



JUDGES BECOMING
VICTIMS OF SOCIAL
MEDIA GOSSIP'

P4



BORIS SEEKS
PARTY BACKING
FOR BREXIT BILL

P10



SUGA READY TO TOP
UP PAYOUTS TO EASE
COVID-19 PAIN

P11



THIEM HOPES
TO WIN GRAND
SLAM TITLE

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 92% Min: 48%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 37.3°C (+3) Min: 25.0°C (0)
SUN RISES 06:06 hrs MOON RISES 2:21 hrs
SUN SETS 18:28 hrs MOON SETS 15:42 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Folk dances perform while participating in a dress rehearsal ahead of 'Navaratri' festival. In Ahmedabad on Saturday. ■ AFP

Bhushan moves SC on contempt cases:

Activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, convicted and awarded one rupee fine for his contemptuous tweets against the judiciary, moved the Supreme Court seeking the right of appeal against convictions in original criminal contempt cases to be heard by a larger and a different bench. In a fresh plea filed through lawyer Kamini Jaiswal, he has sought a declaration that a "person convicted for criminal contempt by this court, including the petitioner herein, would have a right to an intra-court appeal to be heard by a larger and different bench".

Another medical aspirant commits suicide: A 19-year-old medical aspirant died of alleged suicide in Madurai, Tamil Nadu 'apprehensive' over the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET), police said. Jothisri Durga, daughter of a police Sub-Inspector, was found hanging at her home and a purported suicide note left behind said she was 'apprehensive' about NEET though others had high 'hopes' on her. The death comes days after another NEET aspirant in Ariyalur also allegedly committed suicide.

P4

Trump brokers
2nd peace deal in
West Asia;
Bahrain, Israel
to normalise ties

WASHINGTON, 12 SEPTEMBER

US President Donald Trump on Friday brokered another peace deal in the Middle East with Bahrain announcing that it would normalise diplomatic ties with Israel.

The announcement by Trump after he hosted a historic call between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain came a month after he had mediated between the United Arab Emirates and Israel to do the same. Leaders of the UAE and Israel are scheduled to sign an agreement in this regard at the White House next week.

In the spirit of peace and cooperation, Netanyahu and Al Khalifa agreed that Bahrain will fully normalise its diplomatic relations with Israel, Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House.

They will exchange embassies and ambassadors, begin direct flights between their countries, and launch cooperation initiatives across a broad range of sectors, including health, business, technology, education, security, and agriculture. This is a truly historic day, he said.

Observing that there have been two peace agreements with Israel in the last 72 years, Trump said that this is now the second peace agreement that he has announced in the last month. And I am very hopeful that there will be more to follow, he said.

Ultimately, you'll have most countries join, and you're going to have the Palestinians in a very good position. They want to come in - they're going to want to come in because all of their friends are in, he said. ■

The Sunday Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



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PLA hands back 5 Arunachal youths who went missing

Development comes amidst tension at India-China border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI,
12 SEPTEMBER

In a gesture which may help bring down the temperature between India and China, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) today handed over to the Indian authorities five youths from Arunachal Pradesh, who had gone missing on 2 September and were later found in Chinese territory.

"Five civilians from Upper Subansiri who had strayed across LAC have been handed over by the PLA to the Indian Army at Kibithu on 12 September after necessary formalities. After quarantine of 14 days for Covid-19, they will be handed over to their families," a defence source said.

The five youths - Tanu Bakar, Prasad Ringling, Nguru Diri, Dongtu Ebija and Toch Singkam - were members of a party of seven who had gone hunting on 2 September. They had gone missing from the vicinity of Sera-7, an Army patrol zone located around 12 km further north of Nacho in Upper Subansiri district.

The youths, engaged as porters by the Indian Army, were reported missing by their families on social media. There were allegations that they had been kidnapped by the Chinese troops.

A defence spokesman, in an official statement, said that Arunachal Pradesh is known for its rich natural heritage and adventurous people fond of exploring the



nature for medicinal herbs and possessing traditional flair for hunting which involves surviving off the land for weeks in jungles and far-flung remote areas. During such adventurous forays, at times youths have inadvertently strayed to the other sides of the LAC.

The development comes at a time when the PLA and the Indian Army have been locked in a tense stand-off at eastern Ladakh for four and a half months.

Beijing does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh and claims that the north eastern Indian state is part of China's territory.

Sources said persistent efforts of the Indian Army had led to the five missing hunters being located in China. The Chinese Army had on Tuesday responded to the Indian queries and confirmed that the missing Indians have been found on their side.

Recently, the Indian Army

had rescued three people from China - two men and a woman - in North Sikkim after they lost their way. The Indian soldiers also offered them food and warm clothes to protect them from the harsh climate in the area.

The three Chinese citizens had lost their way in the Plateau area of North Sikkim at an altitude of 17,500 feet.

Arunachal chief minister Pema Khandu and MP and Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju thanked the Indian government in New Delhi and the Army authorities in particular for ensuring the safe return of the five youths.

Earlier in March, a 21-year-old man was abducted by the PLA from the Asapila sector near the McMahon Line. His two friends, however, had managed to escape.

After 19 days in captivity, Togley Sinkam was released by the Chinese Army.

India joins inaugural session of intra-Afghan peace talks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

India expects that the soil of Afghanistan is never used for any anti-India activities, External Affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday, joining the inaugural session of the intra-Afghan peace negotiations in Doha through video conference.

The Taliban and the Afghan government are holding direct talks for the first time to end 19 years of war that has killed tens of thousands of people and ravaged various parts of the country.

An Indian delegation, led by Mr J P Singh, Joint Secretary dealing with Afghanistan in the External Affairs Ministry, was physically present at the inaugural session of the

talks. Jaishankar's participation was in response to an invitation extended to him by Qatar deputy Prime Minister and Foreign minister of the State Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

In his address, the Indian minister referred to the millennia-old relationship between India and Afghanistan which, he said, had withstood the test of time.

He highlighted India's role as a major development partner of Afghanistan with over 400 proj-

ects completed in all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Jaishankar said India's policy on Afghanistan had been consistent.

New Delhi has the firm view that any peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and has to respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the war-torn country.

The peace process must preserve the progress made in the establishment of a democratic Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the capital city of Kabul.

GET BACK ON TRACK



Kolkata Metro authorities conduct a trial run on the eve of restart of services. In Kolkata on Saturday. ■ SNS

AstraZeneca resumes Covid-19 vaccine trials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 12 SEPTEMBER

owing confirmation by the MHRA that it was safe to do so, AstraZeneca said in a statement.

AstraZeneca is committed to the safety of trial participants and the highest standards of conduct in clinical trials.

The company will continue to work with health authorities across the world and be guided as to when other clinical trials can resume to provide the vaccine broadly, equitably and at no profit during this pandemic, the company said.

On 6 September, the standard review process triggered a voluntary pause to vaccination across all global trials to allow the review of safety data by independent committees, and international regulators.

The UK committee concluded its investigations and recommended to the MHRA that trials in the UK are safe to restart. Clinical trials for the AstraZeneca Oxford coronavirus vaccine, AZD1222, have resumed in the UK following.

New high in India's Covid tally

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

India on Saturday once again recorded over 97,000 cases in a single day, taking the total tally to 46,59,984, the Union Health Ministry data revealed. It is more than double the single day spike in the US, which is the only country ahead of India in terms of number of Covid-19 cases.

There were 1,201 deaths reported in the past 24 hours, with the toll reaching 77,472 so far. Out of the total cases, 9,58,316 are active, while 36,24,196 have recovered so far, according to the data updated at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh are the worst-hit states. They account for above 60 per cent of the active cases, according to the Ministry. The recovery rate stands at 77.65 per cent, while the fatality rate is 1.67 per

cent, the Ministry data showed.

Sixty per cent of the recoveries are also from the five states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and UP.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted a record 10,91,251 tests in a single day on Friday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 5,51,89,226.

Delhi sees highest Corona spike: Delhi today recorded 4,321 fresh Covid cases - its highest single-day Covid spike so far - even as 60,076 coronavirus tests were conducted in the city. The total number of coronavirus cases in Delhi thus climbed to 2,14,069.

This was the fourth successive day when over 4,000 new coronavirus cases have been reported in the national capital.

The city today recorded 28 fatalities due to coronavirus

infection, which pushed its Covid death toll to 4,715.

SEE PAGE 2



Eye on I-League, Mohammedan Sporting train in Kalyani seclusion

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY
KALYANI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Regardless of how Mohammedan Sporting Club came to choose this university town for their bio-secure bubble, probably West Bengal's first, their preparations for the I-League's second tier might not have found a better setting, all allied things considered.

It's a place where people seem not to butt into each other's life, prizing their own privacy.

Some fans did try to gatecrash into the stadium when Mohammedan Sporting Club began tuning up there some two weeks ago but the police, headquartered close by, were equal to the task of coping with them without trying out third-degree methods.

So, as coach Yan Law told The Statesman today, the players go out to practise in the morning, return to Lake Hall, a comfortable residential facility with the predictable amenities nearby, wash their own clothes in a departure from pre-Covid-19 norms and rest.

It isn't a concentration camp, nor is it a carnival.

"Every alternate day, we have two knockabout sessions, it's not just about trying to hit the peak early. There are only four matches and we have to make the most of them, through

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING CLUB COACH YAN LAW

trying to hit the peak early. There are only four matches and we have to make the most of them, through

Law is so young there is an amusing side to his trying to explain why being isolated from family and friends will not affect the players psychologically.

But he is very serious when he says, back in action after so many months of enforced inertia, the footballers will take the restrictive regulations central to any bio-secure bubble in their stride.

Lawn knows a lot about the Mohammedan Sporting Club for the I-League's continued popularity acceptance now that both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are in the Indian Super League.

"Every alternate day, we have two knockabout sessions," Law said, adding: "It depends on my reading of the players' minds and conditions. It's not just about

DGCA warns of 2-wk flight ban if photo rule flouted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

► The Directorate General of Civil Aviation asked IndiGo to take "appropriate action" after it found alleged violation of safety and social distancing protocols by mediapersons in the airline's Chandigarh-Mumbai flight that had actor Kangana Ranaut as a passenger



The government of India is undertaking reforms in the education sector to ensure that education meets the requirement of tomorrow. At the same time, it is very much aware that the foundation of the system is based on imparting the right values

M VENKAIAR NAIDU
VICE PRESIDENT

Metro resumes full services, Airport Line reopens



With the reopening of Airport Express Line, Delhi Metro resumes its full services on Saturday.

DEEPAK

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Metro resumed its full services on Saturday with the Airport Express Line reopening after a hiatus of over 170 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All corridors of the Metro network are now in operation and the timing of services will follow the pre-COVID-19 schedule of 6 AM to 11 PM.

"With the resumption of service on the Airport Express Line, all lines of the Delhi

Metro network are now open! Remember to follow the guidelines when travelling. #MetroBackOnTrack," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) tweeted.

On Monday, the Delhi Metro had resumed services with curtailed operation of the Yellow Line and Rapid Metro.

The Metro services were shut on March 22 to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had recently issued guidelines allowing the Delhi

Metro to resume operations in a graded manner, following which the DMRC had said it would be done in three stages from September 7-12.

Under stage one, Yellow Line or Line 2 and Rapid Metro were made operational with restricted service hours.

Stage two kicked in from Friday with extended service hours, and stage three came into effect from Saturday onwards with Metro services going back to pre-COVID-19 time schedule of 6 AM to 11 PM.

Delhi logs 4,321 cases, its highest Corona jump so far

Capital records 28 fresh Covid deaths; 60,076 tests conducted in a day; recovery rate plunges to 84.68 pc

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Delhi today recorded 4,321 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases - its highest single-day Covid spike so far - even as 60,076 coronavirus tests were conducted in the city, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This is the fourth successive day when over 4,000 new coronavirus cases have been reported in the national capital.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Delhi thus climbed to 2,14,069, the health bulletin said.

The city today recorded 28 fatalities due to coronavirus infection, which pushed its Covid death toll to 4,715, the bulletin stated.

The number of active Covid cases in Delhi today rose to 28,059 from yesterday's 26,907.

So far, 1,81,295 coronavirus patients have recovered in the national capital. Its Covid recovery rate, however, further came down to 84.68 per cent.

The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing over the past several days.

The number of tests conducted and corresponding fresh cases reported from August 30-September 11 are:

14,389 (1,358);	20,437 (2,024);	24,198 (2,312);
28,835 (2,509);	32,834 (2,737);	36,219 (2,914)
38,895 (2,973);	36,046 (3,256);	22,954 (2,077);
45,797 (3,609);	54,517 (4,039);	58,340 (4,308);
and 60,580 (4,266).		

The number of tests conducted for detection of corona-



Health workers in a mobile van take swab samples from residents of the Azadpur market area for Covid testing, in the Capital on Friday.

DEEPAK

virus infections in Delhi was now

60,076, which included 50,894 rapid antigen tests and 9,182 RT-PCR, CBNAT and True NAAT tests, according to the latest bulletin.

The number of tests done per million stood at over 1.09 lakh, while the total number of tests stood at 20,82,776. The positivity rate was 7.19 percent today, the bulletin stated, adding that the case fatality rate was 2.2 per cent.

The number of containment zones in Delhi jumped to 1,383 from 1,329 the previous day.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain held a meeting with medical directors and superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status of testing.

According to the bulletin, 8,096 beds in Delhi's Covid hospitals were vacant. Also, 3,293 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by people under quarantine, including travellers who returned under the Vande Bharat Mission and "bubble" flights, the bulletin said.

The number of patients under home isolation was 15,371.

The national capital had on 10 September recorded 4,308 fresh coronavirus cases - its highest single-day Covid spike till yesterday when it reported 4,266 new Covid cases.

Delhi had on 9 September reported 4,039 Covid cases, which had pushed the tally past the two lakh-mark. It was then the first time since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic that over 4,000 cases were recorded in Delhi in a single day. That day had also marked 54,517 Covid tests - the highest such figure till then

- being conducted in the city.

Amid fresh spell of coronavirus surge in Delhi since the second half of last month, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal recently announced that his government will ramp up Covid testing in the city in order to identify, isolate and treat Covid patients. He had said that the Delhi government will double the Covid tests to 40,000 per day.

The CM has now directed authorities to increase the number of ICU beds in city hospitals and take steps to contain the spread of the coronavirus infection.

JOB & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT IN THE COURT OF Sh. Jayashree Sharma-I, District Judge (Commercial Court)-01, Room No. 12, Karkardooma, Delhi Case No. CS (COMM) 48/20 Union Bank of India Versus Gulshan Kumar & Ors.

To, M/S. Hi-Tech City Developers Pvt. Ltd., (Builder & Developer), through its Director, 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-92.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you, Your Honors are summoned to appear before this court in the above suit by pleader on 24-09-2020 at 10-00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this 5th day of Sept., 2020.

District Judge (Commercial Court)-01; Karkardooma, Delhi Seal of the Court

COMPANY NOTICES

ALLIED INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED Regd. Off: 5/125, Jeevan Tara Building, (R.N.5), Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 CIN : U99999DL1962PTC003831

Notice is hereby given that 50th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Allied International Products Private Limited will be held on Wednesday, the 30th day of September, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the Registered Office of the Company at 5/125, Jeevan Tara Building, (R.N.5), Gate No. 4, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 or through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means. Details of zoom meeting have been already sent to you.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Allied International Products Private Limited Director Place : New Delhi Date : 31-08-2020

EDUCATIONAL

NOTICE

Applications invited for Ph.D in Genetics, University of Calcutta. Please check University of Calcutta website for further details.

SITUATION WANTED

B.COM, self-correspondence Steno, M.S. Office, seeks change. E-mail: ratan.baranagar@gmail.com EXPERIENCED Accountant / Manager, M.Com. (62), Computerized Accounts

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1 All other stations in India - Re. 1

through Tally-ERP-9, seeks placement. Con: R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 1147, Sabek Kh. No. 76, under Kh. No. 158, R.L. Kh. Nos. 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490 of Mouza:

Universal Sompo General Insurance Co. Ltd.
PUBLIC NOTICE
CLOSURE OF NOIDA AGENTS TRAINING INSTITUTE
All our Customers, Constituents and Members of Public are here by informed that our Agents Training Institute at Noida would be closed w.e.f 14.11.2020.
Zonal Head

BY VIRTUE of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, Dt. 11.09.2020, I have changed my name from Aishwarya Jee to Aishwarya Jee. Henceforth, I shall be known as Aishwarya Jee for all purposes.

BY VIRTUE of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, Dt. 11.09.2020, I have changed my name from Mamata Mayee Jee to Mamata Mayee Patra. Henceforth I shall be known as Mamata Mayee Patra for all purposes.

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BY VIRTUE of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, Dt



Delhi Police is under the Centre and Home Ministry. Its illegitimate, illegal actions are a direct outcome of the politics of BJP's top leadership.

SITARAM YECHURY
COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) GENERAL SECRETARY

The Sunday Statesman

03
NEW DELHI, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pb to give subsidised ration to 9L left-out beneficiaries

CM Capt Amarinder Singh, while launching Smart Ration Card Scheme, announces a separate state-funded scheme to provide subsidised ration to 9 lakh beneficiaries not covered under the NFSA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 12 SEPTEMBER

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday announced a separate state-funded scheme to provide subsidised ration to 9 lakh beneficiaries not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

With this, the total number of subsidised ration beneficiaries in Punjab will go up to 1.50 crore, said the CM.

Capt Amarinder was rolling out the Smart Ration Card Scheme under which 37.5 lakh cards will be distributed to eligible beneficiaries this month. He said the Centre had capped the number of beneficiaries to 1.41 crore and despite his government's



repeated requests had not agreed to provide subsidised rations to the deserving 9 lakh people not covered under the NFSA. His government thus decided to cover all such left-out eligible persons under a state-funded scheme details of which will be announced shortly, the CM said.

Launching the Smart Ration Card scheme virtually in Punjab with connec-

tions established online to 100 places across the state, Capt Amarinder said the scheme would help curb corruption and give freedom to beneficiaries to buy from any depot.

Describing it as a major step towards empowering beneficiaries, he said it will end their exploitation by unscrupulous ration depot holders. The smart ration card would empower beneficiaries to get

their entitled quotas of food-grains from any ration depot in Punjab, he said.

The CM lashed out at the

BJP-led central government

for allegedly attempting to

destroy the spirit of Punjab's

farmers, who have toiled for

the country and fed the nation,

through the farm Ordinances.

These Ordinances were aimed

at ending the MSP regime and

will hit the farmers hard, he

said. Referring to the Satluj

Yamuna Link canal issue,

Capt Amarinder said it was

another problem that Punjab

was facing and while he had

recently had a meeting with the

Union water resources

minister and his Haryana

counterpart, the problem

continues to haunt the state.

Pointing to the melting

glaciers and the receding

ground water level in the

state, he said the situation was

critical and the state simply

could not afford to give any

water to other states.

In a symbolic gesture, the

CM handed over smart ration

cards to four beneficiaries at

the Secretariat here following

which all ministers and MLAs

distributed such cards among

beneficiaries in their respective

districts and constituencies.

Earlier, Punjab minister of food, civil supplies and consumer affairs Bharat

Blushan Ashu said the

Amarinder-led Congress govern-

ment had also "weeded out"

ghost beneficiaries and undeserving

people who were being allegedly provided

subsidies by the erstwhile SAD-BJP regime at the cost of genuine

beneficiaries.

Capt rejects AAP's allegation of scam in Covid care kits procurement

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 12 SEPTEMBER

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday ridiculed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for seeing a scam in the procurement of Covid care kits even before the kits were procured by the state government.

In their "desperation" to attack the government in Punjab they seem to have lost all sense of proportion, said the Chief Minister, reacting to AAP legislator Aman Arora's allegation of a scam in the kit procurement.

Arora's list made no mention of Capsule Vitamin D, Betadine gargles, and balloons, while the sanitiser he listed was of 100 ML in comparison with the 500 ML sanitiser that is being included in the government kit.

Further, no liquid kachda (a concoction made using herbs and spices) is available in the market at Rs 10, said the CM, adding that AAP was perhaps making some kachda on their own and marketing in Delhi.

Terming Arora's scam allegation preposterous, the CM said by alleging a scam in the procurement that had not even taken place, the AAP MLA had exposed the party's strategy of unleashing baseless negative propaganda against his government.

The AAP Member of Legislative Assembly had based his allegation on a rate list (which

he had also sent to the health department) that actually listed only 13 items as against the 16 being procured for the government kit.

Arora's list made no mention of Capsule Vitamin D, Betadine gargles, and balloons, while the sanitiser he listed was of 100 ML in comparison with the 500 ML sanitiser that is being included in the government kit.

The market prices, however, keep fluctuating, which Arora seems to be either oblivious of, or chose to deliberately ignore in order to mislead the people, he added.

The Rs 1700 estimate announced earlier by him was based on the cost at which the Punjab Police had been procuring such kits in small numbers from local markets, as per their requirement, against the market price of Rs 4000, per kit, Araminder said.

The procurement process is tender-based, which he had clearly mentioned in his announcement, he further pointed out, adding that the final price which the state government eventually got for the kit turned out to be much lower.

And as already announced, these will be distributed free of cost to all Covid patients in hospital and home quarantine, he added.

HP BJP files complaint with police against Raut over his Kangana remarks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 12 SEPTEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh BJP on Saturday filed a complaint with the Shimla police and sought registration of an FIR against Rajya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut for his alleged derogatory comments against Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. The BJP rules Himachal Pradesh.

The HP BJP's IT cell head Chetan Bragta along with other party workers today submitted a complaint in this regard to Superintendent of Police, Shimla, Mohit Chawla, and demanded registration of a case against Raut.

Bragta alleged that Raut used obscene and derogatory words insulting a woman from a public platform.

"Raut used cuss word against Ranaut on national news channels and it was aired on various platforms 5 September," he added.

He further stated Sanjay Raut out of rage not only abused and insulted Kangana Ranaut, who is a native of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh but showed a scant regard to the law of the country as he had disgraced and demeaned the law of land by



doing so.

Ranaut on hearing such comments, was not only shocked and broken as it is an assault on her character.

The comments have caused actress mental torture, trauma and emotional damage which can't be measured.

Further, abuses used for her have led to irreparable loss of dignity and pride of a woman which is as much as of formal importance to an Indian woman who is respected and honored in all the phases of life," he told The Statesman.

It is worthwhile to mention here that BJP had staged protests across the state against demolition of Ranaut's office in Mumbai and state party chief Suresh Kashyap had recently started a signature campaign in support of the Bollywood actress.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 12 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said the Armed Police and Training Headquarters would be shifted from Shimla to Palampur and the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Intelligence, would now operate from Dharamshala for effective functioning of the police department.

Presiding over the Passing Out Parade of the Deputy Superintendent of Police probationers (12th Batch) and Sub Inspector Probationers (8th Batch) at Himachal Pradesh Police Training College Daroh in Kangra district, the Chief Minister hoisted the Police Flag and took salute from the impressive march past by contingents of Police.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), probationer Pranav Chauhan commanded the parade.

The Chief Minister said that this was a very proud moment for the parents and family members of the probationary officers, who have passed out today.

He expressed hope that the trainees passing out today would serve the state and its people with utmost dedication and help in making it a 'Dev Bhumi' in real sense. He

said that discipline was very important for overall and all round development of our personality.

He said that working in the Police Force can be challenging but is also a rewarding career with a lot of chances to make a difference within the community.

Thakur said that the state Police has done commendable work during the Corona pandemic. In he said that as frontline warriors they have ensured proper checking of persons entering the state. He

said that this has ensured that no one enters the state without proper tests and without following the guidelines set by the state government.

The Chief Minister said that the society has great expectations from the Police and each and every police personnel must try to come up to their expectations.

He said that Himachal Pradesh is a tourist state where lakhs of tourists visit every year. He said that the police must be courteous towards the tourists so that they carry good memories about the state. He said that the behaviour of the police must be courteous and polished so that they become brand ambassadors of the state.

Thakur said that in earlier times, the charter of police duties was confined only to the prevention of crime against persons and property and punishment to the offenders. However, with the growth of society fresh manifestations of crime both white collar as

and black collar as well as overtly violent forms, have emerged as fresh challenges to Police.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has also accorded approval for filling up of 1000 posts of Police constables in the state, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the recruitment process has been delayed. He said that the process would be expedited soon.

The Chief Minister announced Rs 10 crore per year for the next five years to the Police Training College Daroh for developing and strengthening infrastructure in the College. He also announced opening of an ASP Office at Nurpur.

He announced Rs 13,70,650 from Disaster Management Fund to the Police Force for undertaking required works and activities. He also announced that the road leading to the in-house helipad would be metalled at the earliest.

Mohali court issues arrest warrant against former Punjab DGP Saini

PTI

CHANDIGARH, 12 SEPTEMBER

A Mohali court on Saturday issued an arrest warrant against former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in connection with the 1991 Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case.

It has directed police to arrest Saini and produce him before the court by September 25, according to an order.

The police on Saturday moved the court for the issuance of an arrest warrant against Saini, the former Punjab director general of police.

Special Public Prosecutor Sarjeet Singh Narula said the Punjab Police team was facing obstacles in getting assis-

tance from the police of other states in the absence of a warrant to arrest Saini.

Saini continues to remain elusive despite the special investigation team of the Punjab Police conducting raids at several places.

The SIT has already carried out raids at many places in Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi but failed to arrest the former state police chief.

The police had last month added murder charge under Section 302 of the IPC in the FIR in the Multani disappearance case after two former Chandigarh Police personnel - ex-UT police Inspector Jagir Singh and former ASI Kuldeep Singh who are also co-accused -- turned approver in the disappearance case.

The Punjab Police on September 3 had claimed that Saini "absconded" while leaving behind the Z plus security allotted to him.

He had left his Chandigarh residence without Punjab Police security personnel and security vehicles, including a jammer vehicle.

Saini, a 1982-batch IPS officer, was the youngest DGP in the country.

He was removed from the DGP post in 2015 after protests erupted following sacrilege incidents. Saini retired in 2018.

Balwant Multani, who was a resident of Mohali, was picked up by police after the terrorist attack on Saini, who was then the senior superintendent of police in Chandigarh.

garh, in 1991.

However, the police had later claimed that Balwant Multani, son of a former IAS officer, had escaped from custody of Qadiani Police in Gurdaspur.

Saini and six others were booked on the complaint of Balwant Multani's brother, Palwinder Singh Multani, who is a resident of Jalandhar.

The case was registered against them under sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 344 (wrongful confinement), 330 (voluntarily causes hurt) and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code at Mataura police station in Mohali.

The full court decided that physical hearings would be conducted each day, from September 15 onwards, by one division bench and two single judge benches on rotation basis.

Till now, two division benches and three single judge benches were holding physical courts on rotational basis.

The decision was taken on the basis of statistics, submitted before the full court by the Registry, which indicated that around 94 per cent of the advo-

cates had indicated their preferred mode of hearing as 'virtual' mode on the designated mentioning link/e-filing module of the High Court.

"Most of the advocates, whose matters were listed before the benches constituted for physical hearing, expressed their inability, reluctance or unwillingness to appear physically and that requests, in large number, were received for taking up the matters through video conferencing. "The physical appearances were largely before the single benches, exercising criminal jurisdiction whereas the appearance before the other benches was relatively low," the note said.

Lawyer Mahmood Pracha said Swami Agnivesh fought for bonded labourers, women and child rights and the fight will continue even after his demise.

"Recently, he was attacked on many occasions by people belonging to certain groups who were against his ideology," he said.

Those who came to pay last respects wore masks and followed COVID-19 protocols.



NDA will contest Bihar assembly polls unitedly, win hands down

BJP PRESIDENT JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA
ADDRESSING PARTY WORKERS IN BIHAR

THUMBNAILS



A health worker sits in a share auto-rickshaw as she collects a swab sample from a man to test for the Covid-19, outside a commercial centre in Chennai on Saturday. ■ AFP

Worker's protest: TRS workers staged protests demanding employment of locals during a visit by union ministers G Kishen Reddy and Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya at the premises of Ramagundam Fertilizer Corporation Limited. BJP workers too joined in to stage a counter protest leading to a melee before police intervened. The visit was for reviving the unit. ■ SNS

FRIENDLY TOUCH



A 'Boon Boom Ox', decorated ox, is seen along a road as part of an awareness campaign against the spread of the Covid-19 in Chennai on Saturday. ■ AFP

Judges becoming victims of 'juicy gossip' and 'slanderous' social media posting: Justice Ramana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Supreme Court judge N V Ramana on Saturday said that judges are now becoming victims of juicy gossip and "slanderous social media postings" as they restrain themselves from speaking in their own defence.

Justice Ramana, who is next in line to become Chief Justice of India, said that life of a judge is no better than others and there has been a misunderstanding that judges lead a life of luxury in their ivory towers. Chief Justice of India S A Bobde said the freedom of speech of judges "is curtailed by the same laws which prevent people from saying whatever they feel like, adverse to the independence of the judiciary."

They were speaking at the launch of book *Judicial, Judge and the Administration of Justice* authored by former Supreme Court judge Justice (retd) R Banumathi, who had superannuated on 19 July.

Their remarks come in the backdrop of the row involving activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan. On August 31, the apex court had imposed a nominal fine of Re 1 on Bhushan, who was convicted for criminal contempt for his two tweets against the judiciary, saying he has attempted to denigrate the reputation of the institution of administration of justice.

Justice Ramana said that the main theme of the book is the responsibilities and duties of a judge.

Judges themselves restrain from speaking in their own defence and they are now being construed as a soft target for criticism. This issue is further complicated by the proliferation of social media and technology. Judges are becoming victims of juicy gossip and slanderous social media posting, he said.

Justice Ramana said that from his own experience, he can say that the life of a judge is not better than others and even their family members have to make the sacrifices.

There seems to be a misunderstanding that judges lead a life of luxury in their ivory towers. However, the reality is quite different and

it is difficult for others to comprehend. Judges have to balance their social life, in order to be independent, he said.

Justice Ramana said that he believes, in the present day, it requires sacrifices to be made by judges, unparalleled to any other profession.

The CJI said the judiciary belongs to the nation and its achievements are the result of unflinching dedication and commitment of numerous individuals on and off the bench.

He said that for judges and consequently for the judiciary, the biggest challenge is to ensure that the nation inches towards the goal set in the Constitution.

He said that an independent judiciary is *Sine qua non* (essential condition) to achieve the same. It is not for the personal benefit of the judges but for the effective exercise of the power vested in the judiciary, he said, adding, In fact, even the freedom of speech of judges is curtailed by the same laws which prevent people from saying whatever they feel like, adverse to the independence of the judiciary.

Talking about the book, Justice Ramana said that the book by Justice (retd) Banumathi symbolises the immense experience she has gained for many decades and her insights into judicial functioning stretch over the entire judicial system from trial court to the apex court. She has worked tirelessly for 32 years, rendering justice and contributed a lot to the Indian judicial system, Ramana said.

TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL Bemina, Srinagar Kashmir 190018 Department of Materials Management 0194-2493226, mmc@skimsmc.edu.in

e-NIT No. SKIMS MCH - MMD - 08 of 2020 Dated: 10/09/2020

Abbreviated Notice Inviting e-Tenders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning (SITC) of Biomedical Equipments for SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar.

On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K through Principal SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bemina Srinagar, e-tenders are invited from the original manufacturers/their Indian subsidiaries/Indian Agents or the authorization of Principal Manufacturers /Indian Subsidiary if 100% subsidiary of Foreign Principals (for imported equipment) and manufacturers /their authorized dealers for the U.T of J&K (for indigenous equipment) for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of following Biomedical Equipments for SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina Srinagar.

Group A Item Description :- Operating Microscope for Spine Surgeries in Orthopaedics Department

Quantity :- 01 No.
Tender fee :- Rs. 2,00,000
EMD :- Rs. 4,00,000
Group B Item Description :- High Frequency C-Arm System for the Department of Radiology

Quantity :- 02 Nos.
Tender fee :- Rs. 2,00,000
EMD :- Rs. 2,20,000

The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in. The tender document is also available on the websites of SKIMS MCH Bemina and SKIMS Soura websites www.skimsmc.edu.in and www.skims.ac.in respectively.

The e-NIT schedule is as per following:

Last date for entertaining any clarification :- 28/09/2020

Last date for submission of online bids :- 30/09/2020

Opening of Technical bids on :- 03/10/2020 at 02:30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed e-NIT.

No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

Sd/- Materials Management Officer (SKIMS MCH Bemina)

No: DIPK-NB-2285/20
Dated:- 12.09.2020

TN NEET aspirant commits suicide

Two other students committed suicide in Tamil Nadu last month

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 12 SEPTEMBER

As the country gears up for National Eligibility Entrance Examination (NEET), one more aspirant committed suicide taking the death toll in the state to three.

"I am sorry. I am tired." This is how 19-year-old Jyothi Sri Durga, a NEET aspirant who took her own life a day before the examination, ended the note to her parents. Jyothi was apparently afraid to write the common entrance exam.

The young woman lived with her parents and brother in the armed forces reserve quarters in Madurai.

Her father Murugasundaram serves in the fifth battalion of the armed forces. She had written the NEET exam last year but only managed to score 100.

She had been preparing for a year for the exam. Jyothi

was found dead in her room and had left behind a letter and video expressing her fear for the exam.

In the long letter addressed to her father, Jyothi stated that she fears being unable to meet their expectations and that their fears disappointing them. She repeatedly tells her parents not to blame themselves for her decision.

In the video, she is also seen apologising profusely for her decision to her parents.

Speaking to the media, her father said, "She studied well. She would have got over 550. But she was depressed.

She spoke to us well at night. In the morning, we came to know about her suicide."

The other two students who committed suicide in the last month are also 19-year-olds. The first such case was in August where a young R Subash took her own life in Coimbatore district, afraid to write the upcoming entrance exam.

Her death had come a day after the Supreme Court dismissed pleas seeking postponement of the examination.

This was followed by another death, last week of a young man from Ariyalur district. Vignesh had already attempted the test twice, but had performed well enough to get a seat.

Political parties in Tamil Nadu have been up against NEET over the last four years after the suicide of a young woman named Anitha in Ariyalur district.

The state witnessed several protests against the examination and both the ruling and Opposition parties got involved in it. The DMK which has led several agitations against the examination, has alleged that NEET does not allow students from socio-economically backward class to have an equal chance at getting a medical seat.

DMK legislators fume over privilege notices against them on gutka issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 12TH SEPTEMBER

Amid pandemic, the Tamil Nadu Assembly session is scheduled to be held from Monday, and is poised to be a tumultuous one with DMK approaching Madras High Court against the fresh privilege notice issued to them for displaying banned *gutka* products in the House. The Opposition party led by M K Stalin alleged that the ruling AIADMK is trying to prevent its MLAs from attending the Assembly session.

In a statement here, DMK president M K Stalin, said he along with his other party MLAs have filed a writ petition in the High Court against the fresh notice issued by Assembly Deputy Speaker Pollachi V Jayaraman, who heads the Privileges Committee.

Stalin said in his statement that the first bench of Chief Justice A P Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy had on 25 August, citing "foundational errors", set aside the privilege notices issued against him and 17 of his party MLAs for displaying banned *gutka* packets in the Assembly in July 2017.

The Court in its 25 August order had also said that the privilege committee is at liberty to issue fresh notices if it still feels that the act amounts to breach of privilege to it. It also mentioned that the legislators could appear before the committee to present their arguments.

Following this, the Committee again met on 7 September on an issue that took place three years back and fresh notices were issued to the DMK MLAs asking them to reply to it on 14 September, when the brief three-day Assembly session begins.

Stating that the motive behind issuing of fresh notices was to prevent DMK MLAs from attending the session and to scuttle them from raising the alleged inepthandling of the Covid-19 pandemic by the government in the House, the DMK chief said

he and the other legislators have filed a new writ plea in the Court challenging the notice because of that.

DMK legislators had on 19

July, 2017 displayed *gutka* sachets in the House to substantiate their claim that the banned items were being freely available in petti shops.

Though breach of privilege proceedings were initiated against 21 DMK MLAs and all of them had approached the High Court, two MLAs - K P Samy and J Anbazhagan - died and another MLA Ku Ka Selvam was dismissed from the party and hence was not represented by any counsel before the Court. After a single Judge had granted an interim stay stating that no action should be taken with regard to the notices issued to the DMK MLAs, the Legislative Assembly Secretary filed an appeal seeking to vacate the stay after which the case was referred to a two-member bench.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P Dhanspal, chief minister Edappalapati, Tamil Nadu and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam have all been tested negative for Coronavirus.

With the Assembly session slated to begin on 14 September, coronavirus tests were taken for all participating members yesterday. Assembly session beginning here on 14 September would be a brief one and would last for three days. The session would be held at Kalavanan Arangam, instead of state assembly hall at Fort St George to ensure physical distancing among the MLAs as there was space crunch in the present assembly hall.

Meanwhile, the Opposition DMK is facing an embarrassment as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued orders to seize properties worth Rs 89.19 crore held by DMK MP and former Union Minister of state S Jagathrakshan and his family members.

The ED passed the orders under Section 37A of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

PM Modi dedicates 1.75 houses under PMAY in MP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 12 SEPTEMBER:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dedicated 1.75 lakh houses built under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Grameni' in Madhya Pradesh to beneficiaries at a function held through video conferencing.

Modi said on the occasion that all government schemes implemented honestly and with good intention not only get completed successfully but also reach up to all the targeted beneficiaries.

The PM told the beneficiaries that this year they would enjoy their upcoming festivals even more, as they have their own houses now.

Modi said if it were not for the Covid-19 situation, he would have been personally present with the people on this happy occasion.

MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who also attended the event through video conferencing, informed that the MP state government had been given a target of constructing 20.30 lakh houses under the scheme.

Opposition intensifies protests demanding KT Jaleel's resignation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
12 SEPTEMBER

The CPI-M and the LDF government in Kerala have found themselves in a tight spot after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) grilled state higher education minister KT Jaleel for two hours at its Kochi office on Friday in the sensational gold smuggling case.

The fact that a minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan government was subjected to the Enforcement Directorate grilling has put the CPI-M and the LDF government in an embarrassing situation. This is the first time that a minister in Kerala was being interrogated by a national agency in a case related to smuggling.

Though CPI-M is putting a brave face in open, it is really in a fix, as it has to defend one of its ministers, who was subjected to the ED interrogation.

As the state is going for local body and Assembly polls within a short span of time, the Opposition UDF and BJD have intensified the demand for the resignation of Jaleel after his grilling by the ED.

Kerala on Saturday witnessed widespread protests by Congress, Muslim League and BJD demanding the resignation of minister KT Jaleel who was questioned

by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Thiruvananthapuram gold smuggling case. Congress and BJD workers went on the warpath, demanding the resignation of KT Jaleel.

Despite heavy downpour, the Youth Congress, YuvaMacha, BJD, Congress and the Youth League staged protests at various places, including Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Malappuram, Idukki, Kollam, and Kottayam. The protests turned violent in many places with police using water cannons and lathi charging the protesters.

BJP also observed a "black day" on Tuesday to protest the police action against its activists on Friday night before the secretariat here.

Meanwhile, BJD state president K Surendran had on Saturday raised fresh allegations against KT Jaleel. Surendran alleged that Jaleel benefited from crores of rupees in flood relief donations provided to various religious and charitable organisations in the state from abroad.

"Crores of rupees have flown into the state in the form of donations for flood relief after the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues visited Gulf countries. The Enforcement Directorate

has been reported that Swapna Suresh and others in the gold smuggling case, Jaleel's name surfaced for his alleged association with Swapna.

It has been reported that Swapna, contacted Jaleel several times over the phone. While explaining about the calls, the minister had stated that they were made in regard to the food kits (Ramzan kits) worth Rs 5 Lakh sponsored by UAE Consular General.

It has been reported that Swapna, contacted Jaleel several times over the phone. While explaining about the calls, the minister had stated that they were made in regard to the food kits (Ramzan kits) worth Rs 5 Lakh sponsored by UAE Consular General.

He went on to add: "Ironically, the Tollywood actress in question Rakul Preet Singh has been a Telangana brand ambassador and preaching against drug abuse through state government sponsored publicity campaigns."

Apart from demanding that the chief minister should order investigations into drug menace he said he will write to both Shah and minister of state for home affairs G Kishen Reddy for a probe by NCB into drug trafficking in the state.

However, Sabharwal was transferred and the chargesheets filed by the Special Investigation Team didn't name anyone from the industry.

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Farm ordinances will subjugate the farmer at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists



CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA

HITTING OUT AT THE CENTRE OVER THREE FARM ORDINANCES

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A woman wearing a face-mask and a man wearing a scarf as a preventive measure against the spread of Covid-19 in New Delhi on Saturday.

BSF recovers cache of arms: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including three AK-47 and two M-16 rifles, from a field along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab's Ferozepur district. During search operation, the BSF troops recovered the arms and ammunition from a bag which was found lying on a field near the border. Six magazines of AK-47 and 91 rounds, four magazines of M-16 rifles and 57 rounds. SNS

'Govt's three farm ordinances death knell for agriculture'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

The party asserted that it will oppose the ordinances both inside and outside Parliament and reach out to like-minded parties to put up a joint resistance on the issue.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

The ordinances seek to provide barrier-free trade for farmers' produce outside notified farm mandis, and empower farmers to enter into farming agreements with private players prior to the production for sale of agri-produce.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala expressed solidarity with those protesting against the ordinances and said the party

will fight the Modi government "tooth and nail" on this issue.

"These three draconian ordinances are a death knell for agriculture in India.

They will subjugate the farmer at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists, making them labourers to toil on their own land rather than getting a remunerative price for their crop under the system of minimum support price," he said at an online press conference.

"Our floor leaders will speak to every party. They are already in touch and we will put up a joint opposition to the draconian ordinances of the Modi government aimed at subjugating the farming community and abolishing the livelihood of crores of people who are aligned with the grain markets and other market systems," he said. Surje-

wala raised various issues in the ordinances that would allegedly harm the interests of the farmers. There is no provision in the ordinances for the protection of the rights of farm labourers or tenants, he said.

"When the mandi system ends, the farmer will be dependent only on contract farming and the big companies will set the price for his crop.

What is this if not a new zamindari system?" he asked.

"As soon as the mandis are done with, the livelihood of lakhs and crores of labourers, middlemen, book-keepers, transporters etc. working in the grain-vegetable mandis will end automatically," he claimed. Surjewala claimed that the BJP will have to bear the consequences of the "anti-farmers" move for a long time to come.

HOLY WATER



A Sikh devotee washes his face with holy water of the sarovar (water tank) on the occasion of the 481st death anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Saturday.

NOTICE	
DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL	
Apartment No. 318, Illrd Floor, Hotel Samrat, Kauliya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021	
Appeal No. 285/2019, In SA, 727/2017 DRT, II, Chandigarh	
Punjab National Bank	Vs
State Bank of India	
Appellant	Respondent
1. Mr. Maruti Keeril Nandan Agro Food Pvt. Ltd., Having its Registered Office at: 495/7, Kadupur Industrial Area, Near Shiv Mandir Pataudi Road, Gurgaon Haryana Also at: M/s. Maruti Keeril Mandir Agro Food Pvt. Ltd. Having its Factory at: F-69, Agro Food Park, Mira Area, Alwar, Rajasthan.	Respondent 2
2. Mr. Shishen Kumar Aggarwal S/o Sh. Mahaveer Prasad Aggarwal, Rio 547/22, Shivaji Park, Gurgaon Haryana.	Respondent 3
3. Sweety Aggarwal W/o Shishen Kumar Aggarwal, Rio 547/22, Shivaji Park, Gurgaon Haryana.	Respondent 4
Whereas the notice that an appeal from the order passed by the Presiding Officer of D.R.T. in the above case has been presented by the appellant on 03/06/2019 and is registered in the Tribunal. The matter was listed before Tribunal D.R.T. on 04.09.2020.	
Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 25.11.2020. Whereas take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the Seal of the Tribunal, this 08th day of August, 2020	
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL REGISTRAR	

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ABANDONED PERSON	
General public is hereby informed that one child namely Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown, who was found in abandoned condition in Central Park, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 23.08.2020. In this regard, an information vide DD No. 55A dated 23.08.2020 has been registered at PS: Connaught Place, New Delhi. The description of the abandoned person is as under:	
Age: About 05 years, Height: 4' Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue colour Nikkar and light dark T-Shirt & sandal in feet. He is unable to identify himself. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out his family and address but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about his family and address of abandoned person then please inform P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in	
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No.: 011-24368639 P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi Phone: 011-2374 7100 DP/106/NDD/2020	

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Sonam Pathak, D/o: Lt. Shri Vinod Pathak, R/o: H.No. D-1080, Gali No. 23, Bhajanpura, Delhi, Age: About 21 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Kurta, Black Pant and Black Jutti in Feet has been missing since 21.08.2020 from her house. In this regard DD No. 33-A, Dated 23.08.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-24368638 and 24368641, Ext. 2101.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/277/NE/2020

Sonia consolidates Rahul's position with Cong overhaul

Reorganisation seen as a move to lay ground for Rahul Gandhi's return to the helm of the AICC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Weeping organisational changes in the Congress party are being seen by many leaders as heralding the beginning of a generational shift in the grand old political organisation and several of them said the revamp will consolidate former party president Rahul Gandhi's position in the party.

An overwhelming number of new appointees across the party's organisational structure - from the highest decision-making body CWC (Congress Working Committee) to the special committee formed to assist interim party chief Sonia Gandhi - are known as Rahul Gandhi's confidants.

The revamp exercise is also a clear signal to the party dissenters that the high-command will not act under pressure, several leaders said.

While Sonia accommo-

Sonia leaves for USA with Rahul for 'routine' medical check-up

NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Congress president Sonia Gandhi left for the United States on Saturday for a routine medical check-up, sources close to her said.

They said her son and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is accompanying her during her travel to the US. Rahul is expected to return within a week.

dated three of the 23-member group who recently wrote to her seeking large-scale organisational changes, she snubbed the main demand of the dissenters regarding elections to the CWC.

The only letter-signatory to have found a major role in the party is Mukul Wasnik, named one of the six mem-

bers who will assist the Congress president till the next AICC session takes place.

While Wasnik remains a general secretary, several top leaders from the letter-writing group - Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari - have been left high and dry. Azad has been

dropped as general secretary but retained in the CWC as a regular member along with Sharma.

Party insiders see the latest reorganisation as a move to lay the ground for the return of Rahul Gandhi to the helm of AICC as and when the next session is held.

At least 11 of the 26 permanent invitees to the CWC are known within the party as Rahul Gandhi's aides. Among the 22 regular CWC members also, the presence of KC Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken, Jitendra Singh and RS Meena will serve to strengthen Rahul Gandhi's hands.

The nine special invitees to the CWC, seven are seen as Rahul Gandhi loyalists, while 13 of the 17 in-charges appointed for various states are known as his close associates.

Even among the nine general secretaries, Surjewala, Singh, Venugopal, Maken are known as members of Rahul

Gandhi's group.

Some party leaders feel Sonia Gandhi has also used the experience of the old guard and the talent of the young brigade in the new organisational structure.

Former union minister Ashwini Kumar said the organisational changes in the Congress bear the quintessential Sonia Gandhi imprint.

"The announcement signals a balancing of experience, loyalty and youthful energy and a roadmap for generational change. In retaining some of the letter writers in important roles, the leadership has sought to give a quietus to internal dissent while asserting authority," he told PTI.

Kumar said the appointments indicate the shape of the future leadership of the party and the limited duration of the special committee's tenure indicates the possibility of a new leadership structure in the near future.

'Govt's well-planned fight against Covid has put India in abyss of GDP'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

According to the official data, the country's economy suffered its worst slump on record in the April-June quarter with the gross domestic product (GDP) contracting by 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdown weighed on the already declining consumer demand and investment.

In another tweet, Gandhi said there was no hope of job creation and a safe future for youth anytime soon.

Tagging a report quoting Unilever global chief executive Alan Jope as saying that increasing Covid-19 cases is a worrying trend in India, Gandhi tweeted, "One of India's biggest employers is in 'wait and see' mode since Covid cases are rising."

"So, no hope of job creation & safe future for youth anytime soon. Yet another outcome of Modi Govt's sudden & unplanned lockdown which has snowballed India's already precarious economy," Gandhi said.

Universal health insurance scheme launched for Jammu and Kashmir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 12 SEPTEMBER

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first place in the country where all residents will get health insurance coverage.

In a major step towards the overall welfare of residents of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitating affordable healthcare facilities, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has announced a health care scheme that would provide Rs 5 lakh universal health insurance coverage to the residents.

Terming the scheme as a major support for facilitating the healthcare and benefit to all the residents, government is committed to improve the overall standard of life of the citizens, Sinha said.

He said that the J&K health scheme will provide health insurance cover free of cost to all the uncovered residents of J&K presently not covered under AB-PMJAY. This will be implemented in convergence with Aushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), he said.

According to the scheme

Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo said that the scheme would also include employees and retirees from government service of J&K and their families. It will have the same benefits as available under AB-PMJAY with an annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family on floater basis," he said.

He stated that the scheme will cover about 15 lakh families over and above the 5.97 lakh families already covered under AB-PMJAY. Besides, 1,592 Medical Packages have already been approved under AB-PMJAY to which all the beneficiaries of J&K Health Scheme will have access.

Dulloo said that in addition, the packages of life consuming diseases such as cancer and kidney failure and treatment of Covid-19 are also covered under the Scheme.

He further explained that all high-end treatments of Oncology, Cardiology and Nephrology will be covered from day one while the high-end diagnostic treatments during hospitalisation will also be covered.

The scheme shall be implemented through an insurance service provider discovered through transparent competitive bidding viz. M/S Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd.

there shall be no restriction on the family size or age and all the pre-existing medical conditions shall be covered under the scheme.

The scheme shall cover 3 days of pre-hospitalisation, hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation including diagnostic care and expenditure on medicines.

Dulloo also pointed out that at present there are about 23,300 empanelled hospitals across the country where this facility can be availed and these include 218 public and private hospitals already empanelled in J&K.

He said that the annual financial implication for JK Health Scheme would be Rs 123 Crore.

Under J&K Health Scheme, portability option will be available as applicable under AB-PMJAY, which will allow the beneficiary families to avail cashless service. Dulloo added that the Scheme shall be implemented through an insurance service provider discovered through transparent competitive bidding viz. M/S Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd.

Sources said that fearing he might have contracted Covid, he left his home and took shelter at a relative's place first. Then he went to the Bidhannagar Subdivisional hospital to get tested.

Rajanta Roy (45), a Madhyamgram resident, was finally admitted to the Rajarhat Chittaranjan Cancer hospital for treatment after the minister issued instructions to a councilor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to help the patient.

He is the first patient to be admitted to the hospital after the minister issued instructions to a councilor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to help the patient.

Sources said that fearing he might have contracted Covid, he left his home and took shelter at a relative's place first. Then he went to the Bidhannagar Subdivisional hospital to get tested.

On Friday morning, he had called Sushanta over the phone and explained his condition as serious.

Then we contacted the state fire services minister Sujit Bose and informed him about the matter. ,

He could not be contacted over his phone and was wandering aimlessly on the Salt Lake streets and sleeping on the foot-paths at Duttabad.

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PM Kisan Scam

On hindsight, the Union government might have been naïve in believing that the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, launched in December 2018, to provide Rs 6,000 per year to a farmer in three installments of Rs 2,000 each, for farm inputs to ensure crop health, would reach the beneficiary through self-registration ~ and without any intermediary ~ simply by uploading Aadhaar and bank details. Sadly, the Prime Minister who launched this scheme with much fanfare did not know the extent of corruption a state like Tamil Nadu was steeped in. The scheme was abruptly stopped in the State after a scam of at least Rs 110 crore was detected. About five lakh people who have nothing to do with farming or own any farm land managed to get themselves enrolled under the PM Kisan Scheme and have drawn Rs 110 crore while many genuine farmers are struggling to get themselves enrolled. Among those drawing kisan doles are government employees who do not own even a square foot of land. Tamil Nadu BJP president L Murugan said the Centre wanted to simplify the registration procedure for the benefit of lakhs of poor farmers, but proper implementation of the scheme is the responsibility of the State government. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami, however, squarely blamed the Centre's revised guidelines on beneficiary registration released last year for giving room for such irregularities. The beneficiary registration rose from 41 lakh to 46 lakh in just four months.

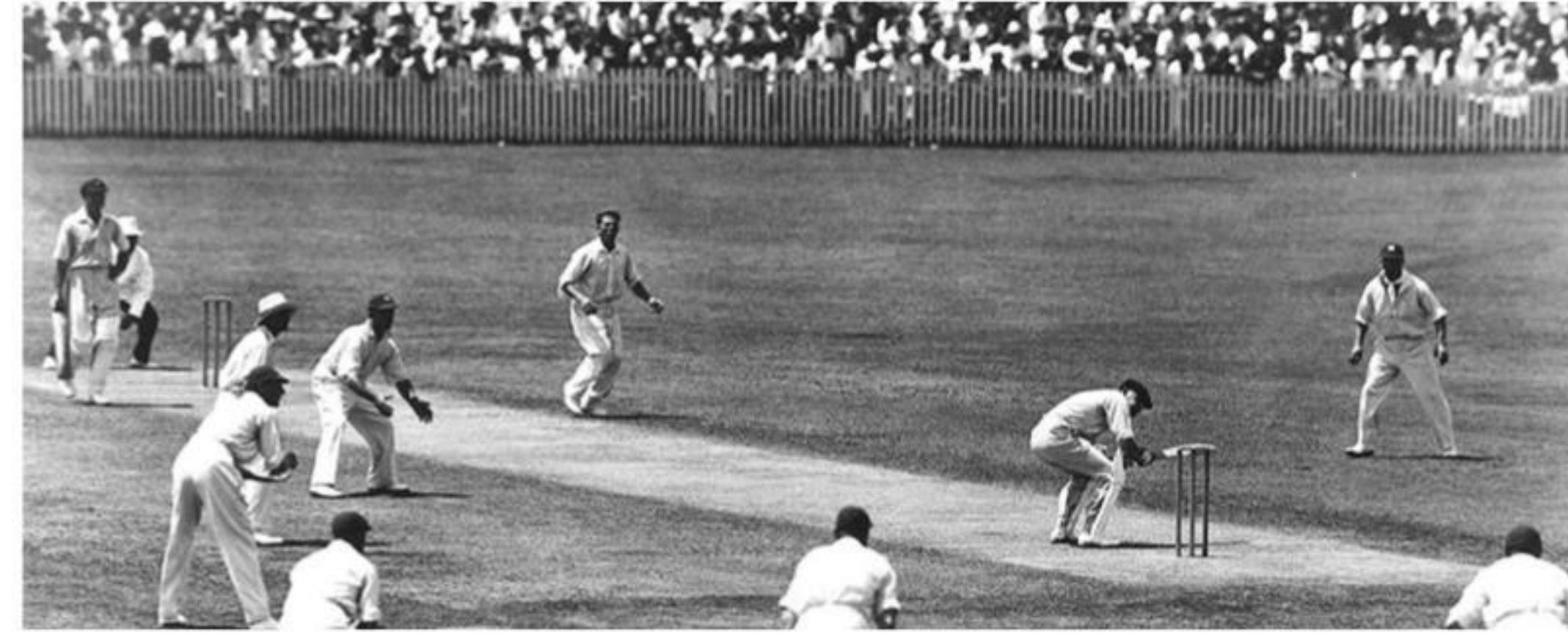
The PM Kisan Scheme is an all-India one and the scam is unique to Tamil Nadu, according to officials in the Union agriculture ministry. There were anomalies in a few other States like Assam and West Bengal because of non-cooperation by the State government. In Tamil Nadu, the ruling AIADMK is a constituent of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. State officials validating ineligible beneficiaries are mostly responsible for the scam. The self-registration plan has built-in safeguards. But in a State steeped in corruption, breaching those safeguards is no problem. Officials in the agriculture department were given targets to enrol beneficiaries which enabled them to throw caution to the winds. An unholy alliance was formed between internet centre owners who had Aadhaar details of people and corrupt officials to make easy money. Hundreds of non-farmers were registered as beneficiaries using stolen passwords. The government has raided the internet centres and arrested more than 20 people. About 5.5 lakh ineligible people registered as beneficiaries have been identified and their bank accounts frozen. There are also allegations of corruption involving crores of rupees in the construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Corruption cannot be eradicated by distributing cash doles. Besides, it lowers the dignity of farmers by making them look like beggars. A better way would be to increase the procurement price of agricultural produce to improve their living standards and impart dignity to their calling.

Show Time

Newspapers, it has been said, represent instant history. What the interpretation stresses ~ the contemporaneity or the shelf life ~ is a no-brainer though, given that they have to pass muster today simply to be able to roll on and, maybe, find patient researchers arrayed before them at some afterglow time in the future. And when the archives of tomorrow will be examined to learn how sport dealt with Covid-19, well might posterity wonder how we came to put the sort of spin we did on learning to live with the virus ~ an idea often propounded like a glib online spiel ~ that so unapologetically threatened human lives. Any further progress from this point will, of course, be contingent upon players being looked upon as men and women whose lives matter. Since they actually matter as much as any others, it is vital that we acknowledge just how candle-in-wind performers' existence on the professional circuit has become simply because of organisers' and administrators' bull-headed determination to press ahead with the programme of so many competitions in the face of the relentless surge of the virus, come what may. Sport doesn't want to stop and stare lest another billion ~ or trillion ~ dollars should be lost to the pandemic. In West Asia, the Indian Premier League is under renewed attack with a Delhi Capital's staff member having to be banished to isolation barely days after Chennai Super Kings' collective and chilling brush with the virus. The US Open, in New York, had a French player in a Covid-19 crisis which resulted in another one being forced into what Flushing Meadows called a bubble within the bubble following contact-tracing. The stricter cordon within the putatively iron-clad security system eventually got the better of Kristina Mladenovic, who, finding the conditions overwhelmingly difficult, suffered a singles meltdown and then had a quarantine notice handed to her by public health officials in the county where her hotel was. That put her out of the show, and she was one half of the top-seeded women's doubles team in the tournament. Rarely, if ever, has a Grand Slam seemed such a poor show as this one. Tokyo Olympic high-ups have gone on record as saying that vaccine or no vaccine, they will stage the quadrennial event next year all right. An Olympic delayed on account of a worldwide catastrophe cannot be allowed to be an Olympic abandoned, after all. And it will not be lost on our progeny that whatever risk we run today is in sport's pursuit of money, which outweighs concern about humans' survival in a horrifying time. It could be a measure and symptom of the world of the future we are shaping today, but chances are we shall be looked upon as a lot that thought fooling around with people's lives was, well, a sport.

As cricket evolves

In other words, if every team member did everything well, there would be 32 roles performed. And the day may not be far when enterprising teams would go beyond the 32 roles, when some bowlers would be able to bowl with both arms



Cricket in India is not merely a sport, but also a career to earn money and perhaps become rich. It is a generator of wealth and a significant contributor to the Gross Domestic Product of the national economy. Moreover, it is a platform to arouse and enjoy patriotism. Indians, especially Hindus, have achieved few military victories against truly foreign countries. Winning against Pakistan whether in Kashmir, Bangladesh or Kargil is akin to winning in what is basically a civil war. The last military victory against an actual foreigner was by Chandragupta Maurya. This was in 303 B.C. when he defeated and expelled Seleucus I, successor of Alexander the Great in Bactria.

Cricket began as a game for gentlemen at leisure to fill time. This was in the south of England. In due course, interest in the game spread to the British colonies, Australia, New Zealand and yet later to India thanks to the East India Company. The sport got going in the 19th century. Strangely, the Americas did not take to cricket, although North America had been a British colony; the USA and Canada preferred baseball. Cricketers in the early days mostly came from the aristocracy and were called 'gentlemen', but not always could the gentlemen find 22 willing players; they found volunteers from among the gardeners and other staff members. Those not from the upper echelons were called 'players' as distinct from the aristocracy, who insistently remained gentlemen.

The players were given a separate pavilion gate to use and they wrote their first names while the gentlemen distinguished themselves by using their initials like P.F.R. and not Peter. Players were not made captains of their teams until Len Hutton was picked by England in the year 1952. India also copied the tradition by selecting princes like the Maharaja of Vizianagram or

Patiala or the Nawab of Pataudi (his father Iftikhar Ali and not Tiger Pataudi whom we were familiar with).

There was also a time when the Thomas Cup in badminton used to be an event of national interest. The Indian team was for years a contender for the world championship. TN Seth and Suresh Goel followed by the outstanding Nandu Natekar as well as Prakash Padukone all held national attention in the realm of the shuttlecock. Domestic cricket tournaments have not aroused much crowd interest. In a Ranji or Duleep Trophy or Irani Cup match there is hardly any audience. Yet in the 1930s, the games of the Quadrangular tournament provided thrills and were lapped up by crowds. Uncannily, the most popular matches were those between Hindus and Mohammedans, the prototype of India-Pakistan contests. Parsees and Europeans evoked limited response.

There was a phase when Ramanathan Krishnan followed by the Amritraj brothers made national news in tennis. Football also had its spell of mass following in West Bengal and the south. The IFA Shield was quite an annual event. Internationally, India was represented in the 1948 London Olympics but, unfortunately, we lost to France in the first round. For decades now, we have not qualified for the Olympics. Uncannily, the lack of international success took its toll on the sport's popularity at home.

Earlier, wrestling too had its phase of glory with names like Gama, Imam Bux and Goonga, who have still not been forgotten. Vishwanathan Anand has brought the intellectual game of chess to the forefront and has made India a world champion in

it. There are several grandmasters and it is hoped that this game, which is believed to have been invented in India, will flourish more and more.

Unlike say, football or hockey, a cricket captain can be as important as three or four players. Think of the difference that Clive Lloyd made to West Indies cricket. Be it the bowling changes or field placing, which depends not only on the situation but also equally on the particular batsman facing the ball. The captain should be the first player to be chosen, not only for his ability to bat or bowl but as much as his capability for captaincy. The late Ashok Mankad is a name that comes to mind as an example of this contention.

The normal practice is to select the best available combination of eleven players.

Thereafter, the most suitable among the eleven, usually a batsman, must be chosen as the skipper. Mahendra Dhoni was selected as a wicketkeeper and blossomed as an excellent captain by chance.

Given the planning, foresight and innovativeness, there is no reason why India should not dominate world cricket indefinitely. It not only has the best batting side but also has a tradition of innovation.

The most original contribution made by an Indian to cricket was by Jamsahib Ranji. Until his advent, deliberate scoring strokes were confined to the front of the wicket. It was Ranji who innovated the leg glance, pull and sweep. To quote CB Fry, the famous commentator, from Alan Ross's book, *Ranji* (London, 1983), "He can place to leg within a foot of where he wishes almost any ball that pitches between wicket and wicket. He has a slight prejudice against forward play for forcing strokes."

On the off side, the cut whether lemon, late or plain, came into common use after Ranji's time. To quote again from Alan Ross, "The Indian has the eye of the hawk and wrists like Toledo steel, and the finest of the batsman's art is his timing of the ball. He has a late cut which the envious gods are still practising in the Elysian Fields."

The wicketkeeper cannot bowl but the remaining ten players can hypothetically bat, bowl as well as field. In other words, if every team member did everything well, there would be 32 roles performed.

The day would come before long when this should happen. And the day may not be far when enterprising teams would go beyond the 32 roles, when some bowlers would be able to bowl with both arms. If a boy has the aptitude for bowling, why not coach him to use his left as well as his right arm? There are players who bat and bowl with different arms like the recently retired Sourav Ganguly or Vinoo Mankad and John Goddard, the West Indian captain of yesteryears. Why cannot such players especially bowl with both the arms? Or, even bat with both hands; the batsman is then ready to deal effectively with different bowlers. Such could be the all-rounders of the future. And the training of 10 or 12-year-old youngsters should begin now.

In a Test match, the burden of attack is on the bowler whereas in a one-day game the onus is on the batsman. Why not therefore ask the faster bowlers not to worry about speed but to concentrate on accuracy? Years ago, Bapu Nadkarni used to bowl immaculately. So much so that it was said he could land his ball on the same spot four or five times in an over. In one Test match innings his bowling analysis was 32 overs, 27 maidens, 5 runs and 0 wickets. His length was perfect but there was no guile in his bowling. In the one-day game, Nadkarni would be an invaluable asset. The batsmen facing him would get so impatient that they would make mistakes.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Rape of Aruwakkalu

More than 200 acres of residual forest have been destroyed in Kuratiyamohotta, Aruwakkalu over the weekend. Valuable trees have been felled and removed, and the shrub has been burnt. The scorched land belongs to the Sri Lanka Cement Corporation; it has been leased out for 50 years. What we are witnessing are the ill-effects of the notorious Tawakkal deal, struck under the Chandrika Kumartunga government amidst protests. Tawakkal company, which had no experience in manufacturing cement, had the Puttalam cement factory and the land belonging to it on a long lease; Holcim got them from Tawakkal. Now, Siam City Cement (Insee) controls the factory, and the land encompassing more than 5,000 acres, where limestone is quarried. The lessee must be made to explain why it failed to protect the land. Someone responsible for grabbing a section of the Cement Corporation land in Aruwakkalu was taken into custody yesterday. Three brokers and a potential buyer were also arrested. They would have gone scot free but for the timely intervention of the Cement Corporation officials, who rushed to Aruwakkalu.

However, those who destroyed the forest land and attempted to grab it are still at large. A backhoe used for destroying the forest vanished despite the police presence in the area, according to our sources. Nobody would have been able to remove that vehicle without the backing of a person with political connections. The

The Island
yahapalana politicians and their henchmen destroyed forests and engaged in illegal sand mining, etc., for five years. They amassed a great deal of ill-gotten wealth at the expense of the environment and the public. Now, the racketeers within the SLPP's ranks have crawled out of the wood-work. They do not have to fear anyone, not even the police, because their government has a two-thirds majority! They are obviously making up for lost time. They must be covering their tracks in Aruwakkalu.

The land racket in Aruwakkalu comes under the Offences against Public Property Act, and all those responsible for the crime must be arrested and prosecuted without further delay. It is a non-bailable offence. The incumbent government claims to be able to protect the people against terrorists. It has also promised one law for the entire country. So, having those who masterminded the abortive land grab in Aruwakkalu arrested should be child's play for these heroes. One of the first few things the Rajapaksa government did after last year's regime change was to allow what it called residual forests to be used for 'other purposes'. It said 'residual forests' had been brought under the purview of Divisional Secretariats for the benefit of the peasants engaged in slash-and-burn agriculture. Environmentalists and the media protested against its decision. We pointed out in this space that government backers would destroy forests on some pretext or the other.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A puzzle wrapped in a mystery

SIR, In less than two weeks, my fears about being denied my daily crossword puzzle on a regular basis have been realised. In the last few weeks a new problem has emerged which I'd like to bring to your notice. Often, I've been deprived of my daily dose of cruciverbal pleasure because the previous day's clues were repeated alongside a new grid.

But today (Friday, September 11) surpasses the previous instances. There is no grid to fill in solutions; the one provided is just a larger version of the grid showing solutions to yesterday's puzzle. Perhaps, in your wisdom, you have decided that solvers will be happier in lockdown days

designing their own grid and then solving the puzzle with the provided clues. I, for one, am not happy with such a decision, if indeed, one has been so made. In these pandemic times you never can tell whether a disease will spread uncontrollably or not. I dread the day my excitement will be reduced to guessing each morning whether or not I have a crossword puzzle to solve.

Yours, etc., Ramakrishnan
New Delhi, 11 September

OF CANALS AND TALES

SIR, Manish Nandy's 'Missed at Saint Petersburg' (August 31) is a beautiful short story. An Indian-American gentleman on tour to Russia meets a lady, a doctor, and a nice friend develops. The lady accompanies the tourist, together they tour the famous city of Saint Petersburg and she explains to him the history of gorgeous palaces while moving through the streets and winding canals. The woman's failure to turn up at the appointed place leaves a lingering sigh in the chest of the man as also the readers of the story.

While narrating the story, Nandy carries his readers with him through the winding canals of Saint Petersburg. Such canals are the regular feature of many European cities. It lends tremendous attraction to them. Alas! no such attraction is found in any Indian city, despite there being innundable large rivers in India. In Jalpaiguri the river Karai runs through the middle of the town. With a little effort, arrangement could have been made for boating, thereby enhancing the tourist attraction of the area rich with the splendour of Dooars forests. One end of the river has been closed and it has been turned into the sewage deposit centre of the town. In Kolkata, the Tolly Nallah has been choked and wherever it exists it serves as a sewerage pit.

Yours, etc., Sanjiv Ghatak,
Narendrapur, 31 August.

RISING FROM THE ASHES?

SIR, Compliments to *The Statesman* for publishing an outstanding and educative article, 'Communist Parties', by Prafull Goradia in your edition of today. Communism, as a political idea or organisation, is today a spent force. There are several factors responsible for its dwindling attraction. One of them certainly would be the failure to hold on to Marxist ideology.

Karl Marx had famously said, "The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to resent and repress them." Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi, Kolkata, 9 September.

(UN) CLEAN MUNICIPALITY

SIR, I would not like to comment on the aberrations in the wake of Covid-19 ~ ambulances, the inhuman attitude and exorbitant bills of the private hospitals in Kolkata. But I must share my experience in healthcare and functioning of government offices in the state and my local area in particular. In this pandemic situation, cleanliness is being treated as the prime concern of the government. Cleanliness and sanitization have been given top priority in all municipalities and corporations. Notifications are published in newspapers by the department of health and family welfare, Government of West Bengal, to ensure the cleanliness of the surroundings. But there is no helpline number of the office concerned. There is no sincerity in redressing the grievances of the people.

The work culture of Hooghly-Chinsurah Municipality is poor. No action has been taken in terms of cleanliness and sanitation of a housing complex (Rupayan cooperative housing society, Satyapitala, Chinsurah). This housing complex consists of 55 families and most of the members are senior citizens. There is no regular sweeping and removal of garbage. Residents throw packets all over the place and this irresponsible attitude has worsened the situation.

Yours, etc., Krishna Ray, Chinsurah, 10 September.



Asia's post-colonial journey

ANDREW SHENG

On 16 September, Malaysia celebrates her 57th national day, having celebrated on 31 August the 63rd anniversary of independence from Britain in 1957.

What does Independence mean for former colonies? It means that a nation is free to choose its own future independent of imperial influence. Lest we forget, colonisation in Asia arrived in the 16th century with Portuguese, Dutch and British profiteers who came, saw and conquered. They did this in the name of their king and Christianity, but it was mostly for their own well-being. No statistic illustrates this better than the stark fact that India before colonisation in 1700 accounted for 24.4 per cent of world GDP (Maddison, 2007) and her share was down to only 4.2 per cent in 1950. Of course, the British left behind the English language, the rule of law and a durable administrative structure that is still being practiced in many former colonies.

We should also be grateful that decolonisation (shedding of empire by the European powers) was encouraged by the post-war American administration, which basically did not want any challenges to its dominant status, British cousins or not. The result was that Hong Kong was the last of the colonies to lose her status in 1997. Considering that some Hong Kongers are still waving the Union Jack, colonial nostalgia has not lost all its fans.

What matters is what the newly independent countries achieved with their sovereignty. Singapore is the exemplar that pulled herself into the ranks of advanced income status by sheer grit and determination, having almost no natural resources. Myanmar, on the other hand, was richly endowed with natural resources and had one of the best educated elites at independence in 1948. Ruled mostly by the military junta, her growth has been stunted relative to her neighbours.

The Asian Development Bank has just published an excellent book on Asia's Journey to Prosperity, commemorating 50+ years of its establishment in 1966. The book tracked Asia's transformation from the post-colonial era of essentially rural Asia to today's urban and technologically driven region that



accounts for roughly half of global growth.

Seen from a 60-year cycle, Asia's transformation has been world-shattering. In 1960, Developing Asia (excluding Japan) accounted for only 4.1 per cent of world GDP, measured in constant 2010 USD terms. That year, EU accounted for 36.2 per cent and the United States 30.6 per cent respectively, together 18 times larger. Japan was already a developed country with 7 per cent of world GDP. By 2018, Developing Asia's share increased six times to 24 per cent, on par with EU (23.2 per cent) and USA (23.9 per cent). This means that including Japan, Asia accounted for 31.5 per cent of world GDP. The global GDP shares for Latin America, Middle East, Africa and rest of the world were essentially unchanged in the last half century.

In other words, the loss in share of world GDP by Europe and the US between 1960-2018 was largely gained by Developing Asia, of which China was in its own class. China's GDP grew 84 times over this period, whereas the other three Asian dragons, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore grew between 55 to 58 times. By com-

parison, over the same period, OECD countries, including Japan and Australia, basically grew 8 times. Malaysia is in the upper pack, having grown by 35 times.

The secrets for Asia's successful transformation deserve repeating. During this period, there was peace and general political stability, with Asian governments being fiscally prudent and willing to invest in infrastructure and people. Asia did not follow the "import substitution" model adopted in Latin America but adopted the Japanese export industrialization route. Development essentially came from a young growing population that shifted out of rural agriculture into urban centres, with pragmatic governments working hand-in-hand with markets to create jobs in new industries and services. This raised the savings and investment levels significantly above those of the rest of the world. The state took care of macroeconomic stability, education, health and infrastructure, preparing the labour force for foreign and domestic enterprises to propel exports and growth.

Those economies that were most open to technology and innovation, including welcoming for-

ign investment, grew fastest. Initially, income distribution improved, but in recent years, income and wealth inequalities have widened. Furthermore, climate change issues in terms of weather change, impact on water, food and increasing natural disasters, are rising in the social agenda. The geopolitical temperature has also risen with the West feeling more insecure.

Currently, China's rise is seen as the main geopolitical rival for the West, since she is the West's largest market, biggest supplier, toughest competitor and rival political model. But not far behind China are India and ASEAN, both with culturally diverse, younger population, totalling 2 billion people and US\$5.8 trillion GDP, about to enter technologically-driven, middle-class income levels. Both South and Southeast Asia are about to enjoy the same demographic dividend as China, but it will take competent governments to ensure that the rise to middle and advanced income will be accompanied by good jobs and fair distribution, particularly in the face of growing protectionism, and decoupling in technology and supply chains.

Asia's growth must be in coop-

eration with the West, socially, commercially and technologically. But the greatest risks are the neo-con hawks in the West who are willing to risk war to disrupt Asia's rise. Put simply, if Asian growth stalls, the world will lose its growth engine.

The rise of Asia for the rest of the century is neither destiny nor pre-ordained. The West will not sit by to see its leadership erode. But as McKinsey's useful analyses on Future of Asia opined, "The question is no longer how quickly Asia will rise; it is how Asia will lead." Leading in a culturally diverse and complex world is not about fighting, but about how to work together, meaning competing and cooperating at the same time. The greatest Asian divide is not technology, but social polarization driven by race, gender, religion, ideology and health/wealth inequalities, all exposed brutally by the pandemic.

How a new generation of Asian leaders heal these social wounds and move forward without fragmentation and fighting will be the true test of Asia's maturity in the next 60 year cycle.

The writer is a former central banker and financial regulator. The views are entirely his own.
Special to ANN.

NOW AND AGAIN

A Trek in Rajgir

SWAPAN K BANERJEE

Years ago, reading a literary anthology compiled and edited by an English professor from Gaya College, I had an urge to meet him. Since I did not have his address or phone number, I could not make an appointment. So I decided to first visit Rajgir, a pilgrimage center near Gaya, keeping in mind poet Eunice De Souza's line, 'The hills hear as no hand does', and then attempt to interview the professor.

I boarded Danapur Express from Howrah and after an overnight journey, got down at Bakhtiarpur. A couple of hours in a taxi took me to the heart of Rajgir, where I put up at a Standard Chartered Bank holiday home, its caretaker being a young Bihari priest. The priest and I got on very well mainly because he could recite from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata at will, which was quite amazing.

Early next morning we were out for a trek. A little distance from Brahmakund, the hub of hot springs, he took a route off the beaten track snaking up Vaibhav Hill, atop which, he said, "are tucked away inside mysterious caves some miniature shrines". We started ascending the rock-hewn steps, with the resonant sound of a distant gong from Shanti-Stupa keeping us company. When we got to the mouth of a huge cave after a 90-minute continuous climb, I was literally gasping for breath.

The first thing I did was to lie flat on the thick, somewhat uneven, parapet wall on the outermost edge of the ridge, where the sunlight had not reached. The cool, refreshing mountain breeze revived me in no time. Growing on the hillside was a sacred datura flower. He plucked it and went inside to a tiny stone structure with a Shiva Lingam within and performed puja while chanting sacred mantras.

I then strayed away to the far corner of the cave in a bid to find out what lay behind it. As I looked out over the parapet wall, I saw a chain of rolling low-lying hills, range upon range, a transparent cloak of bluish mist enveloping it all. It was so calm, dignified and picture-perfect that to this day I recall the scene vividly.

When we came back, it was time for the tourists to bathe in the hot springs. I felt my knees going a bit stiff, and experienced cramps in my stomach. When I told the priest, he took me to the Brahmakund and asked me to keep my legs, knees pointed down, in the natural hot water for a while and thengulp down some of it. When I did what he had said, there was not a trace of ache anywhere in my body.

Later I learnt that people both elderly and young come visit from far-flung areas specifically for the hot springs whose source is somewhere deep within the mountains. It's an unfailing cure, the priest told me, for gout, indigestion and common skin disorders. In the water are curative elements not to be found in any drugstore anywhere.

The following day I did meet the professor at his college and then at his residence, and a week later, the interview appeared in a Dehradun-based daily.

100 YEARS AGO

THE LATE MR. J.S. ZEMIN

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - At a public meeting held recently, it was decided to place choir stalls in St. Paul's Church, Scotts Lane, as a memorial to the late Mr. Joseph Samuel Zemin, who at the time of his death had been for 42 years honorary organist of the Scotts Lane Mission. It was felt that no more suitable memorial could be devised of him who for so long a time had given ungrudging service to the choir and music of the church. The estimated cost is Rs 1,000. I shall be grateful if you will be kind enough to insert this letter, so that Mr. Zemin's friends may know of the scheme to perpetuate his memory. There must be many of his friends, apart from those who are members of this congregation, old Doveton boys and others, who will wish to forward the memorial by subscribing to the cost. Subscriptions may be paid in any method which is convenient to the subscriber.

ETHELBERT VAUGHAN.
St. Paul's Mission, Calcutta.

THE HOUSING QUESTION

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - It may be instructive to consider what other cities are doing in regard to the question of house accommodation. Take Dundee for instance. The Town Council not long ago started a Garden City Association. A 16-acre field has been acquired, towards which the Dundee Town Council contributed pound 900 and commenced work with the building of twenty houses, eight of which will be on the semi-detached principle and of single storeys; and twelve will be built in six blocks, each block containing two houses, each two storeys high. Attached to each of these twenty houses is a garden. What about Calcutta? Why cannot the Corporation and the Improvement Trust evolve some such similar scheme, in harmony with Calcutta conditions, and push ahead with construction. There is no fear of loss, for the people will gladly co-operate and put up the funds in any practical scheme worked by the Corporation or the Trust, or both.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.
Calcutta.

PAY OF POLICE INSPECTORS

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - In the year 1865 the pay of the Police Inspectors was fixed at Rs 100-150-200-250 and in 1903 changed to Rs 150-175-200-250. They have petitioned the Government and now Government refuses to grant them an increase as there is no money. Where did the money come from which was given to the Imperial establishments? In some cases increases of Rs 300 per month were given. The case of European Inspectors is very hard. They have come out here with the Army, and once they join the Police they can never get a chance of going Home unless they pay their own fare. The pay of all Inspectors, both Indian and European, should be increased. All other Provinces in India have done it, excepting the Premier Province of India. Cannot the man who is responsible and who is drawing a fat salary, see his way open to better the lot of his less fortunate brethren?

A POOR INSPECTOR.
Calcutta.

POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR

Finding deputies in the House



The first day of the upcoming hybrid Parliament session will see election of the Deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha. However, there is no sign of choosing a Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha so far though Article 93 of the Constitution makes it mandatory. When the speaker is absent, it is the deputy speaker who presides over the proceedings of the House.

The opposition, particularly the Congress is shouting that the 17th Lok Sabha is breaking from the tradition. The Constitution says, "The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the house to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and so often as the office of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant the house

shall choose another member to be the Speaker and Deputy speaker as the case may be."

In a letter, the leader of the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhury has demanded this week that the vacancy should be filled up immediately. Speaker Om Birla claims that it is for the government and the house to decide.

The Congress argument is that for the last four terms of the Lok Sabha, the post had been filled up within one to four months. In his first term, Prime Minister Modi in a swift political move offered the post to the friendly All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), and Thambi Durai was unanimously elected Deputy Speaker nearly three months after the 16th Lok

Sabha was constituted. Traditionally the post is given to the principal Opposition party in the Lok Sabha. But this began with the non-Congress government headed by Morarji Desai who offered the post to the Congress. Earlier Congress held both the posts.

The previous longest period in the appointment of Deputy Speaker was during another BJP-led government. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had not decided whom to offer the position, which finally went to PM Sayeed of the Congress.

There are several reasons for delaying the election this time. First of all, the conduct of the Lok Sabha proceedings has not been hampered in the absence of the Deputy Lok Sabha Speaker. The

Speaker has the assistance of about ten panel members chosen by him.

Secondly, unlike most of his predecessors, Speaker Om Birla sits in the house much longer.

Thirdly, the NDA has a massive majority and can get bills passed. The opposition is not only weak but also disunited.

Fourthly, there is no constitutional obligation that the Lok Sabha has to appoint a Deputy Lok Sabha Speaker within a specified period. Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker but it only says "as soon as may be".

The Prime Minister, in his second term, did sound the YSR Congress Party but party supremo Jagannath Reddy is reported to have declined it. He was apprehensive of his Muslim votes, which are considerable. The other choice was someone from the BJD. But the BJD chief Naveen Patnaik wanted to maintain his neutrality and was not keen on the post.

The Shiv Sena when it was part of NDA had staked its claim for the post but soon the relationship soured and the two parted company last October. Since then, election of the Deputy Speaker has been put on the back burner. Given that the Modi government is not willing to let an opposition party get any foothold in the house, there is delay in finding a willing non-party, which has caused the delay.

While elections are a part of democracy, consensus for the presiding officers of both houses would go a long way to creating a spirit of bipartisanship.

Moreover, the Constitutional office of the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman are symbolic. This gives the BJP additional reason to keep the issue at bay until it finds a suitable name.

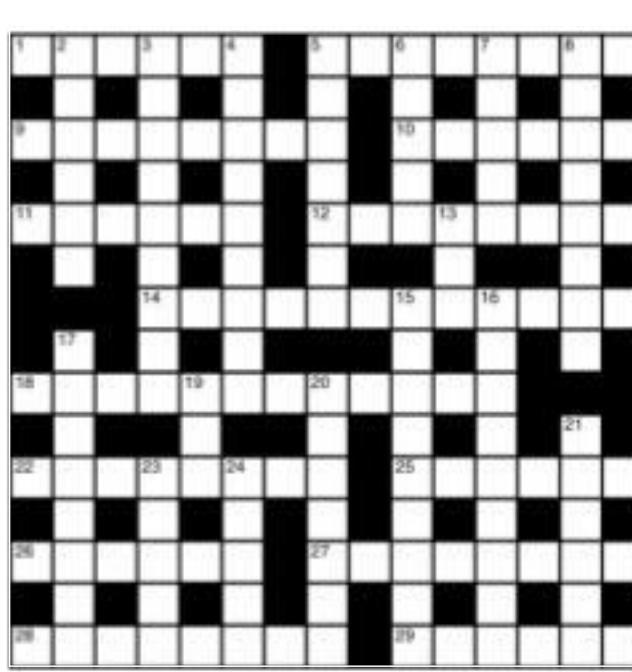
In contrast, the first day of the Monsoon session will see the reelection of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The BJP has fielded the just retired Deputy Chairman Harivansh of the JD (U). The opposition has fielded RJD member Manoj Jha. Since the BJP has the numbers, Harivansh might be elected for a second consecutive term.

Since 1952, there have been 19 elections for the post. In 14 of these elections, there was no contest. It was in 1969 that two MPs, for the first time, were in contention for the chair. It was Violet Alva's resignation in 1969 that led to the contest between Dr. Bhaurao Dewaji and Khoobragade and Godey Murahari. The former won.

Harivansh is likely to be elected as the BJP floor managers are confident of securing the support of about 140 MPs, including from YSR Congress, TRS and BJD. The number of the BJP-led NDA has also gradually increased to 113 in the house with an effective strength of 245 members.

While elections are a part of democracy, consensus for the presiding officers of both houses would go a long way to creating a spirit of bipartisanship.

CROSSWORD



SOLUTION FOR 06 SEPTEMBER

ACROSS

- 1 Award most of money before rift (6)
- 5 Fond of an upset occasionally (2,3,3)
- 9 Inept sot struggling to go faster (4,2,2)
- 10 Type of film showing end of panic after months in space (6)
- 11 Left-leaning plot against Republican is in ruins (6)
- 12 Somewhat powerless to embrace retreat in an enthusiastic manner (8)
- 14 Detect hint of micronutrient (5,7)
- 18 Starts with places producing protective coverings (7,5)
- 22 Vital energy associated with girl band For instance (8)
- 24 Henry to broadcast with Rob and Bob possibly (6)
- 26 Tomorrow's article filled with
- spiritual nourishment? Just the opposite (6)
- 27 Roomy and deceptively attractive with area for a bit of exercise (8)
- 28 Affected by onset of nerves after hoax in the London area (8)
- 29 Item of clothing hard to obtain close to Christmas (6)
- 6 Biting Bill to get free (5)
- 7 Doctor involved in study of genius (5)
- 8 Silly to pay Heather (8)
- 13 Old English flower (3)
- 15 Become discouraged as Larwood would if wicketless (4,5)
- 16 Largely avoid imparting a feeling of doubt (9)
- 17 Changed planes at Nice (8)
- 19 Essential to list each kind of shrub (3)
- 20 Last of victims well hidden by murderer in watertight chamber (7)
- 21 Slightly alter poster before fair (6)
- 23 Form of Arabic art originally covered by Irish TV show (5)
- 24 Caught with order for crystal-meth (5)

NO 28072

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



Indian road infrastructure sector has potential to spur economic growth

V K SINGH
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

RBI net buyer of US dollar in July: The Reserve Bank of India continued to remain a net buyer of the US currency in July after it purchased \$15,973 billion on a net basis from the spot market, according to its monthly bulletin. In the month, the central bank bought \$16,903 billion and sold \$930 million in the spot market, according to the monthly bulletin.

In the same month of 2019, the RBI was a net seller of US dollars after it bought \$1,592 billion and sold \$1,685 billion.

PTI

Nutanix growth: Cloud software solutions provider Nutanix's India business clocked a 42 per cent growth in the financial year ended 31 July 2020, driven by strong demand across various verticals, a top company official said. Nutanix vice-president and managing director sales (India and Saarc) Balakrishnan Anantharaman said the company is witnessing strong demand for cloud services in the country from across sectors, including banking, IT-enabled services and government.

PTI

Indian Terrain loss: Men's wear brand Indian Terrain Fashions Ltd has reported a standalone net loss of Rs 32.25 crore for the quarter ended 30 June 2020, the company said on Saturday. The Chennai-based company had recorded a standalone net profit of Rs 3.75 crore during the corresponding quarter last year. For the year ended 31 March 2020, the net loss stood at Rs 10.34 crore, the company said in a filing to Bombay Stock Exchange.

PTI

Sebi proposal: To strengthen corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed that listed companies should disclose the financial results to the exchanges within 30 minutes of approval by their boards. At present, such disclosures need to be made within 30 minutes from the conclusion of the board meeting.

PTI

Discoms' liquidity package to be enhanced to ₹1.2 lakh crore

The package would help them pay their dues towards power generation and transmission companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

The Rs 90,000-crore liquidity package for discoms to help them pay their dues till the month of March would soon be enhanced to Rs 1.2 lakh crore factoring in these utilities' outstanding till June, said a senior official.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May announced a Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion into cash-strapped discoms for payment of their dues till March 2020. Discoms have been facing demand slump due to the lockdown to contain Covid-19.

Participating in a webinar on "Innovation in Renewable Energy" organised by PHDCL, power secretary S N Sahai said the liquidity package would cover the outstanding dues of discoms for the months from April to June also and it would be enhanced to Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

While announcing the package, the government had said: "At present discoms have a total

BREATHER FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION COS



» The Rs 90,000-crore liquidity package for discoms to help them pay their dues till the month of March would soon be enhanced to Rs 1.2 lakh crore factoring in these utilities' outstanding till June

» A source said that an official communication in this regard has already been sent to the implementing state-owned non-banking finance firms Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC by the ministry of power.

» The source further said now the respective boards

outstanding of Rs 94,000 crore towards power generation firms (gencos)."

However, later states demanded that the package be extended to include outstanding dues towards power generation and transmission firms for the month of April and May as well.

of REC and PFC will approve the hike in liquidity package to around Rs 1.2 lakh crore covering a period of dues till June this year, by the end of September.

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REC and PFC will approve the hike in liquidity package to around Rs 1.2 lakh crore covering a period of dues till June this year, by the end of September.

As much as Rs 68,000 crore has been sanctioned and around Rs 25,000 crore has been disbursed to discoms under the package so far.

The source further revealed that more states would avail the credit facility under the package after the REC and PFC boards' decision to hike the package. PFC and REC would apprise states about the hike in the package after their boards' decision in this regard.

Some of the discoms were not eligible for getting loans under the package because they were not meeting working capital limit norms under Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

Earlier in August, the Union Cabinet relaxed the working capital limit norms for discoms under UDAY to get loans as part of the liquidity infusion scheme.

Under UDAY, banks and financial institutions are

restricted to lend working capital up to 25 per cent of a discom's revenue in the previous year.

The restriction was part of UDAY, which was approved in November 2015 by the Union Cabinet for revival of debt-laden utilities.

Besides, discoms can get loan under the package against the receivables from state governments to clear their dues. But some of the discoms did not have headroom under both the provisions.

Thus the power ministry had proposed to relax working capital limit norms so that these discoms can avail loans under the package to clear their dues.

Sahai also stressed on the need to honour contractual obligation under power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed by discoms or states to safeguard investors, especially in the case of renewable energy.

In past, there have been cases when some of the states' utilities refused to honour PPAs in view of the falling tariff of clean energy.

GST Council meeting postponed to 5 Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

The 5 October meeting assumes significance as the Centre and states are at loggerheads over the issue of funding Rs 2.35 lakh crore GST collection shortfall.

The GST Council meeting slated for 19 September has been postponed to 5 October, sources said. The 42nd meeting of the Council has been postponed since Parliament would be in session, they added.

The Centre had last month decided that the 41st and 42nd meeting of the Council would be held on 27 August and 19 September. However, the dates for the monsoon session of Parliament were not decided.

The 5 October meeting assumes significance as the Centre and states are at loggerheads over the issue of funding Rs 2.35 lakh crore GST collection shortfall.

Chief ministers of 6 non-BJP ruled states - West Bengal, Kerala, Delhi, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu - have written to the Centre opposing the options which require states to borrow to meet the shortfall.

Sources said till 8 September, as many as 7 states have conveyed to the Centre about their choice of the options.

While Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tripura opted for borrowing Rs 97,000 crore, Sikkim and Manipur opted for the Centre's second option to borrow Rs 2.35 lakh crore.

'Building capital buffers crucial for microfinance'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 12 SEPTEMBER

19 as the biggest tail risk event in a long time.

Owing to the disruptions in supply chain and business operations, the likelihood of loss of livelihoods and consequent drop in household incomes is high, it stated.

"Non-banking financial company microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs), being specialised institutions extending collateral free loans to low-income groups, are particularly exposed to credit risks in this scenario," it said.

The article said the repayment rates have dropped significantly, posing liquidity risks to MFIs. Smaller NBFCs-MFIs are particularly vulnerable to credit rating downgrades, which may hamper their ability to raise fresh capital and access liquidity, it said, adding they "need to diversify their sources of funds for sustaining healthy portfolio growth".

The article termed Covid-19 as the biggest tail risk event in a long time.

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Covid-19 is expected to

affect the microfinance sector with financial risks in the near term. However, it may also incentivise digitisation, it added.

Efforts to migrate loan collections to digital platforms may greatly improve operational efficiency of MFIs and help them in minimising event-based disruptions, it said. The article said data analytics may be leveraged for predicting portfolio behaviour, building risk models and designing customer centric products.

At this juncture, when the risk of spread of misinformation is high, it is important that credit discipline be maintained, it added. Increasing engagement with borrowers through virtual/telephonic means and sensitising staff on fair practices code would go a long way in restoring confidence in borrowers and rebooting the credit cycle, as per the article.

It recovered in the subsequent two months but has been falling again since July, on a monthly basis.

Sale of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country, fell 12 per cent to 4.84 mil-

Local lockdowns hit Aug fuel demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

lion tons in August from 5.51 million tons in the previous month. On an annual basis, the demand for diesel declined by 20.7 per cent.

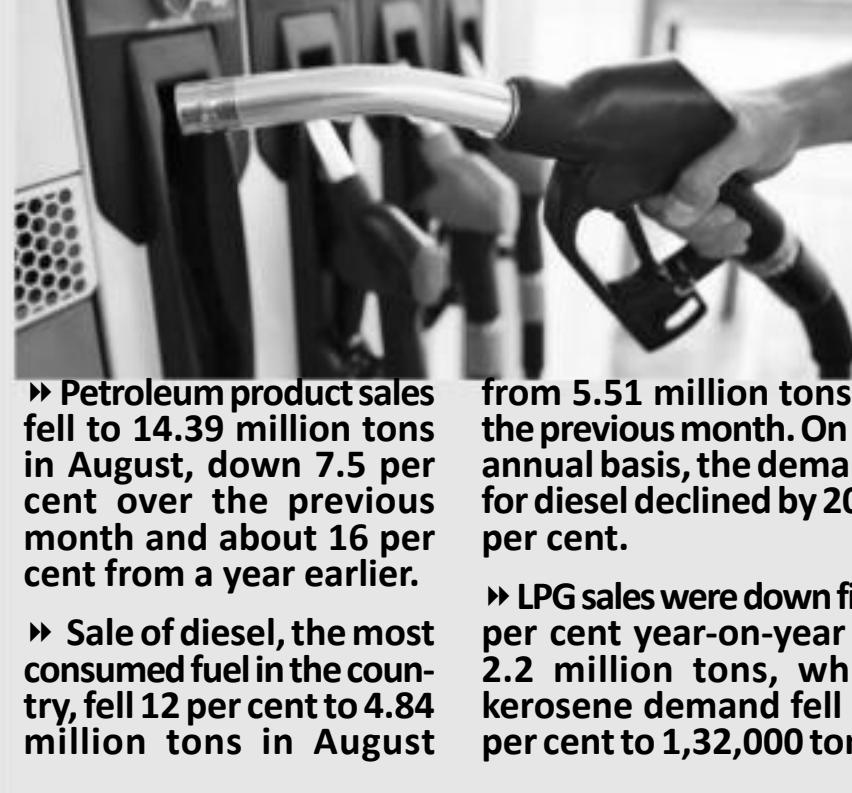
The decline in August was the sixth consecutive year-on-year slide.

Fuel demand had slumped by a record 48.6 per cent in April to 9.4 million tons as the government imposed a nationwide lockdown in an attempt to curb the spread of coronavirus.

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CONSUMPTION CHART



lion tons in August from 5.51 million tons in the previous month. On an annual basis, the demand for diesel declined by 20.7 per cent.

Petrol sales fell 7.4 per cent year-on-year to 2.38 million tons although it rose 5.3 per cent from 2.26 million tons in July as commuters preferred driving to using public transportation.

LPG sales were down five per cent year-on-year to 2.2 million tons.

E-policies to become new norm in future, says Irdai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

The insurance sector regulator has allowed general and health insurers to issue policies in electronic form and this e-policy will become a norm in the future, a senior Irdai official said.

Speaking at an industry event, T L Alamelu, member (non-life), the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (Irdai), however, said a lot more needs to be done in the insurance sector for both policyholders and other stakeholders.

"As far as regulator is concerned, there is still lot more to be done. We are continually tracking what needs to be

done, not only for the policyholders but for all the stakeholders. Some of the things which we have done are relevant to the health insurance industry," Alamelu said.

"I think all of you would have seen that now we are allowing insurers to issue e-policy in the proposal form. I think that is need of the day. Slowly there will be distancing (physical) between intermediaries, agents and policyholders. We will quickly have to move into a system where this is going to become the norm of the day," Alamelu said.

She also stressed on the need to use cartoons and imagery by intermediaries and agents through digital

verticals - leisure, adventure, heritage, MICE, cruise, corporate and niche segments," it said.

The shutdown and slowdown which was initially expected to affect revenue streams till October, have now indicated otherwise. Trends are currently indicating only 30 per cent of occupancy in hotels till the start of next year, with hotels seeing an 80 per cent to 85 per cent erosion in revenue streams, it said.

"The coronavirus pandemic has given a crippling blow to the Indian travel and tourism industry... the entire value chain linked to travel & tourism is likely to lose around (Rs) 5 lakh crore or \$65.57 billion, with the organised sector alone likely to lose \$25 billion, according to the CII-Hotelivate report

"The coronavirus pandemic has given a crippling blow to the Indian travel and tourism industry impacting all its geographical segments - inbound, outbound and domestic, almost all tourism

CII-HOTELIVATE REPORT

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» This is one of the worst crises ever to hit the Indian tourism industry impacting all its geographical segments - inbound, outbound and domestic, it said.

occupancy was at its peak in January this year at 80 per cent followed by February at 70 per cent, dipping to 45 per cent in March and then to the low-

est at 7 per cent in April.

In May, June, July and August occupancies were at 10 per cent, 12 per cent, 15 per cent and 22 per cent,

respectively, it added.

The CII-Hotelivate study projected that in September occupancy will be at 25 per cent, 28 per cent in October, 30 per cent in November and 35 per cent in December this year.

In the worst case scenario, the estimated loss in hotel for both branded and unbranded segments in 2020 is \$19.31 billion (around Rs 1.42 lakh crore), it added.

On the other hand, the report said the estimated revenue loss of travel agents and tour operators in the worst case scenario is \$4.77 billion (about Rs 35,070 crore).

However, in the best-case scenario, industry revenue will improve by 10-15 per cent, said the report, to which online travel services MakeMyTrip also contributed.

Equity MFs see outflow for 2nd straight month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Equity mutual funds witnessed an outflow of Rs 4,000 crore in August, making it the second consecutive monthly withdrawal, primarily on profit-booking by investors.

Besides, investors pulled out Rs 3,907 crore from debt mutual funds (MFs) last month after seeing a staggering inflow of Rs 91,392 crore in July, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India showed.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed a net outflow of Rs 14,553 crore across all segments during the period under review, compared to a net inflow of Rs 89,813 crore in July. This outflow could be

PROFIT-BOOKING BY INVESTORS

» As per data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India, outflow from equity and equity-linked open ended schemes was at Rs 3,999.62 crore in August, much higher than Rs 2,480.35 crore in July. Equity MFs saw their first outflow in over four years in July on profit-booking. Such scheme attracted Rs 240.55 crore in June, Rs 5,256 crore in May, Rs 6,213 crore in April, Rs 11,723 crore in March, Rs 10,796 crore in February and Rs 7,877 crore in January.

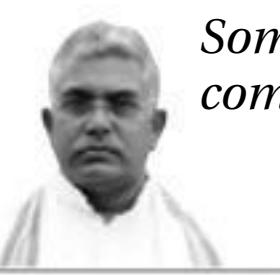
In August this year, except equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS), focused fund and sectoral categories, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflow.

This could be largely attributed to investors booking profit given the surge in the equity markets, said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director - manager research, Morningstar India.



In August this year, except equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS), focused fund and sectoral categories, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflow.

Some police officers, for their vested gain, only earned the wrath of common people for their unlawful excesses against Opposition parties



SPEAKING ON THE ARREST OF PARTY MEMBERS IN CASES OF NARCOTICS, CYBER CRIME & FAKE NEWS

BJP WEST BENGAL PRESIDENT DILIP GHOSH

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

Relentless rise in Covid cases in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 SEPTEMBER:

Odisha's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,46,894 on Saturday as the state registered yet another single day spike of 3,777 new cases while 11 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 616.

The state, however, continues to maintain the high rate of recovery and low ratio of fatality of COVID patients.

As many as 1,12,062 coronavirus patients are cured of the disease at 72.28% rate while the death toll rate in the state stands at 0.41%.

As many as 39,333 infections have been detected from 1 September till today, a growth of 27 per cent while 114 succumbed to infection in the past 11 days- 19 per cent rise in Odisha's overall COVID death toll.

A total of 2,191 new cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,586 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing. The local contact cases amounted to 42% of total cases in the past 24 hours.

Khurda district that includes the capital city of Bhubaneswar reported the highest number of new cases at 815, followed by 368 in

Local transmissions rise in Bhubaneswar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 SEPTEMBER:

The pandemic infection is showing apparent signs of reaching its peak in Odisha's capital city of Bhubaneswar with around 35% positive cases of the total COVID count diagnosed in the current month.

What also presses the alarm bell is the sourcing of the virus from outside the quarantine centres. A whopping 55% of infections reported in September are being officially portrayed as 'local contact cases'.

In fact, rapid rise in local contact cases is fueling fear of community transmission of the disease in the city even though the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials continue to maintain

Cuttack and 237 in Puri.

There are now 34,163 active COVID-19 cases in Odisha which is 23 per cent of total infections reported so far in the state.

Odisha has so far tested over 23,74,620 samples for COVID-19, including 50,979 on Friday. The daily testing which had been ramped to almost 60,000-

stoic silence over it.

Adopting the 'Ganjam Model', the BMC on Saturday began the door-to-door health screening across the city.

The capital city, home to more than a million of people, managed to go green and had become coronavirus-free on May 18 after it had recorded Odisha's first COVID case on 15 March.

Despite the claim of well-orchestrated strategy and aggressive containment measures, the COVID graph has been on a sharp upswing since then.

Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar on Saturday recorded yet another single day steep spike of novel coronavirus infections with as many as 480 positive cases with the city's caseload soaring to 15,845.

a-day is gradually dropping with each passing day.

The tally at Khurda, the state's COVID hotspot, today breached 25,000-mark to reach at 25,440.

Ganjam which used to be the hotspot continues its turnaround with just 58 cases reported today.

Of the infected persons,

Apart from the steep spike of infection, the detection of 62% cases from local contacts was the disturbing feature of the day. Of the fresh infections, 298 were local contact infections while the remaining 182 cases were sourced from quarantine centres.

In the current month, as many as 5,473 infections have been detected in the past 10 days at a daily average testing of 456 positive cases and spike of nearly 35% in the current month.

Of the total tally of positive cases, 4,946 are active cases while 10,826 have recovered from the contagion till date. 60 patients from the city have succumbed to the virus.

Bhubaneswar has reported a recovery rate of 68.32% with 642 patients getting cured of the disease.

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67.8% are men while women constitute 32.2% of total patients. 55% of the total patients are in the 15-40 age-group.

The vulnerable groups of patients in 60 year or above and 14 year or below age comprise 14.5% of the total tally of COVID-19 patients in the state.

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In a month's time this narrative changed. August saw a massive jump in number of tests conducted, over 60,000 per day in Odisha. The exponential spike in COVID positive cases was attributed to the increase in tests per day, bulk of which was rapid antigen test (RATS).

The entire narrative was like pulling wool over ones own eyes.

Prior to August, tests were deliberately kept on the low on the plea that ICMR had advised against testing asymptomatic patients. Even the institutional quarantine period was slashed to seven days with the rider that the person will be on home isolation for the remaining seven days

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I don't think this can be the answer. Rather, we must multiply our efforts in every context, so that our children grow up with the culture of respect for everyone.

ITALY'S PRIME MINISTER GIUSEPPE CONTE

EXPRESSING GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF A BLACK MAN IN A BRUTAL BEATING NEAR ROME

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	21°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	14°C	07°C C H
NEW YORK	21°C	17°C C H
MOSCOW	16°C	9°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



A vendor sells toys along the Colombo promenade on Saturday.
■ AFP

Toots Hibbert dead: Toots Hibbert, one of reggae's founders and most beloved stars who gave the music its name and later helped make it an international movement through such classics as *Pressure Drop*, *Monkey Man* and *Funky Kingston*, has died. He was 77. He was admitted in intensive care due to breathing difficulties. The singer was awaiting results from a Covid test. ■ AP

Terence Conran dies at 88: Terence Conran, the British designer, retailer and restaurateur who built a furniture empire around the word, founded The Design Museum in London and modernised the everyday lives of British people, has died at 88. His family described Conran as a visionary who revolutionized the way we live in UK. ■ AP

Germany bus mishap: A bus traveling from Prague to Hamburg came off a highway in northern Germany early Saturday and ended up lying on its right side, leaving three passengers seriously injured, police said. Police said everyone on board the bus was taken to nearby hospitals nearby, and that 28 people had light injuries. ■ AP

US flies three heavy B-1 Lancer bombers over East Siberian Sea

BERLIN, 12 SEPTEMBER

The US Air Force flew three B-1 heavy bombers over the East Siberian Sea, north of Russia's far east, as part of a series of recent maneuvers that the military said Friday are meant to demonstrate American capabilities and ability to support allies, but which a top Russian commander blasted as hostile and provocative.

The flight of the three Texas-based US Air Force Reserve B-1 Lancer bombers on Thursday followed a similar mission a week ago in which three B-52 bombers temporarily based in Britain were flown over Ukrainian airspace, near Russia's south-western flank.

US European Command said that following the flight from Texas to the East Siberian Sea, the Lancers landed at a nearby American air base in Alaska.

Stuttgart-based EUCOM said in a statement that the flight, and the deployment of the B-52s to England showcased how US-based assets can be employed to achieve an operational objective on USEUCOM's eastern and western flanks. "The three Lancers... demonstrated how US strategic bombers are able to support any mission, anywhere around the globe, at a moment's notice," Stuttgart-based EUCOM said in a statement.

EUCOM said the strategic bomber missions clearly illustrated the US Air Force's ability to continually execute flying missions and sustain readiness in support of our Allies. Russia-West relations have sunk to post-Cold War lows after Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea. ■ AP

Boris Johnson seeks party backing for his controversial Brexit bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 12 SEPTEMBER

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called on his Conservative Party MPs to back a controversial parliamentary bill that would override parts of the Withdrawal Agreement struck with the European Union, or the so-called Brexit divorce pact.

In a Zoom call with party members on Friday, he reportedly urged the members of parliament (MPs) not to return to the "miserable squabbling" over Europe and support his Internal Market Bill, which is

intended to ensure no hiccups in Northern Ireland, the UK territory which shares a border with the EU member-state of Ireland.

The bill is set to be formally debated in the House of Commons for the first time on Monday and focuses on the Northern Ireland Protocol, the part of the Brexit divorce designed to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland.

If it became law, it would give UK ministers powers to modify or "disapply" rules relating to the movement of goods between Britain and Northern Ireland that will

come into force from January 2021, unless the UK and EU are able to strike a trade deal ahead of that.

Writing in *'The Telegraph'*, Johnson sought to explain his reasons for the bill and warned that the EU could threaten to blockade parts of the UK unless it is passed.

"We are now hearing that unless we agree to the EU's terms, the EU will use an extreme interpretation of the Northern Ireland Protocol to impose a full-scale trade border down the Irish Sea," he said. "We are being told that the EU will not only impose tar-



iffs on goods moving from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI), but that they might actually stop the transport of food products from GB to NI. "I have to say that we never seriously believed that the EU would be willing to use a treaty, negotiated in good faith, to blockade one part of the UK,

to cut it off; or that they would actually threaten to destroy the economic and territorial integrity of the UK," Johnson said. But many members of his own party and the Opposition have challenged the UK prime minister on his proposals, which are seen as a breach of international law.

The EU has called the move a serious breach of trust and threatened to take legal action if Johnson does not alter the bill by the end of the month.

The two sides have less than five weeks to agree a post-Brexit trade deal to come into effect at the end of the Brex-

sels on 28 September. Johnson has set a October 15 deadline for the talks, after which he says he is prepared to "walkaway". Informal UK-EU talks are due to resume on Monday, with the next official round of talks the ninth since March starting in Brussels on 28 September.

Earlier this week, at the end of the eighth round of talks between the negotiators from both sides, UK Brexit Chief Negotiator David Frost said the exchange was useful but that a number of challenging areas remain and the "divergences on some are still significant".

UK six lockdown rules: Police forces across the UK urged the public to exercise restraint and stay away from large gatherings ahead of the new rule of six lockdown rules that will officially come into force from Monday. The chairman of the organisation representing police officers across England and Wales asked people to resist any temptation for a weekend of gatherings ahead of the strict rules restricting gatherings to just six at a time, the breach of which comes with a GBP 100 fine. ■ AP

Dozens missing in Oregon as weather helps fire fight

More than 40,000 Oregonians have been evacuated & at least 8 fatalities have been reported

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SALEM (US), 12 SEPTEMBER



Search and rescue personnel from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office look for the possible remains of a missing elderly resident in a mobile home park on Saturday in Ashland, Oregon. ■ AFP

of evacuation zones, either having been told to leave or to prepare to do so. She dialed back a statement late Thursday by the state Office of Emergency Management that said a half-million people had been ordered to evacuate statewide.

Scores of people were missing in Jackson County in the southern area of the state and in Marion County east of Salem, the state capital, Brown told a news conference.

Authorities also announced that a man had been arrested on two counts of arson in connection with a fire in southern Oregon.

Improved weather helped

efforts on the ground after days of high winds, heat and low humidity. The wind laid down quite a bit for us yesterday," said Stefan Myers of the state's fire information team.

Almost 500 personnel were working on the fires near Portland, which were just a few miles (kilometers) apart, with rugged terrain between them that limits boots-on-the-ground efforts to control the flames, Myers said.

If the fires merge, they could generate enough heat to send embers thousands of feet into the air, potentially igniting other areas. Authorities say more than 1,500 square miles (3,880 square kilometers) have

burned in Oregon during recent days, nearly double the amount in a typical year and an area larger than Rhode Island.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee noted that the amount of land burned in just the past five days amounted to the state's second-worst fire season, after 2015. He called the blazes climate fires rather than wildfires.

This is not an act of God, Inslee said. This has happened because we have changed the climate." Jackson County Sheriff Nathan Sickler said a 41-year-old man was jailed on two charges of arson for a fire that started Tuesday in the Phoenix area in southern Oregon. The fire burned hundreds of homes and also had an ignition point in Ashland near a spot where a man was found dead. Authorities said the man denied starting the fire. Sickler said authorities were working to locate missing people.

Meanwhile, smoke from massive wildfires that painted California skies orange was also helping crews corral the deadliest blaze of the year, but despite the progress there was concern that the death toll could mount as crews reach devastated areas.

A federal prosecutor who was helping lead the investigation into the origins of the Trump-Russia probe has resigned from the Justice Department, a spokesman said Friday.

Nora Dannehy was a top prosecutor on a team led by US Attorney John Durham of Connecticut, who was appointed last year to lead an investigation into how the FBI and other federal agencies set out to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and whether the Trump campaign had coordinated with the Kremlin.

A spokesman for the US Attorney's office in Connecticut confirmed Dannehy's departure, which was first reported by The Hartford Courant, but declined to comment further.

Her departure could complicate the final stretch of an investigation already slowed by the coronavirus pandemic but eagerly anticipated by President Donald Trump and his supporters to uncover what they see as wrongdoing within the FBI. It leaves the investigative team without one of its veteran prosecutors as key decisions presumably await before the probe wraps up. Durham's appointment

Prosecutor looking into the origins of Russia probe resigns

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 12 SEPTEMBER



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Biden audio first shared by 'Russian agent' thrives online

WASHINGTON, 12 SEPTEMBER

The leaked recordings were hardly a political bombshell: The apparent phone conversations between Joe Biden and Ukraine's then-president largely confirm Biden's account of his dealings in Ukraine.

But the choppy audio, disclosed by a Ukrainian lawmaker whom US officials described Thursday as an active Russian agent who has sought to spread online misinformation about Biden, was nonetheless seized on by President Donald Trump as well as his supporters to promote conspiracy theories about the Democratic nominee.

Social media posts and videos about the recordings have been viewed millions of times, according to an AP analysis.

The audio's proliferation on social media shows how foreign operations aimed at influencing the US election are still easily reaching Americans, despite efforts by Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to rein in such meddling. ■ AP

Belarus police detain dozens of protesters at anti-govt rally

AGENCIES
MOSCOW, 12 SEPTEMBER

Maria Kolesnikova, 38, has emerged as a key opposition figure after others were either jailed or forced out of the country

Tsikhanouskaya - who has since fled to Lithuania - was the real winner.

At least 5,000 protesters, many of them women, gathered in central Minsk on Saturday, chanting "Go away!" in reference to Lukashenko, and "Masha" - a common alternative for Maria - in support of Kolesnikova, a witness said.

"Sveta is my president, Masha is my queen," read one of the slogans held up in the crowd.

Police starting detaining

people shortly after the protests started at 1200 GMT, putting at least 40 into police vans in the first hour of the rally alone, according to the witness.

Kolesnikova was driven to the Ukrainian border earlier last week after being seen snatched off the streets of Minsk and into a van by masked men.

According to two allies who were with her, she prevented being expelled from Belarus by tearing her passport up into small pieces and throwing it out of a car window.

She is now detained in Minsk, and faces a potential long prison term over accusations of trying to seize power illegally.

FUN TIME



Children ride a carousel at an indoor amusement park in Genting Highlands resort in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. ■ AFP

Antarctica is still free of Covid. Can it stay that way?

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JOHANNESBURG, 12 SEPTEMBER



of the world saw their life as fascinatingly extreme.

How times have changed.

In general, the freedoms afforded to us are more extensive than those in the UK at the height of lockdown, said Taylor, who arrived in October and has missed the pandemic entirely. We can ski, socialize normally, run, use the gym, all within reason.

Like teams across Antarctica, including at the South Pole, Taylor and his 26 colleagues must be proficient in all sorts of tasks in a remote, communal environment with little room for error. They

take turns cooking, make weather observations and do a lot of sewing, he said.

Good internet connections mean they've watched closely as the pandemic circled the rest of the planet. Until this year, conversations with incoming colleagues focused on preparing the newcomers. Now the advice goes both ways.

I'm sure there's a lot they can tell us that will help us adapt to the new way of things, Taylor said. We haven't had any practice at social distancing yet! At New Zealand's Scott Base, rounds of mini-golf and

a filmmaking competition with other Antarctic bases have been highlights of the Southern Hemisphere's winter, which ended for the Scott team when they spotted the sun last Friday. It had been away since April.

I think there's a little bit of dissociation, Rory O'Connor, a doctor and the team's winter leader, said of watching the pandemic from afar. You acknowledge it cerebrally, but I don't think we have fully factored in the emotional turmoil it must be causing.

His family in the UK still wouldn't trade places with him. They can't understand why I came down here, he joked.

Months of darkness. Stuck inside with a small group of people. Where's the joy in that? O'Connor said they will be able to test for the virus once colleagues start arriving as soon as Monday. Any virus case will spark a red response level, he said, with activities stripped down to providing heating, water, power and food.

While Covid has rattled some diplomatic ties, the 30 countries that make up the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes teamed up early to keep the virus out. Officials cite unique teamwork among the US, China, Russia and others that elsewhere might engage in diplomatic sniping.

As a frightened world was locking down in March, the Antarctic programmes agreed the pandemic could become a major disaster. With the world's strongest winds and coldest temperatures, the continent roughly the size of the US and Mexico is already dangerous for workers at 40 year-round bases.

A highly infectious novel virus with significant mortality and morbidity in the extreme and austere environment of Antarctica with limited sophistication of medical care and public health responses is High Risk with potential catastrophic consequences, according to a COMNAP document seen by The AP.

Hundreds of people in Italy walked in a funeral procession on Saturday for a young Black man whose brutal beating death has shaken up the country and drawn condemnation from the highest levels of government.

Premier Giuseppe Conte and Italy's interior minister attended the funeral of 21-year-old Willy Monteiro Duarte, who was killed during a fight in Colleferro, a city on the outskirts of Rome, in the early hours of September 6.

Four Italians have been arrested, including a pair of brothers with police records, but to date prosecutors haven't indicated if the slaying was racially motivated.

Italian news reports have quoted witnesses as



You will have many more problems with me, don't mess with the Turkish nation and Turkey

TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

SLAMMING FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON AMIDST MEDITERRANEAN TENSIONS

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

11

THUMBNAILS



Libyan youth take part in a windsurfing class at a beach in Libya on Saturday. ■ AFP

Pak fire: At least four people, including two women and a minor, were killed and eight others injured after a fire erupted at a three-storey building in Pakistan's Karachi city on Saturday, according to a media report. The incident happened in Karachi's Hifrah Colony. Dawn news paper reported. ■ PTI

Mexican dam: Hundreds of farmers continued to hold La Boquilla dam in Mexico on Friday as time was running out for the country to catch up on payments and avoid breaching a 1944 water treaty with the US. The operations director of Mexico's federal electricity commission said protesters had set fire to the generators' controls and machine room. ■ AP

Mexico college protest: State police in Mexico said 11 officers were injured by student protesters Friday, while video circulated on social media showing a police bus hitting and knocking over at least one demonstrator. Michoacan state Public Safety Secretary said students from a local teachers' college blocked a road and then attacked officers. ■ PTI

Iran's religious leader dies: Iran's state-run news agency reported that a pro-reform religious leader, Ayatollah Yousef Saenei (83) who sided with an opposition presidential candidate during the controversial 2009 elections, has died. He died in a hospital in the holy city of Qom after being hospitalised with a broken hip and wrist. ■ PTI

Columbia protest: Two days of protests in Colombia over the death of a man in police custody have left 13 people dead and over 400 injured, authorities said on Friday. The violence rocking Bogota following Javier Ordonez's death spilled into a second night of smaller protests and clashes with police late Thursday. ■ PTI

US spy captured: President Nicolas Maduro said on Friday that Venezuelan authorities captured a US spy targeting a pair of refineries on the north Caribbean coast as this nation once wealthy from oil is gripped by a deep gasoline shortage. The spy, Maduro alleged, was a US who had served as a CIA operative in Iraq. ■ AP

Warring Afghans meet to find peace after decades of conflict

The Afghan sides are also expected to discuss constitutional changes, and power sharing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 12 SEPTEMBER

Afghanistan's warring sides started negotiations on Saturday for the first time aimed at ending decades of war, bringing together delegates appointed by the Afghan government and the Taliban.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended the opening ceremony, which was held in Qatar where the meetings will take place. It's the latest in a flurry of diplomatic activity by the Trump administration ahead of the US presidential election in November.

The discussions are important in the search for lasting peace that will also provide an exit for US and NATO troops after nearly 19 years.

The sides will try to tackle tough issues. This includes the terms of a permanent cease-fire, the rights of women and minorities and the disarming of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters and militias loyal to warlords, some of them aligned with the government.

The talks were originally expected to begin within weeks of the February 29 signing. But delays disrupted the timeline from the outset. The Afghan government balked at releasing 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which was stipulated in the deal as a sign of good faith ahead of the negotiations. The Taliban were required to release 1,000 government and military personnel in their custody.

Pompeo has said he expects the discussions to be contentious. Washington's peace envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said on Friday that launching the talks is an important achievement, but that "there are difficulties, significant challenges on the way to reaching agreement".

"This is a test for both sides, for the Taliban and the government," he said. "Can they reach an agreement despite differences in terms of their visions for the future of Afghanistan?" The intra-



Members of the Taliban delegation attend the opening session of the peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in the Qatari capital Doha on Saturday. ■ AFP

four women, who vow to preserve women's rights in any power-sharing deal with the fundamentalist Taliban. This includes the right to work, education and participation in political life -- all denied women when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan for five years.

The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harbouring Osama bin Laden, the architect of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America. There are no women on the Taliban's negotiation team, led by their chief justice Abdul Hakim.

The discussions are also expected to discuss constitutional changes, and power sharing.

Even seemingly mundane issues like the flag and the name of the country -- the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or as the Taliban's administration had been known, when it ruled, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan -- could find their way on to the negotiation table and roil tempers.

Among the government-appointed negotiators are

Afghan negotiations were laid out in a peace deal Washington signed with the Taliban on February 29. At that time the deal was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at peace in 40 years of war.

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Political turmoil in Kabul further delayed talks as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival in controversial presidential polls the year before, Abdullah Abdullah, squabbled over who won, with both declaring victory.

Abdullah was named to head the High Council for National Reconciliation overseeing the peace talks as part of a power-sharing agreement to end the bickering. The Taliban's refusal to

reduce the violence further hindered the start of talks.

While Washington ramped up pressure to get the intra-Afghan negotiations started, the deal they signed with the Taliban to withdraw completely from Afghanistan does not hinge on the success of the talks. Washington's withdrawal is contingent on the Taliban honoring commitments to fight terrorist groups, in particular the IS affiliate in

Afghan leaders must seize historic opportunity to end years-long conflict: Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 12 SEPTEMBER

Leaders of Afghanistan must seize the historic opportunity to work together constructively and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement to the years-long conflict in their country, Pakistan said on Saturday at the start of the long-awaited Afghan peace talks in Qatar.

The talks were set to take place in March but have repeatedly been delayed over a prisoner exchange agreement made as part of the US-Taliban deal signed in February this year.

Qureshi said that Pakistan had walked alongside Afghanistan in every possible way by encouraging a reduction in violence and by urging dialogue and negotiations. "Pakistan has fully facilitated the process that culminated in the US-Taliban Peace Agreement in Doha on February 29, 2020, and has reached this juncture," he said, adding that the start of the talks was the result of combined efforts.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressed the commence-

ment of intra-Afghan negotiations in Qatar through a video link, Pakistan Foreign Office said. He said the Afghan leaders must seize the historic opportunity to work together constructively and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement.

"We hope all sides will honour their respective commitments, persevere in the face of all challenges and setbacks, and remain unflinchingly committed to achieving a positive outcome," he said.

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For more updates

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JESSE OWENS OF JAPAN'

Naomi Osaka has been the dominant storyline of the 2020 U.S. Open, both for on-court performances and for her vocal support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. "She is joining a community that has a history, has a legacy, going all the way back beyond Jesse Owens. In fact, what she is doing is very in line with Jesse Owens. Not necessarily for her impact on America but on Japan. "I kind of think of her as a Jesse Owens of Japan," Baye McNeil, a prominent Japan-based African-American author and activist.

THUMBNAILS

Indonesia withdraw from Thomas and Uber Cup: Concern over the coronavirus has resulted in Indonesia becoming the fifth team to withdraw from the prestigious Thomas and Uber Cup badminton competition that is scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from Oct. 3-11. Indonesian badminton officials said Saturday they were concerned that players could contract COVID-19 during the tournament.

Biosecure bubble: The Adelaide Oval's onsite hotel is set to serve as biosecure bubble for the Australian men's squad ahead of the high-profile Test series against India later this year, according to media reports. Cricket Australia (CA) announced on Saturday that its national squad would return from the current tour of the UK to Adelaide for its mandatory quarantine period and preparation for the upcoming home season, a report in cricket.com.au said.

CSA letter: The crisis in South African cricket deepened with five former employees of the sport's governing body in the country accusing it of being "unfair and unlawful". They made the accusations in a six-page letter to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SACOC), which has asked Cricket South Africa's board to step aside as it investigates "many instances of maladministration and malpractice" in the organisation.

Smith passes concussion test: Star Australia batsman Steve Smith has been cleared to take part in the second ODI against England after passing a second concussion test on Saturday. Smith was a late withdrawal from Friday's first ODI, which Australia won by 19 runs to go 1-0 up in the three-match series, after sustaining a blow on the head in the nets from a throw-down by a coaching staff member on the eve of the match.

Lyon held 0-0 at Bordeaux: Champions League semifinalist Lyon was held at Bordeaux to 0-0 in a tepid French league encounter. In a game of rare chances on Friday, Lyon almost stole a win 10 minutes from the end when highly rated midfielder Houssem Aouar hit the post after skipping past center half Laurent Koscielny.

Hamilton powers to pole: Formula One championship leader Lewis Hamilton took pole position for the first Tuscan Grand Prix at Italy's Mugello circuit on Saturday with Mercedes team mate Valteri Bottas joining him on the front row. Red Bull's Max Verstappen qualified third with team mate Alexander Albon fourth. Charles Leclerc kept Ferrari's head up for qualifying fifth at a track owned by the Italian team.

Windies players arrive for IPL: After leading the Trinbago Knight Riders to victory in the Caribbean Premier League, star West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard has joined the Mumbai Indians camp here on Saturday. Not only Pollard, all the other players Caribbean and a few from other countries have also touched base with their teams after completing Caribbean Premier League engagements.

Serena withdraws from Rome: Four-time champion Serena Williams withdrew from the upcoming Italian Open on Saturday citing the Achilles issue that bothered her in a loss to Victoria Azarenka in the U.S. Open semifinals, organizers announced Saturday. The Italian Open, which was rescheduled from May due to the coronavirus pandemic, begins Monday. Azarenka remained entered for Rome.

The Sunday Statesman Sport

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Zverev defeats Busta, will face Thiem in US Open final

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, 12 SEPTEMBER



For two full sets, Alexander Zverev (*in photo*) was confused and listless, his body language as poor as his winner-to-error ratio against Pablo Carreño Busta in the US Open semi-final.

Zverev double-faulted and smacked his left high on Friday. He put a backhand into the net to cede the opening set and covered his face with both hands. He netted a forehand early in the next set, then turned a forlorn face toward his guest box and put his palms up.

When he pushed a backhand long after 1 hour, 25 minutes of play and shook his head, Zverev trailed by two sets, a deficit the 23-year-old German never had overcome. Never had been to a Grand Slam final, either. Done and done. Zverev constructed quite a comeback, getting his game in gear to beat a fading Carreño Busta 3-6 2-6 6-3 6-4 6-3 and reach the title match at Flushing Meadows. Zverev, the No. 5 seed, will play No. 2 seed Dominic Thiem on Sunday, and one will walk away with his first Grand Slam trophy.

"Mentally, I stayed in it.... A lot of players would have gone away," Zverev said. "There's no easy matches anymore. Sometimes you have to dig deep. Today I dug deep, dug very deep."

Thiem, a 27-year-old from

Austria, won a far more entertaining match Friday night, holding off 2019 US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-2 7-6 (7) 7-6 (5). Medvedev held a set point in both the second and third, but Thiem hung in there both times and now will try to improve his 0-3 record in Grand Slam finals. He has lost to Rafael Nadal at the French Open the past two years and to Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open this February. The No. 3-seeded Medvedev hadn't dropped a set all tournament until facing Thiem. He'd been broken just three times, a total Thiem matched by Friday's second

Australia beat England in 1st ODI

AGENCIES

MANCHESTER, 12 SEPTEMBER



Half centuries from Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh followed by some brilliant bowling effort from Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa (*in photo, right*) helped Australia beat England in the first ODI despite maiden century from Sam Billings.

Put into bat, Australia found themselves reeling at 123/5 at one stage on Friday. However, Maxwell and Marsh took the responsibility on their shoulders and from there on, they took the team's score to 249/6. While Maxwell scored 77 off just 59 balls, Marsh contributed with valuable 73 runs and helped their team post a total of 294/9 in their allotted 50 overs.

Chasing what would have been a record chase at the Old Trafford in ODIs, England found themselves in trouble rather quickly as Hazlewood claimed the wickets of Jason Roy and Joe Root to reduce the host to 132 after 7.1 overs. Skipper Eoin Morgan and Jos Buttler also couldn't contribute much and the host were placed in a precarious situation at 57/4 after 16 overs.

However, Jonny Bairstow then combined with Billings and

super close back then," he said. "I'm happy that I gave myself pretty short time after that another chance with this win today, with the finals on Sunday." With Nadal and Roger Federer opting out of the tournament, and Djokovic defaulted for hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball in the fourth round, it is 23-year-old Zverev - and not one of tennis' "Big Three" - who is standing in Thiem's way this time.

"Since the moment I realized that maybe one day I can make it, and especially since I played the first finals of the French Open (in 2018). This was the biggest goal I want to achieve."

Thiem lost to Rafa Nadal at Roland-Garros in 2018 and 2019. But his greatest disappointment came at the hands of world number one Novak Djokovic, who overcame Thiem's best efforts in a four-hour-long, five-set thriller at the Australian Open this year.

"It was really tough to digest that loss in Australia as I was

"If it's not going to happen on Sunday, well, I have to continue working and maybe get the chance at another Slam. Well, the chance is now on Sunday. I'll try everything to make it."

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*MRP limit of all types. Conditions apply.

Zvonareva, Siegemund win women's doubles title



AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 12 SEPTEMBER

games worked together and plan to partner again at the upcoming French Open.

"I felt like the third match we really started communicating well, we really started to understand each other," Zvonareva said. "Yeah, it just got better and better from there on."

Zvonareva, a Russian who turned 36 this week, added this title to the 2006 US Open trophy she won with Nathalie Dechy. She also was the runner-up in singles at Flushing Meadows in 2010, falling to Kim Clijsters, and rose to a career-high singles ranking of No. 2 following the month.

She also won the 2012 Australian Open doubles title but later battled injuries and began playing less, especially after giving birth to daughter Evelina in 2016. "It wasn't easy," Zvonareva said. "I had a lot of injuries in the past and always trying to come back, and it's a big privilege for me to be here today."

'Mohun Bagan not worried about East Bengal encounter'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 12 SEPTEMBER

For all the speculation about the Indian Super League's first Kolkata derby, which can give the sagging, monotonous tournament a leg up, ATK Mohun Bagan feel no pressure as they anticipate it. Or so says an insider who declined to be named as he was not authorized to speak to the Press.

"If you care to scrutinise, ISL teams are more or less equal in strength," the official said, adding: "Should East Bengal come in, they will be a very strong bunch to run up against all right but there are no teams in this competition who are getting the better of easily. All have good Indian players and very highly-rated foreigners. Consistency will be the key factor and no rivals can be thought any the less of than the others."

The official disagreed that, even in the ISL, the Kolkata derby will imply a certain psychological pressure given that the teams try their best not to lose this game at any cost.

"The fact of the matter is that you don't want to lose any game in this competition," he said. "You have to think of the national context. Chennai or Mumbai or Bangalore are all well-equipped sides who can also clinch the trophy. You can't really afford to let East Bengal or any other team monopolise your thoughts," he said. "Not that the tournaments is likely to kick off before December.

Windies players arrive for IPL: After leading the Trinbago Knight Riders to victory in the Caribbean Premier League, star West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard has joined the Mumbai Indians camp here on Saturday. Not only Pollard, all the other players Caribbean and a few from other countries have also touched base with their teams after completing Caribbean Premier League engagements.

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PULKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

Some time needed to pass before it could be said with any degree of certitude: The Great Exit, with or without a Parthian shot, may not take place any time soon. The way out, if you read the papers with the pseudo-critical raves, was all laid out, complete with victory arches and goodbye messages scrawled across gigantesque banners flanking out.

Well might assorted Mancurians have been ready to play hooky from work at the other end of the anticipated journey, ready with their bouquets and welcome messages. But Leo Messi stayed put in Barcelona.

As the chances of his English Premier League switcheroo dimmed, word came through that Pep Guardiola had tipped him to stick with the Catalan club where both

had once been, doing quite well.

There were no snippets suggesting that the tutor was heartbroken that his erstwhile pupil wouldn't roll up by him as Manchester City's financial fairplay track record - and their brush with Uefa - ruled out pulling out all the stops for the so-called transfer of the new agreement with him.

The buyout cash wasn't coughed up by anyone, after all the feverish speculation, amid panegyrics 24x7, about who would land him if Barcelona lost him. Cristiano Ronaldo costs a pretty penny too but has run by now through so many clubs with varying degrees of success.

millennium to go-ahead. That was a reminder of something Alex Ferguson had said years earlier: Messi is a very good Barcelona footballer. Maybe the rest of the world was in

agreement with him. The buyout cash wasn't coughed up by anyone, after all the feverish speculation, amid panegyrics 24x7, about who would land him if Barcelona lost him. Cristiano Ronaldo costs a pretty penny too but has run by now through so many clubs with varying degrees of success.

SHORT POINT

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Arsenal thrash hapless Fulham in season opener

AGENCIES

LONDON, 12 SEPTEMBER

Newcomers Gabriel (*in photo*) and Willian enjoyed fine debuts for the Gunners, who made light work of their short trip across London to Craven Cottage and dominated against a toothless Fulham.

Lacazette scored the season's opening goal in the eighth minute after poor defending by the home side before 22-year-old Brazilian defender Gabriel, who joined Arsenal from Ligue 1 side Lille, made it 2-0 in the 49th

right back Denis Odoi forced a save from Arsenal keeper Bernd Leno early on but that was as good as it got for Fulham, whose opening-day performance suggests that staying in the top flight could be a tall order.

Right back Denis Odoi forced a save from Arsenal keeper Bernd Leno early on but that was as good as it got for Fulham, whose opening-day performance suggests that staying in the top flight could be a tall order.

Lacazette was left with the simple task of poking the ball in from close range after a com-

edy of errors by the home side, who enjoyed a slice of good fortune when Willian hit the post with a 22nd-minute free kick.

Gabriel made it 2-0 with a thumping header after a corner swing in by Willian, who racked up his second assist of the day when he set up Aubameyang for the third in his first game for Arsenal after his summer move from Chelsea.

Willian's delightful pass from midfield found Aubameyang on the left flank and the striker cut inside to

curl a rasping shot from inside the penalty area past Marek Rodak who was left clutching thin air.

The home keeper then did well to block a shot from point-blank range by Aubameyang, who had another effort cleared off the line by a defender in the dying minutes.

Even at 3-0 down, Fulham were barely able to break out of their own half with their midfield chasing shadows and a porous defence all at sea whenever Arsenal went forward.

Ali Khan set to become first player from USA to feature in IPL

AGENCIES

ABU DHABI, 12 SEPTEMBER

The IPL is set to see participation of a player from the USA for the first time with Kolkata Knight Riders roping in fast bowler Ali Khan (*in photo*) for the upcoming 13th edition of the league.

Just a little humility and temperance would have sufficed for him to be able to avoid the anti-climactic and eventually farcical high drama that his petulance touched off after the rout by Bayern Munich. And it was not as if he'd played like a king whilst his Barca peers made all the mistakes. He had been effete too.

The two-time winners will pick the 29-year-old fast bowler -- pending IPL approval -- as a replacement for the English seamer Harry Gurney, according to an ESPNcricinfo.com report. Gurney is scheduled to have surgery related to a shoulder injury, and has pulled out

of both the IPL and England's Vitality Blast last month.

Khan's signing will make him the first USA player to feature in the IPL. Khan was part of the Trinbago Knight Riders' squad which remained unbeaten in the season.

the way to their CPL title win on Thursday. He picked up eight wickets from as many matches with an economy rate of 7.43. He was on KKR's radar last season as well but no deal could be worked out. The pacer burst on to the limelight during the 2018 Global T20 Canada, where he was spotted by star West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who brought him to the CPL. He had featured in the CPL All Star team that season.

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