THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2020

NATION 3

Sushant death probe: Bombay HC asks media to exercise restraint



WORLD 4

Non-bailable warrant issued against former Pak PM Nawaz Sharif

TABLOID 16

Jacqueline Fernandez has been added to the cast of film Bhoot Police



Vol. 27 No. 199 | 16 pages | ₹5.00

www.asianage.com

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



Model Taylor Hill poses upon arrival at the opening ceremony of the 77th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice

Delhi court sends Sharjeel to judicial custody till Oct. 1

New Delhi: A Delhi court Sharjeel Imam to judicial custody till October 1 in a case related to communal violence in north east Delhi in February. Imam, arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police on August 25, has been booked under the stringent anti-terror law the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, for allegedly being part of a "premeditated conspiracy" in connection to the riots during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

More on Page 2

Delhi bars, pubs to

reopen on Sept. 9

New Delhi: Amid several relaxations introduced by the Centre under its Unlock 4 plan to revive the economy in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Delhi government has approved the reopening of bars, restaurants and pubs from September 9. More on Page 2

Modi Twitter handle

hacked, restored

New Delhi: Twitter on Thursday said the account linked to PM Narendra Modi's personal website was hacked, and it was later restored. After hacking the @narendramodi_in, the cybercriminal sought donations for the PM National Relief Fund. ■ More on Page 2



You can't even question the cancellation of **Question Hour!**



Max: 33°C Min: 26°C **RH:** 74% **Rain: 20%**

Forecast: Partly cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Dwitiya till 2.25 pm Star: Uttarabhadra till 11.28

Varjyam: 7.30 am to 9.17 am **Durmuhurtam:** 8.34 am to 9.23 am; 12.40 pm to 1.29 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12

> **SUNSET TODAY 6.38 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.01 AM** MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.37 PM

> > **MOONSET TODAY 7.37 AM**

■ Rajnath, in Moscow for SCO, may talk to Chinese minister

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

Army Chief in Ladakh to review

strategy on how to handle PLA

Gen. M.M. Naravane

is crucial as the Chinese

have not taken well to

India's moves to pre-empt

them and occupy over

two dozen strategic peaks

on the southern banks of

Pangong Tso. Some of

these were taken by the

Indian Army for the first

time after the 1962 war

and allows Indian forces

to overlook Chinese gar-

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

Blaming China for the sit-uation over the last four months in the Ladakh sector that was a "direct result" of China trying to unilaterally change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control, India on Thursday clearly said the "way ahead" was "negotiations" through both military and diplomatic channels. New Delhi added it was "firmly committed" to a "peaceful dialogue" and urged China to "sincerely engage" India to restore peace and tranquillity at the LAC. New Delhi also made it clear that Beijing 'should not take any provocative action or escalate matters", which comes after the latest

PAWAN BALI

Ladakh.

in Ladakh.

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

As tensions with China flared up, Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane on

Thursday landed in Leh

to review the operational preparedness of the forces deployed in

Earlier, the Chief of Air

Staff, Air Chief Marshal

R.K.S. Bhadauria, on Wednesday visited front-

line airbases in the east-ern sector to take stock.

The IAF is on high alert

Gen. Naravane, on a

two-day visit to Ladakh,

will visit forward areas to

assess the emerging situ-

ation with China on the

Leh visit at this juncture

BJP will mark

PM's 70th b'day

donation drive

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Modi government's eco-

nomic package on skill

development in the coun-

try. Mr Modi's birthday, on

September 17, will be cel-

ebrated as "Seva Saptah'

with blood and plasma donation camps in which

many senior leaders,

including party president J.P. Nadda, will partici-

plant fruit trees as the

Prime Minister has on

many occasions emphasised the benefits of plant-

ing fruit trees. The BJP's

youth wing — Bharatiya

Janata Yuva Morcha –

which has been running

a blood and plasma dona-

tion helpline, will organ-

ise blood donation camps

and plasma donation from Covid-19 recovered

patients in at least 70 dis-

tricts across the country.

BJP cadres have also

been asked to oraganise

cleanliness drives in 70

villages of every district

and pledge to stop the use

of single-use plastic, as urged by the Prime

Minister.

cadre will also

14

with blood

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

September

approved

NEW DELHI added it was 'firmly committed' to a 'peaceful dialogue' and urged China to 'sincerely engage' India to restore peace and tranquillity at the LAC.

round of Chinese military actions at Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh both on the night of August 29 and on August 31.

In an escalation of the war of words, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi said in a statement that it was "seriously con-cerned" over and "firmly opposed" the Indian government's decision on Wednesday to block 118 mobile apps (on the grounds of being prejudicial to India's security), saying these "national security" grounds were an

"excuse" and it "urges the Indian government to rectify the discriminatory practices violating World Trade Organisation Trade Organisation (WTO) rules". Beijing said 'suppression, self-seclusion and restrictions cannot benefit one country's development", and told New Delhi to "return to the right path of win-win cooperation". New Delhi, however, remained firm on its decision, and the external affairs ministry said Thursday that companies needed to follow Îndian laws. Observers see India's decision as another instance of New Delhi seeking to impose economic costs on Beijing for the Chinese military provocations

The MEA also confirmed

GEN. NARAVANE,

on a two-day visit to Ladakh, will visit for-

ward areas to assess

the emerging situation with China on the

ground. Gen. Naravane's

Leh visit at this juncture

is crucial as the Chinese

Another round of brigadier-level India-China talks on Thursday

again failed to reach any

breakthrough. This was

the fourth meeting in the

last four days on de-esca-

Pangong Tso.
India is now well pre-

pared to face the Chinese

threat after it has built up

forces that are well accli-

in

lation

southern

have not taken well

to India's moves to pre-empt them

Rajnath Singh's visit to Moscow for a defence ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member countries would include a bilateral meeting with the Russian defence minister, but that there was "no information" on any similar meeting with the Chinese defence minister.

However, some television news reports indicated that Chinese defence minister Wei Fenghe had asked for a meeting with Mr Rajnath Singh to discuss the Ladakh standoff, but there was no confirmation of this. The TV reports had added that the two ministers could even

The MEA also confirmed

Turn to Page 2

matised, brought in

tanks, artillery and stocked up supplies in the

past few months after

being initially surprised by the Chinese intrusions

Gen. Naravane will

meet top commanders in Leh to strategise on how

to counter any aggressive

Chief of Defence Staff,

Gen Bipin Rawat said

Thursday India's forces were capable of handling

aggressive Chinese actions in "best suitable

ways". Gen. Rawat said

India's policy of engage-

ment, if not backed by

credible military power

and regional influence,

would imply acknowledg-

move by the PLA.

Roll out loan restructuring by Sept. 15

the pandemic, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday asked banks and non-banking finance compa-nies to roll out loan restructuring schemes for Covid-19-related stress by September 15. She also asked lenders to identify eligible borrowers, reach out to them and quickly implement resolution plans for the revival of

port distressed borrowmoratorium on loan repayments on August 31. The RBI offered the moralockdown shuttered busi-

More on Page 6



Defence minister Rajnath Singh meets Russian defence minister Gen. Sergey Shoigu in

FM to banks:

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

To assist borrowers hit by every viable business.

Urging lenders to supers, Ms Sitharaman also reminded them that loan restructuring should not impact the lenders' assessment of their creditworthiness. The government's move comes three days after the RBI lifted a torium as the Covid-19 nesses and left millions

84K Covid cases in 24 hrs as govt claims higher tests

VINEETA PANDEY NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

Close to 84,000 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were detected in India on Thursday, the highest so far in a single day as overall cases of Covid-19, as per the Union health ministry, went past 38.53 lakh. In the last 24 hours 1,043 deaths were recorded, taking overall fatalities to Union health secretary

Rajesh Bhushan said India has one of the lowest cases per million when compared to other countries in the world. "Despite high infection rates in India, the cases per million (population) in Brazil and the US are seven times higher than their corresponding figures in India. India's caseload per million is 2,792, while that of the world is 3.359. The US has 18.986 cases per million while has Similarly, deaths per million (population) in Brazil

and the UK are 12 and 13 times higher, respectively, as compared to India," he said.
The United States has

Mask not mandatory

if alone in car: Govl

New Delhi: The health

secretary clarified that

issued any guidelines recommending wearing

of a mask if someone is

driving a car or cycling

alone. However, when

people are in a group, they need to wear

masks and maintain dis-

tance. The clarification

comes following com-

plaints by people for

being fined by police

cars despite being

alone in the vehicle.

for not wearing masks while being inside their

the ministry has not

the highest number of total cases — 62 94 lakh as per worldometers.info and 61.15 lakh according to Johns Hopkins, followed

Turn to Page 2

J&K cops stop

PDP leaders

from holding

Srinagar meet

Jammu

Kashmir authorities on

Party leaders' attempt,

the first in 13 months, to

meet at the party head-

quarters here to discuss

the political situation in

the erstwhile state and

other "important issues".

The meeting was convened by PDP general secretary Ghulam Nabi

Lone Hanjura, who in an

open communiqué to

senior leaders and office-

any others to go to the

PDP headquarters at

Emporium Lane along

Srinagar's Residency Road from their residences. Mr Hanjura and

another senior leader

Democratic

YUSUF JAMEEL

The

Thursday

Facebook writes to Cong, says it's non-partisan

Will wait for specific corrective measures in Facebook, WhatsApp India, says Congress

spokesperson. "We have

banned Raja Singh for

violating our policy pro-

hibiting those that pro-

mote or engage in vio-lence and hate from hav-

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY Standards

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

Facing harsh criticism for The ruling BJP will leverits alleged pro-BJP bias from the Congress, social Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th media giant Facebook on Thursday informed the party that it was "non-par-September 20, to hightisan" and denounced "hate speech" in any form. light the reforms and ben-The Congress on its part efits of the recently National said it would wait for "fur-Education Policy (NEP). ther concrete" action. Under the theme "70", it In a letter to Congress will also showcase the positive impact of the

general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Facebook, trust and safety director, public policy, Neil Potts said, "First and foremost, we want to take

'Hate speech': Facebook bans BJP MLA New Delhi: Facebook has and violence, said a

banned T. Raja Singh, a BJP leader at the core of allegations that the social media giant did not apply hate speech rules on members of the ruling BJP. The politician was banned for violating Facebook's policy on content promoting hate

this opportunity to state that we are non-partisan and strive to ensure that our platforms remain a space where people can express themselves freely. We take allegations of bias

ing a presence on our platform," a Facebook spokesperson said in a statement. seriously and want to make clear that in all forms. On the ques-

denounce hate and bigotry tion of hateful content by public figures, we want to you that our

Community prohibit attacks against people based on their procharacteristics, including religion, caste. ethnicity, and national origin. In line with our hate speech policy, we have removed and will continue to remove hateful content by public figures in India on our platforms." He was replying to a letter written by Mr Venugopal on August 18, expressing concern and asking Facebook to acknowledge the issue and take corrective action. The Congress acknowledged the receipt of the let-

ter and said it would await further concrete action

from the global leadership of Facebook and demonstration of specific corrective measures being under-taken in Facebook and WhatsApp India. "The Indian National

Congress notes the response from Facebook Inc and their wish to be non-partisan and noninterfering in India's affair. It must be reiterated that the media revelations on this issue were based on solid documentary evidence of internal communication and are hence incontrovertible," Praveen Chakravarty, chairman of Congress' data analytics department, said

bearers earlier this week, said "a threadbare discussion would be held on the prevailing political situation and general party affairs". However, the police neither allowed him nor

Qatar talks set to lay roadmap for Afghan

Kabul, Sept. 3: Officials on

both sides of Afghanistan's protracted conflict say efforts are ramping up for a start to intra-Afghan talks, a critical next step to a US-negotiated peace deal with the Taliban.

The talks, which will begin in Qatar where the Taliban has a political office, are intended to lay out a roadmap to a future Afghanistan, with the first item on the agenda expected to be a ceasefire agreement.

The peace deal, which calls for the intra-Afghan negotiations, was signed by the US and the Taliban in February and was seen

as Afghanistan's best hope at peace after four decades of war.

The deal was brokered to provide for America's exit from Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of war. Although Washington pushed the warring sides to the negotiating table, the US exit doesn't depend on the success of talks, but on the Taliban fulfilling their commitment to not support terrorist groups, and ensure Afghanistan cannot be used as a base for attacks against the US and its allies.

Washington has already begun reducing its troop levels and by November.

Naeem Akhtar released videos via social media showing how they were prevented from leaving their homes by the Mr Hajura asked, when contacted over the phone, why only PDP leaders

were not being allowed to meet, were under house arrest and its president Mehbooba Mufti was still detained under the stringent Public Safety Act, recently extended for another three months.

More on Page 2

Delhi Metro gears up, to run from Monday



As the Delhi Metro gears up to resume services from September 7, with certain restrictions, DMRC workers sanitise a coach, which has stickers to alert passengers to ensure social distancing while travelling, in New Delhi on Thursday. - PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY



IN BRIEF **Tiwari invites L-G to**

inaugurate 2 flyovers

New Delhi, Sept. 3: With the completion of two flyovers Seelampur and Shastri Park — in his Northeast Delhi Lok Sabha constituency, MP and former Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, on Thursday, wrote to Delhi lieutenant-governor Anil Bajial requesting him to inaugurate both the facilities. He pointed out that the project had become a reality because of Mr Baijal, who intervened and got the money sanctioned in a late meeting with the concerned officials. Urging Mr Baijal to inaugurate the flyovers, Mr Tiwari also wished that all concerned elected representatives and officials should be invited to the opening ceremony as per protocol. Interestingly, the Delhi government didn't invite Mr Tiwari to the inauguration of the iconic Signature Bridge in 2018

despite the area being part of his constituency. The two flyovers aim at providing signal-free ride between Welcome in Northeast Delhi and Kashmere Gate inter-state bus terminus (ISBT), which is one of the most congested and traffic-heavy stretches in the national

Gahlot inspects CCTV

in buses, control room

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

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

of DTC and Cluster scheme.

■ Continued from Page 1

that external affairs minister S Jaishankar would also travel to Moscow for a SCO foreign ministers' meeting on September 10. All eyes are on that visit to see if Mr Jaishankar would meet his Chinese counterpart wang 11 or not

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

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

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

■ Continued from Page 1 by Brazil - 40 lakh as per

worldometers.info and 39.97 lakh according to Johns

Hopkins. Officials said India has 49 deaths per million population compared to the global average which is 111 per million population. The highest is in the UK, 611 per million population, followed by Brazil (582) and the US (573). However, officials said 87 per cent of the deaths in India have been in the age group of 45 years and above, while 50 per cent of the deaths have been in the age group of 60 years and above.

According to the health ministry five states — Maharashtra (24.77 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (12.64 per cent), Karnataka (11.58 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (6.92 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (6.42 per cent) - account for 62 per cent of the total cases in the country.

■ Highest single-day spike in 2 months ■ 4,500 deaths so far

City records 2,709 Covid +ve cases, 19 deaths in 24 hours

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

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

s 87.82 per cent.
Speaking to the media person, Mr Jain said that people should not stress about numbers. The minister said the Delhi government is increasing the testing for Covid and it wants that there should be no positive cases in the

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

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

New Delhi, Sept. 3: reported its highest singleday spike in Covid deaths 19 new fatalities, while the total number of infections also rose by a record 1,881, officials said.

The rise on Thursday pushed the cumulative figures to 740 deaths and 70,099 cases, according to the state health department's daily bulletin.

Three fatalities each

were reported from Karnal and Kurukshetra, two each from Jind, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Ambala and Gurgaon, and a death each reported

Delhi is heading towards the second wave of coron-

avirus infections, Mr Jain

said, "You cannot say it is

a second wave. We could

the last few days. Asked if wave if there were no positive cases for one or two months and then cases would have started coming again. The virus is still there in Delhi. You

per the bulletin.

Faridabad, Panchkula and

For the past few weeks,

the state has recorded a

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

The districts that report-

ed fresh cases include Gurgaon (224), Sonipat (190), Faridabad (150),

Panipat and Panchkula

(128 each), Sirsa (115),

Karnal (112), Hisar (111),

Kurukshetra (100), Rewari (94) and Yamunanagar

and Ambala (92 each), as

surge in Covid cases.

Sirsa districts.

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

Mr Jain pointed out the

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

Bars and pubs in city to open from September 9

Establishments in containment zones to remain shut

SANJAY KAW NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

Amid several relaxations introduced by the Centre under its Unlock 4 plan to revive the economy in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Delhi government has approved the reopening of bars, restaurants, and pubs from

September 9 Delhi lieutenant-governor Anil Baijal, on Thursday, gave his assent to the Arvind Kejriwal government's proposal to allow bars, hotels, restau-rants, and clubs to serve liquor on a trial basis till September 30.

The standard operating procedure (SOP) for operationalisation of bars issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, however, made it clear that bars in containment zones remain closed.

The government said that only asymptomatic staff and customers will be allowed entry in these establishments.

DELHI LIEUTENANTgovernor Anil Baijal on Thursday gave his assent

to the Arvind Kejriwal government's proposal to allow bars, hotels, restaurants and clubs to serve liquor on a trial basis till September 30

GOVERNMENT SAID that only asymptomatic staff and customers will be allowed entry in these establishments

Apart from this, bars and pubs will only be allowed to operate at 50 per cent seating capacity in order to ensure that social distancing is maintained. Wearing masks will also be mandatory in all such establishments. The use of hand sanitizer will be a must while availing these services. The government said that establishments found violating these guidelines will be sealed

immediately. The Delhi government's

Unlock 4 — the fourth phase of reopening of the coronavirus-induced national lockdown — and states like West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have already re-opened bars and pubs after keeping them closed for more than five months. The Centre had allowed the re-opening of bars under the Unlock 4 guide-

lines issued recently. Earlier, the Kejriwal-led government had permitted hotels and clubs in the national capital to serve liquor but had ordered bars to remain shut until

further notice. Citing "revenue implications," the Delhi government had allowed hotels and restaurants to serve alcohol at the tables and in the rooms.

In an order, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia stated, "Excise department to issue necessary permission for service of liquor in restaurants and clubs by The Delhi government's licensees at the table and move comes as a part of in the hotel rooms."

'Metro won't stop at stations where travel rules violated'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

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

The Metro services have been closed since March 22

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

Trains will not stop at stations falling in containment zones and such stations will remain closed. Similarly, some stations may be skipped if social distancing is not followed by passengers, the DMRC comes after the Union home ministry announced the Unlock 4.0 phase and allowed resumption of Metro train services in a graded manner across the

country from September 7. The Centre, however, has barred Maharashtra government from starting the Metro services.

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

New Delhi, Sept. 3: A Delhi court Thursday sent JNU student Sharjeel Imam to custody October 1 in a case related

to communal violence in north east Delhi in February. Imam, arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police

on August 25, has been booked under the stringent anti-terror law Activities Unlawful Act, (Prevention) allegedly being part of a "premeditated conspiracy" in connection to the riots during protests against the

The counsel of Imam

Citizenship Amendment



Sharjeel Imam

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

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

said that the accused has been sent to judicial cus-of the investigation as also

tion Accordingly, Sharjeel Imam is remanded to judicial custody till October 1,' the court said in its order. Police had moved an

application for 30 days judicial custody of Imam. The court had earlier sent him to police custody for three days.

Pinjra Tod members and JNU students Devangana and Natasha Kalita Narwal, Jamia Millia Islamia students Asif Iqbal Tanha and Gulfisha Khatoon, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan, Jamia Committee

Coordination members Safoora Zargar, Meeran Haider, President of Jamia

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

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

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

Cleared by

wants to

Jaipur, Sept.

3: Days after a

nea nis aeten-

the National

Security Act,

tion

HC, Dr Kafeel

be reinstated

quas-

under

Dr Kafeel Khan on Thursday said he will ask the UP CM to give

him back his job in the

state medical services.

Martyr laid to rest in Hoshiarpur



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

Twitter account linked to PM hacked, later restored

Hacker sent posts seeking donations using crypto currency

New Delhi, Sept. 3: lion followers.

After hacking the account linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal website was hacked, and it has now been restored.

'We're aware of this activity and have taken steps to secure the compromised account. We are actively investigating the situation. At this time, we are not aware of additional accounts being impacted. Advice on keeping your account secure can be found here," a Twitter spokesperson said in an

emailed statement. compromised account has about 2.5 mil-

narenaramoai Twitter account, which is the Prime Minister's personal website, the cybercriminal reportedly sent out posts seeking donations for the PM National Relief Fund for COVID-19

using crypto currency. "Yes, this account is hacked by John Wick (hckindia@tutanota.com), We have not hacked Paytm Mall," another message had said.

On August 30, cybersecurity firm Cyble had said hacker group "John Wick' was behind a data breach at Paytm Mall, the e-com-

Paytm Mall had said it had not found any security lapses after investigating claims of a possible

merce unit of Paytm.

hack and data breach. Twitter on Thursday also said as per its probe, the latest attack was not due to a compromise of Twitter's systems or service.

There is no indication or evidence of any correla-tion between this account compromise and the incident that took place in July, it said. Accounts of high-profile users like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Barack Obama, Jeff Bezos and others were compro-

mised on July 15.

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

Medical College after several children died there in 2017, apparently due to the lack of oxygen cylinders at the government hospital. A departmental probe

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

He was detained under the stringent NSA, which the Allahabad high court on Tuesday

ruled was illegal. As the high court has quashed the charges under the NSA lodged against me, I would write to the UP CM to reinstate me, he told

Police thwarts bid by PDP leaders to meet in Srinagar

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, SEPT. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

over a year. rate communication, Facebook also told the

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



"The process for evaluating potential violators is

responding to the opposition party's allegation that led us to this decision," a the social media giant was Facebook soft on members of the ruling BJP while applying

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

spokesperson said in a statement. which Facebook counts India among its

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

The Disciple returns India to Venice fest race

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

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

Monsoon Wedding by Mira Nair, which in 2001 won the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion. Tamhane spent four years researching, filming and editing *The Disciple*, which follows a would-be classical music vocalist who struggles to

turies-old traditions with contemporary Mumbai. His film is slated to premiere on Friday and despite travel restrictions and precautions due to the coronavirus

pandemic,

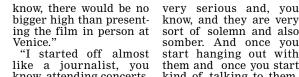
balance his craft's cen-



Chaitanya Tamhane

plans to be there.

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



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

"Indian classical musicians — there is a general perception that they are sort of solemn and also somber. And once you start hanging out with them and once you start kind of talking to them, you realize that they're just as normal, as ordinary as all of us," he said. "And they're also in

their respective field fac-ing the same kind of issues, the same kind of problems that, you know, a journalist would be facing or an athlete would be facing.'







SHORT TAKES

Girl raped, thrashed

with iron rod in UP

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

for criticising him

Chandapur village under night. According to reports into the woman leaving her hospital, where the doctor declared her dead. In anoth-Daspalla in Nayagarh district on Wednesday night.

Man beheads wife to appease deity

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

killed in 'firefight'

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

dead in UP village

on Thursday morning in a sus-

'Diplomacy can solve China standoff'

Tension on border will impact Sino-Indian relationship, says EAM Jaishankar

KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

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

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



both EAM Jaishankar and

S. Jaishankar part Wang expected to participate.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Embassy in a late-evening statement issued to sharply criticise the recent utterances of a senior US official, said: "China and India have the ability to resolve their

G-20 foreign ministers meet

Delhi: An 'extraordinary" meeting of the G-20 counwas held on Thursday on ways to further tackle the coronavirus pandemic. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar represented India at the meeting.

border disputes bilaterally" and so "don't accept countries outside the region pointing fingers, let alone meddling or

making instigation, which will only endanger the regional peace and China also claimed it had "never provoked a war or conflict over the battle-preparedness. Reiterating that the "solution (to the current past 70 years since the

founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949"and had "always insisted on resolving territorial and maritime dis-putes with neighboring countries through consultations and negotiations on the basis of respecting Indian) relationship".

stability'

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

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

Doc, wife pour boiling water on minor boy

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, SEPT. 3

In what has triggered angry protests in Upper Assam's Dibrugarh district, a doctor and his wife who is the principal of a government college are accused to have poured boiling water on their minor domestic help while he was sleeping.
The protest broke out after

a video went viral on social media showing the injury marks on the minor's neck

and shoulders.
Assam Police has registered the case against the doctor and his wife on Officials

Dibrugarh said that on August 27, Siddhi Prasad Deori and his wife Mitali Konwar, who is the principal of Moran College, had poured boiling water on the minor The Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has also taken cognisance of the incident and asked police to reg ister a case.

Deori, the then store incharge of the Assam College Medical (AMCH) Hospital Dibrugarh, was suspended on charges of violating service conditions in 2006. He was accused of managing a private nursing home too

Man kills mother

Bhubaneswar: A man allegedly stabbed his mother to death with a knife at Raghunathpur police limits in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district late on Wednesday accused Nityananda Das was being questioned by police at his house over attacking a person in the locality when his mother Kalyani (65) criticised his acts and repri-manded him. In a fit of rage, Nityananda thrust a knife grievously injured. She was rushed to Raghunathpur er gruesome act, a man allegedly attacked and slit the throats of his father and elder brother over property dispute at Ganesh Bazaar in

case of human sacrifice, a 50beheaded his wife to please a hours of Wednesday. He then

Suspected Maoist

Hyderabad: A suspected

3-yr-old girl found

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

received, police said. - PTI

tries' foreign ministers

counter-

for Friday

which

SC reprieve for borrowers

EMI, whose payment was deferred during the six-

month moratorium period

Taking on record a state-

ment by senior counsel Harsh

Salve appearing for Indian

Banks Association that no

account shall become NPA atleast for a period of two months, Justice Ashok Bhushan, heading a three-

judge bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy and

Justice M.R. Shah in an inter-

im order said: "In view of the

above, the accounts which

were not declared NPA till

31.08.2020 shall not be declared

NPA till further orders."
As Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta told the court to

include word "eligible" mean-

that ended on August 31.

in loan moratorium case

Artisans give finishing touch to an idol of goddess Durga, made of fiberglass, at a studio in Kumartuli in

NEET/JEE EXAMS

SC to consider review plea today

New Delhi, Sept. 3: The Supreme Court is scheduled to consider on Friday a plea of minis-ters of six opposition-ruled states seeking review of its August 17 order allowing holding of NEET and JEE exams

physically.
The ministers had claimed that the top court order failed to secure students' "right to life" and ignored "teething logistical difficulties" to be faced in conducting the exams

ing those who came within

the category of defaulters during the six-month morato-rium period from March 1 to

August 31, the court said that

a commercial entity that had

defaulted in the month of

January gets into worst situa-

tion during the Covid lock-down could be excluded from

The hearing that was spread over for nearly two

hours in the post lunch sitting

of the court saw bench ques-

tioning the Solicitor General

on different counts including

how could there be compound

interest for the six-month

moratorium period and how

could moratorium period could be treated as a default

Covid relief package.

pandemic.

Testing National Agency (NTA) which conducts both the exams is holding JEE Main Exams from September 1 to September 6, while NEET exams will be held on September 13.

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

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

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

B-2 Block, Near 212 Bus Terminal, Nand Nagari, Delhi -110093 SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. FE(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 Hold for Good: 05 Months; Tender No.: 319179.

Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website or from the office of the undersigned:

http://mcdetenders.com, https://mcdonline.nic.in/ R.O. No. 47/DPI/East/2020-21 Executive Engineer (Central Store/EDMC) EDMC's Citizens Helpline No.: 155303

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr. Abstract of e-Tender. e-N.I.T. No:- PHE/GWDS/ 20of 08/2020 Dated: 31 -08-2020

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system for "Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells" in below mentioned place with 60 meters, depth, from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors, as

S.No	Constituency	No. of Hand Pump wells for constituency	Estimated Cost Rs. In Lacs	EMD In Shape of CDR/FDR (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Programme Languishing
01	Devsar	07	Rs.18.06 Lacs	Rs. 36,120/-	Rs.1000/-	45 Days	LUP Code 0462
02	Kupwara	11	Rs. 28.38 Lacs	Rs. 56,760/-	Rs.1000/-	45 Days	LUP Code 2389
03	Langate	40	Rs. 103.00	Rs 2.06.000/-	Rs.3000/-	45 Days	LUP Code

Position of Funds: Available

Critical Dates/Information. 01-09-2020 Publishing Date 01-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) to 11-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) Period of Downloading of Bids Period of Submission of bids 01-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) to 11-09-2020 (2:00 P.M) 12-09-2020 at (2:00 P.M) Date of opening of Tender. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water SrinagarKashmir -19001

Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour o Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)

Earnest Money: The Earnest Money shown against each constituency in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar.

8. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days

No: PHE/GWDS/1861 Dated: 31-08-2020 DIPK-4894/20 DATED 03.09.20

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division,

HC tells media to exercise restraint in Sushant's case

PARMOD KUMAR

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

In a relief to the borrowers

from the banks faced with

financial crunch in the wake

of Covid-19 pandemic, the

Supreme Court on Wednesday

ordered that bank loan accounts not declared as non-

performing assets (NPA) till August 31, 2020, will not be

declared NPA till further

The top court passed the

interim order while adjourn-

ing till September 10 the

hearing on a batch of peti-

tions — both by the individual

borrowers and different sec-

tors of industry — challenging the charging of interest

and compound interest on the

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

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

Mumbai police. The other petition was filmmaker Nilesh Navlakha and



court said that

running a false propa-

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 3

high floods in coastal Ŏdisha districts have shattered hopes dreams of thousands of students as many of them have lost their textbooks, clothes and other study materirendering them

handicapped to resume their studies. complete Besides. breakdown of power supplies and collapse of telecommunication in

the affected areas have

complete disruption in virtual learning. "The high floods in the

studies, said Binjharpur block Jajpur district.

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 3

seeking direction to media not to sen-Sushant Singh a 1 i s e Rajput

reportage

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

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

Floods wash away dreams of students in Odisha also contributed to the

Baitarani and Kani rivers entered our houses and damaged everything. My son Subham's textbooks have got completely soaked and are very unlikely to be restored to readable conditions. He will now be deprived of continuing Satyasekhar Nayak of Jagannathpur

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER **CLOSING DATE** (APPROX.) IN BOARD/CORP./AUTH CORP./AUTH DETAILS/EMAIL (TIME) RUPEES 0172-2583789 HVPNL, PANCHKULA PROCUREMENT OF 33KV VCBS (630A) 92.28 LACS www.hvpn.org.in 01.10.2020 01.08.2020 oro@hvpn.org.in 0172-2583789 2 PROCUREMENT OF RELAYS HVPNL, PANCHKULA 40.25 LACS www.hvpn.org.in 16.09.2020 pro@hvpn.org.in 336593/6740.00 for General and Rs. 3370/ CONST. OF 33 KV CAPACITOR BANK AND ODSG for registered L&C Society (Except in case CLOSING DATE 0172-2583789 FOUNDATION AT 220 KV S/STN. NUNA MAJRA (B.GARH) HVPNL, ROHTAK https://www.hvpn.org.in MSMEs and KVI units) RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS IN HVPNL COLONY AT 132 KV CLOSING DATE 0172-2583789 HVPNL, BHIWANI 7.10 LACS www.hvpn.org.in S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI DURING THE YEAR-2020-21 ON THROUGH RATE TENDER ID: - 2020_HBC_142215_1). REPAIR & CIVIL MAINTENANCE WORKS IN NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 132 KV S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI 0172-2583789 HVPNL, BHIWANI 2.90 LACS www.hvpn.org.in OLD DURING THE YEAR-2020-21 ON THROUGH RATE 07.09.2020 pro@hvpn.org.in TENDER ID:- 2020_HBC_142204_1). THE WALK WAY, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED SURVEY CLOSING DATE 0172-2583789 FOR VARIOUS LINES I.E. 220/132 KV UNDER XEN TS DIVISION HVPNL ROHTAK PROCURMENT OF SOLID PRESS BOARD 1 MM OF NATURAL HVPNL, ROHTAK 6 6.02 LACS https://www.hvpn.org.in www.dhbvn.org.in COLOUR TYPE-D AS PER IS:1576/1992 SIZE 875*1500 MM DHBVN, HISAR 1..96 LACS (SENAPATHY/ RAMAN/ PADAM JI) FOR REPAIRING OF 07.09.2020 cos@dhbvn.orq.in DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBVN, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-37) SOLID PRESS BOARD 1.50 MM OF NATURAL COLOUR TYPE www.dhbvn.org.in D AS PER IS:1576/1992 SIZE 875*1500 MM (SENAPATHY) 28.08.2020 9050254440 DHBVN, HISAR 1.96 LACS RAMAN/ PADAM JI) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBVN, HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-38) NEOPRENE BONDED CORK COMPOSITION SHEET (2'*3', 6 MM THICK) AS PER 4253/PART-II - 1980 GRADE RC-70C) www.dhbvn.org.in 28.08.2020 9050254440 DHBVN, HISAR FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBVN, 1.96 LACS HISAR. (NIT NO. WC-39) DELTA COPPER WIRE 1.72MM (10 LAYER INSULATED) FOR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBVN, HISAR. www.dhbvn.org.ir 10 DHBVN, HISAR 1.94 LACS cos@dhbvn.org.in (NIT NO. WC-40) ZINC CROMATE (BURGER/ASIAN/ NEROLAC) FOR www.dhbvn.org.in 28.08.2020 9050254440 11 DHBVN, HISAR REPAIRING OF DAMAGED DTS AT TRW, DHBVN, HISAR. 1.95 LACS (NIT NO. WC-41) HIRING OF BUILDING FOR OFFICE PURPOSE OF SDO OF CLOSING DATE uhbvn.org.in S/DIVN PINJORE HAVING CARPET AREA OF 3500-4500SQ.FT. 12 UHBVN, PANCHKULA Rs. 5000 xenoppanchkula@uhbvn.org.in 17.09.2020 HARYANA SCHOOL 0172-2590500 PRINTING & SUPPLY OF KADAM TOOL KIT FOR OUT OF SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA 13 1.80 LACS www.hsspp.in pohsspp@gmail.com SCHOOL CHILDERN FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21 PARISHAD RFP FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION, SEGREGATION. 01.09.2020 01698-250026 TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PROCESSING OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE https://etenders.hrv.nic.in Secymcrania@gmail.com 07.09.2020 WASTE AND ROAD/STREET SWEEPING AND LIFTING OF GARBAGE FROM WARD NO 1,2,3,14,15 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF LIVESTOCK, ANIMAL FARMS HARYANA LIVESTOCK 01.09.2020 9416172558 15 CHAFFING & FEEDING TO BULLS & OTHER ALLIED WORKS https://etenders.hry.nic.in 15.09.2020 72000/ hldb-hry@nic.in PANCHKULA IN SEMEN BANK, HLDB, GURUGRAM CONSTRUCTION OF 02 PARKS CUM VYAMSHALA IN NARNAUL CITY + 1 OTHER WORK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 01.09.2020 https://etenders.hry.nic.in/n 9812892869 16 109.18 LACS 07.09.2020 eomcnarnaul1@gmail.com cgep/app 03.09.2020 15.09.2020 TOTAL 2 NOS. WORKS IN KARNAL CITY UNDER KARNAL https://etenders.hry.nic.in 17 KARNAL SMART CITY smartcitykarnal@gmail.com SMART CITY PROJECT Sale of tender form 17.09.2020 upto 12:30 P.M. & tender 1 NO. VEHICLE (INDIGO, DZIRE, VERITO, ESTEEM OR ANY 0184-2268351 18 UHBVN, KARNAL OTHER SEDAN MODEL) WITH DRIVER FOR SE 'OP' CIRCLE, form Submission or 6000/www.uhbvn.org.in same day upto 15:00 P.Mopening after 15:30 P.M CONSTRICTION OF FOOT BRIDGE AND APPROACHED ROAD MUNICIPAL PROVIDING AND FIXING 60MM IPB TILES AT NADA SAHIB 04.09.2020 19 CORPORATION PANCHKULA 81.64 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER UPPARLA VAAS ,WARD NO.19, PANCHKULA. (RECALL) + 8 OTHER WORKS CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO 220/132-100MVA (T-4) PLINTH, ADDITIONAL ODSG FOUNDATION AND ODCT IN BAY NO A-HVPNL HISAR. 4.81 LACS www.etenders.hry.nic.in pro@hvpn.org.in 4 AT 220 KV SUB-STATION HUKMAWALI (R-5) 0172-2583789 21 HVPNL, KARNAL 5.41 LACS WWW.HVPN.ORG.IN 132/33 KV T-2 T/F AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 33 KV BAY (D-6) FOR GANGAR AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, RAMBA 03.09.2020 0172-2583789 22 PROCUREMENT OF 66KV CTS (CURRENT TRANSFORMERS) HVPNL, PANCHKULA) 33.88 LACS www.hvpn.org.in 01.10.2020

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

RO No. SAMVAD-Advt. No:-13/2021/16491622400000/82582



IN BRIEF

Eight gunned down in Mexico

Cuernavaca, Mexico: Gunmen killed eight people, including two minors, and wounded more than a dozen others in an attack on a wake in central Mexico, prosecutors said. The assailants opened fire at a house in the city of Cuernavaca using military-type rifles, the state prosecutor's office reported. Initial indications suggested the attack was the result of a fight between criminal gangs in Cuernavaca, a picturesque colonial city popular with tourists just south of

the capital, the authorities said. Four bodies were found outside the wake, which was held for a young man killed in a motorcycle accident, while the remaining victims died after being taken to hospital. Another 14 people were wounded, according to prosecutors, who noted that high-calibre firearms had been used in recent gang-related crimes.

Jihadists kill 9

Nigerian troops

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

Pacific War: China

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

PAK: CONSULAR ACCESS TO JADHAV VALID

forced Japan to divert sol-

level engagements.

diers and resources from bat-

tlefields elsewhere with low-

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 3

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

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

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

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

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

Another PoC shot dead by cops in US

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

Washington, Sept. 3: Police shot dead an African-American man in the US capital Washington Wednesday, the force said, in the latest of a slew of police killings of People of Colour that has sparked nationwide uproar. The man, said to be aged 18, was shot in the southeast of the city as officers were following up on a tip about guns allegedly stashed in a vehicle. "When they approached the vehicle, some of the folks of the vehicle fled on foot. One of the officers discharged their firearm," Washington police chief Peter Newsham

told a news conference.
"We have what we believe to be an adult male that was taken to a local hospital and pronounced dead. He said officers recovered two guns from what he described as the "scene of the crime". The shooting officers in came after months of shot dead

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

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

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.

protests against police

brutality across the coun-

try, and just two days after

officers in Los Angeles shot dead an African-

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

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

Daniel Prude died March 30 after he was taken off life encounter with police in man who died of asphyxiation. Rochester. His death received

channel WUSA9 that he

had spoken with the moth-

er of the man killed in

Washington. "We've seen



support, seven days after the Video grab of cops putting hood on the

times in America, and now

it's hitting home," he said.

15 minutes ago and we

want to figure out what's

"I talked to his mom about

no public attention until Wednesday, when his family held a news conference and released police body camera video.

FOOTAGE SHOWS EXCESSIVE FORCE, HENCE DEPUTY FIRED

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

on the body camera foot-

age, to figure out if he was

running away why was he

shot." "Some people say he

was shot in the front, some

Prez wants voters to cast two ballots in Nov. election

Don trumpets US strength, scoffs at Biden

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

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

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

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

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

Wilmington, Sept. 3: As thunderstorms threatened, President Donald MICINEODMAT **MISINFORMATION BEFORE POLL**

Washington, Sept. 3: With just two months left until the US presidential election, Facebook says it is taking more steps to ise misinformation and reduce the likelihood of post-election "civil unrest." The company said st." The company said Thursday it will restrict new political ads in the week before the election and remove posts that convey misinformation about Covid-19 and voting. It also will attach links to official results to posts from candidates and campaigns declaring premature victories.
"This election is not

going to be business as usual. We all have a responsibility to protect our democracy," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Thursday. "That means helping people register and vote, clearing up confusion about how this election will work, and taking steps to reduce the chances of violence and unrest." FB and other social media companies are being scrutinized over how they handle misinformation.

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

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

Trayon White told news this narrative too many

American man who was riding his bike when

A local council member

police tried to stop him.



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

Covid-19 vaccine shows promise

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

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

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

hers said. While these sequences are not translated to proteins, the researchers changed their structures to promote higher-thanusual levels of proteins. The sequences are known as untranslated regions,

or UTRs.

UK working on a test that gives results in 20 minutes

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

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

SECURITY CHIEFS REPLACED IN BELARUS AS RUSSIA PM VISITS

people say he was shot in the back," White, who ide-

ntified the man as African

American, told the news

site DCist.

Minsk, Sept. 3: Belarus strongman Alexander Lukashenko on Thurs-day replaced his security chiefs and said progress was being made on plans to bring Moscow

and Minsk closer.

Lukashenko, who is under huge pressure from protesters to step down after last month's disputed election, replaced the heads of the KGB security service, the security council and the state control committee. The reshuffle was announced during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, who became the most senior Moscow official to make a public visit to Belarus since the political crisis broke out over disputed polls on August 9. Tens of thousands

have taken to the streets for weeks in unprecedented protests against Lukashenko's 26-year rule. The moustachioed leader has refused to quit and has instead sought support from the Kremlin.

In recent years the Kremlin has pushed for economic political integration between the two ex-Soviet countries but Lukashenko has so far resisted outright unification.

On Thursday, he indicated he might be open to bringing the nations closer. "We agreed" on issues on which Russia and Belarus "could not agree earlier," Lukash-enko told Mishustin, adding that opposition protests were a "lesson' for the two countries.

'This lesson prompted us to make relevant con-clusions," he said. Lukashenko added he planned to "dot all the i's on issues." -AFP

NBW issued against ex-Pak PM Nawaz

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

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

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

been abroad for six months, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. Responding to this, Special Prosecutor Harris

Qureshi, appearing on behalf of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), asked the court to

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

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

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

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

line. The report, 'From

Equality in the wake of Covid-19', said that the gender poverty gap will worsen further still in South Asia.

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

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

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

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 men globally, and this ratio could rise to 121 poor women for every 100 poor men by 2030.

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

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

will increase the total

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

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

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

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



THE ASIAN AGE

4 SEPTEMBER 2020

Axing Question Hour lets govt avoid accountability

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

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

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

What, really, is Parliament's main function? For the government, the answer is to pass the legislation the Cabinet recommends, rubber stamp ordinances promulgated in between sessions, and not stop the executive doing whatever it wants. But for most people, or constitutional experts, it is to hold the government

accountable to those who put it in power. Cancelling Question Hour deprives MPs of the lone device they have to exercise some control over

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

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

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

Banning apps will achieve little

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

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

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

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY

THE ASIAN AGE offices are located at

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone

bai: Sigma House, # 43, Ground Floor, R. A. Kidwai Marg, Near Wadala Rly Station, Wadala (West), Mumbai -400 031 Phone (022) 24195301 Fax (022) 24195347

Kolkata: 4th Floor, Chowdhury Building, 8/1A Little Russel Street, Kolkata 700 071. Phone: (033) 2289 0676/77 Fax

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office in the United Kingdom Air surcharge for Kathmandu and J&K ₹1

Published and Printed on behalf of and for

▶ Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre,
 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.
 ▶ Mumbai: Dangat Media Pvt Ltd, Plot No 22, Digha MIDC, TTC Industrial Estate Area, Vishnu Nagar, Digha, Navi

Kolkata: Satyajug Employees Cooperative Industrial Society Ltd, 13/A, Prafulla Sarkar Street, Kolkata 700 072.
 London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94 Postal registration numbers: DL(S)-05/4189/15-17



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

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

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

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

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

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

vote along the party line. He was expelled from the party for this decision. These two examples show that at times strict adherence to party rules can prove extremely costly. Deviation by the CPI(M) in these two cases may have spelled its rise instead of decline. India's political

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

Undeniably, Sonia, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra belong to the privileged classes. Nevertheless, party propaganda coupled with media coverage has definitely led to their moves being taken greater notice of by people compared to those by other Congress leaders. Additionally, the effect of their huge presence in nationwide electoral camtheir party is not the only one that performed miserably in the 2019 general election.

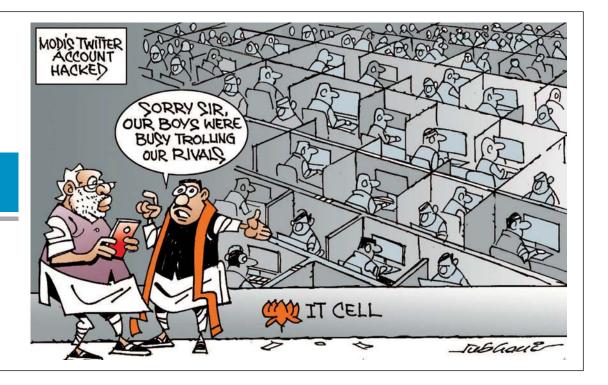
non-Gandhi to head the party demands building their image from the grassroots on an extensive scale. Can the party afford to do this? Every Congress leader does not hold the same appeal to the people as the three Gandhis do. Crowds drawn by these leaders certainly help them gain media coverage and also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

Congress members to deliberate at present on teamwork and possible alliances advantageous to them in the

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

the author of several books.

Subhani



In any crisis, take care of the most vulnerable



Patralekha Chatteriee

Dev 360

s geography destiny? Those who inhabit placeless utopias like global citizens with much soughtafter skills tend to argue that digital technologies and virtual communications have now erased the inconvenient boundaries

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

One area where this has been most visible is

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

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

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

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

3.30 am to reach the examination hall, battling lack of transport, persistent rain and floods. This is despite the efforts by state governments and civil society outfits to arrange transport for students in situations. Students are also not equally placed when it comes healthcare. That is why campaigned to postpone

to accessing there were students who the exam. Students from low-income families in flood-hit areas are handicapped. We don't yet know what awaits them, whether they will get a second chance on a differ-ent date without losing a

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

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

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

'The education crisis during Covid-19 was fuelled by deep pre-exist-ing inequalities," says a recent report by Unesco. "Education responded with distance learning solutions, all of which offered less or more imperfect substitutes for classroom instruction," said the report, noting that while many poorer countries opted for radio and televi-

sion lessons, 55 per cent of low-income, 73 per cent of lower-middle-income and 93 per cent of upper-middle-income countries adopted for online learning platforms for primary and secondary education. The Covid-19 lockdown has exposed the all-too obvious fact that Digital India does not quite mean

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

Within cities too, where you live matters.

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

families.' Many state govern-ments are making efforts to circumvent the prob-

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

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

Blair. In Bihar, during the lockdown, classes for students of Class 1 to Class 12 being run on Doordarshan. Classes on television are run in the same way as in the nor-

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

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

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

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

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

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

M.C. Joshi

Lucknow **ONLY WORDS**

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

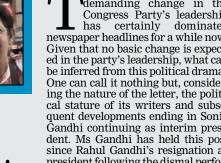
Saundarya Jain

CARTOONS FINE

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

Shaheen Mohammed Mumbai

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



map may not have been the same as

what it is today.

paigns cannot be ignored. Besides,

Hence, at present, the selection of a

may perhaps be more appropriate for

coming Assembly elections. Besides. they need to start planning for the 2024 parliamentary polls from right now and not leave crucial decisions till the last minute. This refers to the formal induction of Priyanka in the party as general secretary of Uttar Pradesh's east wing when just a few months were left for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The political drama that followed the letter has certainly helped the let-

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also

FINANCIAL

Chronicle

FRIDAY | 4 SEPTEMBER 2020 | NEW DELHI

INDICATORS 38,990.94 -0.24 Nifty 50 11,527.45 -0.07 S&P 5003 3,475.64 -2.94 Dollar (₹) 73.48 0.60 Pound Sterling (₹) 97.68 0.21 86.86 0.25 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 51,755▼774 0.00 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 43.93 -0.50 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.896 -0.024 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 0.636 -0.015 * As of 9:30 PM IST

FASTag must for pre-Dec 2017 vehicles from Jan.

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

Ramakrishnan to be MD & CEO of **South Indian Bank**



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

UP's August revenue higher by ₹600 cr YoY

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

April-August NH construction surpasses target

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

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: **T.Venkatram Reddy**, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or

in part without written permission of

Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

■ Lenders asked to roll out scheme by 15th

FM sets deadline for debt recast scheme

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

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

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

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

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



KEEPING BANKERS ON THEIR TOES

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

revival of every viable business," she said. Banks are in the process

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

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

offices and branches. Besides, the minister also reviewed the schemes announced under Aatmanirbhar Bharatthe Rs 20-lakh crore postpandemic financial rescue package. The RBI last month per-

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

Dubai seeks to attract wealthy retirees

ABBAS AL LAWATI

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

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

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

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

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

still in contraction zone

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

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

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

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

business. Reduced business activity saw the Indian service sector operating below capacity. Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and tempomeant that firms were unable to process previously placed orders, which led to incomplete work increasing for a

third month running. Meanwhile, sustained revenue losses through the second quarter and increasing cost burdens led companies to raise charges for the first time since March. The rate of input price inflation was slightly faster than seen

India services PMI



in July, but marginal overall. Higher fuel costs were cited as the key reason behind higher input prices. In line with rising cost burdens, output charges grew at a marginal pace. Firms mentioned the passing on of higher costs to customers.

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

RURAL JOBS DROP, URBAN RISE IN AUG.

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

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

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

This deterioration in labour market condi-tions in August was essentially located in rural India. While in urban India 3.4 million got jobs, employment declined by 3.6 million in rural India, thus, accounting for the 0.2

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

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

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



MICHAEL GONSALVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vodafone Idea plans \$1.5 bn fundraising

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

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

share sale, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. It is working with advisers, including New York-based investment bank PJT Partners Inc, as it seeks potential strategic partners to buy stakes, the people said.
The telecom operator is

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

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

being finalied, and the size and structure of the fundraising could change, according to the people.
Vodafone Idea extended

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

Vodafone Idea's fundrais-

ing plan comes after the firm won some legal relief earlier this week in a near two-decade payment dispute with the government. The venture between Vodafone and billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla's conglomerate has been weighed down by a \$7.8 billion bill from the government, eight straight quarterly losses and over \$14 billion of debt.

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

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

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

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

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

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

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



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

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

and thereby resulting into disruptions in margin colthough the margins were sufficiently complied before the onset of the new system, Anmi said. Deven Cnokse

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

manag

pening now, blaming forced implementation of a new system. The flaw is in the ecosystem which isn't ready! This isn't the first time that new systems are introduced without readiness! Past experiences reveal that under preparedness and kneejerk implementations has been a regular method whenever new systems are introduced. And it has always caused so much ket," Choksey said.

Apparel exporters pin hopes on medical textiles

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

Notwithstanding the yearon-year decline in exports till now, apparel exporters are confident of clocking a positive growth at the end of the fiscal. They are banking on the increased demand for medical textiles across the globe.

Apparel exports have been down by 54 per cent between April and July. Compared to \$5,500 million exports during the period last year, shipments are down at \$2,500 million during the four-month period this year.

However, on a month-onmonth basis, apparel exports have been seeing some recovery. In July, apparel clocked exports of \$1063 million against \$1364 million in the same month last year—down by 22 per cent. This gap was 90 per cent in April.

The industry is banking on the fact that it is the second largest producer of medical textiles.

"In a span of few months, we have become the second largest producer of medical textiles, including masks and personal protective equipment (PPE),' Apparel Export otion Council Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman A. Sakthivel. Going ahead, the AEPC expects medical textiles to be a key component in the export basket.

"On a month-on-month basis, by September we hope to return to last year's level of exports," he added.

Apart from medical tex-tiles, AEPC also hopes to see growth in man-made fibre products. The government had recently lifted the anti-dumping duty on polyester staple fibre and this is expected to boost production of MMF

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

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

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

CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

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

After looking at 11 major coal power states which account for over 50 per cent of discom overdues, Bengaluru-based Climate Risk Horizons has identified possible areas for savings and cost rationalisation, starting with the retirement of coal plants that are over 20 years old and are less efficient than newer plants. Shutting down 36.5 GW of old

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



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

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

stressed assets in the banking sector, incurring debt for additional capex is difficult. These costs would also have to eventually be recovered from discoms and consumers via higher tariffs", said Ashish Fernandes, CEO and lead analyst of Climate Risk Horizons, in the report. The report also identifies 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

Punia, two more

wrestlers +ve

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

Besides the Olympic-bound Punia (86kg), the other two wrestlers who have tested posi-tive for the virus are Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg). All three are part of a national camp at the SAI Centre in Sonepat ahead of which the wrestlers are in quarantine.

"Three senior men's wrestlers, who had reported to the National Wrestling Camp at SAI Centre in Sonepat, have tested positive for Covid-19 virus," the nodal sports body said in a statement.

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

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

Cyclist Lutsenko

claims Stage 6

Mont Aigoual, France: Kazakh rider Alexey Lutsenko won his first stage in his fifth Tour de France with a solo effort up Mont Aigoual on Thursday. The Tour's top contenders were still racing far behind the 27-year-old Lutsenko on the mountain when he crossed the line at the top with towering views of southern France. Lutsenko was among a group of eight breakaway riders that surged ahead of the main pack on the 191-kilometre (119-mile) Stage 6. The stage sped southwest from the start town of Le Teil in southern France. Lutsenko, riding for the

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

Wagar for one ball **brand for Tests**

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

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

three-lest series "I have been a big advocate of the Dukes ball for many years but I feel that only one brand of ball should be used around the world for Test cricket." Younis wrote in a column for the

Pakistan Cricket Board "It doesn't matter which brand but the ICC should make that decision. It's hard for bowlers to adjust," he added. - PTI

English take on Aussies in T20s

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

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

Live on

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

CRICKET

England vs Australia 1st T20 From

10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD **US OPEN**

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

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behal of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at aharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 21 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002, and Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C - 9, Sector - III. Noida - 201301. Editor – T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94. Price in Nepal - Nep.

Rs. 20.00 per copy





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

OH! KAROLINA

Garcia shocks top seed Pliskova at US Open

France's Caroline Garcia produced the biggest upset of the US Open on Wednesday, sending top seed Karolina Pliskova tumbling out of the tour-

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

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

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

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

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

SELECTED RESULTS Women's singles second round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Caroline Garcia (FRA) bt Karolina Pliskova (CZE x1) 6-1, 7-6 (7/2); Jennifer Brady (USA x28) bt Catherine Bellis (USA) 6-1, 6-2; Angelique Kerber (GER x17) bt Anna-Lena Friedsam (GER) 6-3, 7-6 (8/6); Ann Li (USA) bt Alison Riske (USA x13) 6-0, 6-3; Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) bt Marketa Vondrousova (CZE x12) 6-1, 6-2; Yulia Putintseva (KAZ x23) bt Vera Lapko (BLR) 6-3, 6-3; Varvara Gracheva (RUS) bt Kristina Mladenovic (FRA x30) 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0; Petra Martic (CRO x3) bt Kateryna Bondarenko (UKR) 6-3, 6-4; Naomi Osaka (JPN x4) bt Camila Giorgi (ITA) 6-1, 6-2; Marta Kostyuk (UKR) bt Anastasija Sevastova (LAT x31) 6-3, 7-6 (7/5); Anett Kontaveit (EST x14) bt

Men's singles second round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Kyle Edmund (GBR) 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Jan-Lennard Struff (GER x28) bt Michael Mmoh (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; Pablo Carreno-Busta (ESP x20) bt Michaell Krueger (USA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; Ricardas Berankis (LTU) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7/1); Denis Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt Kwon Soon-woo (KOR) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Taylor Fritz (USA x19) bt Gilles Simon (FRA) 7-5, 6-3, (5-2; Filip Krajinovic (SRB x26) bt Marcos Giron (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; David Goffin (BEL x7) bt Lloyd Harris (RSA) 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x4) bt Maxime Cressy (USA) 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4; Borna Coric (CRO x27) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG) 7-Coric (CRO x27) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG) 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-3; Alexander Zverev (GER x5) bt Brandon Nakashima (USA) 7-5, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3, 6-1.

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

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

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

While Pliskova fell by the wayside, there were no such problems for fourth seed Naomi Osaka of Japan, the 2018 champion.

The 22-year-old dominated hard-hitting Italian opponent Camila Giorgi in a 6-1, 6-2 victory. Elsewhere

Wednesday, Petra Kvitova advanced to the third round with a straight sets defeat of Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine, win-Kateryna ning 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Kvitova, chasing a third Grand Slam crown after wins at Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, needed 1hr 40min to claim her place in the last 32.

Kaja Juvan (SLO) 6-4, 6-1; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt Elena Rybakina (KAZ x11) 7-5, 6-1; Petra Kvitova (CZE x6) bt Kateryna Kozlova (UKR) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

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

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

along the way.

Another seed to tumble was the Czech Republic's Vondrousova. Marketa was beaten 6-1, 6-2 in little Belarus' Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

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

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

SHARAN-CACIC BOW OUT

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

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

BOWL OVER COACH RYAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> Lakers. with 1:25 remaining.

Ryan Harris

Messi vs Barca still a stalemate

Barcelona, Sept. 3: Lionel Messi's future at Barcelona looked no closer to being resolved after the first meeting between the player's father and club officials ended without an agreement, a person with knowledge of the situation confirmed, on the condition of anonymity.

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

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

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

Also in the meeting were

Barcelona official Javier Bordas and Messi's brother, Rodrigo.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Indian chess player P. Iniyan in this file photo.

Iniyan is World Open chess star

AGE CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 3

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

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

Iniyan said the World Open was the most memo-Close on the heels of rable event since becoming

Georgia's Jobava Baadur was a special one. Jobava with an unconventional style, is a unique player and the win against him was a great achievement," Iniyan said.

En route to the title, Iniyan also defeated GMs Sam Sevian and Sergey Erenburg of the USA and Nyzhyk Illia of Ukraine. Since the event was happening in US time, Iniyan had to burn midnight oil. "I was playing from 9.30 pm to 6 am every day. I had to prepare specifically by practising all night for a few days before the tournament," said Iniyan. who had pulled off a stunning win over World No.2 Fabiano Caruana in an online blitz event.

City find James hard to get past

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

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

In a closely contested game, Houston took the lead for good, 103-102, on PJ Tucker's driving basket

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

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

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

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

final inbounds pass. Earlier in the NBA's Coronavirus quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida, the Miami Heat went down to the wire to take a 2-0 lead over the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks in their

Eastern Conference second-round series. Jimmy Butler, fouled on a potential game-winner at the buzzer, calmly made two free throws to seal a

116-114 victory. Goran Dragic scored 23 points — his sixth straight playoff game with at least — to lead seven Heat players in double figures.

Harbhajan pulls out of IPL

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR CHENNAL SEPT. 3

Even as the buzz and speculation around the surprise exit of Suresh Raina refuse to die down, the Indian Premier League has witnessed another high-profile pullout. Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has decided to not join the Chennai Super Kings camp in Dubai, a team source confirmed on Thursday.

Harbhajan, who had earlier skipped the team's pre-departure camp in Chennai, is reportedly worried about his mother, who is not keeping well. Harbhajan was expected to reach the UAE this weekend.

"He made it clear that he is not in the right frame of mind and won't be able to give his best even if he drags himself to the UAE to play. He has always given his best, so there is no question about his committment. We have to respect his deci-

sion," said a team source. Having suffered a series of blows over the past week, Chennai Super Kings will go into a huddle on Friday. The crucial meeting will decide if the team needs a replacement for Raina and Harbhajan. 'Captain M.S. Dhoni and coaches Stephen Fleming and Michael Hussey will take the call," the source

> **RAINA RETURN** HIGHLY UNLIKELY

Going by his recent interviews, Raina has shown interest in going back to the IPL bubble. But it is 'highly unlikely" that Raina will be allowed to return. "The team has moved on," the source

CSK TO TRAIN

The Super Kings squad,



Harbhajan Singh of the Chennai Suer Kings in this file photo. Coronavirus-infected members who are in isolation, underwent another round of tests on Thursday. The results will be out on Friday morning and if they return negative, the players will begin training the same evening. They have got everything ready at Dubai ICC Academy.

BCCI MEDICAL TEAM MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE Meanwhile, a member of the BCCI medical team

tested positive in the

"It is true, but there is no issue as he (senior medical officer) is asymptomatic and has been kept in isolation. He has not been in contact with anyone and possibly contracted it during his travel to the UAE. He is being monitored and should hopefully be fine in the next round of testing. We also have two people at the NCA who have tested positive and have been kept in isolation," a new agency has quoted a

staff includes team operaanother However, source said that the pertions manager, and social son, who has tested posimedia specialists. The tive, is a member of the cricketers are required to spend time national team's support staff.

source as saying.

key men: Wadia New Delhi, Sept. 3: Kings during XI Punjab co-owner Ness

Bubble only for

Wadia on Thursday said the Covid-19 positive cases in the Chennai Super Kings contingent could have hit any of the eight franchises and wants only those people in the IPL bio-bubble who are "really required" to be

with the players.
"The CSK incident has taught us that it can happen to anyone even when the best of precautions are taken and therefore we must be more compliant and rigid on the biobubble protocols. We need to ensure only those who are really required to be with the players are part of the bubble," Wadia

The franchisees' non-

player and non-coaching

with the marketing staff

which will be held closer to the IPL beginning September 19.
The CEOs and owners, most of whom are yet to

reach UAE, are also allowed in the bio-bubble

but any SOP violation

will send them into a

seven-day quarantine. "The number of staff outside of the teams and their support staff and the match officials should be limited to the absolute minimum," this is what is stated in the BCCI SOP.

When asked if he would be travelling for the tournament, Wadia said: "I have not finalised my plans but I normally don't interact a lot with the players. I have spoken to Anil Kumble (head coach) twice so far just to check what is going on.

"I am very comfortable interacting on Zoom and other (online communicaplatforms),' added.



लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी































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