



LIFE INSURANCE
SCHEME FOR
CANTONMENT
WORKERS

P5



STRUCTURAL REFORMS
KEY PRIORITY FOR
GOVERNMENT

P8



'BIDEN-HARRIS
WOULD LEAD US
TO SOCIALISM'

P10



SUAREZ IS SURPLUS
TO BARCA'S NEW
REQUIREMENTS

P12

WEATHER

General cloudy sky with light to moderate rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 0.00.1 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 92% Min: 69%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.2°C (O) Min: 25.8°C (O)
SUN RISES 05:57 hrs SUN SETS 18:49 hrs
MOON RISES 13:28 hrs MOON SETS 00:12 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Metro trains parked at DMRC's Khyber Pass depot in the Capital on Tuesday.

'NEET, JEE on schedule': The Joint Entrance Examination (Main) and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) will be conducted in September as scheduled, officials said Tuesday amid a growing chorus for postponing the crucial exams in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The National Testing Agency said it has planned several steps to conduct the exams safely, which would include increasing the number of exam centres, fewer candidates per room, and staggered entry and exit. Education ministry officials said the exams will be conducted as per schedule.

Delhi sees spike in Covid cases: Delhi Tuesday recorded 1,544 fresh positive cases of Covid-19, its highest single-day Covid tally in August, which pushed the cumulative total of such patients in the city to 1,64,071, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city had reported 1,450 and 1,412 Covid-19 cases on 23 August and 22 August respectively. These figures indicate a fresh upward spiral of the Covid curve in the national capital.

P4

India exposes Pak's lies at UN

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

India lashed out at Pakistan for its lies at the UN after Islamabad's UN envoy claimed to have given a statement in a Security Council meeting and said that the biggest sponsor of cross-border terrorism against it now tries to 'masquerade' itself as a victim of terrorism.

"We have seen a statement put out by the Pakistan Mission to the UN, claiming that these remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the UN Security Council. We fail to comprehend where exactly did the Permanent Representative of Pakistan make his statement since the Security Council Session was not open to non-members of the Security Council," the Indian Mission at UN tweeted.

The Pakistan Mission falsely claimed that its UN envoy Munir Akram gave a statement.

The video of the meeting clearly shows that it was attended by representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and ten non-permanent members.

The Pakistani envoy is not seen in the video. Despite this, the Pakistani mission to the UN posted what it called the speech of its envoy. The Indian mission said the so-called speech only exposed Islamabad on the issue of terrorism.

India also pointed out that Pakistan was home to the largest number of UN-proscribed terrorists. Many of the sanctioned terrorists and entities continue to operate with impunity inside Pakistan. In this connection, it also drew attention to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's admission at the UN General Assembly in 2019 about the presence of 40,000-50,000 terrorists inside Pakistan. On Pakistan's claim about Indians figuring in 1267 sanctions list of the UN, India said the list was in public domain.

SC reserves verdict on quantum of sentence to Bhushan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST



The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the verdict on the quantum of sentence to be given to advocate Prashant Bhushan, convicted for contempt of court for his tweets against the judiciary.

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, B.R. Gavai and Krishna Murari reserved the verdict after a detailed hearing on the matter.

To the submission of senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, on behalf of Bhushan, Justice Mishra said that for how long the system would suffer. The bench noted that judges are condemned and their families are humiliated. "They can never speak," noted the bench.

The top court told Bhushan's counsel that it expects him to be impartial. "You may have love and affection for anyone... but we want you to be fair. Don't take sides," said Justice Mishra.



Earlier, Dhavan prayed that the top court could say in the judgment that it did not agree with Bhushan. Dhavan also insisted that nobody can be forced to tender an apology in a contempt proceeding and added that the Harley Davidson remark made by Bhushan was hardly a criticism.

Dhavan also argued that the top court could say in the judgment about the kind of code people should follow, but the idea should not be to silence Bhushan.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal submitted before the bench that his suggestion would be to close the matter without punishing Bhushan.

The apex court told the Attorney General (AG) that Bhushan's "court has collapsed" comment was objectionable, but his response to the court was even more derogatory.

As Venugopal insisted that the top court should show statesmanship and not use the powers of contempt, the bench asked the AG, what is the use of warning to Bhushan who thinks he has not done anything wrong?

Justice Arun Mishra said: "How can we not? Everyone is criticizing us that we have not considered his response."

The bench said according to it Bhushan's response was even more derogatory.

Justice Mishra, pointing at Bhushan's reply, told the AG, please read his reply and see what he has said that the apex court has collapsed. "Isn't that objectionable," the

bench queried the AG.

When the AG insisted that Bhushan would not do this again, Justice Mishra said: "Let him say this."

Venugopal also urged the top court to forgive Bhushan and said it was not necessary to punish him.

The court told the AG that he too had initiated contempt proceedings against advocate Bhushan a year ago for just one wrong accusation and withdrawn it only after expressing regret, but this is not the same case here.

The AG insisted that the top court should show statesmanship and not use the powers of contempt, the bench asked the AG, what is the use of warning to Bhushan who thinks he has not done anything wrong?

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top court has convicted Bhushan for making derogatory statements against the judiciary in two tweets.

Bhushan has refused to apologize and said it is his bona fide belief.

The hearing on the matter is in progress.

Mahad miracle: 4-yr-old boy rescued from Maha building rubble

SNS&PTI
MUMBAI, 25 AUGUST

A four-year-old boy was on Tuesday pulled out from the rubble of a five-storeyed building that collapsed in Raigad district of Maharashtra, police said.

However, it was not all joy as less than half an hour later, the lifeless body of his 30-year-old mother was also recovered from the debris, an official said.

The boy, Mohammed Nadim Bangi, the child's mother, was recovered by NDRF personnel 20 minutes later.

A police official said so far nine persons have been rescued after the Tarek Garden building in Mahad, around 170 km from Mumbai, came tumbling down on Monday.



Rescue workers carry the body of a victim.

AFP

aged structure of the building on a stretcher amid claps by onlookers.

NDRF Director General S.N. Pradhan termed the rescued boy as god's child. "Miracle child rescued alive - God's Child." NDRF HQ teams find 4-year-old Boy. Ops will continue, canines used. Let's all pray for more miracles," Pradhan tweeted.

The body of Naushin-Nadim Bangi, the child's mother, was recovered by NDRF personnel 20 minutes later.

A police official said so far nine persons have been rescued after the Tarek Garden building in Mahad, around 170 km from Mumbai, came tumbling down on Monday.

As the operation was

underway, the rescue team spotted the child under the debris, after which it started clearing the structure with the help of a gas cutter and other machines.

Local residents, who were watching the operation with bated breath, cheered with joy after the boy was rescued.

As the Ganesh festival is on, the locals chanted "Ganpati Bappa Morya" after the child was lifted onto a stretcher.

The rescued child has some minor injuries on his body, the official said. Death toll in the collapse reached 10 with the recovery of nine bodies from the rubble on Tuesday, police said. A man died of cardiac arrest on Monday night after he was hit by a stone from the

falling building, police said.

The dead - five men and five women - include two teenagers. Police on Tuesday registered an offence against five persons, including the builder and architect of Tarek Garden in connection with the collapse, the official said.

The offence was registered against builder Farooq Kazi, RCC consultant Bahubali Dhamne, and architect Gaurav Shah under sections 304, 304A and 338 of the IPC, the official said.

Thane guardian minister Eknath Shinde reached Mahad on Tuesday following instructions from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, to oversee rescue and relief work, sources close to him said.

NIA files chargesheet in 2019 Pulwama terror attack case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU, 25 AUGUST

The National Investigation Agency filed a chargesheet on Tuesday in a special court here against 19 people including Masood Azhar, the chief of banned terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed, for planning and carrying out a deadly suicide attack on a CRPF convoy on February 14 last year killing 40 personnel near Lethpora in South Kashmir.

The "blind case" was solved by the NIA after piecing together the electronic evidence and statements of terrorists and their sympathizers arrested in different cases, officials said.

As many as seven people have been arrested so far by the NIA in this case, the officials said. Besides Azhar, those charged include seven terrorists who were killed in various encounters and four absconders, two of whom are still hiding in Jammu and Kashmir one of them a local and the other a Pakistani national.

Two relatives of Masood Azhar - Abdul Rauf and Ammar Alvi - have been named in the chargesheet as the main conspirators behind the case. The dead include a nephew of JeM terrorist Mohammed Umar Farooq who had entered India through natural caves at the international border in Sambha in late 2018.

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Covid: More than 100 pc rise in recovery in last 25 days

SNS&PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST



With a record 66,550 patients recovering from Covid-19 in a day, the total recoveries have surged to 24.04 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 75.92 per cent, while the active cases comprise only 22.24 per cent of the total cases, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

In testimony of the government's policy of testing aggressively, tracking comprehensively and treating efficiently, the total number of recoveries have outpaced the active cases by more than 17 lakh.

"The steadily falling Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.84 per cent as on date. There has been more than 100 per cent increase in the recoveries in the last 25 days," the ministry highlighted.

"India's recovery rate amongst the Covid-19 patients has reached 75.92 per cent. The recovered patients are 3.41 times the active cases, as on date," it said.

The Health Ministry said 66,550 Covid-19 patients have recovered and been discharged in 24 hours and asserted that the collaborative and strategic measures led by the Union Government and implemented by the states and UTs stand at 1.84 per cent today.

With 60,975 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's Covid-19 tally rose to 31,67,323, while the death-toll climbed to 58,390, with 848 fatalities being reported in 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

There are 7,04,348 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 22.24 per cent of the total cases.

India's Covid-19 tally has crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7.

Of the total 58,390 deaths, Maharashtra has reported the maximum at 22,465 followed by 6,614 in Tamil Nadu, 4,810 in Karnataka, 3,368 in Andhra Pradesh, 2,987 in Uttar Pradesh, 2,908 in Gujarat, 2,851 in West Bengal and 1,246 in Madhya Pradesh.

With India having tested nearly 3.7 crore cumulative Covid-19 samples so far, the tests per million have further risen to 26,685 while the positivity rate has come down to 8.60 per cent, the Union health ministry said on Tuesday.

India is focusing on the "test, track and treat" strategy to contain the spread of the infection. As the first step towards timely identification, prompt isolation and effective treatment, higher testing also results in limiting the spread of infection, it emphasised.

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Similar seating arrangements will be made for Lok Sabha. For the first time, large display screens and consoles for participation from galleries, UV germicidal irradiation, special cables between the two Houses and polycarbonate separators will be in place.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at a meeting on 17 July, after detailed examination of various options, decided on using the chambers and galleries of both the Houses. Due to extraordinary circumstances, one House will sit during morning hours and the other in the evening, sources say.

This is the first time in the



The cyclonic spells have already damaged the agriculture a lot. We will have to ensure that the fields are once again turned cultivable. Most of the agricultural fields have gone under water due to the flood like situation in the districts

MAMATA BANERJEE

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

CM plans global makeover for Delhi's weekly markets

During interaction with representatives of weekly market associations, Kejriwal says Delhi's people, including such associations, and govt will have to work together to revive its economy derailed by Covid

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Interacting with the representatives of the weekly market associations of Delhi, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today asserted that the people of the city, including the market associations, and the government will have to work together to revive Delhi's economy.

The Delhi CM reportedly proposed a global makeover for the city's weekly markets in order to develop them as popular tourist spots.

Kejriwal said an atmosphere has been created in the country that there were problems with weekly markets and street vendors, but his government will encourage them as other countries do.

"We will develop a system for setting up weekly markets so that tourists from countries like the US visit them. The weekly markets will be presented as one of the most attractive tourist places in Delhi," Kejriwal said.

The meeting came after weekly markets reopened in Delhi yesterday after the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) approved it on a trial basis till 30 August.

The representatives of the weekly market associations appreciated Kejriwal



and his government's efforts for reopening of these markets in the city.

The last six months were tough, not only for Delhi but also for the entire world, Kejriwal said. People had to save themselves and their families from the Covid-19 pandemic while jobs and businesses were shut down and there was no source of income, he said.

"We currently have a fragile situation at hand and there is no source of revenue of tax for the Delhi government. We could have stopped the subsidies on water and

electricity, but we decided to keep the subsidies for the people, including the free bus rides for women, because this is the need of the hour," Kejriwal said.

The CM said his government consistently made attempts for reopening of weekly markets in the city. "I spoke to the LG 20-25 days back for reopening of weekly markets when the central government had allowed the reopening of markets.

But they took a decision to hold it off for a few days. I was consistent in my efforts to convince them for it, and they gave the permission

after August 15," he said. Kejriwal urged the associations to ensure preventive measures against Covid in the markets.

"If you fail to do that, government officials might pressure you or take action against you, and this will affect your customer strength. Please appoint your volunteers with the heads of the weekly markets for maintaining a system for social distancing in the markets," he said.

The CM said that public opinion is very important for businesses and that if the public starts complaining

about absence of social distancing norms in the markets, it will pose a problem.

"This is also important so that the opening of markets on a trial basis is soon converted into a permanent plan by the LG, and I will be able to advocate for the permanent opening of all weekly markets in Delhi.

We also have many plans for operating weekly markets in the city," he said.

Kejriwal pointed out that street hawkers operate in many cities like London. "In the coming days, we will create a proper management system so that more and more people are attracted to the weekly markets. We will also develop a proper system just like it is done in Hong Kong and other countries."

The CM said the Chandni Chowk area has been revamped and that there was

a plan to develop a system for setting up weekly markets there so that tourists from countries like the USA visit there.

Kejriwal claimed that the Delhi model of fighting the Covid pandemic was being discussed across the world, adding that the plasma therapy for treatment of Covid patients was first tried in Delhi, which has saved more than 900 lives so far.

Yamuna flows close to warning mark amid forecast for more rain



The Yamuna river in the Capital on Tuesday.

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Meteorological Department, said heavy to very rainfall is likely in northwest India over the next three four days due to the northward shifting of the monsoon trough.

Water was being released into the Yamuna at the rate of 33,406 cubic metres per second (cusec) at 6 pm from the Hauz Khas barrage in Haryana's Yamunanagar district.

One cusec is equivalent to 28,317 litre per second.

The flow rate was 7,418 cusec at 10 am, the official said.

Normally, the flow rate at the Hauz Khas barrage is 352 cusec, but the discharge is increased after heavy rainfall in catchment areas.

Last year, the flow rate had peaked to 8,28 lakh cusec on August 18-19, and the water

level of the Yamuna had hit the 206.60 meter-mark, breaching the danger mark of 205.33 meters.

The Delhi government had to launch evacuation and relief operations after the overflowing river submerged many low-lying areas.

Delhi's Water Minister Satyendar Jain had Monday said the government was ready to deal with any flood-like situation.

"We have a flood-control system ready and it will be activated when any situation demands it," he said. The government has a plan ready for all the areas along the Yamuna, right from Palla village to Okhla, he said.

The water level of the river rose due to heavy rainfall in its catchment area over the last few days.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under instructions from my client, the general public at large is hereby informed that the client of the undersigned held post of director in the company M/s Celebration City Project Pvt. Ltd. which has the proprietary over Red Mall Complex in Ghaziabad. A case has been initiated bearing case no. 217/241-242/PB/2018 titled Sanjay Aggarwal vs CCPL & Ors under Sec 241-242 etc. of Companies Act before the Hon'ble NCLT, Delhi and we have filed complaint with other authorities regarding the mismanagement and fraudulent conduct of affairs of the company through its owner Rakesh Jain & Ors. Slo Kalyan Singh, Jain, R/o U-7, Green Park Ext., New Delhi - 110016 and Board of Directors namely Harpreet Singh Sethi, Rajender Singh & Himanshu Balra. The above persons are continuing to enter into fraudulent transactions and pass illegal board resolutions. GENERAL PUBLIC IS CAUTIONED TO DEAL WITH THE ABOVE PERSONS AT THEIR OWN RISK & COST. ISHA BHALLA (Advocate) 10/52, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi (M): 9911788189 Email: ishabhalla@advocate@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ARC/AC/CCJ Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-26/2020 Smt. Keya Bhattacharya Versus The State & Ors. (Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

All concerned. Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Sh. Gautam Bhattacharya died on Dt. 30-01-2020 at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi and Late Smt. Sheila Bhattacharya died on Dt. 12-02-2020 at Fortis FLT LT Rajan Dhall Hospital, Pocket-1, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Sector-B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 05-11-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 11-08-2020.

ARC/AC/CCJ
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court
IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ARC/AC/CCJ Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-27/2020 Smt. Keya Bhattacharya Versus The State & Ors. (Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

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



CHANGE OF NAME

To,
All concerned.
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I, NAVNEEN SAXENA, s/o Shri Yogesh Narayan Saxena, r/o D-34, Gali No. 5, Syndicate Enclave, Dabri, New Delhi-110045, have changed my son's name from Pratham Saxena to Akash Saxena for all purpose in future.

FMG

I, KOPAL Singh, d/o Sh. Rajbir Singh, w/o Sh. Prateek Chaudhary, r/o Tower-9/3C Bellevue Towers Central Park-2 Subhash Chowk, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, have changed my name after completion of the Ph.D Degree and after marriage to Dr. Kopal Chaudhary for all future purposes.

Whereas the 05-11-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 11-08-2020.

ARC/AC/CCJ
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

TENDERS

NIT MEMO No. 192, 193, 194/NGP/2020 dated: 14.08.20 separate sealed tenders are invited by the Proshan, Netra G.P., South 24 Parganas. Last date of application on 01.09.2020. Details are available from the office of the undermentioned.

Proshan
Netra Gram Panchayat
D. Harbour-1 Block

PRINCIPAL, Govt. General Degree College, Singur, invites sealed tender for 4 Security Guards. Last date: 05.09.2020, 1 p.m. Details see: http://www.singurgovtcollege.org

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Smart cards, thermal scanners, warning stickers: DMRC preps for new normal

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

From new smartcards with auto-top-up facility to stickers on social distancing norms pasted on seats and platform floors, the Delhi Metro is all set to handle commuters, in adherence to COVID-19 safety guidelines, whenever its services are ordered to be resumed.

Delhi Metro services have remained suspended since March 22, the day Janata Curfew was imposed in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. According to sources, it has suffered a loss of nearly Rs 1,300 cr till now.



I will soon visit New Delhi to seek more funds from the central government for relief works and compensation to the people, especially farmers who suffered huge losses from heavy rains and floods.

BS YEDIYURAPPA

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2020

03

Covid: Pb suffers huge dip in revenue, seeks Centre's help

In the wake of the pandemic & lockdowns, Punjab's tax revenue for April-June drops by 51 pc

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 25 AUGUST

Citing the huge revenue losses suffered by Punjab due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the coronavirus lockdowns, the Punjab Council of Ministers on Tuesday sought adequate compensation from the Centre to support the state in these difficult times.

During a review of the fiscal situation amid the pandemic, the Punjab Council of

Ministers under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh noted that the situation was grave, considering the decline in revenue collections over the first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal year and the estimated losses for the full current financial year.

A presentation made to the Amarinder ministry by the state finance department showed that the state's own tax revenue collections for the April-June 2020 period had gone down by a whopping 51 per cent, with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) losses alone amounting to the tune of 61 per cent as against the



budgetary estimates for this period.

The GST and Value Added Tax (VAT) revenue collections for this quarter together went down by 54 per cent.

The decline in total revenue receipts for April-June quarter was 21 per cent.

The Punjab Council of Ministers further noted with concern that in terms of non-

tax revenue collections of the state, the shortfall against budgetary estimates for Q1 of FY2020-21 was a massive 68 per cent.

The figures are as per the

initial estimates as accounts are yet to be received from the Accountant General of Punjab.

The situation was extremely grim, the Council observed, calling for fiscal support from the Centre to compensate for these huge losses.

The revenue loss would badly impact not just the battle against Covid, which was now peaking in the state, but also obstruct the implementation of key schemes and programmes of the state government in addition to affecting routine expenses, including payment of salaries, pointed out the Council of Ministers.

The Centre needs to come out with urgent financial help for the state government to tide Punjab over the current crisis, said the Council.

Meanwhile, as Punjab gears up to further strengthen its fight against the worsening Covid crisis, the state Cabinet on Tuesday approved filling up of 428 regular vacancies of medical officers (specialists) on urgent basis. It also gave ex-post facto approval to 107 posts already filled up for six specialties.

Create public awareness about central, state schemes: HP CM to BJP workers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 25 AUGUST

Every BJP worker should sensitise and educate people of Himachal Pradesh regarding various developmental and welfare schemes initiated by the Centre and the state government, said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today.

He was addressing the semi-virtual meeting of BJP State Working Committee from Shimla.

The Chief Minister said that several welfare schemes had been launched by the Central and state government to ensure socio-economic upliftment of every section of the society and every area of the state.

He said that the party workers must ensure proper contact and liaison with the beneficiaries of various schemes.

Thakur said that the double engine of the Central and state government was poised to make Himachal Pradesh a model state in the country in the matter of development.

He said that the HIM-CARE Scheme was launched to provide health insurance cover to the families not covered under Ayushman Bharat Yojna launched by the Union government.

He said that till date, as many as one lakh people have been provided financial assistance of Rs 91.43 crores under this Scheme. He said that financial assistance of Rs. 3000 per month were being

provided to the family of those with seriously ill patients. He said that as many as 9078 beneficiaries have been benefited by providing them Rs 5.90 crore.

The Chief Minister said that the state government launched Grihini Suvidha Yojna to cover all the families not covered under Ujjawala Yojna of the Central Government and Himachal Pradesh has become the first state of the country to become 'Smoke free'.

He said that till date, over 2.78 lakh free gas connections have been provided to the eligible families. He said that in addition to this, 1.36 lakh families have been covered under the Ujjawala Yojna.

He said that the state government also provided a three month advance social security pension to the eligible persons.

He said that Rs 4000 each have been transferred into the account of the 1.37 lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

He said that additional Rs 1000 each were deposited into the accounts of ASHA workers for the month of March to June.

He said that the Government has decided to provide Rs 2000 each for the month of July and August for these workers keeping in view their yeoman service during Covid-19 pandemic.

Thakur thanked the BJP workers for providing food to about 5 lakh people during lockdown due to the Covid pandemic, besides preparing and distributing over 50 lakh masks to the people in the State.

He also urged the party functionaries to work dedicatedly to ensure strengthening of BJP base in the state and bring BJP again back to power in 2022 general assembly elections.

doorsteps.

The Chief Minister said that under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, direct financial assistance of Rs. 500 per month was provided to 5.90 lakh women through their bank accounts and Rs. 2000 per month to the 8.74 lakh farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

He said that the state government also provided a three month advance social security pension to the eligible persons.

He said that till date, over 2.78 lakh free gas connections have been provided to the eligible families. He said that in addition to this, 1.36 lakh families have been covered under the Ujjawala Yojna.

He said that the state government also provided a three month advance social security pension to the eligible persons.

He said that Rs 4000 each have been transferred into the account of the 1.37 lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

He said that additional Rs 1000 each were deposited into the accounts of ASHA workers for the month of March to June.

He said that the Government has decided to provide Rs 2000 each for the month of July and August for these workers keeping in view their yeoman service during Covid-19 pandemic.

Thakur thanked the BJP workers for providing food to about 5 lakh people during lockdown due to the Covid pandemic, besides preparing and distributing over 50 lakh masks to the people in the State.

He also urged the party functionaries to work dedicatedly to ensure strengthening of BJP base in the state and bring BJP again back to power in 2022 general assembly elections.

Himachal BJP lauds Jai Ram for fight against Covid-19

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 25 AUGUST

The semi-virtual State Executive Committee meeting of the Himachal Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday brought two political resolutions, lauding the achievements of the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the work done by the Jai Ram Thakur government in the state.

The State Executive Committee meeting was chaired by State BJP President and Lok Sabha MP, Suresh Kashyap.

Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur also attended the meeting at party office, while former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur connected through virtual medium.

Addressing the party workers, state President of BJP and Lok Sabha MP from Shimla, Suresh Kashyap said there is strong leadership in the country with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm of affairs and in the state with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in the lead role.

He said just because of the right decisions by the Centre and the state in COVID-19 pandemic, the situation in India and the state is much better.

The Central government has run a number of public welfare schemes during its historic 6-year tenure including Ujjwala Yojana, Ujala Yojana, Swachh Bharat by constructing 11 crore toilets, which is a big step towards healthy India.

He said Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Make in India are big plans.

He said recently in the skirmish of Chinese soldiers in the Galwan Valley, Indian soldiers had shown indomitable courage and it was due to the strong leadership at the Centre that the Chinese soldiers were sent back from the border.

Kashyap said under the able leadership of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in Himachal Pradesh, an example of good governance has



come to the fore.

The last two and a half years of the state have been full of achievements.

"The state government has made equal development of every section of the state," he said.

Kashyap said the HP Chief Minister presented a unique example of humanitarian approach by bringing all those Himachalis back to the state, who were stuck outside the state due to COVID-19 pandemic.

He said even the PM praised Himachal Pradesh for the work done in COVID-19 and asked other states to follow this model. He said that in the last six years, the clear policies of the BJP government under the leadership of PM Modi's decisive leadership has helped the country move forward.

He told BJP workers to be disciplined in approach.

In his address, Union Minister of State Anurag Thakur said the central government is working to strengthen the country.

He said Atal Pension Yojana has emerged as a big scheme

in the country, wherein every citizen will get the benefit of pension after the age of 60.

He said that the work of giving free gas connection to 80 crore women in India is a massive achievement by the Modi government.

He said the beneficiaries were also given free cylinders for 3 months in the crisis period of this Covid-19.

He said the Modi government is truly working for all sections of the society.

National BJP General Secretary, Anil Jain also addressed the party men.

Automatic thermal screening of visitors to Mandi DC office

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 25 AUGUST

Amid growing cases of COVID-19 in Mandi district and across Himachal Pradesh, the district administration on Tuesday started automatic thermal screening for effective and contactless screening of visitors to Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office. For this, Mandi district tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi to make use of modern technology to check spread of infectious disease and a device was developed for the purpose.

The automatic screening of visitors was started today and the device had been installed on pilot project basis at the entry gate of DC office to ensure contactless entry.

The device had been developed by the team of IIT Mandi researchers Dr Varun Dutt, Dr KV Uday and they would study its efficacy in screening people visiting places with high footfall. IIT Mandi researcher Dr Varun Dutt said the device makes use of infrared sensor and ultrasonic technology to measure the temperature of a person visiting the office.

"When a person comes 10-



Mandi DC Rugged Thakur along with IIT Mandi researchers.

15cm near the automatic thermal screening device, it would measure his body temperature and will signal blue light if his/her temperature is within normal parameters. But if the

temperature of a visitor is 100 degree Fahrenheit or above, the device would indicate red-light along with buzzer sound to alert the authorities," he said, adding high temperature

was one of the symptoms of Coronavirus infection. Dutt added the automatic thermal screening device would cost less and it was effective in detecting persons with high body

temperatures, resulting in better detection and help check spread of COVID-19 in busy places.

DC Mandi Rugged Thakur after launching the device at this

Assault on scribes: PCI seeks reports from Delhi Police, CS

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

The Press Council of India (PCI) on Tuesday called for a report from Delhi Police and the chief secretary in connection with the alleged assault of three journalists, including a woman, by a mob in a news magazine by a mob

The police on August 12 said it has received a complaint from a news magazine that three of its journalists, including a woman, were assaulted by a mob in northeast Delhi, where they had gone to report on the riots that had taken place in February

in northeast Delhi.

The police on August 12 said it has received a complaint from a news magazine that three of its journalists, including a woman, were assaulted by a mob in northeast Delhi, where they had gone to report on the riots that had taken place in February.

approached them and asked them to stop.

The PCI said it has taken a suo motu cognisance of the alleged attack on the three journalists, who were reportedly beaten and threatened in northeast Delhi on August 11 while they were covering a news

"A report has been called from the chief secretary, Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi," the PCI said.



Despite the frequent use of NSA, sedition and other such stringent laws, there is no check on crime in UP.

BSP PRESIDENT MAYAWATI

ACCUSING BJP GOVT IN UP OF FAILING TO CHECK CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE

India

THUMBNAILS



Commuters make their way during a monsoon rainfall in Amritsar on Tuesday.

AFP

J&K, Ladakh witness spike in Covid-19 cases: Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh have during the past seven days registered a steep rise in the number of coronavirus positive patients and reported 76 and 23 deaths respectively during the period. The UT of J&K had till Monday reported 624 deaths, while the number was 23 in Ladakh. The Kashmir valley was worst affected due to the virus where the number of deaths was 577 with the Srinagar district topping the list with 197 persons losing their lives.

SNS

UP migrant workers rape girl in Kerala: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by six people, all migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh, on multiple occasions in Kochi since March this year. The rape survivor is two months pregnant. Three have been arrested.

PTI

Mandatory quarantine for J&K dairy animals: All dairy animals, being bought by farmers from outside Jammu and Kashmir, would be put under quarantine for disease surveillance and to check their health profile.

PTI

TENDER

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

1. The Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P Re-invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD department.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost.	EMD	Cost of tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time limit.
1	A.M.P for the year 2020-21 on Seog Rest House to Taryambla road DRP No. HP0805VR167 (SH: Providing and laying bituminous concrete in Km. 0/0 to 1/00)	9,61,026-00	19,300-00	350-00	D to A	One month

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

3. Key dates:-

1 Date of online publication.	13.8.2020 at 5:00 pm
2 Document download and end date	13.8.2020 at 5:00pm up to 10.9.2020 at 11:00 A.M
3 Bid submission start and end date	13.8.2020 at 5:00pm up to 10.9.2020 at 11:00 P.M
4 Date of technical bid opening	10.9.2020 at 11.30 AM
5 Physical submission of original documents i.e original EMD & cost of tender documents etc	Up to 10.9.2020 up to 11:00 A.M

4. Tender Details:- The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover.

i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents eligibility" information

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

5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents with this office as specified in key dates at Sr.No.5 failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid Opening Detail: The bid shall be opened on 10.9.2020 at 11.30 HRs in the office of Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

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

Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No. II
HP:PWD Mandi

2424/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

'AP Covid intensity to taper off by Sept'

There is a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in rural Telangana, but the rate of infection is coming down in GHMC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 25 AUGUST

Telangana ramped up testing by conducting 52,933 sample tests on Monday

up the cumulative to 1.08 lakh and the toll to 770. The intensity of the infection has dropped in GHMC with only 295 new cases, though most of the 33 districts reported cases in double digit.

According to director of public health Dr G Srinivas Rao though there is a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in rural Telangana the rate of infection is coming down in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

"We brought it under control in the GHMC area. By September the entire state would be under control," he said adding that they had anticipated this trend.

The state has reported 2,579 fresh infections and nine more deaths pushing

number of asymptomatic patients.

The director of medical education Ramesh Reddy said out of around one lakh healthcare professionals in Telangana nearly 2,000 got infected with the virus and 14 succumbed to it, said Dr Reddy.

Health professionals across the state today observed two minute-long silence and wore black badges to remember colleagues who died of Covid-19 while demanding ex-gratia for the next kin. The director of public health also said about 50 per cent of the patients occupying beds in private hospitals are from other states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Of the 2,000 complaints received by the state government against private hospitals around 200 have been found to be oversurplus billing and notices have been sent out to them.

Jagan's warning to private hospitals

Andhra Pradesh chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy warned that severe action against private hospitals which are charging more than what the state government has stipulated.

He emphasised on early detection of the virus particularly for those belonging to high risk category. Today 9,927 fresh cases were detected in Andhra Pradesh pushing up the cumulative to 3,71,639.

The state government today handed over Rs 50 lakh each to the next of kin of the Covid-19 patients who died in the fire at a makeshift care centre at a Swarna Palace hotel although it hit a road block at the High Court after the latter stayed the arrest of Dr Ramesh Potthineni, managing director of Ramesh Hospital which was running the centre.

'Andhra local media playing huge damaging role in administration'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMARAVATI, 25 AUGUST

The local media was playing a "huge damaging role" in the state administration in Andhra Pradesh, becoming one of the causes of corruption, a study by the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad has noted.

The IIM-A suggested that the media be kept at bay as otherwise it was causing "undue pressure and disturbance in administrative activities," besides rumour-mongering.

The Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government had in November last year engaged the Public Systems Group of IIM-A, led by Principal Investigator Sundar-

avalli Narayanaswami, to study the processes prone to corruption (in the state administration) and suggest remedial measures to end them.

The IIM-A team submitted its report to the chief minister on Monday.

The team studied the operational processes in the mandal revenue offices, Town and Country Planning wing, Sub-Registrar Offices and the Municipal Administration Department.

Citizen-centric governance, employee-centric administration and participatory governance to restore peoples trust were the key to root out corruption, the IIM-A said in its recommendations.

Fire at Kerala Secretariat: Cong, BJP allege conspiracy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 25 AUGUST

Congress and BJP workers staged protests in front of the government Secretariat here after a fire broke out at the Protocol Office in the Secretariat building complex.

The protest strengthened in front of the Secretariat gate after Congress leader VSShivakumar and others were denied entry to the Secretariat.

The BJP leaders staged a sit-in protest before the secretariat. The fire was brought under control but many files are reported to have been destroyed which has led to Congress and BJP leaders suspecting foul play.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala has alleged that the fire was part of a conspiracy to destroy evidence and has sought a detailed inquiry into the incident.

PTI

NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Former IPS officer joins BJP

Former IPS officer Kuppusamy Annamalai joined the BJP on Tuesday, asserting that he will work to bring the "nationalist spirit" to Tamil Nadu.

Joining the BJP at its national headquarters here, Annamalai described himself as a "fan and admirer" of Narendra Modi, and quoted from ancient Tamil text Thirukkural to say that the prime minister embodies a leader's qualities of fearlessness, courage, knowledge and giving spirit.

"I will work to strengthen what the BJP stands for and to bring that nationalist spirit to the state of Tamil Nadu," the former police officer, who has been involved in social work since quitting the IPS last year, told reporters.

BJP in a statement noted that the former Karnataka officer was known as "Singham" Kuppusamy Annamalai, apparently a reference to his image of a tough and dashing cop.

Kerala HC refuses to order stay on leasing of TVM airport to Adanis



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, 25 AUGUST

Kerala High Court division bench on Tuesday declined to issue an interim order staying further proceedings on the Central government's order to lease out Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises for 50 years.

The Kerala government had moved the high court seeking a stay. Division Bench of the Kerala High Court after considering the application filed by the Kerala government adjourned the case for detailed hearing on 15 September, but refused to impose a stay.

The court has directed the government to produce relevant documents before 9 September.

The state government filed the application in the court, after an all-party

meeting, demanding withdrawal of the Cabinet's decision last week to lease out the airport to Adani Enterprises.

The state government argued that leasing out of buildings and structures as well as other premises of the airport was not in public interest.

In its application, the state government said that unless a stay is granted, it will be put to irreparable injury and hardship.

The government had contended that the attempt of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to grant the right of operation, management, and development of the airport to Adani Enterprises Limited which has no previous experience in managing airports, was not in the public interest and violated the provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act.

With 1,544 cases, Delhi sees highest Covid spike in August

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

and 1,374 cases on 18 August.

These figures indicate an upward spiral of the Covid curve again in the national capital. This month's lowest number of such patients, 652, was reported on 16 August.

The samples tested today numbered 19,841, the health bulletin said.

The number of new patients who recovered and got discharged from different hospitals in the city during the past 24 hours was 1,155 and with this, the cumulative total of such recoveries rose to 14,743. Delhi's Covid recover-

the 14,129 hospital beds available for Covid-19 patients, 10,512 beds were vacant in different hospitals.

The number of vacant beds in the dedicated Covid care centres was 5,989 and 3,493 beds in these centres were occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who came to Delhi through the Vande Bharat Mission and by "bubble flights".

The number of vacant beds in the dedicated Covid health centres was 367, the bulletin added.

SAFE CORNER



Children sit under the shade of a partially submerged hut as the water level of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers rises, in Allahabad on Tuesday.

AFP

High expectations from HP agri varsity: Shanta Kumar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 25 AUGUST

Newly-appointed Vice Chancellor of HP Agriculture University, Palampur, Professor Harinder Kumar Chaudhary paid a courtesy visit to former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar on Tuesday.

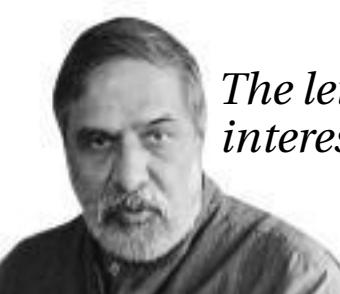
Shanta Kumar while appreciating the achievements of the University, said that he was emotionally attached to the University and has high expectations from the new Vice-Chancellor and hard-working staff. He discussed major issues concerning agriculture and farmers in the state.

The Vice-Chancellor said that efforts will be made to give international recognition and position to this prestigious farm institution founded by Shanta Kumar during his tenure as Chief Minister in 1978.

Professor Chaudhary assured that untiring efforts will be made to realize the dreams of the former Chief Minister and the University will religiously work in the mandated areas of academics, research, and extension



education for the benefit of stakeholders.



The letter was written with the best interest of the party in our hearts

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ANAND SHARMA
ON ORGANISATIONAL OVERHAUL



A corona patient being taken to a hospital in an Ambulance at Ramdarbar in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

Sushant case probe: Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's flat mate Siddharth Pithani, cook Neeraj Singh and domestic help Deepesh Sawant were again called for questioning by the CBI on Tuesday in connection with the actor's death.

Fire at govt hospital: Nine patients were evacuated after fire broke out at an ICU of a government hospital in Gujarat's Jamnagar city on Tuesday, officials said. Nobody was injured in the incident.

INS Viraat to be dismantled: INS Viraat, the aircraft carrier that served the Indian Navy for 50 years before being decommissioned three years ago, is likely to be towed from Mumbai to Alang in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district next month to be dismantled and sold as scrap, an official said.

Terror-funding: The ED filed a charge sheet before Delhi court against Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and 11 others for allegedly laundering money for financing terror activities in J&K.

Sibal: It's not about post, but about country

Is among 23 party leaders seeking organisational overhaul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST



Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, among the 23 party leaders who have written to Sonia Gandhi seeking an organisational overhaul, said on Tuesday that "it is not about a post" but about the country that matters most.

A day after a stormy Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, Sibal made the remarks in a cryptic tweet.

"It's not about a post. It's about my country which matters most," he tweeted, without elaborating.

After the seven-hour meeting of the party's top decision-making body, the CWC urged Sonia Gandhi to continue as its interim chief till an AICC session can be convened and authorised her to effect necessary organisational changes to deal with the challenges facing the party.

It made it clear no one will be permitted to undermine or weaken the party and its leadership.

The CWC also resolved that inner-party issues cannot be deliberated through the media or in public forums and all such issues must be raised within the party "in the interest of propriety and discipline".

Some senior Congress leaders, including Sibal and Shashi Tharoor, met at their senior colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad's house here on Monday evening after the CWC debated their letter to Sonia Gandhi to revive the organisation.

The Congress also officially denied that Rahul Gandhi had accused any party leader of "colluding with the BJP".

The meeting was also attended by Mukul Wasnik and Manish Tewari, along with some other signatories to the

letter who were present in the national capital, sources said.

The leaders discussed the resolution passed at the CWC meeting.

Having a "full time" leadership that is active in the field and "visible" in party offices, devolution of powers to state units and revamping the CWC in line with the party constitution are some of the far-reaching suggestions made by 23 senior Congress leaders in a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi to revive the organisation.

Sibal had hit out at Rahul Gandhi on Twitter on Monday for a purported remark slamming the letter writers.

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The Congress also officially denied that Rahul Gandhi had accused any party leader of "colluding with the BJP".

Former president Rahul Gandhi, it is learnt, launched a sharp attack against the signatories of the letter, questioning their timing as well as the fact they went public with their grievances.

Sonia Gandhi's leadership is always required, says Moily

NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily, one of the senior most members of the group of 23 who have called for far-reaching reforms within the party, said on Tuesday it is an "admitted fact" that the organisation is not in a position to take forward the Congress philosophy and protect the democracy. He also asserted that Sonia Gandhi's leadership is always required and her consent to continue as president is the "most welcome step".

The former Union minister further said the intention of the letter was to keep the party ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as also for Assembly and local body elections in the country.

"At any time of crisis, both at the national and state level, I always stood by the national leadership of the Congress to preserve the unity and integrity of the party," Moily said, underlining that he has been in the Congress since the past 50 years having joined under the leadership of Indira Gandhi.

Noting that the Congress is one of the two big national parties in the country, Moily alleged that the NDA government at the Centre has become a threat to the basic principles of democracy -- secularism, equality and inclusiveness.

PTI
LUCKNOW/BALLIA, 25 AUGUST

UP journalist's murder: Police officer suspended, 6 arrested

ensure strict action against the accused.

Ballia Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjay Yadav said on the complaint of the journalist's father, six people -- Sushil Singh, Dinesh Singh, Arvind Singh, Suneel Singh, Vir Bahadur Singh and Vinay Singh -- have been arrested. He said the complaint was lodged against 10 people.

The Phephana police station in charge, Shashi Mauli Pandey, has been suspended and efforts are on to nab the remaining accused, the ASP said.

The ASP said the journalist's father, Vinod Singh, alleged that Sonu Singh of his village had called his son to his house around 8 pm where the accused were waiting with lathis and a revolver and they killed him.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar had stated on Monday night that Ratan

Singh had a property dispute with his neighbour and after a fight between the two, he was shot dead.

Accused Dinesh Singh is the parcer (pattidar) of Ratan Singh. An old enmity and a property dispute with the neighbour led to the journalist's murder, a senior police official said.

He said Ratan Singh's killing had nothing to do with his being a journalist. "Action under the National Security Act and the Gangster Act will also be ensured against the accused," he said.

Local journalists in Ballia have demanded an ex gratia of Rs 1 crore and a government job for the wife of the deceased.

Meanwhile, the Opposition lashed out at the Uttar Pradesh government, expressing concern over mediapersons' security and the law and order situation.

Rajnath launches Covid insurance scheme in cantonments



NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Defence minister Rajnath Singh today launched the 'Chhavniv COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana', a group life insurance scheme through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which will cover more than 10,000 employees in all 62 Cantonment Boards in the event of any unfortunate calamity with an insurance cover of Rs 500,000 each. The scheme will benefit permanent and contractual employees, including doctors, paramedics and sanitation staff.

Singh also spoke at a webinar to improve implementation of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) in 62 cantonments around the country. In his opening remarks, he said this webinar was an important step towards seamless delivery of benefits of various centrally sponsored schemes and in improving the overall well-being of about 21 lakh residents in the cantonments.

Citing welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Smart Cities Mission and the Mid-Day Meal for school children, Singh said there should be no gaps in the implementation of these welfare schemes in Cantonment areas. He also highlighted the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the Ministry of Defence such as bringing out an import negative list and said the government welcomed innovation towards achieving further economic progress.

SNS

RS Ethics Committee authorises two officers to receive complaints

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

Rajya Sabha members were today informed by the Secretariat that the House Ethics Committee has authorised two officials of the Secretariat to receive complaints of alleged ethical misconduct and violation of the Code of Conduct against the members.

So far, only complaints addressed to the committee directly were valid for examination. In allowing the complaints to be received through the two officials, the committee has expanded the platform for receipt of the complaints.

An official bulletin of the House said the decision was taken by the committee on Ethics under Rules formulated in 2004 empowering the committee to do so. The committee met last

week under the chairmanship of Shiv Pratap Shukla and decided to authorise a director and an additional director, attached with the committee, to receive complaints against the members of the House.

Rule 295 (4) of the Rules of Procedure of the House provides that a complaint should be addressed in writing to the committee or to an officer authorized by it, but this authorization was not done so far.

The authorisation has now been done, for the first time after framing of the committee's rules 16 years ago, at the first meeting of the committee chaired by Shukla. Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu nominated Shukla as chairman of the committee, after the expiry of Rajya Sabha membership of former chairman Prabhat Jha.

Stating that the RS chairman

was keen about the Ethics Committee being more "proactive in pursuit of its mandate," Shukla urged the the committee members to address ambiguities in the present rules relating to taking up complaints based on media reports and received through mail, for effective functioning of the committee.

The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha was constituted in March, 1997 as an internal self-regulatory mechanism to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the members and to examine the cases referred to it.

Prior to July, 2004, the rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges were applied to the Ethics Committee. Its Rules were incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States in 2004.

India is a partner, not rival: China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

China today said it considered India as a partner and not a rival, adding that the two countries should avoid conflicts and live in peace.

"To achieve our development goals, we need a peaceful and favourable external environment. Therefore, China and India should live in peace and avoid conflicts."

The Chinese envoy said over the past two years, top leaders of the two countries have held two informal summits and reached a series of important consensus on the development of China-India relations. "We should adhere to leaders' consensus, particularly the basic judgment that China and India are each other's opportunities and pose no threat to each other. We should also transmit the leaders' consensus to all levels and translate it into action."

His comments came amid the military stand-off between the two countries at eastern Ladakh which has escalated tensions between them.

Sun noted that China and India have been the two largest neighbouring developing countries for generations which could not be moved

away. Both needed to concentrate on their own development and solve a number of problems such as rural revitalisation, poverty eradication, education development, employment creation, and environmental protection.

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The Chinese envoy said over the past two years, top leaders of the two countries have held two informal summits and reached a series of important consensus on the development of China-India relations. "We should adhere to leaders' consensus, particularly the basic judgment that China and India are each other's opportunities and pose no threat to each other. We should also transmit the leaders' consensus to all levels and translate it into action."

China and India could not develop without each other remained unchanged, he added.

Covid-19 kills 23 doctors in Bihar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, 25 AUGUST

Covid-19 outbreak has proved deadlier for the doctor community in Bihar. According to a report of the Indian Medical Association, the virus has claimed lives of 23 doctors and infected over 300 of them, causing panic among the medical fraternity.

Anxious doctors have now urged the government to provide financial assistance to the victim families and exempt doctors above 60 years from deploying on Corona duty.

The virus struck the doctor community for the first time on 28 June and since it has gone on killing one doctor after another. Of the total number of doctors falling victim to Covid-19, six alone belong to Patna and the majority of them died at Patna's All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Prominent doctors who died included Dr NK Singh, ENT specialist, Dr Mithilesh Kumar Singh, radiologist, both from Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), Dr Rati Raman Jha, civil surgeon posted in Samastipur

district, Dr Awadhesh Prasad Singh and Dr Sanjeev Kumar, physicians, Dr Mahendra Chaudhary, orthopaedist, Dr Awadh Kishore Prasad, head of the department of physiology at Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), and Dr VBP Singh.

The IMA is scared at the continuing death of doctors on the frontline of the battle against coronavirus. Bihar IMA's vice-president Dr Ajay Kumar has blamed supply of substandard PPE kits, gloves and other medical items behind the increasing deaths of the health professionals.

At the same time, he has requested the government to give them a fortnight break after 15-day duty.

What has further alarmed the doctors is that the casualty rate in Bihar is nine times higher than the national average. "We are alarmed. The casualty rate of doctors in Bihar is around five per cent while the national average of 0.5 percent," says Dr Kumar.

Covid-19 cases in Bihar remain worrying. According to a report of the state health department, coronavirus has killed 644 people and infected around 1.25 lakh till date.

Nitish to hold virtual rally on 6 Sept

PATNA, 25 AUGUST

In a bid to reach out to people across Bihar during upcoming polls amid Covid-19 pandemic, ruling Janata Dal (United) has created a digital platform on which chief minister Nitish Kumar will kick off election campaign with a virtual rally on 6 September, party sources said on Tuesday.

Kumar, JD(U)'s national president, will formally inaugurate the digital platform "jdulive.com" soon so that it could be used for the virtual rally, its national secretary Ravindra Prasad Singh said in a statement here.

Party chief and CM Nitish Kumar will hold 'Jan Samvad' during which he will address party's first ever virtual rally using the digital platform on 6 September," Singh said, claiming it would be country's first dedicated virtual rally platform where lakhs of people could be connected.

Intense rainfall in north, central and east India during next 4-5 days: IMD

NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday predicted heavy rainfall over east, north and central India during the next five days and issued a red alert for Odisha for 26 August and for Chhattisgarh, a day later.

It said a low pressure area (cyclonic circulation) over north Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood is very likely to move west-north-westwards during the next four-five days.

Under the influence of this system, widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely over Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand till 28 August and over Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and west Rajasthan during 26-28 August.

Under the influence of this system, widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely over Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand till 28 August and over Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and west Rajasthan during 26-28 August.

Isolated extremely heavy falls are also very likely over Odisha on 25-26 August and over Chhattisgarh on 27 August.

Rock python is non-venomous but its bite can cause injury. Pythons need large undisturbed space to move around, said Bajju Raj MV, director, Conservation Projects Wildlife SOS.

These, however, are not the first instances when snakes are found from the Taj premises. Last year in November a python was found in the parking area of the Taj Mahal and at that time it was open for tourists. It was later rescued and released in the wild.

Under the influence of the river Yamuna was recorded at 204 metres at 10 am on Tuesday, precariously close to the warning level of 204.50 meters. The Delhi government had to launch evacuation and relief operations after the overflowing river submerged many low-lying areas.

The water level of the river rose due to heavy rainfall in its catchment area over the last few days.

MLA with criminal record on panel to vet cops' conduct

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, 25 AUGUST

In a bizarre development, the Gujarat government has appointed a legislator facing more than 15 criminal cases as a member of the District Police Complaints Authority (DPCA), a forum where grievances against police officers can be lodged by the people.

The person 'honoured' with the appointment is the lone NCP MLA Kandhal Jadeja, better known as eldest son of Porbandar's late Santokhbhai Jadeja on whose life, time and crimes the Bollywood film *Godmother* was made two decades back.

Godmother' Santokhbhai name was synonymous with terror in Porbandar as all

Covid-19, 2.0

It was China that reported the first case of coronavirus. It is now the turn of Hong Kong, under China's ever-increasing control, to report the first confirmed case of re-infection of a person previously thought cured of the virus. Researchers at the University of Hong Kong have said, in a paper accepted by the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, that the second affliction was of a different strain of the virus. These findings assail several previously held beliefs about the course the disease follows, and even cast a cloud on the global scramble for a vaccine. For researchers say this may mean Covid-19 "may persist in humans" and circulate "even if patients have acquired immunity via natural immunity or via vaccination". If this is true, not even the vaccine that mankind is expending time and money on will prove to be a palliative. The latest research is based on a second infection detected in a 33-year-old this month. The person, an information technology sector worker, had recovered from the virus in April but was found to be infected again during screening on return from Europe three months later.

On the second occasion, the person did not report any symptoms, which researchers believe may show that a repeat infection is milder. While some people have tested positive for the virus over many weeks, scientists were hitherto unsure whether these results showed the presence of traces of the disease, a re-eruption of the affliction or a fresh attack by the virus.

The Hong Kong research suggests that the last of these options is a valid one and it thus casts a forbidding shadow on the belief that some day the virus would be conquered. But the Hong Kong findings report another intriguing detail, that the strain detected now is reminiscent of the virus that causes the common cold, which may only suggest that a person afflicted with Covid – or vaccinated against it – may still catch a cold. An estimate by the Centres for Disease Control, USA in 2017 had said that up to 700,000 people die annually from influenza; the Covid-19 virus at the latest count had claimed more than 800,000 lives, of which admittedly many deaths were of people with severe comorbidities.

While the science remains uncertain, and the quest for a vaccine elusive, perhaps the most significant outcome of the Hong Kong research might be to emphasise that instead of flailing about helplessly with ill-thought-out containment measures that disrupt lives, or randomly sticking swabs down people's throats, or even subjecting those who die or fall ill to indignity, mankind would do better to identify the best ways to live as normally as possible with the virus, or to die with greater grace than has been permitted to us in recent months. If after spending billions of dollars on a vaccine, and having allowed the virus to cripple economies, we discover that it does not really go away, we will all end up looking quite stupid.

Gandhi and Son

With its spirited defence of the Gandhi family at the meeting of its Working Committee on Monday, the Indian National Congress has confirmed to the country that it is neither prepared to introspect, nor to allow any change in the way it is run. It has also shown that notwithstanding the long years that a leader may have spent in service of the party, even implied criticism of the Gandhi family is viewed as disaffection, and could be labelled as an act of collusion with the enemy. While at the end of the day, the party might have adopted a resolution unanimously, its contents mirrored the arrogant disdain with which even well-intentioned counsel is rebuffed. The anguish of Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mr Kapil Sibal at being labelled colluders may have been papered over with a facile explanation but will not go away easily. Mr Rahul Gandhi's complaint that a letter written by a group of senior Congress leaders about the need for an organisational revamp was delivered when his mother, and the Congress president, was unwell, underscores the correspondents' concern.

It is no secret that Mrs Sonia Gandhi has been unwell for some time, and on this ground alone ought never to have accepted the position of party president – even as an interim measure – when her son chose to step down in August 2019. That she did so, and then chose to do nothing to find a permanent solution for the next seven months – until Covid-19 surfaced – only confirms that a person outside her family had never entered her calculations.

While the Gandhis may believe they are entitled to their role as liege lords, and to view the mere act of writing the letter as a rebellion of ungrateful serfs, the fact is that many of those who signed the letter command influence of their own. Some like Mr Shashi Tharoor and Mr Sibal have more significant accomplishments outside the Congress than as members of the party.

It will be dishonest of them to accept, as the CWC resolution enjoins them to, that the two voices at the forefront of "exposing" the Government have been those of the Gandhi mother and son, by implication to the exclusion of every other leader.

Equally, it ought to be difficult for them to accept without feeling humiliation that the letter to which they were party was aimed at undermining or weakening the party and its leadership, now defined in the resolution as the two Gandhis. Finally, the injunction against discussing the party's affairs in the media or at a public forum is a clear warning for the future. It is possible the Gandhis are right in believing that they alone can revive the Congress' fortunes. But if they are not, they will destroy an already bruised party.

Success in J&K

J&K achieved 100 per cent household electrification which has rekindled the hopes of many who had never seen electricity in their lives. Household water connections have reached 43 per cent of rural households which is double the national average of 21 per cent, and a road map has been prepared to ensure 100 per cent coverage



It has been nearly a year since the formation of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh – a momentous achievement to rejuvenate and resuscitate Indian unity and development in the region. Prior to that, terrorism had devastated the region leading to untold misery as about 41,500 people were killed in J&K between 1989 and August 2019. Invisible enemies fighting unholy proxy wars had attempted to threaten Indian democracy.

Post the abrogation of Article 370, Prime Minister Modi rightly expects Kashmir to lead from the front as it now stands integrated with India in the true sense of the term. The people of J&K have the same rights, benefits and prospects as those in the rest of the country. Domicile certificate is now the basic eligibility condition for recruitment. The Indian Constitution is now applicable to J&K; consequently 170 central laws have now become applicable to the territory, guaranteeing justice and fairness to the underprivileged. The repudiation of Articles 370 and 35A has heralded a new dawn of empowerment, equity and development. The rights of women marrying outside the UT now stand fully protected and gender discrimination has ended.

The special status of Article 370 and 35 A had insulated the state from the rest of India leaving it backward as money was siphoned off into pockets of vested interests and did not reach the common man. On 7 November 2015, the Prime Minister had announced a Reconstruction Plan of Rs. 80,068 crore.

Accordingly, the period after the abrogation of Article 370 has witnessed a new sunrise by reinforcing governance, accelerating

development, building infrastructure, generating employment, broadening social inclusion, providing humanitarian relief and promoting growth. Long years of unrest had adversely affected the state's democratic institutions, particularly those at the grassroots level. Immediately after the formation of the UT of J&K, panchayati raj institutions were established and made functional and Rs. 366 crore was released directly to 4,483 panchayats.

Many feel that the Prime Minister has transformed the 'Tasveer' (picture) of J&K and the 'Taqdeer' (fate) of the people by more than fulfilling their aspirations. As many as 506 of the 2,273 developmental projects stand completed while 963 projects are scheduled for completion by March 2021. Some of the major projects completed are IIT Jammu and Srinagar-Leh transmission line. Works in mega projects including the Z Morh, Zoji La and New Banjali tunnels and some major roads are being executed on a war footing. Rs 881 crore was earmarked for rebuilding health institutions and 60 out of the 144 projects have been completed.

There has been major progress in hydro-power generation and flood management of the river Jhelum, the Jhelum-Tawi Recovery Project, Chenab Bridge (the highest railway bridge in the world), connectivity of Kashmir by rail, mega-multi projects like Ujh and Shahpur Kandi as also

the 330 MW Kishenganga project. To promote transparency, the Modi Government has instituted a portal, namely the J & K Infrastructure Monitoring System (JKIMS) by which the progress of work is monitored on a real-time basis and the status of project implementation can be accessed by any individual. There has been a creation of 45,000 employment opportunities and vigorous road construction works. The processes to set up over 330 schools and colleges and a university, improved medical infrastructure including two AIIMSS, beginning of a light rail and public transport system, welfare measures for all

kms of road by 2020-21. The government has rationalized reservation rules to give benefit to the marginalised sections which have remained either unrepresented or under-represented. Kashmiri migrants have benefited from a series of welfare measures like employment, transit accommodation and monthly financial assistance. Law and order has improved and violence has reduced. Terrorism and peoples' miseries are coming to an end, despite Pakistan's frustrated efforts to activate its "deep state" again to heat up the environment, even amid this Covid pandemic.

Abrogation of Article 370 has led to exasperation in the ranks of the terrorists; local recruitment of terrorists has dwindled. Pakistan is now encountering triple frustration – first, at the abrogation of Article 370; second, at the snub it has faced in all international fora where it has raised the Kashmir issue and, third, at the fact that all its efforts to initiate terrorist acts have only resulted in their constant decimation in every encounter.

The formation of the Union Territory of J&K has not only witnessed development but also evoked patriotism and restored confidence of the people in the Constitution of India and our robust democratic system of a united sovereign India with Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity assuring the dignity of every Indian and unity and integrity of the nation.

To achieve 24x7 power for all, 60 per cent of workers have been completed. J&K achieved 100 per cent household electrification which has rekindled the hope of many who had never seen electricity in their lives. Household water connections have reached 43 per cent of rural households which is double the national average of 21 per cent, and a road map has been prepared to ensure 100 per cent coverage of piped water supply to all 18.16 lakh rural households by December 2021.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, J&K has embarked on constructing 5,300

machinery that focuses on dynasty overtaking nationalism as Congress's primary credo.

While the charge that anyone criticising the Gandhis colludes with the BJP is ridiculous, the 23 who finally stood up show that those with stymied ambitions won't stay quiet. Their display of spine will serve the Congress well. If Congress is serious about its relevance in Indian politics, rebuilding can't await another Rahul failure.

Nothing in the past six years shows the Gandhis capable of dogged grassroots struggle or organisational genius that can revitalise the party. Public perception believes the party works for the Gandhis, not vice versa. The orchestrated chorus of coteries reaffirms loyalty to the Gandhi family without talking about the party's decline is fodder for BJP's powerful campaign

busy road in Gurgaon shows that state governments and related authorities have not taken lessons from earlier such collapses in Mumbai and Kolkata or last year's cave-in of an underpass in Gurgaon.

Unless culpability is fixed on concerned officials, India's infamous chalta hai attitude will prevail. Negligence by private enterprises is met with tough crackdowns, which include suspension of operating licences and slapping of criminal cases in the aftermath of tragedies. However, public servants get away in similar situations when there is no reason to spare them. This impunity is also a form of corruption that lowers the premium placed by govern-

INSENSITIVE BANK

SIR, I, my father, and my wife have a joint account in Allahabad Bank, Garia branch (presently Indian Bank). We also have a fixed deposit in the same bank. This morning my wife went to the bank to submit Form 15 H on behalf of my father, who is an octogenarian. Banking services resumed today after four days' paid leave to the bank employees – two lockdown days followed by the weekend.

It was a free-for-all at the bank. My wife suffers rheumatoid arthritis and cannot stand for long. She requested people in the queue as well as the bank authorities to keep her place in the queue while sat on stool awaiting her turn. The bank authorities pleaded helplessness while the crowd just threw her out of the queue. She had to wait till 1 PM to submit the form.

My question to Allahabad Bank as well as the Reserve Bank of India is why should old people, patients, women and general population suffer because of the draconian rules? Who will take responsibility if something happens to people standing in the queue? Why are separate counters not maintained for senior citizens and women?

The RBI Governor should tell us why he has allowed banking operations on only 5 days a week with restricted hours. Allahabad Bank employees who get hefty salaries and perks from taxpayers' money should explain why banking cannot be more customer friendly.

Yours, etc., Dr Purushottam Chatopadhyay, Kolkata, 24 August.

Statesman, 25 August), I feel that while the return of Tathagatha Roy to Bengal because of Mamata Banerjee who as Chief Minister has done a lot of developmental work for the state.

There is hardly any doubt that the TMC is still a favourite in Bengal because of Mamata Banerjee who as Chief Minister has done a lot of developmental work for the state.

As of now there is no one to give any effective fight to her and her party would be the natural choice of the people of Bengal. However, Mamata has to take visible steps to curb all sorts of corrupt practices amongst her party men.

Yours, etc., AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 25 August.

A MEMBER OF THE

ANN
ASIAN VOICES

Vaccine nationalism is not the way

World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued an apposite warning to nations that it would be impossible to rebuild the global economy without vaccinating the planet's highest-risk populations simultaneously. His view was that the fastest way to end the pandemic and reopen economies is to start by protecting the highest-risk populations everywhere, rather than the entire populations of just some countries. Ideally, a vaccine would be available for all at one go. But that would be a logistical impossibility. In the event, the WHO chief has made the important point: That those at highest risk – front-line workers in health and social care settings who come into contact with particularly vulnerable groups and are essential to protecting the population – must be considered to be a single international category.

Nations must abjure the natural temptation to vaccinate all or most of their populations at the expense of those highest-risk groups elsewhere. For example, Australia's deal with British drugmaker AstraZeneca, to produce and distribute enough doses of a potential vaccine for its population of 25 million, is understandable from a national point of view. But it might not advance the country's inter-

THE STRAITS TIMES

national economic interests. A study published in the Harvard Business Review draws attention to the dangers of vaccine nationalism, the perhaps natural but ultimately short-sighted temptation for wealthy countries, in particular, to prioritise domestic markets and hoard vaccines because they have the means to do so. Vaccine nationalism is not only "morally reprehensible", but is also the wrong way to reduce transmission globally, the study notes. Global transmission matters because Covid-19 will continue to disrupt supply chains and thus economies if some pandemic-stricken countries have impeded access to vaccines. Indeed, this should be a lesson already learnt, given how nationalism exacerbated the pandemic in its early days because of hoarding by some countries that led to shortages of protective gear. Hence the urgency of the WHO's outreach to every country, urging them to join its global vaccine programme quickly.

The global health agency has spelled out as well who will get its eventual coronavirus jabs first. Nine of the 29 vaccines being tested on humans currently form part of the Covax Global Vaccines Facility. Just over 90 countries are signed up to Covax, while another 80 have expressed interest but have yet to commit themselves to the programme. They should act soon. There are times when internationalism is the only realistic form of nationalism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A party that works for Gandhis

SIR, This refers to your report, 'Sonia Gandhi stays on as interim chief' (*The Statesman*, August 25). The 23 senior Congress politicians who wrote a letter to the interim Congress president demanding leadership change and internal democracy have predictably been cornered, with accusations of collusion with BJP thrown in.

After two ignominious Lok Sabha defeats, marginalisation in several states, and failure to construct a cogent national political narrative, the Congress's perseverance with the Gandhi family is befuddling. The Gandhis holding a rump outfit together find support from the last remaining regional satraps like Ashok Gehlot, Amarinder Singh and Bhupesh Baghel whose voices carry more weight, but who can never speak against the "high command" for fear of inviting dissidence in their respective states.

Nothing in the past six years shows the Gandhis capable of dogged grassroots struggle or organisational genius that can revitalise the party. Public perception believes the party works for the Gandhis, not vice versa. The orchestrated chorus of coteries reaffirms loyalty to the Gandhi family without talking about the party's decline is fodder for BJP's powerful campaign



machinery that focuses on dynasty overtaking nationalism as Congress's primary credo.

While the charge that anyone criticising the Gandhis colludes with the BJP is ridiculous, the 23 who finally stood up show that those with stymied ambitions won't stay quiet. Their display of spine will serve the Congress well. If Congress is serious about its relevance in Indian politics, rebuilding can't await another Rahul failure.

Yours, etc., N Sudhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru, 25 August.

PUNISH OFFICIALS

SIR, Saturday's incident of an under-construction flyover slab collapsing on a

busy road in Gurgaon shows that state governments and related authorities have not taken lessons from earlier such collapses in Mumbai and Kolkata or last year's cave-in of an underpass in Gurgaon.

Unless culpability is fixed on concerned officials, India's infamous chalta hai attitude will prevail. Negligence by private enterprises is met with tough crackdowns, which include suspension of operating licences and slapping of criminal cases in the aftermath of tragedies. However, public servants get away in similar situations when there is no reason to spare them. This impunity is also a form of corruption that lowers the premium placed by govern-

ment on individual lives.

While compensation is announced for victims, such measures are inadequate to replace the loss of a loved one, in personal and financial terms. As we have raised the costs of sponsoring terror for Pakistan, so must we raise the cost for public servants who fail in their duty to keep us safe.

Yours, etc., Vandana, Chandigarh, 24 August.

CORRUPT OFFICIALS

SIR, This is with reference to your editorial 'State Tyranny' (August 24) exposing the real threat the people of Tamil Nadu have faced in the last five decades or so. It is shameful that employees of Tamil Nadu Government do not work without a bribe.

As such the very purpose of issuing e-pass to selected persons for interstate travel to contain the is defeated. It is very unfortunate that few government officials are gaining money by way of issuing e-pass to every person who is paying extra bounty to those greedy officials. Their activities must be curbed.

Yours, etc., Sumit Kumar Das, Kolkata, 24 August.

MAMATA THE ONE

SIR, Apropos your editorial, 'Tathagatha returns' (*The*

The Sixth Wave of Extinction

SUHAAS PUTTA AND ARMIN ROSENCRANZ

In her Pulitzer-winning book, 'The Sixth Extinction', Elizabeth Kolbert discusses a double bind: Countries are forcing species to move to new places by enabling climate change, and at the same time, making it harder for them to move.

Across geologic time, the Earth has apparently survived five mass extinctions, and we are on the verge of the Sixth. We don't believe humanity can survive this wave, unless we make rapid amends. There has been a rising tide of ignorance in the face of absolute facts in the global arena. The very science that the world is using to reach the moon, Mars and beyond, is now telling us that we might have to abandon ship if we keep polluting and abusing the environment and have leaders who ignore science.

Large corporations, especially energy corporations, release carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Factors that have been influencing these emissions are very much within our control. Consumerism amplifies climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in its report titled 'Livestock's Long Shadow', argues that livestock is a major stressor on many ecosystems and on the planet as a whole. It is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, and these gases will only increase if we, as consumers, don't make conscious choices about eating less or no meat.

Another example of consumerism that has a longstanding impact on the environment is the luxury of air-conditioning. Ozone-depleting substances, like freon, drive refrigerators and air conditioners. When they leak out or are dumped at the end of their useful lives, the freon migrates to the upper atmosphere, eroding the stratospheric ozone layer. This ozone layer protects humans and other living creatures from excessive solar radiation and skin cancers. It also aids in photosynthesis, a necessary process to sustain all animal and plant life.



Before reaching the ozone layer, these ozone-depleting chemicals – replaced today mostly by hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – add carbon to the atmosphere. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was brought into force on 1 January 2019, and it aims to phase out HFCs.

Gone are the days when we could look at climate change as a distant event. The world is already transforming in ways that might be irreversible. Monsoons are late, summers are early, weather events like typhoons and hurricanes are more frequent and extreme, and such phenomena seem here to stay. In India alone, years of no environmental preservation are already showing harmful conse-

quences. Throughout the rest of the world, the situation is no better.

While some nations shrug off their responsibility citing that the climate crisis will not require changed human behavior any time soon, a huge portion of the population remains vulnerable. Coastlines and their inhabitants are already vulnerable to rising sea levels, and most world leaders turn a blind eye to this phenomenon.

What is even more appalling is the fact that a few major companies saw this crisis coming from a mile away and chose to do nothing about it.

In 1982, the Exxon management received an internal memo highlighting the effect of their business on the

environment and the impact the Greenhouse Effect is going to have on the planet. Similarly, in 1988, Shell knew of the impact as well. Yet, they have made no changes to the way they function, and much worse, have led movements to spread misinformation to dent the movement surrounding Climate Change Activism.

The change is real, and it is showing. Just recently, Jakarta felt the very real scare of rising sea levels. Several small island nations in the Pacific are also on the verge of being submerged. With the problems becoming more real, and near impossible to dodge, the world isn't ready for what is coming.

The Refugee laws as they stand, aren't ready to take on the burden of Climate

Change Refugees. The Genocide laws, when they were written, never knew of the Genocide that is possible in a way such as this, i.e., no action against climate change would result in destroying the world and preventing entire generations from being born.

Petrochemical industry lobbies, mining lobbies and other special interests will keep pushing back against the movement to save the Earth. The Sixth Wave is upon us, and we need to confront and address the impending extinction of species on a scale that was never before imagined.

The writers are, respectively, a final year student and a professor at Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, Haryana.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

A memorial has been submitted to the Governor of Bengal on behalf of Sub-Registrars, whose pay and conditions of service are clearly in need of revision. Something has been done already for their assistance by a readjustment of cadre sanctioned in 1918, but this amounts in effect to little more than a recognition of the fact that more substantial relief should follow. Referring in January, 1918, to the then existing state of the cadre, the Government of India admitted in a published despatch that the position of Sub-Registrars in Bengal was in need of improvement; while, at an earlier date, in September, 1917, the Government of Bengal pointed out that "a Sub-Registrar in charge of an office in the mofussil has a respectable social status and it is most desirable that he should maintain it," adding that, as Rs 75, the pay of the lowest grade of these officials was "barely sufficient," this grade should be passed quickly. The Bengal Government also recognised the "marked increase" of work performed by salaried Sub-Registrars as compared with that of the old rural Sub-Registrars paid by commission, this increase being proved by the fact that in eleven years the average number of documents registered by a Sub-Registrar had increased by 51 per cent. Since this was written in 1917, the work has gone on increasing, while the rising cost of living has affected Sub-Registrars like everybody else.

NEWS ITEMS

BOMBAY CHEATING CASE

At the Police court today Leopold Brilliant, formerly of the British Army, was charged with cheating Messrs. Leach and Weborn in respect of Rs 228. The accused had recently obtained his discharge and was proceeding Home to take up an appointment in the Foreign Office. While in Bombay he gave a cheque to the firm in payment of some purchases made, signing his name as Major Murray. The National Bank returned the cheque with the remark "No account." Accused was arrested by the police at Aden. Counsel said the accused had suffered shell-shock and cerebral fever. His Worship in passing sentence observed there was no doubt that accused had committed the offence, but taking into consideration the facts urged by his counsel, he sentenced him to one day's simple imprisonment.

INLAND WATERWAYS OF BENGAL

Kulna, Aug 25
The Madaripur Bhil is a large natural depression some miles in width, lying between the Madhumati and the Kumar rivers. This depression is traversed by winding khals, and the rains have a depth of water varying from 6 to 8 feet. Country boats taking advantage of the winding khals were enabled during the rains to shorten their route considerably by utilising the Arial Khana river as far as Madaripur, then following the Kumar river which joins the Arial Khana, a distance of 14 miles, and finally crossing the Bhil to Gopalpur. There they entered an old bend of the Madhumati, which during the rains had sufficient water to take them in the Madhumati and so to Kulna on the main steamer route.

EXPORT DUTY ON TEA

Bangalore, Aug 25
At this morning's sitting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Mr. J.A. Gwynne, proposed that this Association should approach the Government of India, through the Government of Madras, with a view to remove the export duty on tea, as this impost was accepted as a war measure. This Association would further point out that considering the present depressed state of the tea market and the unlikelihood of any recovery in the immediate future, this impost is too heavy a burden on the industry; further that the Association should ask the Indian Tea Association to support this proposition. Mr. Gwynne said they all loyally accepted the duty as it was a war duty. The prices realised were in many cases considerably lower than the cost of production.

POLISH SUCCESSES

According to the latest reports received in official circles in London, the Polish offensive continues to be strikingly successful. It is estimated that of twenty-one divisions composing the Soviet army in Poland, six have been destroyed, eight have lost half their strength, and the seven remaining are much shattered and worn out. Haller's force has established contact with the Polish troops from Thorn. The retreat of the Bolshevik forces in this region is cut off. Pilsudski's army is meeting with little resistance and he is rounding up Bolshevik troops still behind his line without trouble. The Bolshevik cavalry leaders, Budenny, who made a vigorous attack in the direction of Lemberg with the object of capturing the city, has been defeated twelve miles south of it and is retreating.

Rohingya crisis, three years on



NASIR UDDIN

Since then, Bangladesh has become home to 1.1 million Rohingya refugees, including those who have fled previous bouts of violence as well as new arrivals. Kutupalong refugee camp, which covers an area of 13 sq. km, has become the largest refugee camp in the world hosting 700,000 Rohingya refugees. On the third anniversary of the Rohingya influx in Bangladesh, the solution to the crisis has not been found yet.

The Rohingya community living in Bangladesh are frequently portrayed in two ways - national and international human rights bodies focus on their everyday struggle for food and water supply, sanitation, healthcare, housing, education, cooking materials, childcare, maternity

support and daily essentials; whilst the host community often criticises the easy access of refugees to support from national and international aid agencies.

There are also increasing concerns regarding the growing degradation of the local ecology, rapid deforestation from using firewood, mounting illegal border trade, encroaching of grassland for livestock rearing and more. These issues are gradually eroding the space of co-existence between the host community and refugees.

Besides, growing tensions in connection with inter-group and intra-group conflicts as well as militant activities in the refugee camps, mounting cases of trafficking, and worries of reduced aid due to degradations.

ing international support, are increasing the mistrust between the Rohingya and the host community, which is some cause for concern.

During the last three years, two repatriation attempts were made. The first one was on 15 November 2018, and the second one was in August 2019, but they failed mainly due to three reasons. Firstly, Myanmar's continued reluctance and unwillingness to bring the Rohingya back. There were no convincing and tangible preparations taken by Myanmar in accordance with the "Arrangement on the return of displaced person from Rakhine State" signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar in January 2018.

Secondly, the international community did not support the repatriation attempts, which they termed as premature, because Rakhine's situation remained unchanged and thereby, unsafe for the Rohingyas. Thirdly, the Rohingya refugees declined to return voluntarily because Myanmar had failed to give any reliable promise or consistent commitment to the Rohingya to guarantee their rights as citizens of Myanmar. Afterwards, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic affected the camps and halted all repatriation endeavours.

As a result, the fate of repatriation is hanging in the balance, and the future of the Rohingya is becoming increasingly uncertain. It is clear that Myanmar is in no hurry to resolve the Rohingya crisis, with no concrete steps mapped out to address or redress injustices in their country. On the other hand, Bangladesh seems increasingly more reluctant to host such a massive refugee population on its territory. Three years have passed, but there is no light at the end of the tunnel for the persecuted Rohingya population.

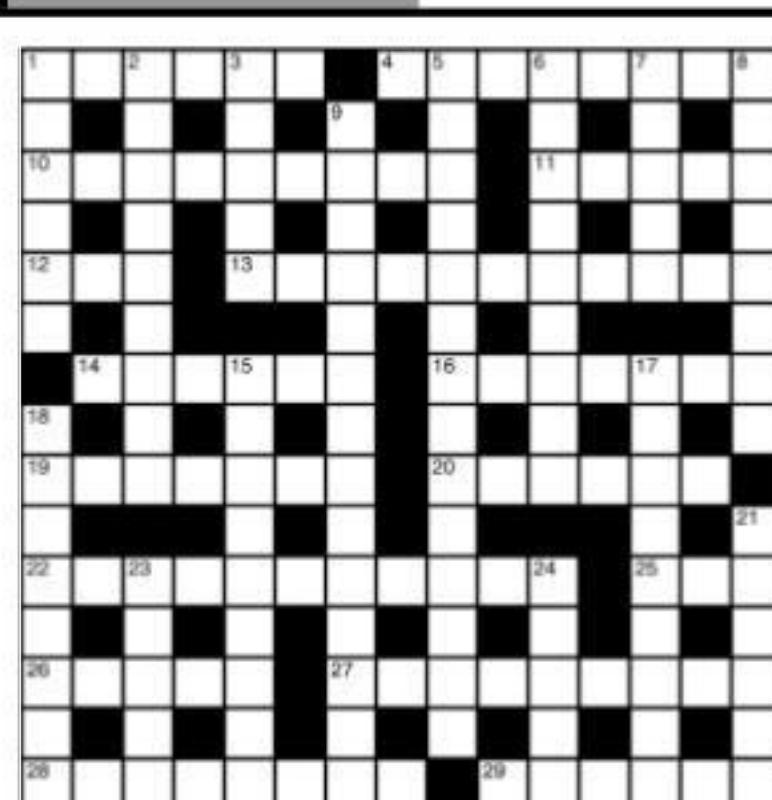
Perhaps mounting pressure from the international community and international rights bodies, media portrayal of Rohingya vulnerabilities and continued efforts from Bangladesh might compel Myanmar to initiate the repatriation process for the third time, but it would certainly fail again because there are no dependable promises or tangible preparations from the Myanmar end that would give the Rohingya enough trust to return to their homeland voluntarily. However, based on previous experiences and the unexpected present situation, we can assume that Bangladesh will not willingly host 1.1 million Rohingya any more or give them space for social integration at any cost, and the option of third country resettlement has also been stopped because of the pandemic.

Considering these multifaceted dilemmas, the Rohingya people are leading their lives in extreme uncertainty. We can see no bright light of hope except their struggling present and an uncertain future. Although the Rohingya eagerly await a safe and dignified return to their homeland, they find little hope in the given context of the crisis.

The question now is: what needs to be done for the future of the Rohingya people? We strongly expect, with a renewed appeal, that the international community should uphold the idea of "burden-sharing" to help the Rohingya in refugee camps and make their lives more "liveable" in Bangladesh. There should also be efforts to form a "collective and global force" to compel Myanmar to comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 to bring the Rohingya living in Bangladesh back to Myanmar with safety, dignity and legal recognition by conferring citizenship on them.

The Daily Star/ANN.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Article initially consistent with grant to take office (6)
- 4 Official information about posh dwelling-house (8)
- 10 Carthaginian holds educated woman to be strait-laced (9)
- 11 That is the thing about some in France (2,3)
- 12 Officer shortly making pass (3)
- 13 Sad as the Spanish repeatedly beat Germany back (11)
- 14 Almost spear adult beast (6)
- 16 See one enigma resolved (7)
- 19 See problem having one brought into heaven (7)
- 20 Place in window for trumpet (6)
- 22 Aftershock – in a word – seen in Madeira? (7,4)

DOWN

- 25 Slippery character getting into free love (3)
- 26 Duke in hat sees señorita's wiggle (5)
- 27 Privilege to receive current letter (9)
- 28 Straight home in divine surroundings (8)
- 29 We would accept old age having stuck together (6)
- 30 Look – a ghost about to disappear! (6)
- 31 Gracious king breaks bread with Brit abroad (3,6)
- 32 Morse writer denied vote is put off (5)
- 33 Town converted Asiatic left for the

- church (14)
- 6 American location turns up in atlas (5,4)
- 7 Serve Republican British bitter (5)
- 8 Tees out on eastern sea shown respect (8)
- 9 Stories well expressed with changing characters (14)
- 15 Vitality in a vessel at sea (9)
- 17 Scrutinised bug placed by news boss receiving pressure (9)
- 18 Blood-stained axe found in Midlands settlement (8)
- 21 Extravagant American leaving Sunshine State (6)
- 23 Cheerio having to lose good old statesman (5)
- 24 Energy shown by man climbing to escape (5)

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

NO 28054





My gap year from school is over, and it feels so great to finally be back in school again!

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG

RETURNS TO SCHOOL IN SWEDEN AFTER A YEAR OFF TO CAMPAIGN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	27°C	20°C CL
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	21°C	15°C S
DUBAI	35°C	25°C CL
SAN FRANCISCO	16°C	07°C H
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C S
MOSCOW	22°C	19°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



The Tokyo Tower is seen at dusk in the Japanese capital on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Militants held: Pakistan's counter-terrorism officials have arrested two militants of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter terrorist group of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, in the country's Punjab province, the police said on Tuesday. They were carrying arms and explosive material as they had planned to attack the personnel of the law enforcement agencies in the city. PTI

B'desh war veteran dies: Chitta Ranjan Dutta, a legendary Bangladeshi war veteran, died on Tuesday at the age of 93, according to media reports. A sector commander during the Bangladesh Liberation war, Dutta died in the US state of Florida, the Dhaka Tribune reported. After the independence he served as the armed forces commander in Rangpur. PTI

Israel bombs Gaza militants: Israel's military said bombed militant positions in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday in response to incendiary balloons launched into southern Israel farmlands a day earlier. It was the second night in a row that Israel bombed the coastal territory. Tensions between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have intensified in recent weeks. AP

Sweden steps up its defense activities in Baltic Sea region:

STOCKHOLM, 25 AUGUST

Sweden is stepping up its defense activities in the Baltic Sea region due to what a high-ranking official called a deteriorating security situation" as Russia and NATO conduct military operations in the area.

The Swedish armed forces said Tuesday that it initiated a high-readiness action in the southeastern and southern Baltic Sea due to the current, extensive military activity in the region. Sweden is not a member of NATO.

The armed forces gave no details about the deployment but said the goal is to strengthen maritime surveillance in the Baltic Sea at sea and from the air."

The Baltic News Service reported Tuesday that four Russian naval ships were detected near Latvian territorial waters. Two frigates a multinational NATO maritime force were to visit the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda, the news service reported Monday.

Extensive military operations are underway in the Baltic Sea region, both from Russia and the West, Chief of Joint Operations Vice Adm. Jan Thornqvist said.

In a statement, he said it was the Swedish armed forces assessment that the risk of a military attack on Sweden is currently low, but the unpredictable security situation in our immediate area places high demands on our accessibility and preparedness. We follow, we adapt, and we choose methods in our way of meeting the world around us, Thornqvist said.

'Biden-Harris would lead US to socialism'

Leaders urge voters to re-elect Trump, applaud President as a statesman, a friend to Black Americans & a shield against an assault on American values

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 25 AUGUST

Top Republicans, including Indian-American Nikki Haley, have warned Americans that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris' victory in the elections will convert the US into a "socialist utopia" and a "fundamentally different" country.

Urging the voters to re-elect Donald Trump for another term, senior party leaders in their prime-time address on Monday at the Republican National Convention presented the President as a statesman, a friend to Black Americans and a shield against an assault on American values. They said that the future of America was in danger if the 3 November polls resulted in the defeat of incumbent President Trump.

The four-day mostly-virtual RNC the party jamboree will formally nominate 74-year-old Trump as the party's candidate for the US presidential election. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence will be challenged by former vice president Biden and his Indian-American running mate Senator Harris. Former US ambassador to the UN, Haley in her address said, their vision for America is socialism. And we know that socialism has failed everywhere.

Joe Biden and the socialist left would be a disaster for our economy. But President Trump is leading a new era of opportunity, Haley, the two-time governor of South Carolina, said. Haley also sought to demonstrate President Trump's leadership around the world, saying he has been tough against North Korea, Iran and China. She praised Trump for passing sanctions on North Korea and said he "ripped up the Iran nuclear deal."



Former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks during the first day of the Republican convention at the Mellon auditorium on 24 August, 2020 in Washington, DC. ■ AFP

Imagine a world where the evils of communism and radical Islamic terrorism are not given a chance to spread—where heroes are celebrated and the good guys win. You can have it

DONALD J TRUMP JR
ELDEST CHILD OF US PRESIDENT

First lady Melania Trump is set to give the marquee address from the Rose Garden. She has focused on anti-bullying initiatives during her tenure in the White House, so she may offer one of the convention's most positive addresses.

"Joe Biden and the Democrats are still blaming America first. Donald Trump has always put America first," she said. Haley also criticised the Democratic Party for "turning a blind eye towards riots and rage." "The American people know we can do better, and of course we value and respect every Black life. The Black cops who have been shot in the line of duty, they matter. The Black small business owners who have watched their lives work go up in flames, they matter.

The Black kids who have been gunned down on the playground, their lives matter too. And their lives are being ruined and stolen by the violence on our streets. It doesn't have to be like this," Haley said. She said that with Trump as president, "we will build on

the progress of our past and unlock the promise of our future." The Biden-Harris duo was also criticised by top Senator Tim Scott. Joe Biden's radical Democrats are trying to permanently transform what it means to be an American. Make no mistake: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris want a cultural revolution. A fundamentally different America, Senator Scott said. It was not clear if he was alluding to the disastrous Cultural Revolution launched by Chairman Mao Zedong in China from 1966.

If we let them they will turn our country into a socialist utopia and history has taught us that path only leads to pain and misery, especially for hard-working people hoping to rise, said the Senator from South Carolina.

Beyond November: At GOP convention, there's a 2024 subplot

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 25 AUGUST

Republicans this week are focused squarely on their convention's star, President Donald Trump, and securing his reelection in November. But there's also plenty of angling for what or who comes next.

Beyond the speeches, the spin and the stagecraft, the Republican National Convention is casting light on the early maneuvering that is already underway to determine the future of the party after Trump and who will emerge as its 2024 nominee. There's a lot happening behind the scenes already," said Republican strategist Alex Conant, who worked for the 2016 campaign of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Still, he said the contest won't begin in earnest until after November, when the electorate decides whether Trump will go down in history as a one-term fluke or the founder of a new Republican Party.

The convention lineup includes a longlist of potential future candidates, most notably Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and ambassador to the United Nations, who spoke Monday night, and Vice President Mike Pence, who will speak Wednesday. Also allotted time slots: Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Florida Sen. Rick Scott and Donald Trump Jr. Many are expecting a 2024 repeat of 2016, which drew a massive

field of senators, governors and former party officials along with a reality TV star few took seriously at the time.

This time, Mike Pence and Nikki Haley are, by far, the two greatest fan favorites out there, says Scott Walker, the former governor of Wisconsin and himself a 2016 candidate.

"There's others out there, but nobody else is even close in that stratosphere. Much will depend on whether Trump secures a second term. If he loses, it could open the door to critics like Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a moderate who voiced alarm at Trump's handling of the coronavirus and recently wrote a book and launched a new national advocacy group promoting bipartisanship, common-sense solutions.

On the other end of the spectrum is Pence, who has spent years serving as Trump's most loyal soldier. His allies are keenly aware that the former Indiana governor's political future will hinge on whether Trump wins in November, and they have been laser-focused on that goal.

Pence has embarked on an aggressive campaign schedule that has included 73 trips to more than two dozen states since October. And he has been holding calls with conservative groups like the Susan B. Anthony List and Heritage Foundation, in addition to sitting for a whopping 152 regional interviews.



Delegates cheer as US President Donald Trump and vice President Mike Pence stand on stage during the first day of the Republican National Convention on 24 August, 2020, in Charlotte, North Carolina. ■ AFP

First day shows media coverage of convention is sore spot: The opening of the Republican National Convention on Monday offered quick proof that how it is covered by the news media will be an ongoing sore spot. Day One featured a complaint about his coverage by President Donald Trump, some aggressive fact-checking by television reporters and an odd social media backlash against Fox News Channel, the favorite network of the president's fans. This really is the Trump convention, said NBC News' Andrea Mitchell.

Trump to appear at RNC with 6 former hostages: President Donald Trump will appear at the opening night of the RNC in a taped video with six former hostages freed during the Trump administration. A campaign official said on Monday that the former prisoners are among more than a dozen religious or other people whose release the Trump administration helped broker. They are Michael White, Sam Goodwin, Pastor Andrew Brunson, Joshua and Tamara Holt, and Pastor Bryan Nerren. The convention is also set to feature a speech from the parents of Kayla Mueller, who died while a prisoner of the IS group.

Trump convention blurs official business and politics: Plenty of presidents have walked right up to the line separating official business from politics or even stepped over it. President Donald Trump has blown past it with a bulldozer, and his planned Republican convention speech from the White House lawn this week might be the latest and most blatant example yet. Down in the polls and facing the headwinds of a coronavirus-battered economy, Trump made the case that the White House is the easiest location for his acceptance speech after Republicans were forced to scale back their convention because of the pandemic.

Trump appreciates India for releasing American pastor: US President Donald Trump has appreciated India for listening to his request to release an American pastor who was arrested last October on charges of carrying \$40,000 of undeclared currency. Tennessee pastor Bryan Nerren, who was released by India after intervention from Trump this May, attended a round table with the President in the Oval Office of the White House along with several other American citizens who were released from overseas abductions and detentions. India responded very well to my request. Appreciate that, Trump said as he appeared in a taped meeting with a group of US citizens who were abducted or detained overseas and the Trump Administration helped them to return home.

Duo who waved guns at protesters appears at RNC: A white St. Louis couple criminally charged for waving guns during a Black Lives Matter protest outside their home say Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden would invite unchecked lawlessness into American suburbs. Mark and Patty McCloskey on Monday at the Republican National Convention reinforced the theme outlined in President Donald Trump's campaign ads. The Republican is painting his opponent as complicit with rioting and violence that has taken place in some cities in recent months amid racial justice protests, the vast majority of which have been peaceful.

Republican Convention takeaways: President Donald Trump aggressively asserted control over the Republican National Convention on Monday, overshadowing the prime-time speakers, as he made clear he wants voters to focus on him. Here are key takeaways from the first night of the convention: AN OMNIPRESENT CONVENTION PRESENCE

Trump. Trump. And more Trump. Never one to shy away from the spotlight, Trump showed he will be omnipresent at the convention, appearing every night and sure to dominate the proceedings. He made certain he was highly visible Monday with some preliminary appearances and a spasm of tweets. Trump, he added, "is the bodyguard of Western civilization. Tanya Weinreich, a small business owner, warned of the terrifying prospect of Joe Biden. South Carolina Sen.

Protesters, cops clash again in Kenosha after Black man shot

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KENOSHA (US), 25 AUGUST



Demonstrators march through the city during a protest in New York Tuesday against the shooting of Jacob Blake who was shot in the back multiple times by police in Kenosha. AP

» Protesters chanted, No justice, no peace as they confronted a line of law enforcement officers in front of the courthouse entrance.

» Police first fired the tear gas about 30 minutes after the 8 pm curfew took effect and protesters refused to disperse.

tective gear and stood shoulder-to-shoulder in front of the courthouse entrance.

Police first fired the tear gas about 30 minutes after the 8 pm curfew took effect and pro-

testers refused to disperse. But hundreds of people stuck around, lighting fires and screaming at police.

The latest confrontation came after protesters set cars

on fire, smashed windows and clashed with officers in riot gear Sunday night over the wounding of 29-year-old Blake, who was hospitalized in serious condition. In a widely seen cellphone video made by an onlooker, Blake was shot, apparently in the back, as he leaned into his SUV while his three children sat in the vehicle. Tensions flared anew earlier Monday after a news conference with Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian, originally to be held in a park, was moved inside the city's public safety building. Hundreds of protesters rushed to the building and a door was snapped off its hinges before police in riot gear pepper-sprayed the crowd, which included a photographer from The Associated Press.

Police in the former auto manufacturing center of 100,000 people midway between Milwaukee and Chicago said they were responding to a call about a domestic dispute.

Portland protesters set fire to building, 25 held: Protesters in Portland repeatedly set fire late Monday night to a police union headquarters building and were repelled by officers spraying tear gas, officials said.

Twenty-three people were arrested that stretched into Tuesday morning.

The protesters in a group of about 300 people hurled rocks and bottles at officers and set three fires to the sides of the building and one to an awning, police said in a statement. One demonstrator climbed atop the building's roof to unfurl a banner and the building's walls were spray-painted, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

A group of about 200 lit a dumpster on fire and used it as a shield as they approached the precinct station, police said.

Antibody that may protect against Covid identified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOSTON, 25 AUGUST

Scientists have identified a human antibody that they say may potentially prevent or limit SARS-CoV-2 infection that causes Covid disease.

The researchers from the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in the US discovered and characterised a cross-reactive human monoclonal antibody (MAB) to SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins which blocks ACE2 receptor binding on the mucosal tissue of the respiratory tract.

The origins of this rapid and important discovery go back 16 years, when the researchers at UMMS developed an IgG monoclonal antibody that was effective against a similar virus, SARS, according to the study published in the journal Nature Immunology.

When SARS-CoV-2 was recognised and began to spread, the researchers realised that the first MAB might help with this new infection. They launched the process of resurrecting the old

programme to develop "secretory IgA (sIgA)," antibodies that play a crucial role in immunity on mucosal surfaces. The approach worked, producing an antibody with binding affinity and neutralisation activity.

This antibody was designated MAB362. "We were excited to learn that antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are more effective in binding to and neutralising the virus when they are in the IgA isotype of antibody, compared to the usual circulating IgG antibodies," said Mark Klempner, a professor of medicine at UMMS. "In nature, sIgA antibodies coat mucosal surfaces like the respiratory, gastrointestinal infections (GI) and GU tracts, where they are stabilised by the mucous layer on these surfaces. There, they perform the important function of preventing binding of a pathogen to host cells, thus preventing infection," Klempner said.

Based on these results, the team worked with Celia Schiffer, to see if they could understand the nature of the effect of the IgA antibody.

Wastewater containing Covid may be potential threat: Scientists programme to develop "secretory IgA (sIgA)" antibodies that play a crucial role in immunity on mucosal surfaces. The approach worked, producing an antibody with binding affinity and neutralisation activity.

According to the scientists, wastewater containing coronaviruses, such as the one behind the pandemic, may be a potential threat, according to a new review of studies which calls for additional filtration steps in sewage treatment plants to successfully remove viruses. The research, published in the journal Nature Sustainability, by an international collaboration of 35 researchers, assessed recent studies on coronaviruses in wastewater.

According to the review research, conventional wastewater treatment provides only partial removal of coronaviruses, with safe disposal or reuse depending on the effectiveness of final disinfection.

According to the scientists, sewage leaking into natural watercourses might lead to infection with the virus via airborne spray.

LITTLE JOYS



Children arrive on the beach of Cabourg, France, on Tuesday, as part of the "Forgotten by the Holidays" campaign organised by the French NGO Secours Populaire for children whose families can not afford to go on holidays. ■ AFP

Kremlin: Navalny poisoning claims 'empty noise'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 25 AUGUST

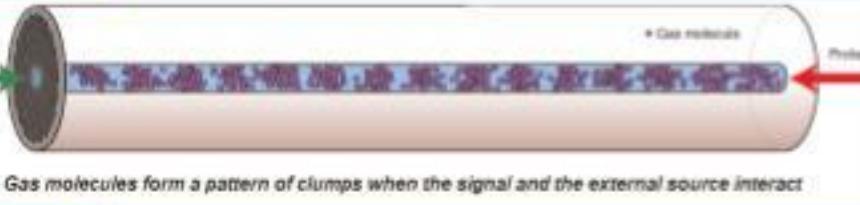
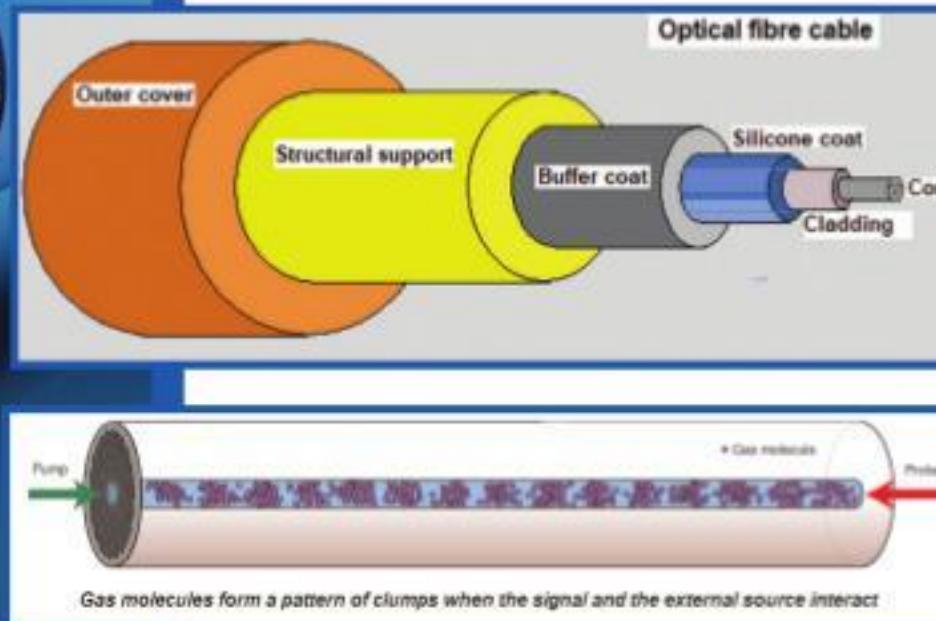
The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected accusations of involvement in an alleged attack on Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny who is in a coma in a German hospital, a day after doctors said tests indicated that he was poisoned. The politician's allies say the Kremlin is behind the illness of its most prominent critic.

In a statement, he said it was the Swedish armed forces assessment that the risk of a military attack on Sweden is currently low, but the unpredictable security situation in our immediate area places high demands on our accessibility and

Flattening barriers in telecom



Innovations in the optical fibre may turn the data stream into a data flood



Luc Thévenaz

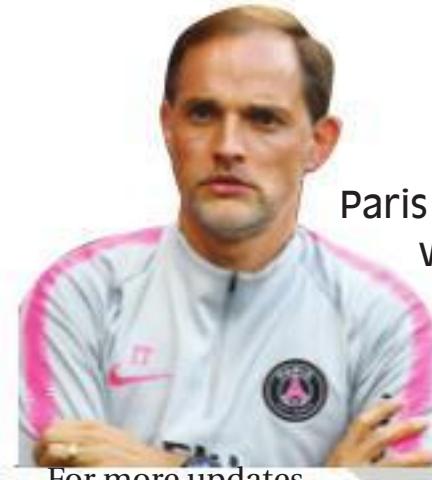
S VAIYAN THANARAJA VAIYAN

The Internet has changed the world beyond recognition. And this is thanks to new channels of worldwide communication – which became possible when electrical signals were replaced by light, and copper wires by filaments of glass – the optical fibre cable.

Luc Thévenaz, with Fan Yang² and Flavien Gyger, from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, in Switzerland, report a way around what is considered a limitation and further increase the reach of the optical fibre. Writing in the journal, *Nature Photonics*, they describe how the *Hollow Core Fibre* where the glass in the fibre is replaced by any gas, can be made to work better, and in more ways, than the solid glass fibre.

The conventional optical fibre cable is a narrow, literally less than a hair's breadth, thread of glass -- contained in protective sheathing -- that transmits rays of light. The light rays strike the sides of the narrow glass channel at glancing angles and stay within the cable, for hundreds of kilometres, with negligible loss. As the speed of light in glass is not the same for all colours, however, an ordinary light ray would get split into its component colours. The light ray hence has to be accurately of a single colour, and hence has to be a laser beam. The laser also ensures that the beam is narrow and stays compact in its passage through the cable.

Although the loss of signal strength is low, after a distance, there does come a point where the beam strength needs to be refreshed. One way to do this is to read the signal and then generate a fresh, full strength signal. What is done, however, is to refresh the signal within the cable, by building in a laser action that is activated by the original, but enfeebled beam. This amounts to building into the optical fibre the same mech-



GRACIOUS IN DEFEAT

Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel (photo, left) was impressed with Bayern Munich's quality, as revealed in the Champions League final, which the Germans won. "They are on their way to becoming the greatest club in the world," he said.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Knights' gain: Former Olympic sprinter Chris Donalson has been roped in by Kolkata Knight Riders as their strength and conditioning coach for the Indian Premier League (IPL) season. Donalson represented New Zealand in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

Bowling coach: Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Capitals on Tuesday announced former Australian fast bowler Ryan Harris as their new bowling coach. The 40-year-old will join the Delhi Capitals side in West Asia for the IPL season slated to start on 19 November.

Pro league: The international hockey federation Hockey Pro League will make a return on 22 September with the men's and women's teams of Germany and Belgium taking the pitch in the first games of a series of Europe-focused matches, it was said on Monday.

Tokyo Games: The Olympic flame will go on display at the Japanese Olympic Museum on 1 September, the Japanese Olympic Committee announced on Monday. The flame was last seen in Fukushima after the torch relay was cancelled following its arrival from Greece.

Fifa scandal: Switzerland's Parliament on Monday lifted immunity on the country's former top prosecutor, Michael Lauber, who had been in charge of the probe into the towering corruption scandal within Fifa, probably opening the door for criminal proceedings.

Enter Vettori: Bangladesh spin consultant Daniel Vettori will work with the spinners in the High Performance squad during a tour of Sri Lanka. The former left-arm spinner is set to join the Bangladesh set-up in Sri Lanka, and will tutor the unit's spinners



Coutinho's wish: Brazilian Philippe Coutinho came on as a second-half substitute for Bayern Munich in Sunday night's Champions League final, but failed to rule out a return to parent club FC Barcelona for the coming season. He has struggled to make an impact.

Rules relaxed: Fifa on Monday relaxed the rules on the release of players for the next international window. Clubs are usually obliged to release players to national teams but quarantine laws in many countries will make travel impractical, Fifa said in a statement.



AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON, 25 AUGUST

Jimmy Anderson has entered the exclusive 600 Club. The England paceman became only the fourth bowler and the first seamer to take 600 wickets in test cricket on Tuesday by dismissing Azhar Ali in the third test against Pakistan.

After England captain Joe Root took the high catch at first slip off the Pakistan captain to give Anderson his prized wicket, the 38-year-old fast bowler was mobbed by his teammates.

Then Anderson took the ball in his right hand and with a cheeky smile saluted all sides of the Rose Bowl, which is without spectators because of coronavirus restrictions. England coach Chris Silverwood applauded on the boundary edge.

Anderson, who is playing in his 156th test, is fourth on the list of all-time leading wicket-takers in tests. Only retired spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Shane Warne (708) and Anil Kumble (619) are above him.

Massive effort from a great fast bowler, Kumble, the former India legspinner, wrote on Twitter. Welcome to the club.

Anderson is the second quickest to get to 600 wickets, taking six balls more than Muralitharan, but it could have come much sooner.

He was dropped four times in 37 balls either side of Pakistan's overnight change of innings between Days 3 and 4 of the final test of the series.

He took his 599th wicket that of Abid Ali near the end of Monday's play, before bad light stopped play.

The first two sessions of Tuesday were washed out, raising doubts about whether Anderson would miss his chance. However, play started late in the afternoon and Anderson took the wicket of Azhar off his 14th delivery.

The enduring Anderson shows no sign of slowing down, especially when he bowls on home soil where he is so adept at taking advantage of English conditions. He is still widely regarded as the best bowler in the world when the ball is swinging.

On Sunday, he took his 29th five-wicket haul of a test career that began in 2003. His average is 26.82.

Not playing white-ball cricket since 2015 has allowed him to focus his energy and fitness toward the test format. The extended break to the cricket season because of the pandemic gave Anderson more time to rest his aging body after an injury-plagued period that restricted him to just 74 overs of bowling from the opening Ashes test in August last year until this summer.

Just this month, Anderson said he has no plans to retire and has his sights set on an Ashes series Down Under next year.



Jimmy Anderson (left) celebrates taking his 600th Test wicket by dismissing Azhar Ali in the third Test against Pakistan in Southampton on Tuesday. AFP

'I just have to go out and carry out Anil bhai's plans'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 25 AUGUST

a very good relationship with him off the field, coming from the same state," Rahul told the IPL website.

"I think he (Kumble) will make my life as captain very easy. I know that he would be doing most of the planning and I just have to go out there and carry out the plans," said the 28-year-old. Rahul was in red hot form in the past two seasons while batting alongside Chris Gayle, scoring 659 and 593 and in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Glenn Maxwell's return has boosted their middle-order and the skipper stressed on his importance to the team.

"Maxi has been with Kings XI before and has had a successful run with the team. He

was one player we were very clear we needed going into the auctions.

"On a given day, he will take down any bowling attack and we've felt that the last couple of seasons we have missed that impact player in the middle order," said Rahul.

In Rahul and Gayle, KXIP make one of the most destructive opening pairings in IPL. The captain expects the West Indian to keep winning games for the team.

"I have played for several years with him and share a great friendship with him. He will be part of our core group and with the kind of experience he has, he will definitely be somebody that wins a lot of games for us," he said.

Serena battles into third round

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 25 AUGUST



Third-seeded Serena Williams clawed out a 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 7-6 (7/0) victory over hard-hitting Dutch qualifier Arantxa Rus yesterday to avoid joining the Women's Tennis Association upsets at the Western & Southern Open.

Williams won this tournament, usually held in Cincinnati, in 2014 and 2015.

With the event being held this year in New York in the same quarantine bubble that will house the US Open starting on August 31, Williams is the highest remaining seed in the women's draw.

Top-seeded Karolina Pliskova and No 2 Sofia Kenin both

lost their opening matches on Sunday.

Second-seeded Austrian Dominic Thiem lost to 32nd-ranked Serbian Filip Krajinovic in the round of 32.

Krajinovic stunned Thiem 6-2, 6-1 on Monday, losing only two service points en route to the third round of the tournament.

"I think I started really well today. I was aggressive and I'm really happy that I'm in the third round," said Krajinovic, as reported by the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour website.

"I don't think Thiem was playing today good tennis, but I took the chance and I think I deserved to win."

Krajinovic will next play Hungarian qualifier Marton Fucsovics, who beat 14th seed Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.

World No 1 Novak Djokovic didn't have the luxury of easing back into tournament play in his first match back since the end of the ATP Tour suspension due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Djokovic had to fight it out against Lithuania's former junior world No 1 Ricardas Berankis and he eventually triumphed 7-6(2), 6-4 to improve his perfect record in 2020 to 19-0.

The Serb, who became the first singles player in history (since 1990) to capture all nine ATP Masters 1000 titles when he defeated Roger Federer in the 2018 Cincinnati final, has advanced to the third round, where he will face American Tennys Sandgren.

Why am I not in nat'l camp, asks Kashyap; questions selection criteria of 8 Oly hopefuls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 AUGUST



Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap on Tuesday questioned his omission from the ongoing national badminton camp in Hyderabad, saying that restricting it to just eight Olympic hopefuls is "illogical".

The 33-year-old, a former world No 6, insisted that he too has an outside chance of qualifying for the Tokyo Games but he has no way to pursue it as he can't train at the camp.

"I have a couple of questions regarding the camp. I find it illogical to allow only 8 people to train. Also, how are these 8, Olympic hopefuls because I think only 3 have almost confirmed their slot and rest have an outside chance including Srikanth and the women's doubles pair," Kashyap said.

"Gopitibaiva (Pullela Gopichand) advised me to speak to SAI as they made the list. So I spoke to SAI and asked him what is the logic behind it? Why am I not in the camp? Who

decided that we don't have a chance to qualify when 7-8 tournaments are still left," he said.

"A day later, a SAI assistant director called me and said this is a directive which has come from higher officials and they have spoken to BAI and SAI, who believe only these people have a chance to qualify which I found to be strange," he added.

"I was told that only 8 people will train till the Tokyo Games to keep the Olympic hopefuls safe. Now no one is staying at the centre, all are using gyms at different centres, they are meeting people outside, so I don't understand their explanation of keeping them safe."

"The national centre has nine courts and currently only four people are training. There are 9 coaches and two physios for four players who are training for a maximum of two and a half hours. So rest of the time the court is empty. Why can't other players train for the rest of the time? It makes no sense to me," he said.

Ronaldinho released after five month detention in Paraguay

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASUNCION, 25 AUGUST

Former Brazil football star Ronaldinho (in photo) was released yesterday by a Paraguayan judge after spending five months in detention over a forged passport.

Judge Gustavo Amarilla also released Ronaldinho's brother Roberto de Assis Moreira, who likewise had been held for a month in jail and another four months under house arrest in a hotel in Paraguay's capital, Asuncion, on the same charge.

Ronaldinho, the 40-year-old former World Cup-winner, "is free to travel to whatever country in the world he wants but he must inform us if he changes his permanent residence" for a period of one year, the judge said. "He has no restrictions except for the fulfilment of reparations for damage to society."

Dressed in jeans, a black beret and black shirt, Ronaldinho accepted the terms of his release, which include payment of \$90,000 in damages.

His brother, who is also Ronaldinho's business manager, must pay \$110,000.

The judge stressed that he was not issuing a "definitive dismissal" of the case but rather that Ronaldinho was benefiting from a "conditional suspension of the procedure."

His brother, on the other hand, was given a two-year suspended sentence.

Prosecutors said they did not believe Ronaldinho had taken part in the plan to manufacture the fake Paraguayan passports but believed de Assis Moreira was aware that the passports were false.

"They flagrantly used a public document containing false content," said Marcelo Pecci, one of the public prosecutors, who said it was a "very serious" offence.

De Assis Moreira must appear before a judge in Brazil every four months for two years and will have a criminal record.

"Ronaldinho's situation is not the same as Roberto's. He

Jamaican official says Usain Bolt tests positive for COVID

AGENCIES

KINGSTON, 25 AUGUST

Jamaica's Minister of Health says legendary sprinter Usain Bolt has tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Minister Christopher Tufton said Bolt was aware of the results and his recent contacts were being traced.

"It is now public knowledge that Mr. Bolt has tested positive. He has been formally notified, I'm told by the authorities," Tufton told reporters Monday evening.

"It triggers an approach to questioning, interrogation if you will, which we follow through with contact tracing."

Bolt said on social media Monday that he was awaiting the result of a coronavirus test and was quarantining himself as a precaution.

The 34-year-old, retired sprinter who won gold in the 100 and 200 meters at the last three Olympics posted a video

on social media to explain the situation.

"Good morning everybody. Just waking up. Like everybody, checked social media and saw that social media says I'm confirmed of COVID-19," he said. "I did a test Saturday, because I work. I'm trying to be responsible, so I'm going to stay in and stay here for my friends."

Bolt, who appeared to be lying in bed in the video, said he has no symptoms.

"Just to be safe, I'll quarantine myself and just take it easy," he said.

Jamaica has had fewer than 1,700 cases, a relatively low number in a country of nearly 3 million.

He was part of Barcelona's famed "MSN trident," the trio of him, Lionel Messi and Neymar scoring 364 goals in 450 games between 2014-5 and 2016-7, before Neymar departed for Paris Saint-Germain.

RACI broke the news just two days after Suarez had spoken to Spanish newspaper *El País* to say that "nobody" had discussed his future with him in a brief conversation.

The radio station, which has very close links to the La Liga club, reported that Koeman had phoned Suarez on Monday and gave him the news in a brief conversation.

The player's contract at the Camp Nou is due to expire at the end of June 2021, and the 33-year-old's lawyers will presumably speak to the club to try to rescind that deal to allow him to become a free agent.

Suarez arrived at Barcelona in 2014 from Liverpool. He has

since scored 198 goals and contributed 109 assists in 283 appearances to become the third-highest scorer in the history of the club.

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"It would be good if the person in charge speaks directly to me. My idea today is to continue, but if the club decide that I am expendable, I have no problem talking," he commented, adding that he wanted to "continue contributing everything I can," and that he would have no problem if he had to be a substit-

ute. While Suarez looks to have one foot out of the door at Barcelona, left-back Jordi Alba's future looks more secure after RACI revealed that Koeman had informed the 31-year-old Spain international he wanted him in next season's squad.

On Monday, Koeman also told Barca TV that he planned to take inspiration from former boss Johan Cruyff.

The Dutchman, named as replacement for the sacked Quique Setien last week, played under club and Netherlands legend Cruyff for six years at the Camp Nou as the Catalans won four La Liga titles and the European Cup once.

"Cruyff was one of the coaches who taught me the most, especially during our time with the Dream Team. I didn't only learn to be a better player but a better coach too," Koeman told Barca TV.

"We had the best combination. We played attacking football and won titles. That is always the philosophy we have pursued at Barca," the 57-year-old Dutchman added.

Despite Koeman's trophy-laden spell with the outfit, where he showed his quality with his set-piece ability, he said he was in the shadow of Messi, who is set to begin his 17th senior campaign with the side.

The pair met last week amid media reports linking the Argentinian superstar with a departure.

"It is a pleasure to have a player like Messi in the team. We can't be compared for our free-kick taking because he has scored so many more than me," Koeman said. "I was only at Barca for six