

RAJNATH HEADS
TO RUSSIA FOR
SCO MEET

P5



KAFEEL KHAN FEARS
U.P. GOVT COULD
FRAME HIM

P5



ABE'S SPOKESMAN
SEEN AS FAVOURITE
TO SUCCEED HIM

P9



WHEN WEST ASIA
DRAWS A LINE
IN THE SAND

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied with gusty winds. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 33 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 87% Min: 61%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.0°C (+1) Min: 25.3°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:01 hrs

MOON RISES

19:39 hrs

SUN SETS

18:40 hrs

MOON SETS

07:37 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Candidates leave their examination centre in Vivek Vihar, Delhi, after appearing for the joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2020 amidst the Covid pandemic on Wednesday. DEEPAK

Facebook India chief appears before Par panel: Amid a row over Facebook's alleged political "bias", India head of the social media platform Ajit Mohan was on Wednesday questioned for nearly two hours by a parliamentary panel, which is discussing alleged misuse of social media platforms. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology had called representatives of Facebook to hear their views on the subject of safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms.

Govt to stop physical printing of calendars, diaries: The government on Wednesday said ministries, departments, public sector undertakings and public sector banks will stop physical printing of calendars, diaries and greeting cards. In an office memorandum, the Department of Expenditure under the finance ministry also banned printing of coffee-table books. All government departments and offices have been directed to make efforts to adopt innovative means to use digital or online methods for these items.

Farm sector accounts for 7.4 pc of all suicides in 2019: NCRB

KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

A total of 10,281 farmers and agricultural labourers and 32,563 daily wage earners committed suicide in the country during 2019, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data released today.

The farm sector suicides accounted for 7.4 per cent of the total 1,39,123 suicides in the year.

Out of the total suicides, 70.2 per cent (97,613) were by males and 29.6 per cent (41,493) were females. The total of 1,39,123 suicides during 2019 showed an increase of 3.4 per cent in comparison to 2018. The majority of the suicides were reported in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

SNS

54 pc Covid-19 cases in age group 18-44 yrs, 51 pc deaths among those aged 60 yrs and above

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

With 2,509 fresh cases, Delhi reports another Corona spike

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

India's total tally of Covid-19 cases climbed to over 37 lakh on Wednesday with 78,357 new cases of the infection reported in the previous 24 hours, while the number of recoveries has crossed 29 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 76.98 per cent, Union health ministry data showed.

With 1,045 new fatalities in 24 hours, the death toll rose to 66,333. India has so far reported 37,69,523 cases of the novel coronavirus, according to the data.

At present there are 8,01,282 active cases in the country, which comprises 21.26 per cent of the total case-load, the Ministry data stated.

The total number of Covid-19 recoveries in the country has surged to 29,01,908, while the fatality rate has further declined to 1.76 per cent.

samples have been tested up to September 1, of which 10,12,367 were tested on Tuesday.

Earlier today, the Union Health Ministry informed that fifty-four per cent of the total coronavirus cases in India were reported among people from 18 to 44 years of age while patients in 60 years and above bracket account for 51 per cent deaths.

"Fifty-four percent of Covid-19 cases are in the 18-44 years age group but 51% deaths are in the 60 years and above age group," the ministry tweeted.

According to the ministry, there are 8 per cent cases and 1 per cent deaths below 17 years of age, 14 per cent of total coronavirus cases in India and 1 per cent of deaths recorded among the 18-25 age group.



Centre announces SOPs for resuming Metro services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said Metro train services will resume in a graded manner from September 7 across the country, except in Maharashtra, and passengers will have to follow preventive measures against Covid-19 such as maintaining social distancing and wearing face mask.

Addressing an online media briefing, the Union housing and urban affairs minister said that all Metro lines will become operational from September 12.

The minister, however, said that if the government finds that resumption of Metro services does not result in social distancing or leads to crowding and trains getting congested, it might have no option but to review the decision.

The minister said that Metro stations in Covid-19 containment zones will remain closed when services resume from September 7.

Puri said that wearing face mask will be mandatory during travel on Metro trains and added that masks will be provided to passengers on payment basis at stations.

"Only asymptomatic persons will be allowed to travel after thermal screening at entry into stations. Symptomatic persons will be advised to go to nearby Covid Care Centre or hospital for testing or medical attention," Puri said.

The central government said that Delhi, Noida, Chennai, Kochi, Bangalore, Mumbai Line-1, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Maha Metro (Nagpur), Kolkata,

Meet today on Kolkata Metro resumption

KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Kolkata Metro Railway authorities will hold a meeting with Bengal government officers on Thursday to discuss matters relating to resumption of Metro train services in the city.

Kolkata Metro Railway is considering resuming services from the third week of this month.

According to sources, the tentative date for resumption of Metro services could be 14 September because of the complete lockdown on 11 and 12 September while 13 is a Sunday. If things go according to plan, the Metro authorities might decide to restart services from 14 September.

Gujarat and UP Metro (Lucknow) have prepared their respective SOPs.

The Maharashtra government has decided not to resume operation of Metro during September. Hence, Mumbai Line-1 and Maha Metro operations shall commence from October 2020 or as state government may decide further," it stated.

An official said that if passengers are not following anti-Covid-19 measures, Metro rail corporations may have an option of naming and shaming them through social media.

Pranab diaries: Sharmistha to take the call on publication

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER



friends.

"Once asked him what the fate of his diaries would be, and he had said he'd given them to his daughter because a lot of controversies can take place. In his diaries, he wrote whatever he thought - things that were off the record - but he didn't want to publish it before his death, said veteran journalist Jayanta Ghoshal.

Ghoshal, who had known the late politician since 1985, said Mukherjee was in the habit of writing diaries since his days as cabinet minister in the Indira Gandhi government and continued to write them after retiring as president.

In fact, the length of his entries had increased after

he demitted the president's office, he said.

One entry that Gautam Lahiri, another senior journalist and long-time friend, knows of is a drawing by Mukherjee's granddaughter. This followed a conversation between Mukherjee, the child and then prime minister Manmohan Singh. "After Pranab Mukherjee was elected as president, Manmohan Singh went to his house and Pranab had called his granddaughter and said, You were looking for a prime minister, he is a PM. She didn't believe it and ran away.

Later that day, his granddaughter drew a picture of Pranab da as PM. That picture is entered in his diary as a memory of the interaction between Manmohan Singh, his granddaughter and himself, Lahiri recounted.

The entire interaction, the journalist explained, stemmed from the much talked about topic of how Mukherjee never became prime minister.

Like most people, his family felt that he should be made PM. He never aspired for that and he never told anybody. He believed that the president's and the PM's posts are so honourable that they can only be offered, one cannot go hankering after them. But his family members, even his grandchildren believed that one day he would become PM, Lahiri said.

Mukherjee, who had a ring-

side view of events in India as it evolved through the decades, had told reporters in May 2012 that he was a diary writer but had no plans to publish them during his lifetime.

"That job will be done by my daughter," he had said. He had also indicated that since the diaries were a truthful account of events as seen by an individual "it is always better that they be made public after the individual is no more".

Mukherjee served as India's president from July 2012 to July 2017. He continued to be a presence to contend with even after he demitted office, often making headlines as he attended book launches and delivered lectures.

honours on Tuesday, came into politics in 1969 and subsequently served as minister for External Affairs, Defence, Finance and Commerce and then as India's 13th president.

Writing a diary every day was one of Mukherjee's ways to keep his famously encyclopaedic memory razor sharp until the very end, said his close



We have already announced our decision of lockdown on September 7, 11 and 12 and informed the home ministry. The lockdown will happen, we have consulted

MAMATA BANERJEE

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

LG asks officials to start Covid testing on demand in Capital

Bajjal directs officials to ramp up Delhi's Covid testing capacity through measures like 'testing on demand', testing at border points and at major construction sites; city reports 2,509 new virus cases

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal today directed officials to significantly augment the city's testing capacity by taking measures like 'testing on demand', testing at the national capital's border points and at major construction sites to check the spread of Covid-19.

Delhi has been witnessing a rise again in the number of Covid cases over the last couple of weeks and authorities feel that the spread of the infection can only be contained by launching aggressive testing and contact tracing strategies in the national capital.

During a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) today, the LG asked officials to work out modalities and prepare detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs) to introduce such testing facilities on a large scale.

At the meeting attended by Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal among others, it was reportedly decided that testing, tracing and treatment strategies will be strengthened in Delhi's rural areas.

Sources said that for 'testing on demand' facility, a helpline number will soon be launched, where a person, who feels he has Covid-19 symptoms, can book testing and thereafter can avail the facility at his doorstep.

"In first phase, senior citizens, women and children are



LG Anil Bajjal chairs a meeting to review the Covid-19 situation in Delhi, which was also attended by CM Arvind Kejriwal and senior officials. In the Capital on Wednesday.

SNS

symptoms.

"It will be mandatory for all migrant workers coming to Delhi to undergo tests. However, people, who live in NCR but work in Delhi, can also undergo test if they feel so," a source said.

"If a person prefers to undergo Covid-19 test at a nearby centre, he will be given particular time slot so that he will not have to stand in long queues," the source said.

Testing centres are also being set up at major ISBTs, where migrant workers need to undergo test.

"At testing facilities at border points, everyone will not need to undergo Covid-19 test. If somebody entering Delhi feels that he has Covid-like symptoms, he can approach testing centres at border

points. It will not be mandatory for everyone to undergo the test," the source said.

The LG has also directed officials to set up Covid testing facilities at major construction sites, including the Metro project sites, for labourers.

Asked whether it would be paid facility, an official said that it would be clear once all modalities are worked out.

"People availing testing on demand' facility may pay some amount, but Covid-19 testing at border points and construction sites may be available for free of cost.

However, a final decision has not been taken yet," the official said.

Later, in a tweet, Bajjal said, "In view of changing scenario it is important to urgently review & strengthen the current Testing, Tracing & Treatment strategies with focus on hot spots, containment zones & rural areas."

Last month, Kejriwal had announced that his government would increase daily Covid tests from 20,000 to 40,000.

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 2,509 Covid-19 positive cases, which took the

cumulative total of the city's caseload to 1,79,569, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The total tests conducted all over the city also increased to 28,835 today.

The recovered Covid patients discharged from different hospitals during the past 24 hours were 1,858, and the cumulative total of such recovered patients in Delhi went up to 1,58,586. The recovery rate as given in the health bulletin was 88.31 per cent.

Delhi's Covid death count was 4,481 so far, with 19 fresh coronavirus fatalities taken into account today.

There were 16,502 active cases and those hospitalised numbered 5,586 in the city.

The number of patients getting treatment under home isolation was 8,407.

There were now 894 containment zones in the national capital whereas the figure yesterday was 846.

Delhi had yesterday recorded 2,312 fresh Covid-19 cases - its highest single-day Covid spike till then since 5 July. Eighteen fatalities due to coronavirus had been recorded yesterday.

The city had recorded its highest single-day spike in August last Sunday when it reported 2,024 new coronavirus cases. Last Monday, 18 Covid deaths were reported and the coronavirus count was 1,358, even as much lower number of coronavirus tests were conducted there.

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 2,509 Covid-19 positive cases, which took the



FILE PHOTO

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Mangu Singh said that in the first stage the Delhi Metro services will operate in two shifts — 7-11 am and 4-8 pm.

He said that in the first stage the Delhi Metro services will operate in two shifts — 7-11 am and 4-8 pm.

In the second stage, the Metro trains will be available from 7 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 10 pm, the DMRC chief said, adding that normal operations will resume from 12 September.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) chief Mangu Singh said the Yellow Line from Samaypur Badli to Huda City Centre will be operational from 7 September and the services on Airport Express Line will resume from 12 September in the national capital.

Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri today said that the Metro train services will resume in a graded manner from 7 September across the country, except in Maharashtra, and that Metro passengers will have to follow preventive measures against Covid-19 such as maintaining social distancing and wearing face masks.

Addressing an online media briefing, Puri said that all Metro lines will become operational from 12 September.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) chief Mangu Singh said the Yellow Line from Samaypur Badli to Huda City Centre will be operational from 7 September and the services on Airport Express Line will resume from 12 September in the national capital.

SALE BY AUCTION
1 E-Auction, unserviceable items, 09-09-2020, at 2:30, Furniture, 18-09-2020 at 2:30, Inspection 7 & 8-9-2020 from 11.00 to 4.00 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. Security Rs. 10,000/-.

1 E-Auction, unserviceable items, 09-09-2020, at 2:30, Furniture, 18-09-2020 at 2:30, Inspection 7 & 8-9-2020 from 11.00 to 4.00 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. Security Rs. 10,000/-.

2 E-Auction E-waste items, Furniture, 18-09-2020 at 2:30, Inspection 15 to 17-09-2020 at, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Delhi, Security 2000/- Accurate, 9868215515.

TENDERS
SEALED tenders are invited from salvage buyers for sale of Yarn, than and various types of Hosier items. For details contact: 9830071042.

Domestic help held for stealing jewellery

PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

A 26-year-old domestic help was arrested for allegedly stealing jewellery from a house in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area, police said on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Mantu Yadav, a resident of Jharkhand, they said.

On August 16, a resident of Greater Kailash lodged a complaint, alleging that her domestic help had stolen five diamond rings, one pearl ring and a gold chain from her house, a senior police officer said.

During investigation, it was found that Yadav was recently hired by the complainant and he had not provided his personal details to avoid police verification despite the employer asking him to provide details several times, the officer said.

Noida Metro to resume from Sept 7 with curtailed timings; face mask must for entry

PTI
NOIDA (UP), 2 SEPTEMBER

the government in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, it said.

"Temperature inside the train will be maintained in the range of 24-30 degrees Celsius. As of now, trains will stop at all the stations. However, based on future notifications, stations falling in containment zones will remain closed for commuters," NMRC Managing Director Ritu Maheshwari said in a statement.

The trains would run from 7 am to 11 am and from 5 pm to 9 pm with a frequency of 15 minutes from Monday to Saturday. On Sundays, the services will start from 8 am, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) said.

Any such changes will be informed to the commuters through public notice, announcement and updates on the NMRC website and applications, Maheshwari added.

On passenger screening and other guidelines to be followed at the stations, the NMRC said only the passengers with face masks will be allowed.

"Every passenger will be screened by thermal

sensors. The limiting maximum temperature for travel permission will be 37.7 degrees Celsius. Passengers having 'Aarogya Setu' app with 'green status' will be allowed," according to the statement.

However, Maheshwari, the NMRC chief, told PTI that those without a smartphone or any mobile phone would also be allowed entry if they clear the screening processes like thermal screening and have face masks on.

"The concept behind the Aarogya Setu app rule is to take precautions. The guidelines are made so as to discourage entry of people without the app," she said.

The service operator said persons entering NMRC premises will have to apply hand sanitizer after screening, and to ensure adequate social distance, marking

ings have been made at one-metre spacing at the frisking zone and the platforms.

Commuters should avoid touching the AFC gates while scanning the QR tickets or smart card. On escalators, a gap of at least one step should be maintained between two users. Generally, all lifts will be closed. However, in case of request for senior citizens and physically challenged passengers, lift will be made available on request," the NMRC said.

It stressed that digital payments will be preferred for all transactions.

The AquaLine, which connects the twin cities of Noida and Greater Noida in Gautam Buddha Nagar, over a distance of 29 km through 15 stations, has an average daily ridership of around 25,000 passengers, according to officials.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

TECNI INSTITUTE OF TEACHER EDUCATION

F-19, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-85

Ph-011-27948904, 27948909

Email-tite.rohini08@gmail.com

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR D.El.Ed / DPSE

All the interested students are requested to apply for seats under Management Quota from 03-09-2020 to 14-09-2020. Forms are available from Institute premises.

Selected candidates list will be displayed on website and Institute Notice Board on September 15, 2020 Counseling will be held on September 17, 2020 at 10:00 A.M onwards, at above address.

Candidates are advised to bring all the requisite documentation, as per SCERT norms. Selection will be based on merit in qualifying examination (i.e. 10+2) and as per rules and regulations mentioned on SCERT website.

3 September 2020 Principal

Ph: 46014847 / 40620388 / 40056311
E-mail: sbasuadv@gmail.com
Date: 01.09.2020

SITUATION VACANT

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, SAVITA VIHAR, DELHI-92

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GRADUATE TEACHERS (TGT) FOR ENGLISH, HINDI & MATHEMATICS

Age: Not exceeding 35 Years as on 31-08-2020

Qualifications: * Graduate (in respective subject) with B.Ed, from a Recognised University, having an aggregate of atleast 55%

* Must have a minimum of 5 Years of Teaching Experience in the respective subject.

Last date to submit applications : 15th September, 2020.

Email ID: sjadelhi@gmail.com

SEALLED tenders are invited from salvage buyers for sale of Yarn, than and various types of Hosier items. For details contact: 9830071042.

The Statesman

KOLKATA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that our client Smt. Sushila Bhardwaj, w/o Late Sh. Naresh Singh Bhardwaj, r/o 109, Hari Nagar Ashram, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110014 is living in the said property alongwith the family of her daughter Smt. Seema Sharma. The other daughter of our client namely Chanchal and her son Varun has left and neglected her and they are not taking care of the needs of our client. It is apprehended that they are keeping an evil eye on the properties owned by our client and our client has made a Will in favour of their daughter Seema.

Our client disown her son Varun and daughter Chanchal who shall not be entitled to claim any right or interest in the properties owned or acquire by our client till her death and any person dealing with Chanchal and Varun, children of our client may do so at his/her risk and consequences and our client shall not be responsible for any act, deed and thing made by the said persons and shall not bind our client.

Alok Kumar & Yashvir Sethi
Advocates
Kumar Garg & Associates
W-99, LGF,
Greater Kailash Part-I,
New Delhi-110048.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Mrs. Nisha Gupta, w/o Sh. Anjan Gupta, r/o E-145, Kamla Nagar, New Delhi-110007, has severed/restrained her relation with her brother namely Rishabh Goel, s/o Sh. Anil Kumar Goel and Prachi Goel, w/o Sh. Rishabh Goel, r/o 13/35, Shakti Nagar, New Delhi, with immediate effect.

Deepak Kohli
Advocate
Ch. No. 24-25,
Patiala House Court,
New Delhi-110001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Siliguri@thestatesmangroup.com
City Office: 3rd Floor, Rina Bhawan,
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Siliguri Rd, Siliguri-734015.

Ph: 0353-2524077

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Only asymptomatic persons will be allowed to travel in Metro after thermal screening at entry into stations...

HARDEEP SINGH PURI
UNION MINISTER

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



Union Mos (Independent Charge) Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel holds a review meeting with Nodal Institutions of Mountaineering and adventure tourism, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Uttarakhand records highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases: Uttarakhand recorded the highest single-day spike of 836 coronavirus cases on Wednesday, which took the state's COVID-19 tally to 21,234, while 11 more people died of the disease. The death toll due to the disease has risen to 291 in Uttarakhand, a state health department bulletin said. Six deaths were reported from the AIIMS, Rishikesh, three from the Doon Medical College here and two from Hardwari's Sushila Tiwari Government Hospital, it said. Haridwar district reported the highest number of 220 fresh cases, Dehradun 184, Udhampur 97, Tehri 42, Almora 34, Pauri 32, Rudraprayag 32, Uttarkashi 31, Pithoragarh 28, Champawat 12, Chamoli seven and Bageshwar five, the bulletin said.

PTI

10K houses to be built for homeless in HP this year

CM Thakur asks officials to ensure time-bound completion of development projects

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday directed the officers to ensure time-bound completion of various development projects so as to avoid price escalation and to ensure that the benefits of these projects percolate down to the persons on the ground.

Holding a meeting at Mandi to review development projects in Mandi district, he said that under the various housing schemes, the state government has set a target of constructing about 10,000 houses for the poor homeless in the state during the current financial year, which would be a record.

The CM said that over 1,000 people have benefited under housing schemes in the district as they have been provided with assistance to the tune of Rs 14 crore during the last nearly two-and-a-half years.

He said that as many as 1,04,869 people were being provided social security pension in Mandi district and that a budget provision of Rs 156 crore has been made during this year. He said that 31,530 new pension cases have been sanctioned in the district during the last nearly three years.

Thakur said that since the Medical College Ner Chowk has been designated as a dedicated Covid-19 hospital, the work-



load has been shifted to Zonal Hospital Mandi, adding that special emphasis thus needed to be laid on ensuring better facilities to be extended by this hospital. He also directed the authorities of Medical College Ner Chowk to take emergency medical cases.

The CM said that there were 28 ventilator-supported beds in the designated COVID-19 hospital and over 300 isolation beds in the district Covid-19 hospital, Covid-19 Care Centres etc. to facilitate the corona patients.

He said that the coronavirus pandemic has forced everyone to rethink and re-plan their developmental priorities due to its adverse impact on the economy. He said that all the officers needed to re-plan their priorities and also reset

the goals for time-bound completion of various development projects in the area. He said that about Rs 12,000 crore unspent money was lying with various departments, which needs to be identified and utilised for undertaking development works. He said that officers must ensure effective utilisation of this money to ensure that the pace of development does not suffer for want of funds.

Thakur said that despite being a second largest district after Kangra, Mandi district has done well in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic. He said that the rainy season was more prone for coronavirus and thus greater precautions needed to be taken now. He said that focused approach was required to achieve the desired

results. He also directed the PWD officers to ensure proper maintenance of roads in the state. He said that priority must be given to those projects which were nearing completion.

The CM said that to restart the economic activities in the state, his government has given various relaxations under the Unlock-IV. He said that everyone still needed to be more vigilant. He said that use of face mask and maintaining of social distancing was important to check spread of this virus.

Earlier, Thakur inspected the under-construction "Sanskriti Sadan" at Kangniharpur Mandi and directed the officers for time-bound completion of this Sadan.

Today are in the safe hands of a strong leadership in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that Bal Bhawan Sabha has witnessed unprecedented development during the last about two and a half years. He said that each and every worker of the area must take the achievements of the area to the doorsteps of the people.

Addressing the Mandal Milan programme of Bal Bhawan Mandi of Mandi district at Chakkhar in Mandi, Thakur said that party workers must properly disseminate policies and programmes of the state government amongst the masses.

He said that the BJP is the biggest political party of the world and credit of this goes to each and every worker of the party.

He said that the state government is endeavouring to come up to the expectations of the people of the state. He said that in this Corona pandemic the government had to take some harsh decisions. He said that the state government has stopped food subsidy to the well-off families for one year and also made a slight hike in the bus fare. He said that all these decisions have been taken to provide some support to the economy of the State.

State BJP President Suresh Kashyap said that every BJP worker needed to work with missionary zeal to ensure the victory of the BJP in the next Vidhan Sabha elections slated for 2022. He said that every Panna Pramukh must ensure that all the thirty votes on his page go to BJP candidate in the Vidhan Sabha elections and this would be possible when the Panna Pramukh maintains proper liaison with the voters.

With two more Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) testing positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday, the number of such legislators infected by the virus in Punjab has gone up to 35.

The two MLAs who tested positive for novel Coronavirus today included Randeep Nabha and Parminder Dhindsa. With this, 35 of 117 MLAs, including five ministers, have so far tested positive for Covid-19 even as some of them have already recovered from the infection.

The five ministers who have tested positive for the virus include parliamentary affairs minister Brahm Mohindra, rural development and panchayats minister Tripti Rajinder Singh Bajwa, revenue minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, jails minister Sukhinder Singh Randhawa and industries minister Sunder Sham Arora.

Others who tested positive include Ajai Singh Bhatti, Madan Lal Jalalpur, Hardial Kamboj, Harjot Karmal, Pargat Singh, Manpreet Singh Ayali, NK Sharma, Rozy Barkandi, Gurpratap Singh Vadala, Nazar Singh Manshahia, Harinder Pal Singh, Manjeet Singh, Kulwant Singh, Principal Budh Ram, Dalveer Singh, Kanwarjit Singh, Darshan Singh Brar and Surinder Dabir Singh.

Those who have recovered from the contagion include Dr Dharmvir Agnihotri, Amit Vij, Amrik Singh Dhillon, Balwinder Singh Dhaliani, Sanjeev Talwar, Lakhvir Singh and Kulbeer Singh.

AAP to help Punjab in checking people's oxygen levels to fight Covid-19: Kejriwal

PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER



PTI

AAP national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said party workers will go to every village, street and neighbourhood of Punjab to check people's oxygen levels with an oximeter to help in the battle against COVID-19.

In a video message, Kejriwal appealed to the people of Punjab to together help AAP volunteers in carrying out the campaign.

"Corona is spreading in every direction. In Punjab too, corona has spread a lot. Everyone has to come together now and take some steps. AAP has decided to join hands

with people and try to save as many lives as possible. In Delhi, we have seen that oximeters have proved to be very helpful. So AAP will provide oximeters to every village, street and neighbourhood of Punjab," Kejriwal said.

"AAP volunteers will go to every house and check the oxy-

gen levels of people. Coronavirus infection causes a drop in the oxygen level and that can even lead to death. So we will check the oxygen level and if someone's oxygen is found less then they will be taken for check up to a hospital. I appeal to the people of Punjab to come together and help AAP vol-

unteers in carrying out the drive," he added.

Kejriwal had on August 15 announced that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will set up centres for testing saturation of oxygen content in blood using oximeters in 30,000 villages across the country.

Oximeters help in measuring the oxygen level and are found to be extremely useful for coronavirus patients who in many cases battle breathlessness due to drop in oxygen levels.

According to health ministry data, a total of 55,508 cases of coronavirus have been reported till now in Punjab and 1,512 deaths have been reported due to the infection in the state.

PAYING HOMAGE TO ANCESTORS



Devotees perform 'Tarpan' on the first day of 'Pitru Paksha' to pay homage to their ancestors, on the banks of the Yamuna river in Vrindavan near Mathura on Wednesday.

New academic session of Haryana colleges from 6 Oct

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 2 SEPTEMBER

The new academic session of undergraduate classes in colleges in Haryana will commence from 7 September and continue till 21 September.

He said from 22 September to 25 September, a merit list will be prepared after examining the applications and documents. After this, the first merit list will be released on 26 September for which fees can be deposited by 29 September.

A spokesman of the Council said about two lakh students are studying in the final year classes in various colleges and universities of the state. He said adequate arrangements will be made for all these students who will appear for the examinations.

After this, all the results will also be declared before 31 October. This decision was taken on Tuesday in a meeting organised by Haryana State Higher Education Council through Video Conferencing.

A spokesman of the Council said about two lakh students are studying in the final year classes in various colleges and universities of the state. He said adequate arrangements will be made for all these students who will appear for the examinations.

Two meals a day at shelters sufficient: AAP govt to HC

PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER



The AAP government has told the Delhi High Court that two meals a day at shelter homes, in the national capital, was sufficient and it cannot provide more than that in its present financial position.

It also told the high court that the central government scheme to provide three meals a day at shelter homes ended on July 31 and looking at the funds available as well as its other priorities, it was providing two meals a day at the shelters and would continue to do so.

The Delhi government also told a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan that the homeless persons living in the shelter

homes can also get work and earn their livelihood, if at all they are able to do so.

The submissions were made in response to a PIL claiming that shelter homes in the city deny three quality meals a day to its occupants.

Taking note of the submission made by the Delhi government and that the central government scheme ended on July 31, the court said it does

not intend to issue any direction at this stage to the AAP government.

"None the less, having regard to the judgments of the Supreme Court with regard to the provision of adequate food to those who can afford it, we direct that the Government of NCT of Delhi, with the assistance of experts, should examine whether the provision currently made is sufficient to

meet the minimum nutritional requirements of persons in the homeless shelters..." it said in its order of August 27.

The bench also recommended to the Delhi government to "at least provide three meals per day to the children living in shelter homes, looking at the prevalent pandemic situation".

With these recommendations the court disposed of the PIL. The petition, by a woman residing at a shelter home in Sarai Kale Khan here, had contended that the central government on March 28 issued a notification directing all the states and union territories to provide three meals a day in the shelter homes.

The plea had claimed that as per the notification, "three hygienically prepared meals a day should be provided to the people residing in shelter homes for which an amount of Rs 100 per homeless person per day may be incurred".

However, in complete violation of the above mentioned notification, DUSIB was providing only two meals of Rs 20 each for lunch and dinner to the people at the shelter homes, the petition had alleged. It had also alleged that the "quality of food is poor and below the minimum standard. The meals only consist of plain rice and dal which are of lowest quality available in the market".

Covid-19: Teaching days to be extended in Himachal schools

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 2 SEPTEMBER



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Even during these teaching days, students will be provided with teaching material through 'Har Ghar Pathshala' and other online mediums. Priority will be given for teaching important topics of all subjects

so that the students can complete the prescribed curriculum.

He said in order to provide additional time for the students to prepare for the examinations, the examinations of schools with winter and summer vacation will be held simultaneously at the end of March.

He said that practical examinations of various subjects will be conducted in the month of April after written tests.

Thakur said that many important suggestions have been received from the committee members constituted to implement the provision of providing 30 percent reduction

in the syllabus of 9th to 12th classes of schools of the state and providing 30 percent additional option in the question papers.

The experts are of the opinion that students should be provided with detailed knowledge of every subject so that they can also prepare for competitive examinations in future.

Secretary, Education Department, Rajiv Sharma, Chairman of Himachal Pradesh School Education Board Dr Suresh Kumar Soni, Board Secretary Akshay Sood, Director of Elementary Education Shubh Karan Singh were present in the meeting.

Punjab CM announces ₹50 lakh, govt job for martyred soldier's kin

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 2 SEPTEMBER



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh along with a government job for the family of Subedar Rajesh Kumar of 60 SATA Regiment.

The soldier was martyred on the intervening night of 1st and 2nd September as a result of the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Army in Rajauri sector (J&K).

Paying homage to the

family, the CM said Subedar Rajesh Kumar laid down his life fighting fearlessly for the country and the grateful nation would not forget his supreme sacrifice which would act as an inspiration for the generations to come.

Kumar, whose Father Ram Chander also served in the Army and retired as Havildar from the same unit, hailed from Village Kalichpur Kalota, Tehsil Mukerian of Hoshiarpur District and is survived by his parents, wife, daughter and a son.

TENDER
HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD, Dhami on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in two cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time limits
1	Improvement of black spots identified by the police department numbering 195 black spots identified on Shimla Mandi road km. 6/00 to 15/00 portion Dhali to Baldayn (SH:- Providing W metal beam crash barrier in km 10/80 to 11/180, 11/480 to 11/880, 12/648 to 12/744, 13/180 to 13/400, 13/932 to 14/032, 14/200 to 14/320, 14/820 to 14/920 & PCC R/wall in km. 10/810 to 10/825, 11/550 to 11/565, 12/648 to 12/663 & edge wall).	Rs. 39,57,719/-	Rs. 66,900/-	Rs. 1,500/-	Class-C	Six Months
2	A/R and M/o various road under Suni Sub-Division Section Thala (SH:- Providing patch work in Baldayn Dharmapur road km. 10/00 to 16/500, link road to village Gharkhan km. 0/00 to 3/00 and link road to village Khatol km. 5/00 to 10/00).	Rs. 9,98,824/-	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 5,00/-	Class-D	One Month

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website [https://hpntenders.gov.in](http://hpntenders.gov.in). Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: [https://hpntenders.gov.in](http://hpntenders.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

1. Date of Online Publication	12/09/2020 16:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	12/09/2020 18:30 HRS up to 24/09/2020 17:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	12/09/2020 18:30 HRS up to 24/09/2020 17:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	25/09/2020 10:30 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening; Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	25/09/2020 11:00 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:- The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in two cover:

(i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".

(ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security /Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to Form 7-B and Affidavits to the authorized official of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.P as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS:- The bids shall be opened on 25-09-2020 at 11:00 HRS by the authorized official of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.P. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle HPPWD Shimla-3. In their interest the tinkerers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer
Shimla Rural Division,
H.P.P.W.D. Dhami
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

2605/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Office of

Executive Engineer B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar
Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Mandi-175015
Phone & Fax No. 01908-222033, E-Mail:- ee-jog-hp@nic.in
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (ITB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD, Joginder Nagar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invited the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of contractor	Time limits
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Routine Maintenance of Joginder Nagar Machiyal Basahi Traimbi road Km. 0/0 to 30/0 under Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) for Rural road for the year 2020-21.	26,83,110/-	54,000/-	1500/-	Class D & C	One year (365 days)
2.	Routine Maintenance of Joginder Nagar Sarkaghat Ghuvarin road (MDR-79) Km. 20/0 to 34/300 under Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) for Rural road for the year 2020-21.	13,16,933/-	26,500/-	500/-	Class D & C	One year (365 days)
3.	Routine Maintenance of Baljmath Lal Bhardi Kandhapatan road (MDR-43) Km. 12/0 to 22/0 under Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) for Rural road for the year 2020-21.	10,11,343/-	20,500/-	500/-	Class D & C	One year (365 days)
4.	Routine Maintenance of Baljmath Padhar road (MDR-56) Km. 7/0 to 12/700 under Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) for Rural road for the year 2020-21.	5,64,285/-	11,500/-	350/-	Class D & C	One year (365 days)
5.	Construction of Bharao to Chanehar road under SCSP/Sub Head:- Construction of 19.75 mtr. effective span T-Beam motorable bridge over Petu Nallah on Bharao to Chanehar road at Km. 0/170 including approaches	42,46,915/-	85,000/-	2000/-	Class C & B	One year (365 days)

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hpntenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: [https://hpntenders.gov.in](http://hpntenders.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

- 1. Date of Online Publication: - 02/09/2020 10:00 Hrs.
- 2. Document Download Start and end date: - 09/09/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 22/09/2020 17:00 Hrs
- 3. Bid Submission start and end date: - 09/09/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 22/09/2020 17:00 Hrs
- 4. Physical Submission of EMD and cost of tender document on or before the time and date of submission of bids: - 23/09/2020 upto 11:00 A.M.
- 5. Date of Technical Bid opening will be 23/09/2020 11:30 A.M. Evaluation of technical bid opening and financial bid opening will follow on accordingly.

4. TENDER DETAILS:- The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover.

(i) Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".

(ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security /Earnest Money Deposited (EMD) and other technical Documents in O/O the Executive Engineer, B&R Division HP.PWD, Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) on or before the time and date of submission of bids failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date & time of submission of bids.

6. Bid Opening Detail:- The bids shall be opened on 23/09/2020 11:30 Hrs. in the office of Executive Engineer B&R Division HP.PWD, Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) by the authorized officer in their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 4. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delay due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. In addition to instructions for use of standard form in bidding documents the bidder should upload the following information also.

(i) Total annual volume of Civil Engineering construction work executed and payment received in the last five year proceeding this year duly verified by the Chartered Accountant

2601/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
B&R Division HP PWD,

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, H.P.P.W.D., Bhabanagar District Kinnar Pin-172115 invite Item rate tenders in sealed cover on the prescribed forms from the eligible Contractors on 28.09.2020 and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 Hrs. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Cost of form
1	C/O Link road from Powari to Kangarang Km 0/0 to 3/00 (SH:- C/o R/wall in PCC with toe wall at RD 0/397 to 0/404, B/wall at RD 0/397 to 0/412 & B/wall at RD 0/397 to 0/412) LADA Deposit.	Rs. 29,447/-	Rs. 5900/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
2	C/O Jeepable road from Chagaon bus stand to village Yashang Km 0/0 to 4/00 (SH:- C/o B/wall at RD 0/825 to 0/850) Under TASP.	Rs. 24,452/-	Rs. 4900/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
3	R/R damages on Ramni bridge to village Ramni Km 0/0 to 5/25 (SH:- C/O R/wall in wire Crate with PCC toe wall at Rd 4/550 to 4/650)	Rs. 35,283/-	Rs. 7200/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
4	C/O Link road from Odarang to Matigoda Km 0/0 to 1/960 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr wide road at RD 0/705 to 1/180) Under Ruban Mission.	Rs. 38,975/-	Rs. 7800/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
5	C/O Balikh Sath for Nayan Devta G Mandir Bar (SH:- C/o wood Carving work)	Rs. 28,449/-	Rs. 5800/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
6	C/O link road from Batseri Bridge to Detikawa Km 0/0 to 2/500 (SH:- C/O B/wall at RD 0/070 to 0/096) under TASP.	Rs. 12,670/-	Rs. 2600/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
7	C/O link road from RD 15/0 to Chota Kamba village (SH:- P/L Khargha Soiling at RD 15/0 to 15/930) Under TASP.	Rs. 29,806/-	Rs. 6000/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
8	C/O Jeepable road from Boley to Lamcham in village Barri Km 0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- C/o B/wall in wire crate at RD 0/165 to 0/180). Under TASP.	Rs. 23,289/-	Rs. 4700/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
9	C/O old HT road from Tapri to Kanam Km 0/0 to 2/40 (SH:- C/o R/wall in wire crate at RD 22/880 to 22/885) Under TASP.	Rs. 20,977/-	Rs. 4200/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
10	C/O Revenue Hut at Bhabanagar (SH:- P/F white glazed tiles in toilets, P/A oil bound distemper, Painting in all rooms, rail:- Rs. 37,251/-) Under TASP.	Rs. 37,251/-	Rs. 7600/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
11	C/O Link road Barri Bus Stand to Satkating i/c C/o Car parking at Jatida Km 0/0 to 1/450 (SH:- C/o R/wall earth filling etc for car parking) Under TASP.	Rs. 29,205/-	Rs. 5900/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
12	C/O Jeepable road from NH 05 to Forest rest house at Chaura Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- C/o B/wall in wire crate at RD 0/075 to 0/090). Under TASP.	Rs. 10,753/-	Rs. 2200/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
13	C/O Link road from Nichar to Puje Km 0/0 to 2/600 (SH:- C/o B/wall at RD 0/075 to 1/091 & RD 1/104 to 1/120) Under TASP.	Rs. 18,190/-	Rs. 3700/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
14	C/O Balikh Sathal for Nayan Mandir Bar (SH:- C/O Wooden structure slate roofing , flooring painting polishing)	Rs. 31,645/-	Rs. 6300/-	Two Months	Rs. 350/-
15</					



Those who came into politics in the past 15 years are now trying to teach us...

BJP SENIOR LEADER EKNATH KHADE

IN A VEILED ATTACK ON MAHARASHTRA BJP LEADER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



Left students demonstrate in front of Calcutta University, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

SNS

TMC workers to hit streets over GST: TMC secretary general, Partha Chatterjee on Wednesday said his party would hit the streets in West Bengal on 8, 14 and 20 September against the Centre's decentralisation policy and demanding the state's share from GST. Mr Chatterjee alleged that the Centre is "utilising Covid-19 pandemic situation to decentralise profit making PSUs like SAIL, GAIL, airports."

SNS

Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi for govt officials

Move to make employees more creative, proactive, professional & tech-enabled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Mission Karmayogi, dubbed as the biggest bureaucratic reform initiative, aimed at capacity building of government employees to make them more 'creative, proactive, professional and technology-enabled'.

The core guiding principles of the competency-driven programme will be to support a transition from rules based to roles based HR management to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future, according to a government statement.

"This is the biggest human resource development programme in the government,"

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said during a press briefing after the cabinet meeting.

To cover around 46 lakh central employees, a sum of Rs 510.86 crore will be spent over



five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 under Mission Karmayogi or the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), according to the statement.

A council, comprising select union ministers, chief ministers, eminent public HR practitioners among others and headed by the prime minister, will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction, while a Capacity Building Commission is also proposed to be set up.

The programme will help in

overcoming existing impediments like lack of lifelong & continuous learning environment, evolution of silos at department level preventing shared understanding of India's development aspirations and diverse and fragmented training landscape among others.

"Today the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to bring this very big, post-recruitment reform, where an opportunity will be given to officers and employees to improve their

active and technically empowered," Singh told reporters.

The endeavour is also to end the culture of working in silos and to overcome the multiplicity of training curriculum, which we have because of the institutions spread all over the country, with the introduction of a common platform for the uniform realisation of nation's vision and our shared aspiration and our shared future goals," he said.

This way, Singh said, it will provide a mechanism for continuous capacity building, a constant updating of the talent pool and also provide an equal opportunity of professional as well as personal growth and a stream of self-training for value of employees.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

stration was not ready for (my) release but I have been released because of the prayers of people."

Khan, who first hit headlines in 2017 following his suspension from Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College after several children died there due to the lack of oxygen cylinders, said he was apprehensive that the government may frame him in another case.

He claimed that he and his family have had to face many hardships as the state government was "after" him because of the oxygen issue at BRD Medical College.

In its verdict, the Allahabad High Court quashed his detention under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) and ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to release him "forthwith", saying his speech at the AMU didn't promote hatred or violence and called for national integrity.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Khan was charged under the NSA on 13 February. The UP government had extended his detention under the stringent law by three months twice—in May and August.

Kafeel fears UP govt may frame him in another case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW/MATHURA/ALIGARH,
2 SEPTEMBER

The Uttar Pradesh government was indulging in 'Baal Hatt' or childlike stubbornness instead of observing 'Raj Dharma' and could frame him in another case, Dr Kafeel Khan said after being released from Mathura jail late on Tuesday night.

He was in jail since January after he delivered an allegedly provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University during the CAA protests in December last year.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Allahabad High Court quashed his detention under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) and ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to release him "forthwith", saying his speech at the AMU didn't promote hatred or violence and called for national integrity.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

India bolsters presence in Pangong area amid border tension with China

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Indian Army has further bolstered its presence in at least three strategic heights in the southern bank of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh, days after foiling China's "provocative" actions to change the status quo in the area, government sources said on Wednesday.

Some "readjustments" in deployment of troops were also carried out on the northern bank of the Pangong lake on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LAC) as part of precautionary measures, they said. The situation in the area was said to be sensitive.

India and China held another round of talks today at Chushul/Moldo to defuse fresh tensions in the wake of repeated provocative attempts

by People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops to alter the status quo at Pangong Tso which were repulsed by Indian Army soldiers.

The two countries have held talks over the past two days also but failed to resolve outstanding issues amid charges and counter-charges.

The situation on the southern bank of Pangong Tso Lake was tense as the Indian troops are believed to have moved into areas that they had held as well as some new positions that the Chinese claim are on their side of the LAC.

Sources said the India forces would not move from the heights they were occupying as they were well within the Indian side of the LAC. They denied the Chinese charge that the Indian troops crossed the LAC.

"The moves made by our

forces were aimed at preventing the Chinese troops who tried to dislodge our soldiers," they added.

The External Affairs Ministry alleged that there have been repeated attempts by the Chinese troops to change the situation along the southern bank of Pangong Tso even as brigade commander-level talks were on between the two sides to defuse tension.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh held a series of meetings with external affairs minister S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and the top brass of the Indian Army for a comprehensive review of the situation arising from Chinese provocation.

Sources said in a meeting, it was decided the Indian Army would continue its aggressive approach in all sensitive areas along the LAC.

10 CTUs oppose govt move on premature retirement

NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Joint Platform of 10 Central Trade Unions and Sectoral Federations and Associations, today denounced the government's move "to unilaterally and on absolutely arbitrary grounds, impose conditions for forced premature retirement on its employees."

The unions, said the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training issued an order on 28th August with powers to give any government employee marching orders after completing 30 years of service or reaching 50/55 years of age or older.

This will be five to ten years before the scheduled date of retirement.

Naga battalions bid adieu to 'Maoist-free' Junglemahal

DEBABYOTI CHAKRABORTY
PURULIA, 2 SEPTEMBER



Representational Image

SSR case: NCB arrests alleged drug dealer

MUMBAI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Narcotics Control Bureau has arrested an alleged contraband dealer and detained another in connection with the drugs trafficking case linked to the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested man has been identified by the federal anti-narcotics agency as Zaid Vilatra.

The agency has also detained a Bandra resident identified as Basit Parihar after interrogating Zaid.

Parihar is "learnt to have linkages" with the narcotics case registered against Rajput's live-in partner Rhea Chakraborty, 28, and others.

The role of Rhea's brother Showik and his purported links with the people nabbed by the NCB are under the scanner of the agency.

Rajnath leaves for Russia to attend SCO defence ministers' meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Defence minister Rajnath Singh this morning left for Russia to attend a key meeting of the defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and hold discussions with his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu on further boosting India-Russia defence cooperation.

"Heading to Moscow. During this visit, I shall be attending the combined meeting of Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) & CIS members in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of victory in the World War II," Singh tweeted before his departure for the three-day visit.

The defence ministers of all eight SCO member nations are expected to deliberate on regional security challenges.

In his meeting with Gen Shoigu, the Indian minister

is expected to press for expediting supply of a number of weapons systems, ammunition and spares to India by Russia under contracts which were concluded earlier. Both sides are expected to officially finalise a long-pending proposal to produce AK203 rifles in India.

Singh is also likely to request the Russian side to ensure timely delivery of the S-400 missile defence systems to India. The delivery of the first batch of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to India is scheduled by the end of 2021.

This is Singh's second visit to Moscow since the outbreak of coronavirus. He had represented India at the Victory Day Parade in Moscow in June. Singh's visit will be followed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's trip to Russia to attend the SCO foreign ministers' meeting on 10 September.

Calcutta HC to increase judicial activities from 8 Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Calcutta High Court has decided to increase judicial activities from September 8 and has also directed the district courts to take appropriate measures to take up more pending cases, Registrar General Rai Chattopadhyay said here on Wednesday.

Chief Justice T B N Radhakrishnan, upon consideration of the recommendation of the Covid Committee of the High Court comprising senior judges, has ordered that attempt should be made for making provisions for taking

up of criminal appeals up to the year 2018, which are ready for hearing.

Civil and criminal revision filed up to 2018 which are ready for hearing, and petitions filed under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 up to the year 2019 which are ready for

hearing, should also be attempted to be taken up, the order, dated August 31, said.

"This will be purely on the basis of consent of all effective parties and applications may be filed indicating the consent of parties for such matters to be listed," the Chief Justice's order said.



HC refuses to stay streaming Netflix movie 'Gunjan Saxena'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER



Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay at this stage the streaming of Netflix movie, 'Gunjan Saxena - The Kargil Girl', on the Centre's plea that it depicts the Indian Air Force (IAF) in poor light and denigrates its image.

Justice Rajiv Shukla asked the Centre as to why it did not approach the court before the release of the movie on the Over The Top (OTT) platform, and said an injunction cannot be granted now as the film is already streaming on Netflix on 12 August.

The high court issued notices and sought response of Dharma Productions Private Limited, which produced

interim injunction to remove the movie from all OTT platforms.

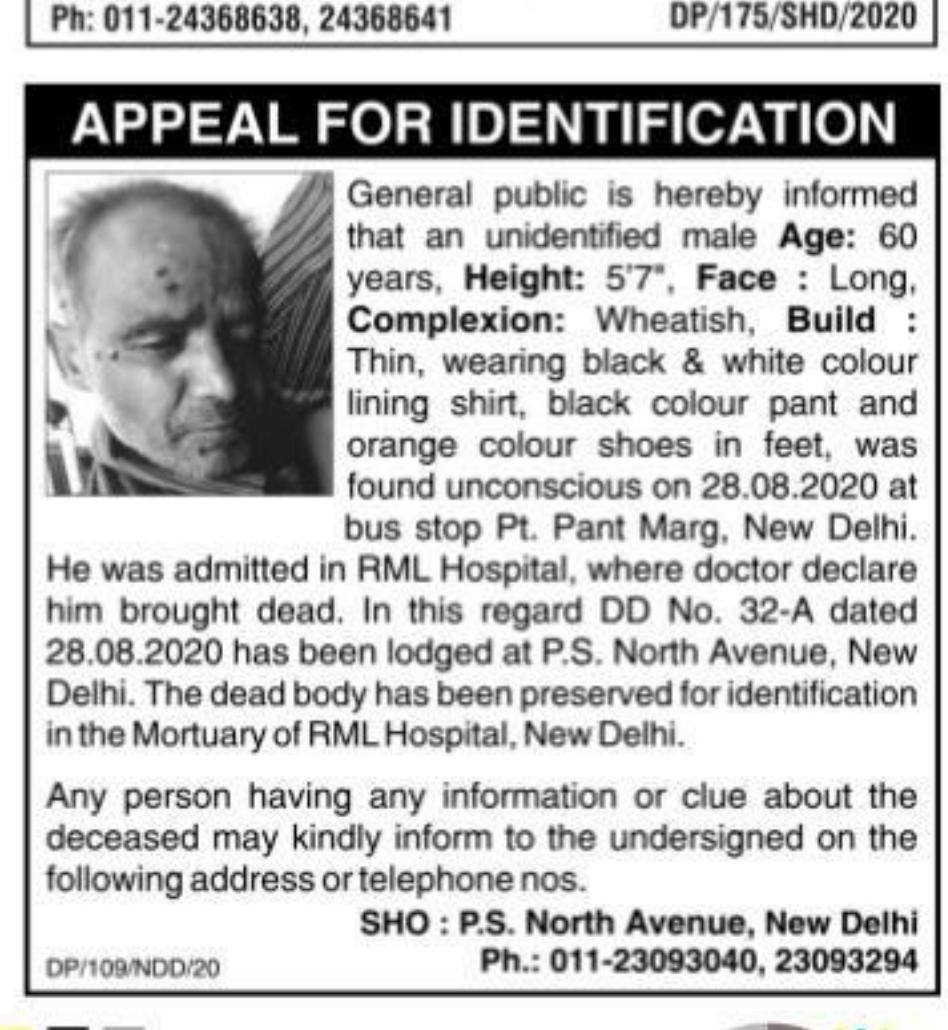
The court said it was of the view that former Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena, on whose life the film is based, should also be made a party to the suit and issued notice to her seeking her response.

The court has listed the matter for further hearing on 18 September and asked the Centre to remove IAF from the memo of parties, saying the government can itself take this forward.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain (ASG), representing the Centre, said the movie has denigrated the image of the IAF as it showed that the force is gender biased, which is not correct.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea filed by Netflix against a Bihar lower court order restraining it from using the name of businessman Subrat Roy in its upcoming web series 'Bad Boy Billionaires'.

Roy and two other directors were arrested for failure of the group's two companies—Sahara India Real Estate Corporation and Sahara Housing Investment Corp Ltd to comply with the apex court's 31 August, 2012 order to return Rs 25,000 crore to their investors.



First Lady speaks

Quite the most striking feature of Melania Trump's performance at the Republican convention was her spirited essay towards damage control in the wake of Donald Trump's impetuous policies and utterances, not to forget the callous indifference towards the pandemic. Chief among the points the First Lady has raised must be her robust expression of sympathy for the victims of Covid-19 and the passionate plea for racial understanding. The Trump administration has failed on both counts. It is pretty obvious that she has tried to woo women voters who, after four years, would appear to have abandoned the incumbent at the White House. Opinion polls reveal that college-educated women, a critical segment in the electoral construct, are thoroughly disenchanted by the President's decidedly combative style of governance. The tone of her speech, marked as it was by profound empathy, ran counter to the harsh rhetoric against the Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. She has acknowledged the pain of the pandemic in refreshing contrast to most other speakers, pre-eminently her husband, now going through the seemingly wrap-up motions of his presidency. "My deepest sympathy goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one. I want to acknowledge that since March, our lives have changed drastically", with deaths inching towards the 200,000 mark.

In the aftermath of the brutal killing of George Floyd and the raging tension in Portland, Mrs Trump hit the bull's eye by dwelling on the racial violence that has roiled the United States of America. "I urge the people not to make assumptions based on the colour of a person's skin. I also ask people to stop the violence and looting in the name of religion". Notable, therefore, is her balanced matrix to address a hideously sensitive issue. While it is open to question whether her speech will shore up President Trump's battered image, the spirited presentation is bound to resonate in the echo chambers of the White House.

Markedly, the address was delivered on a day when the Republicans tried to reshape the narrative around the economy by largely ignoring the grim reality, i.e. that millions of jobs were lost because of the coronavirus pandemic. On the opening day, Republicans reached out to their conservative core supporters by projecting a bleak scenario under a Biden leadership. This was decidedly presumptuous, most particularly in contrast to what Mrs Trump told delegates. On his part, the President, a former reality television star, has blurred the distinction between government and politics by using the White House as a venue to promote his strenuous attempt at re-election. He starred in videos featuring a naturalisation ceremony and the signing of a pardon to suggest that he is not anti-immigrant or a hardliner on crime. For all that, it shall not be easy for the President to digest the home-truths advanced by the First Lady at the ruling party's convention.

Wall of Discord

Viveka-Bharati has been on the boil over a tradition bequeathed by the founder of the central university - Rabindranath Tagore. Admittedly, it is no part of a university's remit to double up as an event manager. We do not know if the administration of the central university is kowtowing to the BJP dispensation at the Centre. Suffice it to register that the situation has exacerbated with the Vice-Chancellor's decidedly explosive declaration that the poet "never belonged to Santiniketan". On closer reflection, Prof Bidyut Chakraborty, a political scientist from Delhi University, could well have abjured such subjective reflections on an issue that is wholly unrelated to what is intrinsically a wall of discord between two formidable parties, one at the Centre and the other in the state. It is hard not to wonder whether the present VC is prejudiced against the poet. As the person at the helm, he has doubtless stirred up a hornets' nest. Additionally, the recent dismissal of three academics and administrators, including a former acting VC, Sabujkoli Sen, has made the waters murkier. More basically, Pous Mela, which for decades has been the ritualistic festival every December, has been cancelled with effect from this year on the ground of environmental pollution, as underlined by the National Green Tribunal. Fears that a not dissimilar axe might also bring the curtains down on Basant Utsav (in celebration of Holi) in March are not wholly unfounded. Theoretically, the action to bring the shutters down on Pous Mela cannot be faulted not the least because of the extensive dumping of waste. Nonetheless, the question survives - Was it really necessary to erect a wall around the complex, which in itself is integral to Santiniketan's landscape, and is in the vicinity of the administrative office, the central library, the philosophy department, and the international guest houses, including the one set up in Tagore's time - Purba Palli Guest House that is situated in the heart of the campus.

The wall, not too far from the VC's official residence, is now at the core of the bitter controversy, of a kind that has degenerated to a conflict between the Bharatiya Janata Party (at the Centre) and the Trinamul Congress in West Bengal. Matters have come to a head ever since it was partially demolished allegedly by activists of the Trinamul Congress. Almost as a rule, the West Bengal government has maintained its distance from the affairs of a central university. But this time around, Birbhum's District Magistrate was instructed by Nabanna to restore a semblance of law and order. As it turned out, the meeting was boycotted by the Vice-Chancellor. The indefinite closure of the university by the VC will scarcely resolve the simmering controversy. It's time for a cordon sanitaire to thwart political intervention, as often as not violent. The BJP and the Trinamul have precipitated the crisis.

Being simple

A reason for most laws being exceedingly complex is that laws are drafted by legal experts who revel in complexity; most Acts have accompanying Rules and Circulars/Notifications, with all the three required to be read together. Rarely is a law enacted in simple language that is comprehensible to the layperson



Complexity is the defining characteristic of the present age. One is confronted with a surfeit of fine print for any given activity - be it downloading a computer programme, applying for insurance or even purchasing a parking ticket. The prospective user, generally, has no time to read the detailed terms and conditions, which even otherwise, would serve little purpose, because most users have no real option to refuse.

Then, arguing with a well-prepared and more powerful opponent about one's rights is pointless, as the States learnt to their discomfiture in the recently concluded GST Council meeting. According to the States' understanding of the GST regime, they had given up their taxation rights in return for a guarantee from the Central Government to compensate them for their lost revenue. But right at the start of the GST Council meeting, the Finance Minister produced the Attorney General's opinion on the liability of the Centre to compensate the States in these difficult times. Apparently, the fine print absolved the Central Government of any such obligation! Briefly put, it was for the Centre to pay, and the Centre decided not to oblige.

Of course, for common folk this kind of disappointment is not unusual. Ask the farmer putting up his claim under the Kisan Fasal Bima Yojana about the recompense he got or ask the electricity consumer who had received an inflated power bill for the lockdown period about the fate of his complaint. Most of the times, a customer wanting to air his grievance to some company's Customer Care is put on an endless wait. Often, business entities send messages to their customers from mobile numbers which do not accept SMS replies because most businesses feel no need to deal with customer complaints.

The complexities of the judicial process have ensured that the average person feels hesitant in approaching a court of law. We have it from the Apex Court, in the infamous Vodafone Case that the form of a document is more important than its content. Taking a cue from this species of judicial thinking, moneybags hire

sharp lawyers, who ensure that all their arguments and paperwork are in order. On the other hand, given the high costs and uncertainties of litigation, ordinary people prefer to give up their small but justified claims against the Government or monied corporates.

Judicial delays also play a part in the denial of justice; in many cases, judgments are delivered only after the remedy has become pointless. With a backlog of more than 44 lakh cases and more than 40 per cent vacancies in High Courts and a pendency of 3.1 crore cases and a shortage of 25 per cent judges in subordinate courts, it could not be otherwise. The question naturally arises as to what prevents the Government from filling up such crucial vacancies? Expected vacancies can be foreseen long before they occur and only bureaucratic sloth and lack of a sense of urgency delay critical appointments. Can the Government not bring a law to prevent any important post remaining vacant for more than a month? Over the years, the Government had established several sector specific tribunals like Consumer Forums, Administrative Tribunals etc. for quick and inexpensive redressal of citizens' grievances against the Government or public bodies or even commercial entities. Retired judges were liberally appointed as presiding officers and members of these tribunals, and soon all tribunals came to be dominated by lawyers and the proceedings of these tribunals descended into incomprehensible legalese. Consequently, the disposal of cases in tribunals slowed down to the level of a regular civil court.

Later, the Government merged disparate tribunals, like the Cyber Appellate Tribunal and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal were merged into the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal. This step has put a

question mark over the availability of domain expertise with the tribunals, which was the main reason for their creation. Most Government schemes fail because the framers fail to factor in bureaucratic sloth and callousness. Despite the use of advanced technology, there has been little improvement in bureaucratic efficiency, while the cost of governance has increased manifold over the years. Probably, all Government departments need to lay down comprehensive guidelines to fix accountability for their employees. The pitiable condition of government hospitals was cruelly exposed by the recent Coronavirus pandemic; with the miserly budget allocation towards health services coupled with manpower shortages and poor infrastructure, it is a miracle that things were not worse.

The same is true about another important sector, education. We feel disappointed when our universities are ranked far below their peers or the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) reveals that most children of class five cannot read or write or add or subtract. Can we expect anything better with crumbling government schools, where one teacher teaches two or three classes in a single room? Can the new National Education Policy really make a difference if we go on spending only 1.6 per cent of our GDP on education instead of the optimal 6 per cent?

A simple solution could be having an Act on the lines of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act that mandates some minimum expenditure on sectors like education, health and agriculture. Of course, such an Act would curtail the Government's ability to play to the gallery with populist schemes, but rescuing necessities like health and education from terminal decline should be the top priority for the Government.

Steve Jobs, the pioneer of the personal computer revolution and the co-founder of Apple, said: "That's been one of my mantras ~ focus and simplicity. Simple can be harder than complex. You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it's worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Bharat has lost its Ratna

SIR, Apropos the editorial, "The nation's loss" (2 September), Bharat has lost its Ratna that was personified by Pranab Mukherjee. He was above all a patriot, a politician

country's highest executive post, that of the Prime Minister. However, dynastic considerations superseded democratic norms. Had he got the chance, he would have led



the country with innovative ideas in every field of development, whether he was in the government or in the Opposition. He was a man of principles and the perfect material to run the

tary matters is a trait that very few present-day politicians can match. The fact that his selection for Bharat Ratna by the Narendra Modi government showed that he was acceptable to all political parties. In 2014, when he was the President, Mukherjee did not use his vote, saying that he was the President and could not favour anyone because all were equal in his eyes. It has rightly been said that to live in the hearts of others is to never die. India will always miss Pranab Mukherjee.

Yours, etc., SS Paul,
Chakdaha (Nadia),
2 September.

LOOSE LIPS

SIR, Somebody explains human failures as an "Act of God".

Somebody brands Rabindranath Tagore as an "outsider" in Santiniketan as he originally hailed from Kolkata. Will he/she dare to brand Narendra Modi as "outsider" in Delhi as he originally hails from Gujarat?

Somebody demands a ban on Islamic Studies as it is not "compatible" with "Indian culture". Does "Indian culture" start and end with Hindutva and Hindutva

NO IMPACT

SIR, Is there any impact of 'intermittent' lockdown on transmission of Coronavirus? There is no way to know. There is no epidemiological data available to support it. Infected persons remain infectious for 10 days during which time the virus gets transmitted from infected persons to healthy persons. Continuous lockdown for 14 days is suggested so that the infected person becomes non-infectious during this period and can be allowed to go out and do his duty or work. Common sense tells that just giving rest to the virus for one day during these 10 infectious days has no logic at all. This one-day lockdown only puts common people to great harassment and trouble.

Many police personnel or civic volunteers are becoming over-enthusiastic and not allowing people to go to hospitals or to medical shops to buy medicines. Sick people are not getting vehicles in emergencies to visit hospitals. Supporting staff of nursing homes and hospitals are unable to join their duties putting even emergencies to a standstill. Ambulance and other hospital vehicle drivers are unable to join their duties hindering movement of doctors and patients. Is this illogical, ineffective, unscientific, ill-conceived and ill-advised. Is a one-day intermittent lockdown worth it?

Yours, etc., Dr R D Dubey, Kolkata, 2 September.

only? Or demolition of a shrine with roots in Islam is "compatible" with "Indian culture"?

Some Union secretary rudely asks participants of a virtual training session to leave if they are not conversant with Hindi. Does India start and end with Hindi? Or will Indians henceforth be asked to

leave "Hindia" if they are not conversant with the language of Bihar-Uttar Pradesh? With each passing day, loose talk without a modicum of responsibility, decency, logic, civility and sensitivity dominates the discourse.

Yours, etc., Kajal Chatterjee, Sodepur, 30 August.



Work must go on

Nepal has finally allowed resumption of international flights beginning Tuesday, September 1, after a halt of over five months. Thousands of Nepalis who have been unable to return to Nepal will also get relief. Similarly, thousands of those who have been confined to Nepal due to the absence of flights will be able to travel abroad. This has also come as a big relief for major infrastructure projects that have had to halt construction work due to the inability to bring in consultants from abroad.

The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed dozens of projects from both private and government sectors that were on their final lap, including Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa. Many infrastructure projects are reported to have suffered due to the lockdown and ban on international flights because foreign technical manpower and experts could not be brought in. The work of several hydro projects has been delayed. The Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project in Dolakha, Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line project and Rani Jarnara Kulariya Irrigation are some major schemes where work has been delayed due to constraints in bringing equipment and technical workers from abroad.

In the case of the international airport in Bhairahawa, foreign technical manpower that was set to arrive to install the runway lighting system and other equipment reportedly got stuck due to the halt in international flights. Upper Tamakoshi, the country's largest hydropower plant, is also awaiting foreign technical manpower for the commissioning and testing, the final phase before production begins. Experts say as much as 1,500 megawatts of electricity would have been connected to the national grid had the

THE KATHMANDU POST
pandemic not unsettled the timetable of the hydro projects. The delay in several such major projects, while causing cost overruns, will also impact the economy negatively.

Media reports from various parts of the world show construction work has moved ahead in full swing despite initial hiccups in the wake of the pandemic. India has said vital railway infrastructure projects including high-speed corridors, dedicated freight corridors, signalling projects and projects for launching new trains will go on as planned even in the midst of the pandemic. The construction of the infrastructure for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar has also not halted. Several states in the United States went ahead with construction work, calling it 'essential business' even as other business sectors were hit hard by the pandemic. So much so that work on the US-Mexico border wall was reported to have proceeded despite the pandemic when much of the economic activities have slowed down.

The infrastructure projects should be allowed to reopen by complying fully with safety protocols. The government can get the projects to conduct PCR tests on their workers, especially those who have been exposed to coronavirus hotspots or are returning from abroad.

In any case, the government's guideline for the resumption of international flights mandates that travellers need to have PCR tests done in the 72 hours prior to the flight. If the workers who test negative for coronavirus are allowed to work, it also helps them resume their normal lives without the financial burden they have had to undergo while staying home.

Holidays: Change of place or just change of pace?

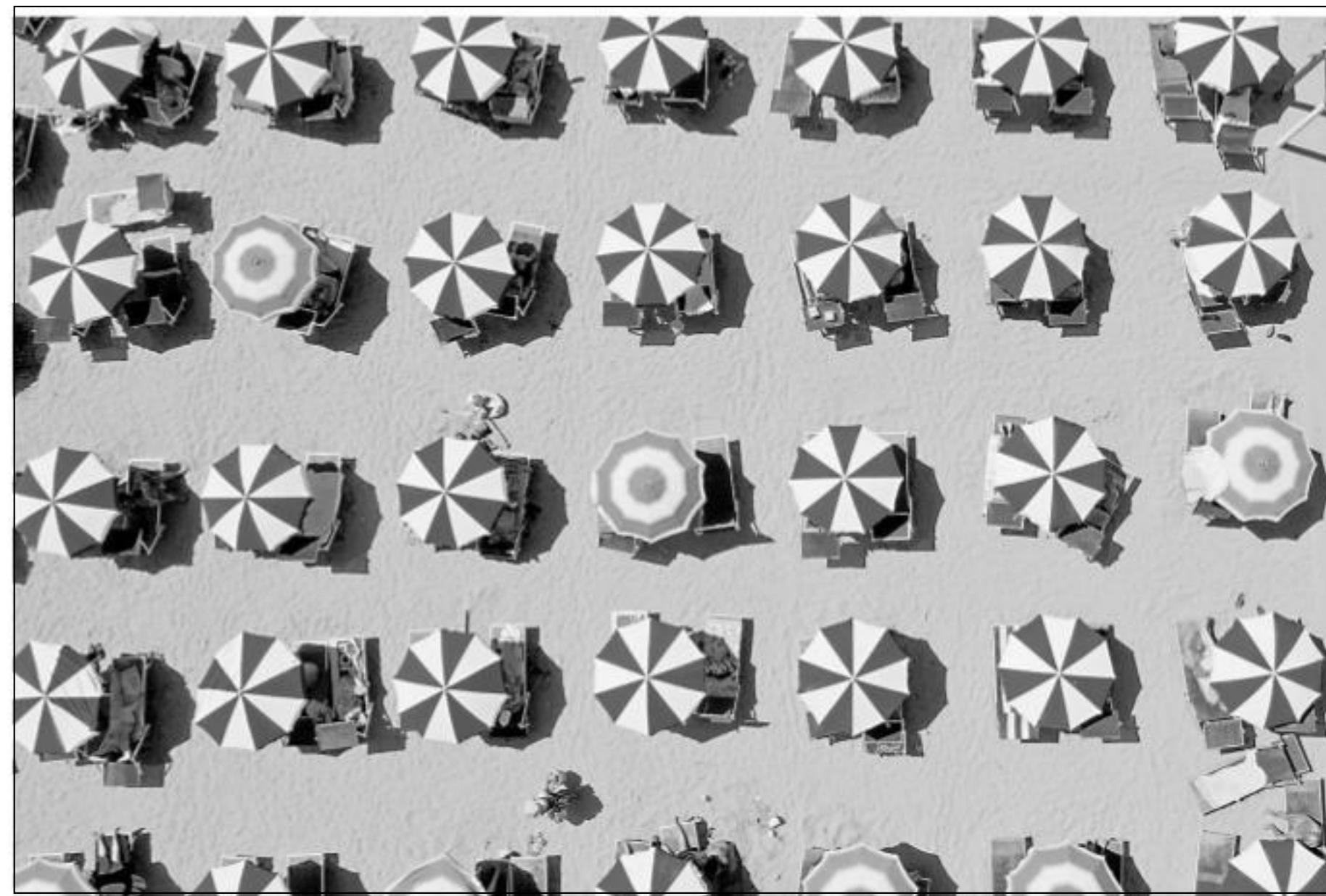
VINATI SUKHDEV

It is September and Europe is on the move. To beaches, to sun-soaked islands, to the countryside – anywhere but home. Nothing seems to stop holiday seekers. Not the patchy flights along agreed air corridors, not the threat of the pandemic hanging in the air and not even the dire warnings of quarantine as they return home from countries which are seeing a second wave of the virus. Europeans (Brits included as of now), take their summer holidays very seriously indeed.

Every summer, journalists declare August as 'the silly season'. There is no serious news worth covering – even the political leaders are on vacation. As I write this in August, Boris Johnson is in Scotland, Macron is off jet-skiing on the Mediterranean coast and Angela Merkel has declared that she will be taking a holiday in Germany this year instead of her beloved Tyrol mountains in Italy – but holiday she must!

So what is it about a summer break that makes it so necessary for wellbeing? What makes sun and sand essential commodities? Surely they are not as vital to human life as say, water and air? Yet the way Europeans go about it, they seem to be. With their generous annual leave allowance (28–35 paid holiday days) and their comfortable salaries – they are indeed the fortunate few. Americans are lucky if they get more than 10 days paid holiday per year and Asians are the workaholics of the world. Singapore heads the table for the least number of paid holidays in a year (18 days including public holidays).

How long this European addiction to travel for holidays lasts remains to be seen. As the social welfare state crumbles and societies age, automation will replace well-paid manual jobs and it is likely that holidays will become less affordable. The lingering effects of the pandemic and growing environmental concerns will also make foreign holiday trips unethical and unsafe as we head towards a more uncertain future. The glamorous foreign summer holiday may have had its day – so to speak. But while it lasted, it has fed social media with images of bronzed bodies on beaches, fuelled envy and longing amongst the stay-at-homes and put lots of money into a lot of airline and hotel balance sheets.



Now where do Indians fall along the whole summer holiday spectrum? Sun – no thank you. We get enough of it round the year. Sea – despite our long coastline, sea sports and beaches are few and far between. Goa yes, but even Goa is at its best in December when the temperature is cooler by a few degrees. Certainly a few decades ago, summer was a sleepy, torpid time of year when the sun beat down incessantly and schools were closed. There were no air conditioners to diffuse the heat, no television to alleviate the boredom, no computer games to divert the monotony. But wait a minute, I am imposing these negative connotations with hindsight. If anyone had ever asked me as a child if summer holidays were boring – I would have wondered what emotion they were talking about. I certainly didn't recognise the feeling!

As children, armed with our curious minds and lots of time on our hands, we made the most of our summer. School books were closed and novels opened with trembling excitement. Parental supervision waned as the demands of homework lessened

and mothers themselves took it easy – allowing themselves a precious afternoon nap. I remember reading all the racy novels of Harold Robbins found in my mother's book shelf one summer holiday without anybody realising the mismatch between my reading age and my emotional maturity. I survived without any permanent psychological damage – I think!

Yes summer was a very special time of year but the difference was dictated by the slowing of pace, the change of season (hot to hottest) and the change of rules (we were actually allowed to pack our school books away and go for sleep-overs to cousins' homes). There were occasional holidays that entailed going out of town – normally to a relative's home and of course all the excitement associated with those – but it was mostly about making the most of one's own home with more time on our hands. If my childhood in India taught me one thing – it was that holidays need not be about a change of place, they can be equally refreshing with a change of pace, an awareness of seasonal delights and a willingness to explore one's own environment.

So there were summer smells and summer sounds to enjoy. There were summer tastes and summer rituals to rediscover each year – where was the time to get bored? I still remember the taste of cool matka or surahi water in my mouth – sweet as the earthenware it cooled in – and at just the right temperature to gulp down thirstily, fresh from a competitive seven stones game in the garden. For more gourmet drinking, there were the various summer-beating sherbets – from the rose flavoured Rooh Afza to the sweet and sour aam ka panna, from the tangy nimbu pani to the more mellow bel ki sherbet.

Inside the house, darkened by curtains and screens to keep cool, there was always the musk scent of khus in the air as the screens were watered. Meanwhile, outside the darkened windows, gulmohar trees bloomed, their fiery red colour warning us that we must stay indoors or we would get heat stroke. Once the sun went down, we would emerge from the darkened house and spend the evening playing games in the garden.

Or we would walk to the chil-

dren's park at India Gate along a carpet of fallen jamun fruit and thought nothing of coming back and washing our fruit-loot and eating it until our tongues turned furry and a velvety violet in colour. I am sure this ritual died long before Covid could kill it – with increasing public/private bifurcation, much more dirt and pollution and probably tighter parental supervision. This whole jamun loot exercise was conducted under the collusion of the lady who looked after us children and stayed with my parents for 30 years afterwards.

There was one summer ritual we looked forward to more than anything else. It was sleeping out in the garden under mosquito nets. I guess it was all those Enid Blyton books about camping that gave it an air of adventure or maybe it was just the blessed relief of sleeping in the open air and not inside house that had baked all day in 40 degrees heat. Whatever the reason, the sight of mosquito net kitted charpoys out in the lawn would bring on shrieks of delight. We children would emerge from our evening baths and race each other out into the lawn in our pyjamas, dripping water from our still-wet hair. They would follow the ritual of talking to each other under the night sky or telling ghost stories in an effort to scare younger and more timid siblings.

The morning sunlight would wake us too early. Walking with our pillows shielding our eyes from the already strong early morning light, we would tumble into the house and try and sneak in a short nap indoors, sometimes succeeding, sometimes not – depending on how vigilant our mother was.

This was many summers ago – India has changed since then. Indians are travelling much more, taking expensive foreign holidays in cooler countries, their children are playing at the Diana memorial playground in Hyde Park and going for boat rides in the Serpentine. And while the world has changed, children have not. It is probably the little dog they make friends with in Hyde Park that our children will remember, not the fact that it happened in London. For years afterwards, they will remember his name, the way his ears flopped and his tail wagged as he came up to them and recognised them from the day before. The lockdown should make us all realise – and some already do – that staycations can be just as rejuvenating as vacations to far away exotic places. They are cheaper, better for the environment and help us appreciate our immediate surroundings more. Because it is the little things that memories – and holidays – are made of!

The writer lives in London and is the author of *East or West: An NRI mother's manual on how to bring up desi children overseas*.

A congress held 100 years ago

MAHIR ALI

The British writer H.G. Wells described it as "a quite wonderful accumulation of white, black, brown, and yellow people, Asiatic costumes and astonishing weapons... great assembly in which they swore undying hatred of capitalism and British imperialism".

The event to which he was referring was the First Congress of the Peoples of the East, summoned as a supplement to the second congress of the Third International (Comintern), which had concluded its proceedings in Moscow a few weeks earlier.

The "peoples of the east" assembled in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, 100 years ago this week: the congress got underway on 1 September 1920, a day after ceremonial inaugural session jointly hosted by the Baku Soviet and the Azerbaijan Trade Union Congress – punctuated rather too frequently, the minutes suggest, by renditions of The Internationale.

Summons to the congress had been issued less than two months earlier, directed towards "the enslaved popular masses of Persia, Armenia and Turkey". Those three territories, whose boundaries and fates were being delineated in the confusing aftermath of World War I, were well-represented in Baku, but there were also substantial delegations from Central Asian components of the former tsarist empire, as well as small contingents from India and China, and one from Afghanistan that included Hazaras and Jamshidis.

In speeches and declarations,



there are references to delegates from Balochistan. The participants from India, both Hindu and Muslim, mostly hailed from Peshawar, apparently, and included a couple of British spies.

M.N. Roy, a prominent presence at the Comintern's second congress, had boycotted the Baku congregation, dismissing it as "[Grigory] Zinoviev's cir-

cus", and had instead travelled to Tashkent, where the foundations of the Indian communist movement were laid.

His view was echoed by H.G. Wells, who referred to the gathering as "an excursion, a pageant", and added: "As a meeting of Asiatic proletarians it was preposterous." Even John Reed, who attended as an American delegate – and, according to his French counterpart Alfred Rosmer, inspired mirth at the inaugural session by declaring: "Don't you know

how Baku is pronounced in America? It's pronounced oil!" – was bitter about the "demagogic and display" he encountered and "the manner in which the native population... had been treated".

Intriguingly, one of the key themes that emerged at the congress related to how "counter-revolutionary" bureaucrats ostensibly representing the Bolsheviks were conducting themselves in the Russian east by reflecting the racist attitudes of their tsarist predecessors and colluding with the most reprehensible elements in society. A resolution that effect, albeit signed by only 21 of the around 3,000 delegates, openly critical of the activities of the Cheka secret police, made its way to the central committee of the Communist Party in Moscow and instigated an inquiry.

Lenin was adamant that the autonomy of nationalities and their right to secede must mean what they implied, and was a critic of Great Russian chauvinism. But the first Soviet commissar for nationalities, Stalin had a very different mindset. He prevailed, and all too many of the luminaries at the Baku congress – including Zinoviev, Karl Radek and Bela Kun – came to a sticky end during his dictatorship.

However, despite the considerable extent to which Moscow's foreign policy changed under Stalin, he cannot primarily be blamed for the lack of follow-up to the First Congress of the Peoples of the East. There was no second congress, partly because one

of the key British conditions behind a crucial trade deal the following year between Moscow and London was that Russia must desist from its propaganda in Britain's colonies and regions of influence, especially India and Afghanistan.

The idea behind the Baku congress was to guide rebellion in the British and French colonies towards communism: it was reasonable to back national liberation movements while recognising their bourgeois character, and never losing sight of the fact that if power passed from the colonial power to the national bourgeoisie, the toilers would continue to be oppressed, and the bulk of profits would still flow to the erstwhile imperialist powers – a prescient warning against 20th-century neocolonialism.

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Dawn/ANN.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Saturday's proceedings at Midnapore rather remind one of the tactics employed by the lion tamer who adventures into the cage of the king of beasts. It will be within the general knowledge that when the lion, or tiger, as the case may be, appears to be somnolent, the tamer cracks his whip, and causes the ferocious animal to lash his tail and even roar. Mr. J.N. Roy, who appears to have been the Moderate selected for this invidious task on Saturday last, seems to have stirred up Mr. Jitendra Lal Banerjee, at all events, to a noble rage which would clearly have given a great deal to find relief in some such expletive as that with which Bob Acres begged to be allowed to open his challenge to Captain Absolute. Denied this vent through respect for the chair - occupied for the nonce by Mr. Fazl-ul-Haq, still panting, one imagines, from his own prodigious utterance - Mr. Banerjee appears to have made up his mind to revenge himself at the expense of all those Moderates who had stayed away from the Conference.

"They wanted to go to Council," he exclaimed, "and to push aside those people who sided with the Government. It is evident that the Legislative Council will never be dull while Mr. Banerjee is about, and it must certainly be said of him that in advocating an "insensible" and unreasonable attitude he practices what he preaches - a very rare thing in Bengal.

NEWS ITEMS

THE WATER SUPPLY

On the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation considering at the meeting, the Health Officer's Report on the purity of the filtered water for the week, Dr. S.K. Mullick enquired how it was that chlorine had gradually risen from 1.1 in 1918 to no less than 3.1 in the present year. This obviously demonstrated the fact that they were going to get water of a quality which was increasing in solids and increase of solids in water meant diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases. The Chairman remarked that rainfall had a bearing on the extent of solids in the water. The Health Officer said that apart from the local variations according to rainfall, the solids in the rain water had been gradually increasing for some years past.

PUNJAB OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

The distribution of land grants to Indian officers and soldiers belonging to the Punjab for distinguished service during the Great War is about to commence. The names of those who have been selected to receive this form of reward will be communicated in the course of the next ten days to Officers Commanding Cavalry and Infantry regiments which recruit from the Punjab. A total area of 170,000 acres, mainly on the lower Bari Doab Canal, has been set apart by the Government of the Punjab for the purpose. Approximately 5,000 Indian officers and other ranks will receive land grants in the Punjab under the reward scheme.

PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT

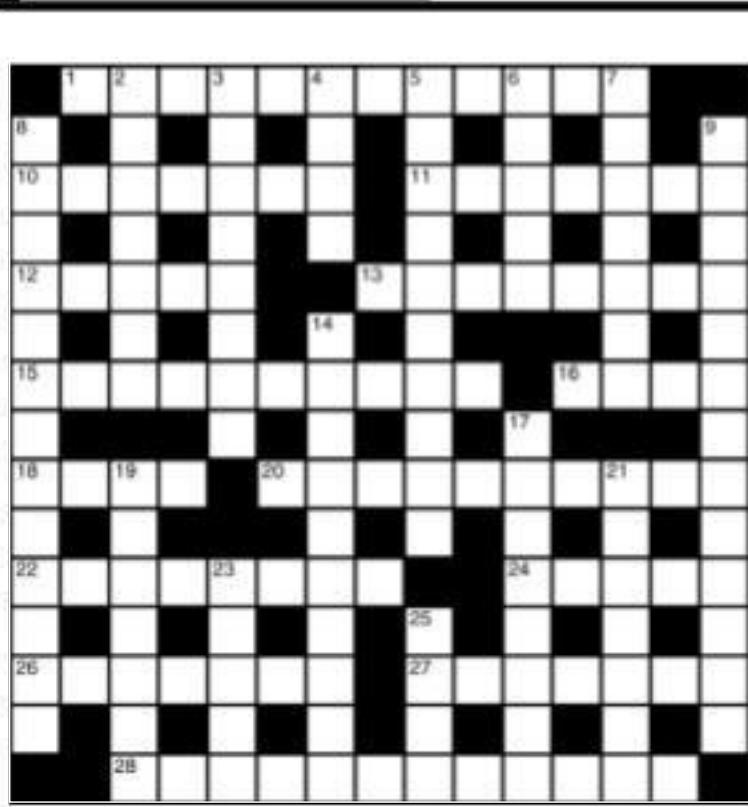
A meeting of the Executive Committee of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' Reception Committee was held at Government House yesterday afternoon for the purpose of organising a reception worthy of the occasion, the principle features of which would be Indian entertainments on the Maidan, illuminations and fireworks, and an entertainment for school children. His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay presided. His Excellency in opening the proceedings said, it will be remembered that at a Town Hall meeting, an Executive Committee was appointed of the citizens of Calcutta who were charged with the duty of arranging for a suitable reception to be accorded to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. It is merely to lay on the table the proceedings of the public meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, the 14th April, 1920.

CONNAUGHT RANGERS

On the arrival of the last mail from England the Connaught Rangers at Jullunder got much excited over the accounts which reached them of recent Irish events. While one-fourth of the battalion remained entirely loyal to the Colonel the rest laid down their arms, surrendered ammunition, and while entirely respectful to officers regretted their inability to perform their duties and declared their sympathies with their friends at home. They are now in a separate camp with another British regiment in charge of them. But it is reported from Solan in the Simla Hills that on this news reaching the detachment there some men attempted to seize arms and cartridges but the guard promptly fired, killing two and wounding one and all is now quiet. The detachment at Jutogh, 6 miles from Simla, is perfectly quiet.

CROSSWORD

NO 28062



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

LAST MINUTE LURE
AC E O I N N
TEA SERVICE PEAT
E R T E K T M R
BIBLIOGRAPHY
E F N T F A H L
FALL GUY FRIGATE
F E H N T V
EMULOUS FESTIVE
M R U U I P C L
INDISCRETION
N E F N T S A
ALLY GAZETTEERS
T I C S E E K
EASE KEYSTROKES

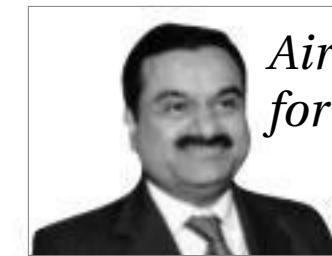
ACROSS

- 1 Nonsense documents containing double Dutch should receive criticism (12)
- 10 Man perhaps bananas to go round bus when cycling (7)
- 11 Charm offensive ultimately linked to war associated with us (7)
- 12 Stylish marker pen that is missing (5)
- 13 Group of nations misrepresent France, showing lack of faith (8)
- 15 In art, realistic representation requires breaking real limits (10)
- 16 A goddess lives twice (4)
- 18 Bubble bath initially about 45 inches in days of old (4)
- 20 I'm about to join group of activists in the centre of Toulouse for a drink (10)
- 22 Health food items go in cars for distribution (8)
- 24 Golf clubs lacking weight to give advantages (5)
- 26 It's crucial to hear a murder suspect (7)
- 27 Right to put tiny bit of vinegar in garlic mayonnaise for Italian dish (7)
- 28 Head of government preparing us badly for (7)

DOWN

- 2 Version of Tin Soldier that features Steve's peak moment (7)
- 3 Arabic operation said to return Jews living outside Israel (8)
- 4 At last, First-rate Mason Greenwood scores goals (4)
- 5 TV programme's new host stupidly invites man on oxygen (3,3,4)
- 6 Conservative Party long for ... (5)
- 7 ... its members to support latest of Boris's lies (7)
- 8 One discloses having broken elbow in Canadian ski resort (7-6)
- 9 Claim to replace women in deep admiration for position at Oxford? (13)
- 14 Our diplomacy works without even contributions from BoJo's party (5,5)
- 17 Pavement artist to have sex nearly always (8)
- 19 Great LP made by group of cricketers (3,4)
- 21 Small chicken hat made of straw (7)
- 23 Fancy man or woman? (5)
- 25 God's part within the welfare state (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



Airports will create strategic adjacencies
for the group's other businesses

GAUTAM ADANI
CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

THUMBNAILS

India ranks 48th in global innovation index: India has joined the group of top 50 countries in the global innovation index for the first time, moving up four places to the 48th rank and keeping the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia. According to the Global Innovation Index (GII) list, 2020 released jointly by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School on Wednesday, the rankings show stability at the top but a gradual "eastward shift in the locus of innovation" as Asian economies like China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam have advanced considerably in the innovation ranking over the years.

PTI

Vistara-Japan Air pact: Vistara and Japan Airlines have inked a partnership that allows members of their frequent flyer programmes to earn and spend points on each other. A frequent flyer program (FFP) is a loyalty programme wherein a passenger earns points for travelling on an airline's flights, which can then be used to get rewards on the same airline or partner companies.

PTI

L&T divestment: Larsen & Toubro has announced the closure of the strategic divestment of its electrical & automation (L&T E&A) business to Schneider Electric. The significant and complex divestment deal, announced in May 2018, has been completed after receiving the requisite regulatory approvals and fulfilment of necessary conditions, the company said in a statement.

SNS

LIC Housing Finance: LIC Housing Finance on Wednesday said it will seek shareholders' approval in the upcoming annual general meeting this month to raise up to Rs 50,500 crore by issuing debt securities or other hybrid instruments on a private placement basis. The company's annual general meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on 28 September.

PTI

Pyramid Cares partners CRY: Pyramid IT Consulting Pvt. Ltd.'s and its social welfare initiative the Pyramid Cares has partnered an NGO, Child Rights and You (CRY), and donated over 500 personal protective equipment kits to the underprivileged people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghaziabad, east Delhi. In association with CRY, Pyramid Cares is also spreading awareness on the use of masks, gloves & sanitizers among migrant workers in slum localities, said a Press release.

SNS

Nokia phone: HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, has started selling Nokia 5.3 on Nokia.com/phones and Amazon.in. across the country. The phone, priced Rs 13,999 onwards, features an AI-powered quad camera and Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 665 Mobile Platform, according to a Press release issued by the company.

SNS

Fieo voices concern over cap on export incentives

Govt has decided to cap export incentives under MEIS at ₹2 crore per exporter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The government's decision to cap export incentives under MEIS scheme at ₹2 crore per exporter on outbound shipments made during September-December 2020 is going to "seriously" affect traders, Fieo said today.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo) president Sharad Kumar Saraf said exports that will be made during September-December 2020 are based on the orders, which have already been negotiated much earlier, factoring the existing Merchant Export from India Scheme (MEIS) benefit.

► These benefits are part of the export competitiveness and, therefore, the sudden change will affect the exporters' financially as buyers are not going to revise their prices upward,

31 December 2020, is going to seriously affect exporters, whose numbers may not be very large, but their contribution to exports warrant a revisit to the imposition of the cap," Saraf said.

The government on Tuesday capped export incentives under the scheme at ₹2 crore per exporter on outbound shipments made during 1 September to



he added.

► Fieo also urged the government to extend the MEIS till 31 March 2021, coterminous with the existing foreign trade policy.

tember to 31 December 2020. He also expressed concern over the financial outlay of ₹ 5,000 crore given for exports during September-December 2020 with the condition that if claims exceed this limit, the ceiling may further be revised downwards.

"This will create huge uncertainty as those eligible for a cap of ₹2 crore will not be able to factor even such benefits in their exports. Clarity is also required whether any change in the MEIS rate will be notified for those who are not affected by the cap if the amount of ₹ 5,000 crore is exhausted," Saraf said.

Further, he urged the government to extend the MEIS till 31 March 2021, coterminous with the existing foreign trade policy.

The RoDTEP (remission of duties or taxes on export product) committee has started the work, but the industry is facing challenges in providing the data due to frequent local lockdowns, non-availability of transport and non-functioning of auditors.

"Moreover, fixation of rate for over 10,000 items at 8 digits would be a time-consuming exercise, particularly as it has to meet the discipline of WTO," Fieo president noted.

The extension in the MEIS scheme till March 2021 will help in a smooth rolling of the RoDTEP scheme as well since the scheme is going to stay for zero-rating of exports, he said.

Voda Idea calls board meet to consider fund-raising

NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Telecom operator Vodafone Idea has said its board will meet on Friday to consider fund-raising through various means.

The development comes following the Supreme Court verdict directing all telecom operators to pay 10 per cent of total adjusted gross revenue (AGR)-related dues this year, and rest of the payments in 10 installments starting from next fiscal year.

Vodafone Idea Ltd, in a late night filing to BSE on Monday, said the meeting of the board of directors of the company is scheduled on 4 September 2020.

The board at the meeting will "consider and evaluate any and all proposals for raising of funds in one or more tranches by way of a public issue, preferential allotment, private placement, including a qualified institutions placement or through any other permissible mode and/or combination thereof... by way of issue of equity shares or by way of issue of any instruments of reinforcing and strengthening scientific links between the two organisations.

PTI

India-Finland pact for cooperation in geology & mineral resources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

The government today approved a memorandum of understanding between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources.

The decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Union Cabinet...has

This MoU aims to provide with a framework and a platform to promote and foster cooperation in the fields of geology and mineral resources between the participants for mutual economic, social and environmental benefit; and share experiences on geological data management and information dissemination to promote exploration and mining in the areas of geology and mineral resources.

Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a premier geo-scientific organisation of international repute for creation and updation of national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment.

These objectives are achieved through the ground, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seismotectonic study, and carrying out fundamental research.

"Geological Survey of Finland has expertise in multi thematic data integration and analysis...," it said.

Happiest Minds IPO to open on 7 Sept; priced at ₹165-166/share

NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

IT services firm Happiest Minds Technologies today said it will launch its initial share sale on 7 September to raise an estimated Rs 702 crore. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 165 to Rs 166 per equity share for the IPO, which will be open for public subscription during 7-9 September.

The offer comprises a fresh issuance of shares aggregating up to Rs 110 crore, and an offer for sale of up to 3.56 crore equity shares.

The company's promoter Ashok Soota will offer 8,414,223 equity shares and private equity fund CMDB-II will offer 27,249,362 shares through the offer-for-sale route.

Soota was the founding chairman and managing director of MindTree Ltd. Prior to MindTree, he was the vice-chairman of Wipro Ltd.

At the upper end of the price band, the IPO will fetch Rs 702 crore.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 90 equity shares and in multiples of 90 equity shares thereafter. The face value of the equity shares is Rs 2 each.

The IT company proposes to utilise the net proceeds from the fresh issue to meet long-term working capital requirement and general corporate purposes.

The Bengaluru-based IT company's shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and the National Stock Exchange.

ICICI Securities and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) are the manager for the offer.

The company, which filed draft papers with markets watchdog the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in June, had obtained its approval to float initial public offer in August.

Coal India Q1 net drops 55% to ₹2,080 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Coal India Ltd (CIL) today posted 55 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,079.60 crore for the quarter ended 30 June 2020 on the back of lower sales.

However, the company had posted consolidated profit from "continuing operations" of Rs 4,629.67 crore in the year-ago period, the PSU said in a filing to BSE.

The company's sales in April-June was at Rs 17,007.10 crore as against Rs 23,223 crore in the year-ago period. Expenses during the period under review dropped to Rs 16,470.64 crore from Rs 19,077.44 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year.

The coal output by CIL on consolidated basis during

the quarter dropped to 121.04 million tons (MT) from 136.94 MT in April-June 2019-20. The coal offtake by the PSU during the period fell to 120.42 MT from 153.49 MT in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year.

The company is targeting one billion tons of production by 2023-24.

CIL will pump in over Rs 1.22 lakh crore into projects related to coal evacuation, exploration and clean coal technologies by 2023-24, to achieve 1 billion tons of fuel output target, coal minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday. Out of the proposed spend of over 1.22 lakh crore, CIL has planned to invest Rs 32,696 crore on coal evacuation, Rs 25,117 crore on mine infrastructure and Rs 29,461 crore on project development by 2023-24.

Flipkart B2B unit starts operations in three cities

NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Flipkart Wholesale, digital B2B (business-to-business) marketplace unit of Walmart-owned Flipkart Group, today said it has started operations in three Indian cities and will connect local manufacturers with retailers.

The move will allow the company to compete more aggressively against rivals like Udaan and Amazon, which operate wholesale business in the country.

"We are starting with fashion (including apparel, footwear and accessories) in Gurugram, Delhi and Bengaluru, and we will expand to 20 more cities by year-end in categories such as home and kitchen, and grocery," Flipkart Wholesale senior vice-president and head Adarsh Menon said.

FM to meet heads of banks, NBFCs today on loan recast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting with heads of banks and NBFCs on Thursday for smooth and speedy implementation of the one-time debt recast for resolution of Covid-19 related stress in bank loans. The RBI last month permitted one-time restructuring of both corporate and retail loans without getting classified as a non-performing asset (NPA).

Banks are in the process of getting a board-approved restructuring framework in line with the RBI's framework and eligibility defined by the central bank in its notification on 6 August.

Besides assessing the preparedness of banks on the debt

recast, sources said, the meeting will also review the progress of various schemes announced under the Rs 20.97 lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.

The progress of emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) and credit guarantee scheme for subordinate debt, among others, will be reviewed in the meeting, sources said.

"The review (meeting) will focus on enabling businesses and households to avail of the revival framework on the basis of viability, necessary steps like finalising bank policies and identifying borrowers, and discussing issues that require addressing for smooth and speedy implementation," the finance minister had said earlier this week. The finance minister will

review the implementation of the resolution framework for Covid-19 related stress in bank loans on Thursday with the top management of scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), it had said.

Restructuring benefit can be availed by those whose account was standard on 1 March and defaults should not be over 30 days.

Besides, the K V Kamath committee is working on recommendations on financial parameters like debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans.

Its recommendations will be notified within 30 days of setting up of the panel, which means the notification should be out by 6 September.

The offer comprises a fresh issuance of shares aggregating up to Rs 110 crore, and an offer for sale of up to 3.56 crore equity shares.

The company's promoter Ashok Soota will offer 8,414,223 equity shares and private equity fund CMDB-II will offer 27,249,362 shares through the offer-for-sale route.

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ICICI Securities and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) are the manager for the offer.

The company, which filed draft papers with markets watchdog the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in June, had obtained its approval to float initial public offer in August.

Equity indices extend winning run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Equity benchmarks notched up gains for the second straight session today, propelled by market heavyweight Reliance Industries amid upbeat global cues. However, border tensions with China and a weakening rupee capped the upside, traders said.

After starting on a choppy note, the BSE Sensex gained

momentum in late-afternoon trade, before finally closing at 39,086.03 points, up 185.23 points or 0.48 per cent.

► On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 64.75 points or 0.56 per cent to close at 11,535 points.

Reliance Industries jumped 1.97 per cent, accounting for over half of the index's gains.

On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, HDFC, Nestle India and HUL were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.62 per cent.

"After initially trading with uncertainty, the markets gained strength, in sync with positive global cues. European and Asian markets gained

from encouraging economic data which could be assumed as an indicator towards an economic recovery in most of the major economies.

"Encouraging US, Chinese and European manufacturing data and also the expectation that US would bring in additional stimulus kept up the buoyancy in the markets.

"Domestically, investors

chose to ignore the border tensions with China, which led to the volatility in the opening trades. With markets reacting to stock specific news and with heightened volatility, investors are advised to remain alert, trade cautiously and keep booking profits," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices ended with gains. BSE energy, industrial, power, metal, telecom and tech indices rose as much as 1.80 per cent. Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rallied up to 1.66 per cent.

In rest of Asia, bourses in Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals.

In the forex market, the rupee depreciated 16 paise to end at 73.03 against the US dollar.



When the govt works to attract companies into Singapore and to create jobs, its ultimate aim is always to improve the lives of Singaporeans

SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEH LOONG

AMIDST CALLS TO DO MORE TO PROTECT THE SINGAPOREANS IN THE WORKFORCE

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

Abe's spokesman seen as favourite successor

Contenders Kishida & Ishiba say Abe's policies tended to ignore the voices of people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, 2 SEPTEMBER

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, a longtime loyal assistant and the public face of outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in daily media briefings, has emerged as a favourite to succeed him in an upcoming internal party vote.

A member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who doesn't belong to any faction, Suga has been approached by leaders of other party wings as someone who can ensure the continuation of Abe's policies, including Japan's security alliance with the US, the coronavirus pandemic and measures to shore up the economy.

Suga is set to announce his candidacy and key policies later Wednesday, a day after former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba expressed their intention to run for the post.

Ruling party executives met on Tuesday and decided that the September 14 vote for the party leader and con-



sequently the prime minister will be limited to lawmakers and selected prefectural representatives.

Ishiba is not seen as popular among LDP parliamentarians due to his anti-Abe stance, but he is a favourite in public opinion polls.

The son of a strawberry grower in the northern prefecture of Akita, Suga is a self-made politician, a rarity in Japan's largely hereditary business of politics. He earned his own tuition while working several part-time jobs to graduate from a university in Tokyo.

He entered politics as secretary to a lawmaker for 11 years and served as a city assemblyman for nearly nine years before he was elected to parliament in 1994. As Japan's longest-serving chief Cabinet

secretary, Suga is a policy coordinator and adviser to Abe the point man behind the centralised power of the Prime Minister's Office that influences bureaucrats to implement policies.

Suga is also known to have helped smooth out differences by keeping close ties with both LDP heavyweight Toshihiro Nikai and a centrist coalition partner, Komeito.

He has earned a reputation for his matter-of-fact twice-daily televised media briefings. He's become known as "Uncle Reiwa" after he was tasked with unveiling the new imperial era name for Emperor Naruhito last year. Despite his soft-spoken low-key image, Suga, who is also in charge of Okinawa, has offended local leaders with his heavy-handed approach to push the central government's policy in a dispute over the relocation of a US Marine air station to another spot on the southern island.

Suga also invited protests last year over his hostile responses to a newspaper reporter asking tough questions criticizing Abe policies. But Suga has been a loyal

supporter of Abe since his first stint as prime minister from 2006-2007, which abruptly ended because of Abe's chronic illness, and helped him return to power in 2012. Abe, who has had ulcerative colitis since he was a teenager, last week announced he would resign. Asked about key policies that a post-Abe government should tackle, Suga noted coronavirus measures as the biggest challenge. The Japan-US security alliance, developed through the friendship between Abe and President Donald Trump, "needs to be further deepened" within the limitations of Japan's pacifist constitution, he said.

The two other contenders, Kishida and Ishiba, said that Abe's policies tended to ignore the voices of ordinary people and that they intent to address the economic and social divisions that had widened under Abe.

Neither man has proposed any major changes in Japan's security and diplomatic policies. The next prime minister will finish the rest of Abe's term, until September 2021. There are no women contenders.

Khmer Rouge's chief jailer Duch dies at 77

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PHNOM PENH, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Khmer Rouge's chief jailer, who admitted overseeing the torture and killings of as many as 16,000 Cambodians while running the regime's most notorious prison, has died. Kaing Guek Eav, known as Duch, was 77 and had been serving a life prison term for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He died at a hospital in Cambodia early Wednesday morning, said Neth Pheaktra, a spokesperson for the tribunal in Phnom Penh that handled the trials over the regime's crimes.

Duch was admitted to Cambodian Soviet Friendship Hospital after developing difficulty breathing Monday at the Kandal provincial prison, said Chat Sineang, chief of the prison where Duch had been transferred from the tribunal's prison facility in 2013. He added that the body would be examined for a cause of death before being handed to his family.

Duch, whose trial took place in 2009, was the first senior Khmer Rouge figure to face the U.N.-backed tribunal.

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bunal that had been assembled to deliver justice for the regime's brutal rule in the late 1970s, which is blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million people a quarter of Cambodia's population at the time.

The communist Khmer Rouge regime that ruled Cambodia from 1975-79 was accused of genocide for causing the deaths of so many of their countrymen from executions, starvation and lack of medical care due to its radical policies. Only after neighbouring Vietnam pushed the Khmer Rouge from power did the scale and barbarity of their rule become absolutely clear.

As commander of the top-secret Tuol Sleng prison code-named S-21, Duch was one of the few ex-Khmer Rouge who acknowledged even partial responsibility for his actions, and his trial included his own wrenchingly graphic testimony of how people were tortured at the prison.

Saudi to allow 'all countries' to fly over its skies

DUBAI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Saudi Arabia announced that it will now allow flights from all countries to cross its skies to reach the UAE, a historic first that comes just days after the kingdom let the first direct Israeli commercial passenger flight use its airspace to reach the UAE.

The statement makes no mention of the kingdom's rival, Iran, nor Qatar, which Saudi is currently boycotting. The Saudi Press Agency said the move comes in response to a request by the UAE for flights.

PTI

In addition to the three neighbours of India -- Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar -- the other countries where China is considering to base its military logistics and infrastructure facilities are Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, Angola and Tajikistan, the report said on Tuesday.

In its annual report Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China (PRC) 2020 that was submitted to the US Congress, the Pentagon said these potential Chinese military logistics facilities are in addition to the Chinese mil-

itary base in Djibouti, which is aimed at supporting naval, air and ground forces projection. A global PLA military logistics network could both interfere with US military operations and support offensive operations against the United States as the PRC's global military objectives evolve, the Pentagon said in

the report.

China has probably already made overtures to Namibia, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands, it said, adding the known focus areas of PLA planning are along the Seal Lines of Communication from China to the Strait of Hormuz, Africa, and the Pacific Islands.

New Taiwan passports to emphasise China delink

TAIPEI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Taiwan plans to issue new passports emphasising its independent identity and downgrading connections with China. The foreign ministry on Wednesday released images of the new document that features Taiwan in large capital letters on its cover and minimises the English wording Republic of China, the island's official name.

Taiwan was handed over from Japanese to Chinese rule in 1945. Four years later, Chiang Kai-shek relocated the Republic of China and its institutions to the island as Mao Zedong's Communist Party swept to power in the Chinese Civil War. Taiwan has since shrugged off political connections with China as part of its transition to full democracy. However, it has retained Republic of China as its official name, along with the constitution, flag and state institutions brought from China.

ing to have re-imposed sanctions and most of the rest of the world saying the Trump administration's action is illegal and ignoring it.

After US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to the U.N. to invoke snapback on Aug. 20, Indonesia's U.N. Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, whose country held the rotating council presidency, said there was overwhelming opposition in the 15-member body to the U.S. position.

Iran N-deal members resolve to preserve agreement

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 2 SEPTEMBER

who chaired the meeting, said afterwards on Twitter that the participants are united in resolve to preserve the #IranDeal and find a way to ensure full implementation of the agreement despite current challenges.

Iranian representative Abbas Araghchi did not comment after the day of talks, but ahead of the meeting said the U.S. move would definitely be an important discussion topic with delegates from France, Germany, Britain,

Russia and China. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action unilaterally in 2018, saying that it was a bad deal and needed to be renegotiated.

The deal promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, but with the reinstatement of American sanctions, the other nations have been struggling to provide Iran the assistance it seeks. Complicating the

matter, the U.S. announced recently it was triggering a 30-day process to restore virtually all U.N. sanctions on Iran, invoking a snapback mechanism that is part of the JCPOA agreement. Washington's argument is that as an original participant it still has that right, even though it left the deal. Other signatories to the JCPOA agreement have rejected that argument, setting the stage for a potential crisis in the Security Council later this month, with the U.S. claim-

ing to have re-imposed sanctions and most of the rest of the world saying the Trump administration's action is illegal and ignoring it.

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LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Money (Slang) (5)
- 4 Small green vegetable (3)
- 8 Talent (5)
- 9 Bewildered (9)
- 10 Greek letter (3)
- 11 Every two weeks (11)
- 12 Second-hand (4)
- 13 Haunt (Informal) (7)
- 14 Fruit seed (3)
- 15 Skilled worker (7)
- 16 Snell (5)
- 17 Pastry dish (3)
- 18 Fiery particles (6)
- 19 Anti-aircraft fire (4)
- 20 Rumble next (5)
- 21 Booty dump (3)
- 22 Lock hair (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

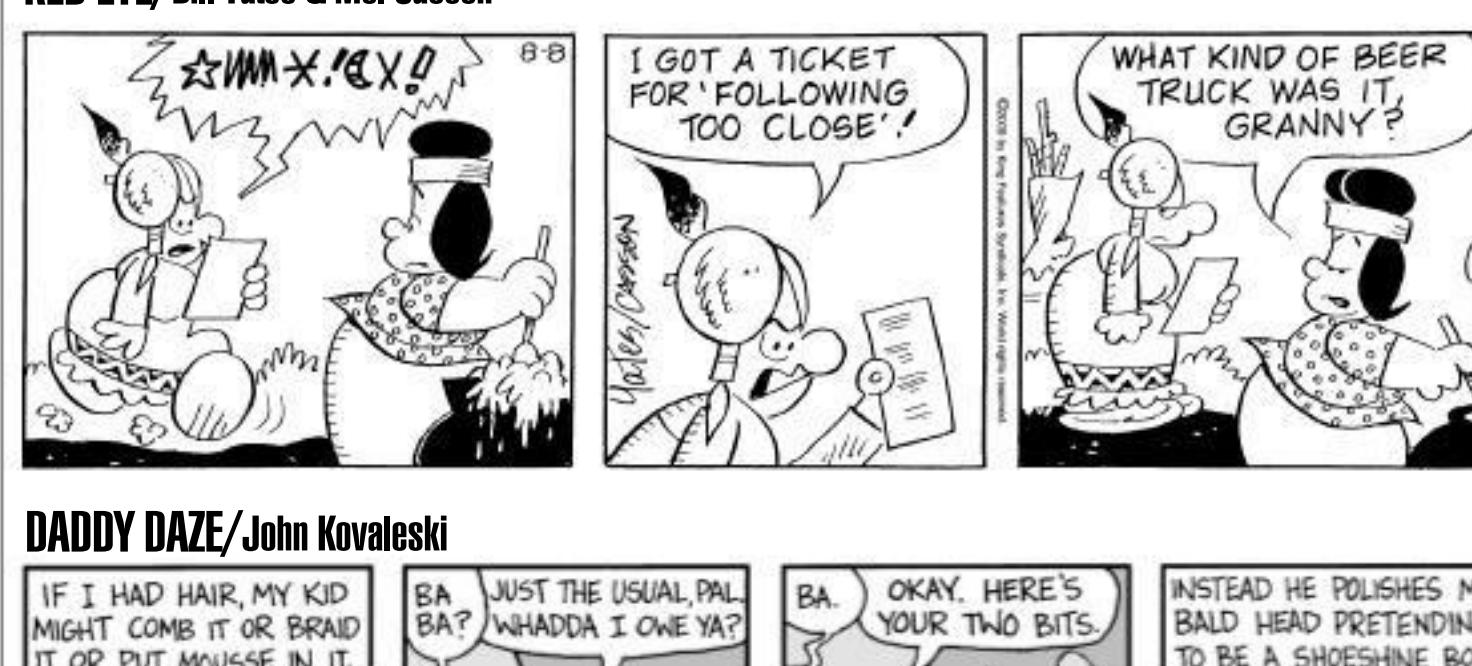
- ACROSS 13 Massif, 15 Reasembly, 16 Snide, 17 Coat, 18 Keepsake, 19 Laconic, 20 Somebody, 21 Belt, 22 Rot.
- DOWN 1 Flaw (6), 2 In complete agreement (9), 3 Scarcey able (4,3), 4 Eye part (5), 5 Beer (3), 6 Enlistment of personnel (11), 7 Second-hand (4), 8 Talent (5), 9 Bewildered (9), 10 Greek letter (3), 11 Every two weeks (11), 12 Second-hand (4), 13 Haunt (Informal) (7), 14 Fruit seed (3), 15 Skilled worker (7), 16 Snell (5), 17 Pastry dish (3), 18 Fiery particles (6), 19 Anti-aircraft fire (4), 20 Rumble next (5), 21 Booty dump (3), 22 Lock hair (5).

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required.

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- Alim 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidysagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23253250

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 435131285, Call Center 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 435131285, Call Center 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

PORT ROADWAYS

- Punjab Roadways 23867842, port 011-25671580; Terminal I B 25671576, Palam Road 25671576, 18001803838

RAJASTHAN ROADWAYS

- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION

- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

U.P. ROADWAYS

- U.P. Roadways 23868709

AIR CANADA FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION

- AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

AIR FRANCE FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION

- AIR FRANCE Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181

KUWAIT AIRWAYS FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION

- KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

INDIGO AIRLINES FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION

- INDIGO AIRLINES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181

SCRABBLE BRAND

- SCRABBLE BRAND 23868836, 23868518

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

SCRABBLE BRAND

- SCRABBLE BRAND 23868836, 23868518



His visionary leadership helped drive India's rise as a global power and paved the way for a stronger US-India partnership

US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO

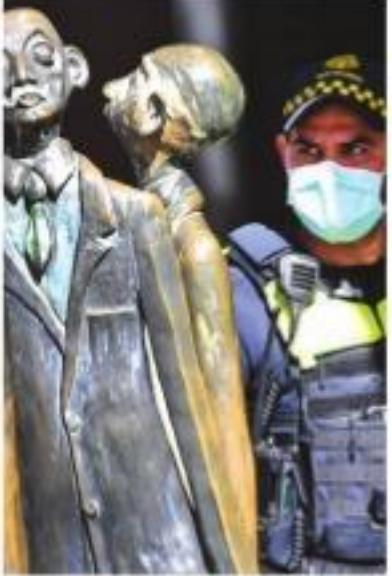
AFTER THE DEMISE OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRANAB MUKHERJEE

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C

S=sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



A protective services officer walks past a sculpture of a businessman in Melbourne on Wednesday. AP

Nana hits Mexico city: A strengthening Tropical Storm *Nana* roared toward Central America on Wednesday and was expected to become a hurricane before making landfall on the coast of Belize. Meanwhile Tropical Storm *Omar* formed off the U.S. East Coast on Tuesday and was moving away from land. AP

Strong rain hit Japan: An offshore typhoon brought torrents of rain to southern Japan on Wednesday as it headed to the Korean Peninsula, while another storm in the Pacific grew stronger. Typhoon *Maysak* was west of Japan, maintaining sustained winds of 162 km per hour with higher gusts, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. AP

NZ cyber attack: New Zealand's justice minister, Andrew Little said the nation is confronting cy-ber attacks on an unprecedented scale, targeting everything from the stock market to the weather service. The attacks stopped share trading for up to several hours at a time over four days last week. AP

Trump visits Kenosha, calls violence domestic terrorism

Violence isn't a problem in Donald Trump's eyes. It's a political strategy, says Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KENOSHA, 2 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump stood at the epicenter of the latest eruption over racial injustice Tuesday and came down squarely on the side of law enforcement, blaming "domestic terror" for the violence in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and making no nod to the underlying cause of anger and protests—the shooting of yet another Black man by police.

Trump declared the violence "anti-American." He did not mention Jacob Blake, who was left paralyzed after being shot in the back seven times by an officer last week in Kenosha.

Soon after arriving in the city, a visit made over the objections of state and local leaders, Trump toured the charred remains of a block besieged by violence and fire. With the scent of smoke still in the air, he spoke to the owners of a century-old store that had been destroyed and continued to link the violence to the Democrats, blaming those in charge of Kenosha and Wisconsin while raising apocalyptic warnings if their party should capture the



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press as he tours an area affected by civil unrest in Kenosha. AFP

White House. "These are not acts of peaceful protest but, really, domestic terror," said Trump. And he condemned Democratic officials for not immediately accepting his offer of federal enforcement assistance, claiming, "They just don't want us to come."

The city has been the scene of protests since the Aug. 23 shooting of Blake, who was shot as he tried to get into a car while police were trying to arrest him. Protests have been concentrated in a small area of

Kenosha. While there were more than 30 fires set in the first three nights, the situation has calmed since then.

Trump's motorcade passed throngs of demonstrators, some holding American flags in support of the president, others jeering while carrying signs that read Black Lives Matter. A massive police presence, complete with several armored vehicles, secured the area, and barricades were set up along several of the city's major thoroughfares to keep onlookers

at a distance from the passing presidential vehicles.

Offering federal resources to help rebuild the city, Trump toured a high school that had been transformed into a heavily fortified law enforcement command post. He said he tried to call Blake's mother but opted against it after the family asked that a lawyer listen in. Trump later added he felt "terrible" for anyone who suffered a loss, but otherwise only noted that the situation was "complicated" and "under

investigation." The only words acknowledging the concerns of African Americans came from a pastor who attended Trump's law enforcement roundtable.

Pressed by reporters, Trump repeatedly pivoted away from assessing any sort of structural racism in the nation or its police departments, instead blasting what he saw as anti-police rhetoric. Painting a dark portrait of parts of the nation he leads, the president predicted that chaos would descend on cities across America if voters elect Democrat Joe Biden to replace him in November.

Biden hit back, speaking to donors on a fundraising call after Trump left Kenosha.

"Donald Trump has failed to protect America. So now he's trying to scare the hell out of America," Biden said. "Violence isn't a problem in Donald Trump's eyes. It's a political strategy." The election is playing out in "anxious times," with "timely crises," Biden said. He included police violence in the list, along with the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout, and said Trump refuses to address any of them honestly.

HHS cancelling ventilator contracts, says stockpile is full

WASHINGTON, 2 SEPTEMBER

The Trump administration is cancelling some of its remaining orders for ventilators, after rushing to sign nearly \$ 3 billion in emergency contracts as the pandemic surged in the spring.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement affirming that the national stockpile has now reached its maximum capacity, with nearly 120,000 available for deployment to state and local health officials if need. HHS confirmed it was terminating contracts with ventilator manufacturers Hamilton Medical and Vyae Medical. AP

Charlie Hebdo terror attack suspects go on trial in Paris



Ahmed Bouteab, the mosque's association president, stands by an anti-Islam inscription reading "I am a coward" on a wall of the Mouyset Mosque in France, on Wednesday. AFP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, 2 SEPTEMBER

Thirteen men and a woman went on trial Wednesday over the 2015 attacks against the Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper and a kosher supermarket in Paris that marked the beginning of a wave of violence by the Islamic State group in Europe.

Seventeen people and all three gunmen died during the three days of attacks in January 2015. Later that year, a separate network of French and Belgian fighters for Islamic State struck Paris again, this time killing 130 people in attacks at the Bataclan concert hall, the national stadium, and in bars and restaurants.

Those on trial in France's terrorism court are accused of buying weapons, cars, and helping with logistics. Most say they thought they were helping plan an ordinary crime.

Three, including the only woman accused, are being tried in absentia after leaving to join Islamic State.

The trial will establish and confirm that the two attacks were coordinated; one was an attack on freedom of expression and the other was against Jews because they were Jews, Francois Hollande, who was then France's president, told RTL radio.

The attacks from January 7-9, 2015, started during an editorial meeting at Charlie Hebdo, whose offices had

been unmarked and guarded by police since the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad years before.

Brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi, gunned down 12 people before carjacking a vehicle and fleeing. They claimed the attacks in the name of al-Qaida.

Two days later, on the eve of the Jewish Sabbath, Amedy Coulibaly stormed the Hyper Cacher supermarket, killing four hostages in the name of the Islamic State group as the brothers took control of a printing office outside the French capital. The attackers died that day during simultaneous police raids.

It took days more for investigators to realise that Coulibaly was also responsible for the seemingly random death of a young policewoman the previous day.

It took further weeks to unravel the network of petty criminals and neighbourhood friends linking the three attackers.

By then, Hayat Boumeddiene, who had married Coulibaly in a religious ceremony, had left for Syria with the help of two brothers also charged in the case. Most of the 11 who will appear insist their help in the mass killings was unwitting.

Since 2012, terrorism capitalised on the prevailing delinquency there is around these terrorists," said Samia Maktouf, a lawyer for one of the attack survivors.

Australia's economy takes sharpest dive since the 1930s

CANBERRA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Australia's economy suffered its sharpest economic contraction since the Great Depression due to the pandemic, with data released Wednesday confirming the country is in its first recession in 28 years. The economy shrank 7% in the June, the biggest contraction since records began in 1959, the government reported.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison told Parliament: This is a devastating day for Australia.

The country is now in recession for the first time in 28 years following a 0.3% drop in the first quarter of the year, since it has logged two straight quarters of contraction. Today's national accounts confirm the devastating impact on the Australian economy from COVID-19, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said. Our record run of 28 consecutive years of economic growth has now officially come to an end, he added.

The previous biggest downturn since Australia began keeping records in 1959 was a 2% fall in June 1974. Economists estimate a sharper decline of 9.5% in 1930, when Australia became one of the countries worst affected by the Great Depression.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison told Parliament: This is a devastating day for Australia. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development figures show the average contraction among OECD countries in the June quarter was 9.8 percent, including a 20.4 percent jump in Britain, a 13.8 percent downturn in France and a 9.1 percent drop in the US.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum

Tender notice 74-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 01.09.2020

Date of Opening 24.09.2020

Tender invited vide Tender notice 74-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 01.09.2020 as open on 24.09.2020, for the Work of *Through Rail Renewal (P) in the section of ADENHRI-L. Tender closing date/time- 24.09.2020 16:00, Cost of work Rs- 6014492.00 Earnest Money Rs- 120300.00 Tender Cost NIL. The following documents are applicable in this tender. New file name 27.08.2020 MB-GCC is added. 1906/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRMs Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with construction of RFO of DFCCL crossing Railway Track in between OHE location no. 56/19-21, 56/20-22 near Mohiuddinpur station on GZB-MTC section.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 6,38,524.54/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 12,800/-
E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	10.09.2020 (00:00 Hrs.) to 24.09.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	24.09.2020 (15:00 hrs.)
Fund Allocation	00844521
Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 12-TRD-NDLN-2020-Dated : 01.09.2020 1905/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

London HC backs Virgin Atlantic's rescue plan

LONDON, 2 SEPTEMBER

Virgin Atlantic's \$ 1.6 billion restructuring plan was approved Wednesday by the High Court in London, allowing the international airline to continue rebuilding its operations after the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The deal, which has already been approved by creditors, must now be confirmed in the US courts. The airline announced the refinancing package in July to ensure its survival after passenger numbers dropped 98 per cent in the second quarter. It includes 600 million pounds of support from the airline's owners, Virgin Group and Delta Airlines, 450 million pounds of deferred payments to creditors and 170 million pounds of financing from US-based Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP. Virgin Atlantic, founded in 1984 by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, has already cut 3,550 jobs, shuttered operations at London's Gatwick Airport.

Online tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No. 214/2020 of PSPCL:

Item No.	Description	Qty (Nos.)	Tender Enquiry No./Year	Last date & time for download of tenders	Last date & time for bid submission	Date & time of opening of bids
1.	Heat Shrinkable type Cable End Termination kits suitable for Armored Single Core 11KV 300MM ² size Stranded Aluminum Conductor XLPE Insulated, PVC Sheathed Screened Cables.	500 800	214/2020	5-10-20 11:00 a.m.	6-10-20 11:00 a.m.	7-10-20 11:30 a.m.

EMD : Rs. 11,300.
Minimum EMD : Rs. 10,000.
Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website: <http://eproc.pspcl.in>...
The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL e-tendering website: <http://eproc.pspcl.in>...
Dy. CE/Sub-Station Design PSPCL, Pratap

COLOUR ON CANVAS



This photograph taken on Wednesday, shows a Mexican graffiti artist working on his piece during the graffiti festival "Meeting Of Styles", in Pristina. AFP

Amid crisis, Tunisian PM wins confidence vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TUNIS (TUNISIA), 2 SEPTEMBER

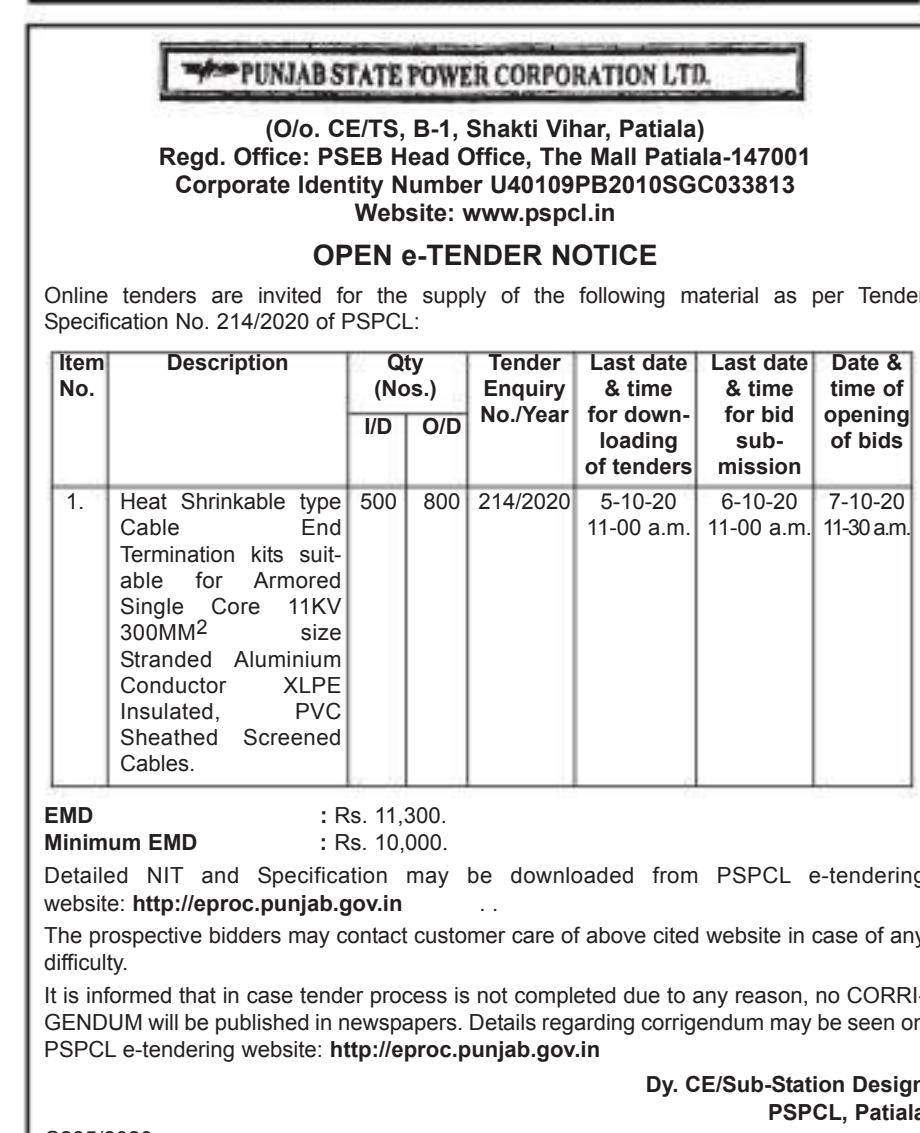
Tunisian lawmakers approved Hichem Mechichi as the country's new prime minister after pressing him for 11 hours over how he will bring the country out of an economic and social crisis that has driven a rise in migration to Europe and been worsened by the virus pandemic.

Mechichi and his proposed government won a confidence vote early Wednesday after an all-day debate, with 134 votes in favour and 67 against. No one abstained. The 46-year-old former interior minister called on the new Cabinet to get to work immediately to "save the country."

His government is Tunisia's third since October and the ninth since the revolution that brought down an autocratic regime in 2011 and triggered the Arab Spring uprisings across the region. "Ten years after the revolution, the dream of a new Tunisia that assures liberty, dignity and equity has transformed into disillusion, disappointment and despair, which has pushed a large number of Tunisians to take boats

of death," he said, referring to the dangerous migrant trips across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

He presented a reform plan aimed at shoring up public finances, fighting tax evasion, and investing in impoverished regions. Lack of opportunity in those regions helped spark the 2010-2011 revolt, and has pushed many young Tunisians to migrate and some to join IS extremist groups. Tunisia's economy was already struggling when the virus hit, hurting the country's important tourism sector among others.



No: DIPK-4919/20
Dated: 02.09.2020
Sd/- Rayees Mohammad Bhat (IPS),

Legalising Illegality

The interpretation of the principle of proportionality by the Indian Supreme Court in cases relating to post facto clearances can put environmental rule of law in jeopardy. The Court has overlooked the application of its own jurisprudence on proportionality and the structured four-part proportionality test, says TARINI MEHTA



India is the 5th most polluted country in the world (World Air Quality Report, IQAir, 2019). Its natural resources and biodiversity are fast dwindling. Weak environmental governance is the primary reason behind this. This is exemplified by the issue of post-facto clearances which the Ministry of

Environment and Forests has attempted time and again to allow, with the objective of giving industries leverage to operate, despite violations of the laws of the land. The 2020 Draft EIA Notification continues down this trajectory. In decisions relating to post facto clearances, the Supreme Court has overlooked

the interpretation of the principle of proportionality by the Indian Supreme Court in cases relating to post facto clearances can put environmental rule of law in jeopardy. The Court has overlooked the application of its own jurisprudence on proportionality and the structured four-part proportionality test, grounded on Justice Barak's conceptualisation and the formulation used by the German Federal Constitutional Court: A measure restricting a right must serve a legitimate purpose and be a suitable means for furthering it. There must not be any less

restrictive but equally effective alternative and the measure must not have a disproportionate impact on the right-holder.

The legitimate goal must "be of sufficient importance to warrant overriding a constitutionally protected right or freedom and also that such a right impairs freedom as little as possible" (Aadhar case, 2018).

In its role as guardian of fundamental rights, the Supreme Court has time and again recalled its long history of employing a proportionality analysis in cases dealing with the right to life and other fundamental rights, even when not calling it as such. Indeed, in an environmental context, where people's life and health are at risk, a review of impacts on the fundamental rights to life and health guaranteed by the Constitution is a key aspect of proportionality. Local communities, the first sufferers, have to live with serious impacts of pollution and environmental degradation, very often across generations. Further, as pollution and environmental harm does not remain confined to man-made borders, impacts are often felt across state and international borders as well, with thousands, even millions, being affected. These are some of the impacts that an Environmental Impact Assessment is meant to address, in order to mitigate adverse consequences as far as possible, and put in place remedial measures including an Environmental Management Plan.

Akleswar, where the industries under scrutiny in Alembic Pharmaceuticals are located, is a highly polluted area. The Central Pollution Control Board's Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index report reveals that water, air and soil parameters in and around the Ankleswar industrial area are among the most critical. Pollution from Alembic Pharmaceuticals alone impacted crop production by up to 50 per cent and contaminated the only source of drinking water. This was corroborated by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board when it tested the water in the area nine years after the unregulated operation of the plant. It also found that the industry did not have a functioning effluent treatment plant.

Proportionality is intended to be a 'principle of justice' to serve as a check on administrative actions and ensure that they do not excessively violate fundamental rights. When infringement of rights outweighs the interests intended to be pursued by an administrative or legislative measure, it can be considered excessive and unconstitutional. This principle, with foundations in the Aristotelian concept of justice, has become the mainstay of the protection of human rights across the world. A particularly rich and well-articulated jurisprudence on the principle has emerged from courts in Europe.

The interpretation of the principle of proportionality by the Indian Supreme Court in cases relating to post facto clearances can put environmental rule of law in jeopardy. The Court has overlooked the application of its own jurisprudence on proportionality and the structured four-part proportionality test, grounded on Justice Barak's conceptualisation and the formulation used by the German Federal Constitutional Court: A measure restricting a right must serve a legitimate purpose and be a suitable means for furthering it. There must not be any less

restrictive but equally effective alternative and the measure must not have a disproportionate impact on the right-holder. The legitimate goal must "be of sufficient importance to warrant overriding a constitutionally protected right or freedom and also that such a right impairs freedom as little as possible" (Aadhar case, 2018).

The writer is Assistant Professor, Environmental Law and Director, Environmental Law and Science Advocacy Forum, Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability, O P Jindal University.

Vigilantism, once again in the news, is part of an American tradition, says JONATHAN OBERT

It's a contentious time in the U.S., with a pandemic, racial equality, police violence and a presidential election all occupying people's attention. Given all that stress, it can seem like people are taking the law into their own hands more often.

It's not just in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In recent weeks, there have been confrontations over removing monuments to the Confederacy, clashes over the use of face masks, attempts to protect – or intimidate – Black Lives Matter protesters and even a renewed interest in "citizen's arrests." Some of these events have turned tragically violent and deadly.

These events show Americans moving beyond differences of opinion and free speech into private displays of force. Their participants may be trying to enforce their own ideas of what the law is, or protect property or defend their communities against threats – especially in light of the failures of police to provide a fair system of justice.

Attorney General William Barr has claimed, by contrast, that this vigilantism might be a premonition of the disorder yet to come if police funding is in fact slashed in communities nationwide.

As a scholar of vigilantism in U.S. history and a political scientist interested in how the state and law develop over time, I have found, as have others, that for many Americans, law and order has long been as much a private matter as something for the government to handle.

Vigilantism – the private, violent enforcement of public moral or legal standards – tends to rise in two types of situations, neither of which may be what people expect. It doesn't come from a government being weak or absent, leaving citizens on their own, but rather when the very principles that make up a government and its people themselves seem to be changing.

And it doesn't necessarily come from situations where one ethnic or racial group clearly dominates others – but rather in times and places where who belongs to a particular community is up for debate. Vigilantism is often about the attempt to establish power rather than a reflection of pre-existing hierarchies. Many Americans are feeling like the



rules of the game are changing in unfair ways and have a sense of unease about what the nation is going to look like in the future. As scholars and pundits opine about the serious possibility of another American civil war, the grave implications of domestic political violence loom more than at any point in the past 50 years.

These fears are reinforced by a president who seems to encourage division and fear between Americans, even as Black people's voices are attracting more attention in the public and the halls of power.

Through U.S. history, the distinctions between vigilantism and lawful arrest and punishment have always been murky. Frequently, vigilantism has been used not in opposition to police efforts, but rather with their active encouragement. Indeed, in some recent protests that still seems to be the case.

Before police departments existed, arrests were made under traditional common law, which depended on private participation in legally organized posses and serving as deputies. Institutions like slave patrols required that non-slave owners were willing to use, or at least permit, violence to maintain white supremacy. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, private detectives and security guards also possessed powers of arrest similar to those of police officers.

Even the spate of "stand your ground" laws passed in the last 15 years borders on vigilantism, giving private citizens lots of freedom about how to use force to protect themselves. American vigilantism is primarily associated with the terrible lynching campaigns of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that targeted Black Americans and other racial minorities. But that isn't the whole story.

Political scientist Eleonora Mattiacci and I studied what were called "vigilance committees," private groups organized in the decades before the Civil War that typically promoted anti-immigrant sentiment in areas, including cities, precisely as the laws concerning the powers of local governments were rapidly changing.

In fact, though it has been most often used to try to establish racial and economic hierarchies, vigilantism – including actual lynching – has also, at times, been used by disadvantaged communities for self-defense.

Take recent events in Milwaukee, for instance: A small gathering of people in a predominantly African American neighbourhood violently confronted residents of a house where two girls were believed to be held in a sex-trafficking ring. This follows a long tradition of people of colour using private force to protect themselves and defend

their communities.

Vigilantism has often abetted the worst instincts in the politics of crime in the U.S., making justice appear to depend on what the people want rather than the rule of law.

But it is also evidence of the complicated relationship between violence and justice at the core of American democracy. The founders thought seriously about self and community protection and believed that popular participation in law enforcement and defense could be an important corrective to an unresponsive and oppressive legal system.

But allowing the majority to impose justice can have unequal effects on disadvantaged members of the nation, granting the police a mandate to act violently precisely because that seems to be what the people want.

As Americans focus on the way in which people of color, in particular, have been policed in this country, they should disentangle the damaging forms of vigilantism from a deeper notion that democracy might require ordinary citizens to rely at least partly on themselves to enforce the law. Democracy requires Americans to somehow be vigilant over the use of force in their midst – without themselves becoming vigilantes.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Amherst College. This article was published on www.conversation.com

NEP AND LEGAL EDUCATION

With its emphasis on a multi-disciplinary approach, the National Education Policy will impact single-stream institutions such as the national law universities, says ASHIT KUMAR SRIVASTAVA



The calculated incursion of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on the horizon of the Indian education system is a welcome move for India, especially keeping the Indian legal education system, that needs some ground-breaking changes, in mind.

National Law Universities (NLUs) have emerged as harbingers of legal education in India, and they surely can be regarded as legitimate stakeholders in the legal education scene. There are some shocks which the NEP might bring in, as its essential thrust seems to be on promoting a multi-disciplinary approach, with a 2030 target set for converting, rather promoting, uni-disciplinary universities into multi-disciplinary hubs. This will be a fruitful step for the full-consciousness growth of a student who enters a law school just after completing 12th. Further, it will also promote a multi-disciplinary research attitude, which has been apparently missing in the segregated discipline. On page 35, the NEP quite clearly delineates its objective of phasing out Single-Stream Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) over time.

Until now NLUs have been islands of excellence, functioning under the rules of different States, with differing pay scales, and differing dress codes for students. With most of the NLUs being governed by the regulations of the High Courts of the respective States, NEP might have the capacity to bring in a sense of detachment from this volatility, which is missing from technical peers such as IITs which are governed by a central regulation.

Most of the NLUs due to their 'State'-centric existence are becoming dens of localism, with skewed ratios of migrant teaching and non-teaching staff, which by default effects its 'national' characteristic. The NEP would surely dent the independence of the NLUs.

The new multi-disciplinary approach would surely benefit State Universities and Private Universities, which for long have been running multi-disciplinary courses.

However, the history of legal profession also needs to be kept in mind before seeing the downside, knowing that in the 1980s the first professional law school was established in Karnataka with the sole objective of bringing professionalism into legal education. While this was an appreciable step at that time, but there are other factors which need to be kept under consideration. The cost of running a law school (or rather a uni-disciplinary university) is very high, just like IITs. It needs to be understood that the cumulative batch strength of NLUs consist of around 900(ish) students. That is a pretty low number as compared to a State Universities or Private Universities (which are running multi-disciplinary courses). Therefore, the per head expense of running an institute is directly proportional to the strength of the students.

Though segregated knowledge is a great step towards legal professionalism, the capacity of bearing the cost of this professionalism will segregate students on the basis of their paying-capacity.

The downside of the NEP would be that it would surely lead to de-segregation of the legal profession. The kind of independence that NLUs have been able to garner for themselves in the last 20 years has been unparalleled with around 23 NLUs in India today still lacking a central legislation for governance.

With a target of greater strength per University, the NEP surely wants to bring down the cost of education and make higher education more inclusive. But the repercussion will be that a professional course like law, which has been streamlined in the last 20 years, might get submerged into traditionalism. However, on page 35, where the policy talks about phasing out single stream HEI, it also suggests that single stream HEI should add departments across different fields, which will strengthen the single stream that they serve. The practicality of its implications still needs to be seen.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Jabalpur.



For more updates

VIRUS SCARE
New Zealand cricket captain Kane Williamson (in photo, left) has acknowledged feeling apprehensive about Covid-19 as he prepares to join Sunrisers Hyderabad for the Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates. Last week, 13 members of the Chennai Super Kings, including two players, tested positive for Covid-19 after arriving in the UAE.

www.thestatesman.com**THUMBNAILS**

Cancer report: Former top-10 tennis player Carla Suarez Navarro has announced that she will need six months of chemotherapy to treat Hodgkin lymphoma. Suarez Navarro pulled out of the U.S. Open last month. "I'm fine and calm at the moment," Navarro said.

Paine's appeal: Test skipper Tim Paine on Wednesday urged Cricket Australia and Channel Seven to "iron out" their differences and get on the "same page" to take the sport forward in the country. The contract is reportedly worth US\$ 450 million.

New deal: New Zealand head coach Gary Stead has been granted a three-year contract extension which will allow him to steer the Black Caps through the 2023 cricket World Cup. The board of New Zealand Cricket on Wednesday approved the extension.

Pak victory: Pakistan ended their tour of England with a five-run win in their third and final Twenty20 International to draw the series 1-1 on Tuesday, with Mohammad Hafeez setting up victory with a 52-ball 86. He tied his best T20 score to help Pakistan to 190/4.

Official partner: The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Wednesday announced that CRED, a digital community of creditworthy individuals, merchants and institutions, would be the official partner of the Indian Premier League following a three-year deal.

Strauss invited: Ian Watson has started his role as chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board by welcoming Sir Andrew Strauss to the board in a non-voting capacity. The former England captain and director of cricket has agreed to attend board meetings.

ManU deal: Manchester United cannot challenge for the Premier League title this season if they do not make "four or five improvements," says former club captain Gary Neville. The team are on the brink of completing a £40m deal for Ajax playmaker Donny van de Beek.

F1 cautious: Plans for the Turkish Grand Prix to host up to 100,000 fans were met with caution by Formula One on Tuesday, but the sport was optimistic that race-goers would be able to return in their tens of thousands in the coming months after global shutdowns.

Fifa warned: The US Justice Department has entered into a sports dispute involving the company of a long-time friend of President Donald Trump, warning Fifa that a prohibition against staging league matches internationally could violate American anti-trust laws.

'Take-over likely'

KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Following in the footsteps of Mohun Bagan, who are now dominated overwhelmingly by ATK after a merger, East Bengal are believed to be ready to welcome a cement-making company as an investor whose control of the club will be more comprehensive than that of the newer entity in their rival institution. A source in the know of things said today that the cement-makers wanted, apart from the football segment, to be in command of the cricket section as well, representing the amalgamated body in the Cricket Association of Bengal. The source revealed that the arrangement, sure to prove controversial in due course, had been preceded by chief minister Mamata Banerjee taking the initiative to persuade the Indian Super League to take East Bengal.

With pandemic under control in China, sport on comeback trail**CHINA DAILY/ANN, THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES**

DHAKA/LONDON/BUENOS AIRES/BARCELONA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola (in photo) has told Lionel Messi to stay in Barcelona, journalist Veronica Brunati, a credible source of news regarding Messi's Barcelona exit, has tweeted.

Pep Guardiola, who was vacationing in the Catalan capital, returned to England yesterday and the feeling that he found upon his arrival at Manchester was that there were more and more doubts in the club about signing Messi in, ***Mundo Deportivo*** earlier said in a different report.

City "know they are under the magnifying glass of Uefa for Financial Fair Play after paying 10 million in fines, imposed in July by the TAS," Mundo Deportivo reported. The fine ultimately saw them escape a two-year Champions League ban.

Brunati tweeted that City

sidered signing Messi free, when the season ends. And if Messi managed to get out now, they could not face his transferee," she concluded. Also, Inter Milan have no plans to try and sign Messi nor the financial means to engineer a deal for the six-time Ballon d'Or winner, a club official said yesterday.

"No coach, no president

wouldn't want Messi in their team. But the reality is very different," he added, as the Italian transfer window officially opened yesterday. Our reality is a sensible transfer market."

Jorge Valdano, a world champion with the Argentine national team in the 1986 World Cup and former technical director of Real Madrid, said yesterday that he was convinced Messi "has already left" Barcelona.

Messi did not show up at either the pre-season medicals or the training session under new coach Ronald Koeman. While the legal complexities remain, it is highly likely that Messi has the key to the exit, as Cadena Ser reported.

Before the season began, Chinese Football Association, or CFA, president Chen Xuyuan vowed to stage an "excellent, safe and well-organized" competition.

"We have to make sure that not a single person in the league is infected by the virus after the season returns. We have to keep everyone healthy and keep the season in order. We're prepared for all difficulties," Chen said.

The CFA Women's Super League kicked off on Aug 23 under lockdown at a national sports training center in Kunming, Yunnan province, after a 336-day break. The CFA also announced on Aug 26 that the postponed second-tier China League One season, which was due to begin in February, would start on Sept 12. Sun Wen, a CFA vice-president, said: "The return of the women's league has sent a very positive message to the outside world. For the players and coaches, it has

been very difficult, as there were no matches to play. Everyone is eager to return to the pitch."

In addition to basketball and soccer, marathons, men's volleyball, e-sports and domestic tennis are returning, with events in China being staged under strict epidemic prevention measures.

In July, the General Administration of Sport of China said that apart from a series of test events for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, no international events should be held in China this year.

This resulted in cancellation of this year's Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix, scheduled for Shanghai, being announced last week.

Chase Carey, executive chairman and CEO of Formula 1, said: "This year has presented Formula 1 and the world with an unprecedented challenge. While we

are all disappointed that we

have not been able to return to some of our planned races, we are confident our season has started well and will continue to deliver plenty of excitement with traditional, as well as new, races that will entertain all our fans."

In late July, the Association of Tennis Professionals and the Women's Tennis Association tours announced that all 11 international tournaments scheduled for China this year had been canceled because of the pandemic.

Steve Simon, WTA chairman and CEO, said in a statement, "We are extremely disappointed that our world-class events in China will not take place this year."

"Unfortunately, this decision also includes cancellation of the Shiseido WTA Finals (in Shenzhen, Guangdong province). We do, however, respect the decision that has been made and are eager to return to China as soon as possible next season."

Daniil Medvedev, who reached his first Grand Slam final at last year's U.S. Open, has won his first-round match at the tournament, beating Fed-

The Statesman Sport

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Emirates' strict Covid-19 rules make things difficult for cricket board**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, 2 SEPTEMBER

Strict Covid-19 protocols in Abu Dhabi, one of the three emirates scheduled to host Indian Premier League matches from 19 September, has spawned problems for the Board of Control for Cricket in India, led by Sourav Ganguly (in photo).

The world's wealthiest cricket board is currently in talks with the governments of the emirates, desperately seeking concessions.

And because of the Covid-19-related problems in organ-

ising the IPL's 13th edition, the BCCI has neither announced a schedule of matches nor shared it with the eight franchises.

"The BCCI hasn't told the franchises anything yet about the IPL schedule. But for us franchises the IPL is on as of today, because if the IPL was not to happen this year the BCCI would have told us much earlier. The franchises have spent a lot of money on their teams. Positive tests will continue to emerge," a source in the UAE told IANS from the UAE. "The point is that if the BCCI has to cancel the IPL they



need to cancel it today. They can't cancel it after 15 days. The franchises are here in the UAE and have spent so much money on their teams. Also, when we have called in our

players for the IPL, we will have to pay them as well. In the event of a cancellation, we can't tell the players that since you didn't play matches we wouldn't pay you. All that will have to be taken into consideration. BCCI officials are now talking to the local governments of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah," the franchise official said.

Indian Premier League governing council chairman Brijesh Patel (in photo) and interim BCCI chief executive officer Hemant Amrit are in the UAE, in talks with the three emirates governments to seek some concessions in

their Covid-19 protocols for the IPL and then chart out a plan.

Another source said if one was going from Dubai to Abu Dhabi, a Covid-19 test was mandatory at the border and it took up to two and a half hours. Alternatively, one has to produce a certificate of a negative result of a test held within the past 48 hours. "But you do not expect the likes of MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to stand in the queue for that long. So, the BCCI is trying for Covid-19 tests on IPL squad members in their hotels," he said.

At the same time, all franchises have become extra

cautious after 13 Chennai Super Kings members, including two players, tested positive in the UAE. Players and coaching staff come out of their hotel rooms only for practice/training/yoga sessions and for some recreational activities that a few franchises, like Mumbai Indians, have created. But breakfast, lunch and dinner are being served in their rooms. All that is being done in accordance with the relevant protocols.

Abu Dhabi has the strictest protocols of the three emirates where the IPL is to be played. It has virtually sealed all its entry-exit points, and is allowing people in only after they furnish proof of their negative Covid-19 test results.

The opening match of the IPL, between champions Mumbai Indians and runners-up CSK, is expected to be played in Abu Dhabi. If all the pieces do not fall into place by that time, the BCCI will be forced into to make further changes in its plans, and could cancel the Abu Dhabi leg altogether. The delay in the announcement of the schedule has prevented STAR India, the official broadcaster, from finalising their coverage plans.

Murray saves match point at US Open**AGENCIES**

NEW YORK, 2 SEPTEMBER

T his was the sort of match Andy Murray (in photo) came back for, the sort of competition and comeback he always lived for, the reason he went through two hip operations and all the hard work that followed.

And it was the type of vintage Murray performance undaunted by a deficit, adjusting on the fly, muttering all the way that was too compelling not to watch, so while there are no fans allowed into this U.S. Open because of the pandemic, fellow pros made their way into the stands to see the popular 2012 champion save a match point Tuesday and, eventually, win.

Murray's big concern after the match was whether he could get permission to use the ice bath in the Ashe locker room (he later said he did).

"They said it's for emergencies. For me, this is an emergency right now. My body hurts," said the 33-year-old Murray, who was treated for blisters on his two big toes by a trainer during a medical timeout.

"That's by far the most tennis I've played since 2019, really."

And so many of the sport's biggest names were there to witness it.

They included Novak Djokovic, Dominic Thiem, Naomi Osaka, Garbiñe Muguruza and others, some noshing while



sitting on the balconies of their personal "lounges" Ashe suites that normally bring hundreds of thousands of dollars during this tournament but were assigned to seeded players because of the ban on spectators.

The Murray match provided the most entertainment in the afternoon of Day 2 at Flushing Meadows, where his lengthy victory was followed in Ashe by a straight-set win for Serena Williams.

"Usually when you're waiting for a match (and) someone is down two sets, you root for the person that's ahead so you can get on the court and get off," said Williams, who defeated Kristie Ahn 7-5, 6-3 for her 102nd match win at the U.S. Open, breaking a tie with Chris Evert for most in the professional era. "I was rooting for Andy the whole time. I really wanted him to win," Williams said.

"Gosh, when he was down in the third set, I was like, 'All

right!' I was just rooting for him so hard."

She then went out and sat in the stands herself to watch her older sister, Venus, take on 20th-seeded Karolina Muchova at night. That was to be followed by 2019 men's runner-up Daniil Medvedev against Fedrico Delbonis.

"It's rare that you have lots of, like, players watching your match," Murray said. "In some ways, that can be a little bit distracting, if you look up and you've got guys that are in the Top 5, Top 10 in the world watching you and stuff."

Thiem, a three-time major runner-up, and Muguruza, a two-time Grand Slam champion but never in New York, advanced earlier, as did 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic, reigning Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, No. 9 seed Johanna Konta and No. 16 Elise Mertens.

A player who can appreciate Murray's journey perhaps as much as anyone is Andrey Kuznetsov, a 29-year-old Russian who missed about 2 years because of his own hip injury. Kuznetsov eliminated Sam Querrey 6-4, 7-5 (6), 6-2, becoming

the first unranked man to win a Grand Slam match since Nicolas Kiefer at Wimbledon in 2007. Murray is a former No. 1-ranked player whose resume also includes two Wimbledon championships and two Olympic singles gold medals. But he had surgery on his right hip in January 2018, then again in January 2019, shortly after a first-round loss at the Australian Open.

He figured he would need to retire from tennis. Murray eventually returned to the tour last season.

A pelvic problem combined with the sport's coronavirus-caused hiatus kept him off the tour from last November until this August, when he won twice and lost once at the Western & Southern Open, a tournament played at the U.S. Open site.

But those matches were all best-of-three sets, not best-of-five, so the demands were much greater against the 49th-ranked Nishioka, a lefty who can retrieve opponents' shots with the best of them but is just 2-6 for his career at Flushing Meadows.

Murray did himself favors with 13 double-faults, and he trailed by two sets and a break.

'East Bengal will play in ISL'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

East Bengal will play in the Indian Super League (ISL), said chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Nabanna today.

"There was some uncertainty but the problem has now been solved. East Bengal will play in ISL. Mohun Bagan had joined ISL after an arrangement but East Bengal was trying for a very long time to play the ISL amidst the pandemic and that will finally happen now."

Miss Banerjee said after a meeting with the club authorities. The club's financial situation was finally addressed after finalising Shree Cements, an investor.

"It is a new day for football. Shree has many businesses outside Bengal and hopefully in the future they will invest in Bengal," she said.

Mr Debabrata Sarkar, an official of East Bengal said that the initiative was taken by Miss Banerjee for the welfare of football in the state.

'Twenty20 is rather too long, T10 better for Olympics'**PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY**

KOLKATA, 2 SEPTEMBER

Daren Sammy (in photo), a winner of two Twenty20 World Cups with the West Indies, would rather T10 was chosen as cricket's representative format in the Olympic Games if and when the chance came. "Twenty20 is rather too long, taking as many as three hours for a game to be played to finish," he told *The Statesman* in an exchange of e-mails, adding: "That's a lot of time for me. T10 is better suited to the requirements of an event like the Olympics. It's not too long, makes for a lot of excitement and the moment I saw it being played in West Asia I liked it. I think it can grow into a really interesting and entertaining format."

Now playing in the Caribbean Premier League for St Lucia Zouks, Sammy refused to endorse the contention that the current West Indian pen-

chant for Twenty20, with tournaments mushrooming here, there and everywhere, could see to hurt their Test prospects, the technical requirements for each format being different from the other's.

Sammy also disagreed that being attuned to Twenty20's demands would reduce cricketers' technical eligibility for the traditional format. He says he will find the going hard as a Twenty20 bowler if he stopped bowling in Test matches.

"You've to drop the ball consistently on a specific spot and Tests are important schools to go to. Twenty20 puts bowlers under a lot of pressure but Test match lessons help a lot. I don't know where I shall be if I don't bowl in Test matches," Sammy said.

Clijsters loses

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, 2 SEPTEMBER

Kim Clijsters has lost playing her