

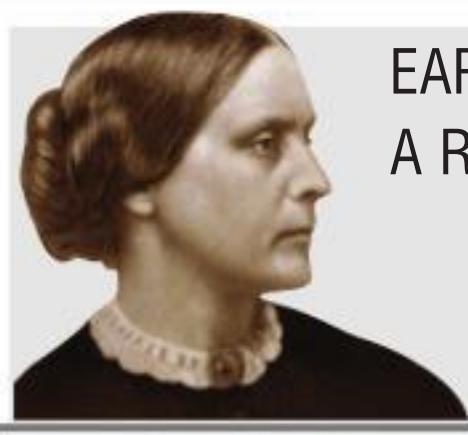


PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



FIRST PDP MEETING
POST-ABROGATION
FOILED IN SRINAGAR

P5



EARNING
A RIGHT



ROLL OUT LOAN
RECAST SCHEME BY
15 SEP: FM TO BANKS

P8

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HAMILTON IS
ALL SET TO
WOW MONZA

P11

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with light rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 33 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 85% Min: 62%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.8°C (+1) Min: 27.5°C (+2)

SUN RISES

06:01 hrs

MOON RISES

20:08 hrs

SUN SETS

18:39 hrs

MOON SETS

08:29 hrs

India adds 83.8k new Covid cases in 24 hrs

Centre defends opening up of economy amidst surge in infections

SNS & AGENCIES

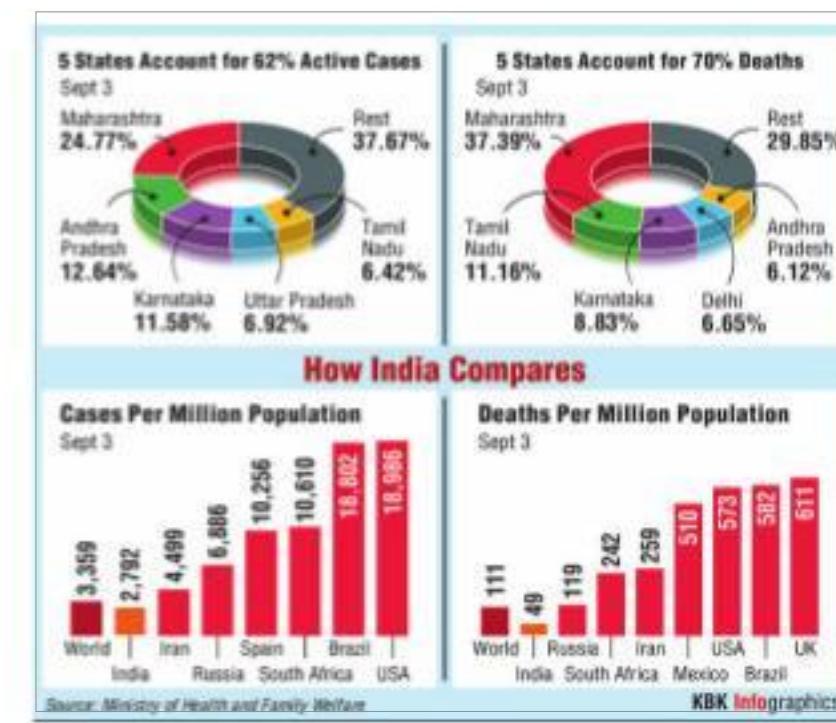
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The country added a huge 83,883 Covid-19 cases over the previous 24 hours, far exceeding all previously recorded daily numbers for any country, even as the government defended its decision to open up various economic activities, saying it firmly believes that "while lives are important, livelihoods are equally important".

With a record single-day spike of 83,883 infections, India's Covid-19 case-load mounted to 38,53,406, while the death toll climbed to 67,376 with 1,043 people succumbing to the disease in a day, according to Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 a.m.

Asked why the government is opening up different economic activities when there is a spike in daily positive cases, secretary in the Health Ministry, Rajesh Bhushan, told a press conference: "These numbers have to be seen in the context of the total population of India. We are the second most populous country in the world."

It is not as if suddenly everything has been opened up, he said and underscored that prior to graduated opening of economic activities in the country, the government ensured all prerequisites such as adequate testing capacity, clear-cut guidelines of standard clinical treatment protocol, enhanced hospital infrastructure, adequate intensive care unit beds and beds with oxygen facility.



Delhi sees highest spike in 67 days

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Hotels, restaurants and clubs in Delhi were allowed to serve liquor on a trial basis from 9 to 30 September, but not more than 50 per cent of their seating capacity will be allowed so that Covid-19 distancing norms are followed, officials said today.

Lt Governor Anil Baijal, who is also chairman of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), approved the Delhi government's pro-

"At the end of the day, the government firmly believes that while lives are important, livelihoods are equally important," Bhushan said.

According to the Union Health Ministry data, out of total confirmed cases, 8,15,538 are active cases, while a total of 2,970,492

proposals to allow hotels, clubs and restaurants having excise licence to serve liquor to their customers.

Meanwhile, Delhi recorded 2,737 new Covid cases today ~ its highest single-day spike in 67 days ~ which took the total number of such cases to 1,82,306 so far.

According to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin, the national capital recorded 19 fresh Covid fatalities today while the toll due to the infectious disease mounted to 4,500 so far. (SEE PAGE 2)

patients have recovered from the virus so far.

With 68,584 recoveries in a day, the recovery rate has increased to 77.09 per cent.

India has registered more than 60,000 recoveries each day for the seventh day in a row. The Ministry said that 12 states and Union Ter-



ritories like Andaman and Nicobar, Delhi, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar, West Bengal, etc., have reported a recovery rate more than the national average.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 8,08,306 cases and 24,903 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh with 4,45,139 cases and 4,053 deaths. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, and Bihar come next.

Bhushan said India has 2,792 cases of Covid-19 per million population which is amongst the lowest in the world.

Bhushan also added that in India, deaths per million population is 49 which is also amongst the lowest in the world.



China opposes India's decision to ban apps

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

An upset China today strongly opposed the Indian government's decision to ban 118 more Chinese apps, including PUBG, accusing New Delhi of violating WTO norms.

"We are seriously concerned and firmly oppose the Indian government's decision to prohibit mobile apps with Chinese background with the excuse of national security. We urge the Indian government to rectify the discriminatory practices violating WTO rules,

The government, meanwhile, said that the border tension in Ladakh over the past four months is a "direct result" of Chinese actions aimed at effecting unilateral change in the status quo of the region, and asserted that the only way forward to resolve it was through negotiations.

Army chief General MM Naravane on Thursday reached Leh as part of a two-day visit to review the operational preparedness of his forces in the Ladakh region where Indian soldiers are locked in a tense stand-off with Chinese troops.

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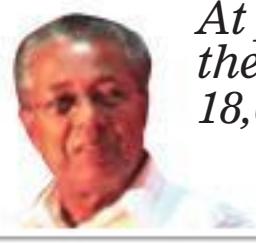
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At present there are 21,516 who are positive, while 57,732 were cured. Across the state there are 1,92,168 people in observation at various centres including 18,033 people in various hospitals. There are 569 hotspots in the state

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Man bludgeons wife to death in front of children, say police: A construction worker was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Thursday for allegedly bludgeoning his wife to death in front of their two children after an argument, police said. The man (33) repeatedly hit his wife Bijli (30) on her head with a metal tool used to break bricks at their rented accommodation in Dadha village, which comes under the jurisdiction of Kasna police station, a senior police official said. The accused has been identified as Akhilesh, a native of Kayamganj in Farukkhabad district of UP.

PTI

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Telephone No: 01907-256827, e-mail: ee-seraj-hp@ govt. in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender(s) on PWD form No. 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli Distt. Mandi (HP) on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from registered contractors in HP.PWD (B&R) in appropriate class "C" and "D" so as to reach in this office on 24.09.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of contractors or their authorised representative who wish to be present at that time. The application for obtaining the tender form will be received on 22.09.2020 between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 23.09.2020 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit Account/ Saving Account of the Post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli Distt. Mandi H.P. must accompany with the tender form. Ambiguous/ Telegraphically/conditional tenders or tender by FAX shall not be entertained/considered in any case. The tenders without earnest money shall summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli reserve the right to reject/accept any offer of tender without assigning any reasons.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1	Improvement of black spot on Shetadarh to Ghat Km 0/000 to 2/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 0/000 to 2/000)	4,97,58/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
2	Improvement of black spot on Shetadarh to Ghat Km 0/000 to 5/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 2/000 to 4/000)	4,92,73/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
3	C/o road from Purchut to Kahanidhar road (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/000 to 0/600)	4,96,53/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
4	C/o road from Purchut to Kahanidhar road (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/000 to 1/200)	4,95,70/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
5	C/o link road from upper Bhadoon dhar to upper Nachandhar Km 0/000 to 0/500 (SH:- P/L Gr-I&II in Km 0/000 to 0/500)	4,99,49/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
6	C/o link road from upper Bhadoon dhar to upper Nachandhar Km 0/000 to 0/500 (SH:- P/L Gr-III and M/T in Km 0/000 to 0/500)	4,99,32/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
7	C/o road from Rutatan to Haripur Dhar km 0/00 to 4/500 (SH:- ROFD of existing road b/w Rd 1/315 to 1/900)	4,93,23/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
8	C/o road from Rutatan to Haripur Dhar km 0/00 to 4/500 (SH:- ROFD of existing road b/w Rd 1/900 to 2/600)	4,91,32/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
9	C/o 80 mtr. span dlane bridge over river Beas on Thalout Kathani road (SH:- Geological investigation and concept design)	3,27,59/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
10	C/o 80 mtr. span dlane bridge over river Beas on Thalout Kathani road (SH:- Detail design & DPR)	4,90,54/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
11	C/o 40 mtr span on Bakhali khad on Lambathach to Kathani road (SH:- Geological investigation, concept design and hydraulic data)	4,92,54/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
12	C/o 40 mtr span on Bakhali khad on Lambathach to Kathani road (SH:- Detail design & DPR)	4,00,00/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
13	C/o road from Khau to Reshan km 0/000 to 6/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road in km 1/900 to 1/900)	4,97,93/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
14	C/o road from Khau to Reshan km 0/000 to 6/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road in km 1/900 to 2/570)	3,85,76/-	8,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
15	C/o Banchhatri to Sampal road km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road at Rd 0/870 to 1/195)	4,10,29/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
16	C/o Banchhatri to Sampal road km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road at Rd 1/195 to 1/375)	4,20,66/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
17	C/o road from Chitni to Ghat Km 0/000 to 2/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/000 to 0/600)	4,40,00/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
18	C/o Boundary wall at Govt. Degree College Lambathach (SH:- C/o Crate wall for protection of boundary wall at RD 0/000 to 0/200)	4,70,00/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
19	C/o Govt. Degree collage Lambathach (SH:- Additional alteration in Degree for providing science lab in ground floor)	2,34,108	6,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
20	C/o Stage in playground of Govt. Senior Secy School Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH:- P/F Steel truss etc.)	3,23,36/-	7,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
21	C/o Stage in playground of Govt. Senior Secy School Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH:- C/o Civl work t/c WS&SI.)	3,43,22/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
22	C/o Stage in playground of Govt. Senior Secy School Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH:- P/F window and roofing)	4,59,65/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
23	C/o Govt. Sen Sc. School Cheuni (SH:- Balance work providing door, window shutter flooring brick work painting etc)	4,99,725/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
24	C/o Link road Rita Chendi Karshwall road (SH:- ROFD In Km. 1/200 to 1/800)	4,91,70/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
25	R/R Damages on Chhatin Thach (portion Gadagusaini Bagra Chitrati) road 0/00 to 15/00 (SH:- Construction of B/wall in wire crate at Rd 5/845 to 5/885 and various Rds)	4,66,89/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
26	C/o Link road from Chhahgatlu to Marach Kandha in GP Bagrathach (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/7000 to 1/100)	4,93,50/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
27	Gharatid to Ropri road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr cutting at RD 0/000 to 0/600)	4,99,50/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
28	C/o Link road Keltti to Janishala road Km 0/000 to 6/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in 2/000 to 2/210)	4,99,84/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
29	C/o Link road Keltti to Janishala road Km 0/000 to 6/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in 2/210 to 2/405)	4,96,91/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
30	C/o Protection wall Jawai Khad in Tehsil Tunag Distt. Mandi (SH:- C/o R/Wall in Cement Concrete and wire crate)	4,90,45/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
31	R/R Damage on Kuhlah to Bagi road Km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o wire crate R/Wall at RD 5/579 to 5/596)	4,84,86/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
32	Improvement of black spot on Bagsaid Tikkar road Km 0/000 to 7/650 (SH:- P/F W-beam railing at RD 6/900 to 7/115)	4,98,63/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
33	C/o Link road from Bethwa to Barech road Km 0/000 to 1/650 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/750 to 0/885)	4,54,60/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
34	C/o Link road from Bethwa to Barech road Km 0/000 to 1/650 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/885 to 1/015)	4,99,11/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
35	C/o Link road from Bethwa to Barech road Km 0/000 to 1/650 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 1/015 to 1/180)	4,99,50/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
36	C/o Link road from Bethwa to Barech road Km 0/000 to 1/650 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 1/180 to 1/405)	4,99,91/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
37	C/o Janjehali Bhekhli Gadagusini road km 0/000 to 20/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 3/420 to 3/550)	4,98,65/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
38	C/o Janjehali Bhekhli Gadagusini road km 0/000 to 20/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 3/550 to 3/660)	4,97,58/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
39	C/o Janjehali Bhekhli Gadagusini road km 0/000 to 20/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 4/000 to 4/150)	4,98,78/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
40	C/o Deji to Banshil Shikarimata road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 1/885 to 2/245)	4,99,65/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
41	C/o Deji to Banshil Shikarimata road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 2/245 to 2/560)	4,97,650/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
42	C/o Deji to Banshil Shikarimata road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 2/560 to 2/750)	4,98,50/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
43	C/o Deji to Banshil Shikarimata road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 2/750 to 3/000)	4,99,560/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
44	C/o Khau to Reshan road Portion B/wall to Reshan Khau (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 11/315 to 11/585)	4,96,50/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
45	C/o Rohara to Tarali road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 1/075 to 1/465)	4,97,60/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
46	C/o Rohara to Tarali road Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- ROFD in Km 1/465 to 1/935)	4,98,30/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
47	C/o Norkhad to Hluni road Km 0/000 to 3/500 (SH:- F/C in Km 0/615 to 0/960)	4,60,300/-	980/-	350/-	Class D & C
48	C/o Norkhad to Hluni road Km 0/000 to 3/500 (SH:- F/C in Km 0/960 to 1/390)	4,23,30/-	990/-	350/-	Class D & C
49	C/o Link road to Helipad Khanpad Janjehali Km 0/000 to 1/500 (SH:- ROFD in Km 0/000 to 0/900)	4,90,50/-	980/-	350/-	Class D & C
50	C/o road from Chitni to Ghat Km 0/000 to 2/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/000 to 0/600)	4,40,00/-	900/-	350/-	Class D & C
51	R/R Damage on ShivaKuther Jhamach Spendar road km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o dry B/Wall at Km 2/070 to 2/120 and 2/170)	4,66,44/-	980/-	350/-	Class D & C
52	C/o road Keltti to Janishala road Km 0/000 to 6/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 2/000 to 2/210)	4,98,00/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
53	R/R Damage on ShivaKuther Jhamach Spendar road km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o dry B/Wall at Km 1/900 to 1/960 & 2/015 to 2/055)	4,98,57/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
54	R/R Damage on ShivaKuther Jhamach Spendar road km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o crate wire B/Wall at Km 2/295 to 2/360)	4,82,34/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D & C
55	C/o road from Thunag Banyad Mendhelu road (SH:- F/C 9/000 to 9/195)	3,20,00/-	700/-	350/-	Class D & C
56	Missing CD in Galudhar Thachadhar road Km 0/000 to 1/300 (SH:- Extension of Hume pipe culvert 900 mm dia at RD 1/225)	3,03,38/-	6500/-	350/-	Class D & C
57	C/o Thachadhar to Nalout road Km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o B/Wall in Km 2/265 to 2/283)	3,88,09/-	980/-	350/-	Class D & C
58	C/o Thachadhar to Nalout road Km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o B/Wall in Km 2/295 to 2/320)	2,88,40/-	600/-	350/-	Class D & C
59	C/o Thachadhar to Nalout road Km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o F/C in Km 3/225 to 3/660)	4,06,00/-	900/-	350/-	Class D & C
60	C/o Thachadhar to Nalout road Km 0/000 to 8/000 (SH:- C/o F/C in Km 3/660 to 3/810)	4,01,62/-	10,00/-	350/-	Class D



Development plan for Ayodhya should be made in such a manner that the historic and religious heritage of it remains preserved

YOGI ADITYANATH
UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



Pakistani nationals who were stranded in India due to the Covid-19 outbreak, return home via the Attari-Wagah border, 32 km from Amritsar on Thursday.

IANS

107 more test COVID-19 positive in Muzaffarnagar: As many as 107 new cases of COVID-19 infection were reported in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, taking the district's total number of active cases to 783, officials said on Thursday. The fresh cases include 28 inmates of the district jail, they said. According to Muzaffarnagar DM Selvakumari J, test results for total 212 samples were received, of which 107 were positive for coronavirus. Sixty-four more people have recovered from the infection, taking the total number of recoveries here to 1,566, the district magistrate said.

PTI

Himachal Assembly monsoon session to begin from 7 Sept

Session scheduled to continue till 18 Sept; Speaker says all arrangements have been made and precautions taken for it as per guidelines & SOPs in view of the Covid pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 3 SEPTEMBER

The monsoon session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly will get underway

on 7 September in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The session involving altogether ten sittings will continue till 18 September.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened across the world. India and our state are also affected by it. It is a challenging task to hold the Assembly session in such a situation. Still, we are doing it as it was a constitutional necessity to hold it before 22 September, 2020," said HP Assembly Speaker Vipin Singh Parmar.

"But we have arranged everything for the session as per guidelines and SOPs for COVID-19 and are taking all precautions, including social distancing, masks and sanitisation," he told a press conference here today.

He was, however, non-committal on Covid tests of MLAs prior to the session, just saying that the Covid guidelines would be followed strictly.

The Speaker said it had been decided to limit the number of passes issued to people, including officials, to 400 from 1200 issued in the past. He said the same would apply to media persons for coverage of the session.



HP Assembly Speaker Vipin Singh Parmar addressing media persons in Shimla on Thursday.

Parmar said the MLAs and the ministers have been requested to bring one of the two personal assistant or personal security officer (PSO) with them to avoid crowds in the Assembly complex. "The outsiders will not be allowed into the Assembly and the MLAs have been advised against bringing groups of people for various representations, so that proper precautions could be taken against Covid-19," he said.

Parmar said six-feet long polycarbonate sheets have been erected between the seats of two members on each desk in the House.

The Speaker said the doctors, paramedical staff and nurses will be deployed in the Assembly complex for the session in different shifts. "The employees of the health department will do thermal screening of all those who enter from different gates, and will decide accordingly," he said.

He said sanitisers would be kept for MLAs and everyone entering the Assembly premises.

He said the pedal-based sanitisers will be kept at the entry points and the Assembly complex would be sanitised twice every day.

The Speaker said so far 577 starred and 228 unstarred questions have been received from the members for the session.

He said information on proposed discussions under various rules have also been received, which pertain to Covid and related issues of economy, including tourism, condition of roads, curbs on drug abuse and crime cases.

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Covid: U'khand records highest single day spike

DEFYING GRAVITY



Children swinging on a swing in a garden on a cloudy day. At Sector 10 in Chandigarh on Thursday.

PARDEEP SAINI

Delhi riots: Court rejects bail plea of JMI student in UAPA case

PTI
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

A Delhi court has dismissed a bail application of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) student Asif Iqbal Tanha, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said the statements of the protected witnesses in the case reflected the role of many accused persons including accused Tanha regarding the protest sites and how everything was being planned.

The statements clearly point out the role of the accused Asif Iqbal Tanha as also other co-accused persons and various actions taken by them in pursuance of the conspiracy. He was part of a conspiracy for doing chakka-jam leading to the riots. His name comes out in the statements of the witnesses as one of the main conspirators in the entire conspiracy, the court said in its order passed on September 2.

The 24-year-old student was arrested on May 19 and is in judicial custody since May 27. The order further said the details of the statements of these witnesses are not spelt out in detail as the case was at the stage of investigation.

Their merits or credibility can't be gone into at the present stage. Considering the statement of such witnesses regarding the role of the accused Asif Iqbal Tanha and other accused persons whose conduct is also highlighted by various statements, I have no hesitation to hold that there

are reasonable ground for believing that accusation against accused are prima facie true..., the judge said in his order.

The court said that the freedom of speech and expression under the Constitution of India granted Tanha the power to oppose any legislation and to peacefully protest and it was subjected to reasonable restrictions.

Thus, what has to be seen is the context, manner of expressing the dissent and various acts associated with it. It has to be some acts in pursuance of a conspiracy by various means, it said.

The court said acts threatening the unity of India or for striking terror in people, to cause or likely to cause death or injuries to persons or loss of or damage to property and for raising funds for the purpose would cover it under section 15 (terrorist acts) and 18 (recruiting for terrorist act) of the anti-terror law.

Thus, the provision of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, has been rightly invoked in the present case," it said.

It said since the present case was of a conspiracy resulting in riots, there were various individuals, organizations and groups which are inter-linked and thus, the statements or acts by the other co-conspirators in furtherance of common object of the conspiracy will be admissible against Tanha.

The statements and evidence will have to be read in entirety since it is a case of conspiracy. Moreover, the assertion that the accused himself physically and directly did not resort to violence as understood in common parlance

would not be germane in the context of various acts committed by different individuals including accused in the conspiracy of riots, it said.

During the hearing, advocate Siddharth Aggarwal and Sowjanya Shankaran, appearing for Tanha, said he has been falsely implicated in the case.

Umar Khalid has been mentioned in the case but he has not been arrested yet, Aggarwal said.

He further argued that invocation of UAPA against Tanha was bad in law as there was no unlawful association or terrorist organization with which he was associated.

Tanha was not a member of Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC) WhatsApp group till February 24, and therefore, the messages on February 23 regarding the alleged planning of riots were not relevant to him, Aggarwal claimed.

There has been no recovery of money trail and no payment has been ascribed to him from any objectionable source, the lawyer said.

He further claimed that Tanha had no connection with the Bhim Army and his premises were not searched and there was no evidence collected against him.

No incriminating material or arms or ammunition was recovered from him, Aggarwal claimed. Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the state, opposed the bail plea, saying Tanha was one of the conspirators and involved with other accused persons in the conspiracy and there was sufficient material for establishing a prima facie case against him.

DEFYING GRAVITY

Uttarakhand on Thursday recorded its highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases with 946 people testing positive for the infection, according to a state health department bulletin.

The fresh cases have pushed the state's infection tally to 22,180. Nine people, who were COVID-19 positive, died and the death toll now stands at 300, it said.

Five deaths were reported from AIIMS, Rishikesh, three from Haldwani's Sushila Tiwari Government Hospital and one from Base Hospital Kotdwara, the bulletin said. There are 6,871 active cases in the state.

PTI

Capt warns Kejri against 'exploiting' Covid crisis in Pb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 3 SEPTEMBER

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday warned his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal against "exploiting" the Covid-19 pandemic crisis to "instigate" people in Punjab's villages.

Capt Amarinder said Kejriwal's announcement asking the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers to go around villages and streets of Punjab with oxymeters to check people's oxygen levels, raised serious questions on the role of his party in a "conspiracy" to undermine the Punjab government's efforts to keep the pandemic under check and save the lives of the people of the state.

The Delhi CM's decision could have grave repercussions for Punjab's security and integrity, said Captain Amarinder, warning Kejriwal against playing into the hands of anti-India forces from across the border, who are trying to use the Covid pandemic to foment fresh trouble for the state.

Amarinder asked the Delhi CM to stay out of Punjab and focus on managing

Covid in his own state, where the situation was worsening by the day with more than 2500 new cases being reported yesterday and hospitals reportedly running out of ICU beds again.

"We don't need your oxymeters. We just need you to rein in your workers in Punjab, where they are trying to incite my people into not going

to hospitals to get themselves tested and treated for Covid," said Amarinder to Kejriwal.

The CM said Punjab, which has witnessed a spurt of fake news and provocative videos, at least one of which was found to have emanated from abroad, most likely Pakistan, and propagated by an active worker of Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) who has been arrested.

"The AAP worker is being questioned to ascertain who motivated him to circulate the outrageous post of a dead body to mislead the people of Punjab into believing that organs of dead Corona patients were being removed by the Punjab health department," Amarinder said. Photographs and videos claiming doctors were removing vital organs of Covid patients had been traced

to 31-year-old Amarinder, who was an AAP worker operating from Moga.

Such rumours are provoking a section of the community to resist proper medical care which needs to be provided to all Covid affected citizens, which is a clear case of a deadly criminal conspiracy against the people of the State who are already suffering due to the pandemic, said Amarinder.

There were enough indications of a massive plot by elements inimical to the interests of Punjab, he said, disclosing that the police had on Thursday morning registered another case (FIR No. 238) at PS Civil Lines, Patiala, on a complaint by a local medical journalist, who was offered \$100 for making and circulating a false video on Covid scare.

HP offers free tele-consultation with govt doctors to people during pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 3 SEPTEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh government's Additional Chief Secretary (Health) RD Dhiman on Thursday said citizens of the state could now consult government doctors through their mobile phones free of cost on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

He said the state government has started the services of tele-consultation during COVID pandemic so that the community could consult doctors from their homes.

Dhiman said this service



was hosted on e-Sanjeevani OPD Portal of Government of India. Initially these services could only be accessed

through laptop and desktop with webcam and speaker.

Many people could not access this service due to non-availability of laptops / desktops. "The state government had taken up this matter with the Government of India and suggested to develop an application by which the services of e-OPD can be accessed through a smartphone that is readily available with most of the community members. Now the application of e-Sanjeevani OPD is available on Google Play store and can be downloaded on any android phone. Any person can download the application and start a tele-consultation after registering in the application and obtaining a token," he said.

The Additional CS said the doctors have been placed in the hubs situated in medical colleges of the state to provide the services of tele-consultation.

There is a provision of generation of e-prescription which is valid both in Govt. health institutions as well as private chemist shops.

He said the state has also put up a system of tele-consultation from Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) of the state on e-Sanjeevani portal. As of now 307 Health Sub Centres – health wellness centres (HSC-HWC) and 454 Primary Health Centres – health

wellness centres (HWC-PHC) have been connected to the three specialist hubs in medical colleges of the state in Shimla, Tanda and Mandi.

He said the hubs in the medical colleges provide specialist consultation in Medicine, Gynecology, Paediatrics, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Cardiology and Dermatology on a daily basis. He said the consultations for Neurology and gastro-enterology are being given on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday as per the roster.

Till date 31,243 tele-consultations for 25,514 patients have already taken place through this portal, which is highest among the states of India as per the latest data from Government of India.

Dhiman said the extensive network of tele-consultation in the state has resulted in reducing the congestion in the secondary and tertiary level hospitals and thereby mitigating the risk of COVID infection. "Moreover, people have started getting consultations from the comfort of their home or from the nearby Health & Wellness Centre thereby saving time as well as travelling cost of the patients," he said.

'COVID SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN HIMACHAL PRADESH'

The Additional Chief Secretary (Health) also called on Governor Bandaru Dattatreya at Raj Bhavan and apprised him of the arrangements and precautionary measures being taken in the state regarding coronavirus pandemic. The ACS said that the situation was under control and all arrangements have been strengthened due to which, he claimed, Himachal Pradesh has the lowest death rate in the country.





Delhi Metro Rail employees sanitise a coach as the Delhi Metro prepares to resume services partially in Unlock 4.0, at Rajeev Chowk metro station in New Delhi on Thursday. APP

Home isolation: The number of Covid-19 patients in home isolation in Delhi has increased by 43 per cent as active cases rose by 50 per cent in a month, according to Delhi government data.

PM Modi's donations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's donations to a number of public causes, ranging from girl child education to the cleaning of Ganga, from his savings and the proceeds of auctions of the gifts he received exceed Rs 103 crore, sources said on Thursday.

PTI

After ban, Telengana BJP MLA thanks Facebook

T Raja Singh urges Facebook to give him permission to set up his official page

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 3 SEPTEMBER

Telengana BJP MLA from Gosharnath T Raja Singh thanked Facebook officials today, for removing the page which he claimed was not handled by him and urged the social networking site to give him permission to set up his own official page on the social media platform.

Initially, he had taken to Twitter to deny that he was handling the page and gave links to a letter he had written to the cyber crime police and a previous tweet where he had complained that his Facebook page has been "unpublished".

"I would like to clarify that I have not been using Facebook since April 2019. So banning me makes no sense," tweeted the MLA known for many cases booked against him and making hate speeches. Facebook removed his page after a controversy that it had failed to act on hate speeches by members of ruling BJP revealed in a detailed investigation by a foreign media.

In the past Singh had reported to additional deputy commis-

sioner at cybercrime police station on 8 August, 2018 saying that his account has been hacked. He said he has received an email stating "you have been removed as the admin from Facebook page and that he was unable to access the page."

On 1 April 2019 he had tweeted that his official page has been unpublished and wanted to know the official reason.

Later in a video message he thanked Facebook officials for removing the account which was not being used by him. He also urged them to take similar steps against leaders of AIMIM and Congress.

"I urge them (FB officials) that they should research all the political parties such as AIMIM and Congress and their Facebook accounts should be banned, deleted and unpublished. I will write an email to Facebook officials so that they allow me to open my official account and I will follow the norms and rules and regulations of Facebook."

Social media is such a platform which helps us to reach out to the public about the good work we are doing and I want

to be given this right," said Mr Singh in his video.

Economist Parakala Prabhakar on GST: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman who blamed the record decline of the economy on "act of God" is facing criticism from close quarters after her husband Parakala Prabhakar, an economist in his own right pointed out that Covid-19 came much later and the Indian economy has been floundering for a while.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth contracted 23.9 per cent in April-June quarter which was termed as the largest since such figures were first published. It is also being said the biggest decline of any major economy and reflect the onset of the country's deepest recession. Although the government has blamed the pandemic for the situation its detractors have pointed out that it had set off long back while the Congress has linked it to demonetisation.

However, the union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that they were facing "an act of God" which might result in the contraction of the econ-

omy.

"Real 'Act of God' is lack of coherent set of ideas in the government to respond to macroeconomic challenges. Covid is a latecomer."

What I said in October '19 on government's denial mode is vindicated by 23.9 per cent contraction. Do something at least now, for God's sake," tweeted Prabhakar.

This is not the first time

Prabhakar has criticised the economic policies of the current government. He was quite close to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao who had initiated economic liberalisation in the country in 1991 along with Manmohan Singh as finance minister and had urged the current dispensation to consider taking a leaf out of Rao's book in an opinion piece which he wrote on October, 2019.

He pointed out that the government was still in denial mode and it was yet to show signs that it has come to grips with what ails the economy.

He had said while rejecting the Nehruvian economic model the BJP is yet to come up with a coherent set of ideas regarding the Indian economy.

BJP alleges impostor signed govt files in absence of Kerala CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
TIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
3 SEPTEMBER

a digital signature," said said Warrier, raising the documents of the file before the media.

Warrier asked whether the document was signed by his former principal secretary M Sivasankar or Swapna Suresh, one of the main accused in the case. Sivasankar, who was also the former IT secretary, has been questioned by the customs and the NIA over his alleged links with the accused.

"It was not a digital signature either. Was it M Shivshankar or Swapna Suresh who faked the chief minister's signature? Has the party deputed anyone to fake the chief minister's signature?" Sandeep Warrier asked.

Alleging that the state was not ruled by Pinarayi Vijayan, but by an impostor since 2016, Warrier urged Vijayan to step down as CM immediately, as he did not have any control over his office. Warrier demanded that all the files pertaining to the CM's office in the last four years be brought to his office.

O

n

2 September, 2018, the chief minister went to the US for his treatment at Mayo Clinic. On 3 September, 2018, a file related to Malayalam Language Day Celebrations which, he alleged, were signed by CM Vijayan's imposter.

It is evident that the CM

signed the document on 9 September when he was in the US on the same day. The BJP wants to ask who signed the document when CM was not present at his office. It was not

'Time to take a second look at GST system'

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The CPI (M) today said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system be either overhauled or replaced as it had failed to generate revenues and prevented the Centre to pay states their dues.

An editorial in CPI (M) journal *Peoples' Democracy* said that it was time to take a second look at the GST system.

In the three years since it began, GST had not generated the expected revenue increases. "Apart from the Covid period, the tardy growth of the economy will mean stagnation and shortfalls in revenue generated by GST. This will not only affect the states but the Centre too," the party said. SNS

EOW to probe 'cattle grade' rice scam in MP

Bhopal, 3 SEPTEMBER:

Facing severe criticism for distributing inferior quality 'cattle grade' rice to poor people through the Public Distribution System (PDS), the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh said today that one official has been suspended, two terminated and FIRs have been registered against at least 18 rice mill owners involved in the irregularity. SNS

China responsible for ongoing military stand-off at eastern Ladakh, says India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan move to list 2 Indians as terrorists rejected

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

India today squarely blamed China for the ongoing tense military stand-off between the two countries at eastern Ladakh even as it offered to resolve all outstanding issues with Beijing through peaceful negotiations.

"It is clear that the situation we witnessed over the past four months is a direct result of the actions taken by China

allied to another setback for Islamabad on the world stage.

Last year, Pakistan had moved the 1267 UNSC sanctions panel to include the names of four Indian nationals, all of whom were working in Afghanistan with private companies. They were

all evacuated from there as a security measure. The US had put a technical hold and blocked the listing of Venumadhab Dongara and Ajoy Mistry earlier this year. On Wednesday, the other two Indians, Angara Appaji and Gobinda Pattnaik Duggi-

valasa, were also blocked from being listed as terrorists by the US, UK, France, Germany and Belgium as Islamabad failed to produce any evidence to back up allegations against them.

"Pakistan's blatant attempt to politicise 1267 special pro-

cedure on terrorism by giving it a religious colour, has been thwarted by UN Security Council. We thank all those Council members who have blocked Pakistan's designs," India's Permanent Representative to UN T S Tirumurti tweeted.

diplomatic and military channels. The Indian side was firmly committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue.

He said China's actions resulted in violation of the bilateral agreements which ensured peace and tranquility in the border areas for close to three decades.

Srivastava said the way ahead for both countries was negotiations, both through

We therefore strongly urge the Chinese side to sincerely engage the Indian side with the objective of expeditiously restoring peace and tranquility in the border areas through complete disengagement and de-escalation as per bilateral agreements," he added.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's 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:

1. Name of work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with construction of platform on DN GAL Line no. 1 at Okhla station.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 29,52,901.19/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 59,100/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission period	14.09.2020 (00.00 Hrs.) to 28.09.2020 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	28.09.2020 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 13-TRD-NDL5-2020-21 Dated : 03.09.2020 1922/20

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RE TENDER OF E-PROCUREMENT

Advt. No. CHST 1617
Date: 28.08.2020

Quotations are invited for Table top flow cytometer and Upgradation of microscope for DBT funded project at Centre for Healthcare Science and Technology. For details please visit: <https://www.iiests.ac.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/>. Last date: 12.09.2020 at 6.00 pm. (A. Code DRC-T005/20-21). Dean (R&C)

The Congress on Thursday accused the Modi government of pushing the country towards an economic collapse and a financial emergency, and said noteban, GST and lockdown were "disaster strokes" not "master strokes". The party's spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the GDP slump in the first quarter will have an adverse impact on the average income of every Indian, which is likely to decline by almost Rs 15,000 per person if the GDP fell by 11 per cent in the full year.

He said the government and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman should not stay in office for any longer as they have inflicted a big blow and damage to the country's economy, seen never before in the country's history since independence.

"There are dark clouds of

Modi govt pushing India towards financial emergency: Congress

He said the government and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman should not stay in office for any longer as they have inflicted a big blow and damage to the country's economy, seen never before in the country's history since independence.

ineptitude and incompetence as 'an act of God'.

Sadly, this is the only government in the past 73 years which has blamed God for its own follies, he said. "Time to rise from the shackles of this ruinous Modi government and rediscover the aspirations and hopes of India," the Congress leader said.

He said the GDP under Modi government has become "Grave Damage to Public Good". He alleged that inflation is hitting the common man hard and the "surge" in taxes and an economy in free fall have broken the back of people.

"Today, India suffers from a confidence deficit in the Modi government.

Ask the micro, small and medium enterprises and they will tell you that neither do the banks extend loans or financial assistance nor does the words of the finance minister have any meaning", claimed Surjewala.

'No Question Hour': Opposition leaders step up attack on govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, SEP 3

Several Opposition leaders on Thursday stepped up their attack on the government over the decision of not holding the Question Hour in Parliament's upcoming monsoon session, alleging that it was an attempt to "suppress" their voices.

Congress again hit out at the decision with party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, alleging that it was an attempt to "throttle democracy" and "enchain" the parliamentary system. At a briefing, he said the party will oppose the move both inside and outside Parliament.

Bahujan Samaj Party's Lok Sabha MP Kunwar Danish Ali hit out at the decision in a tweet that, "Contempt if one tweets, treason if you ask questions on the streets. The country's biggest panchayat was left to raise

questions of the people. There, the government has done away with the Question Hour. This is the scary picture of 'New India'."

All India United Democratic Front chief Badruddin Ajmal alleged that by cancelling the Question Hour in Parliament's upcoming monsoon session, alleging that it was an attempt to deprive "us from our democratic rights".

"We have the responsibility, as public representatives, to raise questions on behalf of the people of our country, on important issues," he said.

"Pandemic is just an excuse, the real motive is to suppress our voices so that the Govt shouldn't have to answer questions on burning national issues," Ajmal tweeted.

Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan tweeted: "PM Modi has cancelled the Question Hour & Private Members' Business in the forthcoming Parliament session.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SAMSAD Advt No:-13 SEPTEMBER 2020

SL. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/INT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBIN PANCHOLA	20/20-21 HRNG OF VEHICLE FOR SE CIVIL CONST. CIRCLE UHBIN, PANCHOLA	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 14-09-2020	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 nercivilhbnp@haryanagov.in
2	DHBIN HISAR	COMPOSITE RUBBER HAND GLOVES (INT NO. 655/DH/HM (D-038) DT.07.09.2020 TENDER ID: NO. 2020_HBC_13468_2	CLOSING DATE EXTENDED UP TO 11.09.2020 (13:30 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	9812556355 sennm@dhbn.org.in
3	HUPNL, FARIDABAD	NETT NO. 0875/FBD/2020-21 DATED 10.08.2020	THE DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 13:30 HRS ON DATES 08.09.2020 AND OPENING DATE UPTO 15:30 HRS ON DATES 09.09.2020	www.hpn.org.in	(0172-2583189) pnjh@hpnl.org.in
4	HUPNL, PANCHOLA	QOP NO-1220 NET NO. 1113 DATED 22.06.2020	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 15.09.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS.	www.hpn.org.in	(0172-2583189) pnjh@hpnl.org.in
5	HUPNL, PANCHOLA	QOP-1247 (INT NO. 1130 DATED 15.07.2020)	CORRIGENDUM-EXEMPTION OF DUE DATE OF SUBMISSION UPTO 16.09.2020 17:00 HRS.	www.hpn.org.in	(0172-2583189) pnjh@hpnl.org.in
6	HUPNL, PANCHOLA	QOP-1248 (INT NO. 1131 DATED 15.07.2020)	CORRIGENDUM-EXEMPTION OF DUE DATE OF SUBMISSION UPTO 16.09.2020 UPTO 17:00 HRS.	www.hpn.org.in	(0172-2583189) pnjh@hpnl.org.in
7					

In Corona pandemic times, the workers have to work with greater dedication and commitment to ensure success of 'Mission Repeat'



HIMACHAL PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER, JAI RAM THAKUR
SAYING BJP WORKERS MUST ACT AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF THE PARTY

Mannan urges Sonia to appoint Adhir as Bengal PCC chief

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 3 SEPTEMBER



Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly and senior Congress leader Abdul Mannan has urged party president Sonia Gandhi to appoint Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as the next West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee chief, sources said on Thursday.

The state unit president's post has been lying vacant for more than a month since the death of Somen Mitra.

Mitra's death on July 30 has not just left a deep void in the party but triggered an unprecedented crisis, as the jury is out to choose his suc-

cessor, who will have to steer the party in the 2021 Assembly elections, they said.

According to sources close to Mannan, who himself is considered as a contender for the post, the senior party leader has written to Gandhi urging her to appoint Chowdhury, the leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, as the PCC chief for the sake of revival of the state unit and the future of the Left-Congress alliance in West Bengal.

TENDER

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER, CTU, & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, U.T., CHANDIGARH	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
E-tenders (Online Tenders) are invited for "Marketing Rights for Display of Advertisements (Outside and Inside) on CTU Long Route & Sub Urban Buses for a period of 4 years" on the terms and conditions and technical specifications as set out in the tender documents which can be downloaded from the website http://tenders.chd.nic.in or http://chdctu.gov.in . The important dates with regard to uploading the tenders are as under:	
Bid Reference	CTU/CTU/2020/0803; dated 03.02.2020
Date of Commencement of down-loading of Bid Documents	05-09-2020 at 11:00 am
Last Date of seeking clarifications if any	17.09.2020 up to 10:00 am
Pre-Bid Meeting	17.09.2020 at 11:30 am at Conference Hall- 4th floor, UT. Secretariat Sector-9, Chandigarh
Last Date and Time for EMD and Bid Processing Fee in physical form and uploading of bid (Technical and Financial) in e-procurement platform http://etenders.chd.nic.in	30.09.2020 up to 2.00 pm
The bids will be opened online by the Authorised Officers on 30.09.2020 at 3.00 pm. Will be intimated to technically responsive bidders	
Place of opening of bids and address for communication	Chandigarh Transport Undertaking O/o Director Transport, U.T. Chandigarh. Plot No. 701, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Chandigarh-160002
In case of any query/clarification	The bidders can approach office of Director Transport, U.T. Chandigarh on any working day between 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (till the date of Pre-Bid Meeting) in case of any clarification/query regarding e-tender (Ph No. 2679002) or mail at directorctuchd@gmail.com
No tender except EMD and Bid Processing Fee shall be accepted in physical form by the Director, Chandigarh Transport Undertaking shall have every right to cancel/withdraw/amend the advertisement or extend the due date at any time before the proposal due date or accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.	
Divisional Manager CTU & Director Transport U.T. Chandigarh.	

KRISHNANAGAR MUNICIPALITY Krishnanagar, Nadia	
The Chairperson, Board of Administrators, Krishnanagar Municipality invites NIEQ No. WB/MAD/JLB/KRISHNANAGAR/NIEQ-3/2020-21 for the work of "Supply of LED Street Light for Krishnanagar Municipality". The intending bidders are requested to visit the Website: https://wtbidders.gov.in for detail. Tender ID: 2020_MAD_294934_1 Sd/- Chairperson Board of Administrators Krishnanagar Municipality	

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CENTRAL STORE	
B-2 Block, Near 212 Bus Terminal, Nand Nagari, Delhi -110093 SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER NIT No. EE(Central Store)/TC/2020-21/16 Dated : 03.09.2020 Executive Engineer (Central Store) EDMC on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites only Online open tenders from reputed agencies/firms/ Agencies [Registered and Un-Registered firms or agencies both are eligible] for the following work: NIT No. : 1; Name of Work : Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 40 nos. of Water Sprinkler mounted on TATA SE 1613 9KL Water Tanker, BS-IV Chassis for Water Sprinkling in EDMC; Head of A/C : XL-III-D-IV; Tender Amount : Item Rate; Tender Cost : Rs. 5,000/- ; Earnest Money : Rs. 9,60,000/- ; Time of Completion : 300 Days. Rate Good for : 05 Months; Tender No. : 319179. Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website or from the office of the undersigned: http://mcdtenders.com , https://mcdonline.nic.in / R.O. No. 47/DPI/East/2020-21 Executive Engineer (Central Store/EDMC) EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303	

HP.PWD TENDER NOTICE

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the eligible contractor enlisted in the appropriate class in HPPWD, So as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-3 or before 29-09-2020 up to 1030 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:00AM, in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized agents who may wish to be present. The applications for issue of tender forms shall be received 28-09-2020 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. alongwith FDR for the required amount. The tender form shall be issued on 26-09-2020 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.					
The intending contractors shall bring their registration letter renewal of their enlistment and proof of CST/GST/ otherwise the tender documents shall not be issued to them.					
The earnest money as shown below shall accompany the tender in the shape of NCS/Time deposit receipt or post office Saving Bank Account in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer. The contractors who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner, their tender shall summarily be rejected without assigning any reason. The tenders offer shall be kept open for 120 days.					
Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated cost Earnest Money Time Allowed Form Cost					
1 Construction of water storage tank in Govt. Residential colony at Dhali (SH:- C/O M/S stand for water in Driver Quarters 4 Nos sets at 224900/- 4500/- 60 days 350/-					
Terms & Conditions:- 1. The contractor/firm shall have his GST No. and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form. 2. The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal. 3. Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form. 4. Copy of EPF be attached with the application form.					
2662/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AV AM JAN SAMPAK					

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer,HP.PWD, Division Sarkaghat H.P. on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item rate bids,in electronic tendering system,for construction of each of this following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP.PWD.					
Sr. No. Name of work Estimated cost EMD Cost of tender Time limit Eligible class of contractor					
1 Construction of Sarkaghat to Kharluvia via Lukawani Road Km. 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- Providing and laying G-II Prime coat Tack Coat, 20mm premix carpet and seal coat in Km. 0/25 to 1/525)					
2 Construction of Chamanu Balon via Maara Kushar Road Km. 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Providing and laying Prime Coat Tack Coat 20mm premix carpet and seal coat in Km. 0/0 to 1/0)					
3 Construction of Link Road from Balton to Hanzen basit Kalehain Km. 0/0 to 2/500 (SH:- Providing and laying G-II Soling, Wearing and Tarring (Premix) in Km. 0/0 to 1/0) (WP)					
4 Construction of Rohan Tikkan Baggi Khudi Khanian Bhadri Road Km. 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Providing and laying G-II III 30mm Bituminous concrete and v- shape drain at Km. 0/0 to 1/0) WP					
5 A/R & M/O Ambi Pingla Bara Road Km. 0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 1/0 to 6/0)					
6 Periodical maintenance on Kamal Charai Megal Road Km. 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- P/L 30mm thick BC including profile correction in Km. 2/0 to 3/0 under performance based incentive (During the year 2020-21) PMGSY Rural Road VR- 0045					

1. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 19.09.2020

2. Cost of Bid Form:- As Shown against work above (non-refundable)only in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Sarkaghat, payable at Sarkaghat.

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://htbtenders.gov.in> 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 certified 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 <http://htbtenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to particulars in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in the tender.

Non-registered bidders may submit bids,however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

3. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand draft towards the cost of bid document payable at Sarkaghat (b) Earnest Money - indicated in Schedule F (FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive engineer,HPPWD Sarkaghat) (c) Contractor Registration - Gen. Rule Sr. No. 23 and 26.3 (d) GST Registration- Refer Gen. Rule Sr. No. 21 and 26.4 (e)Labour License (f) Permanent Account No. (PAN No) (g) Employees Provident Fund Number (h) Proof of Mandatory Machinery Tool and Plant per Gen Rules 25 and Schedule F Sr. No. 6. 19 (i) Similar nature of Work done Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without liquidate. (j) Work in hand Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without per General Rule 19. (k) List of Both Gazetted and non Gazetted officer HPPWD employees related to him (General Rule 19) An affidavit that information furnished with the bid (Name of work) is correct in all respect (l) Affidavit regarding no litigation with the department. (m) An affidavit that the contractor has not more than two work in (General Rule No. 28.1) (Bidder should must be uploaded from the chartered Accountant be uploaded 9Condition for more than (Fifty Lakh) only.

4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:w.e.f. 19.09.2020 at 11:00 A.M. to 29.09.2020 up to 11.00 A.M.

The site for the work is available.
5. Only online submission of bids is permitted therefore:bids must be submitted online on website <http://htbtenders.gov.in>. The bids shall be opened on 29.09.2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the office Executive Engineer,HP.PWD,Division Sarkaghat,HP. by the authorized officer. In the interest of tenders 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.

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

7. 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 bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

8. The bidder shall submit the details of HMP & others machinery required for tarring along with Bid.

2675/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

SC order on slum dwellings

Says 48,000jhuggies along 140-km rail tracks in Delhi must be removed within three months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Trains stranded, Rlys asks Jharkhand govt to remove Tana Bhagat protesters from tracks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Barkakana-Garwa Road section due to public agitation at Tori station, blocking Up and Down tracks from 5 pm on Wednesday and is continuing," he said in his letter.

The GM highlighted how such frequent disruptions affected movement of goods trains stuck for hours.

"Such frequent disruption in train movement in Jharkhand is affecting freight and passenger train operation and supply of coal to various important government power houses, affecting economy of the country as well as causing great inconvenience to common public.

"I would like to draw your kind attention on the subject and request that suitable instructions may please be issued to all concerned state officials to avoid disruption in the train operation due to public agitations," he said.

The Ranchi-bound Rajdhani Express and nearly 70 goods trains have been stranded for hours on Thursday as over 250 Tana Bhagat protesters put

Examination woes

There is much to criticise and little to commend about the conduct of the Joint Entrance Exam (main) in Kolkata and tragically in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. There are no winners and losers in this clash of egos between the Centre, which holds the exam, and the West Bengal government. On closer reflection, the former does have a point when it iterates its determination to stick to the academic calendar in a wasted year - from the pre-school to the post graduate levels. So too does Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who had been shrilling for deferment in view of the forbidding scenario since 25 March. Indeed, the opportunity to take the entrance exam has been wasted if 75 per cent of the candidates couldn't make it to the examination centres in TCS Gitabitan in Salt Lake and the Institute of Instrumentation and Metrology in Belghoria, going by the projections of the state government. On Wednesday, 46 per cent of the candidates were absent in the two centres during the BE/B.Tech entrance exam. The nub of the matter must be that is the young candidates, aspiring for rewarding careers in medicine and technology, who have suffered in the raging clash of egos within the political class brought about by an exigent situation. Arguably, the inability to sit for the papers could well lead to the loss of a year in the course of the crucial transition from Class 12 to college. Very pertinently has the Chief Minister remarked, "So many students are being totally deprived. Who gave the Centre the authority to destroy the future of the students?" A second examination for those who missed the bus might, on the face of it, be an option for the state; but this is easier suggested than accomplished. That said, it devolves on the Centre to take a call on the number of students across the country who have been unable to appear for the exam, and to determine if the Bengal story has been repeated elsewhere.

To that can be added the arduous journey to the examination hall from such far-flung places as Gosaba in South 24-Parganas to Salt Lake - cycling for more than 100 km and then travelling 20 km by bus. For all the face masks, gloves and face shields, many avoided overcrowded buses, fearing infection. On Tuesday and Wednesday, it was decidedly a test of nerves, if ever there was one. In the absence of trains, the journey from Malda to Kolkata, for instance, cost a candidate Rs 25,000. Having weathered these ordeals, candidates cannot be expected to retain their mental balance in the examination hall. Verily, the conduct of the JEE this year has showcased the collapse of "special transport", as normally arranged for Madhyamik and Higher Secondary. Fairly disastrous has been the failure of coordinated planning and logistics. While there will yet be a batch commencing study in 2020, it may not consist of the best India has to offer.

A Historic Flight

Is it possible that Israel, helmed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is cosying up to the Gulf monarchies? As much is the impression conveyed to the comity of nations with Wednesday's decision of Saudi Arabia to permit UAE flights to "all countries" to overfly the desert kingdom. In a critical sense, it signifies the normalisation of ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. The announcement follows the first direct commercial flight from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi on Monday, which passed through Saudi airspace. This definitely is forward movement in geopolitics and in a volatile swathe of the world not the least in the context of Pakistan banning Indian overflights over its airspace, compelling airlines to take a circuitous route to the West. More basically, Islamabad's action is an expression of the relentless tension in the subcontinent. At another remove, the announcement by the monarchist capital of Riyadh is said to be a concrete sign of Saudi Arabia's cooperation with Israel even after it refused publicly to follow the UAE in establishing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. The kingdom has accepted an Emirati request to allow the use of its airspace for "flights heading to the UAE and departing from it to all countries". Easier connectivity is, therefore, central to the mending of fences between Israel and the UAE. Mr Netanyahu, meanwhile, announced that Monday's historic first commercial flight of an Israeli aircraft to the UAE across Saudi Arabia would not be the last. "Now there is another tremendous breakthrough," he said shortly after the Saudi announcement. "Israeli planes and those from all countries will be able to fly directly from Israel to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and back," Mr Netanyahu said, without giving any timeline. "Flights will be cheaper and shorter, and it will lead to robust tourism and develop our economy," he said. Saudi Arabia has said it will not establish diplomatic ties with Israel until the Jewish state has signed an internationally recognised peace accord with the Palestinians. But with fresh winds blowing across the desert sand, the kingdom has cultivated what strategists have called "clandestine relations" with Israel in recent years, in a shift spearheaded by the de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In a sense, therefore, the decision on overflights is concordant with the systemic changes that the Crown Prince intends to introduce. In a sign of its cooperation with Israel, Saudi Arabia saved the Israeli aircraft from a long detour around the Arabian peninsula. "Today's announcement signals the warming of relations between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Israel," was the response of Marc Schneier, an American rabbi with close ties to the Gulf. "While they are still deeply committed to the Palestinian people, this first step is a big one and should be celebrated." With countries of the Middle-east warming up to Israel, the position of the Palestinians is becoming increasingly fragile. And to think there was a time when nations in the region were prepared to go to war in support of the Palestinian cause.

Earning a Right

Fourteen years after Susan B Anthony's death women in the US secured voting rights. The 19th Amendment, ratified in the centenary year of her birth, called the Susan B Anthony Amendment is a fitting tribute to her untiring efforts. Not only did she bring out the incompleteness of Enlightenment liberalism as it ignored women but also reminded us that rights are, as pointed out by Miliband, not given but earned

The centennial celebrations of the 19th Amendment that granted voting rights to all women in the United States began with the full pardon extended by President Trump on 18 August 2020 to Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906) "for a wrongful and unjust conviction stemming from the only vote she ever cast in an election". In 1852, at the first woman's rights convention held in Syracuse she observed "that the right which woman needed above every other, the one indeed which would secure to her all the others, was the right of suffrage". Since then she pursued this goal tirelessly through giving speeches, petitioning Congress and state legislatures and publishing a feminist newspaper significantly titled Revolution.

Hailing from a Quaker family, Anthony was at first interested in Abolitionism, temperance and rights of the working class. She got drawn into the women's rights movement on the issue of pay equity when she learned that male teachers got four times more monthly salary than their female counterparts. Along with Amelia Bloomer (1818-94), she agitated for more comfortable and less restrictive dresses for women. Bloomer introduced her to Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and the two became lifelong friends collaborating on many reform issues like reform of marriage, property rights for women and a woman's right to divorce. Stanton was the theoretician while Anthony, the organizer for the women's rights movement.

In 1866, Stanton and Anthony founded the American Equal Rights Association (AERA) with the aim of securing equal rights for all US citizens. The AERA split following the 14th Amendment (1868) as it enfranchised African American men bringing into the open the contradictions between gender and race. The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) was formed with the intention of pursuing woman's suffrage and Anthony, according to Blakemore, "became a nationally recognizable (and much mocked) face of the suffrage movement".

On 1 November 1872, Anthony and her three sisters as part of a group of 50 women entered a voter registration office to register themselves as voters in Rochester, New York. They quoted the 14th Amendment's citizenship provision and the article from New York Constitution pertaining to voting that did not stipulate any sex qualification. Initially, the inspector refused but was advised by the Supervisor of elections, Daniel Warner, to register these women voters pointing to the penalty in law for refusal to do so. After registering to vote, Anthony cast her vote on 5th November and informed Stanton. As she expected, a Democratic poll watcher Sylvester Lewis filed a complaint challenging Anthony's registration.



tion and for casting an illegal vote.

Acting on Lewis' complaint Anthony was served a warrant for arrest on 14th November, under the Enforcement Act, by the US Commissioner William C. Storrs. She and 14 more women and the inspectors who authorized their ballots were arrested on 18th November. Anthony alone was charged but since she refused bail, she was held in custody. In the interim, Anthony considered moving the Supreme Court and also wrote to her suffragist friends and politicians. Her lawyer, Henry Selden asked a US District Judge in Albany to issue a writ of habeas corpus for Anthony's release which was denied. The judge also raised the bail amount from \$500 to \$1,000 which Anthony refused to pay. Her lawyer paid the bail amount and when confronted by Anthony as to why he paid her bail he said he could not see a lady whom he respected put in jail. On 24th January, a grand jury of twenty men indicted Anthony for "knowingly, wrongfully and unlawfully" voting, being a woman. The trial was set for May. She described her trial as "the greatest judicial outrage history has ever recorded". Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826-98), a close associate observed tellingly, "Susan Anthony is not on trial; the United States is on trial".

Anthony used the next four months to tour 29 post office districts in Monroe County NY, in order to educate fellow citizens about what she described as her citizen's right guaranteed to her and all other US citizens by the Constitution. She drew extensively from the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, the New York Constitution, James Madison, Thomas Paine and several radical Republican senators of the day in support of

her contention that women had a legal right as citizens to vote. She argued that natural law and the Civil War Amendments gave women the power to vote. The 15th Amendment according to her gave the right to vote to ex-slaves and women as both were in a state of servitude. She quoted Paine who stated that the right to vote was a primary right as it protected other rights; to do away with this right would be to reduce man to a state of slavery. She exhorted women to exercise their citizen's right to vote; inspectors of election to receive the votes of all US citizens as it was their duty to do so; US commissioners and marshals to arrest the inspectors who rejected the names and votes of US citizens and appealed to judges to support liberty and equal rights to women. She pleaded to all to fight for the ballot peacefully and persistently until all US citizens were recognised as equals before the law. Hers was the first act of individual civil disobedience within the suffrage movement.

In June when the case began, Anthony's defence counsel Selden pointed out that she was prosecuted purely because she was a woman and stressed on the vote being essential to women for receiving fair treatment from legislatures. In his concluding remarks Selden pointed out that even if Anthony's vote was not legal under the 14th Amendment she still could not be prosecuted because she acted in good faith that her vote was legal. Judge Hunt disagreed with this view and asserted categorically that Anthony's vote violated the law and that she was guilty as she knowingly cast an illegal vote. He also denied the motion for a new trial on the ground that Anthony's constitutional right to a trial by jury had been violated.

Anthony responded by stating that this denial was "the denial of my right of consent as one of the governed, the denial of my right of representation as one of the taxed, the denial of my right to a trial by a jury of my peers as an offender against law, therefore, the denial of my sacred rights to life, liberty, property". Undeterred, she pointed out that laws were made by men, interpreted by men, administered by men and against women; that verdict of guilt was pronounced against a US citizen for the exercise of the citizen's right to vote simply because the citizen was a woman and not a man. Quoting JS Mill she asked whether "this tyranny (was) any less humiliating and degrading to women under our democratic-republican government today than it was to men under their aristocratic-monarchical government one hundred years ago".

Anthony was ordered to pay a fine of one hundred dollars and the costs of the prosecution. She challenged the judge to hold her in custody or send her to jail which he did not, thus preventing her from appealing her sentence to a higher court. She protested saying that she would never pay a dollar for the unjust penalty. She decided her sole objective was to educate all women to rebel against man made unjust, unconstitutional forms of law as "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God".

Anthony did not pay a single penny of the penalty. She petitioned Congress to remit the fine which was ignored. Even the government made no serious effort to collect the fine. Anthony in the meantime got 3,000 copies of the trial proceedings printed and distributed to political activists and politicians. 'Aunt Susan' as she was referred to inspired many by her heroism: "If it is a mere question of who got the best of it", according to a New York newspaper "Miss Anthony is still ahead. She has voted and the American constitution has survived the shock. Fining one hundred dollars does not rule out the fact that... women voted, and went home, and the world jogged on as before".

In 1876, along with Gage she disrupted the official Centennial programme of American Independence at the Independence Hall in Philadelphia and presented a Declaration of Rights for Women. In 1888, she helped to form the National American Women's Suffrage Association by merging two largest suffrage associations into one. She led the group till 1900. Fourteen years after her death women in the US secured voting rights. The 19th Amendment, ratified in the centenary year of her birth, called the Susan B Anthony Amendment is a fitting tribute to her untiring efforts. Not only did she bring out the incompleteness of Enlightenment liberalism as it ignored women but also reminded us that rights are, as pointed out by Miliband, not given but earned.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Remove political poison in HK's education

Two incidents show how wildly astray education in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has gone.

On Aug 24, the grieving mother and grandfather of teenager Chan Yin-lam, whose body was found in the sea off eastern Hong Kong on September 26 last year, were rudely insulted and harassed by dozens of political extremists - including a 17-year-old secondary student, who gave the two finger aside from hurling verbal abuse - just outside the court where the two had just attended the coroner's court hearing on the death of the 15-year-old girl.

Instead of offering consolation, as has been the case on other similar occasions, the mob chose to rub salt on the wounds of the grieving mother and grandfather simply because their testimony did not fit into the politically motivated narrative that the girl was murdered by police rather than that she could have committed suicide due to emotional problems. Their cruel insensitivity demonstrates the loss of humanity among the young political fanatics in the SAR.

In the other shocking incident, a black-clad protester doused a 57-year-old man with flammable liquid and set him on fire on Nov 11 last year, leaving

CHINADAILY

him with burns covering 40 percent of his body.

The perpetrator committed this heinous crime just because the man opposed the vandalism of the city's mass transit rail system.

These two episodes, which are unimaginable and unacceptable in any civilized society, are the result of politicization on campuses.

Over the past two decades, some teachers have prioritized their own ideological beliefs and political agenda over the well-being of their students by relentlessly brainwashing impressionable young minds with twisted and toxic ideas.

Their systematic indoctrination has radicalized Hong Kong's younger generation with the open advocacy of "breaking the law to achieve justice".

As a result, of the some 9,000 people arrested by the Hong Kong police between June 9, 2019, and May 29, 2020, for various offenses related to the anti-government campaign, 1,707 were below 18 years of age and 5,640 were aged between 18 and 30.

The SAR government has realized the toxicity and harm of campus politics and has vowed to conduct a wide-ranging review of the education system. The recent moves to detoxify the liberal studies curriculum, which has been used as a key tool to indoctrinate young students with pernicious ideas and radicalize them, are no doubt a good start.

But to put Hong Kong's education back on the right track, the SAR's education authority must take resolute action to rid the system of the demagogues who have been poisoning young minds under the cover of their profession as teachers.

IN MEMORIAM

CHATTERJI DEVI —Passed away on September 4, 2001. Remembered with love and gratitude by sons Bhaskar, Vidyarthi and daughter Reeta.

NON-AC FARES

SIR, Uber and Ola app cab service providers have advised passengers that their cabs are effectively operated without air-conditioning or on fresh air mode under the Covid situation. This precautionary guideline to drivers and riders has been prescribed by app cab service providers without any such confirming restrictions from State or Central governments. This guideline may not be inconvenient for riders in places with cooler climate. But in a hot and humid city like Kolkata, advice against AC operation is certainly inconvenient to passengers.

The passenger definitely expects at least a corresponding discount in cab fares. App cab fares are charged on the basis of it being an exclusive AC travel distinct from non-AC yellow taxis. If app cabs are operated on non-AC modes, then both commercially and ethically, they should bring their fare at par with non-AC taxis. The State Government must intervene.

Yours, etc., Kunal Kanti Konar, Kolkata, 3 September.

endra Modi proudly described it as a 'Good and Simple Tax', besides touting "One Nation, One Tax" which would usher in a glorious economic future for the country.

At that time, the Union government had promised the states a 14 per cent increase in tax revenue to make up for the shortfall in tax revenue caused due to the transition to the GST system for up to 5 years.

Unfortunately after the 41st GST Council meeting on 27 August, the Centre on 29 August wrote to states suggesting two options of borrowing money to make up the

Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall in GST revenues. On this suggestion, non-BJP states such as Punjab, Kerala, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have already stated in the GST Council meeting that raising debt is not an option for the already stretched state finances.

In this piquant situation, the Union government should not abdicate its constitutional commitment to take a loan itself and provide cent per cent compensation to all the states.

Yours, etc., SK Khosla, Chandigarh, 30 August.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Misplaced focus

SIR, 'A Hindu America' (1 September) and 'Indian American Women in the Spotlight' (30 August) reflect



an obsession with ethnicity, colour, gender, religion and language. They have been linked with notions of Indianess and Hinduness by the two writers. Kamala Harris and Nikki Haley are proud and prominent citizens of the USA pursuing their respective political careers. They should have been left alone. Sunil Sharan and Kalyani Shankar know of A.O. Hume, Annie Besant and Sonia Maino Gandhi as Congress presidents. Sonia Gandhi has been a member of the Indian parliament for a long time. They do not arouse such intense emotionalism in the countries of their birth (England and Italy respect-

tively). Nor has India become Christian. Mixed identities belong to a historical phenomena all over

the world with attendant disappointments, frustrations and paradoxes as spelt out by Sunil Sharan. Well, answers have been found through historical process and evolution as evidenced by the experiences in the USA and South Africa. By harping on Hindu America and Indian-American women what message is sought to be sent? Such indulgence is rather unflattering.

Yours, etc., R.C. Jain, Kolkata, 2 September.

REAL ISSUES

SIR, "Climate proofing cities is key to urban resilience" published in 2016 in India, Prime Minister Nar-

hasing a contemporary issue that needs our attention. The importance of this article lies in the fact that the concept of climate proofing is hampered home while discussing both the deleterious effects of climate change and measures which may be instituted in existing scenarios. The Indian mind is predominantly obsessed with burning issues of religion and politics. Thus real issues which pose a threat to our survival like global warming and climate change take a backseat. It is time for political parties across the political spectrum to understand that the issues which get voters may be a necessity to come to power but once in Government be it Central or State, it is their responsibility to address these developmental challenges which will define their maturity and will to face environmental challenges with alacrity. It is impossible to expect true progress of Indian life and livelihood.

Yours, etc., Dr Souparna Roy, Kolkata, 2 September.

GOOD AND SIMPLE?

SIR, While introducing the GST in 2016 in India, Prime Minister Nar-

AMRITPAL KAUR

When Shinzo Abe, the longest serving Prime Minister of Japan decided to step down from his office, not only did he leave the world in surprise he also gave an opportunity to reflect on his legacy to his country and the World. Abe has left a deep mark on Japanese politics. While he is hailed as a realist in world politics and strategic affairs, his record in the domestic arena has been a mixed bag.

Abe came into power for the second time in 2012 at a crucial juncture in Japanese history. The Japanese economy was stagnant, the nuclear disaster of Fukushima in 2011 had shaken the country and there was a dominant discourse in Japan to counterbalance China.

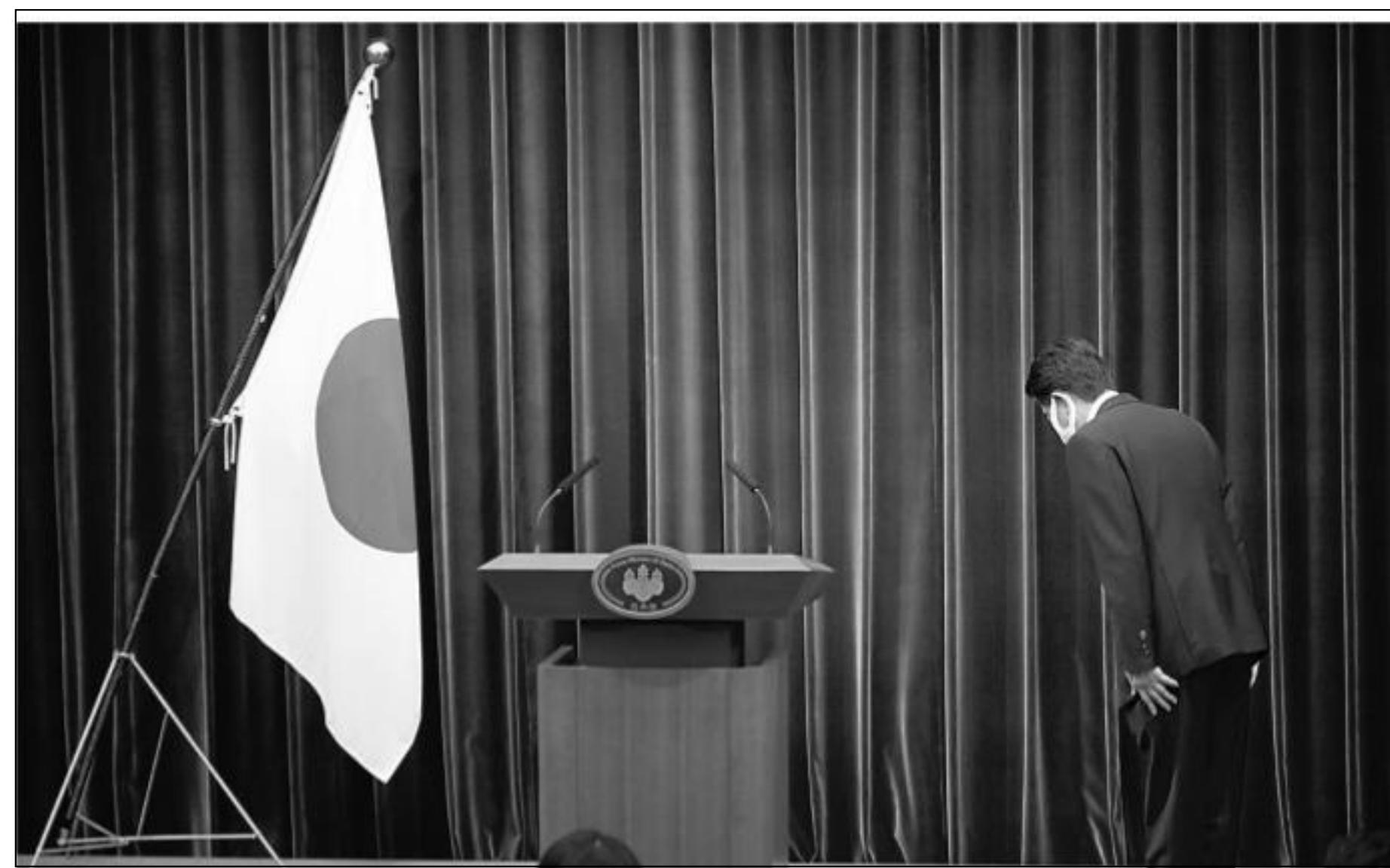
Against this background rose Shinzo Abe, who promised to give prestige and prosperity to Japan. He dealt with the economics aspect with his much popularised 'Abenomics', which was concoction of free market enterprise with heavy financial stimulus to be doled out to lift the economy. The strategy was to increase inflation to at least 2 per cent for growth shoots to come up.

Experts argue that the impact of Abenomics was not as good as expected by the regime, however, it was able to resuscitate the economy to some extent. He tried to increase the political capital of Japan in foreign affairs by constantly courting major powers of the world. His ambition was to transform a political pygmy into a giant.

However, during his time in office, Abe had courted many controversies by openly paying homage at a war memorial for the fallen soldiers of World War II, his refusal to acknowledge war crimes committed by the Japanese, his intention to amend the post-war constitution, his attempt to change self-critical history textbooks in Japanese schools, etc. All these pointed towards his conservative orientation. In a society that prizes stability over hyper nationalism, Abe created many ripples against the tide.

His regime was also accused of nepotism and corruption, his colleagues accused of taking bribes, tampering with official documents (for which he publicly apologized) and his

Man who brought about a confluence of the seas



regime's inability to effectively deal with the coronavirus pandemic especially in the early days. Of late, Abe was also criticized for increasing service tax from 8 to 10 per cent. Therefore, when the news of his resignation came, many were not surprised.

However, from an Indian standpoint, Abe's tenure was probably the best period for Indo-Japanese ties especially the increased economic-strategic relations between India and Japan that Abe extensively propagated. Abe saw India and Japan as two players changing the strategic game in the Asia-Pacific. On his maiden state visit to India in 2007, Abe declared his strategic ambition towards India by calling out for a 'Confluence of the Seas' between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans, that is

closer cooperation between India and Japan.

Then in 2012 came Abe's article 'Asia's Democratic Security Diamond' in which he asked emphatically for greater depth in Indo-Japan relations. One of his biggest achievements in the strategic arena was to establish the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral between India, Japan, Australia and the USA to balance the increasing Chinese might in the South China sea region. The cause for this change of orientation is seen to be the anti-Japan protests in China in 2004-05 that alerted Japan to diversify its interests from China to other Asian countries, specifically towards South-East Asia and India.

Later, increased Chinese excursions into the East China sea and

South China sea convinced Japan of its colonizing ambitions to capture the South China sea and to seize the control of the strategically important open water sea-lanes of communications and transportation. The elephant in the room caused Japan to pursue the possibility of a coalition of the countries in similar circumstances and India fit the bill.

No doubt, Abe's greater emphasis on India stemmed from the intrinsic Japanese need to balance China. In order to counter Chinese heft in terms of physical strength and manpower, Abe roped India in to beat China on the numbers count. As Brahma Chellany wrote in 2011, in the triangle between India, Japan and China, the sum of two arms (India and Japan) will always be greater than

the third arm (China). This thinking was the result of the vision that Abe had.

For India, it turned out to be a win-win situation especially since it lacks the necessary capital to fund its overseas diplomatic projects. The close cooperation between India and Japan have helped the former to overcome material glitches that are present on account of the funds-crunch. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is a case in point. Such projects allowed India to use its manpower and Japan to put in service its technological and material superiority to the best of diplomatic gains for both countries. These gains have been possible because Abe could see that scattered countries could be brought together to make a formidable coalition.

On the economic front as well, Japan has been one of the biggest investors in the Indian economy. As per Japanese government records, bilateral trade between India and Japan increased from 740 billion yen (\$7.023 billion) in 2005 to 1,821 billion yen (\$172.8 billion) in 2018. Japanese investment in India increased at a higher pace - by 1165 per cent from 29.8 billion yen (\$2.8 billion) in 2005 to 377 billion yen (\$35.8 billion) during the same period. Japan has been also involved in infrastructural projects including the much-feted Delhi-Mumbai freight corridor.

There is no doubt that Abe's legacy will be evaluated on the basis of the salience of his policies and whether his successors are able to achieve the goals of their predecessor, or if they will chart a different course. However, looking at the Abe era from an Indian lens, what is visible is the period of a leader who took a leaf out of the book of Realpolitik and implemented it fully.

The writer is a Research Scholar, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The British revenue returns for last quarter show an expansion which would be all the more satisfactory if they did not represent heavy taxes as well as an increase of prosperity. The revenue for the three months has reached a total, in round figures, of pound 315 millions sterling as compared with pound 185 and three fourth millions in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure, on the other hand, has been reduced from pound 401 millions to pound 284 and three fourth millions, and there is a surplus of pound 30 and one fourth millions instead of a deficit of pound 215 and half millions. The floating debt has been reduced by pound 26,354,000. As evidence of reviving general prosperity the figures could hardly be more satisfactory. The changed conditions of the present day as compared with pre-war times might be illustrated if, as a matter of curiosity, we compared the pound 315 millions of revenue, for the past three months only, with the pound 195 millions which represented the revenue for the whole year of 1913-14. The expenditure, standing at about the same figure, was described by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as "colossal," while it was considered a matter of grave speculation whether the product of the then existing taxes, stretched almost to breaking-point, would suffice for future needs without increased demands or contracted outlay. The British taxpayer will be lucky when his burden is again reduced below pound 200 millions a year.

NEWS ITEMS

COMMERCIAL AVIATION

The recent announcement of the reduction of duties on aeroplanes imported into India is almost the first indication from Simla that the Indian Government had any intention of ever giving anything to commercial aviation beyond the skeins and skeins of red tape that are at once meshed round anyone who is unfortunate enough to have any dealings with officialdom. This is the first real sign that the Government realise that commercial aeroplanes are actually flying in this country, and it is to be hoped that this initial concession to aviation will be followed by others, the principal of which should be a Government subsidy for aerial mails. Unfortunately, however, the present cost of aeroplanes is high, and the expense of their upkeep still higher, although new inventions are reducing the cost almost daily.

CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST

Mr. J.P. Dass, Second Police Magistrate of Alipore disposed of a case in which one Gisita Chamari, a bearer attached to the Soldiers' Club at Hastings, was charged with criminal breach of trust and misappropriation in respect of a sum of money belonging to Mr. Legg, an officer of the R.E.C. The accused was entrusted with a G.C. note of Rs 50 by Mr. Legg to make purchase from the local chemist's shop. The accused handed over to Mr. Legg a phial of quinine, and the balance only for a G.C. note of Rs 10. On being questioned the accused denied having received a note of Rs 50. The Magistrate on the evidence found the accused guilty and sentenced him to two months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE HUNTER REPORT

On Friday evening a meeting was held at the Excelsior Theatre, under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Association, to protest against the Hunter Report, etc. Sir Narayan Chandravarkar presided. In opening the proceedings Sir Narayan said the resolution before the meeting would ask for the recall of the Viceroy Lord Chelmsford. When the draft resolution was considered, he was one of a small minority who considered the demand for the recall of Lord Chelmsford as inappropriate and opposed it. Now after careful consideration, he came to the conclusion that the situation demanded that Lord Chelmsford should be asked to vacate his high office. His heart sympathised with the Viceroy, but his head would not.

THEFT OF RICE

At the Alipore Criminal Sessions before Mr. P.N. Roy Chowdhry, Additional Sessions Judge, Kudle Fakir, a member of the tribe of Maitala in Mayrahata Police Station was charged with having committed burglary in the Railway godown at Mayrahata Station. It transpired in evidence that the prisoner and some of his associates, taking advantage of the temporary absence of the Railway watchmen, broke open the godown and carried away several bags of rice belonging to Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company. Several witnesses from an adjacent village saw the prisoner and his companions carrying bags and gave chase. The bags were thrown in jute fields and tanks. The majority of the jury found the prisoner guilty. The Judge accepting the verdict of the majority, sentenced the prisoner to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

REZWAN MASUD AND HAIDER KHAN

The protests in the wake of George Floyd's murder by four Minneapolis police officers rightfully reflected waves of anger and activism in the United States and beyond. Then, the atrocious incident occurred on August 23 in Kenosha, Wisconsin - where a white police officer shot Jacob Blake, an unarmed African-American man, seven times in front of his kids - to prove that the heart-breaking assertion of "I can't breathe, officer!" was not just the plea of Floyd to survive. These words also symbolise historical demands of the black people to be treated fairly and equally in the United States.

In fact, these demands for equal rights extend beyond the United States as well. During the Algerian revolution, Franz Fanon referred to this suffocation in his book *Toward the African Revolution*: "We revolt simply because, for a variety of reasons, we can no longer breathe." In the recent protests, there have been widespread calls for systemic and structural changes. Cornel West saw signs of hope in a broad coalition of protests in the recent times. The theme that being black should not itself be a death sentence echoed in different parts of the world.

We have seen that different communities of colour as well as white allies participated spontaneously in protests supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. However, in many other communities of colour, there is a lack of consciousness about the historical and systemic injustice against the black people. The recent incidents of discrimination against black people have pointed out an important but often ignored aspect: the questionable attitude towards black people among other communities of colour.

CROSSWORD



exceptions - they are the latest additions in the list of black people who have been murdered by the state.

Studies have shown that inequality is not colour-blind. Black people are discriminated against in accessing equal opportunities for education, health, and job. Consequently, the Coronavirus has also hit the black people harder in a lot of US states. Data show that on average the mortality rate among black people is 2.4 times higher than with white people in the US.

Speaking of change, one positive aspect of recent times is that young people from other communities of colour are increasingly showing signs of solidarity by taking part in protests for the Black Lives Matter movement in different ways. Young Asian-Americans are calling for change, while some South Asian groups have also taken an active stance in recent times. To make this more sustainable, every conscious individual should make active efforts to bridge any gap with

the black community. Rights that immigrant communities enjoy today are due to the advances made by the civil rights movement spearheaded by black political activists in the sixties. A multiracial, multi-ethnic movement from below can make the progress truly feasible.

There is a lack of consciousness about the history of black people in the current education curriculum in the US. One way to redress the situation is that all schools, colleges and universities should offer courses on the history of racism emphasising the plight of black people. This will help fight anti-blackness in other communities and help remove racial stereotypes. If Germany and South Africa can address their histories of holocaust and apartheid in their education systems, so can the United States to highlight its own records.

Academic departments and educators should make active efforts to incorporate the work of African-American writers while reviewing the

topics of national history, legal and criminal justice system, and policing related studies in their course design. Black people have voices, but often institutions choose not to hear. Christina Sharpe has brilliantly demonstrated in her book *On Blackness and Being* how black people have been denied agency throughout history and how violence against them cannot be detached from the colour of their skin.

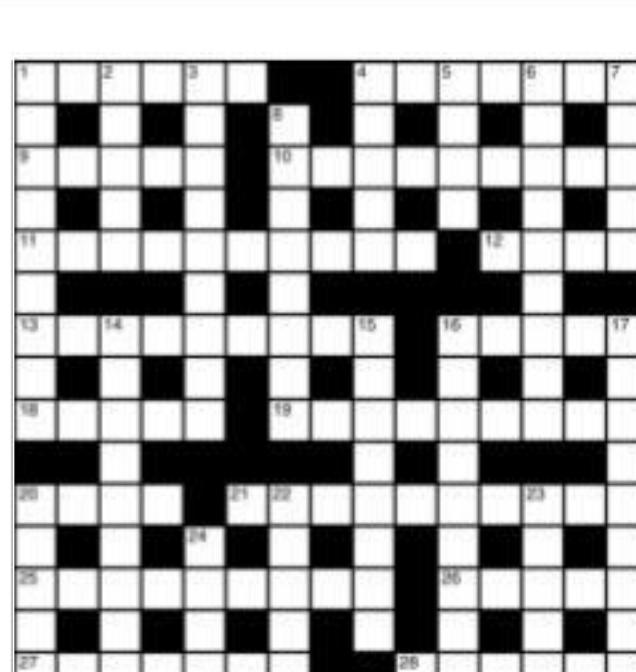
Changing anti-black attitudes within other minority communities can begin with their leaders' organising public awareness campaigns to get rid of the stigma associated with darker skin colour. International students' associations in different campuses can arrange dialogues and organise activities with black students' groups. Different solidarity groups can increase their visible support for black people through real life and social media campaigns.

More deeply, there needs to be honest soul-searching as to why the current national and global structures do not speak for black people. Achille Mbembe argues in his book *Necropolitics* that liberal democracy and racism have actually been compatible in the American context. Neoliberal capitalist policies aggravated the plight of the black people in many ways. Academicians and policymakers should look for ways to redress the structural discrimination against the black communities.

These suggestions are not exhaustive, but they can be a stepping-stone for building broader coalitions of solidarity to address racism in the United States and elsewhere. No nation can progress by putting its minorities in the back seat. Other communities of colour, while fighting their own battles, need to address these biases and build solidarity with all oppressed groups.

The Daily Star/ANN.

NO 28063



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Time of year to secure time in office? Not quite (6)
- 4 Trip negotiated corners, avoiding borders, in great pleasure? (7)
- 9 Row about good contender taking things seriously? (5)
- 10 Lusty librarian getting laid possibly, keeping at home (9)
- 11 Instrument picked up on the radio - unknown chap hogging most odd bits of radio (5,5)
- 12 Talkative bird belonging to the writer recalled article (4)
- 13 Not trendy? Trendy? Just tell me! (3,4,2)
- 16 Line in meals, perhaps,

- 18 Offering excessive supply (5)
- 19 Challenged about blocking father (5)
- 20 Face heading off frantic debate? (9)
- 21 Staff comment on website? (4)
- 22 What China offers last boat after end of week at work (10)
- 25 Daughter close to tears initially after sentimental stuff in farewell (9)
- 26 Composer contributing to squall revue after reflection? (5)
- 27 Engineers a little taken aback about company soldier, as before (7)
- 28 Disney film sees Australian following river into morass (6)

DOWN

- 1 Promise to support development of what will enshrine Conservative slogan (9)
- 2 Germany supporting uprising in African country (5)
- 3 One's first in library, possibly securing edition? On the contrary (5,4)
- 4 I will need place to rest after Judge scoffed (5)
- 5 Characters participating in round of Open (4)
- 6 Child-minder to attack farm animal (5,4)
- 7 Conference venue at place that's elevated (5)
- 8 Nothing in promotional material he had turned up (8)
- 14 Beat no longer, reaching edge of consciousness (9)
- 15 Attempt to grab a waistcoat in America? It's a farce (8)
- 16 Daring swimmer, note, circling water plant (4,5)
- 17 Trick Duke: Queen not attending formal function (9)
- 20 Prince about to get on alert system? (5)
- 22 Just clever to abandon Britain (5)
- 23 A measure of the frequency injuries featured on the radio (5)
- 24 Almost due to get data (4)

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



IBM labs in India are playing a key role in developing innovative solutions for cloud technology

SANDIP PATEL

IBM INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

THUMBNAILS

Anmi plea: Stock brokers' association Anmi on Thursday urged Sebi to waive the penalty for short margining in all the segments till 15 September as systems are not fully geared for the new mechanism on "pledge and repledge". The new mechanism on "pledge and repledge" came into force from 1 September. Under the new framework, stock brokers will have to collect margins from investors upfront for any purchase or sale of shares and failure to do so will attract penalty.

Realme smartphone: Smartphone maker Realme on Thursday launched its much-anticipated 7 series smartphones "realme 7" and "realme 7 Pro". It features leading-edge cameras and fastest charging technology in the price segment, the company said. Realme also launched its all-new range of personal category products such as realme M1 sonic electric toothbrush, adventurer luggage and tote bag, according to a company statement.

Honda India Power products: Honda India Power Products Limited (HIPP), a leading manufacturer of power products in India, unveiled its new 1.3hp 4 stroke backpack brush cutter, model: UMR435T across different regions in India. HIPP has been the market leader in brush cutter category offering a wide range of models ranging from 1hp for light usage and up to 2hp for heavy duty usage, says a Press release.

South Indian Bank MD: Private sector lender South Indian Bank on Thursday said the RBI has approved appointment of Murali Ramakrishnan as its MD and CEO with effect from 1 October.

SAIL sales up: SAIL on Thursday said its total sales jumped by 35 per cent to 14.34 lakh tons of steel in August 2020. Its sales stood at 10.60 LT in August 2019.

Services sector shrinks for sixth successive month

Covid-19 restrictions continue to adversely impact client demand and business operations: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The downturn in India's services sector activity eased significantly in August but remained in the contraction zone as Covid-19 pandemic-induced restrictions continued to adversely impact client demand and business operations, a monthly survey said today.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose sharply from 34.2 in July to 41.8 in August, the highest since March, before the escalation of the pandemic.

► The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose sharply from 34.2 in July to 41.8 in August, the highest since March, before the escalation of the pandemic.

► However, the Indian services sector activity contracted for the sixth successive month in August. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

► August highlights another month of challenging operating conditions in the Indian services sector. Sustained periods of closure and ongoing lockdown restrictions in both domestic and foreign markets have

Market India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

► "August highlights another month of challenging operating conditions in the Indian services sector. Sustained periods of closure and ongoing lockdown restrictions in both domestic and foreign markets have

ing lockdown restrictions in both domestic and foreign markets have weighed heavily on the health of the industry," said Shreeya Patel, economist at IHS Markit.

New business and output continued to contract at marked rates, albeit slower than the records seen in April and May, the survey said, adding that restrictions also contributed to a record increase in outstanding business.

"Output and new work continue to fall at solid rates, while restrictions meant that firms were often unable to complete projects. Backlogs of work accumulated to the greatest extent in almost 15 years of data collection," Patel said.

On the employment front, reduced business activity saw the Indian service sector operating below capacity. As a result, firms reported job shedding for the sixth consecutive month.

On the price front, sustained revenue losses through the second quarter and increasing cost burdens led companies to raise charges for the first time since March.

Looking ahead, sentiment was neutral in August. Two-thirds of the panelists expected output in the year ahead to remain unchanged on current levels.

"That said, the survey

showed signs of a potential recovery. Business sentiment was neutral after being negative in the previous three months and employment fell at the softest pace since March," Patel said.

Meanwhile, the Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, rose from 37.2 in July to 46 in August, and remained below the neutral 50 level, thereby signaling a fifth consecutive decline in private sector business activity.

In a related development, the stock market turned negative after the latest IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) contracted for the sixth successive month in August.

Despite opening on a positive note, BSE benchmark Sensex closed 95.09 points or 0.24 per cent lower at 38,990.94 points.

Similarly, National Stock Exchange benchmark the Nifty closed 7.55 points or 0.07 percent down at 11,527.45 points.

Goyal tells start-ups to list issues related to ESOPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal today asked the start-up community to come up with a holistic paper on issues related to ESOPs (employee stock option plans) so that it can be flagged to the finance ministry.

He said that maybe in October or November, the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) will engage with start-ups on the matter.

Some steps were announced earlier related to easing of tax payments for start-ups but subsequently, some issues were brought to the notice, he said.

"Let's once again try when the Budget comes next year.

"Come up with a holistic paper, and we will push it around in the Budget to sort these issues about making it an easier regime particularly the difference between listed and unlisted," the minister said in a CII event on the "Launch of India's Future Business Group".

He was replying to a question about the need for a world-class ESOP regime for start-ups. Goyal also sought suggestions about the "overhang in the tax system and the tax authorities of the hawala-type transactions that used to happen in the past".

"We will have to find a way to ensure that it does not raise its head in the garb of start-up or any of these systems," he added.

Goyal also called upon

the senior business leaders to become mentors, not only to their own family or businesses but also to the new-age and young entrepreneurs.

He said: "I would appeal to them to allocate quality time, committed time for this. It will really encourage the youngsters... Imagine Mukesh Ambani going to Gorakhpur and meeting youngsters there, imagine Uday Kotak going to Tiruchirappalli and meeting youngsters there... it can be inspirational".

On funding issues, he said adequate capital is an issue and the government has its own limitations."

Speaking about the innovation in railways, Goyal said Indian railways are making better LHB (linke hofmann busch) coaches.

Route Mobile's ₹600-cr IPO to open next week

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Route Mobile, a cloud communications service provider, will launch its initial public offering next week to raise an estimated Rs 600 crore, merchant banking sources said today.

The public offer comprises a fresh issue worth Rs 240 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 360 crore by promoters - YSandipkumar Gupta and Rajdipkumar Gupta, as per the draft red herring prospectus. Additionally, a pre-IPO placement aggregating up to Rs 100 crore may be considered in consultation with the book running lead managers (BRLMs) which will reduce the size of the offer, retrospectively, the draft papers noted.

The company had received approval from Sebi in December 2019 to float the IPO.

She also called for a sustained media campaign to cre-

Roll out loan recast scheme by 15 Sep: FM to banks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today directed banks to roll out resolution schemes for Covid-related stress by 15 September.

In a video conferencing with the heads of scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), the minister focused on lenders immediately putting in place board-approved policy for resolution, identifying eligible borrowers and reaching out to them.

"Quick implementation of a sustained resolution plan by lenders for revival of every viable business," reads the statement issued by the finance ministry.

The finance minister also reviewed the progress made

Private banks likely to gain market share from state-run peers: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

asset quality problems. It said private banks increased their market shares by 14.4 pp (percentage points) and 18.5 pp by assets and loans, respectively, at the expense of state-owned counterparts during this time.

Most of the gains occurred in the five years preceding the coronavirus pandemic as state-run banks were hamstrung by ballooning impaired loans, larger losses and weaker capitalisation.

Fitch said the government-led merger of state-owned banks helped them to consolidate their market positions in the last few years, but the state-owned banks' market share will continue to erode if they do not raise adequate capital to absorb future stress and support growth.

It said some Indian banks have raised capital after the Reserve Bank of India implored them to raise fresh equity. However, the capital raising has been limited thus far to private banks, which collectively raised \$6.3 billion in the past three months.

List revised, 38 coal blocks to be offered for commercial mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The coal ministry today said it has revised the list of mines to be auctioned for commercial mining and now 38 blocks would go under the hammer instead of 41 mines announced earlier.

The revision in the list includes addition of three blocks Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpalam-Tangarhat (in Chhattisgarh) and withdrawal of five blocks - Moga South, Fatehpur, Madanpur (North), Moga-II and Sayang (in Chhattisgarh).

The coal ministry had earlier withdrawn Bander mine in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra from the list of 41 coal blocks put up for auction for commercial mining as the mine lies in the eco-sensitive zone of Tadoba Andhari

Forest Reserve.

Revisions have been made in the list of coal mines offered for auction... Accordingly, 38 coal mines are offered for auction for commercial mining under 11th tranche of auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 1st Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957," the coal ministry said in a statement.

However, no reason was provided by the ministry for the revision of the list.

The ministry said that there has been "addition of Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpalam-Tangarhat Coal Mines to the 1st tranche of auction under the CM(SP) Act, 2015 and first tranche of Auction under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Rupee tumbles 44 paise vs US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The rupee slumped 44 paise to close at 73.47 against the US dollar today as rise in demand for the American currency from oil importers weighed on forex market sentiment.

Besides, stronger greenback against its key rival currencies and subdued domestic equities exerted pressure on the domestic unit.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.23, lost further ground during the session and finally settled for the day at 73.47 against the greenback, registering a fall of 44 paise over its last close.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 73.23 and a low of 73.48 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the

EQUITY INDICES FALL

► Benchmark equity indices closed lower in a volatile trade on Thursday, dragged by losses mainly in banking counters as overall weak macroeconomic scenario weighed on investor sentiment.

► The BSE Sensex ended

95.09 points or 0.24 per cent lower at 38,990.94; and the NSE Nifty closed 7.55 points or 0.07 percent down at 11,527.45 points.

greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 93.01.

"Rupee ended lower on Thursday tracking a strong greenback amid oil importers' dollar demand. A strong dollar index pushed USD/INR spot pair higher today," Jateen Trivedi, senior research analyst (commodity & currency) at LKP Securities, said.

The greenback rose against major peers after investors trimmed bets against the greenback and sold the euro on concerns that the Euro-

pean Central Bank was worried about its rise, he added.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.06 percent to \$43.96 per barrel.

Traders said markets will be eyeing weekly US jobless claims for further cues.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee in line with other Asian currencies traded lower following recovery in dollar against major currencies.

This was the second consecutive day of decline for the

rupee, during which it has depreciated by 60 paise.

Meanwhile, benchmark equity indices closed lower in a volatile trade today, dragged by losses mainly in banking counters as overall weak macroeconomic scenario weighed on investor sentiment.

The BSE Sensex ended 95.09 points or 0.24 per cent lower at 38,990.94; and the NSE Nifty closed 7.55 points or 0.07 percent down at 11,527.45 points.

On the Sensex chart, ICICI Bank was the top loser, shedding around 2 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Kotak Bank and PowerGrid.

On the other hand, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, Maruti, Sun Pharma and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

Sectorally, BSE bankex, finance, metal, energy, realty and utilities indices fell up to 1.51 per cent.

IL&FS to file bankruptcy for two of its offshore firms

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Debt-ridden IL&FS has proposed to initiate bankruptcy proceedings for two of its offshore firms - ITNL Infrastructure Developers LLC (IIDL) and ITNL International DMCC (IIDMCC) ~ in the courts of the UAE.

IL&FS had requested the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to take on record its proposal to initiate the bankruptcy proceedings before the Dubai Courts under UAE Federal Decree. The tribunal consented with the decision of the newly constituted board of the IL&FS and observed that the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings was the best option for the two firms.

"After hearing both the sides and perusal of records, this Bench is of the view that the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings is the best option in the given scenario. The same is recorded as prayed for. In the circumstances, the proposal of the applicant for initiation of insolvency proceedings of IIDMCC is taken on record," the NCLT said. The tribunal also observed that the regional director (WR), MCA, Mumbai representing the government has also no objection.

"There is no objection from the petitioner (MCA) for the proposal of the applicant," it said. Justice D K Jain, who is supervising the assets, has already accorded his approval for initiation of bankruptcy proceedings for both - IIDMCC and IIDL ~ in May this year.

Under the roadmap for IL&FS, the offshore entities have been exempted from the resolution framework by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal through its order on 11 February 2019.

Essential goods to fuel retail industry growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

Essential goods will fuel the Indian retail industry's growth in the coming quarters amid the coronavirus-induced slowdown, with consumer expenditure continuing to remain focused on these items, particularly food and grocery, according to a report.

As per "Indian Retail - Certainty Despite Headwinds", a joint study by the Retailers Association of India (RAI) and real estate services firm Anarock, the average bill value for essential goods has gone up 1.5 times after lifting of lockdown to Rs 900 per basket at present from Rs 650 per basket in early-March.

Categories such as food and

grocery, followed by apparel, fast-moving consumer durable and electronics, furniture

► The average bill value for essential goods has gone up 1.5 times after lifting of lockdown to Rs 900 per basket at present from Rs 650 per basket in early-March

► Categories such as food and grocery, followed by apparel, fast-moving consumer durable and electronics, furniture

and home furnishings and quick-service restaurant will see a V-shaped recovery in the next 2-3 quarters

► Other segments like beauty, wellness and personal care and home essentials may take 4-6 quarters to recover fully.

Kumar Rajagopalan said: "Omni-channel was gaining importance before the pandemic. The pandemic has enhanced the importance of retailers having an omnichannel strategy since con-

cepts of digital browsing, click and collect, curbside delivery, and video shopping have gained importance.



If you lift the embargo on (Greek Cypriot-administered Cyprus) this will bring conflict, not peace. This will create a deadlock not a solution

TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER HULUSI AKAR

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2020

UK public tribunal to probe Uighur genocide claims

China has long suspected the Uighurs, who are mostly Muslim, of harbouring separatist tendencies because of their distinct culture, language and religion

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 3 SEPTEMBER

A prominent British human rights lawyer is convening an independent tribunal in London to investigate whether the Chinese government's alleged rights abuses against Uighur Muslims in the far western Xinjiang region constitute genocide or crimes against humanity.

The tribunal is expected to reveal new evidence and testimony over several days' hearings next year. While the tribunal does not have government backing, it is the latest attempt to hold China accountable for its treatment of the Uighurs and ethnic

Turkic minorities, who have been subject to an unprecedented crackdown since 2017.

Barrister Geoffrey Nice, who previously led the prosecution of ex-Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic over the Balkans war and worked with the International Criminal Court, was asked by the World Uighur Congress to investigate ongoing atrocities and possible genocide against the Uighur.

Allegations against China about potential genocide are questions that should be asked and answered but such claims have never been legally scrutinized in public, Nice told The Associated Press.

Organisers are in the initial stages of gathering evi-

dence, and expect to receive a substantial number of submissions from Uighurs exiled abroad over the next few months. New evidence that may emerge includes testimony from several former security guards who were involved in the Xinjiang detention camps. At the moment, the strongest evidence would appear to be evidence of incarceration and possibly evidence of enforced sterilization, Nice said.

A recent investigation by the AP found that the Chinese government is systematically forcing birth control on Uighurs and other Muslims in an apparent effort to reduce their population.

The report found that



authorities regularly subject minority women to pregnancy checks and force intrauterine devices, sterilisation and abortion on hundreds of thousands. While scores have been thrown in detention camps for alleged religious extremism, many others were sent to the camps simply for having too

many children. Such enforced sterilization practices could breach the Genocide Convention, Nice said.

The Chinese Embassy in London did not respond to emailed requests for comment. Chinese officials have repeatedly denied allegations of rights abuses in Xin-

jiang as fabricated, and insist that all ethnicities are treated equally. China has long suspected the Uighurs, who are mostly Muslim, of harbouring separatist tendencies because of their distinct culture, language and religion. In a lengthy press conference in August, the Chinese ambassador to the U.K. played graphic videos of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang to show that the Chinese government's measures there are necessary and important.

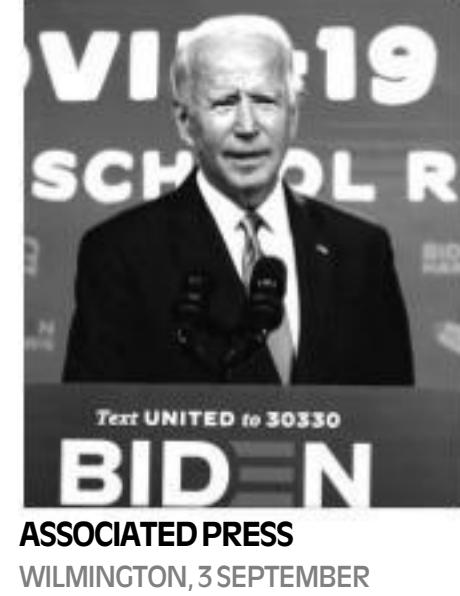
Ambassador Liu Xiaoming also called allegations about rights abuses in Xinjiang made in Western media lies of the century," and denied that nearly 1 million Uighurs have been detained. The London tri-

bunal's judgement is not binding on any government. However, Nice said the process will nonetheless be one way to address the lack of action in tackling the alleged abuses by filling the gap with reliable information. There is no other way of bringing the leadership of the Communist Party collectively or individually to judgement, Nice said.

In July, lawyers representing exiled Uighur activists filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court against China, asking the court in The Hague, Netherlands, to investigate the forced repatriation of thousands of Uighurs from Cambodia and Tajikistan and alleged genocide in Xinjiang. Organisers expect to hold two public hearings in London next year. The tribunal will comprise of at least seven members who will act as jury.

They include British property businessman Nicholas Vetch, one of the organizers. A verdict is expected by the end of 2021.

In Kenosha, Biden to test his promise to unify the nation



ASSOCIATED PRESS
WILMINGTON, 3 SEPTEMBER

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

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

This is about making sure that we move forward, Biden told reporters Wednesday. He added that he's not going to tell Kenosha what they have to do but instead encourage a community talk about what has to be done. Falling exactly two months before Election Day, the trip presents Biden both opportunity and risks as he tests his promise, made again and again for 16 months,

that he can unify the country and find consensus even where it's not readily apparent. The approach always has been an intentional contrast with Trump, a president who thrives on conflict. But the distinction has sharpened over a summer of nationwide protests most peaceful, but some of them, as in Kenosha, turned violent and destructive.

Biden is a white man propelled to the Democratic nomination by Black voters. Since the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by a white Minneapolis police officer, Biden has called for an overhaul of US policing and embraced a national conversation on racism. The significance of the moment was a factor in Biden selecting California Sen. Kamala Harris as the first Black woman to join a major party presidential ticket.

Trump, meanwhile, has countered with sweeping condemnations of protesters, an absolute defense of law enforcement and denials that Americans with black and brown skin face barriers that whites do not moves aimed at his overwhelmingly white political base.

The president continued his law and order mantra during his

Kenosha trip Tuesday.

He toured damaged buildings and discussed ways to quell unrest with law enforcement officials. Trump was greeted by supporters who occasionally mixed with and yelled at Black Lives Matter organisers. These are not acts of peaceful protest but, really, domestic terror, Trump said. Despite repeated questions from reporters, the president refused to address racism in the country or its police departments.

Independent body to probe WHO's pandemic response
ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, 3 SEPTEMBER
LONDON, 3 SEPTEMBER

An independent panel appointed by the World Health Organization to review its coordination of the response to the Covid pandemic will have full access to any internal U.N. agency documents, materials and emails necessary, the panel said it begins the probe.

The panel's co-chairs, former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, announced the 11 other members during a media briefing. They include Dr. Joanne Liu, who was an outspoken WHO critic while leading Médecins Sans Frontières during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

RELIGIOUS FERVOUR

People throw stones during clashes with the police after authorities tried to halt the annual Buddhist chariot procession of Rato Machindranath amid Covid restrictions in Lalitpur, Kathmandu on Thursday.
AFP

Wednesday that tests showed proof without doubt" that he had been poisoned with a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insisted Thursday that Russian authorities still had not received any evidence from Germany to back up their allegation.

Russia: Germany has provided no proof of Navalny poisoning

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 3 SEPTEMBER

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman brushed off allegations Thursday that the Kremlin was involved in poisoning Putin's most determined critic, accusing Germany of not providing Moscow with any evidence about the condition of Russian dissident Alexei Navalny.

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk. He has been in an induced coma for more than a week in a Berlin hospital after being flown from Siberia to Germany for treatment more than a week ago.

German authorities said

what our German colleagues found and established.

Following his stay in Omsk, Navalny was moved two days later to Berlin's Charité hospital after German Chancellor Angela Merkel personally offered the country's assistance in treating him.

Germany's Justice Ministry has confirmed they have received Russia's request for information, but would not provide details on the response. Leonid Volkov, Navalny's long-time ally and campaign strategist, told the German RTL broadcaster that an independent investigation in Russia is unlikely and put the blame in the Kremlin. An attack of such level and of such coordination couldn't be authorized by Mr. Putin, Volkov said.

Female poverty rate in South Asia to rise: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, 3 SEPTEMBER

The female poverty rate in South Asia will increase in 2021 due to the pandemic and more women than men in the 25-34 age group will be poorer in the next decade, according to new data released by the UN.

The UN Women and the UN Development Programme said that the pandemic will disproportionately affect women and push 47 million more women and girls into extreme poverty by 2021, reversing decades of progress to lift this demographic above the poverty line.

The report, 'From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the wake of Covid', said that the gender poverty gap will worsen further still in South Asia. Central and Southern



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

The expected rise of poverty in South Asia as a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic showcases the vulnerability of women and girls living in households that have

now put that figure at 18.6 per cent, the report said.

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

While sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will be the most impacted, significantly more women than men in South Asia will be affected.

In the 25-34 age group, there will be 118 poor women for every 100 poor men in South Asia, and that ratio will increase to 129 women for every 100 men by 2030.

Non-bailable arrest warrant issued against Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE, 3 SEPTEMBER

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

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

Last month, the accountability court had issued a bailable arrest warrant and served summons at all known addresses of the three-time prime minister, who is currently in London for medical treatment.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

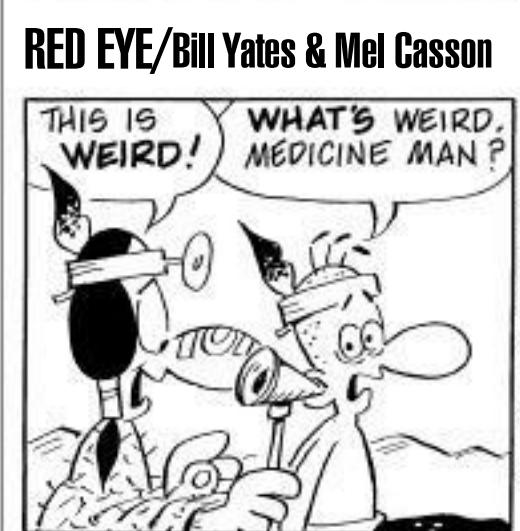
ACROSS	DOWN
1 Rear (4)	1 Period of prosperity (7)
3 Bumpkin (Informal) (4)	2 Large strong horse (7)
5 Couch (4)	3 Shade (3)
8 Model (8)	4 Castrated fowl (5)
9 Drive (Informal) (3-2-3-2)	5 Spell of hot weather (4,4)
12 Himalayan mountain (6)	6 Sluggish (7)
13 Serviette (6)	10 Wind instrument (6,4)
15 Divorce document (6)	11 Swift feline (7)
18 Explosive charge in the ground (4,4)	14 Ordinary soldier (7)
20 A long way off (4)	16 Cowboy show (5)
21 Pig meat (4)	17 Actors in a play (4)
22 Matted fabric (4)	19 Irritate (3)

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

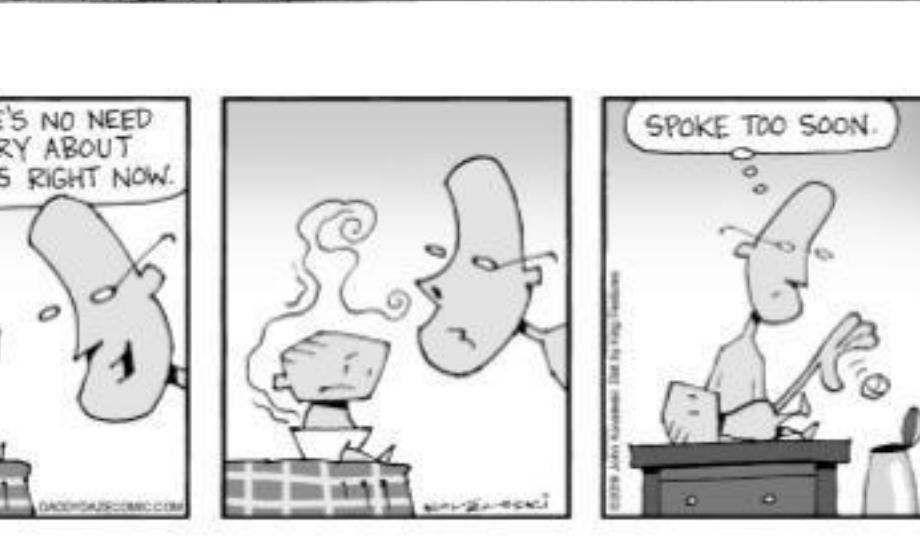
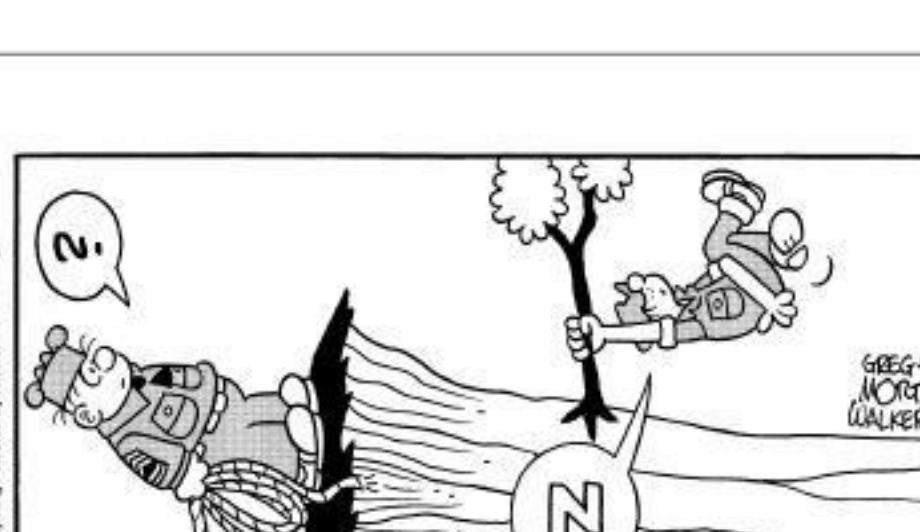
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar 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, 23253230

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

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

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I 23860626

• Rajasthan Roadways 25671576, 18001803838

• JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 38441111

• EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 3373377

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 09910383838

• AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 21568470

• AIR FRANCE Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

• QATAR AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• SINGAPORE AIRLINES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• THAI AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• QANTAS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• ANA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• LUFTHANSA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

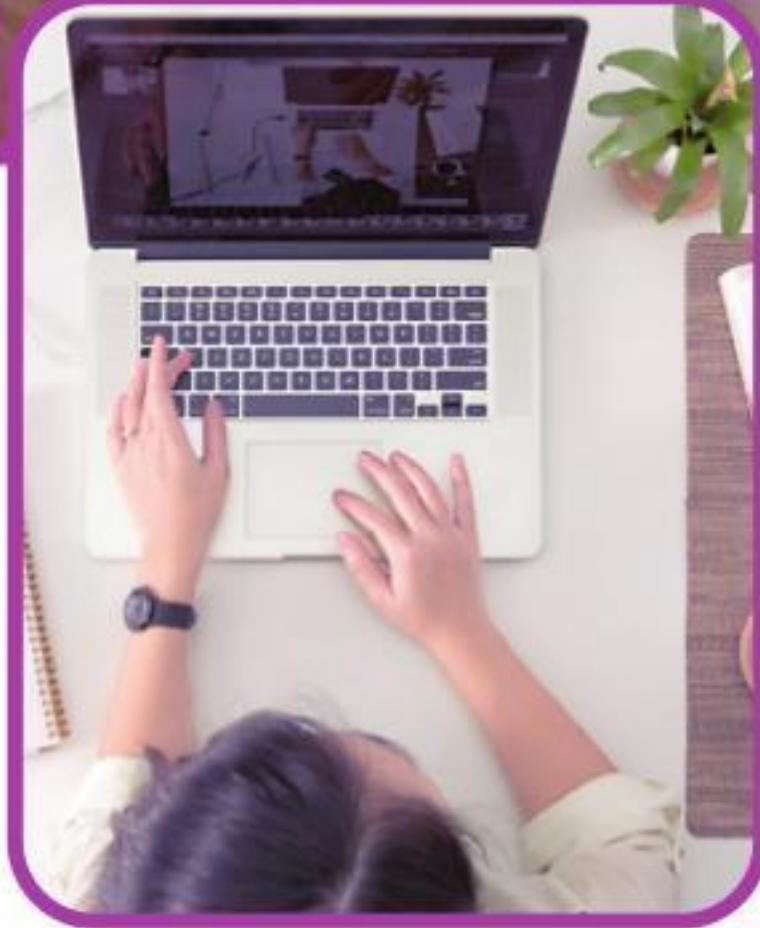
• SWISS FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION 23466262 (City)

• AIR FRANCE FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION 23466262 (City)

• AIR CANADA FLIGHT INQUIRY AND RESERVATION 23466262 (City)

A new beginning

With this ongoing global crisis, students to working professionals to independent influencers, everybody has got used to the new digital normal



NITESH JAIN

One of the biggest impacts of the current global crisis, apart from socio-economic turbulence, is the growing dependence on the Internet. From students to working professionals to independent influencers, everybody has got used to the new digital normal.

The continued lockdown phases, followed by strict quarantine rules, made people discover new ways of entertainment. They found joy in sitting back at home and binge-watching their favourite sitcoms, connecting with their friends and relatives via video calls, and cook together making the most out of their quarantined lifestyle, thus, making the digital platforms a mainstream during the most difficult times.

experience for better adaptability and retention of focus.

Online learning

These are trying times for humanity. The students are battling to adapt to this new adjustment in their schedule, not meet their companions in person and study in an open environment of school or university, as they typically would. The educators, therefore, must acquaint themselves with the new ways of teaching that they have never experienced themselves, while the parents must balance their child's education and their occupation in parallel. Although many individuals were reluctant initially about this alternative, increasingly it is felt that web-based learning can be of a great advantage if adapted in the correct way. The educators as well as parents

The increasing hazards of the global pandemic have put teachers and EdTech entrepreneurs in a situation where the digital medium of delivery and consumption is the new normal. But at the same time, there is a concern surrounding the health of younger children if put in an enclosed environment, so it is imperative to create solutions to make them comfortable with digital education and virtual learning

and virtual learning experience for better adaptability and retention of focus.

must figure out how to find harmony while giving online education to the kids and improve their understanding.

In an average classroom, which has about 40 students, it is hard for kids who are introvert to lift their hands and ask questions. Online classes can provide privacy, where they may not be so terrified of conversing with the teacher from behind the screen. This assists them with better performance and urges them to be more involved in the web classroom exercises. The manners in which students can be educated online are boundless. They can learn so much more when teachers utilise virtual devices like PowerPoint presentations/recording, videos, and animations to explain a concept. AI-based tools are providing options of adaptive learning or even keeping personalized tracks, making data available to a teacher to keep a better track that one can do in a physical class.

However, the enhanced screen time of the students has upset a great deal of parents. Youngsters invest much more energy in front of the screen in not just everyday classes but for downloading notes, doing homework, and extra research. Apart from academics, their involvement in extracurricular exercises has pushed them to spend more time online due to the digital influx recently. Web-based learning has likewise decreased the personal interaction between students and teachers, thus limiting the communication and personal feeling of the environment.

Finding the middle ground

Today, when children are surrounded by digitisation 24x7, it has become important to engage them with the 4Cs of the advanced world, namely communication; critical reasoning; collaboration; and creative thinking.

Communication can be grown significantly utilising the online platform. Remote correspondence across the globe causes students to acknowledge various societies, cultures, and ways of living. Critical reasoning includes the capacity to prepare arguments and evidence. The huge number of online platforms accessible today assists students in creating answers for questions that require higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

It also helps in developing alternate points of view that they can debate about with their peers. Online group exercises sorted out by a teacher can help in building team spirit among children. They also learn life-skills such as leadership, motivation, and empathy as they communicate with their virtual partners. Because of the internet, students can improve their creative thinking abilities by enrolling in youth-engaging programs like Mobile App Designing and Development, Podcasting and Robotics, to name a few.

At the same time educators need to provide alternatives to the youth to be able to learn or be engaged with options that remained unexplored till now. More involvement in policy work, sports or similar options can help create a funnel for a better prepared youth that will be ready to take on the global great challenges.

The writer is founder and CEO, Besingular

PLUS POINTS

Dynamic platform



A complete virtual classroom – *classroom.live* that allows teachers and students to connect from the comfort of their homes launched *classroom.live Z+* as an integration with Zoom recently.

With the ongoing pandemic, the need for video conferencing is becoming normal but quite challenging for educators and students. Most schools have switched to Zoom as a tool for having online classes. However, other similar video conferencing solutions are designed for corporate and are a great business application. This is where, *classroom.live* steps in. It turns Zoom into a robust virtual classroom and complete education delivery platform.

The newly launched service prepares teaching material; hosts secure live sessions records automatic attendance; conducts online assignments. Tailored to the requirement of students and teachers, the software has added important features that synchronise with the demands of educators and students in real-time.

Solving problems



IIT Alumni Council signed MoU with Lomonosov Moscow State University and Russo to access and transfer key technologies from Russia to build the largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India recently. Quantum computing makes existing supercomputers obsolete and could be several million times more powerful than the largest supercomputer in India. This computing capability allows real world events to be emulated in the virtual world just like architects can now see a proposed building on screen in photo-like quality before actually constructing it. Quantum computer will be used for simulations in the areas of healthcare, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, weather forecast, transport and logistics, and many others to solve key social challenges faster and at lower cost.

Easy learning



During the pandemic, tuition teachers and local coaching centres faced a lot of difficulty. To help them out Delhi based Classplus, a company providing technology solutions to teachers and coaching centers came forth.

Over the past few months, Classplus has empowered more than 20,000 teachers to reach out to more than 30 lakh students in 100+ cities across the country. More than 60 per cent of these users came from tier 2 and 3 cities. Teachers are saved from the trouble of using multiple platforms and spend time on learning technology. The platform is simple to use and does not require any technology skills, making it a quick and seamless experience for teachers to come online and ensure the learning experience of their students.

Changing era



Confederation of Indian Industry organised the third edition of "Internet of Things (IoT) Summit" over virtual platform recently. At the event, Dr Jitendra K Das, director, FORE School of Management, New Delhi spoke about the hyper-connected world as the new normal. He said that our lives would no longer be the same as IoT enabled tech products are going to be cheaper.

According to him, the pace of change would be very fast over the next few years. One needs to be aware and be prepared as many tech solutions would allow production systems to accelerate machine learning initiatives without undertaking the cost of building out new development frameworks.

NIKHIL BARSHIKAR

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Considering the growth of Robotic Process Automation implementation on a global scale, a job in this sector is quite lucrative

IN GREAT DEMAND



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The writer is founder and managing director, Imarticus Learning



THE TURNAROUND

All-rounder Moeen Ali (in photo, left) attributed his recent slump to external criticism, which he said he had resolved to ignore from now on after a spectacular return to form in the final Twenty20 International against Pakistan. His 61 of 33 balls helped England recover.

THUMBNAILS

Fast forward: Kolkata Knight Riders' players are adapting quickly to the conditions in Abu Dhabi ahead of the Indian Premier League starting on 19 September, assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said on Wednesday, specifying a switch to evening practice sessions.

Dismissal debate: Ricky Ponting opposes backing up too far too but, uncomfortable with Mankad dismissals, advocates a penalty of runs being deducted. Ravichandran Ashwin has said about the duo's disagreement on the subject, one of cricket's old controversies.

Khan's tip: Pakistan batting coach Younis Khan has said that Babar Azam needs to stamp his authority on the white-ball teams. The former Pakistan captain says that the young captain needs to block out the noise of those around him and pick his own path.

Langer confident: Justin Langer has admitted recently resurgent England are a "dangerous" proposition under Eoin Morgan but the Australia head coach is optimistic his side are ready to rise to the challenge when their limited-overs tour starts this week.

Two sides: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos said he wanted to see Lionel Messi stay at the Nou Camp, if only because of the joy he got from defeating him, but Toni Kroos said he would be happy to see the Argentine leave as it would make his team's job easier.

Bale's wish: Gareth Bale will consider a return to the Premier League if his current club Real Madrid allow him to end his stint in Spain, the Wales international has said. He was on the verge of leaving for Chinese club Jiangsu Suning last year before the deal fell through.

Equal pay: Members of the Brazil women's football team will be paid the same as their male counterparts, the South American country's football federation said on Wednesday. "Prize money and allowances have been equalised," it was announced officially.

New season: Juventus will launch their bid for a 10th successive Serie A title at home against Claudio Ranieri's Sampdoria on the weekend of September 19-20. Juve will be the sole Italian club involved in the Champions League to play in the opening round.

Positive tests: Neymar was one of three Paris Saint-Germain stars to have contracted the coronavirus, a source said on Wednesday after the Champions League runners-up had announced several positive tests. The trio is to go by the appropriate health protocol.

IPL schedule to be released on today, says Ganguly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

The much awaited Indian Premier League (IPL) match scheduled would be released on Friday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly (in photo) said on Thursday.

"We understand schedules are delayed. It is almost on the verge of getting final and should be released by Friday," Ganguly was quoted as saying by a TV channel.

It is likely that the opening game would be between champions Mumbai Indians and runners-up Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on September 19.

On Wednesday, BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal had told IANS that the lucrative league would begin as scheduled. Doubts about the 13th edition had arisen after 13 members of the Chennai Super

Olympic organisers to cancel welcome event, scale back perks

THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN/ANN

TOKYO, 3 SEPTEMBER

to

The organizing committee of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics is considering cancelling a ceremony to welcome officials of the International Olympic Committee and others next summer, sources have said. The organizing committee is also considering scaling back perks at hotels and competition venues, according to the sources. The move has been prompted by the IOC's decision

to also cut costs for the Games, which have been delayed for one year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Discussions are underway ahead of a meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission to be held later this month at which items for simplification will be decided.

The organizing committee wants to cancel the ceremony to open the IOC general assembly, which is scheduled to be held in Tokyo just before the start of the Olympics. The committee was to shoulder the cost of the

ceremony, at which programmes featuring traditional Japanese culture and arts to welcome IOC members and their family members had been planned. The IOC general assembly, which usually takes place once a year, is the highest unit of the committee. Attended by all 104 IOC members, the assembly is responsible for choosing the host city and electing the president and members. It is usually held in Olympic host cities

in the year of a Winter or Summer Games. The general assembly

before the 1964 Tokyo Games was held in Chiyoda Ward. Nearly 1,400 people, including IOC and Japanese government officials, were invited to the ceremony, which was opened by Emperor Showa and featured traditional Imperial court music and a performance by a world-renowned pianist.

Ahead of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games in South Korea, President Moon Jae-in spoke to about 900 guests at the ceremony and, reflecting

the reconciliatory mood between South and North Korea at that time, emphasised that the event was a Peace Olympics. Costing about 400 million won (\$36 million), the event featured a buffet and a performance by a K-Pop group. The ceremony would be a good opportunity to promote Japan to the world and draw attention to the Games. However, because of the postponement, the organizing committee wants to simplify the event, an idea that has been approved by the IOC. The organ-

ising committee, which has already proposed the cancellation of the ceremony to the IOC, estimates that cancelling the event would save about \$100 million including venue costs.

The general assembly is expected to be held. The organizing committee is considering cutting the number of IOC and sports federation officials among others, whose airfare and accommodation costs are paid for by the IOC and others. A reduction in the number of officials would reduce costs for security and

transportation between hotels and venues. At past Games, hotel accommodations for IOC members and others were equipped with cable TV so officials could watch all events in their rooms. However, the organizing committee wants to scrap the service as it would cost tens of millions of yen to install. The committee is also considering more frugal arrangements for the decorations in rest areas and refreshments provided for IOC members and guests at competition venues.

Pliskova crashes out

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, 3 SEPTEMBER

Czech top seed Karolina Pliskova crashed out of the US Open in the second round while Japan's Naomi Osaka and Pliskova's compatriot Petra Kvitova advanced. The 2016 runner up fell to France's Caroline Garcia 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) in a match that lasted one hour and 33 minutes.

Garcia (in photo), ranked 50 on the WTA standings, will next face 28th seed Jennifer Brady, who beat CiCi Bellis 6-1, 6-2 in just 51 minutes. Against Pliskova, she produced 30 winners and just 17 unforced errors with the latter cutting a frustrated figure throughout the match and in the media interactions afterwards on Wednesday.

In the second set I had a set point. That was definitely one ball I could make. I had a second serve on my forehand," world no.3 Pliskova said.

"Maybe I should just play rally. I tried to go for it. It was a little bit windy on the court. I think she played an amazing set and a half. Of course, I got my chances later in the second set. I didn't play good, so that's it."

Meanwhile, 2018 champion and fourth seed Osaka made light work of Italy's Camila Giorgi, winning her second round fixture 6-1, 6-2. Giorgi made 24 unforced errors during the match. Kvitova



Pliskova, a former world number one, had no answer to Garcia's power and precision as the Frenchwoman raced out of the blocks to open up a 5-0 lead in the opening set.

managed a hard-fought two-set win over Ukraine's Kateryna Kozlova with the final score standing 7-6 (7-3) 6-2. German 17th seed beat compatriot Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Djokovic advances to 3rd round

World no.1 Novak Djokovic lost a tie-breaker for the first time this year but rallied past Kyle Edmund to advance from the second round of the US Open. Djokovic won the match 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. He next faces Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff, who beat USA's Michael Mmoh

6-2, 6-2, 7-5.

Djokovic, who is chasing his fourth US Open title, lost an intense first set that went on for more than an hour. He had previously won all 10 tiebreaks he played this year.

After the set however, the Serbian took over and Edmund was hardly a match for the rest of the match. Djokovic hit 16 aces and lost only 12 points on his first serve. "I'm actually glad I did drop a set and got tested the way I did today against Kyle. I expected it to be a tough, tough task," said Djokovic after the match. "I'm really glad having an early kind of tough match

in the tournament," Djokovic said, "because it kind of serves me better, I think, for the rest of the tournament."

Stefanos Tsitsipas meant while beat Maxime Cressy 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 to mark his debut at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. He thus progresses to the third round of the US Open for the first time in his career where he will face Borna Coric. He remains on course to face Alexander Zverev, who beat 19-year-old Brandon Nakashima 7-5, 6-7 (8), 6-3, 6-1. 12th seed Dennis Shapovalov beat South Korean Kwon Soon-woo 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Opening-round loss for Sharapova

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

Sharan and Cacic lost 4-6, 6-3, 3-6 against Croatia's Mektic and Koolhof of the Netherlands in a tough contest that lasted one hour and 46 minutes on Wednesday.

The winners will next play Italy's Simone Bolelli and Maximo Gonzalez of Argentina. The other Indian in the men's doubles draw -- Rohan Bopanna -- and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov will take on Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin of the United States in the first round.

Messi and Barcelona in battle of attrition

THE DAILY STAR/ANN, THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES

DHAKA/LONDON/BARCELONA/MADRID, 3 SEPTEMBER



Jorge Messi, Lionel's agent and father, told FC Barcelona again at a meeting that his son would not stay at the Nou Camp. The club remain firm in refusing to facilitate any transfer, according to reports.

Negotiations are expected to continue so that the conflict can be resolved and the Barcelona icon can leave in a way that is agreeable to both sides. What remained clear was that Messi did not want to play in Barcelona and did not intend to change his decision.

Jorge Messi reportedly remained inflexible when speaking to club president Josep Maria Bartomeu in a meeting that lasted an hour-and-a-half. He again said that Lionel, who no longer considers himself a part of the club, has no intention to stay.

The media in Catalonia reported that the club would not budge from their current position to retain Messi and that the only option they had offered was to try and extend his contract until 2022.

Jorge, accompanied by his other son, Rodrigo, took a 13-hour flight to Catalonia in the morning to discuss Lionel's departure. Messi and Barcelona need to come to a "reasonable agreement" over his future after the player asked to be freed from his contract, according to one of the club's presidential candidates.

because the season was extended following the coronavirus pandemic - the expiration date on the clause should also be adjusted accordingly.

Barcelona disagree and were backed by LaLiga on Sunday, hours after Messi failed to show up for his scheduled Covid-19 test which would have allowed him to start pre-season training with new

head coach Ronald Koeman the following day.

Jorge Messi has told local reporters that his son's future at Barcelona would be "difficult" as presidential candidate Victor Font said reaching an amicable decision was key. "We need the two parties to sit down and discuss to ensure that whatever transition needs to happen," Font told talkSPORT. "I'm truly hoping reason prevails and as soon as the club and Messi's father sit down and talk, that the interest of both Messi and Barca will be taken into account and properly protected."

"What I believe is very important is that a reasonable agreement is reached, so that we protect the interests of the club going forward. "The damage this is doing to Barcelona is quite phenomenal. That's why we insist in the relevance of managing this properly because it can still be contained."

Deepak Punia, two other wrestlers test positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

tested positive for COVID-19 virus," the nodal sports body said in a statement.

With his silver at the worlds, Punia had secured a place for himself at the Tokyo Olympics.

They have been moved to a SAU empanelled hospital as a precautionary measure for further monitoring. All wrestlers were tested, upon arrival, as per the SAI SOP for resumption of sports activities. As per protocol, all wrestlers along with the coaches and support staff underwent the mandatory RT-PCR test to detect COVID-19 on arrival. When contacted, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said the camp will go

ahead as planned.

"They (the three) will be tested again after two days and if they return negative tests, they will be brought back," he told PTI. "There is no threat to the national camp. It will continue. The wrestlers will begin training only after they complete their quarantine period of 14 days," Tomar added. All the wrestlers assembled for the camp on September 1. Earlier Asian and Commonwealth Games champion Vinesh Phogat, the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for Tokyo Olympics, tested positive ahead of the national sports awards ceremony last week, where she was to receive the Khel Ratna.

PTI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MONZA (ITALY), 3 SEPTEMBER



Lewis Hamilton (in photo) will seek to break more records and a few hearts this Sunday when he bids to win the Italian Grand Prix for Mercedes while Ferrari, without the 'tifosi' in attendance, hope only to avoid embarrassment at their traditional home event.

Championship leader and six-time world champion Hamilton has won five of this year's seven races and is now within two triumphs of seven-time champion Michael Schumacher's career total of 91 wins as he demolishes the German's statistical grip on Formula One's peaks.

This weekend, he will be favourite to claim his sixth victory in the old royal park, moving him one clear of the record five he now shares with Schumacher - and leaving him on 90 wins overall ahead of the Tuscany Grand Prix a week later, an event organised to celebrate Ferrari's 1,000th F1 race.

After their dismal and pointless performance at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, it is a nightmare scenario. Ferrari travelled back to Italy warning absent fans not to expect miracles. Many believe Ferrari could be heading towards the team's worst-ever Monza performance in 70 years. The 'scarlet scuderia' has won 19 of the 69 races to date, but will if they repeat their Belgian showing register a new first by failing to qualify a car in the top ten on the grid and in the race. Monza is famous as the "temple of speed", a track where outright power and straight line speed are usually decisive.

"It is a circuit that is high

power-sensitive," said Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto. "So it may change the balance of competitiveness in qualifying and we all know how important it is to start ahead on the grid."

In the circumstances, departing four-time champion Sebastian Vettel has said it is "probably better" that there will be no fans at the behind-closed-doors event, his last race in red at Monza. "Don't get me wrong, it will be sad not to have the fans in Monza - it is the first time," he said. "For me, it would be so difficult to race in front of the Ferrari fans knowing it's my last time in red. So, in that regard, perhaps it is a little better this way."

Sourav Ganguly wanted Dhoni for 2004 tour of Pak: John Wright

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 SEPTEMBER

As India skipper Sourav Ganguly was very keen to have Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the national team for the historic tour of Pakistan in 2004, but the dashing wicket-keeper-batsman missed the bus by the skin of his teeth, John Wright (in photo), who was India coach at the time, has disclosed to IANS. Parthiv Patel was chosen for the three-Test series, the first to be played against India in Pakistan after 15 years, and Rahul Dravid kept the wickets in the five One-day Internationals.

"Dhoni nearly toured with us to Pakistan [in 2004]. Sourav was very keen to have him in the squad. He was on the borderline, and it was one of those decisions that could have gone either way. As it turned out, we selected a successful Test team, and he didn't make it," Wright told IANS in an interview, paying rich tribute to Dhoni. India won the three-Test series 2-1 and the five-ODI series 3-2. "That was obviously when Dhoni had started to come into discussions at the national level. Sourav had very good things to say about him and always encouraged youngsters who came into the set-up. But you never know how things would have worked out [for Dhoni] had he been picked for the Pakistan tour." That's when I first started to hear about him," recalled Wright, who had a five-year stint (2000-2005) as the first foreign coach of India.

Dhoni eventually made his One-day International debut in December 2004, against Bangladesh in Chittagong, aged 23 years and 169 days. And he made his Test debut in December 2005, against Sri Lanka in Chennai, when he was 24 years and 148 days old. The man from Ranchi went on to become one of the most successful India captains in the two shorter formats of the game -- ODI and T20. Besides, he was a reliable hard-hitting batsman and specialised in chasing down winning targets with ridiculous ease in the two formats.

"And Dhoni seemed to be reading the game an over ahead. That's always a sign of a good, strategic captaincy," former New Zealand captain Wright said from his home city Christchurch. "He's obviously one of India's greatest

captains along with one or two in the Modern Era. He has certainly been fantastic for India. His record speaks for itself."



लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी



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



[वो लड़ रहे हैं हम पर राज करने के लिए
और हम लड़ रहे हैं बिहार पर नाज़ करने के लिए]
धर्म ना जात - करे सबकी बात