

TERRORISM IS
PAKISTAN'S PRIMARY
EXPORT: JAISHANKAR

P5



'SAVING CULTURE
IS SOCIETY'S
DUTY'

P7



BIDEN DESTROYER
OF AMERICAN
GREATNESS: TRUMP

P10



FRANKLY, MESSI
IS PAST HIS
BUY-BY DATE

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with possibility of very light rain/drizzle towards afternoon/evening. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 023.2 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 98% Min: 68%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 32.8°C (-2) Min: 26.8°C (+1)

SUN RISES

05:58 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

18:46 hrs MOON SETS

16:24 hrs 02:56 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A Kashmiri Shi'ite Muslim man is detained by police as devotees defy restrictions for a Muharram procession in Srinagar on Friday.

AFP

Covid strikes IPL: Chennai Super Kings' preparations for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season have run into complications after it emerged that a bowler and some staff members of the franchise tested positive for Covid-19. The bowler in question is reportedly a pacer who has represented India. At least 10 members of the CSK support staff have also tested positive, which has resulted in the entire contingent needing to undergo a fourth Covid-19 test.

P12

Rafale jets: Five Rafale fighter aircraft will be formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 10 September at a ceremony at the Ambala air base in Haryana. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be present at the ceremony for which he has also invited his French counterpart Florence Parly. The French-origin five fighter aircraft arrived in India from France on 29 July in the midst of the ongoing military stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh.

P4

Sushant case:
CBI questions
Rhea for more
than 10 hours



MUMBAI, 28 AUGUST

The CBI on Friday interrogated Rhea Chakraborty, who is accused of abetting actor Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide, for over ten hours.

Chakraborty, who appeared before the CBI for the first time, left the DRDO guest house complex in Santacruz a little after 9 pm, said an official. She will be summoned again, he said.

In the morning, Chakraborty, Rajput's girlfriend, had left her residence around 10 to reach the guest house where the Central Bureau of Investigation's team is stationed. Before her arrival, Rajput's flatmate Siddharth Pithani and manager Samuel Miranda had reached the DRDO guest house.

The CBI team, which is in the city for the last eight days to investigate the Sushant death case, had on Thursday recorded the statement of Rhea's brother Showik Chakraborty.

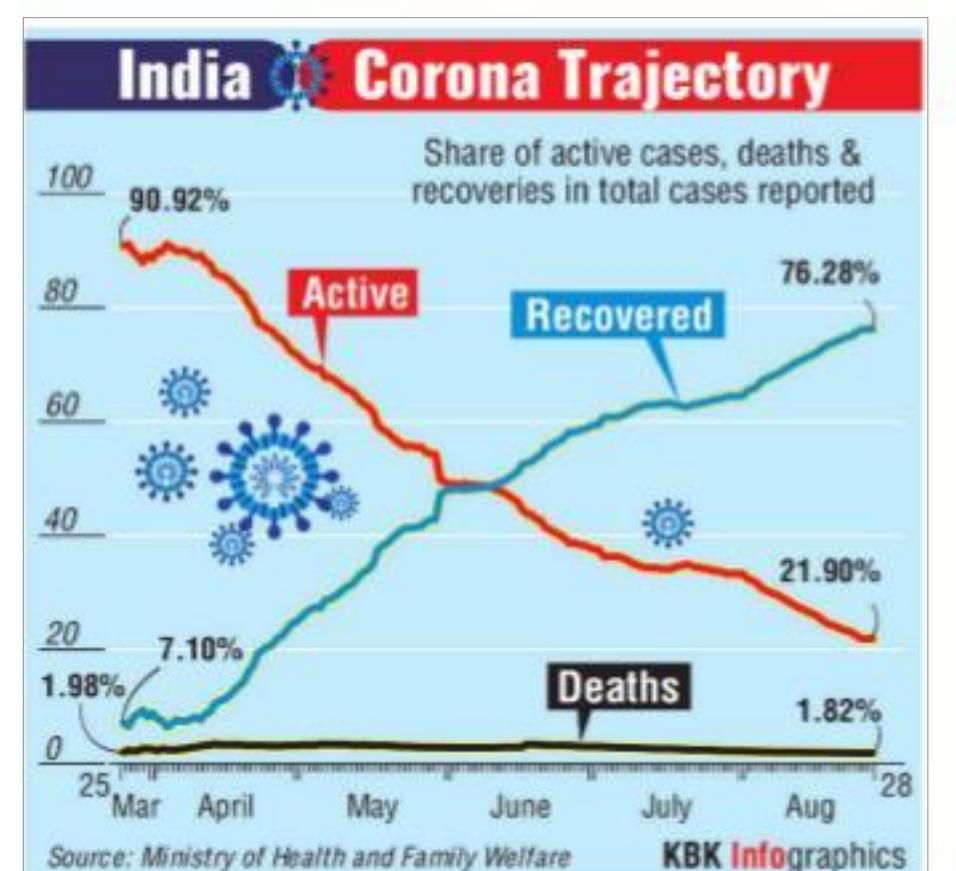
The CBI has so far questioned Pithani, cook Neeraj Singh and domestic help Deepesh Sawant, among others, as part of its probe.

The Supreme Court last week upheld the transfer of an FIR, lodged by Rajput's father in Patna against Rhea Chakraborty and others for allegedly abetting his son's suicide and misappropriating his money, to the CBI.

The 34-year-old actor was found hanging on June 14 in his flat in suburban Bandra.

India records highest single-day spike in the world; Covid tally crosses 33.8 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST



proportion of people who die from the disease among individuals diagnosed, has also dropped to 1.81 per cent.

available.

"Disposable earphones or cleaned and disinfected headphones will be provided to passengers at the start of the journey," it noted.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said, "A passenger who refuses to wear a face mask can be put on no-fly list by the airline."

The official said no new order has been passed in this regard as the airline and its cabin crew are sufficiently empowered under the existing DGCA rules to take action.

As per the DGCA rules, an airline can choose to put an unruly passenger on its no-fly list after internal deliber-

ations. Subsequently, other airlines may follow suit in putting that passenger on their no-fly lists.

On the duration of flight, "Airlines and charter flight operators can 'serve hot meals and limited beverages' on international flights 'as per the standard practices', the notification added.

The ministry said only single-use disposable trays, plates and cutlery should be used while serving food or beverages in domestic and international flights.

"Crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for every meal/beverage service," it noted.

In an order issued on Thursday, the Civil Aviation Ministry said, "Airlines may serve pre-packed snacks/meals/pre-packed beverages on domestic flights whenever

packed cold meals and snacks were being served depending on the flight duration since May this year.

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"Crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for every meal/beverage service," it noted.

The ministry also permitted the aircraft operators to let passengers use the in-flight entertainment system on international as well as domestic flights wherever

available.

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NEET, JEE: 6 Opp-ruled states move apex court, seek review of order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Ministers of six opposition-ruled states moved the Supreme Court Friday against its order allowing holding of NEET and JEE exams physically, saying it failed to secure students' "right to life" and ignored "teething logistical difficulties" to be faced in conducting them during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apex court's August 17 order allowing the exams has become a political battle as the ministers from the six states - ruled by parties like Congress, TMC, JMM, NCP and Shiv Sena - sought postponement of the exams "in a manner that achieves the twin objectives of ensuring that the academic year of the students is not wasted and their health and safety is not compromised."

The review plea has been filed by ministers from West Bengal (Moloy Ghatak), Jharkhand (Rameshwar Oraon), Rajasthan (Raghur Sharma), Chhattisgarh (Amarjeet Bhagat),



Punjab (B S Sidhu) and Maharashtra (Uday Ravindra Sawant).

The plea said the apex court's order fails to satisfy the safety and security concerns of students who have to appear for the exams.

The court had refused to interfere with the conduct of the medical and engineering entrance exams, saying that life must go on and students can't lose a year due to the pandemic.

The review plea has been filed by ministers from West Bengal (Moloy Ghatak), Jharkhand (Rameshwar Oraon), Rajasthan (Raghur Sharma), Chhattisgarh (Amarjeet Bhagat),

Colleges and Institutes from September 1 to 6.

The petition said mere fact that lakhs of students have registered for the exam is not indicative of their consent or their willingness or desire to attend physical exams. It said the August 17 order is cryptic, non-speaking and does not discuss various aspects and complexities involved in a matter of this magnitude. The plea said that only two reasons given by the court - life must go on and students should not lose an academic year - do not constitute an authoritative and comprehensive judicial scrutiny of the issue.

Controversial TV programme under scanner

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

A private television channel's controversial programme which claimed a big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service Friday came under judicial scrutiny before the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court.

The apex court refused

to impose pre-broadcast ban on Sudarshan TV from telecasting the 'Bindas Bol' programme but the High Court in an interim order stayed the telecast of the show which was scheduled for today at 8 p.m. In the high court, a bench of Justice Navin Chawla restrained Sudarshan TV from telecasting its programme on the

petition filed by former and present students of Jamia Millia Islamia University. It also emerged that the matter was also dealt by an apex court bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and K M Joseph which said it has to be circumspect in imposing a prior restraint on publication or airing of views.

SEE ALSO PAGE 3

Japanese PM Abe quits, citing ill-health

WALTER SIM

TOKYO, 28 AUGUST

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced today that he will resign after he discovered that an underlying chronic condition relapsed in June this year.

At a press conference, Mr Abe, 65, said his condition - ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease - has become a situation where he does not know if he can live up to the confidence and expectations of the citizens.

Mr Abe said the relapse rendered existing medication ineffective and hence, he will need more treatment. He made the decision to resign on Monday during a medical check-up.

With the possibility of a Covid-19 flare-up during the winter months, Mr Abe said he did not want a political vacuum at a time when leadership is most needed. Mr Abe added that he will stay on as premier until a successor is chosen, a vote that is expected to be held next month.

Thanking the people for their support over the last seven years and eight months, Mr Abe also apologised for resigning a year ahead of time while the country is still battling the Covid-19 pandemic and tackling other issues such as North Korean abductions and territorial dispute with Russia.

Local media earlier reported Mr Abe's intention to resign, sending shock waves through Japan's political circles and blindsiding even his aides in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kyodo News cited a source as quoting Mr Abe as saying



that treatment was needed for the condition, which was kept under control with medication but has recently recurred.

"I will not be able to make proper judgments due to illness," Mr Abe was quoted by an LDP executive as telling party members.

The shock resignation will intensify jockeying among potential successors within the LDP's ranks for the right to take over from Mr Abe, who is stepping down over a year ahead of time. Among those keen on the top job include Defence Minister Taro Kono, ex-defence minister Shigeru Ishiba and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida.

Mr Abe's third consecutive term as LDP chief - and hence prime minister - is only set to expire in September next year, while a Lower House election is only due by October next year. He brought stability to Japan, putting an end to a revolving door of six prime ministers from 2006 to 2012.

The plan to resign comes just days after he overtook his great-uncle, Mr Eisaku Sato, who led Japan for 2,798 uninterrupted days from 1964 to 1972, on Monday to become the prime minister with the longest uninterrupted tenure.

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

Govt allows airlines to serve meals on flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

The government has permitted airlines to serve pre-packed snacks, meals and beverages on domestic flights and hot meals on international flights, according to an official order.

Moreover, any passenger who refuses to wear a face mask in a flight can be put on the no-fly list by the airline, said a senior official of the aviation regulator DGCA.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in-flight meal service was not permitted on domestic flights since their resumption on May 25. On international flights, only pre-

packed cold meals and snacks were being served depending on the flight duration since May this year.

In an order issued on Thursday, the Civil Aviation Ministry said, "Airlines may serve pre-packed snacks/meals/pre-packed beverages on domestic flights whenever

on the duration of flight."

Airlines and charter flight operators can "serve hot meals and limited beverages" on international flights "as per the standard practices", the notification added.

The ministry said only single-use disposable trays, plates and cutlery should be used while serving food or beverages in domestic and international flights.

"Crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for every meal/beverage service," it noted.

The ministry also permitted the aircraft operators to let passengers use the in-flight entertainment system on international as well as domestic flights wherever

available.



We are not against any exam; we are just saying that a pandemic is on, and it could put lives of students at risk

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi govt to ramp up Covid testing, contact tracing: Jain

The national capital records 1,808 new coronavirus cases, 20 fresh Covid fatalities

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Amid the rising novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in the national capital afresh for the past several days, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said today that the Arvind Kejriwal government will scale up Covid-19 testing through its network of 300 dispensaries and hospitals and start aggressive contact tracing of coronavirus patients in the city.

The health minister said the AAP government is committed to doubling the Covid tests from the present 20,000 per day to 40,000 per day within a week in Delhi.

Jain said the recent increase in number of Covid cases in the city was due to various reasons, including patients from outside seeking treatment here, return of migrants who left Delhi during lockdown as well as increased testing.

"People can have free Covid-19 tests at the dispensaries whose time has been extended to five hours from 9 AM to 2 PM. Even if dispensaries conduct on average 100 tests and hospitals 200 tests per day, the target of scaling up testing to daily 40,000 from the currently around 20,000, will be met," he said when asked how government plans to scale up testing in the city.

He said 300 dispensaries and hospitals are conducting free Covid tests currently.

The government will also create awareness about this move. The testing in containment zones and districts will go side by side, Jain told reporters.

"Presently, out of 3,700 corona patients in Delhi government hospitals, around 30 per cent patients are from other states. Also, the number of tests were lower as people stayed home during



Jain said the recent increase in number of Covid cases in the city was due to various reasons, including patients from outside seeking treatment here, return of migrants who left Delhi during lockdown as well as increased testing.

the recent festivals. Now tests have increased and so has the number of positive cases," he said.

Jain's comments came days after Delhi chief minister Kejriwal said that Covid tests will be doubled in view of the "marginal" increase in coronavirus cases in the city.

"Delhi has the highest

rate of per million testing in the country. We are working on the strategy of aggressive contact tracing and testing and Corona will be completely checked if the strategy succeeds. After doubling the number of tests to 40,000 we will trace and test all the contacts of Covid-19 patients," he said.

The health minister said Delhi was still "halfway behind" the peak of the pandemic and the rise in number of positive cases in the last few days was not a second wave of the Covid infection as claimed by some experts.

"It's a short duration rise. Delhi is still halfway behind the peak. The positivity rate is around 7 per cent which at one point of time was 30 per cent," he said.

Jain said the government has the availability of ade-

quate number of kits to double the testing to 40,000 per day.

"The asymptomatic cases are tested through the rapid antigen test which takes around 30 minutes. There cannot be a fixed ratio of rapid tests and RT-PCR test which is employed for symptomatic patients," he said.

The Delhi government is prepared to deal with a situation if number of containment zones increases due to doubling of the testing, he said.

Jain added that the hospitals have been directed to refer the need of oxygen concentrators in case of discharged Covid patients, and the government will provide it to those facing breathing or low-oxygen level problems.

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 1,808 Covid-19 cases,

which was less than yesterday's 1,840, this month's highest single-day Covid cases count, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

With today's 1,808 cases, which was the single-day second highest Covid figure of August, Delhi's caseload rose to 1,69,412.

The number of coronavirus tests conducted today was 22,933.

According to official figures, 787 Covid cases were reported in the national capital on 17 August, but after that the curve continued to move up. There was some respite on 24 August when 1,061 cases were recorded. The next day (25 August) the figure showed a big jump to 1,544 cases.

An analysis of the Covid-19 cases recorded each day in the city in August showed that on six days (2, 3, 4, 10, 13 and 17 August) less than 1,000 coronavirus-positive patients were identified. But the cases began to rise sharply afterwards.

Today, Delhi's Covid death toll went up to 4,389, including 20 fresh fatalities taken into account now. The recorded deaths due to the coronavirus infection were 22 yesterday.

The number of patients infected by the coronavirus and who got cured so far was 1,51,473, including 1,446 recoveries during the past 24 hours. Delhi's Covid recovery rate stood at 89.41 per cent, which had earlier improved to over 90 per cent.

The health bulletin stated that the number of active cases in the city was 13,550. The patients getting treatment under home isolation numbered 6,850. There were 4,892 patients who were mentioned in the bulletin as hospitalised cases.

The number of containment zones also shot up to 763 from yesterday's 734.

CEAI offers help to Delhi govt in bid to solve city's waterlogging problem

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Expressing concern over waterlogging problems in the national capital, the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) has written to Delhi's urban development minister Satyendar Jain, urging him to identify five worst-affected waterlogging spots during rains so that the association could help in addressing them by providing their expertise.

This communication was followed by a meeting between the CEAI delegation — led by K K Kapila, chairman, CEAI Infrastructure Committee, and Ajay Pradhan, CEAI vice president — and minister Satyendar Jain, according to a statement issued by the CEAI.

The delegation of the CEAI, an apex body of consulting engineers in the country, at the meeting also presented their brief assessment about ways and means

to tackle this annual flooding of Delhi during monsoon, till a master plan of drainage systems takes a concrete shape, the statement said.

The CEAI delegation has also offered to provide interim solutions pending the development of the detailed master plan for Delhi, it stated, adding that the drainage master plan was prepared four decades ago.

While the new master plan is important, it might take

some years to get it prepared and implemented on ground, it said.

"We suggested short-term measures at the meeting that will avoid waterlogging in near future and instead conserve excess water towards a sustainable development solution for Delhi," said Kapila.

"In this meeting, we had presented a simple arrangement to tap the logged rain water, pass it through a screening process and take it to water harvesting pits so

that, on the one hand the instances of waterlogging gets reduced and on the other, the water table of the groundwater rises," said Kapila, according to the statement.

"The work at five identifi-

cated locations should start so that the impact can be seen during the winter rains. Once

the effectiveness is proven for everyone to see, it will be

worthwhile to handle other

"waterlogged areas in the city," he added.

In a short video titled "Post COVID care: Things you must do after recovering from coronavirus" released on his Facebook page, he said he was talking to people as a COVID-19 survivor and not as a minister.

The video shows Jain performing various yoga 'asanas' in his house. "I appeal to all those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection to perform yoga every day. Breathing problem is one of the major issues in COVID patients and yoga postures will help you have healthy breathing," he said.

Jain said the yoga routines, especially 'pranayam' should be performed every morning for about 20 minutes, and three times a day, for an hour after eating.

Covid-19 also leads to a lot of body and mental stress, and yoga will help in relieving that stress, he said.

The 55-year-old minister was first admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH) in June after showing COVID-19 symptoms.

He had tested positive for COVID-19 on June 17, a day after he was admitted to the RGSSH with high-grade fever and a sudden drop in oxygen levels.

He was shifted to the ICU of Max Hospital, Saket on June 19 after his condition worsened.

After being administered plasma therapy at Max hospital, Jain was dis-

charged on June 26.

In the video, the minister also spoke about the intake of herbal drinks to boost immunity.

"A drink made of turmeric, ginger and basil (tulsi) can help in boosting immunity, as it prevents the blood from congealing. Also, 'golden milk' as prescribed by Ayush Ministry, made of milk and turmeric can also help in that," Jain added.

The minister said he put out the video to share his own experiences of battling COVID-19 and recovering from it and also after getting advice from doctors.

COVID-19 survivor health minister asks people to perform yoga, take herbal drinks

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, a COVID-19 survivor, on Friday appealed to those who have recovered from coronavirus to perform regular yoga and take immunity-boosting herbal drinks to stay healthy.

In a short video titled "Post COVID care: Things you must do after recovering from coronavirus" released on his Facebook page, he said he was talking to people as a COVID-19 survivor and not as a minister.

The video shows Jain performing various yoga 'asanas' in his house. "I appeal to all those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection to perform yoga every day. Breathing problem is one of the major issues in COVID patients and yoga postures will help you have healthy breathing," he said.

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Members of gym welfare association held for trying to stage stir outside CM's residence



Indian Gyms Welfare Federation activists hold demonstration in the Capital to demand reopening of gyms. On Friday.

SNS

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

They were detained and taken to the Civil Lines police station, where they were formally arrested. A case under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Disaster Management Act and Epidemic Diseases Act was registered against them, a senior police officer said.

hour.

"We organised a chakka jam near the Safdarjung Madarsa in the morning. Vehicular traffic was affected for over an hour, but our intention was only to send a strong message to the Delhi government on the difficulties being faced by those in the gym business," said president of the federation Sunil Kumar.

"Their livelihood is at stake. During the lockdown, business has been severely hit. When gyms have started functioning in other cities, why is the government not allowing to open gyms in Delhi?" Sunil asked.

Man hit by car, dragged on bonnet

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

hit by the car on Najafgarh Road, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Deepak Purohit said.

He along with the pillion rider confronted the car driver and the passenger identified as Durgesh Tiwari (31) and Karan Sethi (44), however, they refused to step out. Chetan then stood in front of the car in a bid to block its way and force the driver to come out, Purohit said.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. ARVIND BANSAL
ACI/CC/ARC-(South East)
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SS/2020

In the matter of :
Sh. Kanwar Jasbir Singh,
s/o Late Sh. Man Singh, r/o
House No. B-88 A, Kalkaji,
New Delhi-110019.

— Petitioner
Versus
State & Ors. Through SDM
(Kalkaji), 37, Tukalkababu
Industrial Area, M.B. Road
New Delhi-110062.

2. M. Gagan Preet Kaur,
d/o Sh. Kanwar Jasbir Singh,
r/o House No. B-88 A, Kalkaji,
New Delhi-110019.

3. Sh. Simranpreet Singh
Lamba, s/o Sh. Kanwar Jasbir Singh, Presently at 1404 241st
place, SE, Bothell, WA 98092,
Through SPA Sh. Kanwar Jasbir Singh.

4. The Manager Central
Bank of India, Branch Kalkaji,
New Delhi.

5. The Manager State Bank
of India, Branch Kalkaji, New
Delhi.

— Respondents

Whereas, an application

U/s 372 of the Indian Succession
Act, 1925 has been made by

Kanwar Jasbir Singh, suc-

cessor of Late. Smt. Adhar

Kaur @ Adarsh Kaur Lamba

for grant of Succession Cer-

tificate in respect of debts/

securities to be paid by

the said estate on

05.10.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at

large is hereby given notice to

the grant of Succession Cer-

tificate in favour of the said

applicant, he may appear and

file objections in writing, in

person or through duly

appointed pleader, on the

said date and time and

Seal under my hand and



This is a difficult phase for the entire country. While the country has been fighting the coronavirus crisis, the Central government is adamant on conducting NEET and JEE exams

BHUPESH BAGHEL
CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020

03

Punjab Assembly rejects Centre's farm Ordinances

House passes a resolution against the Union govt's farm Ordinances and its proposed Electricity Amendment Bill, urging the Centre to withdraw them; CM terms them as 'anti-Punjab & anti-farmers'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 28 AUGUST

The Punjab Assembly on Friday passed a resolution, moved by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, rejecting the Union government's farm Ordinances and its proposed Electricity Amendment Bill.

The resolution was passed in the Assembly by a majority even as most of the Opposition members of the 117-member Assembly could not attend the one-day session due to either being Covid-19 positive or for coming in contact with coronavirus positive patients.

While none of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) members attended the session, only six legislators of the Aam Aadmi Party, two Lok Insaaf Party legislators and one Bharatiya Janata Party legislator attended the session in the House.

While tabling the resolution, the CM said the Punjab Legislative Assembly is seriously concerned about the public apprehensions and anguish caused by the three Ordinances — The Farmers' Produce Trade and Com-



merce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 — promulgated by the Centre.

Capt Amarinder said these three Ordinances and the proposed Electricity (Amend-

ment) Bill 2020 has caused anguish among the people of Punjab, particularly the farmers and landless workers, as these are allegedly not only against their interest and time-tested agriculture marketing system established in the state but are also against the Constitution.

The Entry 14 of List II of the Constitution includes agriculture as the subject of

2020 forthwith, and instead promulgate a fresh Ordinance making the procurement of foodgrains and other agricultural produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) a statutory right of the farmers and continuation of government procurement through the Food Corporation of India.

Those who voiced support to the resolution included Cabinet Ministers Charanjit Singh Channi, Congress MLAs Kuljot Singh Nagar and Gurkiran Singh Kotli, AAP MLAs Kanwar Sandhu and Kultar Singh Sandhu, and Lok Insaaf Party MLAs Simarjeet Singh Bains. Advancing his argument further, the Chief Minister said that these Ordinances are "anti-Punjab and anti-farmers" and would push Punjab again into chaos-filled era of the 1980s which the state, being a border state, can ill-afford as Pakistan is waiting in the wings to derive advantage from the chaotic situation to create mayhem in the country.

BJP MLA Dinesh Singh, while supporting the Ordinances, said that it is nowhere mentioned there that the MSP regime would be done away with.

Punjab Assembly session a black day for democracy: SAD

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 28 AUGUST

'Punjab CM indulged in blatant lying by concealing the fact that it was on record that the CM had asked Opposition legislators who had made contact with those testing COVID-19 positive not to come to the Assembly'

With none of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) legislators attending the one-day session of the Punjab Assembly, the SAD on Friday described the session as a "black day for democracy".

Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia charged it was shocking that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh even "lied" in the Assembly that the SAD did not attend the session when it was his government which had allegedly kept the Opposition out of the Assembly.

"Amarinder Singh indulged in blatant lying by concealing the fact that it was on record that the CM had asked Opposition legislators who had made contact with those testing COVID-19 positive not to come to the Assembly. The Speaker also issued a letter to the same effect which is also on record," he said. Majithia said while the SAD acted responsibly many others including the AAP and Congress legislators did not with one Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) belonging to the Congress, Nirmal Singh Shatranja, who attended the session testing positive later.

Majithia said this was not all. "The police were posted outside the residences of SAD

MLAs to thwart them from coming out to attend the session. These actions speak about the intentions of the Congress government and the CM who is intentionally trying to defame the SAD legislators instead of appreciating them for behaving responsibly," he added.

The SAD leader said instead of indulging in diversionary tactics and holding a discussion on such an important issue as central Ordinances on agriculture for less than 30 minutes with the sole purpose of playing politics, the CM should have given the opposition time to discuss the important issue. Stating that the SAD legislators had acted as per their conscience as responsible public representatives, Majithia asked the Congress government to reconvene the Assembly next month to discuss all pressing cases.

Delhi STF received over 55k complaints till 15 August

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Over 55,000 complaints from various quarters were received till August 15 by the Special Task Force (STF) constituted to comprehensively oversee enforcement of the provisions of the Delhi Master Plan and by-laws, officials said on Friday.

The progress on the complaints received and action taken was reviewed during the 51st meeting of the STF. Officers from all local bodies and other agencies attended the meeting.

"In total, 55,588 complaints have been received by the STF till August 15 and action has been initiated on 49,950," a senior DDA official said.

In this month, 1,708 complaints were received till August 15, he said.

While reviewing the progress of action taken on the complaints, STF chairman and DDA vice chairman Anurag Jain reiterated that close co-ordinated efforts needs to be continued among the urban local bodies and government agencies to take actions for removal of encroachment in accordance with the law.

Beware of fraudsters hijacking WhatsApp accounts: Haryana Police

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 28 AUGUST

Haryana Police on Friday alerted WhatsApp users about a new cyber crime used by fraudsters for hijacking of WhatsApp accounts to carry out financial scams.

Advising the people to stay alert to such scammers, additional director general of police (law and order), Navdeep Singh Virk said that cyber criminals are resorting to new means to defraud targeted individuals and organisations as many activities have moved online after the Covid-19 situation.

In this, fraudsters trick the gullible users by taking over their WhatsApp account and use it for communicating with their friends and family members for carrying out financial transactions.

Explaining the modus operandi, Virk said that first hacker creates a fake account and put the official WhatsApp logo as display picture posing to be the account of WhatsApp technical team.

Then the attackers messages to the target asking to share the six-digit verification code to verify their identity. As the message appears to be from WhatsApp technical team, the target easily gets tricked and shares the verification PIN.

Hackers use the infor-

'Cyber criminals are resorting to new means to defraud targeted individuals and organisations as many activities have moved online after the Covid-19 situation'

mation to log into the target's WhatsApp account from their device to further send fraudulent messages to friends and family of victim asking for money, PIN, OTP etc.

Virk also outlined a series of preventive and precautionary measures and advised the users never share verification code sent with anyone for any reason. He also suggested activating 'two-step verification' for social media accounts.

This will enhance the security of their account and even if the attacker gets access to verification code, a password will still be needed to successfully log into the account.

Never respond to anyone's messages asking for PIN or OTP as social media applications never call or send messages for such information. Apart from this, users immediately re-verify their WhatsApp account if they share the six-digit verification PIN with anyone, he added.

PM took effective steps to curb Covid in the country: Jai Ram



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 28 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday said that the "strong and able leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took effective steps to contain COVID-19 pandemic in India as compared to other developed countries.

He said that with timely decisions taken by the Prime Minister, India has reported about 60,000 deaths as compared to over 7 lakh deaths reported by 15 most developed nations with a population of about 142 crore.

He said that Himachal Pradesh government has also taken effective steps to check the spread of this virus.

"Even the Prime Minister has appreciated the steps taken by the state government to contain this virus," he said.

Inaugurating and laying foundation stones of developmental projects worth about Rs 94.14 crore in Sarkaghat Assembly constituency of Mandi district through video conferencing from Shimla, Thakur said even during COVID-19 pandemic, the government is ensuring that pace of development does not get hampered.

He said that the State has provided 2.78 lakh families free gas connections under the Grihini Suvidha Yojna. He said that over 8.75 lakh farmers of the State had been benefited under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

"We have decided to lay foundation stones and inaugurations virtually during COVID-19," he said.

He thanked the people of Sarkaghat for contributing Rs 22 lakh for CM Covid Fund and also distributing 650 Modi Ration Kits to the needy people during the lock down. He said that this had helped the people during the time of distress. He also urged the people to remain vigilant against this virus as the crisis was not yet over.

The Chief Minister said that over 2.50 lakh Himachali stranded in different parts of the country, were brought back to the state. He said that the state government is ensuring proper treatment of Corona patients.

He also thanked Corona warriors for rendering great services to tackle this crisis.

Thakur thanked the Prime Minister for providing 1.60 lakh PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Kits, 500 ventilators and three lakh N-95 masks to the State to effectively fight this pandemic. He said that CM helpline 1100 has proved a boon to the people of the State for redressal of their grievances.

He said that the State has provided 2.78 lakh families free gas connections under the Grihini Suvidha Yojna. He said that over 8.75 lakh farmers of the State had been benefited under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

NEP a concrete step towards self-reliant India: Dattatreya



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 28 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Friday emphasized the adoption of five 'Es' to ensure effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP).

These include "Effective, Efficient, Empower, Ease and Equity", he said.

The Governor was addressing a webinar on National Education Policy organized by Panjab University, Chandigarh.

He said that NEP was a concrete step towards realizing the resolve of self-reliant India.

He said that provisions have been made to address the drawbacks of the current education system, while the preparations to meet the internal and global challenges of the changing India of the 21st century were also reflected in it.

Dattatreya said that the 21st century was the century of knowledge and it was the century of the establishment of human values with a broad vision of humanity. In such a situation, the inclusion of excellence, quality, technology etc. in this education policy was certainly done in multidisciplinary mode.

The focus of this webinar is on the implementation part of the National Education Policy 2020.

Panjab University teachers especially, who are heading various departments of Panjab University and various institutional heads of affiliated colleges of Panjab University have participated in the webinar. Research scholars, who are working in the field of Governance, Administration, Education, Engineering and Technology, Skill Development, were also participated.

Dean of University Professor RK Singla detailed about the earlier process being done by all the faculties regarding NEP.

HC stays telecast of Sudarshan TV programme on Muslim 'infiltration' in government services

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court Friday restrained Sudarshan TV from telecasting 'Bindas Bol' programme, whose latest promo claimed that the channel was all set to broadcast a 'big exposé on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'.

The show was scheduled to air tonight at 8 pm.

Justice Navin Chawla issued notices seeking replies from the central government, Sudarshan TV, and its Editor-in-Chief Suresh Chavhanke on a petition filed by former and present students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) university.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on September 7.

The plea contended that the proposed broadcast sought to defame, attack and incite



hatred against JMI, its alumnii, and the Muslim community at large.

During the hearing, advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the petitioners, showed a video clip of the trailer that has been released by the TV channel for the programme 'Bindas Bol' and said it shows the programme could be in complete violation of the Programme Code.

TV channel seeking its clarification.

The court, in its order, said: Having considered the submission made, till the next date of hearing, the respondent nos. 3 and 4 (Sudarshan TV and Chavhanke) are restrained from telecasting the programme titled 'Bindas Bol' scheduled to be telecast at 8 PM today.

The court said, in the meantime, the ministry shall decide on the notice issued to the TV channel and place the decision before it.

Initially, the petition made Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) as one of the parties to the petition. However, during the hearing, the counsel for UPSC said it was neither a necessary nor a proper party to the petition.

On his submission, the petitioners' counsel said he will delete UPSC from the

array of parties. The petition by Syed Mujtaba Athar, Ritesh Siraj and Aamir Subhani sought direction to prohibit the telecast of the programme and to take down the trailers and all videos of the broadcast which are uploaded on the Internet by them.

It claimed that this would leave them open to the imminent threat of violence, including the possibility of lynching.

This would amount to an extremely egregious violation of the right to life and personal liberty guaranteed to the petitioners under Article 21 of the Constitution, the plea said.

It said a prima facie case is made out that the proposed broadcast amounts to hate speech and criminal defamation and fatally compromises the right to life and liberty of the petitioners.

Himachal farmers advised on protected vegetable cultivation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 28 AUGUST

Former Vice Chancellor of Jodhpur Agriculture University, Dr Bal Raj Singh, delivered two thematic expert talks on 'Plug Tray Nursery Raising Technology in Vegetables' and 'Cultivation of Vegetable Crops under Protected Conditions'.

Principal Investigator Dr Ranbir Singh Rana told that the webinar was organized under the Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology project on protected agriculture and natural farming, national agricultural higher education project and the World Bank funded project. Dr Akhilesh Sharma, Nodal Officer, Dr Parveen Sharma, Organizing Secretary, Dr Ajay Sood, co-organizing secretary, Dr RK Gupta and Kapil Sharma also took part in the webinar.

The webinar was attended by around 200 members from seven universities of the country.





Only during the run up to the elections, alliances will be decided

TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER K PALANISWAMI

THUMBNAILS



'Dhuldhoya' community people search for precious metals among bodies' ashes on the banks of the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad on Friday. ■ AFP

Fake Covid test racket busted: Kolkata police have arrested a person in connection with running an alleged racket of fake Covid-19 test from the NRS hospital. Police sources said the arrest was made on the basis of a complaint lodged at the Entally PS by the kin of a patient who came to NRS hospital.

Ex-Prez still in deep coma: Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to be in deep coma but is haemodynamically stable, the Army's Research and Referral Hospital said. A patient is haemodynamically stable when the blood circulation parameters - blood pressure, heart and pulse rate, are stable.

Bihar election: Stating that Covid cannot be a ground for postponing elections, the court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking to defer the Bihar assembly polls till the state is free of the virus. The ECI will consider everything, a bench of the court said.

MPs to get tested for coronavirus 72 hours before start of Monsoon Session: LS Speaker

PTI
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST
MPs will be asked to get themselves tested for COVID-19 at least 72 hours before the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday.

Besides MPs, parliament staff and media personnel, among other entrants to the building, will also be required to undergo the test for the coronavirus.

Political battle over NEET-JEE intensifies

BJP's attitude towards students 'devoid of humanity': Akhilesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Ministers of six non-BJP ruled states on Friday moved the Supreme Court against its order allowing holding of NEET and JEE exams amid the pandemic, as the row over the contentious issues intensified with the top Congress leadership stepping up its offensive against the government, while Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank asserted that politics should be kept away from education.

National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts medical and engineering entrance exams - National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test and the Joint Entrance Examination - has decided to hold NEET on 13 September and JEE Mains for under-graduate Engineering Colleges and Institutes from 1 September to 6.

With barely days left for the JEE exams to start, the issue has escalated into a full-blown political battle with the ministers from six states - Rajasthan and Punjab (Congress), West Bengal (Trinamool Congress), Jharkhand (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha), Maharashtra (Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena) - seeking postponement of the exams "in a manner that achieves the twin objectives of ensuring that the academic year of the students is not wasted and their health and safety is not compromised."

However, chief ministers in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) and

IIT Delhi urges students to help candidates with transport facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

In view of the Covid pandemic, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, has appealed to its students and alumni to help those appearing for the JEE-Advanced next month with transport to reach their exam centres.

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced is conducted for admissions to IITs and National Institutes of Technology. IIT-Delhi is conducting the exam on 27.

The institute has also suggested to its students and alumni to come up with a registration portal for needy candidates and help take

Uttar Pradesh (Yogi Adityanath) backed holding of these exams as per schedule. In an order on 17 August, the top court had dismissed a plea seeking postponement of tests for NEET and JEE, scheduled to be held in September, saying that "life cannot be stopped" and the "career of students cannot be put in jeopardy."

In its review petition, the parties said the August 17 order is "cryptic, non-speaking" and does not discuss various aspects and complexities involved in a matter of this magnitude.

The plea said that only two reasons given by the court - life must go on and students should not lose an academ-

care of their logistics. According to top officials at IIT Delhi, efforts are being made to allocate first choice of examination centre to 95 to 99 per cent of students.

"As citizens, we need to stand up together in times of crisis and help each other. If I am in a village and have a car, and if there is a poor student who needs to go to the examination centre and cannot afford private transport, I would take the student to the examination hall. I would do it entirely free of cost. That's such a natural thing to do. I hope to hear such stories after the examination is over," IIT Delhi Director V Ramgopal Rao said.

If any decision has to be taken regarding students' future, it is important that it is "being taken with your concern", the Congress chief said in a nearly minute-long video posted on the Congress' Twitter handle with the hashtag "#SpeakUpForStudentSafety".

During an online briefing by opposition parties who have moved court, Jharkhand CM Santosh Soren said that it seems the Centre is being stubborn in holding the exams while TMC leader Derek O'Brien asserted conducting examinations of this magnitude when the infection is at its peak poses serious health hazards for the students, their parents and persons conducting these exams.

Union education minister Nishank said politics should be kept away from education as he welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to uphold UGC guidelines on conducting final year exams for university students.

"I heartily welcome the decision taken by the Supreme Court with respect to the final year exams. Let's keep politics away from education and educate our politics," Nishank tweeted.

wide protests and voicing opposition on social media against the conduct of NEET and JEE amid the pandemic and floods in some states.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi urged the government to listen to the voices of students on the issue of conducting NEET and JEE and act according to their wishes.

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IMMERSION SITE



Devotees immerse Ganesh idol on the banks of the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad on Friday. ■ AFP

Tharoor a 'guest artist' in Cong, says KPCC working president

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
28 AUGUST

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who was among the 'group of 23' that wrote to Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent organisational overhaul, has come under attack from some leaders in Kerala, with a senior MP calling him a 'guest artist' and asking him to follow party discipline.

Following Kodikunnel Suresh's criticism against Tharoor, senior congress leader PT Thomas came in support of the Thiruvananthapuram MP.

A global citizen like Tharoor needs to be evaluated using his greatness, Thomas said in a Facebook post. Youth Congress leader Sabarinathan said as leaders from other parties are engaged in scandalous propaganda against Tharoor, "I like to speak for him." KPCC vice president Sidhu today appeared on the

Facebook, uploading Tharoor's photo.

Former KPCC President and Lok Sabha member from Vatakara K Muraleedharan had on Thursday taken a dig at Tharoor saying that he was just an ordinary citizen and hence he could not demand action against a global citizen like Tharoor. Shashi Tharoor was among the Group of 23; who wrote to Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent organisational overhaul.

The friction between Tharoor and the Congress leaders in Kerala has been there for quite some time. Tharoor's open backing of the centre's decision to lease out Thiruvananthapuram airport development and management to Adani group, while the Congress in Kerala was strongly opposing it, has also not gone well with the party leaders in the state.

T'gana BJP wants CEA to probe Srisailam hydropower plant fire

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 28 AUGUST

Dismissing the investigation by state CID into the fire mishap at Srisailam hydroelectric power plant as an 'eye wash' the Telangana BJP has urged the Union power minister RK Singh to order an investigation by a team of experts from Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

The fire had killed nine people including five engineers at the underground plant adjoining the Srisailam dam. State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar met the power minister and requested him for a safety audit of all power plants in Telangana by CEA as well.

He blamed the state government for the mishap adding that safety concerns were not addressed due to lack of funds.

He alleged that the state government has not paid its dues to Transco, the power transmission company, which in turn was unable to pay Genco for the generated power resulting in fund paucity to carry out the necessary measures for ensuring safety.

"The Telangana state government has ordered a CID (with police officers who do not have any technical expertise) into the matter. It is only an eyewash and will not serve any purpose.

Due to the severity of the issue, I urge you, sir to direct the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to constitute a team with experts from all the concerned fields of hydro power generation, fire protection engineering, fire hazard assessment and related disciplines and have this matter investigated.

gated thoroughly to bring all the facts out."

He also raised the gaping holes in the plant's safety measures including lack of a fire alarm, smoke or heat detectors or emergency lights to show the employees the way out once the area was plunged into darkness.

Despite two previous flooding incidents no safety upgradation was done at the ill-fated power plant.

Portable extinguishers were used to fight the fire in the absence of a proper fire-fighting mechanism which proved highly inadequate. He also said that if there were proper escape routes and the personnel were trained for such emergencies their lives could have been saved.

The Telangana government has also formed another panel with experts in Genco to recommend measures to avoid another such incident.

On 10 Sept, Rafale to be inducted into IAF

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Five Rafale fighter aircraft will be formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 10 September at a ceremony at the Ambala air base in Haryana, giving a substantial boost to the country's airpower.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh will be present at the ceremony for which he has also invited his French counterpart Florence Parly.

The French-origin five fighter aircraft arrived in India from France on 29 July in the midst of the ongoing military stand-off with China at eastern Ladakh and have since done extensive training in India. The jets are part of the 17 Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF.

The new fighters are the first imported jets to be inducted into the IAF in 23 years after the Russian Sukhoi-30 jets were inducted into the IAF in June 1997.

India had ordered 36 Rafale jets from France as part of a government-to-government deal worth Rs 59,000 crore in September 2016.

Sources said the induction ceremony would be

KCR to demand 'Bharat Ratna' for ex-PM PV Narasimha

HYDERABAD, 28 AUGUST

The Telangana Assembly will pass a resolution demanding that Centre should confer Bharat Ratna to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

Holding a review meeting on the centenary celebrations the state government chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced that the iconic Necklace Road which runs along the Hussainsagar Lake will be renamed as PV Narasimha Marg.

A memorial will also be set up in the city for the first chief minister of the unified Andhra Pradesh state from Telangana region. The government also plans to develop two villages where Rao was born and grew up into tourist destinations. "We will discuss about his achievements in the Assembly. We have decided to have a comprehensive debate on him," Rao said.

SNS

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY 2nd CORRIGENDUM

Name of work:- "Housekeeping and cleaning of Officer's chambers, offices, staff rooms, store rooms, sheds, temporary accommodations, corridors, toilet blocks, road etc, in the office premises of Dy.Chrf Engineer/Const, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi. Due to administrative reasons, Tender Notice No. 477-ACS-HK-2020-CSB Dated 17.08.2020 for the above cited work, which was scheduled to be opened on 15.09.2020 has been cancelled. Fresh tender shall be notified later on. 1872/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)	
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenders.	
Tender No.	197-S/196/Hiring-Vehicle/ANVT, MTC, JHI/20/MC-IV
Name of Work	Hiring of Multi-Utility Vehicles for Coach Care Centres, Anand Vihar, Meerut & Jind for two years.
Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 14,132,40/- (Excluding GST & ECC)
Earnest money in favour of S.R.DFM/ NR, New Delhi	Rs.68,300/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 28.09.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
No.197-S/196/Hiring-Vehicle/ANVT, MTC, JHI/20/MC-IV Date : 28.08.2020 1874/2020	Serving Customers With A Smile

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF EXISTING HOCKEY GROUND IN BHIM STADIUM IN BHIWANI DISTT.	24.08.2020 14.09.2020	19.85 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-242436 pwd-eepd-bhwiani@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, SIRSAG	DNIT FOR WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF BHARUKHERA TO CHAUTALA ROAD UPTO RAJASTHAN BORDER (ROAD ID 10455) KM. 0.00 TO 5.74 IN SIRSAG DISTT. (RE-INVITE) + 2 OTHER WORKS	28.08.2020 10.09.2020	765.87 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eepd-sirsag@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF MORTUARY AT 50H MANANA SAMALAKHA IN PANIPAT DISTT CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE Z4780 DATED 02.02.2019	27.08.2020 14.09.2020	70.46 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
4	GOVT. ITI ASAUADAH (JHAJJAR)	INTENDS OF OUT SOURCING (MALL, SWEEPING , LANDSCAPING AND WSA)	31.08.2020 14.09.2020	RS. 20,000	http://www.gitiassaudah.org.in/	9996165652/ asauadah.giti@gmail.com
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, GURUGRAM.	CONST. OF LINK RASTA FROM SAIDPUR TO KHANTIWAS BLOCK F- NAGAR + 8 OTHER WORKS	01.09.2020 14.09.2020	2,096 CRORE	www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0124-2221122 prexeeng@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE SAHA	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCKS (AS PER ANNEXURE 1 IN THE DNIT) + 12 OTHER WORKS	03.09.2020 17.09.2020	24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2822066 bdpo.Saha@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE SHAHZADPUR	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCKS (AS PER ANNEXURE 1 IN THE DNIT) + 11 OTHER WORKS	02.09.2020 16.09.2020			



India remains indebted to greats like Mahatma Ayyankali. His work towards social reform will always inspire....

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOCIAL REFORMER MAHATMA AYYANKALI

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



Activists of Rashtrawadi Shiv Sena and Suraksha Sena Bharat groups burn a Pakistani flag during a demonstration in Amritsar on Friday, with a demand to secure Hindu and Sikh religious places located in Pakistan.

UP policemen suspended:

Five Uttar Pradesh policemen were suspended on Friday for failing to gather information about an alleged ISIS operative, Mohammad Mustakim Khan who was arrested in Delhi on 21 August, officials said. Delhi Police officials said he had planned to strike Delhi on 15 August.

PTI

BJP MLA gets notice in UP: BJP legislator from Gorakhpur Radha Mohan Das Agarwal has been served a show cause notice by the party over his social media posts maligning the image of the party and the government. The party has sought his reply within seven days in the matter.

Lockdown in Barak Valley: Assam's Barak Valley and three other districts were put under total lockdown since Thursday as the number of Covid infections cases increased rapidly. Residents of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts in south Assam are likely to face the lockdown till 4 September.

Guj mulls agents to recover loans from weaker sections

AHMEDABAD 28 AUGUST

Much wiser after many top business tycoons have flown away without paying back their pending bank loans, the Gujarat Government is currently toying with an innovative idea to recover unpaid amounts from defaulters.

The Gujarat government is planning to appoint recovery agencies to recover unpaid loans, not from top industrialists, but from various weaker sections of the people.

As many as nine corporations under the state's Social Justice & Empowerment Department advance livelihood, education and other loans to weaker sections of the people like minorities, sanitation workers, nomadic tribes, SC, ST and OBCs.

The recovery of these loans often become difficult not because the beneficiaries have flown abroad but simply due to staff shortage in the department and the lengthy process involved.

With just about 50 per cent loans recovery, the pending arrears from these weaker sections people have accumulated to nearly Rs 700 crores over the years. The Gujarat government is planning to pay five per cent of the recovered amount to the recovery agencies to be appointed soon through a tendering process, officials have revealed.

It is not clear yet whether the recovery agents would be formally authorized to use muscle power on the loan defaulters or colour of the scarves around their neck is expected to frighten the weaker sections people into coughing out the unpaid amount.

As the Government is hoping to recover about 90 per cent of the pending Rs 700 crores through these agencies, their income from the recovery service would be around Rs 30 crores.

Dalit and other backward class activists are naturally livid over the Government move to hire recovery agencies to 'harass' the weaker section people.

Terrorism is Pak's primary export: Jaishankar

EAM highlights need for both a more enlightened, responsive multilateral system, and a new, inclusive & non-transactional approach to multilateralism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST



In a veiled attack on Pakistan, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar today said 'states that have turned the production of terrorists into a primary export have attempted, by dint of bland denials, to paint themselves as victims of terror.'

Speaking at the Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture, he also referred to Pakistan's flip-flop last week when it admitted to the presence of UN proscribed terrorists Masood Azhar and Dawood Ibrahim on its soil in the context of its ongoing troubles with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and subsequently denied it.

"But as we have seen last week, sustained pressure through international mech-

anisms to prevent the movement of funds for terrorist groups and their front agencies can work."

It has eventually compelled a state complicit in aiding, abetting, training and directing terrorist groups and associated criminal syndicates to grudgingly acknowledge the presence of wanted terrorists and organised crime leaders on its territory," the minister said.

He said the struggle against terror and those who aid and abet it was a work in progress and it was for the international system to create the necessary mechanisms to shut down the structures that support and enable terrorism, whether in South Asia or across the globe.

Talking about Covid-19, the minister said the world faced a structural challenge in improving the international

architecture that served all of humanity in the fight against pandemics.

"We have seen precursors of this current crisis before. For most of the last century, humankind's luck has largely held out: either the sites of such outbreaks have been remote, or our monitoring systems have managed to head off a crisis in time. This time, however, the international warning systems, reporting protocols and response mechanisms were unable to prevent the spread beyond ground zero," he added.

Jaishankar said if it took a heinous attack (9/11) using passenger aircraft as weapons of mass destruction to underscore the age of terror, it has taken a lethally contagious virus to trigger a pandemic that has brought the world to its knees."

...Terrorism was not born on 9/11, nor has the Covid-19 been the only pandemic. We have long known intellectually that terrorism is a cancer that potentially affects everyone, just as pandemics potentially impact upon all humanity. And yet, in both cases, globalised focused responses to either challenge have tended to emerge only when there has been sufficient disruption created by a 'spectacular' event," he added.

The minister said there was a need for both a more enlightened, more responsive multilateral system, and a new, inclusive & non-transactional approach to multilateralism.

The reform of international organisations was not merely desirable but imperative.

Four Al-Badr terrorists shot dead after they killed Panchayat member

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 28 AUGUST

Four terrorists, including top commander of the Al-Badr outfit, were on Friday shot in an encounter in Shopian of south Kashmir after they abducted and killed an elected panchayat member. One terrorist surrendered during the encounter with security forces at Kiloor village of Shopian district.

Body of the abducted Panch, Nissar Ahmad Bhat, was found earlier in the day in an orchard in Dangam village of Shopian.

IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said that among the killed terrorists were Shakoor Parray, Al-Badr District commander and another terrorist Suhal Bhat who abducted and killed Khan-

moh's Panchayat member. Two AK-47 and 3 pistols were recovered from the slain terrorists. Two other killed terrorists have yet to be identified and it is suspected they were Pakistanis.

Police said that the exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces took place in the apple orchards of the Kiloor village where a cordon was laid by a joint team of security forces, including the 44 RR of Army, CRPF and J&K Police, on specific inputs. As the joint team of searching party cordoned the area where the terrorists were hiding, the terrorists fired upon the forces, which was repelled and the encounter started. Meanwhile, a weapons snatching bid was foiled at Nowhat-

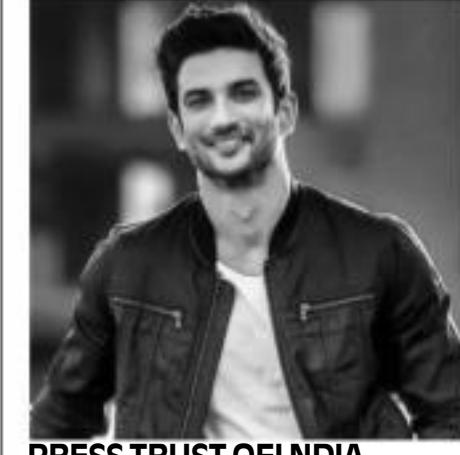
RISING THREAT



A man rows his boat on the flooded Ganga as the water level of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers rises in Allahabad on Friday.

AFP

Probe 'BJP angle' in Sushant case: Congress



No BJP leader took Aaditya's name: Fadnavis

PUNE, 28 AUGUST

Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that no BJP leader "directly or indirectly" took state minister Aaditya Thackeray's name in connection with Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

Talking to reporters here on the sidelines of the inauguration of a Covid hospital at Baner here, Fadnavis said that surprising revelations are coming up in the case, I think they are surprising," he said.

The Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly wondered why all these revelations did not come to light before the CBI took over the probe.

Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that no BJP leader "directly or indirectly" took state minister Aaditya Thackeray's name in connection with Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

"No leader from the BJP has taken the name of Aaditya Thackeray directly or indirectly (in Rajput case). The kind

Keshav Upadhye rubbed off Sawant's demand and posted a link to a 2015 article which said Smita Thackeray, daughter-in-law of Bal Thackeray, was planning to produce a biopic on the late Shiv Sena supremo in association with Sandeep Singh.

"Do your home will you find a link in this too," Upadhye asked. BJP leader Ram Kadamb, in a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, has demanded a discussion on the 'Bollywood-drugs nexus' in the coming legislature session.

The Narcotics Control Bureau has registered a case after it came to light during probe that Rhea Chakraborty, who is accused of abetting Rajput's suicide, allegedly used to deal in banned substances.

State BJP spokesperson

J&K: 30 held for taking out Muharram procession

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 28 AUGUST

Police resorted to cane charge to disperse Shia youths who defied restrictions and took out Muharram processions in Srinagar

on Friday. About 30 persons were taken into custody.

Taking out Muharram procession in downtown Srinagar is banned since 1989 when terrorism broke out in J&K.

Left slams FM over GST revenue shortfall

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Left parties today described as "atrocious" finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statements that the Centre was unable to pay its states their GST dues, and that they must borrow from the RBI to bridge the gap. Left parties hit out at the government over its act of God remark on the shortfall in GST revenue and accused it of passing its burden on states.

The CPI (M) politburo said the finance minister's admission at the GST Council's meeting yesterday that the Central Government was unable to pay the State governments their dues for 2020-21, was "atrocious."

The GST revenue shortfall for the States was a whopping Rs 2.35 lakh crores. Telling the states to borrow from the RBI to bridge this gap is obnoxious. The Centre is legally bound to fulfil its obligations of payment of GST dues," the party said.

If needed, the Centre must borrow and pay the states their dues and cannot force the state governments to borrow, the party said.

Having plunged the Indian economy towards recession even before the pandemic arrived, and now to blame some "divine intervention" for the Central Government's inability to fulfil its obligations, is "simply unacceptable," the CPI (M) said. "This is totally outrageous

and misleading. The Central Government must fulfil its legally binding obligations to the States," the party said.

The CPI said the Central government's announcement absolving itself of any responsibility to honour the commitment made to state governments was "unprecedented." It passes the entire burden of raising resources to the state government. The finance minister's assertion that the pandemic is an 'act of god' and therefore the central government is not liable to pay the compensation is blatantly incorrect and unethical," the CPI said.

At a time when the state gov-

ernments are burdened by the slowdown in the economy, and the additional spending they made to manage the pandemic, the party said.

The CPI said the Central government's announcement absolving itself of any responsibility to honour the commitment made to state governments was "unprecedented." It passes the entire burden of raising resources to the state government. The finance minister's assertion that the pandemic is an 'act of god' and therefore the central government is not liable to pay the compensation is blatantly incorrect and unethical," the CPI said.

At a time when the state gov-

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male, (depicted in the photo), Name: Surender, S/o: Late Sh. Rameshwar, R/o: H.No. 9/135, 2nd Floor, Geeta Colony, Delhi. Aged: 36 years has been missing from his house since 10.08.2020. In this regard DD No. 45A, Dated 19.08.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi. His physical description is as under:



Surender

Height: 5'6" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Clothing: Black Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Pant & Black Colour Sport Shoes in his feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Geeta Colony, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi
Ph. 011-22506665, 20508164

Extract of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Year ended 30.06.2019	Quarter ended 31.03.2020	Year ended 30.06.2019
1.	Total Income from Operations	67,489	71,249	270,761	67,372
2.	Profit before exceptional items, net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	44,354	55,183	177,251	44,604
3.	Profit before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	39,181	55,183	176,642	39,431
4.	Profit before tax after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	38,414	54,965	195,936	38,782
5.	Net Profit after tax from continuing operations	30,108	42,054	165,189	30,390
6.	Total Comprehensive Income after tax	29,854	41,684	163,387	30,136
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share ₹10/- each)	392,980	392,980	392,980	392,980
8.	Other equity excluding Revaluation Reserve			782,951	
9.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹) - Basic & Diluted	0.78	1.07	3.80	0.79
10.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)	0.77	1.07	4.20	0.77
				1.08	3.82

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website <http://www.sjvn.nic.in> and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> & <http://www.nsindia.com>.

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors

Sd/-

(Nand Lal Sharma)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 03495554

The deprived child

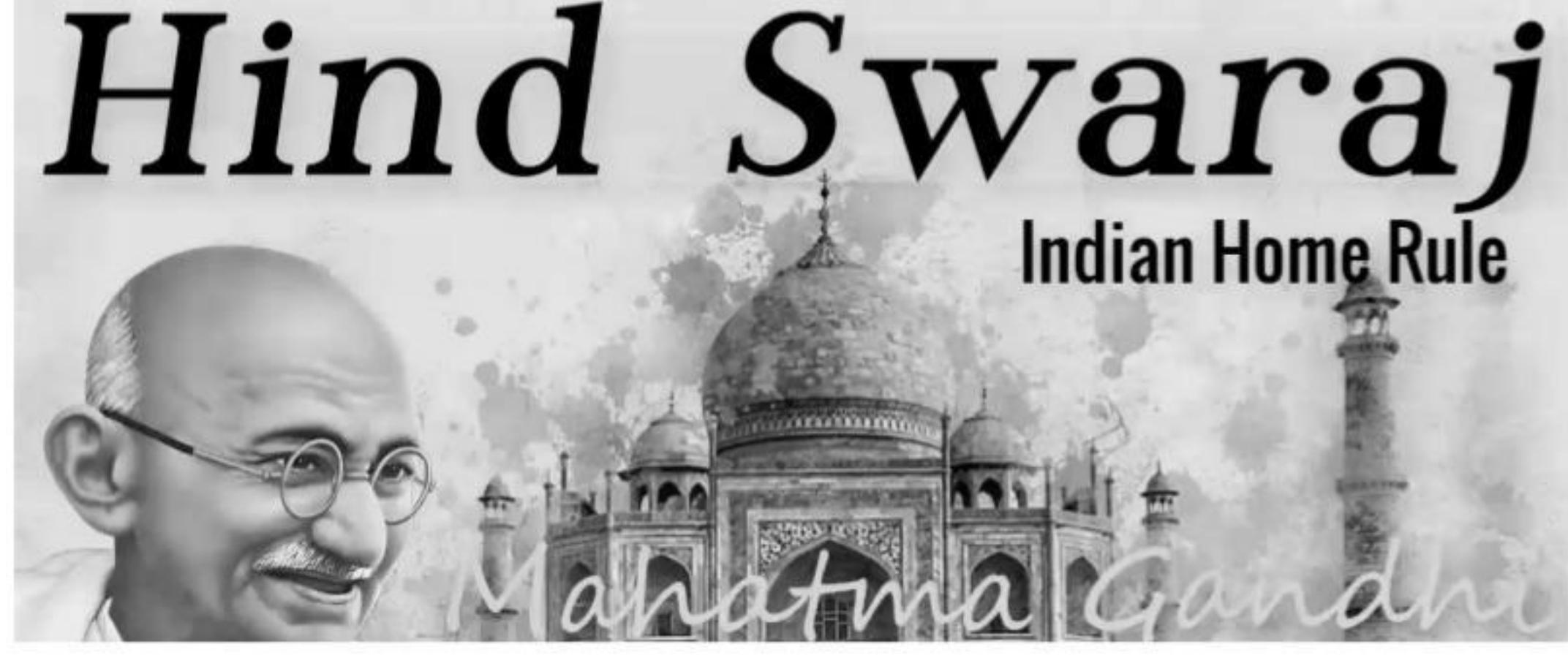
The revelation by Unicef of the extent to which children around the world have been deprived of learning in the crisis caused by the pandemic puts a number to what has been suspected, and written about, for weeks. The United Nations Children's Fund has revealed that for 463 million children ~ 1 in 3 worldwide ~ "there was no such thing as remote learning." In its new report, Unicef has highlighted the inadequacies of remote learning and exposed the massive inequalities in access. The report in a sense confirms the worst misgivings of educators and presents conclusions that ought to shake up governments, especially in disparity-ridden countries such as India. Poverty, disparities, age and competing factors are responsible for impaired access, and together they make two things imperative for governments ~ one, to prioritise safe reopening of schools and two, to make urgent investments to bridge the digital divide. The report says that in households with some access to remote learning, it is the youngest children ~ those in the most critical years for learning and development ~ who are most likely to be deprived. It points out that children with access could also suffer from competing factors and lists these as being pressure to do chores, being forced to work, a poor environment for learning, and lack of support in using the online or broadcast curriculum. The report, according to Unicef, uses a globally representative analysis on the availability of home-based technology and tools needed for remote learning among pre-primary, primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary schoolchildren, with data from 100 countries. Data included access to television, radio and internet, and the availability of curriculum delivered across these platforms during school closures. It concludes that the situation in South Asia is particularly bad, behind only Africa, with 38 per cent of children ~ totalling 147 million ~ unable to access remote learning. When added to the numbers of children who were out of school even before the pandemic struck, these figures present a startling story of deprivation. Of course, governments will be prone to shrug off the figures on the basis they are helpless against an "act of God", but nearly six months after the first lockdowns were announced in South Asia, there is little to suggest that education has been given the importance it deserves. Certainly, in India the constitutional right to free education has been kept suspended for months on end. For the most part, entitled sections of the citizenry have been lulled into believing that online classes and tutorials provide an adequate education and have sought reasons to keep children home, rather than send them to school. Poorer sections that were induced to enrol their children with the promise of a free meal have of course been deprived of both education and food. Governments, educators and parents would do well to study Unicef's Framework for Reopening Schools and seek a way out of this impasse.

Singapore sling

Fifteen years after it was signed, the Singapore-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Ceca) is once again in focus in the Southeast Asian island nation, as locals fretting about job losses because of the coronavirus epidemic have voiced concern about foreigners, especially Indians, depriving them of livelihoods. These concerns prompted Singapore's Ministry for Trade and Industry to issue a clarification this week that there is no provision under Ceca for Indian nationals to become Singapore permanent residents and citizens or for Singapore authorities to automatically grant employment passes to professionals, managers and executives (PMEs) from India. The issue of Indian professionals has become a hot potato and a demand to review terms of the agreement between the two countries was even raised during the campaign for Singapore's general election last month. Two other developments this week highlight just how seriously Singapore's traditionally paternalistic government is taking the undercurrents of local resentment at losing jobs to foreigners, especially Indians. This week, it raised the minimum monthly salary payable to foreign professionals seeking employment passes to \$S4,500 (Rs 2.42 lakh) and for more experienced professionals to about twice that figure. This change will come into effect from 1 September. From 1 December, the minimum salary for foreigners employed in the financial sector has been raised to \$S5,000, the first time a sector-specific threshold has been set. In the other development, President Halimah Yacob in her traditional opening address to Parliament devoted considerable time to assuaging fears about competition for jobs from foreigners. Acknowledging that the issue can be polarising, she said: "This has become a major source of anxiety, especially among mid-career Singaporeans. We understand these concerns. They not only touch on matters of livelihood, but also on our sense of identity and belonging. They will be addressed." Even before the pandemic, there had been concerns among Singaporeans that after the comprehensive agreement was signed in 2005, the country had been flooded by Indians, who are especially visible because of their presence in high-profile managerial and executive positions. The agreement has been reviewed twice, the last time in 2018. But it has raised contentious issues from time to time, as in 2016 when claims surfaced that Singapore had backtracked on its commitments by blocking visas for Indian IT professionals. This week, Singapore's government was compelled to clarify, first, that it was misleading to attribute the number of Indians in managerial and executive positions to Ceca, and second, that the category of employees who were in Singapore because of intra-corporate transfers made up less than 5 per cent of the workforce, of whom only a small segment were Indians. But the writing on the wall is clear. As people around the world face job losses and wage cuts, the Indian diaspora must prepare for the backlash. So too must India; money sent home by overseas Indians makes up a chunk of inward remittances.

Controlling thought

Books inherently carry ideas; to think that all ideas will appeal or be palatable immediately is to be naïve and ignorant for posterity. Questioning within the generous framework of legality and pushing peacefully to expand its contours is the only way to progress



One of the first books to be banned in the modern era was the Gujarati translation of *Hind Swaraj* (Indian Home Rule) in 1909, written by Mahatma Gandhi. The book was considered a seditious text by the ruling British authorities. The book was banned but the idea in it survived and fructified into India's Independence in 1947. In 1936, the authorities were forced to ban Katherine Mayo's "The Face of Mother India" as it was unprettily Indophobic, racist and pro-imperial. While Gandhi strongly critiqued it by saying, "the impression it leaves on my mind is that it is the report of a drain inspector sent out with the one purpose of opening and examining the drains of the country to be reported upon, or to give a graphic description of the stench exuded by the opened drains", the Mahatma did not ask for its pulping.

Almost all countries ban books that are perceived to be inappropriate, offensive to public sensibilities or sheer seditious. The ostensible concerns range from societal, religious and political to being just unacceptably critical of the established norms. Even the fantasy series, Harry Potter, had to face serious charges of celebrating witchcraft, hocus pocus, occultism and paganism that was feared to undermine religious values. The alternative perception is that these vivid series encouraged children to read, imagine, discuss and criticise in the trusty hallmark of free expression and creativity.

One person's creativity is invariably another person's concern. In a bizarre argument, prison authorities in New York tried to ban a book on the maps of the moon as they feared it could 'present risks of escape'. As societal churn moorings

of tradition with modernity, majoritarianism with equality, intolerance with liberality and absolutism with free expression ~ social media frequently explodes with voices of easily 'hurt sentiments'.

This phenomenon of seeking bans is gaining traction and support as society is becoming increasingly polarised and intolerant of contrarian views ~ a counterintuitive revisionism is on the upswing in the twenty first century. Space for intellectual debate, dissent and natural evolution of thought for the proverbial 'argumentative Indian' is shrinking.

The ability to disagree and

for tolerance notwithstanding, freedom of expression is not absolute and is within the realms of law ~ one may agree or disagree with the laws, but till the time they exist, they need to be respected. The onus is on the creative community in equal measure and application, to abide by the law of the land, without abusing the genuine essence of 'creative license'.

However, more often the problem is not with the law itself (though, it can be so), but with the narrowest, pettiest and often wrong interpretations of legal provisions.

India has oscillated from dis-

playing extreme maturity to impatience, when it comes to handling books. The co-conspirator of Nathuram Godse, Gopal Godse's 'Why I assassinated Gandhi' was printed in Hindi in 1970 and English in 1993, much before the advent of right-wing rule at the Centre. Despite its alternative and controversial perspective on the Father of the Nation, the book did

not sell out in droves or inflame passions ~ that is the power of liberality and free speech, as it allows varied perspectives to compete, with the better argument winning in the end. Within the liberal confines of Indian law, contrarian perspectives must be allowed to avoid hagiographic, biased or false narratives to ensure that only the truth triumphs in public imagination. This process is inherently disconcerting to those who hold different views, therefore the necessity to back counter claims with facts and verifiable data.

The latest conundrum surrounding the book, "Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story", is part of this challenge. The politics involved with it is unmistakable, and the culture and fear of instant backlash for an international publisher is understandable.

While the claim that this is a classic case of a 'ban' may be a bit stretched, given that the narrative of the book belongs to the ruling dispensation who hold the essential 'monopoly on truth', it is lamentable nonetheless that perspectives from both sides are not allowed to be aired freely and stand the test of public evaluation.

Clearly the sagacity and magnanimity of Evelyn Beatrice Hall's, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it', is the sort of accommodation that is missing. It is in this spirit of equal opportunities that this pull-back under pressure does not augur well for society.

Beyond legalities, the growing culture of 'bans' is steeped in our political firmament and conscience as it supports aggressivity, intolerance and bans, very selectively and conveniently. Not only is the art of debate diminishing, but the larger ecosystem of writers, publishers, distributors and readers are coming under a siege mentality and fear.

As Haruki Murakami said, 'if you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking', and that is perhaps the biggest attraction for those who seek bans. Books inherently carry ideas, to think that all ideas will appeal or be palatable immediately is to be naïve and ignorant for posterity.

Questioning within the generous framework of legality and pushing peacefully to expand its contours is the only way to progress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Important Covid-19 Questions

SIR, Your assertion that it would be better if we are allowed to "live as normally as possible and die with grace" (Covid-19, 2.0; 26 August) is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise doomsday scenario where almost everyone is acquiescing in the apocalypse paradigm and intellectual bias rather than initiating an objective

RT-PCR is not a diagnostic tool per se and antibody test with emphasis on long-term infection (IgG) cannot differentiate between Covid-1 (2003) and Covid-2?; ii) Are the reproductive rate (R0) and mortality rate ~ two parameters for pandemic declaration ~ really minacious relative to, say, influenza or TB? (As per 3 July 2020 issue



counter narrative.

To have such normalcy and grace one should first debate, preferably resolve, a few critical questions with scientific and empirical evidence and insight ~ i) Whether and how far the RT-PCR and antibody (ELISA) tests offer conclusive corroboration of Covid-19 infection, particularly when

to pneumonia alone?; iv) What are the revelations from the demographic profiles of those already dead?; v) Has ICMR instructed to record death of each patient who died with influenza-like illness as death under Covid-2 category? If so based on what medical testimonials?; vi) Is there any monetary (or other) incentive on recording and reporting Covid-19 deaths?; vii) What are the scientific evidences to support that a respiratory tract virus emanates from the inert surface of dead bodies, for which outrageous treatment is being meted out to those who die?; viii) Has not the prolonged lockdown and containment inflicted far more damage both economically and psychologically than the virus itself? If about 60,000 is the present casualty figure of Covid-19 pandemic, are not at least 6 crore people at the brink of starvation and psychosocial neurosis?

Yours, etc., Amal Mandal, Cooch Behar, 27 August.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

SIR, The Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India is a cause of concern not only for the government but even for the citizens of India as the measures taken by the government for revival of the economy seem to have

made negligible change. Aggregate demand is on a remarkable decline.

The government must consider the option of direct cash transfers, instead of loans in this critical time so as to increase liquidity in the market and to accelerate demand by making people financially stronger and less fearful.

This would definitely help the government and the economy as financially stable citizens will be willing to pay their taxes which would increase the revenues of the government. As we fight against Covid-19, it will decrease the pressure on the economy.

Yours, etc., Daksh Solanki, New Delhi, 27 August.

A LOSING CAUSE?

SIR, Sunil Sharang's incisive article, 'How Trump could win in today's *The Statesman*' makes a lot of sense. Biden seems to have signed his own death warrant, figuratively speaking of course. To start with, there are indications that he will be a one-term President and that he is merely a transitory figure for the next generation of Democrats.

However, to be a one-term President is considered to be the worst outcome for any President so to ask voters to select such a President is asking them to select a loser from the outset. In so

REMARKABLE FEAT

SIR, This refers to your editorial "Back in action" (*The Statesman*, 27 August). Last Tuesday, James Anderson became the first fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets. Anderson believes that he can take 700 Test wickets alongside spinners Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan. The glittering statistics of England's bowler are testament to his impeccable work ethic, longevity and devotion to the game. Anderson has achieved this feat at 38, an age when most cricketers either turn coaches or recede to the confinement of commentary boxes. Since his international Test debut against Zimbabwe in May 2003, he has played in 156 Tests and clocked an astonishing 33,717 deliveries so far, the most by a pacer. By the way, Anderson had dismissed the world's most celebrated batsman Sachin Tendulkar a record nine times in Test matches. Three spinners including India's Anil Kumble have taken 600 or more wickets in Test cricket. But spinners have generally enjoyed longer and more fruitful international careers than pacers. Fast bowlers have a tendency to suffer frequent injuries which is why bowling records elude them. While every record is meant to be broken, Anderson's landmark might last longer because fewer Test matches are played nowadays.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das Koikata, 27 August.

doing, Biden is also admitting that he is too old for the job. But that assessment is for others to make and need not necessarily be true. The 2016 election also showed that America is not yet ready for a female President let alone a Black female. In choosing Kamala Harris as his running mate, he is also ensuring that the Biden-Harris ticket is doomed since Biden is himself suggesting the strong possibility of an "angry Black woman who arouses fear" which would be anathema to the

majority, including liberal Whites. Her age and colour, rather than being assets, are actually potential nails in his coffin.

To quote the famous American psychologist, the late William James, 'It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which more than anything else will affect its successful outcome.' Biden's attitude is already that of a loser in contrast to Trump's attitude of winning at any cost.

Yours, etc., Animesh Rai, Noida, 24 August.



Shenzhen still on path of transformation

Since the official establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone 40 years ago, the city has pioneered China's reform and opening-up and in the process undergone a rags-to-riches transformation.

There should be no lack of reflection on this very special occasion, when not only Shenzhen, but also the country's reform and opening-up have reached a historic crossroad.

Shenzhen's rise in the first place illustrates the power of strategic insight. Former leader Deng Xiaoping's informed judgments about domestic and international conditions, courage to blaze a new trail, open mind to embrace the outside world, and modest, no-nonsense approach to international affairs have been instrumental to the achievements made by Shenzhen, and indeed the whole country, over the past four decades.

Reform has been the key to Shenzhen's success. The special economic zones, of which Shenzhen was the first, are meant to pilot reforms whose real-world effects are verified before being rolled out nationwide. Home to the first shareholding company on the Chinese mainland, Shenzhen has lived up to those expectations. It has led market-oriented reforms, and incul-

CHINADAILY

bated multiple national, even global, industry leaders and piloted innovation in local governance, centered on building a streamlined, non-intrusive, service-oriented public administration. Shenzhen's openness has been equally, if not more, important. The previously unthinkable inflow of overseas investors, capital, technologies, management know-how, even personnel, has made dramatic differences to the local economic landscape. It is of particular significance for the country, especially Shenzhen, to appreciate what has brought it where it is, and what a course should be followed going forward.

At a symposium with social scientists on Monday, President Xi Jinping again called for deeper reforms and greater openness to facilitate the new "dual circulation" development pattern featuring the domestic market as the mainstay with foreign markets complementing it. Now Shenzhen has a better sense of direction after four storied decades.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a fine blueprint for the integrated development of the Pearl River Delta region that embodies the dual circulation development mode.

Drawing on Shenzhen's experience of growing openness to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the plan proposes deepening the cooperation between them to expedite Shenzhen's envisioned transformation into a modern and international city of innovation and creativity with global influence.



Insurance companies should work towards bringing ease of claims by making it painless

ANURAG THAKUR
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

THUMBNAILS

Honda launches new Jazz: Car maker Honda Cars India Ltd has launched its premium hatchback new Honda Jazz with a refreshed look. It has been powered by BS-6 compliant 1.2L i-VTEC petrol engine in both manual and 7 speed CVT (continuously variable transmission) variants, the company said. Besides giving the Honda Jazz a stylish and sportier makeover, the introduction of Sunroof will add a new dimension to the car, said Gaku Nakanishi, president & CEO, Honda Cars India Ltd.

SNS

Samsung tab: Samsung on Friday announced the launch of Galaxy Tab S7 series. Galaxy Tab S7 comes with 11" display, while Galaxy Tab S7+ comes with 12.4" display. "Featuring a new-and-improved S Pen, a stunning display and a suite of creativity features, Galaxy Tab S7 and S7+ offer a vast canvas for bringing all your ideas to life," the company said in a Press release.

SNS

Sustainable finance: The department of economic affairs, ministry of finance, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India have launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC). The three-day consultation was held with the objective of bringing together leading experts and organisations to work together to boost the country's efforts on mobilising sustainable and green finance, according to a Press release.

SNS

Coal supply falls: State-owned Coal India's fuel supply to the power sector registered a decline of 19.5 per cent to 126.30 million tons (MT) in the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal in the wake of slump in coal demand. Coal India Ltd (CIL) had dispatched 156.86 MT of fuel in April-July last year, according to the latest data of the coal ministry. The dispatch of coal by CIL in July fell 12.4 per cent to 32.76 MT.

PTI

Mistry family voices concerns over Tata Group performance

Two sides trade allegations and counter-allegations over management of the group at Tata Sons AGM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

TUSSLE COMES TO FORE AGAIN

► Representatives of the Mistry family firms, which are the single biggest shareholders, flagged concerns over the drop in performance and mounting debt of two major group companies ~ Tata Steel and Tata Motors.

► They also questioned recent investment decisions taken at Tata Sons, which according to them have gone into funding losses.

► However, Tata Sons



chairman N Chandrasekaran refuted the allegations of the family, saying he was clearing the "mess" left by his predecessor Mistry.

man N Chandrasekaran refuted the allegations of the family, saying he was clearing the "mess" left by his predecessor Mistry.

He, according to another source, said the "mess" was created in 2013-16", the period during which Mistry was the chairman of the group.

He also asserted that Tata Sons' investments in operating companies were done to correct the capital structure of

group firms and prevent the default of any liabilities by them.

During the AGM, which was also attended by Tata group chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, the Mistry family representatives raised issues of mounting losses and borrowings at Tata Motors and Tata Steel.

They also flagged concerns regarding auditors' remarks on Tata Steel Europe and Air Asia

India "for their ability to continue as a going concern".

According to the sources, Chandrasekaran responded by saying that in the past three years, lot of efforts have been made in the restructuring of Tata Steel, which witnessed the mix of profitable Indian operations increasing during the period.

He also said the revival plans of Tata Steel and Tata Motors have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

On the issue of losses in airline ventures, Chandrasekaran commented that the investment commitment was made in the past, and "Tata Sons does not go back on its commitment", while reiterating that the airline business takes longer to be profitable.

The Mistry family representatives had questioned if a proper analysis was done by the Tata Sons board prior to funding in these ventures ~ Air Asia India and Vistara.

They also highlighted that at present Air Asia India's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by Rs 1,200 crore and its net worth has been

fully eroded.

They asked if Tatas were to buyout the JV partners, would not it be just buying liabilities of the budget carrier, the sources added.

On the positive side, the Mistry family representatives appreciated the good performance of Tata Communications and the strategy of Tata Power to leverage.

They also lauded the pledge taken by Tata Group to support the fight against Covid-19, with Tata Sons and group firms working together along with Tata Trusts, the sources said.

Tata Sons board had sacked Mistry as chairman on 24 October 2016.

Ever since, the Tatas and Mistry camps have gone through several rounds of legal battles, reaching all the way to the Supreme Court.

The apex court had in January this year stayed an order by the NCAT that restored Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Group, observing that there were "lacunae" in the orders passed by the tribunal.



ment, SBI today said it has integrated Yono Krishipal platform with government's first online horticulture seed portal to facilitate delivery of high-quality seeds at farmers' doorsteps.

Yono Krishipal integrates with ICAR IIHR seed portal to reach out to 2.7 crore customers registered on Yono, SBI said in a Press release.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has been bringing new innovations in agriculture through research and development since last 91 years.

Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) team has brought out a digital portal for farmers to purchase seeds of high-yielding and disease resistant varieties, it said.

ICICI Bank sells 2% in I-Sec for ₹310 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

the company stands at 77.22 per cent," it said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the board of directors of ICICI Bank had approved the sale of shares in the subsidiary firm to comply with the minimum public float requirement.

As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) norms, once a company is listed, its promoters are required to bring down their shareholding to 75 per cent within a stipulated period to meet the minimum public float requirement of 25 per cent.

ICICI Securities was listed on the stock markets in April 2018. The company offers services like broking, distribution of financial products, wealth management and investment banking.

The transaction of shares took place through an open market sale, the lender added. "Following this divestment, the bank's shareholding in

Liberty Gen gets ₹100 cr funding from promoters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Private insurer Liberty General Insurance (LGI) today said its promoters have infused Rs 100 crore in the company last month, reflecting their confidence in the firm's ability to build a substantial business in India. The company has also denied rumours around its stake sale.

"Liberty General Insurance' promoters ~ Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, Enam Securities, and DPJindal Group ~ remain confident of the company's ability to build a substantial business in India.

"With a further infusion of additional capital of Rs 100 crore made in July 2020 by its promoters, the total invested capital including share premium is now Rs 1,834 crore," the company said.

PTI

Plea for stimulus for auto industry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

The government should come up with a special stimulus package for the domestic automobile industry in order to revive the segment which is expected to de-grow in the current financial year as well, auto components major Bosch said.

While addressing shareholders at the company's 68th annual general meeting (AGM), Bosch Ltd chairman Bernhard Straub said the downturn in the Indian automotive segment continues against the backdrop of cyclical and structural changes accompanied by added pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic uncertainties.

The nationwide lockdown followed by cluster-wise lockdowns and uncertainties have led to the first quarter of the current fiscal seeing the

deepest decline ever, he added. The domestic tractor market is witnessing a bounce back to normal levels followed by two-wheeler and passenger cars, while light commercial vehicles also are showing signs of revival, he noted.

"On the other hand, the heavy commercial vehicle industry has not yet shown any signs of revival," Straub said.

"Against this backdrop, the automotive sector is expected to show de-growth for the financial year 2020-21. In this context, it is important that the Central government comes up soon with a special comprehensive stimulus package for the automotive sector," he said.

Investments in construction activities and infrastructure have to continue to boost the demand side, he added.

Straub said the Indian

economy is expected to see the sharpest contraction in 40 years and as reports suggest India's GDP for the financial year 2020-21 will be negative by 3.5 to 5 per cent.

This is primarily due to rising Covid-19 infections and weak fiscal stimulus resulting in lower inclination to consume, especially as credit growth remains muted and banks are saddled by rising bad loans, he noted.

"At the same time, the rural areas of the country are expected to lead the demand recovery, driven by better minimum support price for the upcoming Kharif harvest and increased MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) spending on allied business activities. Also, the rural areas have seen a lesser impact of Covid-19 as compared to the urban areas," Straub said.

Milkbasket plans to launch IPO next year

NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

Daily grocery delivery platform Milkbasket has advanced its plan to launch an initial public offering by the second half of next year, buoyed by strong growth in business in recent months amid the pandemic, a top company executive said.

Milkbasket co-founder and CEO Anant Goel said the rapid adoption of at-home grocery delivery amongst consumers during the pandemic has provided an impetus to target an initial public offering (IPO) in just a year.

Milkbasket has a near-perfect record of reaching growth targets since being founded in 2015. The rapid adoption of at-home grocery delivery amongst consumers due to the pandemic has provided us with an impetus to target IPO in just a year, which we had initially planned for the year 2023," he said.

Milkbasket, which already offers delivery of over 9,000 products across fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), dairy, fruits and vegetables categories in five cities (Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Bengaluru), currently has an average revenue run rate (ARR) of about \$100 million.

"We are now working on the process for an IPO... The process takes time and we are still in early stages, but we are looking at possibly next year... second half. For now, the thought process is to list in India, we are an Indian company and well recognised in India," he said.

Goel also denied reports of being in talks for selling out the business to Paytm Mall and Reliance Industries. "These are reports that I also keep reading. We are not looking at getting acquired. Like any other start-up, we are open to investments, but we aren't selling off the business," he said.

Chola, Sanjeevani tie up for free heart surgeries of children

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 28 AUGUST

Murugappa Group's Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd (Chola) has collaborated with Sri Sathy Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals to provide free heart surgeries to children of truck drivers, cleaners and mechanics anywhere in India.

In its "Healing Little Hearts" initiative, Chola has pledged Rs 1.32 crore for the financial year to fund surgical heart procedures for the children.

"Trucking is one of the most important links facilitating productivity and competitive efficiency, leading to rapid economic development of the country," said Arun Alagappan, managing director of Cholamandalam that operates from 1098 branches across India.

"We are happy to be partnering with Chola to provide totally free-of-cost cardiac care to children of trucking staff for whom cost of cardiac procedures and transplants are beyond their means," Dr Chellappan said.

"The stressful and challenging nature of their work influences their physical as well as mental health. This initiative is a small step from our end to bring some de-stress and happiness into their lives," he said.

Truck drivers, cleaners, mechanics anywhere in India having children with heart ailments can approach the Sri Sathy Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Palwal (Haryana) and Navi Mum-

bai (Maharashtra) for the child's free medical treatment including surgery.

"Every year around 2.4 lakh children are born in India with congenital heart disease with this being one of largest cause of child mortality," said Dr Subramanian Chellappan, director, Sri Sathy Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Palwal.

"We are happy to be partnering with Chola to provide totally free-of-cost cardiac care to children of trucking staff for whom cost of cardiac procedures and transplants are beyond their means," Dr Chellappan said.

He said nine successful cardiac operations for children have been completed during the past six months with the cost for "these procedures ranging anywhere between Rs 80,000 to Rs 4 lakh in private hospitals."

Next tranche of gold bonds opens on 31 Aug, issue priced at ₹5,117/gram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 28 AUGUST

The issue price for the sixth tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme has been fixed at Rs 5,117 per gram, the RBI said in a statement today.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21 Series VI will open for subscription on 31 August 2020 and close on 4 September 2020.

The issue price for the bonds (Series V), which were open for subscription from 3 August to 7 August, was Rs 5,334 per gram of gold.

The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription period, i.e. 26 August to 28 August 2020, works out

The tenor of the SGB will be eight years with exit option after fifth year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

to Rs 5,117 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank said.

It further said the government, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 5,067 per gram of gold, the central bank said.

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) 2020-21 is issued by the

Reserve Bank India on behalf of the Government of India.

The bonds are denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram and the tenor of the SGB will be eight years with exit option after fifth year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

The bonds are restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu undivided families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

The minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold and the maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 kg for individual, 4 kg for HUF and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March).

The gold bond will be sold through banks (except

small finance banks and payment banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges (NSE and BSE).

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings, used for the purchase of gold, into financial savings.

As per the RBI Annual Report 2019-20, a total of Rs 9,652.78 crore (30.98 tons) has been raised through the Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme (37 tranches) since its inception in November 2015.

The RBI issued 10 tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) for an aggregate amount of Rs 2,316.37 crore (6.13 tons) during 2019-20.

Sensex jumps 354 pts; rupee at 6-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 28 AUGUST

Equity benchmarks defied gravity for the sixth straight session today following smart gains in bank and finance stocks, while global markets were mixed despite the US Fed outlining a more accommodative stance.

A sharp jump in the rupee and unabated foreign fund inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

After touching an intra-day peak of 39,579.58 points, the BSE Sensex ended 353.84 points or 0.90 per cent higher at 39,467.31 points.

I have come to Salboni to meet the NIA officers, who had summoned me for questioning in two 11-year-old cases

TMC LEADER AND FORMER CONVENOR OF MAOIST-BACKED PCAPA CHHATRADHAR MAHATO

ON BEING QUESTIONED BY NIA IN TWO CASES OF TRAIN HIJACK AND MURDER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020

09

Odisha: Floods in Mahanadi system likely in next 36 hours

Situation improves in Brahmani, Baitarani, Budhabalanga systems

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 28 AUGUST

Even as Baitarani, Brahmani, Budhabalanga river systems showed a receding trend leaving several villages of Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts marooned, another flood in the Mahanadi system is expected to inundate coastal districts in the next 36 hours.

The administration which is already hardpressed with pandemic related work has switched gear to tackling the floods.

Special Relief Commissioner KJena informed that the river waters that flooded Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts were receding and flowing below their respective danger levels today.

But heavy rains in the upper catchment of Mahanadi (Chhattisgarh) as well as the rivers in the lower end of the river will cause a medium flood with a maximum of 10.50 lakh cusecs flowing at Mundali.

District administration of Cuttack, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Khurda have been alerted. NDRF and ODRAF teams have been positioned for rescue and relief operations.

Chief secretary Asit Tripathy and other senior officers.

A report from Sambalpur quoting Hirakud dam source said as per the rule curve, the water level on 28 August is to be between 616 to 623 ft. But heavy downpour in Chhattisgarh has increased inflow and the water level is 625.6 ft, said Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty, the superintendent engineer of the Hirakud dam pro-

ject.

As per the rainfall data, the inflow is 6.58 lakh cusecs against the outflow of 6.20 lakh cusecs. As it seems both are almost equal. The inflow is expected to increase to 7.5 lakh to 8.0 lakh cusecs.

The welcome sign is that train in Chhattisgarh has stopped.

There is no cause of concern as a major flood will not take place

said Mohanty. Reports from Jajpur district said the flood situation remains grim with all 10 blocks affected as Brahmani and Kharasota rivers in spate.

Water level in river Baitarani has been receding since this morning, informed Collector Ranjan Kumar Das.

One person has died in a wall collapse. Breaches in embankments of Baitarani, Brahmani and Kharasota rivers were reported at 14 places thereby causing

extensive damage. Over two lakh people of Jajpur, Binjharpur, Dasarathpur, Bari, Rasulpur, Korei, and Dharmasala blocks in the district are marooned.

The collectors said free kitchens have been opened for the affected people in marooned areas and relief is being provided in some places.

"By now we have evacuated around 2,500 people to safer places," he said.

Two teams each from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and Fire Service have been deployed in rescue and relief operations in different places in the district.

Baitarani caused havoc in

Bhadrak district disconnecting it from Jajpur district. More than 120 villages are marooned. Dhamanagar and Bhandaripokhari

block is worst affected while Tihidian and Chandabali blocks are partially affected. Over 39,000 hectares of cultivated land remains submerged and 1500 houses damaged. Balasore witnessed the fury of the Jalaka river as it gushed into low lying areas.

There were reports from Dhenkanal and Jagatsinghpur districts of rainwater inundation. In Dhenkanal rain water had marooned two villages of Gondia block. The district collector was himself on a boat distributing relief to the affected people.

The news of impending flood in the Mahanadi system caused panic among people of Jagatsinghpur district. In many areas like Raghunathpur, Tirtol etc rainwater logging has already put people in distress and the fear that it has weakened the embankments.

ITIs, Government and private buses will be engaged to transport students Mr Singh said.

It is learnt that 37,000 students will appear the JEE exam across 26 centres in seven cities of the state. Certain coaching centres are reportedly making their own arrangements to transport students. The government facilities will be available to all those who seek such help.

Mr Tripathy appealed to students and guardians to immediately share their location and details of which centre they are to appear so that the government makes arrangements for their travel and stay. They need to telephone the IIT's which have been made nodal agencies for collecting such information, he added.

They have to just show their admit card and avail the

government facilities, he added.

Police and road transport authorities have been asked to relax guidelines and allow such travel.

The JEE examination is scheduled to be held between September 1 and 6 and NEET on September 13.

In spite of flood-like situation in various districts and the administration's commitment in combating the pandemic-19, we are making all attempts to provide assistance to the youths in the state in this regard as per the directions of the CM, they said.

It may be noted here that CM Naveen Patnaik had repeatedly sought postponement of JEE and NEET exams in view of the floods in the state. He had written and even spoken to PM Narendra Modi.

Odisha Covid cases races close to one lakh mark

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 28 AUGUST:

Odisha on Friday witnessed the worst ever single day spike of 3,682 COVID-19 infections, pushing the State's tally to 94,668 while the fatality toll mounted to 456 with eight more succumbing to the virus infections in the past 24 hours.

While the contagion's graph is going from bad to worse with its tally breaching 14,000-mark, the virus infections are spreading fast in Rayagada, Cuttack and Mayurbhanj districts with steady stride in positive cases.

Ganjam district which for a month or more had been a hotspot has seen a steady decline of fresh cases with 174 new infections.

Khurda district with 775 infections headed Friday's COVID count followed by

Bhubaneswar reports 354 new cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 28 AUGUST:

State Capital Bhubaneswar witnessed 354 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours taking its caseload to 9001.

Of the new cases, as many as 202 were detected by way of contact tracing.

Twelve cases have been reported from the 7th Battalion, four health department staff, eight from Jagamara and five from Behera Sahi. Two fresh cases had travel history to Kolkata and Chennai.

With 38 deaths and 5419 recoveries, Bhubaneswar now has 3535 active cases.

Patra takes up Bagala issue with Union Minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 28 AUGUST

Persisting on its charge, the BJP today took the Bagala Dhamasala issue to the central government with national spokesperson Dr Sambit Patra apprising Union Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel about the alleged sale of land and illegality committed.

Significantly, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has not even tweeted about the controversy nor acknowledged the issue that has been raised by the Odisha unit of the party. Pradhan, who normally tweets on every matter relating to Odisha has been silent.

In fact even when the state BJP leadership went hammer and tongs at the Naveen Patnaik government over mis-handling of the pandemic in

Ganjam district, Pradhan had not uttered a word.

His silence has been more telling than all the hullabaloo that the state BJP has been making against the state government.

Unfazed at being left to raise the Bagala Dhamasala issue on his own, Dr Patra had not only rushed to Puri and addressed a media conference recently, but promised that he will take up the matter at the highest level including the PM at Delhi.

In pursuance to his

promise, Patra met Union Minister Patel and pointed out to him that the age old dhamasala was serving the needs of the poor pilgrims and that even recently when it was to be demolished, the central government had stepped in.

Patra told the Union Minister that it had been covered under the Prasad scheme of the centre and Rs 20 crore allocated for construction of a dharamshala / accommodation by ITDC. At least 3 crore had also been spent.

But, all of a sudden, the

Naveen Patnaik government had stopped all this, carved out plots and 'sold' them to a few people, he alleged. The government did not even take cognisance of the fact that a petition is pending adjudication in Orissa High Court, he said.

Patra requested Patel to intervene and expedite the Prasad scheme.

The Union Tourism and Culture Minister is said to have assured Patra that he will call for records and examine the entire matter.

It is pertinent to note here that the state government has forcefully denied all such allegations. The plots have not been sold, only a small portion has been allotted to people who had been displaced.

This is as per the R&R policy wherein option was given for cash compensation or land, stated the government.

Bengal sees fall in number of active cases

KOLKATA, 18 AUGUST

More Covid-19 patients were discharged over the last 24 hours, compared to the number of people who were detected positive in West Bengal, leading to a fall in the number of active cases.

The state recorded 2,982 Covid cases and 56 deaths during the period, along with 3,286 recovered patients being discharged, thereby lowering the number of active cases to 26,349. A total of 1,53,754 people have been detected Covid positive and 3,073 died due to the infection while 1,24,332 cured in the state till now taking the discharge rate to 80.86 per cent.

Registering the maximum number of single-day cases in the state, North 24 Parganas recorded 554 cases and 14 deaths while Kolkata has registered a slight decrease with 427 cases and 11 deaths.

Rourkela loses another doctor

ROURKELA, 28 AUGUST:

Rourkela lost another COVID-19 warrior.

Dr Rasbehari Mohapatra, a retired RSP employee and has been on post retirement assignment as a government doctor at Lathikata Hospital.

He was admitted to Rourkela COVID Hospital at Hi Tech Medical College last week. As his conditions worsened he was advised to shift to Bhubaneswar where he died. He is survived by his wife Ms Manjulata Mohapatra, who is a lecturer and two children who are abroad.

Odisha govt withdraws mandatory Aadhaar linkage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 28 AUGUST

the pension, the department in an order issued earlier had noted.

As a result, an estimated 11 lakh marginalised people were denied access to pension at a time when they were battling against pandemic-induced food insecurity.

The State government has decided that an eligible pensioner should not be denied pension for not having Aadhaar. If somebody is alive and identifiable as beneficiary he or she should not be denied pension for not having Aadhaar".

"It will be the responsibility of the local administration to identify these cases and

haar linkage.

It may be recalled here that Odisha had originally opposed the centre's order of Aadhaar linkage with pensioner's account in 2017 on the ground that it would cause hardship to the beneficiaries.

Mandatory linkages with Aadhaar had caused mass exclusions, both at the point of disbursement of welfare entitlements (because of biometric or technical failures) and during the process of seeding and verification.

The Aadhaar seeding and verification processes are also shrouded in opacity. The Aadhaar-enabled Payments System

(AEPS) comes with its own share of failures, due to poor design, missing safeguards, and a confusing array of failure codes, according to campaigners.

It is pertinent to note here that Odisha has achieved 93% Aadhaar enrolment till the end of 2019 as against all India average of around 90%.

Of the projected population of 4.58 crore by 2019, 4.41 crore Aadhaar numbers had been generated. The registration level in 0-5 age group is around 46% with a total number of 18,26,038; and, 5-18 age group is around 81% with a total of 95,87,186.

Want of license delays functioning of the blood separate unit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BALASORE, 28 AUGUST

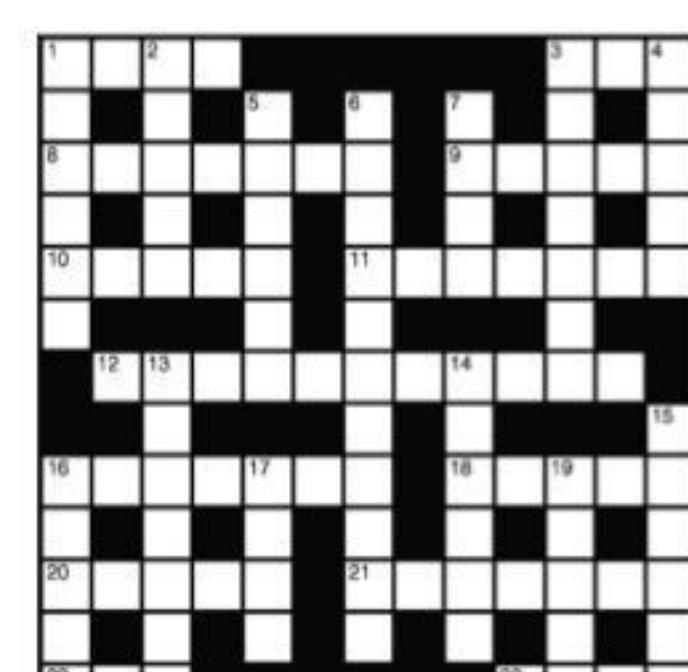
Bhubaneswar and stored as there is no blood separation unit.

Those who want to donate plasma are being taken to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar.

It is shocking that the DHH has the required equipment and trained technicians yet the separation unit has not been functional. The officer-in-charge of the Blood bank unit Basant Upadhyay said that although it is ready, it cannot operate unless the license is issued. Currently a blood unit as a whole is given to the patients who require only specific treatment.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Blood (4)
3 Hawthorn (3)
8 Hide (7)
9 Throw (Informal) (5)
10 Alternative (5)
11 Type of cloud (7)
12 Bulging (11)
16 Morever (7)
18 light wood (5)
20 Sweet sticky liquid (5)
21 Conspel compliance with (7)
22 Edible tuber (3)
23 Prohibition (4)

DOWN
1 Small lizards (6)
2 Stock farm (5)
3 Sentimental (7)
4 Expression of alarm (Informal) (5)
5 Confidential (6)
6 Very successful film or book (11)
7 Swindle (Informal) (4)
13 Platform (7)
14 Knock back (6)
15 Summerhouse (6)
16 Tall for helmet (5)
17 Deceive (4)
19 Big (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007
Punjab Roadways 23867842, port 011-25671580; Terminal B 23860526, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

Rajasthan Roadways 23864470, AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

U.P. Roadways 23868709, EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33733377

FLIGHT INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 1800180383



It is up to European states to be ready through budgetary interventions and greater financial solidarity within the eurozone

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMANUEL MACRON

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(C)	MIN(C)
SINGAPORE	30	27 H
HONG KONG	32	27 S
TOKYO	35	27 H
LONDON	17	11 R
DUBAI	41	33 S
SAN FRANCISCO	20	13 S
NEW YORK	27	19 R
MOSCOW	20	13 CL

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

THUMBNAILS



A boy jumps with his scooter at a halfpipe in Eichenau near Munich, during warm summer weather on Friday. AFP

Tripoli firing: Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) said that an armed group indiscriminately fired at protesters in Tripoli. According to local media reports, it was a security force under GNA that fired at the protesters. AP

Japan re-entry ban: Japan will lift a re-entry ban on foreigners from next month, PM Shinzo Abe said on Friday, as the country looks to rebuild an economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic. AFP

TENDER

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

RAJMATA VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA NURSING SCHOOL

SWAMI DAYANAND HOSPITAL

DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095

RAJMATA VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA NURSING SCHOOL,

SWAMI DAYANAND HOSPITAL

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Online applications are invited from female candidates only for 3 years General Nursing & Midwifery Training (approved by Indian nursing council & Delhi nursing council) as per details of seats below:

No. of Seats

1. Swami Dayanand Hospital : 20

Details/ prospectus and application form etc. Will be available online w.e.f. 02/09/2020 to 21/09/2020 only on <http://www.mcdonline.gov.in> Payment of fees Rs. 150/- for (UR& OBC), Rs. 810/- for (SC&ST) be made through online mode available on MCD portal/ website as above for submission of application form. NO FEE for Divyang (physically Handicapped candidates).

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent

R.O. No. 45/DPI/EDMC/2020-21 Swami Dayanand Hospital, Delhi

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer-(E&M)

Disaster Management Centre, Ghazipur, Delhi-96

NIT No.EE-E&M/EDMC/ENGG./2020-21/12 Dated: 26.08.2020

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (E&M) on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tenders in e-tendering in two stage system i.e. Stage- 1 Documents related to eligibility criteria and Stage - 2 Financial bid for Name of Work:- (1) Supply Installation Testing and commissioning of two Nos. Hydraulic driven Anti Smog Gun. Head of Account: XL-III-D-IV, Tender Amount: Item Rate, Earnest Money: Rs. 57,400/-, Tender Cost: Rs. 1,000/-, Time of Completion: One Month. Rate shall hold good for: 120 days, Tender No.: 319124. The last date of re-encryption of online bid is 16/09/2020 up to 1500 Hrs.

NIT No. EE-E&M/EDMC/ENGG./2020-21/13 Dated: 27.08.2020 (2) Operation & Comprehensive Maintenance of 6 Nos. Sewer Line suction cum jetting machines for four years in EDMC. Head of Account: XL-III-D-IV, Tender Amount: Item Rate, Earnest Money: Rs. 8,61,150/-, Tender Cost: Rs. 2,000/-, Time of Completion: Four Year, Rate shall hold good for: 120 days, Tender No.: 319128. The last date of re-encryption of online bid is 18/09/2020 up to 1500 Hrs. Non EDMC registered contractors opting for e-tendering will have to register in the e-tendering system of EDMC. Other details/ information can be seen on website www.mcdtenders.com. Sd/- Ex. Engineer (E&M)

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROJECT(SHAH-N-II
1st floor, Opp. Shayan Lal College, G.T. Road Shahdara, Delhi
D/EE(PR)-II Shah (N)/20-21/542 Dated 27/8/2020

Online item rate tenders from eligible contractor of MCD are invited vide NIT No.D/EE-Pr.SHN II/TC/2020-21/01 dated 27.08.20 for the works of Providing Green Cover to curb Air pollution in AC 69, Shahdara (N) Zone. Sub-Head: (1) Providing and laying Interlocking Paver Block and tree Guard from Govind Vihar main road to Gutta Factory at Karawal Nagar Road in Shahdara (N) Zone. (2) Providing and laying Interlocking Paver Block and tree Guard from Harsh Trading Co. to Govind Vihar at Karawal Nagar Road in Shahdara (N) Zone. (3) Providing and laying Interlocking Paver Block and tree Guard from Shiv Vihar Pulia to MLA office at Karawal Nagar Road in Shahdara (N) Zone. (4) Providing and laying Interlocking Paver Block and tree Guard from MLA office to Hariom Timber shop at Karawal Nagar Road in Shahdara (N) Zone. (5) Providing and laying Interlocking Paver Block and tree Guard from Shyam sweets to Harsh Trading Co. at Karawal Nagar Road in Shahdara (N) Zone. Tender amount: Item rate, Earnest Money: Rs. 147,100/-, Head of A/c: UDF Tender No.: 319125.

Other details can be seen and download from the website <http://mcdtenders.com> or before 09.09.20. Tender cost @ Rs. 1000/- each and earnest money will be submitted upto 11.09.20 upto 15.00 hrs and tender will be opened on 11.09.20 at 15.01 hrs in the office of EE Project-II Shah (N), 1st floor, Opp. Shayan Lal College, G.T. Road, Shahdara, Delhi.

Sd/-
EE (PR)-II Shah (N)

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

It is up to European states to be ready through budgetary interventions and greater financial solidarity within the eurozone

AFTER THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCED A 750-BILLION-EURO BOND-BUYING SCHEME

RNC: Trump, Pence accept re-nominations

President calls Biden 'destroyer of American greatness'; Biden leads Trump by 7.1 p.c points, in battleground states it is 3.7 p.c points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 28 AUGUST

US President Donald Trump castigated his Democratic rival Joe Biden as "the destroyer of American greatness" and assured voters that he will end the raging coronavirus pandemic that has ravaged the economy and quell the civil unrest, as he accepted the Republican nomination for a second term in office.

"This election will decide whether we save the American dream" or whether "we allow a socialist agenda to demolish our cherished destiny," Trump, 74, said on Thursday amidst cheers from some 1,500 ardent supporters who were mostly maskless.

My fellow Americans, tonight, with a heart full of gratitude and boundless optimism, I proudly accept this nomination for President of the United States," he said in his 70-minute address from the South Lawn of the White House as hundreds of protesters staged a noisy demonstration outside against his policies.

I stand before you tonight honoured by your support. Proud of the extraordinary progress we have made together over the last four incredible years, and brimming with confidence in the bright future, we will build for



US President Donald Trump watches fireworks with his family members at the conclusion of the final day of the Republican National Convention at the White House on Friday in Washington. AFP

...AND THE MASKS?



About 1,500 people gathered on the South Lawn of the White House so President Trump could accept his party's nomination for re-election

Masks were not required and chairs were placed inches apart from one another, with no room for social distancing, in violation of public health recommendations

America over the next four years, Trump said.

In a new term as President, we will again build the greatest economy in history quickly returning to full employment, soaring incomes, and record prosperity! he said.

"We will defeat the virus, end the pandemic, and emerge stronger than ever before," he told the Americans as the country has witnessed over 1,80,000 deaths and over five million Covid-19 infections, making the US the worst-hit nation.

Party's delegates from across the country at Republican National Convention, which has been drastically scaled down at its original venue of Charlotte in North Carolina, on Monday re-nominated Trump and Vice President

Mike Pence as its presidential and vice-presidential candidates respectively.

This is for the first time in recent memory that a presidential candidate has delivered his acceptance speech from the White House.

Trump and Pence are being challenged in the 3 November elections by Democratic presidential nominee and former vice president Joe Biden and his running mate, Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris. Trump slammed Biden's record as a "shameful roll call of the most catastrophic betrayals" and said his victory will endanger the nation and destroy the American greatness.

Trump told Americans that their vote will decide whether they protect law-abiding Americans, or whether they give free rein to violent anarchists, agitators, and criminals who threaten the citizens.

Trump is people's president, says Ivanka: Describing Donald Trump as the "people's president" and listing out his administration's "people-friendly" policies during his first term, his daughter Ivanka delivered a fiery speech in support of her father's re-election bid.

"America doesn't need another empty vessel who will do whatever the media and the fringe of his party demands. Now more than ever, America needs four more years of a warrior in the White House," 38-year-old Ivanka said in her address to the Republican National Convention.

destroyer of American greatness." Biden's record is a shameful roll call of the most catastrophic betrayals and blunders in our lifetime. He has spent his entire career on the wrong side of history, Trump said.

This is the most important election in the history of our country. At no time before have voters faced a clearer choice between two parties, two visions, two philosophies, or two agendas, he said.

Trump told Americans that their vote will decide whether they protect law-abiding Americans, or whether they give free rein to violent anarchists, agitators, and criminals who threaten the citizens.

He is the destroyer of America's jobs, and if given the chance, he will be the

Harris: Trump has reckless disregard for Americans

WASHINGTON, 28 AUGUST

Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate, has blasted President Donald Trump for failing to protect the American people from the deadly coronavirus pandemic by being "fixated on the stock market" and caving in to China.

In a blistering speech hours before Trump delivered his acceptance speech to the Republican National Convention from the South Lawn at the White House, Harris alleged that the president's policies have been "a reckless disregard" for the danger a pandemic would pose to American lives.

"Donald Trump has failed at the most basic and important job of a President of the United States. He failed to protect the American people. Plain and simple. Trump showed what we, in the legal profession, would call a reckless disregard for the well-being of the American people," Harris said.

With the Republican leaders attending the four-day convention largely downplaying the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has killed over 180,000 people and infected over five million others in the US, Harris pointed out that Trump's failure to address the health emergency more aggressively is emblematic of a tweet-driven presidency.

"Here's what you have to understand about the nature of a pandemic: It's relentless. You can't stop it with the tweet," the 55-year-old Senator from California told Trump.

Instead of rising to meet the most difficult moment of his presidency, Trump froze and was scared. And he was petty and vindictive, she said.

She said Trump "doesn't understand the presidency" and believes it is "all about him."



Protesters gather at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington. AFP

Protesters try to drown out Trump speech: Hundreds of demonstrators gathered around the White House for a "noise demonstration and dance party" in an attempt to drown out President Donald Trump's speech accepting the Republican presidential nomination. And later, a crowd enveloped U.S. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky as he left the convention, yelling for him to say the name of police shooting victim Breonna Taylor, who was killed in his state. After the convention concluded, there were skirmishes as protesters yelled and threw water bottles at police at the historic St. John's Church near Black Lives Matter Plaza. There were some arrests.

Black National Convention focuses on police brutality: Black Lives Matter activists are holding their first Black National Convention on Friday, a virtual event that will adopt a political agenda calling for slavery reparations, universal basic income, environmental justice and legislation that entirely re-imagine criminal justice reform. The gathering follows Democratic and Republican party conventions that laid out starkly different visions for America. It also comes on the heels of yet another shooting by a white police officer of a Black man 29-year-old Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, that sparked days of protests, unrest and violence.

Thousands expected at March on Washington commemorations: Capping a week of protests and outrage over the police shooting of a Black man in Wisconsin, civil rights advocates will highlight the scourge of police and vigilante violence against Black Americans at a commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Thousands are expected at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Friday, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" address, a vision of racial equality that remains elusive for millions of Americans.

Laura makes landfall in Louisiana; kills six

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HOUSTON, 28 AUGUST

One of the most powerful storms to ever hit the US, Hurricane Laura has made landfall in Louisiana, bringing catastrophic storm surge, extreme winds and flash flooding that killed at least six people and left a trail of destruction across the state.

Laura came ashore as a Category 4 storm and made landfall near Cameron in Louisiana, about 35 miles east of the Texas border, tearing off roofs while knocking out power to hundreds of thousands.

The storm left six people dead in Louisiana, including at least four from falling trees. Among the deceased are a 14-year-old girl and a 68-year-old man, according to a senior official. Hurricane Laura made landfall overnight near Cameron, Louisiana, bringing "catastrophic storm surge, extreme winds and flash

flooding" to portions of the state, the National Hurricane Center said on Thursday.

The storm, with a maximum wind speed of 150 miles per hour, had intensified rapidly into a Category 4 hurricane before slamming into the Gulf Coast near the Louisiana-Texas border.

By mid-Thursday, the hurricane weakened to a tropical storm as it moved north over Louisiana, which took the brunt of the damage.

It was continuing to bring strong winds and flooding rainfall to northern Louisiana and southeastern Arkansas, according to forecasters.

The bulk of the damage

was reported in Louisiana. The storm barrelled over Lake Charles in Louisiana.

President Donald Trump is expected to visit the Gulf Coast this weekend to survey the destruction caused by one of the catastrophic hurricanes in living memory.

Speaking at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters, hours before the final night of the Republican National Convention, Trump said the campaign briefly considered postponing his convention speech until Monday so he could travel to Texas, Louisiana and possibly Arkansas to survey the damage, but ultimately

decided to continue with the speech as planned.

Trump and Vice President

Pence were briefed in detail along with damage pictures by FEMA officials at its National Response Coordination Center.

Widespread power outages across Louisiana and Texas are increasing with more than 8,40,000 people



If Pakistan is put on FATF's blacklist, then like Iran, deals will end.
No international financial institutions will deal with us.

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN
SPEAKING ON THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF PAKISTAN'S BLACKLISTING BY FATF ON ITS ECONOMY

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020

Heavy rains, floods claim 39 lives in Pakistan



Commuters cross the main flooded I.I. Chundrigar Road that is located in the central business district of Karachi on Friday.

KARACHI/PESHAWAR, 28 AUGUST

Torrential rains and flash floods have claimed 39 lives in several areas of Pakistan with its financial hub Karachi pounded by heavy showers that submerged roads and underpasses, paralysed business activities and brought normality to a complete halt.

At least 16 people, including a woman and two children, were killed and eight others injured due to flash floods caused by torrential rains in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) district, a disaster management official said on Friday.

Eight people died in Upper Kohistan district, six in Swat and two in Shangla district of the province due to the floods on Thursday night, an official of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said, adding that 40 houses were damaged in these areas.

The flood water inundated houses in Shahgram and Teerat area of Swat district from where six deaths and injuries to eight people were reported. PDMA Director General Pervaiz Khan and Secretary of relief rushed to the affected areas to oversee rescue activities. The rescue activities are underway in full swing in the affected areas and people are being shifted to safer places, Khan said.

KPK Chief Minister K.P. Mehmood Khan, who also hails from Swat, has expressed concern over the loss of life and property. Heavy rainfall played havoc in Karachi, claiming the lives of at least 23 people since Tuesday.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah termed the "unprecedented downpour" a disaster and also urged people to avoid stepping out until the storm passed and water accumulated on streets was pumped out, the Express Tribune reported on Friday.

EU firms up Belarus blacklist as OSCE offers to mediate

Belarus' authoritarian president has faced weeks of protests since he was reelected to a sixth term

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 28 AUGUST

The European Union has agreed to impose sanctions on up to 20 senior Belarus officials suspected of election fraud and the crackdown on protesters and is likely to put President Alexander Lukashenko on its list at some point, the bloc's foreign ministers said Friday at a meeting in Berlin.

In Vienna, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe offered to mediate between the two sides in Belarus, with chairman Edi Rama pledging not to interfere in internal affairs, but at the same time stressing human rights abuses must end.

Belarus' authoritarian president of 26 years has faced weeks of protests since he was reelected to a sixth term on 9 August with 80 per cent of the vote. The opposition says the poll was rigged and the EU, among others, disputes the results.

In the first four days of demonstrations that followed, Belarus security forces detained almost 7,000 people and injured hundreds with rubber bullets, stun grenades and clubs. At least three protesters died. Around 180 people were detained at rallies on Thursday.

We have general agree-



Belarus opposition supporters attend a rally to protest against disputed presidential election results in Minsk on Thursday.

ment on how the list will be structured and who will be, more or less, on the list, Czech Republic Foreign Minister Tomas Petricek told reporters. However, the technicalities involved in legally finalizing the list won't be concluded for at least another week.

Asked whether the Belarus president will be hit by a travel ban and asset freeze, Petricek said he believes that Lukashenko should be on the list. The question is whether Lukashenko should be on the list now, but he acknowledged that there may be tactical reasons to keep the Belarus leader off. Lithuania had tabled its own list of 118 officials. Some countries prefer a gradual approach that would ratchet up pressure by adding more names progressively if Lukashenko fails to enter into talks with the opposition.

Greece and Cyprus are also believed to be demanding that sanctions be slapped on Turkey for what they say is its illegal energy exploration in the eastern Mediterranean before the two countries agree to the measures against Belarus.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Thursday that he stands ready to send police to Belarus if protests there turn violent, but sees no such need yet. Linkevicius said that we cannot exclude this invasion, and that the EU must also send a clear warning to Russia.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told she stressed the importance of Belarus' sovereignty in a recent call with Putin. I hope that such a unit won't be deployed, she told reporters in Berlin.

The EU has supported proposals from the OSCE to promote dialogue in Belarus, one of the organisation's 57 member nations, and has said it stands ready to provide assistance to further them.

In a special meeting on the situation in Belarus in Vienna on Friday, Rama, who is the prime minister of Albania, laid out the case for the organization to assist in facilitating talks between Lukashenko and the opposition.

China warns Norway against granting Nobel to HK democracy activists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, 28 AUGUST

to interfere in China's internal affairs."

China is rock firm on this principle. We don't want to see anyone politicise the Nobel Peace Prize, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted him as saying. He called on Norway to cherish the current relationship, saying if we can continue to respect and treat each other as equals our bilateral relationship can continue to develop in a sustained manner, and the political foundation of the bilateral relationship can be further consolidated.

Both officials stressed that this was the first visit to Norway by a Chinese foreign minister in 15 years a subtle reference to the previously frozen diplomatic relationship between 2010 and 2016, after the Oslo-based Nobel Peace Prize committee awarded the prize to Chinese dissident Liu, the Post reported. China was also cut up with the Nobel Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama in 1989.

Till 2012, the prize was viewed with contempt by China and its official media as it was awarded to the Dalai Lama for his peaceful struggle for the betterment of Tibetans and to Liu. However, Beijing welcomed the prize for literature to Chinese writer Mo Yan in 2012, saying that Mo's victory reflects the progress of Chinese literature, as well as the increasing influence of China.

RELENTLESS PROTEST



People run during clashes with Turkish police at the funeral of Turkish lawyer Ebru Timtik in the Gazi District of Istanbul on Friday.

Restoration of Iran sanctions: It's USA against most of UN Security council

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, 28 AUGUST

The United States and most of the rest of the UN Security Council dug in their heels Thursday on diametrically opposed positions over the restoration of international sanctions on Iran.

In increasingly intense rhetorical terms, US officials insisted they had acted legitimately in triggering a so-called snapback mechanism that would re-impose all UN sanctions on Iran next month. They said the re-imposition of sanctions is a done deal and nothing can stop it.

Last week, the U.S. triggered the 30-day process to restore virtually all UN sanctions on Iran after the Security Council failed to uphold its mission to maintain international

peace and security, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a tweet. These sanctions will snap back at midnight GMT on September 20. But as they did when Pompeo traveled to the U.N. to invoke snapback, almost all other council members flatly rejected that position, repeating their position that the U.S. had lost its legal standing to act after President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal two years ago.

At the heart of the dispute is the Security Council resolution that endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, between Iran and six major powers - the U.S., Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany.

It allows a JCPOA participant state to trigger the snapback mechanism. The U.S.

insists that as an original JCPOA participant it has the legal right even though it ceased participating in 2018.

The impasse sets the stage for a potential crisis in the Security Council next month with the United States claiming to have re-imposed the sanctions and most of the rest of the world saying the Trump administration's action is illegal and ignoring it.

The president of the council on Tuesday said there was overwhelming opposition in the 15-member body to the U.S. position and that it was unlikely there would be any action on Washington's demand.

The EU's foreign policy chief, who coordinates JCPOA's Joint Commission, reiterated in response to Pompeo's latest statement that since the U.S. withdrew from the agreement in 2018 it cannot ... be considered to be a JCPOA participant state for the purposes of possible sanctions snapback foreseen by the resolution.

Australia open to taking mosque gunman back from New Zealand

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CANBERRA, 28 AUGUST

Australia's prime minister on Friday said he was open to allowing an Australian white supremacist who slaughtered 51 worshippers at two New Zealand mosques to serve his life sentence in his homeland but the victim's wishes would be paramount.

A transfer would buck international convention and require changes to the laws in both countries, but proponents of the idea have called for Australia to take responsibility for imprisoning Brenton Harrison Tarrant and take the costs off New Zealanders. Tarrant, 29, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole for the March 2019 attacks in Christchurch. He is

the first person to be denied the possibility of parole in New Zealand and has enhanced security in prison for his own safety.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said while New Zealand has made no official request the Australian government was open to taking him back.

I'm pleased that that terrorist will never be released anywhere again, Morrison said.

We'll have an open discussion and look at the issues around this. Most of all, we're concerned about what the views of the families would be for those affected, and we want to do the right thing by them, he added. New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters is among the most vocal proponents. Given this unprecedented circumstance and all

the regard to the cost of looking after the victims in our country who survived and their families and also the 50 million New Zealand dollar plus (\$33 million) downstream in real terms of providing safety for this terrorist, then the sound, reasonable, logical thing to do would be to ask Australia to step up, Peters said.

Tarrant was a legal resident of New Zealand at the time of the massacre, and international practice is for criminals to serve time in the jurisdictions where their crimes were committed. New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern has shown little enthusiasm for a transfer, telling reporters that current laws don't allow it and that any decision should be driven by the wishes of survivors and family members.

Consultations to name new PM in Lebanon to begin on Monday: President's Office

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, 28 AUGUST

The office of Lebanon's president said Friday that binding consultations with members of Parliament to designate a new prime minister will begin early next week.

Monday's consultations will coincide with a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to Lebanon, a former French protectorate. He will offer French support after the devastating Aug 4 port explosion but also ensure that millions in international aid go to those who need it. Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government resigned on Aug. 10, six days after nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded at Beirut's port where they had been stored for six years. The blast, the most destructive single incident in Lebanon's history, killed more than 180 people, wounded nearly 6,000 and left nearly 300,000 people homeless.

Lebanon is also mired in its worst economic and financial crisis in decades and Western nations have said they will not help the tiny country before serious reforms are carried out because corruption and mismanagement are widespread.

President Michel Aoun's office released a schedule of the consultations that will begin Monday morning and end in the afternoon. The person who gets the largest backing from parliamentary blocs and members will be asked by Aoun to form a new

Cabinet. Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri said he is not interested in the post adding that his bloc will only announce who it will name as a candidate on the day of consultations. On Monday, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Lebanon is in such a deep political and economic crisis the country risks collapsing altogether.

During a visit to Beirut two days after the blast, Macron warned Lebanon's political elite that he wouldn't give blank checks to a system that no longer has the trust of its people. He called on them to create a new political order. Lebanon has one of the highest debt ratios in the world and the local currency has lost 80% of its value

since nationwide anti-government protests broke out in mid-October.

In Khaldeh, at Beirut's southern entrance, hundreds of mourners Friday attended the funeral of Hassan Zaher Ghosn, 13, who was killed during Thursday night clashes between supporters of the militant Hezbollah group and Sunni tribesmen in the area.

The clashes left two people, a Lebanese and a Syrian, dead and three wounded and were stopped after the Lebanese army sent reinforcements. The fighting briefly closed the main highway linking Beirut with southern Lebanon. During Ghosn's funeral, anti-Hezbollah slogans were chanted as some young men fired their weapons in the air in protest.

Israel lists first commercial passenger flight to UAE

DUBAI, 28 AUGUST

Israel has listed an El Al flight taking off Monday for Abu Dhabi, which would be Israel's first commercial passenger flight to the United Arab Emirates after the two countries agreed to a US-brokered deal to normalize relations.

The website of the Israel Airports Authority listed the flight on Friday, which US officials earlier said will include officials led by President Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner. Other officials on board will include national security adviser Robert O'Brien, Mideast envoy Avi Berkowitz and envoy for Iran Brian Hook.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu earlier announced that his national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, will lead Israel's delegation. A number of Israeli ministries will also send representatives, including directors of the foreign and defense ministries and the national aviation authority, he said.

The Israel Airports Authority said the flight would be numbered LY971, a nod to the UAE's international calling code number. A return flight to Ben Gurion International Airport on Tuesday will be numbered LY972, Israel's international calling code number. An return flight to Ben Gurion International Airport on Tuesday will be numbered LY972, Israel's international calling code number. Authorities in Israel and the UAE did not immediately acknowledge the flight. The US Embassy in Abu Dhabi did not immediately respond to a request for comment. AP

Virus lockdown brings new misery to long-suffering Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GAZA CITY, 28 AUGUST

Ahmed Eissa, a father of two living in the Gaza Strip, was already struggling to make ends meet on \$7 a day, dealing with frequent electricity cuts and worried that another war might break out.

Then the coronavirus found its way into the impoverished Palestinian territory, just as Israel was tightening its blockade in a stand-off with Gaza's militant Hamas rulers, and a strict lockdown has confined everyone to their homes. Now Eissa doesn't know how he will feed his family. I don't have savings



Palestinian volunteers distribute food to impoverished people in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Friday.

and I don't have a job, so no one would lend me money, he said. I won't beg from anyone. The restrictions imposed by Hamas are aimed at averting what many fear would be an even bigger catastrophe: a wide-scale outbreak in a population of 2 million people confined to a territory where the health care system has been devastated by years of war and isolation.

The lockdown was triggered by the discovery earlier this week of the first locally spread cases, after months in which infections were confined to quarantine facilities where all returning travelers were forced to isolate for three weeks. Authori-

ties have not yet determined how the virus made its way into the general population. Israel and Egypt imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza since the

airstrikes targeting Hamas military infrastructure, sealed off Gaza's fishing zone and closed its sole commercial crossing. That forced Gaza's only power plant to shut down for lack of fuel. Most Gazans now get just four hours of electricity a day, leaving them without refrigeration, air conditioning or electric fans for hours on end as temperatures hover around 32 degrees Celsius. Eissa's wife, Majda, says it's unbearable. They struggle to sleep at night because of the heat and humidity. Her daughters sleep on the tile floor because it's cooler. They change rooms, they open and close windows, trying to catch

the occasional breeze. The water pump in their building runs on electricity, so the taps run dry when the power goes out. The dishes and laundry are piling up in the kitchen, she said. Everything gets dirty, and I have to keep scrubbing and cleaning using a bottle of water. I can't bear to stay at home anymore.

Eissa used to buy from fishermen and then resell the fish in local markets, work that he says brought in around 25 shekels (USD 7) a day. But the fishermen are marooned by the Israeli closures, and he's not allowed to leave home because of the lockdown to look for other work.



BUSINESS FIRST

Lewis Hamilton (in photo, left) has said he will not boycott Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix despite a wave of player protests in the USA against the police shooting of a black man forced the postponement of sporting events. Basketball's Milwaukee Bucks started the boycotts.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Panesar prediction: Either James Anderson or Stuart Broad will have to be dropped for England's 2021 tour of India, says Monty Panesar, adding that the team prefer to play an all-rounder sub-continent conditions and Chris Woakes cannot be bypassed.

Root's claim: England's hard-earned Test series wins over the summer with a blend of youth and experience show the side's drive to be the number one team in the world, according to captain Joe Root. England beat the West Indies 2-1 and Pakistan 1-0.

Barca plan: With or without Lionel Messi, new Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman seems to be clear about who won't fit into his squad next season. Among them are some key players, including Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal, Ivan Rakitic and Samuel Umtiti.

Alves surgery: Sao Paulo vice captain Dani Alves has undergone surgery to repair the broken right forearm, the club said officially. The 37-year-old suffered the injury in the second half of his team's 1-0 home victory over Athletico Paranaense on Wednesday.

Pilot event: Brighton will host their English football top-flight rivals Chelsea on Saturday and their pre-season friendly will be staged as a pilot event with 2,500 spectators at Amex Stadium. More sporting events will be used to pilot the safe return of spectators.

Big show: Seven of the world's top-10 players will tee off in the first round of the Ladies' Professional Golfers Association's Northwest Arkansas Championship, but reigning champion Park Sung-hyun, self-quarantined in South Korea, won't be among them.

Lakshya bags Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar: Delighted to be selected for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award, Lakshya President Vishal Chordia said receiving the award is a privilege and a recognition of their hard work. City-based not-for-profit organisation, Lakshya is set to be honoured with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar at the 2020 National Sports Awards in a virtual ceremony on Saturday. "It's privilege to receive this award and get recognised for our hard work," Lakshya President Vishal Chordia said in a media statement.

BUSINESS FIRST

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www.thestatesman.com

COVID strikes IPL: CSK player, staff members test positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 28 AUGUST

The franchise is yet to issue a formal statement but a league source told PTI that the number of positive cases could be between 10 and 12.

A current India cricketer is among multiple members of the Chennai Super Kings contingent who have tested positive for COVID-19, forcing the IPL franchise to extend its quarantine period in Dubai and causing upheaval ahead of the event starting September 19.

The franchise is yet to issue a formal statement but a league source told PTI that the number of positive cases could be between 10 and 12.

"Yes, a right-arm medium fast bowler, who has recently played for India in white-ball cricket, along with a few staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. The number could be as high as 12," the senior IPL source said on conditions of anonymity. The development has forced the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side to extend

the quarantine period till September 1. While there is panic in the BCCI's rank and file after this, it is understood that for the time being, there is no imminent threat to the league, shifted out of India this year due to the pandemic. The source revealed that all COVID-19 positive results came during day 1, 3 and 6 of testing after the contingent's arrival in Dubai.

"As far as we know, one of the senior-most officials of the CSK management, an official's wife, and at least two members of their social media team are also COVID-19 positive," he said. According to the BCCI's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), all those who test positive are mandated to go through an additional seven-day quar-

antine. They can enter the bio-secure bubble only after returning negative in tests to be conducted after the extended isolation. It is understood that all the members of the jumbo contingent, who tested positive, are "largely asymptomatic."

The biggest challenge will be tracing those who came in contact with these contingent members as it is understood that most of them contracted the virus in Chennai, where the team had a short training camp before heading to Dubai.

"If you see, they all had tested negative for COVID during the two RT-PCR tests conducted in Chennai ahead of their departure. Had they been positive, they wouldn't have been able to board the flight in the

first place," the league source stated. It is understood those who have tested negative will be allowed to enter the bio-bubble. However, the IPL source believes that the likelihood of the team's camp starting on September 1 is slim.

"I don't think they can start the camp from September 1. It will take at least till September 5 before they can even think of resuming the camp," he said.

In the BCCI corridors, there was bewilderment over the team's decision to have a camp

in Chennai before boarding the flight to Dubai. Tamil Nadu has recorded more than 4 lakh cases so far.

"CSK practised three days in Chennai out of the five days. Was there any tangible gain achieved from that camp?" a BCCI official said.

It remains to be seen what protocols will be followed for all those players who will be arriving late after the conclusion of the Caribbean Premier League and the England vs Australia limited-over series.

Bryan brothers announce retirement

WASHINGTON, 28 AUGUST

American twins Bob and Mike Bryan announced their retirement yesterday, ending their historic doubles partnership just days ahead of the US Open, scene of their major championship debut in 1995. As the most accomplished team in doubles history, the Bryan brothers captured a record 119 trophies, including all four Grand Slams, all nine Association of Tennis Profes-

sionals Masters and Olympic gold medals. The Bryans, who collected 16 Grand Slam championships together, said last year that they would end their career in 2020. "We feel it's the right time to walk away," said Mike Bryan, the older of the twins by 2 minutes. "We've given over 20 years to the tour, and we are now looking forward to the next chapter of our lives. We feel very blessed to have been able to play the game of doubles for so long." AGENCEZ

Spending so much money on a 33-year-old may not be the wisest move

TONY EVANS
LONDON, 28 AUGUST

dressing room and smash the wage structure.

The cost of signing the sport's biggest superstar is mindboggling. Anyone paying Messi similar money to Barcelona would spend in the region of 100 million a year in wages, bonuses and image rights. There is little possibility of recouping this amount through merchandising. City would sell a lot more shirts but not enough to cover the costs. The only way it could possibly make sense is as a loss leader for an international sports-washing project where money is no object. Messi would be selling Abu Dhabi as well as leading City's line.

Even then there would be problems with Uefa's financial fair play regulations, although sponsorship agreements would undoubtedly be reworked and bolstered to reflect his presence. It is dangerous territory, though. Messi's renumeration has contributed hugely to Barcelona's fiscal woes. Tying up so many resources in the forward would mean, even for City, that there would be less to spend elsewhere.

Guardiola is not short of options up front but he needs to shore up the defence if he wants to conquer Europe. It might be better to allocate the cash elsewhere. Emotionally and aesthetically, the thought of Messi in the Premier League is enticing. City are the obvious destination, given their wealth, ambition and the player's personal connection to Guardiola. THE INDEPENDENT

superhuman. Five years ago he might have adapted more easily. At this stage he may find it more exacting than expected.

Messi has had a gilded career. He moved from Rosario to Catalonia at the age of 13 and became the brightest star in a golden generation that developed at La Masia, Barca's academy. Teams were built to showcase his ability. Everything at the Nou Camp has been designed to suit the club's talisman. In a new environment, with players who are not used to being part of Messi's supporting cast, there would need to be a period of transition for all concerned. How, for example, would Kevin De Bruyne react to such an illustrious new team-mate? Where would it leave someone like Phil Foden, whose path to regular first-team participation would be blocked again. Throughout Messi's career, colleagues have subverted their own game to allow him to take centre stage. His arrival at a new club would change the dynamics of the

Players who come to the Premier League from around the world often talk about how long it takes them to come to terms with the pace and physicality of football in England. This is not "could-he-do-it-on-a-cold-night-in-Stoke" nonsense. Many have genuine difficulties adjusting to the tempo of the game that can take a while to overcome. Managers are also surprised by the emphasis on speed and pace. Pep Guardiola frequently complained about it in his first season in Manchester. Messi is great but not

all concerned. How, for example, would Kevin De Bruyne react to such an illustrious new team-mate? Where would it leave someone like Phil Foden, whose path to regular first-team participation would be blocked again. Throughout Messi's career, colleagues have subverted their own game to allow him to take centre stage. His arrival at a new club would change the dynamics of the

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