THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

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NATION 2

Nath 'ditched' Scindia to become MP CM, says Shivraj Chouhan

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



WORLD 4

UK Parliament to vote on Boris plan to break **Brexit divorce treaty**

TABLOID 11

SSR case: Kangana Ranaut stands firm on PoK remark



Vol. 27 No. 210 | 16 pages | ₹5.00



Rajya Sabha MP Mary Kom at Parliament House on the opening day of the Monsoon Session on Monday.

Oracle wins bid for TikTok in US, **beating Microsoft**

New York: Oracle won the bidding for the US operations of the video-sharing app TikTok, people familiar with the matter said, beating out Microsoft in a highprofile deal to salvage a social-media sensation that has been caught in the middle of a geopolitical standoff. Oracle is set to be announced as TikTok's "trusted tech partner" in the US, and the deal is likely not to be structured as an outright sale.
Full report on Page 4

PM to open 7 Bihar infra projects today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Tuesday inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of seven urban infrastructure projects worth ₹541 crore in the poll-bound Bihar via video conference. The PMO said that out of these projects, four are related to water supply, two to sewage treatment and one to riverfront development.

Khalilzad to visit Delhi for talks

New Delhi: The United States special envoy for Afghanistan reconciliation, Mr Zalmay Khalilzad, is expected to be in New Delhi on Tuesday on a short visit during which discussions with external affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the Afghanistan-Taliban peace talks are expected.

Full report on Page 3 COUNTERPOINT



We shouldn't have allowed even masks and sanitisers inside the House!





Max: 36°C Min: 27°C **RH:** 57% Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Trayodasi till 10.55 pm Star: Ashlesha till 2.19 pm Varjyam: 1.18 am to 2.45 am

(Wednesday) Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.21 am; 11 pm to 11.47 pm Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

> **SUNSET TODAY 6.27 PM** SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM **MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.26 PM**

Umar Khalid arrested for

role in N-E

Delhi riots

11L pages of evidence against him: Police

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA NEW DELHI, SEPT 14.

Jawaharlal University (JNU) stu-dent Umar Khalid has been arrest-



ed by the
Delhi Police's special
cell for his alleged role
in the riots in north-east Delhi in February this year. The FIR against Mr Khalid alleges that he made provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to citizens to come out on streets and block roads

during Donald Trump's visit to India. The special cell arrest-ed Mr Khalid on Sunday night, after 11 hours of interrogation. Earlier, police had also seized his mobile phone.

While seeking Mr Khalid's police custody, Delhi Police stated in the Karkadooma court that their computer team has extracted 40 GB of data from Mr Khalid's mobile phone and they want to question him about it. It runs into 11 lakh pages.

Delhi Police was granted 10 days' custody to interrogate him.

In Mr Khaild's speech against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Amravati, that went viral on social media, and one of the two that the police is focusing on, he can be heard as saying "when Donald Trump comes to India on February 24, we will say that the Prime Minister and the government of India are trying to divide the country... They are destroying the values of Mahatma Gandhi, and the people ■ Turn to Page 3

VINEETA PANDEY

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

With 92.071 fresh cases of

novel coronavirus. India

on Monday had an overall

of 48.46 lakh cases of infec-

tion so far. Among those

who tested positive were

about 25 members of Parliament who were detected to be Covid-19

positive during a checkup

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said in

Lok Sabha that the gov-

ernment is constantly

reviewing the scenario

and regularly coordinat-

ing with WHO headquar-

at Parliament House.



Govt assures SC Delhi jhuggis not to be razed now

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Giving major relief to over 2.4 lakh slumd-wellers living in 48,000 jhuggis located on a 140km rail track stretch in the national capital, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday that the railway ministry, the housing and urban housing and urban affairs ministry and Delhi government are holding discussions and till a decision is taken there will be no demolition of the jhuggis.

"We are going to take a decision, and till (then) nobody will be removed", the court was told.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde and also compris-Justices Bopanna and Ramasubramanian took on record the statement solicitor general Tushar Mehta that there will not be "any coercive action against slumdwellers" till then.

The court has adjourned the matter for

▶ 92 PER CENT of the

cases are reported to

says Union health

minister Dr Harsh

Vardhan

be having mild disease,

ters, regional office and

country office.
While saying that the battle against Covid-19 is

far from over, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "In our country about 92 per cent

of the cases are reported to be having mild disease.

In only about 5.8 per cent

of cases oxygen therapy is

required, and the disease

may be severe enough to

RAILWAY & HOUSING ministries to take a call with Delhi govt; top court adjourns case for four

four weeks. As senior counsel Abhishek "Manu" Singhvi", appearing for one of the applicants, told the court that some demolitions had taken place in the city on Friday as well as on Monday, and that instructions should be issued to stop it, Mr Mehta said these demolitions may relate to a dif-

ferent case, not this one. Monday's hearing was over a plea moved by former Delhi PCC chief Ajay Maken seeking the rehabilitation of over two lakh residents of the 48,000 jhuggis in the city before they are evicted from the homes.

A Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra (since retired) had on August 31 ordered the removal of the 48,000

require intensive care in only 1.7 per cent." Giving details of the spread of

infection, the minister said the maximum num-

ber of cases and deaths

from Covid-19 have been

Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karantaka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West

Odisha, Assam, Kerala

and Gujarat.
Of the 92,071 new cases reported in 24 hours in the

country, Maharashtra

continues to contribute a

high number with more

than 22,000 new cases.

Andhra

Telangana,

reported

Bengal,

Maharashtra,

92K fresh Covid cases, 22K in Maha

Bhushan for review of SC conviction for contempt

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Prashant Bhushan on Monday moved the Supreme court seeking a review of its August 14 judg-ment holding him guilty four Chief Justices.

While filing the review petition, he also deposited ₹1 fine with the court registry. "Just because I'm submitting the fine does not mean I have accepted the verdict. We are filing a review plea today... there must be an appeal procedure created for conviction under contempt," he said.

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

of criminal contempt of court for his two tweets in which he criticised the apex court's work in the last six years under

The review petition, filed by lawyer Kamini Jaiswal, seeks reconsideration of the August 14 judgment on 12 grounds, including that suo motu contempt matter should not have been heard by a bench that included Justice Arun Mishra. It also seeks an open court

Andhra Pradesh has con-

tributed more than 9,800

new cases. The government underlined the

increasing recovery rate

which has now reached 78

per cent. "We have now

moved from 'managing

travel related cases' to containing clusters and large outbreaks due to

local transmission to wide

spread of infection in

urban, peri-urban and

rural areas. This would require concerted effort

by the government with

people's participation to

prevent large scale mor-

bidity and mortality," the

minister added.

democracy"

■ Worry amid cases: Over 200 MPs 65-plus 25 MPs test Covid +ve

as Parliament begins

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

As the Monsoon Session of Parliament began Monday amid the raging coronavirus pandemic, which seems to have reached another peak in India, as many as 25 members – 17 from the Lok Sabha and eight from the Rajya Sabha — tested pos-itive for the deadly virus. Of the 17 Lok Sabha MPs, 12 are from the BJP, with prominent ones being Meenakshi Lekhi and Parvesh Verma (both from Delhi) and controversial MP Anant Kumar

Hegde.
Two YSR Congress MPs were positive, while the Shiv Sena, DMK and RLP have one MP each affected by Covid-19. This worrying development comes as around 200 MPs are above 65, including some in the 85-90 age bracket, most prominent among them being former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is 87 and a Rajya Sabha member.

Almost 80,000 deaths have been reported in India since the oubreak of the virus in January, while 92,000 positive caseswere reported between September 13 and 14

Incidentally, while briefing the Lok Sabha on the handling of the Covid situation by the Centre,

Harivansh is re-elected as Rajya Sabha deputy chair

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

NDA candidate and JD(U) member Harivansh was re-elected as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha Monday, as PM Narendra Modi hailed him as an "outstand-ing umpire" and a "torchbearer of mentioning that he hails from Bihar, "a land known for its democratic ethos". Assembly polls are due in Bihar in October-November.

With the numbers in with the indibers in his favour, the NDA candidate was also supported by the NDA's "friendly parties" like the BJD and YSRCP. Mr Harivansh defeated the RJD's Manoj Jha, the joint Opposition nominee, by voice

■ More on Page 3



reference in the Rajya Sabha on the opening day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi on Monday.

Govt has no data of migrant workers' death, loss of jobs

ministry of labour and employment did not have any data of migrant workers who lost their jobs and their lives during the Covid-19 lockdown, minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Monday informed the Lok Sabha through written replies to several members' ques-

New Delhi, Sept. 14: The tions. The Minister told the House "no such data is maintained" when asked if the government had carried out any assessment of job losses of migrant workers as well as if it was aware of workers who died on their way back to their home States during the lockdown.

PAGE 3

health minister Harsh Vardhan said it had been managed "very well" Interestingly, Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the media prior to the start of the session, acknowledged it was being held "under special circumstances as

ic on one hand while our obligation towards fulfilling our duties on the other". He said that several important decisions would be taken during the session, and "the more diverse the discussion is in the House, the more beneficial it is for

Rajnath to brief LS, RS today on Ladakh standoff

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Amid escalating tensions between Indian and Chinese troops Ladakh, defence minister Rajnath Singh will address both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday on the standoff in the region. The Centre has been

relentlessly been attacked by the Congress specially by Rahul Gandhi, as well as other Opposition parties and urged to make its stand clear on the Ladakh standoff amid repeated transgressions by the Chinese Army since April. On June 15, 20 Indian soldiers, including a colonel, were killed in a major confrontation with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley. The defence minister's

statement comes after the issue was raised by the Opposition at the busi-

Bill to cut MPs' salaries by 30%

New Delhi: Parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday introduced in Lok Sabha a bill that seeks to reduce for one year the salaries of Members of Parliament by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of Covid-19 pandemic." The ordinance was cleared by the Cabinet on April 6.

ness advisory committee meetings of both Houses on Sunday.

On the first day of the Monsoon Session, the Centre got down to business and managed to pass two National Commission Homoeopathy Bill and National Commission for Medicine Bill.

Centre: Same-sex marriages 'against law, society, values'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

The Centre on Monday told the Delhi high court that marriage between same sex couples was "not permissible" as it is not recognised by "our laws, legal system, society and our values".

The submission was made before a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan by Solicitor Jalan by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta during hearing of a PIL seeking a declaration that same sex marriages be recognised under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act. Mr Mehta opposed the relief sought in the peti-

tion saying "our laws, our legal system, our society and our values do not recognise a marriage, which is a sacrament, between same sex couples".

He said the plea to grant recognition to or permit registration of such marriages was "not permissible" for two reasons — firstly, the petition was asking the court to legislate and secondly, any relief granted "would run contrary to various statutory provi-

"Unless court sions". does violence to various laws, this cannot be done," he added.

Mr Mehta also said that under the HMA, the various provisions regulating marriages or prohibited relationships talk of husband and wife and therefore, who would be assigned these roles where a same sex couple was concerned.

The bench observed that the world over things were changing, but it may or may not be applicable to India. It, however, questioned the need for a PIL in the instant case.

Suga wins vote, all set to be Japan PM

Tokyo, Sept. 14: Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling party on Monday, all but assuring that he will become the country's new prime minister when a parliamentary election is held later in the week.

Despite his low-key image, Suga, 71, has been an important figure in outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration, serving as the government's top spokesperson in his role as chief Cabinet secretary. Abe announced last month that he would resign due to health problems.

Mr Suga's victory in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party vote virtually guarantees his election in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the majority held by the



Japanese chief cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga acknowledges as he is elected as new head of Japan's ruling party at the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership election in Tokyo on Monday.

LDP's ruling coalition. Mr Suga, the son of a strawberry grower in northern Japan's Akita prefecture, said he had come a long way. "I will devote all of myself to work for the nation and the people," he

said in his victory speech. He has said that his top priorities will be fighting the coronavirus and turning around a Japanese economy battered by the pandemic. He gained the support of party heavy-

members early in the campaign on expectations that he would continue Abe's policies. Mr Suga received 377 votes in Monday's vote to pick a successor to Abe. Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, one of the other two contenders, received 89 votes, while former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba got 68. "Now I'm handing the

baton to new LDP President Suga," Abe said after the vote. "We can count on him."

Mr Suga has been a loyal supporter of Abe since Abe's first stint as prime minister from 2006 to 2007. Abe's tenure ended abruptly because of chronic illness, and Suga helped him return as PM

















deserves.

IN BRIEF

NOIDA: 141 NEW COVID-19 CASES, TOTAL AT 10,332

Noida: Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar district on Monday recorded 141 new Covid patients and the infection tally reached 10,332, official data showed. The number of active cases stood at 1,979, down from 2,008 on Sunday, according to the data released by the UP Health department for a 24-hour period. On the brighter side, 169 more patients got discharged during the period and the total number of recoveries in the district reached 8,305, the data showed. The district, adjoining Delhi, has so far recorded 48 deaths linked to the pandemic, with one of the lowest mortality rates - 0.46 per cent in the state, it showed. Meanwhile, the recovery rate improved slightly to 80.38 per cent from 79.82 per cent on Sunday, as per the statistics. Gautam **Buddh Nagar now ranks** eighth among the 75 districts in the state in terms of active cases, seventh in recoveries and 27th in death toll, according to the official figures. There were 67,287 active cases across UP on Monday.

Daily wage earner hangs self in Noida

Noida: The body of a 30vear-old daily wage earner was found at his rented accommodation in Uttar Pradesh's Noida on Monday in a case of suspected suicide, police said. The man lived with his wife in Basai village, under the Phase 3 police station limits, and the incident took place in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the officials said. "The deceased was a native of Hamirpur district in UP and worked as a painter here. His body was found hanging in the house by his wife. No suicide note was recovered from the spot," an official from the local police station said. - PTI

CBI to seek nod to

charge J&K babus New Delhi: The CBI, probing the alleged gun-licensing racket in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), is all set to seek sanction to prosecute three more senior public servants posted in the state from the central government. Sources in the agency said, "There are allegations that three more senior public servants, currently posted in different districts in the state, received illegal gratification in the issuance of licenses to non-residents of J&K in violation of rules" The agency has already

booked several public servants, including two IAS officers, posted in the state as part of its investigation into the matter. The CBI will soon seek permission to prosecute three more public servants from the concerned ministry of the central gov-ernment, they added. "The CBI has already booked two former district magistrates of Kupwara--Rajiv Ranjan, an IAS, and Itrit Hussain Rafiqui--as part of its investigation into the scam", sources said adding. CBI sleuths have already collected sufficient evidences against these three senior public servants.

Rahul says PM Modi

busy with peacock New Delhi, Sep 14: As the Monsoon session of Parliament began amid rising number of Covid19 cases, former Congress party President Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the government had asked people to become "aatmanirbhar (self-dependent)" which means they should save their lives themselves as the prime minister was "busy with peacocks". Mr Gandhi tweeted that the coronavirus cases will cross 50 lakh this week and active cases hit the 10 lakh mark. "Unplanned lockdown is the product of one person's ego and because of it coron-

avirus has spread through-

said that the "Modi govern-

manirbhar' (self-sufficient)

which means save your life

vourself because the PM is

referring to a recent video

showing the Prime Minister

feeding peacocks at

his residence.

busy with peacocks". He was

out the country," he said. The Wayanad MP further

ment said become 'aat-

■ 3,229 Covid-19 cases take Delhi's tally to over 2.21 lakh

'Concern should be total deaths, not cases' count'

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Monday, said that corona tests conducted in the national capital is the maximum in the world in terms of tests per day per million.

The national capital recorded 3,229 new Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to over 2.21 lakh while the death toll mounted to 4,770. Twenty-six fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours. Speaking at the Delhi Assembly, Mr Kejriwal said, "The maximum number of tests across the world and all the nations are conducted in Delhi Around 60,000 tests are conducted in Delhi on a daily basis, which means that 3,000 tests are conducted per day per million peo-"On the per day testing front, which is 3,000 per day per million across the country, Delhi is at the top; Andhra Pradesh is second at 1,362; Gujarat is third at 1,000, which is one-third of England is also testing at

Sisodia & 3 AAP MLAs tested +ve for corona

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia Monday tested positive for Covid. Along Mr Sisodia, three AAP MLAs and one journalist were found positive before the commencement of one day Delhi Assembly's spe-cial session which concluded on Monday. Mr Sisodia, who did not

attend the assembly session, tweeted that he is Covid positive and isolated us; Karnataka is

Uttar Pradesh is 670. The average of the whole nation is 819," he said. "Just like 3,000 tests per day per million in Delhi,

Maharashtra is 802; and

Earlier in the day, the Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said that that deputy chief minister developed a fever and can not participate in the session.

"In the absence of Mr Sisodia, the minister of health & PWD department Satyendar Jain will table the papers that the Mr Sisodia was scheduled to table in the House. Mr Jain will also table the 'Delhi Goods and Services Tax(Amendment) 2020," Mr Goel added.

3,000 per day per million; the USA is at 1,388 per day per million; Russia is at 2,300; and Peru is at 858 in Delhi are the maximum.

tests per day per million, which means that the tests

"We have tested around 21,00,000 people in Delhi

cent of the 2 crore population of Delhi. No other state or city in the world has tested 10 per cent of its total population," Mr Kejriwal added.

Mr Kejriwal said, "The concern should be number of deaths not of cases. Death rate in Delhi is perhaps the lowest in the world. The idea of home isolation was first introduced in Delhi. So far, 1,15,254 patients have recovered while in home isolation and only 30 patients in home isolation have lost their lives." Leader of the Opposition

in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused the Kejriwal government of failing to deal with the Covid, saying that when the ministers of this government created an atmosphere, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah took the front and provided relief to the people from this pandemic.

Activists condemn Khalid's arrest, call it a 'witch-hunt'

Delhi riots: Ex-JNU student sent to 10-day police custody

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader Umar Khalid was arrested on Sunday in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, the social media was seen divided in their views with some Twitter users tweeting that why the Delhi police hadn't taken any action against Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur,

and Komal Sharma.
As news of Khalid's arrest broke, people began to tweet with the hashtag #StandWithUmarKhalid on social media.

Actor Prakash Raj tweeted, "shameful... if we don't raise our voice against this witch hunt, we should be ashamed of ourselves... Mr Prakash Raj also used

the #St andWithUmarKhalid, #FreeUmarKhalid, #jus-tasking hashtags. While reacting to the arrest, Kapil Mishra the Mishra, Kapil Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, congratulated the Delhi police on the

arrest of Khalid in a video message which is doing the rounds on social media. He could be heard saying

that the violence that took place in Delhi in February 2020 was similar to the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai. "I have full faith that criminals like Umar Khalid and Tahir Hussain will be hanged or imprisoned for life for killing people. The citizens of Delhi await justice," he said in the video.

ror law, UAPA, has been used to arrest a young, thinking idealist like @UmarKhalidJNU like @UmarKhalidJNU who has always opposed violence and communalism in any form. He is undoubtedly among the leaders that India

"Shocked that an anti-ter-

can't detain India's future for long," Yogendra Yadav, a social activist, tweeted. Using the hashtag "StandWithUmarKhalid," senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor tweeted, 'PM says he welcomes criticism but forgets to men-

tion the cost of criticism to be paid by those who speak "Umar Khalid's arrest by the Delhi police after naming Yechury, Yogendra Yadav, (academics) Jayati Ghosh, and Apoorvanand, leaves no doubt at all about the mala fide nature of its investigation into the Delhi riots," Prashant

Bhushan tweeted. "By arresting @UmarKhalidJNU this regime wants to send a signal to those who stand against it. The Delhi police is only scripting what the BJP government is directing. The Delhi police is not investigating a conspiracy, the investigation itself is a c o n s p i r a c y #StandWithUmarKhalid," tweeted We the People of

Gyms and yoga centres in Delhi open after 5 months

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Thermal screening, entry of limited number of people, regular sanitisation of equipments — these are some of the precautions that are being followed by gyms in Delhi as they resume operations after being closed for over five months due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In an order issued late on Sunday night, the Delhi Management Authority said gymnasiums and yoga institutes

would be permitted to reopen, except in the containment zones, with immediate effect.

Sunil Kumar Taank, president of the Indian Gym"s Welfare Federation, said 80 per cent of the facilities had opened and gym enthusiasts, who were unable to work out since March, visited in the

"We are expecting more people in the evening. Since the order was issued late night, many people might not be aware," he said. Taank — who is the

said his gym would be opened after three-four days as they were sanitising the place and making

preparations.
"We will have thermal check-up for customers as soon as they (customers) will enter the gym and a facility for sanitisation of shoes," he said. "After entering the gym, customers will have to place red tags on the machines they will use and then our housekeeping staff will place green tags on them after they are sanitised.'

'Ignore contempt complaint against Suriya' In his letter, Justice Subramaniam said the

J. STALIN CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

Six retired judges of the Madras high court on Monday appealed to Chief Justice A.P. Sahi not to take cognizance of the complaint against actor Suriya and leave the matter as it is. The actor, moved by the recent suicides of students over Neet, on Sunday, had shared his anguish in a statement and called for people to protest the entrance exam. However, his comment, "courts were delivering justice through video-conferencing due to life-threatening Covid fears (but) are



Suriya ordering students to fearlessly go and write the exams," did not go down well with Justice S.M. Subramaniam of Madras high court. Joining issue with the actor, the judge immediately wrote to the Chief Justice, urging him to initiate contempt proceed-

"Hon'ble judges are afraid of their own life and rendering justice through video conferencing. While-so, they have no morale to pass orders directing the students to appear for Neet without

actor's statement claims,

Responding to this row, six retired judges Justices K. Chandru, K.N. Basha, T. Sudanthiram,

Hariparanthaman, Kannan and G.M. Akbar Ali sent a letter to the CJ on Monday. They said they had seen a news item informing that Justice S.M. Subramaniam of the to him drawing his attention to a press statement of a popular Tamil cine actor (S. Surya) protesting against the conduct of

court has written a letter

The six retired judges said, "We are afraid that such a construction made on the statement of Mr Surya will be slightly off the mark and it does not require any action as requested by the learned judge. Where four students have committed suicide unable to meet the Neet requirement and in a surcharged atmosphere, an artistic person's overreaction should not be taken seriously,"

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut on her arrival at Mohali International Airport in

Govt mulls big economic bailout package for J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL

ernment is mulling a comprehensive package to bailout the sinking economy of the Union Territory. "A package will be announced soon for J&K", lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha told reporters here on Monday adding that the magnitude of the same would be such that the erstwhile state "has never seen that before". He acknowledged that the businesses

According to Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the

20 years

in J&K have suffered enor-

mously over the past 15 to

Jammu and Kashmir gov- the past thirteen months. 'It tell off a cliff due to

the post-August 5, 2019 lockdown and then 'lockdown within lockdown' (due to Covid) left it in a complete shambles," said KCCI president Sheikh Ashiq. He was part of a delegation of Valley's business leaders, which met Mr Sinha at Raj Bhavan here recently to apprise him of the "severe economic calamity" J&K particularly the Valley has suffered.

J&K L-G Manoj Sinha said that the report submitted to the government, by a committee constituted by it, to suggest measures

Valley's economy alone for the revival of businesssuffered losses to the tune es and other ailing sectors of over ₹42,000 crores in of J&K is under consideration of the Central government and that a "big announcement was cards within a week". He reiterated that every sector in J & K has suffered and

> Replying questions, he said that regional discrimination in J&K administration will not be tolerated at any level, "There's zero tolerance for discrimination between Kashmir and Jammu or dividing the UT on any other basis. It will not be tolerated at any level be it at the level of chief secretary or the lieutenant-

there is a need to revive it. governor — as long as I'm here," he said.

fake encounter victims will get iustice: Sinha YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR SEPT. 14

Shopian alleged

Jammu and Kashmir's lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday that would be done with the families of three youth who are believed to have been killed by the Army troops in a encounter in southern

Shopian in July this year.

"The Army has ordered

its own inquiry and the administration is doing its own probe. I want to assure that justice will be done," he said while replying to a question at a press conference here. Earlier, the Army had said that a high-level inquiry into the alleged killing of the trio in purported fake encounter is underway and assured that due legal process would be followed in an impartial and transpar-

ent way.

According to the families, Muhammad Imtiaz, Abrar Ahmed Khan and Abrar Yusuf, they might have been killed in a fake encounter by the troops in Shopian's Amshipora area on July 18, a day after the trio had arrived there from their native village in frontier district Rajouri to work in an apple orchard to earn their livelihood, and then passed off as terrorists by the Army.

AASU-AJYCP tie up to form Assam Jatiya Parishad

MANOJ ANAND

The two leading students organisations, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) on Monday announced the name of their new political outfit as Assam Jatiya Parishad, which will be contesting at 80-100 seats in the Assembly polls next year.

Announcing that the party will start its organisation work from Monday itself, the advisory committee of the student bodies comprising Krishnagopal Bhattacharya, Basanta Deka, Raju Phukan, Jagadish Bhuyan, and Haren Chutia among others said that the name for the party was decided after much consultation and deliberations among all the stakeholders. Informing that the party will start organisation's work in 25 districts, and that all tribes will have representation in the party, the advisory

committee said that their

slogan would be "Ghore Ghore Aami" (we are in every household).

Asserting that Assam Jatiya Parishad would not be an ordinary political party but wanted to be the peoples' party, the advisory committee said that the constitution of the party would be ready soon but the new political outfit will stay away from communal politics and it is going to be incorporated in the Constitution. Asserting that inclusive

politics would be the key to the formation of organisational structure of the party, the committee has appointed former AGP minister and leader Jagadish Bhuyan as the first state convener while H.M. Borbhuyan has been given responsibility of the Barak Valley. Mr Phukan will oversee work in Golaghat, Sivasagar, and Jorhat while Mr Chutia will be in charge of Lakhimpur. Chittaranjan Basumana, charge of Jona. Basumatary will be the in-Jonai in Dibrugarh district.

Nath 'ditched' Scindia to become CM: Shivraj **RABINDRA NATH**

CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, SEPT. 14

Chief minister Shivrai Chouhan Monday accused his predecessor Kamal Nath of 'ditching' Jyotiraditya Scindia to become CM after Congress returned to power in Madhya Pradesh

in 2018 assembly polls. Addressing a series of election meetings in Gwalior-Chambal region along with Mr Scindia, the chief minister said Mr Nath had projected Mr



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Scindia, who was in the grand old party then, as a chief ministerial candidate for his party in the run-up to 2018 assembly elections, but he himself became chief minister after Congress assumed power in the state in the

"Mr Scindia was taken for a ride by Mr Nath. It was like one projecting someone as a groom and then turning up like a groom oneself at the marriage altar", Mr Chouhan observed sarcastically sarcastically

while taunting Mr Nath. He strongly defended Mr Scindia for dislodging the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government, saying that the latter had taken the step in the interest of Madhya Pradesh.

"Mr Scindia pulled down the Kamal Nath government not to do politics, but to save Madhya Pradesh. Corruption was at its peak during the previous Congress government in the state", Mr Chouhan said.

The chief minister also took a jibe at Mr Nath for raising issues concerning farmers in the state, saying, "Mr Nath has hardly visited villages in MP. He hardly knows about farmers' problems. He never bothered to visit villages to know problems facing the farmers when he was a chief minister".

ruled in blue and gold, verses separated by gold roundels, surah headings in

Sotheby's sells 19th century Qur'an for £137,500

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR SEPT. 14

Sotheby's, the New York-British-founded American multinational corporation, has sold a copy of the 19th century Qur'an handwritten by Kashmiri artists for £

"This Qur'an is one of the finest manuscripts produced in Kashmir in the first half of the nineteenth century," a note from the world's largest brokers of fine and decorative art, jewellery, real estate and col-

lectables had said before putting the manuscript for auction at Christie's London some time ago, a report appearing in a local news portal said. Giving the description of

the sold manuscript, the Sotheby's says on its official website that it is an illuminated Qur'an copied by Muhammad Hasan with a marginal commentary copied by Muhammad Isma'il in Kashmir and dates back to 1246 AH (the Hijri year of the Islamic lunar calendar) corresponding with 1831 AD.



"Arabic manuscript on paper, 544 leaves plus 3 flyleaves, 24 lines to the page. written in Naskh in black ink within clouds against a gold ground, the Persian interlinear in red nasta'lig,

blue thuluth against a gold ground within a cartouche, the margins dense with commentaries in nasta'liq within clouds against a gold ground, f.1b and f.2a with an illuminated frontispiece, several illuminated pages throughout, in lacquer binding decorated with flowers and signed 'Abd al-Aziz Mugul," reads the website. According to it, though there are stains and rubbing, some losses to the

illumination and the gold,

minor tears, some crackeleaure and scratches to the binding, as viewed, the manuscript was in good condition when put to auction. "This Qur'an is one of

the finest manuscripts produced in Kashmir in the first half of the 19th century. Not only does it bear the names of two scribes who have been involved in copying it, but also the names of the binder and the patron. Dated Qur'ans from Kashmir are rare, especially if decorated with such lavish illumination," it said.

SHORT TAKES

RAMANI: AKBAR TARGETED ME TO STOP AVALNCHE OF ALLEGATIONS

New Delhi: Journalist Priva Ramani told a Delhi court on Monday that she was "targeted selectively" through a criminal defamation complaint by former Union minister M.J. Akbar to halt the avalanche of allegations of sexual misconduct" against him in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018. Ms Ramani made the submission before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja

through her lawyer during the final hearing in the complaint filed by Mr Akbar against her. Ms Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist. Mr Akbar resigned as Union minister on

October 17, 2018, Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court on Monday that over 14 women accused Akbar of sexual harassment during the #MeToo movement but he has filed complaint only against Ms Ramani. "Priya Ramani was targeted selectively...

Either everyone's articles and tweets are defamatory or none is. Or are the other allegations accepted," she said. Ms John read Mr Akbar's statement that he was aware of the existence of other allegations on the date of the filing of complaints. "He chose

to go after Priya Ramani. Till date there is no complaint against anyone else. Priya Ramani was selectively targeted to halt the avalanche of allegations that came out against him at that time," she told the court. Contradicting Akbar's testimony, John said

that "Complainant (Akbar) wants us to believe that he didn't have full details of the tweets as he was in Africa. In the evidence of Joyeeta Basu (witness appearing in support of Akbar's complaint), this is falsified." — PTI

'Rhea not in hurry for bail application'

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty's lawyer on Monday stated that they are not in a hurry to approach the Bombay high court for bail. He stated that they would approach the HC only after studying the order and its implications. "Even if we get a copy of the order today, we are not in a hurry and moving immediately. We will study the order, it's implications and developments in the case at the NCB level and then decide. Once it is filed we will share a copy of the bail application," said advo-cate Satish Maneshinde adding that there is no room for speculation. Special judge G.B. Gurao, presiding over the Narcotics Control Bureau court, on Friday had rejected bail applications of six persons, including Rhea.

Umar Khalid arrested for role in N-E Delhi riots

Continued from page 1

of India are fighting against them. If those in power want to divide India, the people of India are ready to unite the

"We won't respond to violence with violence. We won't respond to hate with hate. If they spread hate, we will respond to it with love. If they thrash us with lathis, we keep holding the tricolor," Mr Khalid can be heard saying in his speech.

In the FIR filed against Mr Khalid, Delhi Police has claimed that the communal violence that broke out was a premeditated conspiracy, allegedly carried out by Mr Khalid and two others, short film producer Rahul Roy and documentary filmmaker Saba Dewan. The trio have been booked for offences of sedition, murder, attempt to murder. promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of

religion and rioting. Mr Khalid was earlier charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in another case related to the riots.

Mr Roy's name appeared in the supplementary chargesheet filed by the police in connection with the riots. 'Though Dewan has not mentioned in the chargesheet, the two were part of a WhatsApp group called 'Delhi Protests Support Group'," said a police

source. The police has also summoned Mr Roy and Ms Dewan for questioning in connection

with the riots.

China envoy for 5-point plan to defuse tension

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Chinese ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, on Monday said that the foreign ministers of India and China have reached a fivepoint consensus, which includes that the two sides should ease tensions, maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, continue diplomatic communication and expedite work to conclude new confidence building measures. He added that this is an important step and will provide political impetus to ease the border situation.

The statement comes three days after India and China worked out a fivepoint roadmap during a External meeting of Minister Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi sidelines of Cooperation Shanghai Organisation meeting in Moscow. Though India is yet to react to Sun's fresh comments.

Mr Sun said that ever since the border-related incidents occurred this year, it has become more important to "steer ChinaIndia relations" to the

'right direction". The leaders of our two countries reached series of important consensus, including the basic judgement that China and India are partners rather than rivals to each other, and opportunities rather than threats. Therefore, we need peace instead of confrontation; we need to pursue cooperation instead of zero-sum game; we need trust rather than suspicion; we need to move our relationship forward rather than backward. These are the correct direction for us to bring our bilateral relations back on track...Our two foreign ministers reached fivepoint consensus, which includes that the two sides should follow leaders' consensus, ease tensions, maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. continue diplomatic communication and expedite work to conclude new confidence building measures. It is an important step towards the right direction, and will provide political situation and promote the

Special diet for jawans on duty at India, China border

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

personnel deployed at remote high altitude location along the Indo-China border during the coming harsh winter season would be provided with ₹₹special high quality immunity booster diet" as part of their ration which would not only help build immunity to fight Corona but also keep them fit during deploy-

ment in harsh weather environment. home ministry along with paramilitary forces and experts from DRDO are preparing this special diet plan.

bilateral relations," he said

Since this is probably the first time in last few years that security forces will continue their surveillance and patrolling duties at very high altitude locations even during the very harsh winter conditions along the China border. NDA's Harivansh elected RS dy chairman

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NDA candi date JD(U) and mem-

chairman



as the deputy Harivansh

Rajya Sabha on Monday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed him as an "outstanding umpire" and a "torchbearer of democracy" while mentioning that Mr Harivansh hails from Bihar, "a land known for its democratic ethos.' Crucial assembly polls are scheduled in Bihar in October-November. With numbers in his favours as the NDA candidate was also supported by NDA's friendly parties,' including BJD and YSRCP, Mr Harivansh defeated RJD's Manoj Jha by voice vote, on the first day of the monsoon session Parliament. Harivansh, who was reelected after he was renominated by the JD(U)

Paliament now

ting in each other's

Houses during pro-

ceedings to follow the

new Covid-19 protocols

for maintaining social

distancing.
The privilege of get-

ting seated in either

House was earlier

enjoyed only by the

council of ministers.

Some ministers were

also seated in the gal-

leries of both the

Houses that were used to seat MPs. — PTI

BK Hariprasad, who was the joint candidate of the opposition parties in 2018 for the post. "Harivansh Ji belongs to all sides of the aisle. He has conducted proceedings in an impartial manner. He has been an outstand-

Parliament after his previ-

ous term ended in April,

had defeated Congress's

Session in New Delhi on Monday.

to the Upper House of ing umpire and will continue being so in the times to come. He has always been diligent in performing his duties... Harivansh Ji has made efforts to ensure productivity and positivity are on the rise in Parliament. He is a torchbearer of democracy, hailing from Bihar, a land known for its democratic ethos. It is Bihar that has a

Rajya Sabha MP Mary Kom at Parliament House on the opening day of Monsoon

■ Modi hails Harivansh as 'outstanding umpire' and a 'torchbearer of democracy'

close link with JP and Lapus Champaran Satyagraha," said 'Prime "" Prime Minister and also mentioned that Harivansh represented India at many global conferences and left a mark and raised India's prestige. The PM also referred to Mr Harivansh's humble background and also about his iournalistic days.

TMC MP hurls 'personal remark' at Sitharaman

New Delhi, Sept. Personal comments aimed at finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman from Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy in Lok Sabha on Monday drew a sharp reaction from the treasury benches with Parliamentary affairs min-ister pralhad Joshi demanding his unconditional apology. Mr Roy's comments were expunged by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The TMC MP was objecting to the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill when he made the Sitharaman while referring to the stress in the economy. Mr Joshi said, "We can also do it. But this is not our culture. He is a senior member. What is he talking? He should apologise uncondi-

tionally. It is an insult to

women," he said.

Actor-MP Ravi Kishan Jumbled seating 'new normal' in raises drugs issue in LS

Delhi: The New Delhi, Sept. 14: BJP member Ravi Kishan on Monday raised in Lok Sabha the issue of drug menace in Bollywood and Parliament, for the first time in its history, witnessed a reorganised seating arrangement as the monsoon asked the Government to take strict action against session began on Monday with many those involved in drug members of Lok Sabha trafficking. and Rajya Sabha sit-

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Kishan said drugs come to the country from China and Pakistan and there is a conspiracy by the neighbouring countries to destroy the youth.

"We know the problem of drug trafficking and drug addiction is increasing. In this conspiracy, our neighbouring countries are involved... Drugs come to this country via China and Pakistan. Our film industry too is affect-



Kishan, who is also a Bhojpuri actor, also
Ravi praised the
Kishan Narcotics
Control

Bureau (NCB) for doing a good job in unearthing the drug mafia which is trying to spread the menace among youth.

"NCB is doing very good work. Guilty must be apprehended quickly and strict action must be taken against them. The government should stop this conspiracy of neighbouring countries to destroy our youth," he said. The NCB is probing the drug angle in actor Sushant Singh Rajput

VOIG5

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E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these website for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No. / Name of Work	Amount
1.	108/D(H)/DD(H)-1/2019-20, M/o Green Belt with two year maintenance in sector-14A from H. No-01 to 08 upto Shahdara Drain.	Cost Rs. 8.12 Lacs
2.	90/D(H)/DD(H)-1/2020-21, M/o RSP (Central Verge) with Two year maintenance, Sector-61 to 68.	Cost Rs. 12.66 Lacs
3.	91/D(H)/DD(H)-1/2020-21, M/o Green Belt with Two year maintenance, Sector-22, E, F, G, H, I and J Block.	Cost Rs. 9.59 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 21/09/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 22/09/2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office

Director (Hort.)

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Govt: No data of lockdown fatalities of guest workers

New Delhi, Sept. 14: The to contain spreading of fessionals, government does not coronavirus infections. have data regarding the number of migrants who aiea or were injurea auring migration to their native places due to the lockdown, Union minister Santosh Gangwar told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

"No such data is available," the Labour Minister said in a written

reply.
The response was to member Bhartruhari Mahtab's question on the "the number of such labourers died/ injured during migration to their native places due to such lockdown, State/ UT-wise". A nationwide lockdown

was imposed on March 25

There was an exodus of a large number of migrant workers to their native places from different parts of the country during the lockdown. The lockdown restrictions were eased from late May. Mahtab also asked

whether the government has taken adequate measures to safeguard social, economic, legal and health rights of migrant labourers before implementing lockdown in the country due to Covid-19.

"India, as a nation, has responded through the government. central state governments, local bodies, self-help groups, resident welfare associations, medical health pro-

workers as well as large number of genuine and bonafide non-governmental organizations in the nation's fight against unprecedented human crisis due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and country-wide lockdown." the minister said in his

reply. In order to mitigate the financial crisis of migrant workers and protect them against the economic disruptions due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the country-wide lockdown, the central government has taken numerous measures to provide them financial assistance, food packages and other benefits, the minister said.

25 MPs test Covid +ve as Parliament session begins

Continues from Page 1

the country". Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Lok Sabha secretariat as the session is being held while the pandemic seems to have peaked again across the country.

It is estimated that 56 persons have tested positive within the entire Parliament House complex, which include MPs, personnel from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats and also mediapersons.

Sources said these people tested positive during the RT-PCR tests which were conducted in the Parliament complex prior to the session's start.

Earlier, at least seven Union ministers and around 25 MPs and MLAs had contracted the disease

Among them is home minister Amit Shah, who after undergoing the mandatory quarantine period last month, had to be admitted again to AIIMS a couple of days ago. He had earlier been admitted there on August 18 for postcorona care but was discharged on August

death case.





NOTICE FOR OBTAINING TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR SALE OF REDUCED EMISSION IMPROVED (GREEN) CRACKERS APPROVED BY PESO

Application forms and terms & conditions will be available w.e.f. 15.09.2020

- Applicant can download prescribed forms and affidavit from www.delhipolicelicensing.gov.in
 - Prescribed form & affidavit are also available at the offices of jurisdictional DCsP

Forms can be submitted at District DCsP offices from 15.09.2020 to 22.09.2020 (both days inclusive)

Last date of depositing application forms is 22.09.2020 upto 06:00 PM at the respective offices of jurisdictional District DCsP.

Last date for issuance of license by Districts DCsP is 23.10.2020

Validity of temporary fireworks license for pucca shops is 24 days and 15 days for temporary shed from the date of issuance of respective licenses

Appeals against rejection of applications by District DCsP can be filed before jurisdictional Joint Commissioners of Police/Ranges between 23.10.2020 & 24.10.2020 (both days inclusive)

Appeals will be decided by the jurisdictional Joint CsP/Ranges between 26.10.2020 & 27.10.2020 (both days inclusive)

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

age-related ailments. the seat five times in a row He tested positive for in successive elections.

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, SEPT. 14

Veteran tribal leader of Congress and former minister Chanesh Ram Rathiya on Monday died of Covid-19 in a hospital in Raigarh

in Chhattisgarh. Seventy eight-year-old leader, who served as minister in the Digvijay Singh as well as Ajit Jogi govern-

ments in undivided Madhya Pradesh and

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

The United States special

envoy for Afghanistan reconciliation, Mr

Zalmay Khalilzad, is expected to be in New

Delhi on Tuesday on a

short visit during which

External Affairs Minister

Afghanistan-Taliban

peace talks are expected.

The visit takes place at a

when

Afghanistan government

and Taliban have formal-

ly sat on the negotiating

table for talks in a bid to

Jaishankar on the

with

the

discussions

Chhattisgarh respectively, had been suffering from

Cong's MP tribal leader Rathiya dies of Covid

coronavirus last fortnight and was admitted to a Covid-19 hospital in

Raigah. He breathed his last on Monday morning, official reports said.

He is survived by his wife, 2 sons and 3 daughters. He was first elected to Madhya undivided

Pradesh assembly in 1977

from Dharamjaigarh in Raigarh district and won His son Laljit Singh Rathiya currently repre-

sents the constituency in Chhattisgarh assembly. Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh as

a separate state in 2000. Chhattisgarh has witnessed a sudden surge in coronavirus positive cases and deaths in the last three





conflict that has seen many dead and several homeless. However, as the talks began on Doha on Sunday, clashes between Afghan security forces and the Taliban were

provinces raising serious doubts over the positive outcome of the talks. In this context, both Afghanistan and the

India in the loop as they also engage with Pakistan urging the two neighbours to play a larger role in ending the "endless war" as US President Donald Trump says. Mr Khalilzad was in Pakistan on Monday for

similar discussions. India, that has been hesitant for years in entering process directly, appears to have decided

evident from the virtual address of Mr S. Jaishankar on Saturday. India has also sent an official to Doha to witness "Addressed the conference on Afghan peace

integrity Afghanistan, promote

said on Saturday



from

address of the peace talks.

> negotiations at Doha today. Conveyed that the peace process must be owned and Afghan-controlled, respect national sovereignty and territori-

> human rights and democracy," EAM S. Jaishankar



IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill 3, injure 6 in Pak

Peshawar: At least three persons were killed and six other injured when some unidentified assailants opened fire at

them in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, police said. The accused ambushed the car in Peshawar's Michni road, killing Muhammad Ali and his two gunmen while six persons sustained injuries as they were caught in the firing. In another incident,

the provincial vice president of the ruling Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Tahir Iqbal, was assassinated and his three friends wounded as their car was ambushed by unknown gunmen in Haripur district. Chief Minister of the province Mehmud Khan ordered an inquiry into

the killing of the party leader and sought a report from the provincial police chief.

Pompeo: US envoy

to China to leave

Beijing: The US ambassador to China appears to be leaving his post, based on tweets posted Monday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He thanked Ambassador Terry Branstad on Twitter for his more

than three years of service. There was no immediate confirmation from the State Department, "Ambassador Branstad has contributed to rebalancing US-China relations so that it is results-oriented, reciprocal, and fair," he wrote in a follow-up tweet. China's foreign ministry said it was awa-re of Pompeo's tweet but had not received any notification

that Branstad was leaving. Branstad was embroiled in a recent controversy when China's official People's Daily rejected an opinion column that he had written. It wasn't clear whether his apparent departure was related to the piece. Pompeo tweeted last week that China's ruling Communist Party refused to run Branstad's op-ed.

Lukashenko visits Russia

Sochi: Belarus' authoritarian president visited Russia Monday in a bid to secure more loans and political support, as demonstrations against the extension of his 26-year rule entered their sixth week. Alexander Lukashenko's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi come a day after an estimated 150,000 people flooded the streets of the Belarusian capital, demanding

Lukashenko's resignation. The Interior Ministry said 774 people were arrested in Minsk and other cities of Belarus for holding unsanctioned railies on Sunday. Protesters in Belarus have dismissed Lukashenko's reelection for a sixth term in the Aug. 9 vote as rigged. The United States and the European Union have criticised the election as neither free nor fair and urged the Belarusian leader to engage in talks with

the opposition, a demand he rejected. In a bid to win Moscow's support, the 66-yearold former state farm director has tried to cast the protests as an effort by the West to isolate Russia.

DAYTON PEACE PRIZE

teacher has earned the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, officials of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials announced Monday. The award is named for the late US diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

Atwood — a prolific writer of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, essays, comic books and, as of late, tweets — in recent years has drawn a new round of acclaim for her bestselling 1985 novel of a dystopian future in which women are subjugated after an overthrow of the US government. Some readers of "The Handmaid's Tale" saw in the leaders of authoritarian Gilead similarities to the rise of Republican Donald Trump to president in the election of 2016. The television adaptation on Hulu starring Elisabeth Moss generated vet more commentary, and women dressed in red cloaks and white bonnets, as the handmaids were depicted in the book and TV series.

Georgia Dy punching PoC fired

Clayton (US), Sept. 14: A and got upset and desheriff's deputy in manded he get out of the Georgia has been fired vehicle when he questioafter being captured on video repeatedly punching a Black man during a traffic stop, authorities said Sunday

The deputy was being let go for "excessive use of force", the Clayton County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. It did not identify the deputy, but said a criminal investigation has been turned over to the district attorney's office. Roderick Walker, 26, was arrested and beaten after Clayton County sheriff's deputies pulled over the vehicle he was riding in Friday with his girlfriend, their 5-month-old child and his stepson for an alleged broken taillight, his attorney, Shean Williams of The Cochran Firm in Atlanta said Sunday. The asked for identification deputies Walker's

T AGAIN!

said it will reimpose a

national lockdown to bat-

tle a coronavirus surge, as

the number of daily infec-

tions around the world

Britain, France, Austria

with more than 921,000

Covid-19 deaths, accord-

The Israel lockdown will

last three weeks starting

Friday, keeping people to

within 500 metres (yards)

of their homes. It is the

first developed economy

to take such drastic steps

to contain a second wave

of infections. "I know

these measures will exact

a heavy price from all of

us," said Prime Minister

Organization reported

307,930 new cases world-

wide on Sunday, the high-

est daily figure in its data-

base since the beginning

concern in Europe, where

Sebastian Kurz warned that his country was fac-

ing "the beginning of the

second wave". The Czech

Republic has also faced a

surge, with one epidemiol-

ogist saying over the weekend that at the cur-

rent rate, cases could

New restrictions are set

to come into force across

overwhelm hospitals.

The surge has sparked

of the pandemic.

Benjamin Netanyahu. The World He

rapidly

Health

Chancellor

29 million

reached a record high.

cases

ing to an AFP tally.

global

approached

ned why they needed it since he wasn't driving, Williams said.

The subsequent arrest, captured on video by a bystander and shared widely, shows two deputies on top of Walker, one of whom repeatedly punches him. Walker's girlfriend screams and tells the deputies Walker said he can't breathe. A child in the vehicle yells, "Daddy". As Walker is handcuffed, the deputy who punched him tells the bystander that Walker bit him. Williams said his client denies biting the deputy. Walker was trying to survive and lost consciousness at least twice during the beating, Willi-

A photo of Walker taken later in jail shows a welt under his left eye.

10 dead in Chicago weekend violence

people dead over the weekend and 43 others injured. It came amid a surge in violence this year in the nation's third-largest city. Statistics released by the Chicago Police Department bring the number of shooting victims for the year thus far to 2,887 and the number of homicides to 542. Last year at this time, according to police statistics, there were 1,862 shooting victims and 364 homicides.

The violence follows the longer Labour Day weekend that ended with the same number of homicides and roughly the same number of shooting vic-

Chicago, Sept. 14: Gun violence in Chicago left 10 Tennessee rampage Tennessee rampage Nashville (US), Sept. 14: A gunman killed two people and wounded three others in a series of shootings and carjackings that ended with a high-speed chase as he fled police. He ultimately wrecked the

car he stole and killed himself, while his remaining hostage survi-ved, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said. The string of crimes began Sunday morning alo-

ng Interstate 24 near Beechgrove when Dangelo Dorsey, 29, opened fire inside a moving vehicle, killing one person and wounding another, TBI Director David Rausch said .

MAKE

British MPs resume feuding over Brexit

Johnson's disputed plan that will break EU divorce treaty faces rebellion, resignations

London, Sept. 14: Britain's parliament on Monday finds itself in familiar territory — arguing about Brexit — with threats of rebellion and resignations over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial plan for a new law that will break his EU divorce

The House of Commons holds its first debate and vote over the bombshell new bill from late afternoon, despite a call from Brussels for it to be withdrawn by the end of the

The contentious legislation, unveiled last week, would override the divorce deal the UK struck with the EU last year in several key areas related to Northern Ireland.

It would see London unilaterally regulate UK tra-de and state aid within the British province, ignoring the EU treaty which gives Brussels a continuing say over Northern Ireland's

trading relationship.
If the law passes in the coming weeks, Brussels has warned it could scupper ongoing trade deal talks and threatened court action, leaving the prospects of an orderly Brexit

Even some Brexiteer lawmakers were aghast that which led to parliamen-Britain would wilfully tary deadlock and repeat-

• THE HOUSE of Commons holds its first debate and vote over the bombshell new bill from late afternoon. despite a call from Brussels for it to be withdrawn by the end of the month.

trash an international treaty, threatening the country's reputation and potentially endangering Northern Íreland's fragile peace.

Former prime ministers John Major and Tony Blair this weekend openly criticised the action, while David Cameron said Monday he had "misgivings" about the approach.

Johnson's pro-Brexit former attorney general Geoffrey Cox said it would be "unconscionable" to override an international treaty. "I think it is wrong that the British government or our parliament should renege on an agreement on which we gave our solemn word," he told Times Radio.

The latest row revives the bitter wrangling over how to implement British voters' shock decision in 2016 to quit the bloc,

BORIS DEFENDS LAW, SAYS EU **'UNREASONABLE'**

London, Sept 14: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says his plan to unilaterally rewrite Britain's divorce deal with the European Union is an insurance policy against the bloc's unreasonable behaviour, comments that came as his former attorney general joined a growing number of once-loyal lawmakers condemning the contentious move.

Johnson said Monday that a planned law designed to override portions of the Brexit withdrawal agreement was needed because European Union might 'go to extreme and unreasonable lengths" in its treatment of member Britain.

ed postponements.

The impasse was broken after Johnson sealed a divorce deal with Brussels and used it to win a thumping victory in a December general election which gave his Conservatives an 80-seat majority in the House of Commons. -AFP

TikTok owner picks Oracle over Microsoft

New York, Sept. 14: The owner of TikTok has chosen Oracle over Microsoft as the American tech partner that could help keep the popular videosharing app running in the U.S., according to a person familiar with the deal who was not authorized to speak publicly

Donald President Trump's administration has threatened to ban TikTok by Sept. 20 and ordered owner ByteDance to sell its U.S. business, claiming national security risks due to its Chinese ownership. The government worries about user data being funneled to authorities. TikTok denies it is a national security risk and is suing to stop the administration from administration enacting the threatened

TikTok and the White

ment Sunday. Oracle didn't return a request for comment but has previously declined comment.

Walmart, which had

planned to partner with Microsoft on the acquisition, said Sunday it "continues to have an interest in a TikTok investment" and is talking about it with ByteDance and other parties. Much remains unclear about the proposed deal with Oracle, including whether it will only cover TikTok's US business, and, if so, how it will be split from the rest of TikTok's social media platform, which is popular worldwide. Anv deal must still be reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS, a US government group chaired by the treasury

FOREIGN LABS: NAVALNY WAS POISONED

Berlin, Sept 14: Specialist labs in France and Sweden have confirmed Russian opposition lead-er Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok, the German government said Monday. A German military laboratory previously confirmed the substance in his samples. German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said that the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has also received samples and is taking steps to have those tested at its reference laboratories.

"Independently of the ongoing examinations by the OPCW, three laboratories have now confirmed the proof of a nerve agent of the Novichok group as the cause of Navalny's poisoning, Seibert said.

ATWOOD WINS

Cincinnati (US), Sept. 14: Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes The Handmaid's Tale", a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.

The Canadian writer and

UK trials antibody cocktail treatment

daily cases see spurt

US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event at Xtreme Manufacturing in Henderson, Nevada on

Israel to renew curbs,

London, Sept. 14: The UK usual standard-of-care veand the Czech Republic also reported spikes, as trials of a new antibody treatment ior hospitalised with Covid-19. As part of the government-backed Randomised Evaluation of COVid-19 thERapY (RECOVERY) Trials, monoclonal antibodies, or potent laboratory-made antibodies, will be given to about 2,000 patients in the coming weeks to see if they are effective against Coronavirus.

The Phase 3 open-label trial in patients hospitalised with Covid-19 will compare the effects of adding REGN-COV2 to the

on Monday began human rsus standard-of-care on its own. "REGN-COV2 was specifically designed by Regeneron scientists to target the virus that causes Covid-19. RECOVERY will be the fourth latestage randomised clinical trial evaluating REGN-COV2 and will add to our knowledge about how this novel antibody cocktail may help hospitalised patients in need," said George D. Yancopoulos, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron, the biotech firm collaborating

social gatherings limited to no more than six people. Other parts of the world are still battling their first Coronavirus waves, including some populous nations such as Indonesia, where new restrictions came into effect on Monday. -AFP

in Oct, Nov: WHO Copenhagen, Sept. 14: The World Health Organisation expects Europe to see a rise in the daily number of Covid-19 deaths in October and November, England on Monday, with the head of the body's

Europe to see more deaths

European branch said. "It's going to get tougher. In October, November, we are going to see more mor-WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said, as the continent currently experiences a surge of cases though the number of deaths has remained relatively stable.

on the project.

The resurgence is however expected to lead to an increase in daily deaths, the WHO said. "It's a moment where countries don't want to hear this bad news, and I understand," Kluge said.

TRUMP DEFIES GOV, HOLDS INDOOR RALLY

Las Vegas, Sept. 14: In open defiance of state regulations and his own administration's pande mic health guidelines, President Donald Tru mp on Sunday hosted his first indoor rally since June with a packed, mask-less Nevada crowd. Eager to project a sense of normalcy in imagery, Trump soaked up the raucous cheers inside a warehouse. Not since a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was blamed for a surge of Coronavirus infections has he gathered supporters indoors. There was no early mention from the President that the pandemic had killed nearly 200,000 Americans and was clai-

ming 1,000 lives a day. Few in the crowd wore masks, with one clear exception: Those in the stands directly behind Trump, whose images would end up on TV, were mandated to wear face coverings. The rally in Tulsa, his first in three months after the Coronavirus reached American shores, was a disa-ster for the campaign, a debacle that featured a sea of empty seats and a rise in Covid-19 cases.

Afghan government mounts pressure on Taliban for truce

Doha, Sept. 14: The Afghan government ratcheted up pressure for a truce with the Taliban on Monday, reiterating calls for a long-term ceasefire at talks in Qatar.

The two sides are in the early stages of meetings in the capital Doha in an effort to hammer out a deal bringing to a close 19 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan. A slick opening ceremony on Saturday saw the Afghan government and allies, including the US, call for a ceasefire. But the Taliban, who fo-

ught a years-long guerrilla campaign against American and Afghan forces after they were forced

KHALILZAD MEETS PAK ARMY CHIEF. DISCUSSES AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS Islamabad, Sept. 14: US

Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Monday met Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed the Afghan peace process among other issues.

Pakistan military's media wing — the Inter-Serv ices Public Relations said that "matters of mutual interest, regional security, and the ongoing Afghan Reconciliation Process were discussed dur-

from power in a 2001 USled invasion, did not mention a truce as they came to the negotiating table. Afghan presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi tweeted Monday that the pr-

ing the meeting". -PTIesence of government negotiators at the talks "is aimed at achieving a ceasefire, ending the violence and ensuring lasting peace and stability in the cou-

FILM | FEST | Mr Jones is set in 1993 during what has come to be known as the Holodomor: to kill by starvation The mendacity of Duranty and the truth of Mr Jones

SUPARNA SHARMA NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

It's true that history is written by victors. But its first inconvenient draft is written by journalists, by men and women often labelled as liars, insane and anti-national by authoritarian regimes and their toadies.

Despite that, you won't find them screaming on TV screens. You'll find them repeating the truth, calmly, with facts. The acclaimed. 71-year-old Polish writerdirector Agnieszka Holland's English language feature film, *Mr Jones*, tells the story of two foreign journalreth Jones (James Norton), a freelance Welsh journalist, and Pulitzer award winning Walter Duranty (Peter Sarsgaard), who was the New York Times' bureau chief in Moscow.

The film is set in 1993, during what has since come to be known as the Holodomor (to kill by starvation), or the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Jones arrives in a Moscow that is simultaneously welcoming and hostile. He's chasing a suspicion. Russia's claims of a successful revolution, of happy factories and prospering farms don't feel right because

the numbers — of the country's economy, investment don't add up.

Duranty dismisses it as a

conspiracy theory against the revolution. Mr Jones is gorgeous to behold and is made with impressive technical prowess. Its scenes are shot and edited beautifully, often adding tension and energy. But the Communist Moscow that it creates is the sort we often see in Hollywood films — shadowy men lurk in dark corners, and all Russians speak English in an accent we have come to identify with duplicity and evil since the first James Bond film.

All the warmth in Ms Holland's film comes from her respect for Jones and the art director's love for Russian interiors — large, plush rooms with red walls, gorgeous carpets and lamps. But, the Russians drink too much and they eat all the time. Except in Ukraine, where Jones' story takes him.

snow covers Ukraine, as if trying to hide how Stalin's policies were leading to the starvation and death of six million people.

We stand next to Jones as he travels through ghost villages, walks into a house where dead bodies lie next to wood sliced into bite-size pieces. He watches all the grain being taken to Moscow and listens to kids sing of hunger and eating their dead. We are ready to throw up when a tiny piece of protein is offered to him. In between, George Orwell and his Animal Farm make brief appearances.

Jones, the first journalist to report about the famine and deaths, and his very public clash with Duranty, who NYT then called "our man in Moscow" though he was Stalin's own Goebbels.

James Norton is a big, gorgeous man with the air of upper class elegance and decency. He brings good boy-piety to the character of the earnest Mr Jones, but carefully saves it from descending into self-righteousness. Jones returns to England to tell the story of famine and deaths, and a government determined to

debunks it in NYT, painting the famine with govern-ment propaganda. He calls it "widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition".

Jones was killed a year later. He was 29. Duranty died aged 73, in Florida, in 1957.

Holland's Mr Jones carries an urgent message: Two people may tell the same story differently. But there is only, always, one truth. You'll know vou've spotted it when authoritarian regimes, their cohorts and apologists scream, "It's not true.



THE ASIAN AGE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mathematician who found formula to help rural poor

he life and work of former Union minister for rural development and leader of the Rashtirya Janata Dal Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who passed away on Sunday in New Delhi due to Covid-19 related ailments, reflect how a visionary, grassroots level leader can impact the lives of millions of people, and still remain behind the curtain. One of the chief architects of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which ensured sustenance of millions of rural poor across the country for more than a decade, Dr Singh was the real chempion of the square of millions of the real chempion of the square of millions. was the real champion of the cause of rural India.

Dr Singh, a PhD in mathematics and a former professor, had his political baptism in the Jayaprakash movement against the Congress government and the Emergency in the seventies and grew up along with Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar. Dr Singh was always part and parcel of the socialist bloc even as it went through several splits and metamorphosis until he sent a resignation letter two days before his death from his

Dr Singh, who was a five-term Lok Sabha member and a minister in Bihar and Union governments several times, was the face of rural India in the corridors of power. He never left his rustic characteristics despite his professional and academic standing and being part of the power structure for most part of his political life. He steadfastly worked for the uplift of the rural poor, whose living conditions were very familiar to him. It took his persuasive skills as well as first hand deep knowledge of the ground situation to get the MGNREGA through, even though it was part of the election manifesto of the first edition of the UPA as many had felt it would put an unnecessary hole in the exchequer without offering commensurate returns. Today, the scheme is the lifeline of rural India; it has been one of the most efficient routes to reach the people during the pandemic Covid-19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance were skeptical about it before they came to power. However, to their credit, they realised its merit and steadily increased budgetary allocations to

Dr Singh also represents the section of leaders with calibre and character who were catapulted to the political leadership while being part of democratic restoration movements. Oppression by the powers-that-be could recoil into mass movements as was seen in the seventies across India. Such movements would also attract people who would have otherwise gone their way of professional or occupational route. As Karl Marx said, "philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it." Dr Singh belongs to the group of people who made a heroic attempt to change the course of history

Struggles for restoration of democratic rights are bound to repeat themselves. The sterling legacy Dr Singh leaves behind will no doubt inspire many bright and brilliant boys and girls to follow in his path. That will be

Champions in all respects

'n triggering positive societal changes as in non-discriminatory treatment of minorities like African Americans, sport may have gone way beyond just mirroring society. The US Open tennis not only presents equal opportunity but equal pay too, but a young champion, who won her second crown at Flushing Meadows, may have dared to take sport even further by being an agent of change. The flaws in American society may be obvious but sporting icons, with their greater public presence, must

take a stand in pointing them out.

Naomi Osaka's bold statement for racial justice in wearing seven different masks naming seven prominent Black victims of trigger-happy police brutality in the USA invests her powerful tennis of booming serves and hard strokes from the baseline with an even greater aura. Born to a Haitian father and a Japanese mother who came to Florida at age three, Osaka's empathy for people being trampled upon is natural. She had hardly savoured the moment the first time when she won a battle of genera-tions in downing a testy Serena Williams in 2018 as the crowd had booed her. In 2020, Naomi confirmed that she has come on much more in beating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, who also should know a thing or two about the tumultuous politics of modern life.

Naomi is a champion in all respects. Joining her as the men's winner after a ding-dong, error-strewn battle, Dominic Thiem of Austria may have served notice that the young brigade is capable of challenging the monopoly of the above-30 Grand Slam champions Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Only the Serb was on court at the first no-spectators Grand Slam of the Covid-19 era but exited by default for poor behaviour. As Thiem hugged close friend Alexander Zverev of Germany, whom he had beaten in the first-ever fifth set tie-breaker at the US Open, it spoke eloquently of bonds that tough social distancing norms too could not break. In 2020, more than ever, it appeared tennis had won in turning the spotlight on two deserving winners.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR THE ASIAN AGE offices are located at

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,

New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124. Mumbai: Sigma House, # 43, Ground Floor, R. A. Kidwai Marg, Near Wadala Rly Station, Wadala (West), Mumbai - 400 031 Phone (022) 24195301 Fax (022) 24195347 Kolkata: 4th

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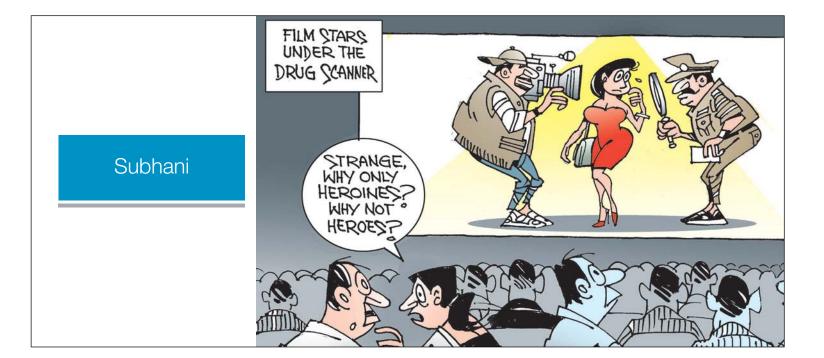
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre.

219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

Mumbai: Dangat Media Pvt Ltd, Plot No 22, Digha MIDC, TTC Industrial Estate Area, Vishnu Nagar, Digha, Navi

 Kolkata: Satyajug Employees Cooperative Industrial Society Ltd, 13/A, Prafulla Sarkar Street, Kolkata 700 072.
 London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ. RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Postal registration numbers: DL(S)-05/4189/15-17



Mediation vital on LAC, Ladakh disengagement



The joint announcement by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi in Moscow (no doubt helped along by Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov) is being clutched at like straws by desperate drowning men hop-ing for an end to the crisis. In case we have forgotten, the RIC (Russia India China) was a geopolitical group that was formed to balance growing American and Nato unilateralism. The opera-tive part of the joint statement is that the military commander-level talks will continue. The audible sigh of relief in some circles may be prema-ture, for talking doesn't mean a solution. For now, it only means a postponement of the armed conflict.

We have two outstand-ing issues between India and China. The larger one is about large tracts of territory in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. putes aren't going to be resolved in the foreseeable long term. Hence, Deng Xiaoping had sagaciously suggested to Rajiv Gandhi at their 1988 Beijing meeting that

it is best left to history. The pressing dispute on hand are the two overlapping Lines of Actual Control. The term LAC was first used by Zhou Enlai in November 1959 when he wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru defining it as "the so-called McMahon Line in the east and the line up to which each side exercises actual control in the west". The problem is that India and China never agreed on where the LAC was, as the perceptions of what each side "controlled" varied, by a few meters to tens of kilometers. For instance, in Sikkim where they vary at a few places, the actual overlap often is a few meters. This varia-

tion is because both sides are vying for better tactical positions to locate their bunkers and sangars (small built-up structures) on higher ground to observe the other side. In the Depsang Plains overlooking DBO, it is by as much

as 20-30 km.

The DBO overlooks the Chip Chap river as it curls southward to its rendezvous with the Shyok. The entire Chip Chap river was accepted by China as Indian terri-tory even in 1956, but by 1960 China advanced its LAC to about 4 km of DBO and built a garrison at Tianwendian, about 24 km away. The PLA launches patrols from here into the contested Depsang. They have done the same in Galwan valley. In 1962 the Indian post was at the source of the Galwan river at Samzungling and the LAC is now about 2 km upstream of the confluence of Galwan and Shyok rivers.

often widely overlapping Indian forces arrived at a unique modus vivendi since 1962 which enabled each side to patrol up to its perception of the LAC without confrontation. The desire for peace made both sides cobble up agreements from time to time. The 1993 agreement made it incumbent for both sides to caution each other whenever their per-ceived LACs were crossed. Though the agreement stipulated that any dispute both sides would jointly check this and decide upon an alignment, it never happened. Then in 1996 both sides agreed to "exercise restraint when the patrols come face to face". This agreement also stipulated that both sides would not use firearms or explosives 2 km from their perceived Both

We have two outstanding issues between India and China: Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. These two territorial disputes aren t going to be resolved in the foreseeable long term.

adhered to this, but now the patrols, while not confronting each other, began tailing each other maintaining a distance between them. This agreement also obliged both sides not to con-struct anything of a per-manent nature in the

This worked till 2013, when the PLA objected to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police leaving behind reusable shelters at a place called Chyman at a place called Chumar. In May that year a tailed PLA patrol decided to dig in midway between the two LACs in Depsang at a place called Rakhi Nula. This forced an Indian Army unit to dig in nearby. This crisis was resolved by a meeting between the local military commanders, with the Indian side agreeing to dismantle the Chumar structures and the PLA pulling out. This led to he more complex agreement, once again aimed at conflict prevention nd conflict resolution, but not fixing the

cause of conflict. This is where we were when the PLA, taking advantage of Army tardiness in not mirroring the annual PLA exercises in the area, dug in positions in Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, Ghogra and between Fingers 4 and 8 on Pangong Tso's north-ern bank. In Galwan the new PLA position is now less than 2 km from the upgraded 230-km-long road from Darbuk to DBO. The Indian Army has now positioned itself threateningly on the Chushul heights.

The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse. India was in the midst of a major economic meltdown brought about by the spread of the Covid-19 virus from Wuhan. The electronic media, no

doubt prodded by the Narendra Modi government, went into a fury over the "Chinese perfidy" and both Mr Modi defence minister Rajnath Singh made fire and brimstone speeches ostensibly to the troops in Ladakh. The Indian military buildup was under the full glare of the embedded media and newly acquired military hardware were dis-played. Like angry Bharatanatyam dancers, both sides are now semaphoring intentions to each other.

Simultaneously, Indian Army and PLA commanders have been in talks from June 16 seeking a disengagement. The question is who with-draws and to where? This requires the determination of a single LAC. This is beyond the ken of the military commanders of both sides. Military men are usually reluctant to withdraw to tactically disadvantageous positions. But the need now is to give and take. This therefore calls for mediation between the two militaries, and that is best done by a trusted third country's military. A neutral military mediator can understand the tactical security concerns of either side and can help in determining the optimal under the circumstances.

The three countries have invested big in the RIC and it is now time to make it pay. The stakes are big. Even a limited Sino-Indian war will mean the end of the Russia-India-China (RIC) and its promise of a multipolar world.

Russia is placed to play the role of a neutral mediator to help the two countries find an agreement on a single Line of Actual Control. It enjoys a good measure of trust in both countries. One hopes that both countries will find the good sense to accept mediation.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, has held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

COVID IN INDIA

It may not be an exaggeration to say that India is better off than other countries amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken the whole world in its grip. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken his mind on the pandemic, telling people that a two-vard distance and a mask can save futures. While the Opposition is constantly questioning the failure of the government, Modi advised the country not to

be negligent as there is no medicine for disease as yet. Difficulties in your life do not come to destroy you, but to help you realize your hidden potential and power. Let the difficulties know that you are not easy to break. I request all Indians to follow all the rules.

> **Asim Sohail** Araria, Bihar

UAE-ISRAEL DEAL

FEW DAYS back, flamboyant Donald Trump announced establishment of diplomatic ties between cash-rich UAE and technologicallyadvanced Israel. It's a win-win situation for all the nations involved as it would pay rich dividends to all stockholders. Israel will have enormous investments and Arab countries will have state-of-the-art technologies in hands. With this peace deal, the US hearts of evangelical Christian voters, who see Jerusalem as the most

Rahul Chouhan

ANIMAL WELFARE

THE HEALTH of an ecosystem is maintained by its plants and animals and it is really bad news that we will lose 558 mammals species in the next decade if conservation efforts are not improved. Humans are harming wildlife by land clearing, urbanisa tion and humans encroachment into habitat. When a species becomes endangered, it is sign that ecosystem is falling apart. Humans can save endangered species by breeding more animals, use natural cleaners, support animal shelter.

Yashi Bairagi

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



4akar Patel

Jaishankar's prescriptions are simplistic, just excuses

ndia's foreign minister comes from a family of scholars. His father K. Subrahmanyam was the founder of the famous IDS think tank in New Delhi and had advised Indira Gandhi. On the weaponising of India's nuclear programme and the military intervention in Bangaldesh, Subrahmanyam had a

Subrahmanyam's son Sanjay, Jaishankar's brother, is one of the world's most famous scholars of medieval India. He has written books on commerce in Surat (my hometown) and South India as well as on Vasco Da Gama.

My point is that Dr S. Jaishankar has a background which is not the same as our other ministers. Jaishankar has recent a book released a few days ago which said three things had negatively affected India's foreign policy. The first was Partition, which reduced the size of India and made China even more important than it was. The second was the delay in the economic reforms of 1991: if done earlier, they would have made India a wealthier nation earlier than it will become. And third, the delay in choosing to Mere liberalisation does not mean economic growth. What Jaishankar says in his three points is reductive and simplistic.

make atomic weapons. He called them the three burdens.

What should we make of what he is saying? We need to examine two separate things, first to see to what extent what he says is true.

India's Partition did reduce the size of the country and if India had not been partitioned, the undivided nation would be larger geographically, stretching from Myanmar to Iran, and with a population of 1.7 billion people. It would not be particularly different in terms of its economy, per capita income, productivity or any other way. South Asia has developed together, none of the three countries which were once part of British India has either become a developed country and none on the other hand has not succeeded in developing at least a little. A visit to Pakistan and Bangladesh reveals them to be no different than most parts of India.

The second issue is the delay in economic reforms. This is not Jaishankar's subject because he is not an economist. We must therefore be cautious when we accept what he says as true. The Indian economy of Jawaharlal Nehru's time had little capacity. State capital was needed as an element, especially in heavy industry. And without the State, the institutions we take for granted, for example in higher education, would not have come at all. Whatever bhajans we may sing to privatisation, there is no private equivalent of IIT or IIM even today in India. This is not to say that the licence raj of Indira Gandhi was a good thing. It was not. The best we can offer Jaishankar's statement on the delay in reforms is a qualified yes, not a full endorsement.

The third is the exercise of the

nuclear option, which happened in May 1974. India makes a big deal of having an atom bomb. It is not such a big deal. Many nations in South America, Europe, Asia and Africa had the capacity to make one but chose not to. The other thing is that India violated its foreign commit-

ments to make the bomb. The reactors producing the material used in our bombs came from Canada, whom we had promised that we would only use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes (this is why Indira Gandhi made the claim that the 1974 test was a "peaceful explo-

We have held these weapons for 45 years now. How have they helped us? We cannot use them against Pakistan, which for 30 years we have accused of terrorism. We cannot use them against China, which is today inside our borders. It is debatable that the early weaponising of our programme could have helped us in

Jaishankar calls these three things "burdens" and he lays them at the Congress' door. Let us see what his party has done and is doing. India may have been partitioned, but Pakistan and Bangladesh are still next to us. They have not been relocated to Africa. What stops India from unifying the subcontinent through trade or travel? It is our nationalism. We have free movement (without visas) with Nepal, but could unify South Asia with visafree travel and trade if we chose to. The BJP does not want it.

The assumption Jaishankar makes about liberalisation automatically producing economic growth is false. Under the BJP, India's economic growth has been declining since January 2018, according to its own figures. That is two and a half straight years of decline in six years of government. This did not happen during socialism or the licence raj.

This year we will see a contraction of the economy. Mere liberalisation does not mean economic growth. What Jaishankar says in his three points is reductive and simplistic. The past does not matter that much. If we think that it does, it is because we are not good enough at running the nation competently today and are searching for excuses why. If Jaishankar's diagnosis is correct, what stops him from correcting it today? His book does not say that. Perhaps that will come in a future

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist

TUESDAY | 15 SEPTEMBER 2020 | NEW DELHI

quick

INDICATOR	%	
Sensex	38,756.63	-0.25
Nifty 50	11,440.05	-0.21
S&P 500*	3,396.93	1.67
Dollar (₹)	73.47	0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.34	-0.03
Euro (₹)	87.14	0.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,465 ▼ 24	0.04
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.57	-0.26
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.031	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.654	-0.013
* As of 9:30 PM IST		

WPI inflation back in positive zone, CPI softens

The wholesale price-based inflation rose 0.16 per cent in August as food items and manufactured products turned costlier. The Wholesale price index based (WPI) inflation was in the negative territory for four straight months-April (-) 1.57 per cent, May (-) 3.37 per cent, June (-) 1.81 per cent and July (-) 0.58 per cent. But CPI-based retail inflation softened to 6.69 per cent in August from 6.73 per cent (revised) in July.

Indian economy to contract 9% in FY21, says S&P



S&P Global Ratings slashed its FY21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer. "One factor holding back private economic activity is the continued escalation of the ovid-19," S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific economist Vishrut Rana said. For fiscal 2021-22, it expects growth at 10 per cent.

Bank credit up 5.49%, deposits rise by 10.92%

Bank credit grew 5.49 per cent to Rs 102.11 lakh crore, while deposits increased 10.92 per cent to Rs 141.76 lakh crore in the fortnight ended August 28, RBI data shows. In the fortnight ended August 30, 2019, banks' advances were at Rs 96.80 lakh crore and deposits stood at Rs 127.80 lakh crore. On a vear-on-vear basis, nonfood bank credit grew at 6.7 per cent in July against 11.4 per cent growth a year ago.

Nvidia to buy Arm for \$40 bn as SoftBank exits

Nvidia Corp will buy UK-based chip designer Arm from Japan's SoftBank Group Corp for as much as \$40 billion, the companies said on Monday, in a deal set to reshape the global semiconductor sector. The sale puts a vital supplier to Apple Inc and others across the industry under the control of a single player and faces likely pushback from regulators and rivals to Nvidia, the biggest US chip company by market cap.

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

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Govt seeks additional spend of ₹2.35 L cr

PSBs to get ₹20K cr more to soak NPAs

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

In a bid to help banks mitigate the surge of bad loans during the Covid-19 pandemic, the govern-ment on Monday sought Parliament's approval to infuse Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) through recapitalisation bonds, according to supplementary demand for grants tabled by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who sought the legislator's nod for gross additional expenditure of Rs 2.35 lakh crore.

The Rs 20,000-core fund infusion is expected to support state-owned lenders, which are under severe pressure due to increasing threats of higher non-performing assets (NPAs) during the pandemic.

As per a report by the central bank, the Covid-19 impact is likely to push up the ratio of gross NPAs in the Indian banking system to at least 12.5 per cent by March 2021 from 8.5 per cent in March 2020.

Since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, the Centre has pumped over Rs 3.5 lakh crore into PSBs for their rescue. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had also favoured the government's capital infusion move to help banks deal

with the rising bad loans. In July RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said, "Going forward, there are certain stress points in the financial system,



Nirmala Sitharaman

which would require constant regulatory and policy attention to mitigate the risks. The economic impact of the pandemic...may result in higher non-performing assets and capital erosion of banks. A recap plan for PSBs and private banks has, therefore, become

necessary."
Sitharaman tabled supplementary demand for grants in Parliament in the first day of the monsoon session, seeking approval for additional expenditure, involving net cash outgo of Rs 1.67 lakh crore and gross additional expenditure of Rs 2.35 lakh crore. This additional amount of money aims at primarily meeting the expenses for combating the pandemic. Of the total cash outgo,

Rs 40,000 crore has been sought towards enhanced expenditure under Mahatma Gandhi National **Employment** Guarantee Programme, Rs 20,000 crore towards capital infusion in public sector banks and Rs benefit transfer under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan and Yojana Assistance Programme.

As part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Rs 33,771.48 crore has been transferred to beneficiaries of both women Jan Dhan Account holders and Old Age Pension holders, as grants-in-aid for direct benefit transfer Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna Women accounts holders (Rs 30,956.98 crore) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension (Rs 2,814.50 crore) under scheme National Assistance Social

Programme. The government has also sought Rs 46,602.43 crore towards providing additional allocation under Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to states as per recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

The first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21 includes 54 grants and 1 appropriation.

UBS explores merger with **Credit Suisse**

CATHERINE BOSLEY

The chairmen of UBS Group AG and Credit Suisse Group AG are exploring a potential merger to create one of Europe's largest banks, Inside Paradeplatz reported, citing unidentified people inside the two lenders.

The project, nick-named Signal, is driven by UBS chairman Axel Weber, who is working on it with his counterpart at Credit Suisse, Urs Rohner, the blog said. Weber has dis-cussed the idea with Swiss finance minister Ueli Maurer and an agreement could happen by early next year, according to the report. Spokesmen for the ban-

ks refused to comment. Europe's industry is under pressure to consolidate as the coronavirus pan-demic adds to headwinds from negative interest rates. Spain's CaixaBank SA and Bankia SA are exploring a merger to form the largest lender in the country and kickstart consolidation in one of the hardest-hit European economies during the pandemic.

Weber would probably stay on as chairman of the combined company, making it likely that the CEO would come from Credit Suisse, according to the report. Banking regulator Finma has been informed of the deliberations, Inside Paradeplatz said. Bloomberg

Mid- & small-caps rally on hopes of MFs buying

strong balance sheets and

Existing multi-cap funds

are required to ensure

compliance by February.

However, Sebi later issued a clarification on

September 13 saying that

funds have many options

available other than sim-

ple rebalancing, to meet the requirements of the

circular based on prefer-

ence of unit-holders and

could allow unit-holders

to switch to other

attractive valuations,' HDFC Securities said.

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 14

The new Sebi rule for multi-cap mutual fund schemes, mandating minimum 25 per cent allocation each to small-cap and mid-cap stocks to rein in their bias towards largecap stocks led to big gains in select mid-cap and small-cap stocks and their

"This rule change would essentially cap invest-ments of such (multi-cap) funds in large-cap stocks at 50 per cent," said Bank of America Merrill Lynch, adding, the move is aimed at diversifying the funds' underlying investments and help them to be true to the

Of late, the equity market is getting more and more polarised, with mutual fund investments moving mostly into largecap stocks, and in some sectors, the themes of "big becoming bigger" and "winner takes it all"

hold true, analysts said. "High divergence of valuations between large caps and mid/small caps emerged over the past two years in sectors such as consumer, IT, cement, and financials, which might normalise to an extent, helped by this catalyst and high retail investor interest," said HDFC Securities.

"We also see this as a potential catalyst for re-rating of ignored stocks in the economy-facing sectors such as infra/industrials, hotels, auto ancillaries, financials and real estate, if there is a confluence of

schemes; merge multi-cap scheme with large cap schemes; convert to other scheme category.
The Sebi is also likely to examine any other proposals from the industry

participants in this regard, said Bank of America Merrill Lynch. However, market reacted to Sebi's new rule led to many small-cap stocks gaining over 10 per cent— VIP Industries (14.42 per cent), Century Textiles (11.51 per cent), Avanti Feeds (13.62 per cent),

Century Plyboards (12.28 per cent) and Birla Corp. (12.42 per cent). "Sebi circular on allocation by multi-cap schemes spurred buying in a lot of small and midcaps in anticipation of fund buying that could emerge later," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research, HDFC Securities.

IT STOCKS SOAR AFTER HCL TECH LIFTS GUIDANCE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 14

Technologies raised second quarter financial performance guidance in a mid-quarter update for the September quarter, triggering & big rally in IT sector stocks.

HCL Tech itself gained 10.24 per cent on the BSE, closing at Rs 794.90, after hitting a fresh 52-week high of Rs 807.80. The other top IT sector

stocks TCS (Rs 2492.30 up 5 per cent), Infosys (Rs 977.95 up 3.44 per cent) and Wipro (Rs 307.15 up

4.81 per cent) also hit fresh 52-week highs. The BSE IT index

gained a massive 4.76 per

cent when Sensex and Nifty closed in the red.

Mid and small cap IT stocks performed better than their large-cap counterparts. Persistent Systems (14.73 per cent), Mphasis (8.9 per cent), Cyient (7.26 per cent) and L&T Infotech (6.0 per cent) were amongst the biggest gainers in the mid & small-cap IT space, said Jyoti Roydeputy VP & equity strategist,

33,771.48 crore for direct **GST** dues to Govt weighs selling Air India without debt burden states at

₹1.51 lakh cr, SIDDHARTHA SINGH & ANURAG KOTOKY Maha leads India is proposing to drop a condition that the win-

New Delhi, Sept. 14: The ning bidder for Air India GST collection during April-August declined on account of Covid-19will have to take on \$3.3 billion of aircraft debt, people with knowledge of induced lockdown, and the the matter said, as the compensation due to states government struggles to stands at over Rs 1.51 lakh sell the loss-making carricrore, minister of state for er kept afloat by taxpayerfunded bailouts.
The Centre is being finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on Monday.
The provisional GST advised to drop the rule

compensation due to states/UTs for 2020-21 was highest Maharashtra at Rs 22,485 crore, followed by Karnataka (Rs 13,763 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs 11,742 crore), Gujarat (Rs 11,563 crore) and Tamil Nadu (Rs 11,269 crore).

The compensation due to West Bengal stands at Rs 7,750 crore, Kerala (Rs 7,077 crore), Punjab (Rs 6,959 crore), Delhi (Rs 6,931 crore), Rajasthan (Rs 6312 crore). Telangana (Rs 5.424 crore) and Chhattisgarh (Rs 2,827 crore).

The total provisional GST compensation due to 31 states and UTs for 2020-21 put together stands at Rs 1,51,365 crore, as per data shared in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Thakur said the issue of pending compensation and future course of action to meet the shortfall was discussed in the 41st GST Council meeting on August 27 wherein states were given two options to meet their GST compensation shortfall for current fiscal year from market borrowing.

"It was also decided that states will give their preference views thereon. Thereafter on finalisation of scheme, states can choose either Option 1 or Option 2 and accordingly, their compensation, borrowing, repayment etc will be dealt as per their individual choice," he added.

In reply to a separate question, Thakur said the total net GST target for the Centre has been pegged at Rs 6,90,500 crore for 2020-21 in the Union Budget.

The actual net GST collection for the Centre till August 2020 is Rs 1,81,050 crore, which shows 26.2 per cent of the Budget 0 2 M

the people said. renewed attempt to sell Air India, which hasn't made money since 2007, has been hurt by the pandemic, forcing the government to keep government to keep extending a deadline to bid. The offer, announced in January, was sweet-ened to pass on only the debt related to plane purchases to the new owner. The airline had \$8.4 billion in total debt at the end of March, 2019 and

posted a loss of \$1.2 billion that year -- its highest

Despite the losses, the airline has some lucrative which include slots at London's prized choked Heathrow airport, a fleet of more than 100 planes and thousands of trained pilots and crew. The airline will have to shut down if it can't find a buyer, aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the parliament last year.

ens the deal. A spokesman for the avi-

The new proposal sweet-

ation ministry referred queries to the Department Investment and Public Asset Management, a unit of the finance ministry. A finance ministry okesman wasn't imme-

diately available for com-At least two previous attempts to sell the airline - once about two decades ago and another in 2018--have flopped. In 2001, Singapore Airlines Ltd. dropped its bid for a stake in Air India, citing political opposition as one of the reasons. The Southeast Asian carrier was seeking a 40 per cent

stake with India's Tata

Potential buyers this time have requested the government to extend the deadline to submit initial avirus pandemic, the government said last month. Tata SIA Airlines Ltd., which operates under the brand Vistara, is evaluatchairman Bhaskar Bhat said earlier this year.

IndiGo, India's biggest airline that's operated by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., showed interest in Air international operations and low-cost carrier Air India Express in a previous offer to sale. but it pulled out saying the no-frills airline is unable to buy and turn around Air India's operations in their entirety. Bloomberg

FEMALE FUND MANAGERS BEHIND MALE BY 200 YEARS



SUZY WAITE

It will take two centuries for female fund managers to achieve equal status to their male counterparts at the current rate of promotion, according to research by Citywire.

The pace of women taking on fund manager roles was "grindingly slow," with just 1,762 females among the world's 16,018 active fund managers, according to the report. That's around 11 per cent, compared with just over 10 per cent four years ago, the research

shows. Fund managers are coming increased pressure from clients to improve diversity within firms with many in the US and Europe being forced to provide data on their gender lineups, according to the report. Of the \$15 trillion of assets in Citywire's database, just \$2.9 trillion is managed by women, allfemale teams or a team

of women and men.

Turnover is also a

problem, with 42 per cent of female fund managers changing job positions in the past decade, compared with 27 per cent of men, the research Factors, including company culture, flexible working and maternity leave, are all contribut ing to high turnover,

the report said.

Bloomberg

Chinese FDI has been tapering for 3 years

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

Even before the government issuing curbs on FDI from Chinese entities, and outflow between China and India has been tapering in the past few years, as per government data.

on concern it will deter

buyers, the people said, asking not to be identi-

fied. A group of bureaucrats has vetted the plan,

and under the new propo-

sition, potential buyers

will be allowed to bid on

the enterprise value and

not on the entity value,

The total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow from Chinese companies in India stood at \$350 million in 2017-18. This shrunk to \$229 million in 2018-19 and \$163 million in 2019-20. In 2015-16, Chinese FDI inflows were higher at \$461 million. In the past five years, the total FDI inflow aggregated to \$1,482 million.

The automobile industry was the biggest recipient of Chinese investment of \$499 million in these five years. Electrical equipment received \$176 million and electronics got \$146 million. Non-conventional energy too has received investments from China. Though their investments are small in size, Chinese investors have stakes in several tech unicorns like BigBasket, Delhivery, Flipkart, Hike, Makemytrip, Oyo, Ola,



Paytm, PolicyBazaar, Quickr, Snapdeal, Swiggy, Udaan and Zomato.

The total FDI outflow into China from India too has been coming down over the years. It stood at \$49.19 million in 2017 and has shrunk to \$20.63 million by 2020. Post the stand-off in

Ladakh, the government had issued Press Note 3 to opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies investors from neighbouring countries due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any such investment could not be done through the automatic route and had to undergo government scrutiny. In the event of the transfer of ownership of any existing or future FDI in an entity in India ment approval.

MSMEs yet to receive their dues payment of MSME dues on priority," the govern-**SANGEETHA G** While announcing the

Group.

CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

for the release of around Rs 5 lakh crore pending payments, no major relief has come their way so far. Though the government on Monday said that CPSEs and ministries have released Rs 10,000 crore, it is still in the process of taking up the issue with the state governments and private enterprises.

While MSMEs are waiting

stimulus package, the government had set a deadline of 45 days to clear pending payments of CPSEs and ministries. However, till now around Rs 10,000 crore has been

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has now impressed upon the private sector enterprises of the country to take measures for release of

reportedly paid by the ministries and CPSEs.
"Union Ministry of

the CPSEs and companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore to board on TReDS online platform. but many corporates are yet to join it or transact

thereon," it said. The government also has not issued any instructions to the states mandating the use of TReDS.

ment said.

In order to clear MSME

payments faster, the gov-

ernment had mandated all

PSBs have 2.09% NPAs under Mudra loans

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

Non-performing assets of public sector banks under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana stood at 2.09 per cent in FY20. Under the PMMY

scheme, which provides institutional credit up to Rs 10 lakh for entrepreneurial activities to micro/small units, member lending institutions (MLIs) as on September 4, 2020 disbursed over 25.32 crore loans amounting to Rs. 12.91 lakh crore since its inception.



Of this, public sector banks have disbursed a total of Rs 9,00,131 crore in the past three financial years. They provided loans of Rs 2,12,205 crore in FY18, Rs 3,05,489 crore in FY19 and Rs 3,82,437 crore in FY20. In these years, the non-performing assets, or bad loans, have risen from Rs 7,277 crore in FY18 to Rs11,483 crore in FY19 and Rs 18,835 crore in FY20, as per the data from the government.

NPA as a percentage of the loans stood at 2.09 per cent at the end of FY20. As per an earlier data provided by the govern-

ment, among the PSU banks, Punjab National Bank had a higher NPA under Mudra loan. pribanks Dhanalakshmi Bank and Federal Bank too had reported significantly higher NPAs.

Hari meets Carlsen

in online chess

Chennai: Indian Grandmaster P. Harikrishna will compete against the likes of world cham-pion Magnus Carlsen and Hikrau Nakamura in an elite field in the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament beginning on Tuesday. The India number No. 2 faces a stiff challenge in the tourna-

With an Elo rating of 2714, he is the second lowest rated player in the field and would be up against Carlsen, who has been near unbeatable in recent times, and the highly-rated American Nakamura. The others in the fray are American Wesley So, Russians Ian Nepomniachtchi and Alexander Grischuk, experi-enced Armenian Levon Aronian, Iran's teen prodigy Alireza Firouzja and Americans Leinier Dominguez and Jeffery Xiong, the lowest rated player in the tournament. The ten players will be competing for a

Defeating Anand was special: Vidit

rapid and 18 blitz games. - PTI

\$250,000 prize fund in nine

New Delhi: India's chess Olympiad gold-winning team captain Vidit Gujrathi says the experience of playing against and defeating iconic Viswanathan Anand was the most special moment of his

The 25-year-old Gujrathi, who became a Grandmaster in 2013, beat the five-time world champion Anand in 2019. "It was a really nice feeling to

play against a player to whom you look up to. I was in the Indian Top-5 but never got a chance to play against him, so I was thinking that I'm missing out on that experience," the youngster said during the show,

In the Sportlight. Gujarathi had the honour to captain the likes of Anand and the women's Grandmaster Koneru Humpy during India's gold winning campaign in the online Chess Olympiad recently.

— PTI

Hyderabad FC sign Lalawmpuia

Hyderabad: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC on Monday singed long-term deals with attackers Lalawmpuia and Sweden Fernandes ahead of the new season.

Both the 20-year-olds, who were a part of fellow ISL side FC Goa for the last three years, have each penned a three-year deal till the end of the 2022-23

Lalawmpuia, fondly known as Opi, came through the ranks at Pune FC and DSK Shivajians before being promoted to the senior side with the latter. The Mizo striker was signed by FC Goa for their developmental side in 2017, and has since regularly featured in local and national competitions for the Gaurs including the Goa Pro League, Durand Cup and the second Division League. Fernandes, meanwhile, has been involved in Goan youth football. - PTI

Bernal fails in

France, Tadej wins

Culoz, France: Egan Bernal's defence of the Tour de France was reduced to cinders on Sunday as the Colombian suffered a meltdown on the first major mountain of the race, while the overall leader Primoz Roglic denied any suggestions he was doping. With three massive mountains, the stage itself was won by 21year-old rookie Tadej Pogacar, but the extent of the 2019 champion's astonishing collapse on the final climb is the story of the Tour so far.

Live on TV

Jumbo-Visma's Roglic retained

the overall lead. — AFP

Rome ATP Masters: Matches from 2.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

NBA Eastern Conference Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7): Boston Celtics vs Miami Heat from 4 am (Wednesday); NBA Western Conference Semifinals (Game 7.

Denver Nuggets from 6.30 am

(Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National

Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhya New Delhi 110 002, and Printed by him a BFL Infotech Limited, C - 9, Sector - III. Noida - 201301. RNI Registration number 57290/94.

Price in Nepal - Nep.

Rs. 20.00 per copy

TENACIOUS THIEM

Wrests US Open title after a historic comeback

Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverey in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open on Sunday for his first Grand

The second seeded Austrian beat the fifth seed 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in 4 hours and two minutes in a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

It marked the first time in the US Open's Open era history that a player had recovered from losing the opening two sets to win

Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949 at an event then known as the US Championships and held

in Forest Hills.
It was also the first time the final had been settled by a tie-break.
"I wish we could have

two winners today. I think we both deserved it," said The title is the 27-year-old Thiem's maiden Grand Slam trophy after

three previous defeats in finals of tennis majors. Thiem was runner-up at the Australian Open earli-

er this year and also lost in the last-two showdowns

at the French Open in 2018 and 2019. He also becomes the first new Grand Slam champion since Croatian Marin Cilic won at Flushing Meadows in 2014. Thiem is also the first Grand Slam champion other than Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer since Stan Wawrinka won the third

"I achieved a life goal, a dream of myself, which I had for many, many years," the winner added. Zverev, 23, smashed four aces and 16 winners in the first set as he displayed an impressive serve and volley game to take a 1-0 lead

of his majors at the 2016

in just 30 minutes. The German was helped by some sloppy serving from Thiem, who hit three double faults as he was broken twice, in games

three and seven. In set two, Zverev wasted three set points while 5-1 up but held on to take a 2-0 lead on his fifth set

point. 'he tide was beginning

Paris, Sept. 14: Neymar insisted he had been the victim of racism as he

was one of five players

sent off in a mass brawl at

the end of Marseille's 1-0

win over French league champions Paris Saint-

PSG's Brazilian star appeared to accuse Alvaro

Gonzalez of calling him a "monkey" in a series of furious tweets after he

was sent off in injury

time for slapping the

Marseille defender on the

"Look at the racism. That's why I hit him,"

Nevmar, who was return-

ing from Coronavirus

quarantine, said as he left

the pitch. Gonzalez later

denied making a racist

is not hitting this idiot in the face," Neymar, the

world's most expensive

Neymar was red-carded

after a VAR review, while teammates Layvin

Kurzawa and Leandro

Paredes were also sent off.

Marseille striker Dario

Benedetto and defender

Jordan Amavi were also

"It's easy for VAR to show my 'aggression'. 'Now I'd like them to show

the image of the racist who called me a 'MON-

KEY SON OF A BITCH'

Florian Thauvin's close-

range volley on 31 minutes earned Marseille a

first victory over their bit-

ter rivals since November

2011 but the ugly scenes

overshadowed the game at

PSG's last goal came in

the 3-0 win over RB

Leipzig in the Champions

semifinal

-AFP

I'd really like

Neymar tweeted.

Parc des Princes.

August 18.

The only regret I have

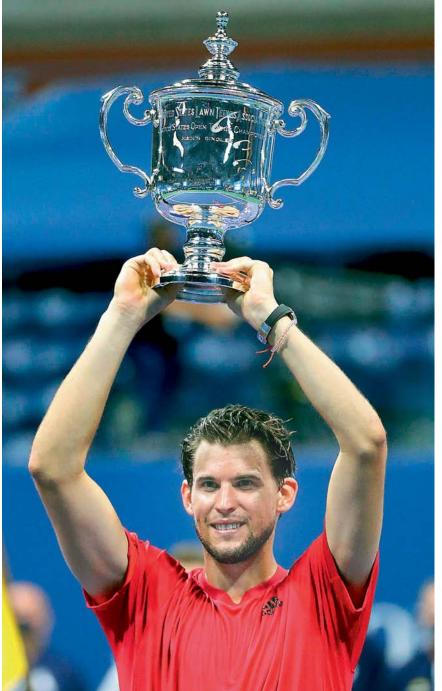
back of the head.

comment.

expelled.

player, tweeted.

Germain on Sunday.



Dominic Thiem of Austria celebrates with US Open championship trophy after defeating Alexander Zverev in the men's singles final at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in the Queens borough of New York City on Sunday. Thiem won 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

play became increasingly cagey as his suspect sec-ond serve got slower and his forehand, another weakness, became more

After Thiem took set four, Zverev found himself serving for the championship at 5-3 in the fifth set. But ne to turn though as Zverev's and soon Thiem found exhausted and limping,

himself 6-5 ahead. He took a medical timeout before it was his turn to serve for the championship.

However, like Zverev moments earlier, Thiem failed to clinch the match and it went to a tie-break. He found himself 5-3 up after two double faults by Zverev but Thiem

PSG lose amid racism scuffle LEVERKUSEN

blew two championship points. He won the title and the winner's cheque of \$3 million on his third after Zverev hit a back

hand wide. Thiem collapsed to the ground with his head in his hands before the pair, who are close friends, embraced on the court.

SLAM CHAMP, **SAYS ZVEREV** New York, Sept. 14:

I'LL BE GRAND

Alexander Zverev pledged to bounce back from his disappointing loss in the final of the US Open on Sunday to capture a Grand Slam one day. The 23-year-old German

went two sets and a break up in his first Grand Slam final before losing in five sets to Austria's Dominic

'I was super close to being a Ĝrand Slam champion. I was a few games away, maybe a few points away," a dejected Zverev told reporters. "For me what upset me

the most is not the third set, it's the fifth set. "I had a lot of chances in

the fifth set and didn't use them," he added. The second Thiem beat the fifth seed

Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in 4hr 2min. It was the first time in the US Open's Open era history that a player had recovered from losing the

opening two sets to win

It was also the first time the final had been settled by a tie-break.

Zverev said it hurt to lose in the manner he did. "Obviously being two sets to love and a break up in a Grand Slam final then losing is not easy,"

he told reporters.

Zverev's debut appearance in the last-two of a tennis major came after he reached the semifinals of the Australian Open earlier this year.

'I'm 23 years old. I don't think it's my last chance. I do believe that I will be a Grand Slam champion at some point," Zverev further added.

compared to Thiem's two. But the German also hit 15 double faults, with Thiem hitting eight.

The match was watched by just a few dozen people, mostly officials, journalists and event staff after the Coronavirus pandemic forced the tournament to be held behind close

EINTRACHT 7-0

Leverkusen easily won its

first game without Kai

Havertz, routing fourth-

Norderstedt 7-0 in the

first round of the German

Germany star Havertz

joined Chelsea in the off-

season, but Peter Bosz's

team showed no ill effect

as it raced into a 3-0 lead after 12 minutes and 6-0 at

the break on Sunday. Patrik Schick came on

for his Leverkusen debut

and missed two good

chances before rounding

off the scoring in the 77th

Nadiem Amiri netted brace while Lars Bender,

Lucan Alario, Florian

Aranguiz also scored a

goal each to get past

Norderstedt was among

a host of smaller clubs

that gave up their home

advantage due to the costs

of meeting conditions to restrict the risk of Coronavirus infections.

Up to 300 fans were

Some 7,500 supporters

cheered third-division

Hansa Rostock against Stuttgart, but couldn't prevent their side losing

Freiburg beat third-divi-

sion Waldhof Mannheim

2-1 after hitting the cross-

bar three times in the

Meanwhile, Hamburg-based St. Pauli was knocked out by fourth-

tier SV Elversberg 4-2 and Kiel enjoyed a 7-1 rout

Rielasingen-Arlen which

against

allowed at Leverkusen.

minute.

Eintracht.

Eintracht



England fast bowler Chris Woakes (left) celebrates the dismissal of Australia's captain Aaron Finch during the second ODI at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, on

England hit Oz hard, pull level

Manchester, Sept. 14: Australia batted itself into a winning position before dramatically collapsing as England won the second one-day cricket interna-

tional by 24 runs to stay alive in the series. England's decision to bat first at Old Trafford had appeared to backfire with the world champions limited to 231-9 and Australia reaching 143-2 with 20 overs left on Sunday. Australia was making the

run chase look easy thanks to a 107-run stand for the third wicket between captain Aaron Finch (73) and Marnus Labuschagne (48). But the tourists then collapsed to 147-6, and 166-8, in Manchester before finishing 207 all out in 48.4 overs.

A trio of England pacers did the damage: Chris Woakes (3-32), Jofra Archer (3-34) and Sam Curran 3-35. In what has become an unwanted tour tradition for Australia, Archer again claimed opener David Warner (6).

Morgan said bringing Woakes and Archer back into the attack dramatically swung the game in the home team's favor. Earlier, no England bats-

man reached 50, with Morgan (42) and Joe Root (39) leading the scoring. Both men were dismissed by Adam Zampa. Australia was aiming to

wrap up a series victory after beating England by 19 runs in the first ODI last Friday, also in Manchester.

The series finale is at the same venue on Wednesday, when England will be hoping to avoid its first ODI series defeat at home since 2015. Australian batsman Steve Smith could be in consideration for a recall for the series decider after missing the first two games because of concus-

SION. — AP
Brief scores: England 231/9 in
50 overs (Eoin Morgan 42;
Adam Zampa 3/36) bt
Australia 207 in 48.4 overs
(Aaron Finch 73; Chris
Woakes 3/32).

AUSTRALIA EYE CROWDS

Melbourne, Sept. 14: Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews on Monday said his government is negotiating with Cricket Australia and Tennis Australia to have crowd attendance for the city's iconic sports events — Boxing Day Test involving India and the

There is speculation that MCG may miss out on hosting the Boxing Day Test, an annual highlight on the calendar, since Victoria is reeling under pandemic.
"We just have to work out what a safe crowd would be. It is too hard to say now what that number is,'

Andrews said in a daily news briefing. With Melbourne looking a dicey venue, Adelaide is seen as the front-runner for the Boxing Day Test against India.



Royal Challengers Bangalore's captain Virat Kohli (right) and AB de Villiers in this file photo.

Kohli, AB look to turn RCB around

New Delhi, Sept. 14: South African veteran AB de Villiers said captain Virat Kohli is "leading from the as Challengers Bangalore look to shed their wooden-

spooners tag in the Indian Premier League. De Villiers said India skipper Kohli was inspiring much hard work in the

build-up to the IPL's start in the UAE on Saturday. "I think everyone has

bought into this hardworking environment and a lot of credit should to go Virat for that," De Villiers said in an interview posted on his team's YouTube "He leads by example, he

sets the standards and it is pretty easy to follow when you have a captain leading from the front," he added. Bangalore begin their

Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai next Monday. Kohli, who took over as captain of the Bangalore team in 2013, has said he

has "never felt so calm" entering an IPL season. "It's a tricky one because we say that (we'll improve)

every season. (But) I promise you, 'it's different', that's all I can tell you," said de Villiers.

PSG and Marseille players scuffle at the end of their French league football match at the Parc de Princes stadium in Paris on Sunday. Marseille won 1-0.

Everton ride on Calvert's goal, tear up Tottenham

London, Sept. 14: Everton looked short on ideas as signalled their intent for Carlo Ancelotti's first full season in charge as Dominic Calvert-Lewin's towering header earned their first win over Tottenham since 2012 in a 1-0 victory on Sunday.

Ancelotti has been heavily backed with the signings of James Rodriguez, Abdoulaye Doucoure and Allan, and the Toffees looked a much-improved side on the one that finished 12th last season as they were thoroughly deserving winners at the Tottenham Hotspur

Stadium. Spurs are also hoping for an upturn in Jose Mourinho's first full season as boss, but the hosts they slipped to a damaging home defeat for their aspirations of mounting a challenge to get back into the top four this sea-

Everton settled the quicker with their new midfield trio helping to control possession, but it was on the counter-attack they wasted by far the best chance of the game. Richarlison intercepted Ben Davies's wayward pass and accelerated past

Toby Alderweireld and Hugo Lloris before skewing high and wide with an open goal to aim at and Calvert-Lewin begging for surrendered Everton

meekly to a 1-0 defeat

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in July without mustering a meaningful shot on goal. **BETIS EASE PAST ALAVES**

Madrid: It was a thrilling return to the Spanish league for Manuel Pellegrini. And a disappointing one for Unai

Back in the league on Sunday after long Pellegrini's absences, Real Betis won 1-0 at Alaves thanks to a stoppage-time goal from substitute Cristian Tello, while Emery's Villarreal couldn't get more than a 1-1 draw at home against promoted Huesca.

also gave up its right to

play at home.

In Loving Remembrance



Sri Tikkavarapu Chandrasekhar Reddy

July 13, 1932 - September 15, 1993

"He whose Mind is not shaken by adversity, Who does not hanker after pleasures, Who is free from Attachment, Fear and Anger, He is the Sage of Steady Wisdom."

-Bhagavad Gita

It's his guiding spirit that has been and will always be the source of inspiration for us

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