidence and to install the "Aarogya Setu" app on their

mobile phones. During the hearing held through video conferencing, advocate Anish Mohd, appearing for Gulfam, said he was a student of the Delhi University and there was no legally sustainable evidence against him in the case.

The counsel further argued that Gulfam was not seen in any of the CCTV footages of the riots in the area and there was an "unexplained delay" in lodging of the FIR in the case. Javed's counsel argued that no useful purpose would be served by keeping him in jail as the investigation in the matter was complete and the trial would likely take a long

time. Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the police, opposed the bail pleas, saying it was one of the cases of riots near Chand Bagh Pulia area near the house of suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, the principal accused in many cases.

The public prosecutor further argued that on February 24, Bhai Sahab was allegedly caught by about 10 persons from another community, who beat him on account of the fact that he was from the other community. Mr Prasad said that there was a delay in registration of the FIR, but it was only because of the circumstances prevalent at that time.

"I am told that about 18,689 PCR calls were received on the day of the incident of which 3,450 calls were from the Dayalpur area itself and so it took time to register the FIRs. The last FIR was registered on February 28."

— PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## TMC MP gets threat for clothing as Durga

**Kolkata:** Trinamul Congress MP and film star Nusrat Jahan has received death threats on social media for dressing up as Goddess Durga for advertisements for a clothing line that she posted on Instagram on 17 September. The actor left for London on September 27 for a film shoot but her office has alerted authorities. "We have taken up the matter with the Bengal government and the ministry of external affairs, who are in turn coordinating with the Indian embassy in London, for protection, as an additional security measure," a close aide told a news channel. "Ms Jahan has always stood for her secular and inclusive viewpoints and these trolls do not deter her," he added. With hours of Ms Jahan posting a video and photos of her photo shoot for the ad, threats started popping up on her timeline. — *Agencies*

## HC to Maha govt: Find ways to allow trains

**Mumbai:** The Bombay high court on Tuesday said the Maharashtra government needed to come up with a way to allow common people to use the public transport system in Mumbai as people are losing jobs, while hearing a plea by lawyers seeking permission to board suburban trains. The court asked the state government to consider opening up public transport, including local trains and buses, in a planned manner to ensure people from all walks of life are not denied the opportunity to earn their livelihood. The court also asked the petitioner to share suggestions with the state government so that it can consider them and take a decision by October 5.

## Congo fever alert issued in Palghar

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra's Palghar district administration on Tuesday asked authorities to remain alert against a possible spread of the Congo fever in the district after the cases were reported in neighbouring Gujarat state. The Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), commonly known as the Congo fever, spreads in humans through ticks. A "Congo fever" alert issued after the neighbouring state Gujarat districts reported around four cases of the Crimean CCHF, feared to be spreading from animals to humans. The district administration has asked cattle feeders, meat sellers and staff of the state animal husbandry department to watch out for symptoms that can cause the Congo fever.

## Maha bans dandiya this Navratra season

**Mumbai:** This Navratri, there will be no Garba and Dandiya celebrations in Maharashtra. Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the Maharashtra government has denied permission to hold garba and dandiya for the upcoming Navratri festival. The State Home department has issued guidelines for the nine-day festival, which is beginning on October 17. In the wake of rising cases of Covid-19, home minister Anil Deshmukh has appealed to people to celebrate the festival in a simple and low-key manner, on the lines of the recently held Ganeshotsav. According to the guidelines, playing garba and dandiya and holding cultural events has been prohibited. Instead the organisers have been asked to organise health camps like blood donation as well as awareness initiatives on diseases like Covid-19, malaria, dengue etc.

## Lufthansa cancels India-Germany flights

**New Delhi:** Lufthansa airlines on Tuesday said that it will not be operating any flights between India and Germany scheduled from September 30th till October 20th as the dispute with Centre deepens. The German carrier cited "unexpected rejection" of its flight schedule by the Indian government. "Due to the Indian government's rejection, Lufthansa will now have to cancel all planned flights between Germany and India between 30 September and 20 October. An updated Lufthansa flight schedule is available for customers," the airlines said in a statement. On March 23, India suspended all scheduled international passenger flights due to the lockdown imposed to curb Covid-19 spread. — *Agencies*

## Amnesty exits India, alleges 'witch-hunt'

Human rights organisation says all its bank accounts have been frozen, leaving it moneyless

**New Delhi, Sept. 29:** Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an "incessant witch-hunt" over unfounded and motivated allegations.

Amnesty India, in a statement, said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research work.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organisation to a grinding halt," it said.

However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving foreign funds illegally.

In 2018, the Enforcement



The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organisation to a grinding halt.

—Amnesty India

Directorate had carried out searches at the headquarters of Amnesty International in Bangalore.

The raids were conducted for an alleged violation of the foreign exchange act.

The organisation claimed that the attacks on Amnesty International India and other outspoken human rights organisa-

Any organization can function in India, but it has to be within its legal ambit. Wearing a veil of honesty and acting in bad faith is not something we will permit to Indian or foreign organisations, BJP leader Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said in a statement

tions, activists and human rights defenders are only an extension of the various "repressive policies and sustained assault by the government on those who speak truth to power". "This is latest in the incessant witch-hunt of human rights organizations by the Government of India over unfounded and motivated allegations," Amnesty

International India said. Amnesty International India said it stands in full compliance with all applicable Indian and international laws.

"For human rights work in India, it operates through a distinct model of raising funds domestically. More than four million Indians have supported Amnesty International India's work in the last eight years and around 100,000 Indians have made financial contributions," the organisation said.

These contributions evidently cannot have any relation with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and the fact that the "government is now portraying this lawful fundraising model as money-laundering is evidence that the overboard legal framework is maliciously activated when

human rights activists and groups challenge the government's grave inactions and excesses", it alleged.

"Treating human rights organisations like criminal enterprises and dissenting individuals as criminals without any credible evidence is a deliberate attempt by the Enforcement Directorate and Government of India to stoke a climate of fear and dismantle the critical voices in India," Avinash Kumar, the executive director of Amnesty International India, said.

The BJP said that Amnesty International is involved in "multiple illegalities" and it has no right to lecture on propriety, hours after the human rights watchdog said it was halting India operations over an "incessant witch-hunt". — *PTI*

## 1 in 15 Indians likely exposed to Covid-19: ICMR

Survey shows 90% people still vulnerable

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

One in 15 individuals, aged 10 years and above, are estimated to have been exposed to SARS-CoV2 by August 2020, the second sero-survey conducted by ICMR has found. According to ICMR, this shows that a considerable population is still susceptible to COVID-19.

While giving out the details of the survey, ICMR director general Dr Balram Bhargava said 6.6 per cent of the 29,082 people (aged 10 and above) surveyed between August 17 to September 22 showed evidence of past exposure to Covid-19 and 7.1 per cent of the adult population (aged 18 and above) also showed evidence of past exposure to it. Dr Bhargava added that though lockdown, containment and behavioral change at population level have managed to check the potential spread of SARS-CoV2, the survey findings show that about 90 per cent of the population is still vulnerable.

The survey showed that urban slums (15.6%) and non-slum (8.2%) areas had higher SARS-CoV2 infection prevalence than that in rural areas (4.4%).

The second sero-survey was conducted in the same 700 villages and wards from 70 districts from 21 states which were covered during the first survey. The first sero-survey of May 2020 revealed that the nationwide prevalence of novel coronavirus infection was only 0.73%.

The second survey further showed that there is a lower infection to case ratio in August compared to May which reflects a substantial increase in testing and detection across India.

Meanwhile, decline in fresh cases of novel coronavirus continued on

## Venkaiah tests +ve for Corona, asymptomatic

New Delhi:

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, 71, tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday.

His office, however, said he is asymptomatic and in good health.

"The vice-president of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health. He has been advised home quarantine. His wife Smt. Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation," the vice-president's office tweeted. — *Agencies*

Tuesday as 70, 589 new patients were detected taking India's overall tally to 61.45 lakh. In the last 24 hours, the number of deaths too came down to 776 from a thousand that was reported daily for the last several days. India's total deaths now stand at 96,318, as per union health ministry. Union health secretary Mr Rajesh Bhushan said considerable decline has been noted in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh but in Kerala cases are on the rise.

The health secretary also said that the government does not agree to the Rs 80,000 crore figures put out by Serum Institute of India for the Covid-19 vaccines saying: "We have calculated the amount required in the meetings and currently, that amount is available with the government." He added that a panel of experts on vaccine administration has met five times to work out the modalities.



V. Naidu



People with heart conditions, who recovered from the Covid-19 coronavirus, prepare to go home during World Heart day celebrations at a government hospital in Chennai on Tuesday.

## Babri demolition verdict today, Advani, Joshi to skip court

**New Delhi, Sept. 29:** BJP veterans L.K. Advani and Murlis Manohar Joshi will not be present when a court in Uttar Pradesh announces its judgment in the Babri mosque case tomorrow.

Nearly 28 years after the 16th century mosque was demolished in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, a special CBI court in Lucknow will pronounce its verdict. BJP leaders L.K. Advani, M.M. Joshi, Uma Bharti and Kalyan Singh are among the accused facing charges of criminal conspiracy and promoting enmity.

The court had asked all accused to be present for the judgment but not everyone can make it because of the Covid pandemic and health concerns.

L.K. Advani, 92 and MM Joshi, 86, have reportedly sought an exemption. Uma Bharti is in hospital with the coronavirus and Kalyan Singh is recovering from Covid. So is another high profile accused, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, the chief of the Ram temple trust.

## India, Bangla hold virtual meet, mull ways to make border safe

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India and Bangladesh held their sixth Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting in virtual mode on Tuesday, thus setting the stage for a Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina in December this year. Tuesday's meeting was chaired by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr A.K. Abdul Momen in which the entire gamut of ties between the two close neighbours was discussed including progress of development projects, sharing of river water including the Teesta issue, the Rohingya migrants issue, border security, Covid vaccines as well as celebration of the forthcoming Golden Jubilee celebrations of the 1971 war of liberation.

After the meeting, EAM Jaishankar tweeted, "Reaffirmed our shared commitment to a peaceful and secure border. Encouraged stronger cooperation between our border guarding forces to that end. Reviewed the expanding connectivity in road, rail, inland waterways and ports. Agreed to expedite progress

## India protests against Pak poll plan for Gilgit-Baltistan

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with Pakistan against its attempt to conduct polls in November this year in the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), saying that these areas are an integral part of India and illegally occupied by Pakistan. Amid reports that Pakistan plans to turn the Gilgit-Baltistan region into its fifth province, New Delhi termed Pakistan's action of conducting polls

there as "cosmetic exercises intended to camouflage its illegal occupation". In another development, India — at the "second Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism" held Virtually — "highlighted that the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and 2016 Pathankot terror attack are yet to get justice due to unwillingness and non-cooperative attitude of a particular country", a thinly-veiled reference to Pakistan.

## SC to Centre: How long will you keep Mufti under arrest?

Court gives govt a week to respond

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre far how long it was going to keep the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti under detention and can she be detained beyond one year under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Ms Mufti is in detention since August 5, 2019, under the draconian Public Safety Act (PSA) for over a year after Article 370 of the Constitution conferring special status to J&K was abrogated and the hill state was converted into a Union Territory and bifurcated into J&K and Ladakh.

Giving Centre a week's time to respond to a plea by Iltija Mufti — daughter of Ms Mufti — seeking immediate release of her mother, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, heading a bench also comprising Justice Hrishikesh Roy, asked for how long the detention will continue and under what orders and can detention be extended beyond one year.

Directing the next hearing on October 15, 2020, the court asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre to address the court on two issues — what is the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the Public



Mehbooba Mufti

Safety Act and for how long Mufti will continue under detention?

Mr Mehta, sought to justify Ms Mufti's detention on the grounds of "public order".

Senior counsel Nitya Ramakrishnan appearing for Ms Iltija told the court that Ms Mufti has not been allowed to meet anybody, including her family members and brother. She told the court that even ordinary prisoners are permitted to meet the visitors.

Ms Mufti heads the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which had formed the last government in alliance with BJP. The party later broke the alliance.

Ms Mufti was arrested along with former chief ministers — Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah — and other Kashmiri leaders on August 5, 2019.

While two Abdullahs were released in March this year, Ms Mufti's detention was extended on May 5 for another three months but after the lapse of three months she has not been released.

## China increases militarisation of SCS, deploys defence facilities

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

China has deployed "necessary defence facilities on islands and reefs in the South China Sea (SCS) to protect its national sovereignty and security" and it is in fact the "showing off of military muscle and pushing up of militarisation of the South China Sea by countries outside the region that poses the true and biggest threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight in the SCS", a senior Chinese diplomat based in New Delhi has said.

Articulating her nation's views on the SCS to this newspaper, Chinese Deputy Chief of Mission Ma Jia described the SCS as "China's maritime life-line", adding that "as the beneficiary and defender of freedom of navigation and overflight in the SCS, China cherishes peace and stability in the SCS more than any other countries".

Ms Ma said the consultation on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) between China and the Asean "is moving forward in a rapid and orderly manner."

## India hits back...

Continued from Page 1

so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side. In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003, but this process could not proceed further as the Chinese side did not show willingness to pursue it."

The MEA added: "Furthermore, under various bilateral agreements both India and China have committed to clarification and confirmation of the LAC to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC. Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is contrary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements."

New Delhi further said: "As we have previously made clear, the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC. As the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri

(defence minister Rajnath Singh) stated in Parliament recently, it is the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the western sector, has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo. We therefore expect that the Chinese side will sincerely and faithfully abide by all agreements and understandings in their entirety and refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC."

New Delhi went on to add: "In the last few months, the Chinese side has repeatedly affirmed that the current situation in the border areas should be resolved in accordance with the agreements signed between the two countries. In the agreement reached between the external affairs minister and his Chinese counterpart on 10th September also, the Chinese side has reiterated its commitment to abide by all the existing agreements."

## Average 87 rape cases daily in India: NCRB data

**New Delhi, Sept. 29:** India recorded an average of 87 rape cases daily in 2019 and overall 4,05,861 cases of overall against women during the year, a rise of over 7 per cent from 2018, a latest government data showed Tuesday.

The country recorded 3,78,236 cases of crimes against women in 2018, the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed.

A total of 32,033 cases of rape were lodged in 2019, which was 7.3 per cent of

all crimes against women during the year, the data showed.

In 2018, 33,356 rapes were recorded across the country, up from 32,559 in 2017, according to the data from corresponding years.

Majority of these cases under Indian Penal Code were registered under 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' (30.9 per cent) followed by 'Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' (21.8 per cent), 'kidnapping and

abduction of women' (17.9 per cent), the NCRB data for 2019 showed.

The crime rate registered per lakh women population stood at 62.4 in 2019 in comparison with 58.8 in 2018, it showed.

The NCRB, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, is tasked with collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in the country.

— *PTI*

## Jaishankar in Tokyo Oct. 6-7...

Continued from Page 1 ministerial meet on 6 October, in which the foreign ministers of the respective countries will participate."

In Tokyo, Japanese foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters that US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, Australian foreign minister Marise

Payne and Mr Jaishankar will hold offline talks on October 6 on their common regional concerns, such as China's increasingly assertive actions, reports AP.

"It is very timely for the four foreign ministers sharing the same concerns over the regional

situation" to share their views in person, Mr Motegi said. He said they are expected to discuss the coronavirus and the economy hurt by the pandemic and other regional concerns.

"The vision of a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' will be even more important in a post-coronavirus

world," he said.

Mr Motegi said Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga may also meet Mr Pompeo, Mr Jaishankar and the Australian foreign minister on the sidelines of the talks, in his first face-to-face meetings with top foreign official since taking office two weeks ago.

## TENDER NOTICE

ADHOC HIRING RATES FOR LIGHT VEHICLES, BUS AND TRUCK (TOTAL) FROM KHUNMOH(SRINAGAR) TO NEW DELHI AND CBS KHREW TO BD BARI (JAMMU), FROM 22OCT 2020 AND 06 2021

'A' Coy Ex-106 Inf Bn (PARA) intends to hire various types of vehicles i.e. light vehicle, buses, trucks upto 9 ton adhoc basis. Sealed quotations are required to be deposited in Tender Box 1000 hrs on 30 Sep 2020 at 'A' Coy Ex-106 Inf Bn (TA) PARA Khunmoh (Srinagar). The format of quotation and terms and conditions can be obtained from 'A' Coy Ex-106 Inf Bn (TA) PARA Khunmoh (Srinagar). For Clarifications please contact Coy Cdr Mob No 9999501131 & 94691399904.

PR/102/Misc/A DTD 28.09.2020



## SHORT TAKES

## Opposition lambastes Naveen government

**BHUBANESWAR:** The opposition BJP and Congress lawmakers in the Odisha Legislative Assembly targeted the state government after the later tabled the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill 2020 in the House for discussion. BJP members alleged the state government is trying to keep all the universities under its control while Congress legislators termed the bill as a 'Black Bill'. Leader of Opposition and BJP lawmaker, Pradipta Kumar Naik, raised questions about the process for appointments of faculty and non-teaching staff at the government-run universities and stated the state government wanted to deny autonomy to the universities. Senior Congress legislator Narasingha Mishra said the state government was trying to pass the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill 2020 hastily. He asked why the government was in a hurry to pass the bill during the pandemic.

## 450 servitors test +ve in Puri temple

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha's Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, on Tuesday imposed restrictions on the servitors of the temple for containing the spread of Covid-19. As per the decision of the SJTA, the servitors testing positive for Covid-19 will not be allowed to enter the temple premises for 17 days. Case will be registered against the violators, informed SJTA Administrator (Development) Ajay Jena. This apart, the servitors will be penalised for spitting pan/gutkha on the temple premises. Around 450 of around 5000 servitors of the temple have tested positive for the virus. The incident had raised concern over the smooth conduct of rituals of the deities.

## Kolkata woman abducts minor girl

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha police on Tuesday arrested a woman from West Bengal on charges of kidnapping a minor girl for same-sex relationship. According to sources, the father of the minor girl (17) lodged a police complaint on September 17 after his daughter went missing. The police took the help of its cyber cell and traced the minor girl in Bengal by tracking her mobile. Later, a team from Dharmagarh police station went to West Bengal's Nadia district and rescued the girl. During interrogation, the accused confessed to her crimes "We have arrested the woman, who hails from Nadia area in West Bengal."

## Nigerian held while trying to enter B'desh

**Kolkata:** A Nigerian national and a woman were apprehended by Border Security Force when they tried to enter Bangladesh through Hazrakhal outpost in West Bengal's Nadia district on Tuesday. The border guards had stopped the two persons near the outpost in the early hours of Tuesday when they were trying to cross the border, a BSF statement said. The Nigerian national was identified as Chikanso Ibezim, currently residing in Noida area, near Delhi. He had come to India on a student visa in October, 2015. Ibezim told the interrogators that he had come to Kolkata in a special train from New Delhi one day back, hired a taxi to reach Bagula in Nadia district, and was planning to cross over to Bangladesh "to visit the country as a traveller", the statement said.

## Odisha babu harasses wife over his 'affair'

**Bhubaneswar:** A senior bureaucrat of Odisha was on Tuesday arrested for allegedly torturing his wife. The accused bureaucrat identified as Sarat Chandra Bag was posted as deputy collector of Boudh district. Bag's wife complained that he was regularly beaten up by her husband as she opposed his extra-marital affairs. "My husband was having an extra-marital affair. I had caught him red-handed with another woman recently. When I confronted him over his affairs, he and his other associates brutally thrashed me and snatched my mobile phone," she told reporters in Jharsuguda.

## 'Wife-beater' DGP's spouse faces attack from 2 fronts

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY**  
BHOPAL, SEPT. 29

Spouse of 'wife-beater' director general of police (DGP) (prosecution) of Madhya Pradesh Purushottam Sharma on Tuesday, curiously, faced attacks from two fronts, from her daughter who called her mentally sick and from the media woman who accused her of encroaching upon her privacy by taking video of her house.

The top cop was placed under suspension by the state government on Tuesday evening.

The couple's daughter Diwanishi Gautam stoutly defended her cop father describing him a victim of marital conflict triggered by her mother. She also claimed that her mother was suffering from a mental disorder.

In a letter to chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ms Gautam said she as well as her mother has been at the receiving end of her mother's abnormal behaviours.

"My mother wanted to ruin me and my father", the letter said.

She said her mother once tried to set their house on fire and also kill herself.

She described her father as innocent and pleaded the chief minister not to take any action against him over the viral video in which Mr Sharma was seen thrashing his wife in their government quarters here.

The DGP has been relieved of his duties after the video went viral on Monday.

In a related development, the media woman who was video-graphed along with the DGP in her house by Mr Sharma's wife on Monday lodged a complaint with the local police station demanding action against her for encroaching upon her privacy.

Mr Sharma's wife has accused her husband of having an affair with the media woman.

In a late evening development, the state government on Tuesday placed the DGP (prosecution) under suspension after 'his explanations' on charges leveled against him were not found 'satisfactory'.

"He (DGP (prosecution) has been placed under suspension after his explanations on charges of domestic violence leveled against him were found unsatisfactory", state home secretary Rajesh Rajora said.

## More actors likely to be summoned in connection with probe in drugs angle: NCB Sushant case: AIIMS rules out poisoning

**SAURABH JOSHI**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 29

The investigators in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case on Tuesday revealed that the viscera report from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has ruled out poisoning as the cause of death of the actor. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) meanwhile stated that more actors are likely to be summoned in connection with the probe in the drugs angle. The NCB last week grilled actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh in the case.

The AIIMS was conducting an independent probe in the suicide case and the

findings of the Cooper Hospital who conducted the autopsy on the deceased actor were under consideration. The officials revealed that the cause of death is yet to be ascertained and that only possible foul play by use of a toxic substance has been ruled out at the moment. Further reports, involving the analysis of the marks on Rajput's throat will be out soon.

The reports were received by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the primary probe agency in the suicide. The CBI took over the abatement to suicide and cheating case filed by the Patna police based on a complaint of Rajput's father.

The NCB meanwhile



Sushant Singh Rajput

stated that more Bollywood actors could be summoned for investigation in the drugs probe. The names have been zeroed in based on the statement of Deepika, Shraddha, Sara and Rakul, who were grilled on Saturday along with manager Karishma Prakash. The NCB will send the summons to these actors

soon, officials said.

The NCB also refuted allegations made by Kshittij Ravi Prasad, formerly employed with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. He had alleged of torture at the hands of the NCB and pressure on him to implicate Johar on drugs charges.

"It is unambiguously stated that the allegations are mischievous and completely untrue. Kshittij Ravi Prasad was arrested in the 16/2020 case after some incriminating evidences were recovered from him. His lawyer and mother were informed about the arrest and his father-in-law and wife were also allowed to meet him at the NCB office," stated a NCB release.

## KANGANA vs BMC: BOMBAY HC PULLS UP SENA LEADER RAUT

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 29

Expressing surprise over certain comments made by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday asked if this was the way a parliamentarian should react. In an interview to a news channel, Mr Raut had allegedly used an objectionable word while referring to the actor, and further said, "What is law? *Ukhaad denge* (we will demolish it)".

Mr Raut's lawyer conceded that the Rajya Sabha member should have been more responsible.



Ms. Ranaut has filed a petition in the high court challenging the demolition carried out by the Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on September 9. On the court's suggestion, she has also impleaded Mr Raut, who on Tuesday submitted an affidavit where he denied that he had threatened Ms. Ranaut, but admitted that he made a reference to her during an interview given to a television news channel.

## Bypoll outcome to decide fate of Shivraj govt

*Results to be declared on Nov. 10*

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
BHOPAL, SEPT. 29

The Election Commission (EC), on Tuesday, announced to hold by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, the outcome of which would decide the fate of the Shivraj government, on November 3.

The results of the by-polls in these Assembly seats are scheduled to be declared on November 10. Of the 28 Assembly seats going to the by-polls, 27 were won by Congress in the 2018 elections.

By-elections in three Assembly constituencies, Jaura, Agar, and Biaora, were necessitated following the deaths of sitting MLAs while the by-polls in the remaining 25 seats were necessitated owing to the resignation of the then Congress MLAs from the Assembly.

Out of the 25 Congress MLAs, 22 resigned in March leading to the fall of the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government.

Three other Congress MLAs resigned recently. All the 25 former Congress MLAs subsequently joined BJP.

The ruling BJP has a strength of 107 in the 230-member MP Assembly while Congress has a total of 88 members.

There are four independent MLAs, two from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and one from Samajwadi Janata Party (SJP).

Stakes are high for chief



Shivraj Chouhan

minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his predecessor and Congress veteran Kamal Nath, and senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia in the November 3 by-elections in these seats. BJP needs to win at least nine out of the 28 Assembly seats to gain majority in the House and continue in power in the state.

Similarly, Congress fancies a chance of returning to power in the state if the party could win at least 21 out of these 28 seats in the upcoming by-polls.

"The Assembly by-polls may turn out to be a 'do or die' situation for 74-year-old Mr Nath who may find him at the crossroads of his nearly five-decade-long political career if Congress fails to return to power in the state in the November 3 Assembly by-elections," a senior Congress leader said requesting not to be quoted. The by-elections will also be an acid test for Mr Scindia to retain his stronghold in the Gwalior-Chambal region where 16 seats are going to by-polls.



Former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal being presented a plough by SAD workers at a gurdwara, ahead of SADs Oct. 1 protest over passage of farm reform bills in Bathinda district on Tuesday.

— PTI

## SC directs states and UTs to give dry ration to sex worker

*'No ration card, no identity proof required'*

**PARMOD KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Supreme court, on Tuesday, directed all the states and Union Territories (UTs) to provide dry ration to the sex workers identified by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the state and district legal authorities without insisting on ration card or any other identity proof.

Directing the states and UTs to make available dry ration to sex workers, a bench comprising Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice Ajay Rastogi sought a compliance report by the states within four weeks giving details of the number of sex workers who have

been provided with dry ration in compliance of its direction.

The court also sought response from the Centre whether it was possible to extend to the sex workers the financial assistance that is being given to transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court direction to the states and Union Territories came in the course of the hearing of a PIL by NGO Durbur Mahila Samanwaya Committee seeking monetary assistance and dry ration for sex workers amid the pandemic situation without insistence on identity proof.

The NGO highlighted the destitution faced by sex workers on account of Covid and sought relief

measures for over 9 lakh female and transgender sex workers across the country.

Advocate Pijush Kumar Roy, who is amicus curiae in the matter, told the court that bank accounts of sex workers should also be opened without insisting upon proof of identity in order to provide them financial assistance.

Appearing for the NGO, senior lawyer Anand Grover had told the court that a survey among 1.2 lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana has found that 96 per cent of them have lost their source of earning in the pandemic.

## In July, Army claimed to have killed 3 militants, but families from Rajouri said slain men might be their missing members

## Shopian killing: Parents of fake encounter victims await justice

**YUSUF JAMEEL**  
MODA KATHUNI (J&K),  
SEPT. 29

"My child was innocent. I'm completely shattered and broken. My heart is bleeding also because we couldn't bury him and our two other boys in our own *zameen* (soil)", lamented teary-eyed Shameema Akhtar while showing the photograph of her son Muhammad Imtiaz saved in her other son's mobile phone.

Imtiaz, 20, was among three youth of Jammu and Kashmir's frontier district of Rajouri killed in an alleged fake encounter by the Army in militancy-infested Shopian district on July 18, a day after the trio had arrived there to work in an apple orchard to earn living and then passed off as 'terrorists'.

J&K Police say that they had provided sufficient time for identification of the corpses at the Police Control Room Kashmir at Srinagar. As no one came forward to claim the bodies and people also failed in identifying them, they were buried in a cemetery in the remotest Baramulla district, almost 250 kilometres from their home district in presence of a magistrate after conducting a post-mortem and lifting DNA samples, the police said.

"Bahut zulm hua uss kay saath (a great injustice was done to him)", said Sabir Hussain, father of Imtiaz. He revealed to this correspondent that his son had passed his Class 12th examination with high marks and was "very keen" to get admission in a good college either in Rajouri town, Jammu or Srinagar and in order to meet the expenses for his studies he went to Shopian to "earn some money".

Hussain said the other two slain youth Muhammad Abrar, 25, and Ibrar Ahmed Khan, 16, were his nephews (*sagay bhanjay*). "You can understand we have been devastated", he said but added that he is quite confident that the Army "will do justice with us." He and also his other son Muhammad Aarif pleaded that since the Army has admitted the three youths were killed by its men during a so-called operation in Shopian's Amshipora on July 18 and the J&K police have announced that the results of the DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid samples of their parents have matched those of the slain, their bodies should be exhumed and handed over to their families. "We want to give them decent burials in our own *zameen*," said Hussain. Inspector-general of Police (Kashmiri



Photographs of the three young labourers from Rajouri who went missing in Shopian

range), Vijay Kumar, said in Srinagar last week, "We've received the DNA sample results of three families of Rajouri and these have matched those of the three killed in Amshipora, Shopian on July 18. We will now take further courses of action and complete the remaining formalities."

According to DGP Dilbag Singh, the investigation into the alleged fake encounter is in the final stage. "I'm myself monitoring the investigation process and very soon further details of the case will be shared with you. The Army is also investigating the case on its own and, hopefully, it will be completed in next few days," he told reporters in Srinagar on Monday.

While Hussain has full faith in the investigation

process and expects justice will be delivered soon,

Aarif wants those involved in this "heinous crime" to meet the fate of his brother and cousins. "They killed them in cold blood. They too should be brought forward and shot dead," he said. The parents and other relatives of Abrar and Ibrar who also live in mud houses in dispersed settlements tucked away in the hills of Rajouri and at a three hours' walking distance from a motorable side road opening on Mughal Road that connects Srinagar with Rajouri town, endorsed the demand that the mortal remains of the trio be handed over to them for burial in their native places "before these get decomposed further." Said Ibrar's father Baga Khan, "We must get their

**▶ WHILE ARMY** chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was in the Valley, its Srinagar-based 15 Corps issued a statement admitting that the three youths were killed by its men and that 'disciplinary action' in being initiated by it under the Army Act against them

bodies now...No one in the families could see their faces before they were laid in their graves. Justice must be done."

Irshad Ahmed, the village Panch while endorsing the demand said that the Aadhaar cards and mobile phones of the slain youth may also be handed over to the families and the government should consider sanctioning ex gratia relief to the families which live in "extreme poverty" besides a job for the next of the kin.

Sarpanch of Dhar Sakri area, Aijaz Ahmed, questioned the Army's earlier claim that it had killed "unidentified terrorists" At Amshipora on July 17. He asked, "How is it possible for any authority to say unidentified as all the three were carrying their identity i.e. aadhaar cards?" He called for a judicial inquiry into the killings and strict action against the guilty. "We

also demand that an FIR be registered under relevant sections of the law against those who killed them," he added.

Lal Hussain, friend and cousin of Imtiaz said, "He and I would spend a lot of time together. He was a nice guy. I think someone had misled the Army by providing wrong information about him and other boys." Watching out for his antecedents, Faiza Akhtar, the slain youth's neighbour said, "I never ever saw him indulging in any undesirable pastime. We are so sad that such a decent boy has been snatched from us and that too in such a cruel way."

While Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was in the Valley, its Srinagar-based 15 Corps issued a statement admitting that the three youths were killed by its men and that "disciplinary action" in being initiated by it under the Army Act against them. It said that the inquiry conducted by it "has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that, during the operation, powers vested under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1990 were exceeded and the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court have been contravened".

## 2 collaborators in encounter sent to judicial remand

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 30

A court in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian town on Tuesday sent two persons arrested in the case of the July 17 fake encounter in which three youth were killed and then passed off as "terrorists" by the Army for eight days judicial remand.

The duo, reportedly working as "informers" for the Army were produced in the District Court, Shopian by the police, a day after they were arrested by them for being local "collaborators" in the crime.

The police sources said that they have been arrested by the police on the charges of "criminal conspiracy" under relevant sections in an FIR Number 42/2020. The duo is being questioned by the police and other authorities and asked to reveal the chain of events that led to cold-blooded murder of Rajouri youth Muhammad Imtiaz, 20, Muhammad Abrar, 25, and Ibrar Ahmed Khan, 16, who had come to Shopian on July 18 to work in a local orchard to earn living, the sources added.



## THE ASIAN AGE

30 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Don't let political fight hurt interest of farmers

The repeated assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the continuance of the minimum support price for agriculture produce notwithstanding, the farmers' protests against the three new laws governing agriculture and markets show no signs of abating. It is in this background that Congress president Sonia Gandhi's direction to the state governments her party runs to enact laws that can circumvent the three laws — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 — gains significance.

The Congress move shows the principal Opposition party has decided to take on the government politically and legally on an issue that can have nationwide appeal. Politically, it has thrown the ball in the court of the BJP's allies in National Democratic Alliance asking if they wanted to work against the interests of the farming community and risk their future.

**Farmers as a group are unlikely to give in to such machinations as they feel a threat to their livelihoods. It is indeed wise for the Opposition to be seen on their side.**

Experts are divided over the states' power to enact laws in the subject that can stand legal scrutiny but a stiff resistance by the Congress governments to the Modi dispensation could once again catapult the Congress into the centre of political activity, a role it abdicated long ago. Agriculture is on the concurrent list but "markets" are exclusively in the states' domain and hence the Centre is barred from legislating on them. It was this realisation that stopped the government from going ahead with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017, while they were challenged in the Supreme Court. This time around, the government did not interfere with the markets or mandis; instead, it removed their very *raison d'être* by allowing people to sell their produce wherever they want.

The state governments have economic reasons as well to fight the Centre as these laws will effectively choke and eventually stop a steady stream of their revenue as rents and taxes. A legal fight, and a possible win, could force the governments run by other parties also to follow the course, earning the Congress a decent political dividend.

The Congress has more reasons to invest in the agitation. It is not the first time a Central legislation has triggered widespread protest — those against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, are not that distant to fade away. But the government put up a resistance and defended it positions using many a card, including the communal one. But farmers as a class are unlikely to give in to such machinations as they feel a threat to their livelihoods. It is indeed wise for the Opposition to be seen on their side.

A protracted legal battle could imperil the interests of the farmer, who even otherwise feels he has little future in this country. If his interest, and the food security of the nation, are supreme, then the Union government which has committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022-23 should initiate a consultation process with the farmers, the Opposition, the state governments and other stakeholders to end the agitation and stop legal battles.

### Trump: Artful tax dodger

Long before he became President of the United States Donald Trump was among those thought to be famous for just being famous. He parlayed such fame into a path to the White House where he holds court while having paid less income tax in a year — \$750 in 2016 and 2017 — than a successful hairdresser would have. The ridiculously low taxes he paid or none at all in 10 of the last 15 years, as exposed by the *New York Times*, were made possible by a show of chronic losses, which betrays his pretensions to being a billionaire honcho. Mr Trump's tricks might not be unusual for real estate businessmen bilking the US tax system, but it becomes extremely worrisome considering he personifies conflict of interest.

What the expose of chicanery in computing taxes means in politics — as he is in the thick of a re-election campaign and going into the first debate with Joe Biden — is it lays bare the myth of Donald Trump, 'The Apprentice' of the reality show. He may conveniently brush it aside as "fake news", which is what he dubs anything that goes against the grain of his presidential persona. The fear that the mountebank from a parallel universe who lives and thrives in an alternative reality may be a security threat as he owns responsibility for debts of \$400 million is just dawning on America.

Curiously, the facts dug out may not be the decisive tipping point in the polls. Mr Trump's antics help show up the uber-wealthy as they are seen compulsively cheating on taxes through tax havens, rebates, refunds and handouts to kin, all by employing clever accountants and sharp lawyers. Most white and blue collar workers of the world have no such devices to deny Caesar his due even if the argument is stretched into saying a person may be considered smart if he can legally avoid personal taxes. Every US President since Watergate has made public his financial records, but not Mr Trump. It remains to be seen if his name is all that marketable anymore.

#### THE ASIAN AGE

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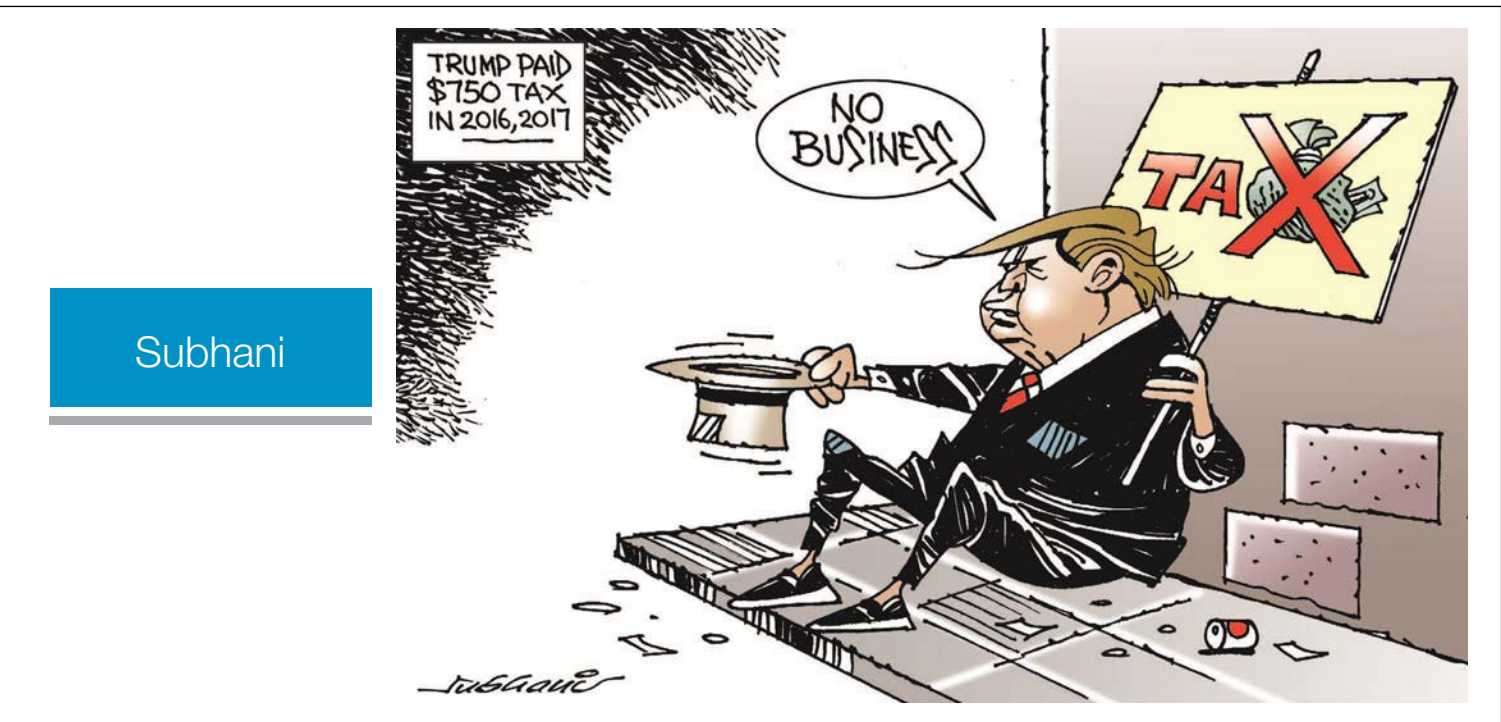
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Subhani

## Unlock 5.0: Woes will linger, support a must



Sanjay Kumar

The quarterly GDP growth figures for the first quarter of 2020-21 released couple of weeks ago revealed a dismal state of Indian economy, with a growth rate of -23.9 per cent. This GDP growth rate is at its lowest since the quarterly figures started releasing in 1996. This figure does not convey anything new; it merely provides an aggregate picture of economic hardship being faced by a large number of Indians in the big cities, small towns as well as in villages. This situation cuts across people employed both in the formal and informal sectors. Several reports indicate lakhs of people losing their jobs, and salaries being reduced in different proportions in different sectors due to lockdown as a result of Covid-19. What also indicates towards economic hardship being faced by a large number of people is the amount of money withdrawn by the people from their employer's provident fund (EPF). The labour minister informed the Parliament of about 39,400 crore EPF withdrawals during the period March-August 2020. While it is true that lockdown brought economic activity to a complete standstill having an impact on the daily lives of the people, there are evidences which suggest that the economy was not doing well even before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the lockdown. What the lockdown did was to make the economic condition of the people much worse than it was before.

The GDP figures are not surprising as the strict nationwide lockdown has brought the economy to a virtual standstill, many people losing their jobs, families having faced moderate to harsh eco-

nomic hardship. Analysis of the data collected from the survey conducted by Gaon Connection team and Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) amongst 25,371 respondents spread across 23 states and Union Territories helps us unravel this story. The data presents a grim situation. More than 78 per cent of those surveyed mentioned that their work had either completely (44 per cent) or largely (34 per cent) come to a standstill due to the lockdown. It is not surprising to note that a very large number of people suffered financially resulting in many families finding it much more difficult to make ends meet during the lockdown as compared to before the lockdown. It is important to note that a large proportion of households reporting a high difficulty in making ends meet even during pre-lockdown times indicate that a very large proportion of rural households were already suffering financially even before Covid-19 struck, and the pandemic-induced lockdown only exacerbated their economic woes. Even before the lockdown, 60 per cent people in rural India found it difficult to meet their daily needs, but their numbers increased to 73 per cent during the lockdown. It is evident that Covid-19 augmented economic hardship and severely impacted economic conditions across rural India. While the lockdown affected the work of people across class groups, the change in economic conditions was sharpest in the lowest strata. Unemployment continues to remain a major concern in rural India and the situation has been worsened by the return of migrants from urban centres — more than 77 per cent people

mentioned that unemployment was a severe concern in their respective village. While it is true that a large number of migrants have either returned or are planning to return back to the cities, there are still sizeable numbers of migrants who have stayed back in the villages at least for a few more months. The findings of the survey suggest 28 per cent migrants are not willing to return to the city, while another 16 per cent are unsure if they would return or stay back in their village and engage themselves in agricultural labour or MNRGA work.

The lack of steady income meant that the severe economic shock left many across the country in a precarious situation. Almost one-fourth of those surveyed (23 per cent) mentioned that they were forced to take additional loans or borrow money as they ran out of funds during the lockdown. A small segment of rural India faced a harsher situation and was forced to sell or mortgage assets to overcome economic woes.

The only saving grace for the economy seems to have been agriculture. Agriculture and allied activities still grew at 3.4 per cent during the contraction. The findings of the survey also suggest, due to lockdown, while there were delays in harvesting of crops, selling produce, and sowing the crop for the next cycle, the impact on the income of farmers was perhaps limited compared to what people working in other sectors had to face. More than half of farmers (58 per cent) reported that they got as much as the government rate for their produce.

The negative GDP growth reflects a sharp

**Almost one-fourth of those surveyed (23 per cent) mentioned that they were forced to take additional loans or borrow money as they ran out of funds during the lockdown**

contraction in private consumption. Declining incomes, and uncertainly about jobs and employment opportunities, was bound to have an impact on consumption patterns. A significant number of people were forced to reduce their expenditure on everyday household items during the lockdown. Almost 49 per cent people reduced expenditure on basic food items like atta, rice, grains, and pulses. Almost two-third (63 per cent) had reduced expenditure on processed items like snacks, biscuits, and sweets. Similarly, there was a decline in the consumption of FMCG goods as well. For instance, 56 per cent people reported lower household expenditure on personal care products like soap, shampoo, etc.

The declining income not only has an impact on current expenditure patterns, but also on future consumption. The uncertainties of jobs and anticipation of further reduction in salaries has led to a large number of people deferring their plans for buying expensive goods. They are also planning to reduce expenditure by not spending on items the use of which can be avoided. About 49 per cent and 57 per cent said that they would reduce expenditure on basic food items and personal care products, respectively.

While these findings are from a survey which was conducted only in rural India, it is unlikely that the situation would be vastly different in towns and cities. As Covid-19 related restrictions have eased across the country especially after Unlock 5.0, economic activity is gradually coming back on track. However, experts have alerted that economic recovery will remain slow. This makes it imperative for the government to continue taking steps for supporting citizens through various measures.

*The writer is a professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and a political analyst. Views expressed are personal.*

#### LETTERS

#### LONG-TERM AGENDA

Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey voluntarily retired five months prior to his retirement date. Of course, people in civil services often choose a political career post retirement. It is absolutely legal. But it's the timing that makes it questionable. Mr Pandey's case was approved overnight. In 2008, Mr Pandey's VRS application had been accepted, too. But he rejoined services. Mr Pandey also started his YouTube channel a few months ago. It makes one wonder if, his protestations notwithstanding, this had been on his agenda all along.

**Subhashini Ramasamy**  
Mumbai

#### GOOD MEMORIES

**DAUGHTERS' DAY** which was celebrated on September 27 is the only day dedicated to the little angels in our families. The day allows us to admire our daughters, their contribution and the splendour they bring to our homes. A daughter is truly a gift from God. She is always helping and courteous. She helps her parents in every possible manner. However, the stigma that some cultures have placed around the girl child has not only demoralised them but also taken away their dignity. This special day is meant to erase those bad memories.

**Jubel D'Cruz**  
Mumbai

#### ENSURE RELIEF

**AS PER DATA** compiled by the ministry of labour and employment, more than one crore migrant labourers returned to their home states on foot during the period March-June. This also includes those who travelled during the lockdown. As per available information, 81,385 accidents occurred on the roads (including national highways) during the said period with 29,415 fatalities. Now that the government has the data on the number of deaths, it should ensure compensation for the families of the deceased. It can no more say there is no data.

**N.B. Qasmi**  
New Delhi

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: [asianage.letters@gmail.com](mailto:asianage.letters@gmail.com).

Kishwar Desai  
London Diary



### Lonely Gandhi at Westminster; 'working' hols the new mantra

As October 2 approaches, we had hoped that the situation in London would have improved, allowing us to at least have a ceremonial placing of flowers at the feet of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament Square — remembering him at the close of his 150th birth anniversary. The Indian high commissioner, Ms Gaitri Kumar, had also suggested that, if things improved, a few of us could gather there for a simple memorial. But it seems that now further restrictions have been announced, thanks to Covid. So we would request all those for whom it is possible to go individually to place some flowers as we cannot have any kind of formal ceremony.

Summer is behind us and the chill is settling in - bringing a fresh bout of coronavirus. In the past few years, Diwali in London had just begun to be popular, with people even celebrating at Trafalgar Square. But the year has trained us well in social distancing, meeting in bubbles, wearing masks and working from home, and so though we were prepared

for skipping the festival of lights — we thought we would at least celebrate Christmas, in a big way.

Now the infection is really serious. Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson was thinking of limiting gatherings to six including children. Now no one is sure. Plans to come back to office are shelved. Infections are running in four figures per week. And not only in UK but across Europe. Schools had just opened and now they face serious problems. The Conservatives never like to bring bad news especially shutting people indoors. But Boris has to deny his normally ebullient nature and be stern. There are rumours however that he escaped for a day to Perugia for a break with Carrie Symonds, and his newborn baby.

No one thought so but Covid looks like a long term guest who is loath to go away. All around hopes of getting back to normal are dashed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, who had been spending borrowed money like there was no tomorrow, was hoping to begin cutting back in his winter budget. But it

looks like he is still Superman coming to the rescue of the unemployed and the bankrupt. But even he has begun to pose for his Instagram photos in a sombre mood. The serious visage is necessary as the Chancellor will have to tell people that the easy borrowing cannot go on forever.

People are finding ingenious ways of coping. Now that going back to the office is less likely, they have realised that working from home need not mean your local home. Now you can book short or long holidays so you can work from Estonia or Anguilla or even Perugia if you want. It is all online so who is to know? There are new travel agencies who can fix you a place where your fancy takes you. So the new lifestyle mantra is to Work from the Holiday Home. Not WFH, but WFHH.

But there are sadder changes due to the virus. London has always been a global city not just for the rich tourist but even for the traders and the artisans. The first indoors shopping centre was built in Elephant and Castle a popular area with a bus terminus as

well as underground and surface railway stations in 1965. The centre had Latin American, West Indian, Turkish and many other nationalities running shops. Next to the three level shopping centre developed a further subterranean set of shops. This shopping centre is being demolished to the great sorrow of its cosmopolitan clientele. Yes, it wasn't very posh - but the messy complex was a part of London life. A new centre is promised but it will undoubtedly be much more upmarket. Incidentally the name Elephant and Castle is derived from a Spanish princess who visited London and stayed nearby. Infanta de Castile as she was called became Elephant and Castle in London-speak. All a part of London lore.

There was apparently a "clever" shooting of a kiss in Eastenders, the popular TV show - essential in Covid times where it looked like a kiss but obviously the lips of the two actors did not meet. The couple leant towards each other - though the actual act was hidden behind a pillar, so the audience could imagine the rest. I

found the excitement over this non-kiss quite funny - as Indian cinema had in the past invented a thousand ways to "show" a couple kissing or making love - right from them sinking behind a flowerbed, to being hidden behind a tree, to two flowers leaning towards each other, to two birds flying, or the camera shyly panning away when the lovers met... it was only in recent times that outright kissing became the norm. Now it seems that while some brave actors are washing out their mouths with sanitisers before and after a kiss, others are finding some euphemisms for it... they should just take look at old Indian films, and they will find a thousand ways in which couples can have assumed to have kissed, or made love, without any physical encounter. Old Indian cinema has the answer for lovemaking in the time of Covid!

*Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her latest book, 'The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.*



## IN BRIEF

## UAE to send mission to moon in 2024

**Dubai:** The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned mission to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said Tuesday, a new gamble in space by the oil-rich nation that could see it become only the fourth country to accomplish that goal. The announcement by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.

## Roadside bomb kills 14 in Afghan

**Kabul:** At least 14 civilians, including women and children, were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb in central Afghanistan, officials said, as violence continues despite peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government. Seven women, five children and two men died when their vehicle detonated an explosive device in Daikundi province, interior ministry spokesman Tareq Arian said in a statement. Three children were also wounded, he added, blaming the Taliban for the blast. Nasrullah Ghorri — the spokesman for the governor of Daikundi — said the victims were traveling to a shrine when their minibus struck the bomb.

## Saudi breaks up Iran trained terrorist cell

**Riyadh:** Saudi Arabia has said it arrested 10 members of a "terrorist cell," some of whom underwent military and explosives training at Revolutionary Guard camps in Iran. Tehran on Tuesday denied the charges. Saudi security authorities said weapons and explosives stored at a house and a farm were seized, but did not say where the raid or the arrests last week were carried out. "Competent authorities at the presidency thwarted a terrorist cell... whose elements received military and field training on how to make explosives, at the Revolutionary Guard's sites in Iran," the kingdom's State Security Presidency said late Monday.

## French envoy faces probe for 'stealth'ing'

**Paris:** Paris prosecutors are investigating a French ambassador for allegedly not using a condom as requested during consensual sex, a practice known as "stealth-ing", a source close to the inquiry said Tuesday. The woman, 30, told police she had spent part of the night at the home of the 44-year-old envoy she met through a dating site. "They had met up several times without any sexual relations. That evening, they had consensual sex," the source said, confirming a report in French magazine *Le Point*. "She asked him to use a condom but realised during the act that the man was not wearing one," the source added. The woman filed her complaint three days later. The source did not identify the envoy by name, while *Le Point* said only that he is based in the Middle East.

## TEACHER GIVEN DEATH PENALTY FOR POISONING KIDS

**Beijing, Sept. 29:** A kindergarten teacher in China has been sentenced to death for poisoning dozens of children in an act of revenge against a colleague that left one toddler dead.

A court in the central Chinese province of Henan said Wang Yun put sodium nitrite into porridge being prepared for her colleague's students, sickening 25.

The attack took place in March 2019 and left one boy severely ill for months before he died in January this year, according to news reports.

The Jiaozuo City Intermediate People's Court on Monday said Wang knew sodium nitrite was harmful but went ahead "with no regard for the consequences", leaving many innocent children in hospital.

News reports last year said the children began vomiting and fainting after eating their breakfast.

Kindergarten students in China are aged between three and six.

The death sentence was handed to Wang this week for the offence of using dangerous substances.

## Thousands flee California wine country fires

**San Francisco, Sept. 29:** Northern California's wine country was on fire again on Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to be evacuated. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state.

In Sonoma County, residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior living facility in Santa Rosa boarded brightly lit city buses in the darkness overnight, some wearing bathrobes and using walkers. They wore masks to protect against the coronavirus as orange flames marked the dark sky.

The fire threat forced Adventist Health St. Helena hospital to suspend care and transfer all patients elsewhere. The fires that began Sunday in the famed Napa-Sonoma wine country about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Francisco came as the region nears

the third anniversary of deadly wildfires that erupted in 2017, including one that killed 22 people. Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history. "Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin evacuated her property in the Oakmont community of Santa Rosa at about 1 am. She is rebuilding a home damaged in the 2017 fires. Gorin said she saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled early Monday.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

More than 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols. Many more residents have been warned that they might have to flee, even though winds eased significantly Monday afternoon, giving firefighters an opportunity to make some progress, he said.

— AP



The Glass Fire slowly crests the ridge outside of Calistoga in Napa Valley, California. The wildfire went from 1,500 acres to more than 15,000 acres overnight as winds spread embers across the valley.

— AFP

## First US Prez TV debate rolls

Debate to offer platform for Don and Biden to outline their visions on US crisis

**Cleveland (US), Sept. 29:** In an election year like no other, the first debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, could be a pivotal moment in a race that has remained stubbornly unchanged in the face of historic tumult.

The debate will offer a massive platform for Trump and Biden to outline their starkly different visions for a country facing multiple crises, including racial justice protests and a pandemic that has killed more than 2,00,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

The health emergency has upended the usual trappings of a presidential

campaign, lending heightened importance to the debate. But amid intense political polarisation, comparatively few undecided voters remain, raising questions as to how, or if, the debate might shape a race that has been defined by its bitterness and, at least so far, its stability.

Biden will step onto the Cleveland stage holding leads in the polls — significant in the national surveys, closer in the battleground states — but facing questions about his turn in the spotlight, particularly considering Trump's withering attacks.

And Trump, with only 35 days to change the course of the race, will have

the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic.

arguably his best chance to try to reframe the campaign as a choice election and not a referendum over his handling of a virus that has killed more people in America than any other nation. "This will be

the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic.

"If Biden is unable to indict Trump for all that he has done, (that) would be profound failure. There is no spinning that away." The president's handling of the Coronavirus will likely dominate much of the discussion. The pandemic's force will be tangible as the candidates' podiums will be spaced far apart and the traditional

opening handshake scrapped.

And the debate could be shaped by an extraordinary confluence of other recent moments: the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, allowing Trump to nominate a conservative jurist to replace a liberal voice and reshape the high court for generations, and the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years. But the impact of the debate — or the two that follow in the weeks ahead — remains unclear.

— AP

## Fighting rages in Nagorny Karabakh despite truce calls

**Berlin, Sept. 29:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged an immediate end to the fighting in the region of Nagorny Karabakh in phone calls with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, her spokesman said on Tuesday.

At least 95 people have been killed in the clashes that have been raging since the weekend, including 11 civilians, according to the latest available tallies.

"The chancellor urgently called for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the negotiating table," Steffen Seibert said.

Merkel spoke with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday and with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday, he added.

The so-called Minsk Group of mediators, led by France, Russia and the United States, "offers an appropriate forum" for dialogue, Merkel said in the calls.

The UN Security

Council is due to hold emergency talks Tuesday behind closed doors on Nagorny Karabakh, diplomats said.

Yerevan and Baku have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorny Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up last July and in 2016.

The region declared independence from Azerbaijan after a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives.

It is not recognised by any country — including Armenia — and is still considered part of Azerbaijan by the international community.

— AFP

## Rapid virus tests unveil as Covid deaths top 1 mn

**Geneva, Sept. 29:** Coronavirus tests that deliver results in 15-30 minutes are to be rolled out across the United States and in scores of poorer countries, as health authorities worldwide try to get a handle on a disease that has now killed more than a million people.

US President Donald Trump announced 150 million tests would be distributed in America, while the World Health Organisation said 120 million more would be available for the developing world at \$5 each as long as funding was secured.

The testing push comes as the virus shows no sign of receding, with infection numbers climbing rapidly in Europe again and governments there clamping down on movement in an attempt to curb the surge.

Paris, London and Madrid have all been forced to introduce controls to slow infections, and on Monday Dutch authorities became the latest to tighten curbs, while the Czech Republic and Slovakia said they were preparing to declare

## China enters global race to defeat virus

**Beijing, Sept. 29 :** A Chinese company is entering the global race to help defeat the Coronavirus, promising its testing machine will return results faster than a lab and more reliably than at-home screening kits.

The Flash 20 "is currently the fastest machine in the world for PCR tests for the Coronavirus", says Sabrina Li, founder of the company Coyote.

PCR tests are the industry standard and a major weapon against a pandemic that has now killed more than a million people and eviscerated the global economy.

As governments scramble to develop adequate response systems, Li is targeting global sales.

Already used at hospitals and airports in China, the contraption can process four samples in one go and deliver results in just half an hour.

It has been certified by the European Union and Australia, and Coyote is seeking similar status from the United States and World Health Organisation. Testing has been hailed as one of the best weapons to contain the pandemic and other researchers are also on the quest to find the fastest method.

— AFP

a state of emergency. The WHO said its \$600 million scheme to roll out the quick diagnosis kits across 133 countries in the next six months would enable low- and middle-income nations to close the gap in testing with the

rich world. The kits are far faster, cheaper and easier to administer than regular standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab tests but are less sensitive and more likely to return false negatives.

— AFP



Shahbaz Sharif

## PAK'S OPPN LEADER SHARIF REMANDED

**Lahore, Sept. 29:** Pakistan's Leader of the Opposition and PML-N chief Shahbaz Sharif was on Tuesday sent on a 14-day physical remand by an accountability court in assets beyond means and money laundering case, a day after he was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Shahbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from the Lahore High Court's premises on Monday after the court rejected his bail application in the ₹700 crores money laundering case.

— PTI

## POMPEO VOICES SUPPORT FOR GREECE, TURKEY

**Athens, Sept. 29:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support on Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are "at an all time high and getting stronger." "Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe," Pompeo said. "We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership."

— AP

## ANIMAL WELFARE French govt to implement \$9.2 million package to help people working in circuses

## France to ban use of wild animals in circuses

**Paris, Sept. 29:** France's environment minister has announced a gradual ban on using wild animals in traveling circuses, on keeping dolphins and killer whales in captivity in marine parks and on raising mink on fur farms.

Barbara Pompili, France's minister of ecological transition, said in a news conference on Tuesday that bears, tigers, lions, elephants and other wild animals won't be allowed any more in travelling circuses "in the coming years."

In addition, starting immediately, France's three marine parks won't be able to bring in nor

breed dolphins and killer whales any more, she said. "It is time to open a new era in our relationship with these (wild) animals," she said, arguing that animal welfare is a priority.

Pompili said the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.

The ban does not apply to wild animals in other permanent shows and in zoos. Pompili did not set any precise date for the ban in travelling circuses, saying the process should start "as soon as possible."

She promised solutions

will be found for each animal "on a case-by-case basis." The French government will implement an 8 million-euro (\$9.2 million) package to help people working in circuses and marine parks find other jobs.

"That transition will be spread over several years, because it will change the lives of many people," she said.

— AP



A visitor takes a selfie with a camel during a circus performance at Bastille square in Paris. Frances environment minister announced on Tuesday.

— AP

## SRI LANKA BANS CATTLE SLAUGHTER

**Colombo, Sept. 29:** The Sri Lankan government has approved a proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the island nation. However, it decided to import beef for the benefit of those who consume it.

The Cabinet on Monday approved the proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the country, Cabinet spokesman and Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said on Tuesday, adding that legalising the decision would be done in due course.

On September 8, the Parliamentary Group of

the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) approved Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the country.

The Cabinet said it will take immediate necessary measures to amend the Animal Act, the Cattle Slaughter Ordinance and other related laws and regulations currently in force in the country.

According to officials, the Cabinet has decided to import beef and provide it at a concessionary price to people who consume it.

— PTI



quick BITES

| INDICATORS             |            | %      |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Sensex                 | 37,973.22  | -0.02  |
| Nifty 50               | 11,222.40  | -0.05  |
| S&P 500*               | 3,339.59   | -0.36  |
| Dollar (₹)             | 73.85      | -0.07  |
| Pound Sterling (₹)     | 95.10      | -0.63  |
| Euro (₹)               | 86.25      | -0.46  |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹)       | 51,367.663 | 1.29   |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)*  | 41.09      | -1.34  |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield    | 6.037      | -0.019 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.651      | -0.012 |

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

RBI places its nominee on Dhanlaxmi board

Dhanlaxmi Bank said RBI general manager D. K. Kashyap has been appointed on its board for two years by the regulator. The bank did not disclose the reason for appointment of the RBI's nominee of its board with effect from Sept. 28. The RBI usually does not appoint its nominee on the boards of private banks unless there are exceptional circumstances to avoid any conflict of interest. Dhanlaxmi was put under the PCA in Nov. 2015.

Swatch shuts some systems after cyberattack



Swatch Group shut down some of its technology systems after detecting a cyberattack over the weekend, the world's biggest watchmaker said on Tuesday. "Swatch Group confirms that it has identified clear signs of a developing cyber-attack on some of its IT systems during the weekend," the company said. The shutdown had affected some of its operations, Swatch said, without explaining more.

Sebi to issue code of conduct for MF managers

Markets regulator Sebi decided to introduce a code of conduct for mutual fund managers, including chief investment officer of asset management companies (AMCs). In addition, AMCs have been allowed to become self-clearing member of clearing corporations for debt transactions. The chief executive officer will be responsible to ensure that the code of conduct is followed by officers.

Sebi slaps ₹1 cr fine on Brickwork Ratings

The Sebi imposed a penalty of Rs crore on Brickwork Ratings India, for lapses while assigning credit ratings to non-convertible debentures of Essel Group companies. Brickwork also failed to review the rating of NCDs of Great Eastern Energy Corporation after another credit rating agency downgraded the NCDs in April 2017. Also, the regulator has found delay in recognising default of NCDs of Diamond Power Infrastructure.

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■ Wealth of 828 equals a third of GDP India's wealthy got thrice rich in 5 yrs

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Over the last five years, there were several stories about financial pain caused to the rich because of events such as black-money-busting demonetisation, anti-tax evading GST and a persistent fall in economic growth rate. Now here's a reality check: 828 super-rich persons commanding a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore have seen their wealth swelling three-fold in the last five years, according to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020.

The survey also claimed that the combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion, which is one-third size of India's GDP. This further widens the inequality in wealth between the super-rich and the poor.

Their combined wealth is more than the combined GDP of India's South Asian neighbours - Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

According to the World Bank's Gini Index, inequality has been rising since 1993, which portrays a sorry picture of economic reforms benefiting the rich more than the poor.

While the country's economic growth slowed last year, the cumulative wealth of the 828 super-rich has increased by 20 per cent or Rs 10 lakh crore compared to that of last year. However, the average growth in wealth

SUPER-RICH LEAGUE

- Combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion
- Mukesh Ambani stayed top with a wealth of ₹6,58,400 cr
- Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot with ₹1,43,700 cr
- With ₹1,41,700 crore, HCL founder Shiv Nadar ranked third
- The list saw 162 new faces this time

among the 828 super-rich has remained nine per cent, suggesting few individuals in the super-elite club benefitting more than others.

"About 28 per cent of the upswing in wealth on the list has been bestowed by Mukesh Ambani, who saw meteoric success post diversifying from oil to telecom and retail. A further 21 per cent of the additional wealth has been generated by pharma, mainly on the back of the rise in healthcare spends and a realigned priority towards personal healthcare stimulated by the Covid-19," Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and chief researcher, Hurun India said.

With a wealth of Rs 6,58,400 crore, Mukesh Ambani continued to be the richest man in India. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic,

Ambani's wealth dropped by 28 per cent to Rs 3,50,000 crore and then, backed by a series of funding and strategic investments, his valuation recovered a "V-shaped recovery" and increased by 85 per cent in four months.

With a wealth of Rs 1,43,700 crore, the Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot in the list. The brothers saw the valuation drop by 23 per cent due to a lacklustre performance of their flagship companies such as IndusInd Bank, Gulf Oil and GOCL Corporation. With Rs 1,41,700 crore, the founder of HCL, Shiv Nadar, ranked third, backed by a 37 per cent increase in HCL's share price.

The list saw 162 new faces, 76 per cent of which are self-made entrepreneurs. Their numbers in the list were up at 64 per cent, up from 54 per cent five years ago.

Backed by a stellar IPO of Happiest Minds, founder Ashok Soota debuted in the list with a wealth of Rs 3,700 crore. Route Mobile's IPO bestowed Sandipkumar Gupta and Rajdipkumar Gupta with a wealth of Rs 2,000 crore each.

Among the biggest gainers, Udaan co-founders and former Flipkart executives Amod Malviya, Sujett Kumar and Vaibhav Gupta had their wealth increase by 274 per cent. Chigurupati Krishna Prasad of Granules India saw the second fastest rise in wealth.

Bid for Mahindra Thar hits ₹1.1 crore

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 29

In a first of its kind, Mahindra & Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, which started an online auction for the first unit of the all-new second-generation Thar SUV to donate the proceeds to fight the Covid pandemic, on Tuesday crossed the Rs 1.10-crore mark.

The company will match the amount raised at the auction and the entire proceeds will be donated to a charitable organisation supporting Covid-19 relief.

Tuesday was the last day of bidding. While Mahindra did not officially announce the winning bidder, Aakash Minda from New Delhi had bid for Rs 1 crore early on Tuesday. Later Abhishek Datta from Medinapur raised it to Rs 1.07 crore mark. But with just a few hours to go, Arun from Chennai, surpassed that figure for the Thar No.1 at Rs 1.09 crore, industry sources said. But, finally, it was Aakash Minda who bid big in the final few minutes, taking the tally to Rs 1.11 crore.

M&M will announce the new Thar's price on October 2, which is Mahindra's 75th Founders' Day and the SUV is likely to be priced in the Rs 12-15 lakh range.

The winner of the auction can choose a charitable organisation from the three suggested.

Retro tax: Cairn seeks \$1.4 billion from govt

New Delhi, Sept. 29: British oil explorer Cairn Energy Plc on Tuesday said it is seeking from the Indian government \$1.4 billion (about Rs 10,300 crore) in losses arising from the expropriation of its investments to enforce a retrospective tax demand.

In its half-yearly earnings statement, the company said it expects an international arbitral tribunal to shortly give a decree on its challenge to the government seeking Rs 10,247 crore in retrospective taxes.

"The main evidentiary hearing of Cairn's claim under the (UK-India Bilateral Investment) Treaty took place in August 2018 in The Hague with a final hearing in December 2018," the firm said. The tribunal, it said, has indicated that "it expects to be in a position to issue the award after the end of the summer of 2020."

Cairn said it is seeking "full restitution for losses of more than \$1.4 billion resulting from the expropriation of its investments in India in 2014; continued attempts to enforce retrospective tax measures; and the failure to treat the company and its investments fairly and equitably."

This is the second most high profile retrospective tax litigation. Last week, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's efforts to claim Rs 22,100 crore in past taxes from Vodafone Group were in breach of fair treatment under the bilateral investment protection pact between India and the Netherlands.

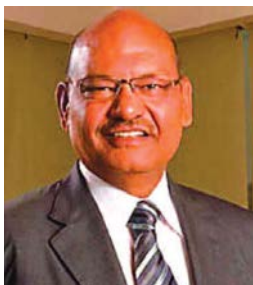
Agarwal looks to raise \$5 bn to join PSU sale

NISHANT KUMAR & DINESH NAIR SEPT. 29

Commodities tycoon Anil Agarwal is seeking at least \$5 billion for a fund targeting companies being sold off by the Indian government, marking a return to the strategy that made him wealthy.

Agarwal is targeting \$1 billion or more in an initial round of fundraising for the proposed India Direct Investment fund, according to people familiar with the matter, asking not to be identified because the plans are private. He is already scouting for targets and could spend nearly \$10 billion on the first few acquisitions, one of the people said.

The billionaire is working with London-based Centricus Asset Management Ltd on the fund, which will have a 10-year life span and use a private equity-type strategy, according to



Anil Agarwal

another person. He plans to buy companies over a five-year period and then boost their profitability before seeking an exit, the person said.

Agarwal, the founder of Vedanta Resources Ltd, is raising capital from international investors to buy stakes in government companies being sold under India's Rs 2.1 lakh crore (\$28 billion) divestment programme. The fund will also target companies being restructured under the country's bankruptcy rules.

—Bloomberg

tion pact between India and the Netherlands.

Cairn, which gave the country its biggest oil discovery, received a notice from the income tax department in January 2014, raising a preliminary assessment of Rs 10,247 crore tax liability relating to the group reor-

ganisation done in 2006.

Alongside, the department attached the company's near 10 per cent shareholding in its erstwhile subsidiary, Cairn India.

Cairn Energy had in 2010-11 sold Cairn India to Vedanta.

—PTI

Walmart may invest \$25 bn in Tata Group's super app

Bengaluru, Sept. 29:

Walmart Inc is in talks with Tata Group for a potential investment of up to \$25 billion in the Indian salt-to-software conglomerate's new "super app", a newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to ongoing discussions between the two companies, the super app could be launched as a joint venture between Tata and Walmart, leveraging on the synergies between Tata's e-commerce business and Flipkart, Walmart's e-commerce unit, according to the report.

The news comes as Reliance Industries Ltd, controlled by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, raised over \$20 billion from investors, including Facebook, Alphabet's Google, KKR & Co and Silver Lake Partners, by selling stakes in its digital business Jio Platforms.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported that Tata Group is in discussions with potential investors about stakes in its new

digital platform.

The Walmart investment could touch \$20 billion to \$25 billion eventually for a large stake in the proposed super app that will be hosted under a Tata Sons unit.

The super app, which is scheduled to be launched in India in December or January, will bring together Tata's consumer business under one channel offering a wide range of products in the retail space.

Tata's consumer businesses include watch and jewellery brand Titan and fashion retail chain Trent. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Tata Steel gained more than 1 per cent each on Tuesday.

If the Walmart deal goes through, it will top its investment in Flipkart, for which the US-based company paid \$16 billion for a 66 per cent stake.

The report in *Mint* newspaper said Walmart had hired Goldman Sachs as the banker for the proposed deal.

—Reuters

Amazon ups festive wager with ₹1,125 crore funding

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Building a war chest ahead of the festive season, US-based e-commerce giant Amazon has infused fresh capital to the tune of Rs 1,125 crore into its India unit Amazon Seller Services. Having pumped in Rs 2,310 crore into the same entity in June, the global e-tailer has already infused around half a billion dollar into its Indian business this year.

Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited, Singapore and Amazon.com Inc Limited, Mauritius have pumped in Rs 1,125 crore into Amazon Seller Services, regulatory documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler, showed. Amazon Seller Services allotted equity shares to these entities for the transaction on September 17.

Having pumped in fresh capital of Rs 2,310 crore in June, Amazon has infused a total of Rs 3,435 crore into the India business. This is half of the Rs 7,000 crore, or \$1 billion, announced by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos in

January to help bring small and medium businesses online.

This will help Amazon take on Flipkart as well as Reliance Industries owned JioMart during the festive season. Both entities are well-funded for the festive season. In July, Flipkart had announced that it had received funding of \$1.2 billion from investors led

by parent Walmart.

JioMart has no dearth of funds. The Jio platforms have raised around \$10 billion in a few rounds of funding.

The festive days are going to be crucial for e-tailers as the industry watchers have been predicting a notable growth in e-commerce sales despite the overall gloom.

E-comm to create 3 L jobs

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Back-end infrastructure creation by e-commerce companies prior to festive month will create three lakh new temporary and permanent jobs. This will be driven by an estimated 1.8 times jump in shipments compared to last festive season.

E-com players are increasing their physical infrastructure and hiring more people before the festive month. RedSeer Consulting says this will create 300,000 new jobs.

Amazon has ramped up its delivery infrastructure and added tens of thousands of delivery partners to the network to serve the rising customer demand for the festive season. The company has added close to 200 delivery stations, including those operated by delivery service partners across the country.

Flipkart too had said it would help generate over 70,000 direct and lakhs of indirect seasonal jobs, including delivery executives, pickers, packers and sorters.

Maruti picks 5 more startups under MAIL programme



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 29

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Tuesday said it has short-listed five new startups as part of its third cohort of the Mobility and Automobile Innovation Lab (MAIL) programme to promote innovation in the mobility space.

The startups chosen are Clean Slate, Peer Robotics, Vicara, Hyper Reality and Urja.

Maruti, which sells one out of two car bought in the country, is now engaged with 14 startups under the MAIL programme in the last 18 months.

Maruti's MAIL initiative supports startups by co-creating innovative business solutions. The programme was launched to nurture innovation in the automobile and mobility sector in partnership with GHV Accelerator in January 2019.

The initiative aims to create an environment to nurture, foster and guide the early-stage startups, the company said in a statement.

"The five startups of cohort 3 underwent an extensive shortlisting process that included screening and pitch sessions."

"Clean Slate Technologies, a startup from Bengaluru, stood as the winner of the programme, followed by Peer Robotics from Gurgaon as 1st runner up and Vicara from Bengaluru as the 2nd runner up," the company said.

These startups will now engage with Maruti Suzuki for paid projects and also will be entitled to other benefits associated with the programme.

PLAY | BY RULE

Googles billing system takes 30% cut on payments made within app

Play billing must for selling via app: Google

New Delhi, Sept. 29:

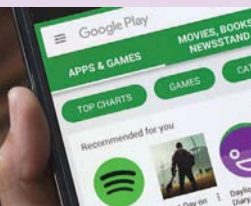
Google on Tuesday said apps that choose to sell digital content through its Play Store have to use Google Play billing system and pay a percentage of the in-app purchase as fee.

The tech giant—which was recently embroiled in a controversy after blocking Paytm app for a few hours—said while the policy for using Google Play's billing system for in-app purchases of digital goods has been in existence, there was a need to clarify it. "Today, we are clarifying a Play billing policy, which has been long standing and existing... Recent incidents and otherwise have shown us that clarifying policies and applying them equitably

and equally is very important for the ecosystem...every developer that chooses to sell digital content through Google Play will use Play billing," Google director-business development, games and applications Purnima Kochikar told reporters in a virtual briefing.

This would mean that developers will have to start using Google's billing system that charges a 30 per cent cut on the payment made within the app, starting September 2021.

Any app that chooses to offer in-app purchase of digital goods like unlocking additional features or buying tokens to power up a game character or paying for songs, will be



required to use Google Play's billing system.

However, physical goods (like ride hailing services) or paying for content subscription via the developer's own website will not require Play billing.

For developers who already have an app on Google Play (which has over 2 billion monthly active users) and require technical work to integrate with Play billing system, the company will

provide time until September 30, 2021 to complete the updates.

Kochikar said about 97 per cent of the developers seem to understand and comply with this policy, but did not name those who were non-compliant.

Both Google and Apple have drawn criticism from many developers over the high fees they are charging. As per reports, Spotify, Match Group (which runs Tinder) and Fortnite developer Epic Games had announced they were joining a non-profit coalition 'App Fair Alliance' to pressure Apple to change its stance on fees.

Kochikar said Android allows developers to distribute their apps via

third party stores. "You can also distribute your apps to the web, there are multiple ways. So, if an app is distributed through a third-party store or through the web, Play policy does not apply...It's all about openness," she said.

Third-party app stores include the likes of Galaxy Store (Samsung) and Indus App Bazaar. Kochikar said developers can communicate with their users about pricing and alternative ways to pay beyond their app via email or other channels.

"They will not be able to use other billing when they are selling digital content through the Play Store. They have multiple store options," she said.

—PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Battery-powered masks for players

**New Delhi:** Claiming to be the best in ensuring optimum oxygen for the wearer, battery-operated masks designed by an IIT-Kharagpur alumni will be put on trial for India's Olympic-bound athletes by the IOA to assist their intense training. The IOA has tied up with IIT Kharagpur's Piyush Agarwal, who currently owns a startup 'PQR Technology Private Limited' and has got government funding under the 'KAWACH Mask Project'. His start-up is currently attached with IIT Delhi. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said that the battery-operated masks, which cost around ₹2200 each, will be trialled first on a few Olympic-bound athletes. If they don't face any breathing issues and after approval from the IOA Medical Commission, the masks will then be used by all the Olympic-bound athletes and others. "I was initially very guarded about resumption of training by athletes but since they have started training and we don't know when this pandemic will end, we have to think about the best way possible and this idea of masks which seems safe for intensive training struck us," Mehta said. — PTI

## Schumacher son is closer to F1

**Maranello, Italy:** Michael Schumacher's son, Mick, will have an official Formula One drive during a race weekend for the first time next week at the Nurburgring, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari said on Tuesday. Schumacher gets the practice drive in an Alfa Romeo on Oct. 9 on his home track in Germany as a member of Ferrari's young driver program, taking over Antonio Giovinazzi's car for the first session of the weekend. "I am overjoyed to get this chance in free practice," Schumacher said in a statement. "I'm going to prepare myself well, so that I can do the best possible job for the team and gain some valuable data for the weekend." The 21-year-old Schumacher leads the Formula 2 standings after winning races in Monza and Sochi. He won the European Formula 3 championship in 2018 and tested a Ferrari F1 car in Bahrain in April 2019. — AP

## Pliskova ends Sherif dream run

**Paris:** Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a Roland Garros second round clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday. Pliskova squandered eight set points in the opening set as world No. 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead. However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4. Latvia's Ostapenko, the world 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1. — AFP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**Australia Women vs New Zealand Women:** Third T20 from 9.15 am on Sony Six, HD

**England Women vs West Indies Women:** Fifth T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

## FOOTBALL

**Spanish League:** Huesca vs Atletico Madrid from 10.30 pm; Real Madrid vs Real Valladolid from 1 am (Thursday) on LaLiga page on Facebook

**Italian League:** Benevento vs Inter Milan from 9.30 am; Lazio vs Atalanta from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2

**Champions League Play-offs:** Midtjylland vs Slavia Praha from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

## BASKETBALL

**NBA Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7):** Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six

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## RED-HOT SUN

## Hyderabad beat high-flying Delhi for first win of season

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 29:** Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs for their first win in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday. Kane Williamson, playing his first game of the season, smashed 41 off 26 balls after SRH were put in to bat. Openers David Warner and Jonny Bairstow made 45 and 53 respectively as SRH scored 162 for four in 20 overs.

In response, Delhi Capitals ended at 147 for seven in 20 overs with Rashid Khan taking three wickets.

Earlier, Bairstow smashed two fours and one six in his 48-ball 53 and shared two crucial partnerships — 77 off 57 balls with David Warner (45 off 33) for the opening stand and 52 off 38 balls with Kane Williamson (41 off 26) for the third wicket.

Making his IPL debut, Jammu and Kashmir's Abdul Samad (12 off 7) blasted a four and six in his useful cameo.

Warner and Bairstow were circumspect with the pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada (2/21) and Anrich Nortje maintaining their line and length.

The result was Sunrisers could only score 38 in the power-play, which yielded just two fours and a six — all hit by Warner.

Bairstow picked his first boundary in the seventh over, launching a slog sweep for a six off leg-spinner Amit Mishra (2/35). The duo tried to make up for the lack of boundaries on the slow track with their excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Warner sent one straight over Ishant's head for his second six and then picked a four off Mishra with a reverse sweep but the



Rashid Khan of Sunrisers Hyderabad celebrates the wicket of Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer in their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. — BCCI

spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

Mishra returned to dismiss Manish Pandey (3) before Sunrisers crossed the 100-mark in 14th over.

Playing his first match

of the season after recovering from an injury, Williamson smashed two fours in the 16th over to take SRH to 128 for two. Bairstow reached his fifty off 44 balls before holding out to Nortje in the 18th over. Williamson too was dismissed in the last over. — PTI

## SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** David Warner c Pant b A. Mishra 45, Jonny Bairstow c Nortje b Rabada 53, Manish Pandey c Rabada b A. Mishra 3, Kane Williamson c Axar b Rabada 41, Abdul Samad (not out) 12, Abhishek Sharma (not out) 1. **Extras: (lb-4, w-3) 7. Total: (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 162.** **FoW:** 77-1, 92-2, 144-3, 160-4. **Bowling:** Ishant Sharma 3-0-26-0, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-21-2, Anrich Nortje 4-0-40-0, Marcus Stoinis 3-0-22-0, Amit Mishra 4-0-35-2, Axar Patel 2-0-14-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** P. Shaw c Bairstow b Kumar 2, S. Dhawan c Bairstow b Rashid Khan 34, S. Iyer (c) c Abdul Samad b Rashid Khan 17, R. Pant c Garg b Rashid Khan 32, S. Hetmyer c Pandey b Kumar 21, M. Stoinis lbw b Natarajan 11, A. Patel b Ahmed 5, K. Rabada (not out) 15, A. Nortje (not out) 3. **Extras: (lb-2, w-5) 7. Total: (for 7 wks, in 20 overs) 147.** **FoW:** 1-2, 2-42, 3-62, 4-104, 5-117, 6-126, 7-138. **Bowling:** B. Kumar 4-0-25-2, K. Ahmed 4-0-43-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-29-1, Abhishek Sharma 4-0-34-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-14-3.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

| Teams                       | P | W | L | N/R | Pts | NRR    |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Rajasthan Royals            | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0   | 4   | +0.615 |
| Delhi Capitals              | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0   | 4   | +0.483 |
| Royal Challengers Bangalore | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0   | 4   | -1.450 |
| Kings XI Punjab             | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | +1.498 |
| Mumbai Indians              | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | +0.654 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | -0.228 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0   | 2   | -0.767 |
| Chennai Super Kings         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | -0.840 |

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

## Captain Kohli all praise for Saini's Super Over heroics



Navdeep Saini

these two points in the bag and very crucial points at early stages of the tournament," Kohli added.

The India skipper also praised young wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan and Kieron Pollard to bring Mumbai back into the game.

"It was such a roller-coaster of a game. We bat-

ted well in the first innings to get us past 200 and then the start of bowling was outstanding. They played well in the middle overs, waited for the dew to kick in. Pollard and Ishan to bat the way they did was outstanding to keep them in the game," he said.

According to Kohli, fielding is something that his team needs to work on.

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma conceded that RCB controlled nerves better than his team.

"Nothing to take away from RCB. They stuck to their plans, although we put them under pressure, they held their nerve more than us. It was a great game of cricket, we were not in the game at all when we started with the bat.

"But great innings by Ishan (Kishan) there to get us back in the game and then Polly (Kieron Pollard) was brilliant as usual," Rohit said. — PTI



## Tewatia, Samson threatens for KKR

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Kolkata Knight Riders will have to bat out of their skin to stop a marauding Rajasthan Royals when the two teams clash in an IPL match at the Dubai International Stadium here on Wednesday.

Having started off as underdogs, the Royals have taken the IPL by storm, chasing down the highest tournament total 224 against Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

In two wins from two matches, the Royals have got past the 200-mark with ease. In their success, they have found two stars in Sanju Samson and Rahul Tewatia, who have outshone marquee players.

In his second coming at the Royals, little known Haryana all-rounder Tewatia has got instant stardom for his 31-ball 53 against KXIP, which helped the side chase down a record 224 with three balls to spare against KXIP.

But the season so far belongs to Samson — the wicketkeeper from Kerala. Boasting of the season's highest strike-rate of 214.86, Samson has two successive half-centuries that has once again put him in contention for a longer rope in the Indian team as a keeper-batsman.

Skipper Steve Smith has been ever reliable, striking two half-centuries, while opener Jos Buttler will be waiting to explode.

To match or even surpass the Royals, KKR have the biggest stars in Andre Russell to go along with

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 20
- Kolkata: 10
- Rajasthan: 8
- Tied: 2 (Rajasthan Royals won both tied matches against Kolkata Knight Riders in Super Overs.)

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders beat Rajasthan Royals by 8 wickets in Jaipur.
- Rajasthan Royals beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 3 wickets in Kolkata.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Sanju Samson scored 159 runs at an average of 79.50 and a strike rate of 214.86 with two fifties in two innings in this IPL.

- Eoin Morgan, who smashed 297 sixes in 278 innings of 292 matches, needs just three sixes to become the 20th batsman to complete a triple century of sixers in Twenty-20.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

reigning World Cup winning English skipper Eoin Morgan, one of the best in limited-overs cricket.

Having started off with a familiar defeat to Mumbai Indians in their opener, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a determined show to bounce back against a sloppy Sunrisers Hyderabad. — PTI

## MARSH IN LIMBO AFTER HIS SCANS LOST IN UAE

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is unaware of the extent of his injury, which ruled him out of the Indian Premier League, as the reports of the scans performed on his right ankle went missing in the UAE.

This was confirmed by the cricketer himself on Tuesday.

"We don't really know what happened with the scans over in the UAE. Cricket Australia haven't been able to get their hands on them so it's bit of a weird situation," Marsh told reporters during a virtual press conference.

Marsh, who twisted his ankle while going for a

drive in his franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad's season opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore, is currently undergoing a 14-day quarantine in a Perth hotel.

The injury cut short his outing in the remainder of the lucrative T20 league.

"Hopefully I'll go for another scan at some point this week, if I can get clearance, and then we'll be a lot clearer on what we're dealing with."

"It's one of those frustrating injuries. I've been through a few now so I think I know how to deal with it. I moaned and groaned for about 48 hours in the UAE," Marsh said. — PTI

## Klopp wowed by Reds' early surge

**Liverpool, Sept. 29:** Jurgen Klopp said on Monday that he has been blown away by the standards Liverpool have set at the start of their Premier League title defence after coming from behind to beat Arsenal 3-1 at Anfield.

Goals from Sadio Mane, Andy Robertson and Diogo Jota saw off the Gunners, who had won their opening two league games of the season.

While Manchester City, Chelsea, Manchester United, Tottenham and now Arsenal have all lost in the opening three weeks of the new campaign, Liverpool have taken maximum points to lay down an early marker that they remain the team to beat in the Premier League this season. "It's really early in the

season and with this performance it is absolutely 'wow,'" said coach Klopp.

"From the first second, (it was) dominant against a team in form. We had to be careful like hell of the counter-attacks.

"The football we played was absolutely exceptional. About this game tonight, there is nothing bad to say."

The outcome of the match could have been very different, though, had Mane not escaped with just a yellow card for an elbow on Kieran Tierney after just three minutes.

Arsenal followed the game plan that had brought them two victories over Liverpool in recent months as they dropped deep then looked to play around the Reds' press when in possession. However, unlike when

## THE RESULTS

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fulham                               | 0 |
| Aston Villa                          | 3 |
| (Grealish 4, Hourihane 15, Mings 48) |   |
| Liverpool                            | 3 |
| (Mane 28, Robertson 34, Jota 88)     |   |
| Arsenal                              | 1 |
| (Lacazette 25)                       |   |

they met at the back end of last season's Premier League when Jurgen Klopp's men had already won the league or the Community Shield in August, Liverpool were far sharper in pulling the Gunners out of position.

The only time Arsenal did manage to pierce the Liverpool press before half-time, they opened the scor-

ing completely against the run of play.

## WASTEFUL ARSENAL PUNISHED

Liverpool responded immediately to level within three minutes as Mohamed Salah outmuscled Tierney and when his shot was parried across goal by Leno, Mane turned into an empty net.

Robertson then made amends for his previous error as Liverpool's flying full-backs combined as Alexander-Arnold's cross was this time converted by the Scotland captain.

However, where Arsenal sides of recent years might have collapsed, as they did in losing 4-0 and 5-1 at Anfield in 2018 and 2019, Mikel Arteta has instilled a new-found belief in the FA Cup winners. — AFP



Liverpool's Diogo Jota (centre) is congratulated by teammate Fabinho after scoring his team's third goal against Arsenal in their English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool on Monday. Liverpool won 3-1. — AP