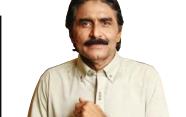
# THE ASIAN AGE

**NEW DELHI FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020** 

NATION 4

**Rhea Charavorty opposes CBI** probe into Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide



WORLD 6

**Javed Miandad says** he will challenge Imran Khan in politics TABLOID 16

Kareena seeks to finish her upcoming film before her baby bump starts showing



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The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria, prepares for a sortie on MiG-21 Bison aircraft during his visit to a frontline airbase in Western Air Command on Thursday.

• Report on Page 3

#### **Israel to halt West Bank annexation** after its UAE deal

**Dubai:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday announced that the United Arab Emirates and Israel agreed to establish normal diplomatic relations in a development that will put on pause Israel's efforts to annex parts of the West Bank claimed by Palestinians. He released a joint statement from the two countries and the United States on Twitter announcing the move. The news comes amid years of warming ties between the UAE and Israel. — Agencies

#### **Nov. polls in Bihar** in 5 or 6 phases?

New Delhi: Bihar Assembly elections could be held in five or six phases in November and the home ministry is likely to deploy 500-600 companies, roughly 60,000 personnel, of central para-military forces for the same. Officials claimed that they were going ahead with all the arrangements. More on Page 4

#### **DMK expels MLA**

over 'ties with BJP'

Chennai: The DMK on Thursday expelled its MLA Ku Ka Selvam from the primary membership of the party after he virtually embraced the BJP. His reply to the show cause notice sent by the party, when he was suspended on August 5.

More on Page 3



Free vaccine to all the people if I am voted to power... sponsored by my dearest friend Putin!



Max: 30°C Min: 26°C **RH:** 85% **Rain:** 50%

Forecast: Showers

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana Tithi: Shravana Bahula Dasami till 1.56 pm Star: Mrigasira full day **Varjyam:** 11.14 am to 12.55

Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.24 am; 12.46 pm to 1.36

Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12

SUNSET TODAY 7.01 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM **MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.44 PM MOONSET TODAY 3.08 AM** 

#### Muslim outfit under watch for violence in Bengaluru

**Bengaluru, Aug. 13:** Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said that the role of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) behind the Tuesday night violence in parts of Bengaluru, had come to light and investigation will go deep into it and their connec-

The minister said, four people associated with SDPI have been arrested in this regard and investigation is under way. "KG Halli and DJ Halli

are peaceful since Wednesday and there have been no untoward incidents...as the investigation is progressing new information is coming out. I cannot share with you everything, but in the days to come I will share before the media," Mr Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, as per the information gathered so far and video footage, most importantly the role of SDPI is coming to light. We are collecting more information regarding it, we are investigating

deeply in this regard.
"Already, several SDPI office-bearers have been arrested. Muzammil Pasha, the SDPI district secretary is the main (person), also Firoz, Afraz Pasha and Shaik Adil, all of them are from SDPI. Their role is completely being investigated and they have been arrested," he added.

Three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a city locality on Tuesday night over an inflammatory social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's rela-Pulakeshi Nagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthys residence and a police station at D J Halli were among those target-

ed by the angry mob.
The house of the MLA, who was not at home at the time, was allegedly set on fire.

The rioters also torched many police and private vehicles, badly damaged the house and looted the belongings of MLA Murthy and those of his



Raisina Hill — comprising North and South Blocks and Rashtrapati Bhavan — illuminated in several colours ahead of the Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi on

### PM unveils 'faceless' scrutiny, I-T appeals, will start Sept. 25

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled a "faceless" tax scrutiny and appeal system and urged people to pay their due taxes and contribute to nation-building. The Centre launched a new platform to ease the compliance burden and reward "honest taxpay-"The country's honest taxpayer plays a big role in nation-building. A faceless tax system will give the taxpayer confidence on fairness and fear-

PM said in a video address after rolling the

'Transparent Narendra Taxation: Honouring the Honest" platform in a big push for tax reforms. Mr Modi said a "faceless appeal facility" will be available to all citizens from September 25, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's birth

anniversary, and this will

efforts to

reform and simplify our tax system". The finance ministry

strengthen

appeals will involve the random allotment of cases. "With electronic replies, zero physical interface of authorities & instant solutions your way, this is the newest, most convenient & easiest way to tackle your IT litigation issues," it

said. The I-T department will soon adopt a "taxpayer charter" which outlines the rights and responsibilities of both tax officers and taxpayers. Mr Modi went on to add that "fundamental reforms" were needed in India's tax system.

■ Handshake by rivals; BJP planned no-trust too

### Raj trust vote today as Pilot, Gehlot seal truce

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Congress government in Rajasthan led by chief minister Ashok Gehlot is all set to face a vote of confidence on Friday when the state Assembly convenes, and the party high command has asked Sachin Pilot to ensure that the MLAs loyal to him vote for the Gehlot government. Earlier, the Opposition BJP had said that it would move a no-confidence motion in the Assembly.

Congress sources said Mr Gehlot would also seek a trust vote as it would give his govern-ment immunity from a similar move for the next six months. If the chief minister moves a confidence motion, under the rules it will supersede the no-confidence motion moved by any other mem-

On Thursday, Mr Pilot buried his differences and met Mr Gehlot for the first time after he openly against the rebelled senior leader around a month back.
ers K.C. Venugopai,
Avinash Pande, Randeep
Surjewala, Ajay Maken
and new PCC chief
b Dotasra month back. Party leaders K.C. Venugopal, Govind Singh Dotasra



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot along with Congress leader Sachin Pilot flashes victory signs during the party MLAs meeting at CM residence in Jaipur on Thursday.

Mr Pilot is understood to have said at the meeting that he was deeply hurt by the FIRs against him and the subsequent personal comments made against him by the chief minister

were also there at the meeting, held at Mr Gehlot's official residence in Jaipur, and posed for

pictures together. Mr Pilot and Mr Gehlot shook hands, marking the deputy chief minister and

18 other dissident MLAs properly to the party fold, after the intervention earlier this week by the top leadership of the Congress Party in New Delhi. Sources said that at the

meeting, Mr Venugopal is understood to have told the two leaders to ensure that the government lasts its full five-year term. Mr Pilot is understood to

have said at the meeting that he was deeply hurt by the FIRs against him and the subsequent personal comments made against him by the chief minister, to which Mr Gehlot replied that he had just Turn to Page 4

Pranab still

critical, but

responding

to treatment

### Trump eases H-1B curbs, set to benefit Indians

LALIT K. JHA WASHINGTON, AUG. 13

In a move that could help Indian IT professionals and those working in the healthcare Trump Administration has announced certain exemptions in H-1B and L-1 travel ban for those continuing employment with the same

The exemptions to the June 22 Presidential Proclamation 10052, commonly referred to as the H-1B or L-1 Travel Ban, also includes the family members of the H-1B, L-1 and certain categories of J1

President Donald Trump, in his June proclamation, banned the entry into the

US of workers in several key non-immigrant visa categories, including the H-1B, arguing that they eat into American jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The H-1B visa is a nonimmigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries

like India and China. The state department, which issued the revised travel advisory, on Wednesday said that the exemptions have been given under national interest category. In its adviso-

ry, the state department



said that H-1B and L-1 visas can now be issued for employees who are seeking to resume ongoing employment in the United States in area with a substantial public health benefit (e.g. canthe same position with the same employer and visa cer or communicable disclassification. Forcing employers to replace existease research) are also exempted from the July 22

ing employees may cause financial hardship, it said. All those on H-1B visas working in the healthcare

seeking to resume ongoing employment in the in the same position with the same employer and visa classification sector, especially those related to the Covid-19 pan-demic, or to conduct ongoing medical research in an

The state department

travel ban. Notably in the last few weeks, several lawmakers have written to the Secretary of State to exempt the healthcare sector from the travel ban on H-1B, L1 and J1 visas. Further new factors have

been set forth to also allow H-1B visas to be issued when at least two of the five indicators are met. First cases the petitioning

employer has a continued need for the services or labour to be performed by the H-1B nonimmigrant in the US. Cases where Condition Labour Applications was approved during or after July 2020 OR if the LCA was approved before July 2020, the consular officer must be able to determine from the visa application the contin-

with the employer. -PTI

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DEI HI, AUG, 13

tion of form e r President Pranab Mukherjee remained critical but stable Thursday,

stable now.

on Mukherjee

and seems responding to treatment even as rumours about his death floated in the social media, prompting both his family and the Army R&R Hospital to issue statements. His son Abhijit Mukherjee said his father was slowly responding to inter-ventions and all his vital parameters were

"My father is and has always been a fighter! He

is slowly responding to medical interventions & all his vital parameters are stable. I urge every well-wisher to pray for my father's speedy recov-ery! We need them," Mr Abhijit Mukherjee tweet-ed. Earlier Thursday, he rubbished the rumours Mukherjee's death, saying: "My father Shri Pranab Mukherjee is still alive & haemodynamically stable! Speculation & fake news being circulated by reputed journalists on the social media clear-

ry of Fake News.' The former President's daughter, Sharmistha Mukherjee, tweeted: "Rumours about my father are false. Request, especially to the media, not to call me as I need to keep my phone free for any updates from the hospital."

The hospital said: "The

ly reflects that media in India has become a facto-

condition of Shri Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged this morning. He is deeply comatose with stable vital parameters and continues to be on ventilatory support.

### Ram temple trust chief +ve, India's count nears 24L

67K cases, 942 deaths in 1 day

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

India's coronavirus count was close to 24 lakhs on Thursday with nearly 67,000 fresh cases detected in a day. Among the newly infected was the head of the Ram Mandir trust, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, 80, who was rushed to Gurgaon's Medanta Hospital soon after testing

positive. 'A team of doctors tested him for Covid-19 after the district authorities were informed in the morning that he was feeling uneasy," Mathura DM Sarvagya Ram Mishra said. He said the process to identify those who had come into contact with

him recently had started. Das, president of the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Nyas, was at Sri Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura till 1.30 am Thursday and till then he had not complained about his health. On August 5, Das shared

the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, UP governor Anandiben Patel and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The health ministry said

Thursday morning that India's total count was 23,96,637 while the death toll was over 47,000, with 942 fatalities in the last 24 hours. Covid19India.org said, however, that India's total cases had crossed 24 lakhs. India, at the same time, posted the highestever single day recoveries of 56,383 people, as total recoveries reached nearly 17 lakhs. The case fatality rate further improved to 1.96 per cent, and the recovery rate was at 70.77 per cent.

"The record high recoveries ensured the actual caseload of the country, the active cases, had reduced and was now only 27.27 per cent of total positive cases," the ministry said.

Washington, Aug. 13: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden made a maiden public appearance with his running mate Kamala Harris on Wednesday during which Indian-American shredded Donald Trump's

not "up to the job."

Mr Biden, a 77-year-old white man, on Tuesday named 55-year-old Harris as his vice-presidential running mate, making history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket.

White House record, say-

ing that the President is

Jointly appearing in Wilmington, Delaware, to make their election case for the first time as running mates, Mr Biden said his pick for the party's vice presidential nominee is smart, tough and a proven fighter for the country's middle class.

She knows how to make the hard calls. She's ready to do this job on day one. And we're both ready to get to work rebuilding this nation and building a better, he said.



■ President is a guy who just isn't up for the job: Kamala

Biden, Harris shred Trump's

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Devi Harris arrive to speak at a news conference at Alexis Dupont High School in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday. -AP

The event was not open to the public due to coronavirus\_prevention\_needs. Both Biden and Harris walked on stage wearing masks to address a socially distanced group of masked journalists.

Ms Harris said that once elected, the Biden administration will create millions of jobs, fight climate change and build an affordable care act among various other strong initiatives for the welfare of

Hitting hard on the three and half years of the Trump administration during her first appearance after being picked as the vice presidential nominee of the Democratic party on Tuesday, Harris presented a long list of missteps taken by the Trump government. 'This is what happens when we elect a guy who just isn't up for the job," Ms Harris said. "Our country ends in tatters and so does our reputation around the world."

#### Kamala on her mom: 'She told me not to sit and complain'

Washington: Taking the center stage of American politics for the first time after becoming the pre-sumptive vice-presidential Democratic Party, Indianorigin Senator Kamala Harris remembered her mother Shyamala Gopalan, saying it was she who taught her not to sit and complain about things during the time of problem but do something to improve it.

Making her first appearance along with Mr Biden, Ms Harris said that her mother had a great role in her life. "My mother, Shyamala, raised my sister Maya and me to believe that it was up to us, and every generation of Americans, to keep on marching. She'd tell us. Don't sit around and complain about things, do something," she said.









#### 2-yr-old infant sold multiple times, saved

New Delhi: The Delhi Police and Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Thursday said they have rescued a twoand-a-half-month-old baby girl from central Delhi's Hauz Qazi area who was sold multiple times. The girl was first sold by her father since he did not wanted a female child to

a woman, who sold the baby to another woman. On Wednesday night, the DCW received an information from its Mahila Panchayat about a baby girl who had been sold by her own father for ₹40,000. The infant's father was made to accompany a

DCW team to Jaffrabad, where he had sold his baby to a woman named Manisha, the women's panel said. The woman was not present at the address. The baby's father was taken to a police station, where he confessed that he had two daughters and was disappointed to have another girl child, it said. He did not want to have another girl in the family so he sold her off, the DCW said. After looking for the baby girl throughout the night at various locations,

#### **Unidentified body** found in Gr Noida

she was rescued on Thursday

Noida: An unidentified man's body was found dumped along a road in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Thursday, police said. The body was spotted by passersby in the morning in a greenbelt on Kasna road, barely 200 metres from the busy Pari Chowk area, the police said. "The deceased appears to be around 30years-old. An FIR has been lodged under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder) and efforts are underway to ascertain the man's identity and arrest those behind the killing," SHO Beta 2 police station Sujit Kumar

Upadhyay said. The local police are coordinating with other counterparts in Gautam Buddh Nagar district to find any clues in connection with the case, the SHO said.

■ Delhi is jammed, govt is responsible for it: Opposition

### City sees heaviest rain this monsoon season

AGE CORRESPONDNT with agency inputs **NEW DELHI, AUG. 13** 

Delhi on Thursday witnessed the heaviest spell of rains this monsoon season which inundated low-lying areas and threw traffic out of gear.

According to the India Meteorological department (IMD), the Ayanagar weather station recorded 106.9 mm rainfall, the maximum in the city, since Wednesday morning.

The Palam and Ridge weather stations gauged 99.9 mm and 98.2 mm precipitation respectively during the period.

The Safdarjung observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 83.8 mm rainfall since Wednesday morning, according to the

Rainfall recorded below 15 mm is considered light, between 15 and 64.5 mm is moderate and above 64.5

mm is heavy.
The mercury slumped to 28.9 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal.

Vehicles moved bumper to bumper during the morning rush hours as the downpour led to heavy waterlogging at key road

The Delhi Traffic Police reported an incident of a tree being uprooted near the high court, which led to traffic snarls. Raja Garden and Mayapuri flyovers also witnessed heavy waterlogging.
The incessant rains dam-

aged a drain near Khaira village T-point on Dhansa road where metro construction work is going on, the traffic police said.
The affected 200-metre

stretch of the road has been closed for traffic. Civic bodies reported 21 incidents of trees being brought down the rain



Vehicles move slowly through the waterlogged Delhi-Gurugram Expressway following rainfall in Gurugram on Thursday.

### Cong, BJP slam govt for waterlogging

New Delhi, Aug. 13: The BJP and Congress' Delhi unit hit out at the AAP government over waterlogging in various places of the city following the heaviest spell of rains this monsoon on Thursday, holding it responsible for

the situation. The AAP, however, attempted to shift the blame to BJP-ruled civic bodies by claiming that the municipal corporations are responsible for cleaning 98 per cent of drains and they have not done their job despite funds

uprooted and one incident

of wall collapse due to the

Pictures and videos of

vehicles and people wading through waist-deep

water were widely shared

The downpour also

on social media.

There were no

rains.

injuries.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta tweeted a video purportedly showing some men crossing a waterlogged underpass in Tughlaqabad on a bullock

Along with the video clip, he tweeted, "Due to water-logging Tughalaqabad people are resorting to riding a bullock cart. Delhi is jammed and the AAP is responsible for it. Delhi is suffering due to failed policies of the Arvind Kejriwal government."

Delhi Congress president

deficiency in the national capital. Till Wednesday

evening, the Safdarjung

recorded 72 per cent less

rainfall than normal in

August, the lowest in 10

years, according to the

The shortage reduced

to 14 percent by Thursday

"Delhi, our Delhi. Just thinking who will Kejriwalji hold responsible for it. Will Nehru again have to go to witness box?

Anil Kumar too tweeted

the same video and rhetor-

ically asked the chief min-ister who will be held

responsible for it.

One thing is sure, Kejriwal ji will not work," Kumar tweeted in Hindi. MP and former Delhi BJP

president Manoj Tiwari also alleged that the Delhi government has "failed" to tackle the waterlogging problem in Delhi.

morning. Overall, Delhi

has recorded 7 per cent

more rains in the monsoon Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said the city witnessed "continuous rains overnight" and

more rainfall is expected

### SC allows Shourie to withdraw plea on contempt law

PARMOD KUMAR

The former Union minister and veteran journalist Arun Shourie, Thursday, withdrew the challenging petition the constitutional validity of Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Court Act, which punishes for scandalising or lowering the authority of the court.

Allowing the withdrawal of the petition, a bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra, Justice B.R. Gavai, and Justice Krishna Murari gave the petitioner liberty to approach the appropriate forum but not Supreme Court.

At the outset of the hearing, senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan told the court about their intention to withdraw the petition that was filed by Mr Shourie along with senior journalist N. Ram and activist lawyer Prashant

Seeking the withdrawal

#### Man killed during fight over dog

AGE CORRESPONDENT

A 50-year-old man was killed on Thursday during a fight over an issue of a dog in North Delhi's Burari area, the police said. The deceased has identified as Kuldeep Katiyal, a resident of Sant Nagar in

Burari, it said. Shambhu Katyal (25) the son of the deceased said that he lives with his family and runs a mobile repairing shop.

On Wednesday, when he was closing his shop, his nephew Gagan Khurana came to him and informed him about a fight, the police said.

Shambhu's father, Kuldeep, reached the house of his sister. Thereafter, he went to the spot where two persons were beating his brother-in-law Ashok with cricket bat.

daughter doesn't keep

the dog on leash." Later, one Vakul hit Kuldeep with a cricket bat, following which he fell down.

### MLAs, councillors not to be part of Delhi BJP's new team

Arun Shourie

of the petition by Mr Shourie, Mr Ram, and Mr

Bhushan, Mr Dhavan told

the court that the "issue

is important" but peti-

tioners would not like to

Challenging the consti-

tutionality of Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of

Court Act, Mr Shourie, Mr Ram, and Mr Bhushan

had contended that the

section under challenge

violates the right to free

speech and expression

guaranteed under Article

19(1)(a) and uses termi-

nology that does not

amount to a reasonable

restriction as provided

under Article 19(2) of the

Constitution.

raise it at this stage.

**SHASHI BHUSHAN** NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

MLAs and councillors may not be included in the new team of the Delhi BJP to be announced after August Restructuring of Delhi BJP is due with the appointment of new state president Adesh Gupta on June 2.

Mr Gupta has told this newspaper that the new BJP state team will be announced before the end

of this month. It is learnt from wellplaced sources close to the current state leadership that the new team will be

announced any day after the Independence Day celebration and the state team will be announced first followed by the names of district and block presidents. Several rounds of deliberation have taken place among the top leadership, including central appointees, to oversee the restructuring process.

bearer said that it has been deliberated that MLAs and councillors must not be included in the state organisation as they must continue to work in their respective constituencies.

"Out of eight MLAs, only

A senior Delhi BJP office

two, Abhay Verma and Ajay Mahawar, are eyeing the post in the state unit. However, it has been discussed that they must focus on their constituency and try to corner the AAP government on the floor of the Assembly," he added.

With its eye on the next civic polls, the party has discussed the possibility of ruling out senior councillors from the state organisational structure as their contribution is required more in the civic affairs and policy decisions or in their respective municipal



### **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS**

### TRAFFIC ADVISORY

ON 15TH AUGUST, 2020 AT RED FORT



SUGGESTED ACCESS TO KASTURBA GANDHI HOSPITAL SUGGESTED CORRIDORS FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC METRO STATIONS

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

(BETWEEN LOOP ISBT BRIDGE RING ROAD TO 'T' POINT NIZAMUDDIN FLY-OVER)

NO HGV/MGV/LGV & INTER STATE BUSES ALLOWED ON RING ROAD

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4.00 AM to 9.00 AM and only labeled vehicles will be permitted: Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail

Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail.

S.P.Mukherjee Marg from H.C.Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk. Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort. Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.

Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg. Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT. Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs Those vehicles which do not have parking labels may avoid C-Hexagon India Gate, Copernics Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A point Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizammuddin Bridge and ISBT Bridge Outer Ring Road from IP Flyover through Salimgarh Bypass to ISBT and take the route as advised.

Alternative- 1: Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjang Road – Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street- Mandir Marg – Panchkulan Road – Rani Jhansi Road and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa. Alternative- 2: Reach Connaught Place - Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg - Ajmeri Gate - Shradhanand Marg - Lahori Gate Chowk - Naya Bazar - Peeli Kothi - S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa. Alternative- 3: Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna – Pushta Road – G.T. Road and cross Yuddhisther Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

DND – NH24 (NH9) – Vikas Marg – Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.

Vikas Marg – DDU Marg – Bhavbhuti Marg – DBG Road – Rani Jhansi Road/Qutub Road – Barf Khana – Boulevard Road and vice versa.

Geeta Colony Bridge will be closed towards Shantivan:- Similarly, Traffic would not be permitted on lower Ring Road from ISBT Kashmere Gate towards Shantivan and from IP flyover towards

People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush &

SIGNAGES

Adequate informative signages will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES

14.08.2020 to 11:00 AM on 15.08.2020 INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED

BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE KHAN ISBT FROM 04.00 AM TO 11.00 AM on 15.08.2020.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY

**BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS** Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 AM to 11 AM on 15.08.2020 between ISBT and Ring Road - NH-24(NH-9)/NH 'T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take alternative route

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below

1) Opposite Ramlila Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi.

2) At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge 3) At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring

#### Normal hus service will be restored after 10:00 AM HOW TO APPROACH/REACH IMPORTANT PLACES

Old Delhi Railway Statio a) From West and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg -Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard Road - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

b) From North: Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station. New Delhi Rly. Station: There is no restriction. 3) ISBT Kashmere Gate

a) From New Delhi and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg -Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Road and Ran Jhansi Flyover - Boulevard Road.

b) From North Delhi: There is no restriction. 4) J.P.N. Hospital: There is no restriction. Kasturba Hospital: Ajmeri Gate – Ajmeri Bazar – Chowk Hauz Quazi – Chawri Bazar – Chowk

No cameras, binoculars, Remote Control car keys, umbrella, handbags, briefcases, transistors, cigarette lighters, tiffin boxes, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. will be permitted.

Members of the public are requested not to touch any suspicious object. They are requested to immediately report about the presence of any unidentified/suspected object, suspicious movement of individuals & vehicles or anything out of the ordinary, to the nearest

#### RESTRICTIONS

The following roads shall be closed for movement for Intra City/DTC buses from 00:00 hrs to 11:00 hrs.

(A) Lothian Road from Chhatta Rail to Kashmere Gate. (B) Subhash Marg from Chhatta Rail to Delhi Gate.

(C) Shyama Parsad Mukherjee Marg. (D) Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge (NH-24) and northern

(E) 'C' Heaxagon, Shershah Road, Purana Quila Road, Copernicus Sikandara Road, Bhagwan Dass Marg & BSZ Marg,

(F) Vikas Marg, beyond loop towards Delhi Secretariat. (G) K.G. Marg from Ferozeshah Road to "C" Hexagon. (H) Ashoka Road from R/A Windsor Place to "C" Hexagon. FROM TRANS YAMUNA AREA

(I) G.T ROAD/ISBT BRIDGE Buses bound for Kauria Pul/Red Fort/Old Delhi Railway Station shall operate via ISBT Bridge ( Yudhistir Setu ) and terminate at Boulevard Road – Near Mori Gate U – Turn.

Return route via Boulevard Road after taking 'U' turn from Mori Gate U turn for ISBT Bridge (Yudhistir Setu). Buses bound for New Delhi/Connaught Place/Central Secretariat shall

operate via new ISBT Bridge - Boulevard Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover Rani Jhansi Road - Mandir Marg - Peshwa Road - Gole Market & Shivaji Stadium Terminal/Central Secretariat Terminal. Buses bound for South Delhi shall follow the route above upto Mandir Marg and proceed further via Shankar Road - Upper Ridge Road, mon Bolivar Marg-Dhaula Kuan.

(ii) VIKAS MARG Buses bound for North Delhi shall proceed via Marginal Bandh Road (Pusta), G.T Road, Shastri Park, ISBT Bridge, Boulevard Road and proceed further

Buses bound for South Delhi shall proceed via Mother Diary Road, take left loop to take NH - 24, towards Nizamuddin Bridge - Ring

Buses bound for New Delhi shall deboard the passengers on Vikas Marg, New Secretariat. Bus stand and will take U turn from under IP Flyover for return journey towards Vikas Marg. BUSES COMING FROM BARAF-KHANA

All Buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station/Kauria Pul/Red Fort/Jama Masjid shall be curtailed as mention Buses coming from Roshanara Road for Old Delhi Railway Station shall terminate opposite State Bank of India inside Tis Hazari Courts. Return journey will be via Boulevard Road towards Barafkhana.

Red Fort shall terminate opposite Telephone Exchange near GPO Return journey will be via Gokhale Road-Zorawar Singh Marg. Buses coming from New Rohtak Road for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort shall terminate on Gokhale Marg between

Buses coming from Old Rohtak Road for old Delhi Railway Station

Tikona Park and In - Gate Tis Hazari Court. Return journey will be via Gokhale Road - Zorawar Singh Marg. Buses coming from Malka Ganj for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort shall terminate on Gokhale Marg adjoining boundary wall of

Return journey will be via Gokhale Road - Zorawar Singh Marg All private and mini buses shall be terminated at MCD car parking (MORIGATE) Gokhale road shall be one-way from R/A Mori Gate towards P.S. Metro Station Kashmiri Gate & R/A Mori Gate to Gokhale Market

All Buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Bhai Mati Dass Chowk, Mori Gate, ISBT, Pragati Maidan and Ambedkar Stadium Terminal shall terminate Opp. Turkman Gate

Return journey by taking "U"-Turn on J.L.N Marg and proceed further

BUSES COMING FROM MALL ROAD SIDE All buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Kauriya Pul shall terminate on Boullevard Road Return journey will be via Boullevard Road, Ring Road and

Chandgi Ram Akhara, IP College light point.

**BUSES COMING FROM SOUTH DELHI** Buses bound for Red fort, Old Delhi Railway Station, Bhai Mati Dass Chowk (Fountain) from South Delhi will be diverted via Ring Road – NH -24, Marginal Bandh (Pushta) Road, new ISBT Bridge and shall

Return journey by taking 'U' Turn and proceed further via ISBT Bridge. Buses bound for Connaught Place from South Delhi shall be diverted towards Ring Road and further take Upper Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh and reach Connaught Place via Jhandewalan Panchkuian Road Shivaji Stadium terminal. Buses bound for ISBT Maharana Pratap Terminal shall proceed Ring Road and further take Upper Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh Faiz Road Filmistan Azad Mkt. Chowk, Boulevard Road and

Ring Road- Hazrat Nizamuddin Bridge- (NH-24) - New Patpar Buses bound for East Delhi from South Delhi coming at Lala Lajpat Rai Marg will be diverted on Mathura Road towards the Ashram

5. Buses bound for Red Fort, Jama Masiid, KauriyaPul from Firozshah Road and going towards Mandi House shall take Barakhamba Road from Mandi House, Ranjit Singh Flyover and terminate Opp. Turkman Gate Asaf Ali Road Return journey via J.L.N.Marg, Ranjeet Singh Flyover by taking 'U'

Turn and proceed further. Mudrika Services (Buses) shall take route via new ISBT Bridge, Shastri Park, Pusta Kailash Gandhi Nagar – Vikas Marg – Mother Dairy Road-Loop NH - 24 (Trilok Puri) - Nizamuddin Bridge - turn

#### left Ring road for Sarai Kale Khan. INTER STATE BUSES

All buses coming from Ghaziabad towards Delhi shall move via BhopuraChungi Road from Mohan Nagar for Wazirabad Road and then towards Chandgi RamAkhara – U turn ISBT and enter ISBT. All Buses coming from DhaulaKuan shall be diverted on Ring

Road for taking Punjabi Bagh - Azad Pur - Akhara Chandgi Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT. All buses operating between ISBT and Faridabad (Badarpur) shall either terminate at Sarai Kale Khan or be diverted on Ring road via DhaulaKuan – Punjabi Bagh – Azad Pur – Akhara Chandgi Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.

No bus shall be allowed to take 'U' turn at northern loop of Ring Road near BudhVihar (Monastery) and would be diverted towards Wazirabad to go Trans Yamuna or take U turn from Chandgiram Akhara and take loop of ISBT Flyover to go towards Shastri Park and Buses bound for DhaulaKuan shall take Boulevard Road Rani Jhansi Road, Link Road and upper Ridge Road

(VandeMatram Marg) Buses bound for Loni Border shall proceed via Wazirabad Bridge

#### and those bound for Ghaziabad shall proceed via ISBT Bridge DTC RECOVERY VANS DTC recovery vans shall be stationed (from 06:00 hrs onward till

Central Control Room - Gokhale Marg Ghata Masjid

Yamuna Bazar Chatta Rail Chowk

Note:- BUSES ORIGINATING FROM EAST, NORTH, CENTRAL WEST, SOUTH AND INTENDING TO USE BSZ MARG - TILAK MARG - SUBASH MARG - RING ROAD (BETWEEN AKHARA CHANDGI RAMAND HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN BRIDGE BE DIRECED TO AVOID THESE STRETCHES & TAKE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

In view of care to be exercised during Covid-19 situation, the invitees are requested to follow guidelines issued by MHA & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at all times while they are in the I.D.C. function area at Red Fort. In this regard, attention is

invited to the following: I) In the event of any invitee experiencing/having a history of any symptoms of Covid-19 within 2 weeks of the Independence Day 2020, which is yet untested or confirmed POSITIVE for Corona (Covid-19), the invitee

may consider refraining to attend the event. ii) At the entry gates, markings will be available at adequate distance and invitees are requested to position/move on

these markings while entering the gate. iii) Controlling officers & Ushers will be on duty to assist &

guide for seating inside the designated enclosures. iv) Similarly on conclusion of the function at Red Fort, all invitees are requested to remain seated until requested/ guided by the Controlling officers/Ushers of the designated enclosures to proceed to avoid crowding at exit.

1. Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge reach Mori Gate/ ISBT. E-mail to CP. Delhi at: cp.snshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to : Cp. Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL Download App from App Store 24 Hours Traffic Helpline 011-25844444/1095 For immediate Help Call 112 to Share Information call 1090

















SHORT TAKES

#### No proof against PC

in 63 moons' plaint

Mumbai: The CBI on Thursday told the Bombay high court that it did not find any material to substantiate the allegations made by 63 moons technologies against former finance minister P. Chidambaram and two others. CBI lawyer Hiten Venegavkar told a division bench of Justices Sadhana Jadhay and N.J. Jamadar that the complaint filed by the firm has been forwarded to the chief vigilance officer of the department of economic affairs. The court was hearing a petition filed by the Jignesh Shah-promoted company, earlier known as Financial Technologies Ltd, questioning "delayed" action by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Mr Chidambaram and bureaucrats K.P. Krishnan and Ramesh Abhishek. On February 15, 2019, 63 moons technologies filed a com-plaint with the CBI. It alleged that the senior Congress leader and the

#### **Balasubrahmanyam**

other two abused their offi-

cial positions. - PTI

condition is 'stable'

Chennai: Veteran singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, undergoing treatment for Covid-19, was "stable" and maintaining "normal oxygen saturation," the private hospital treating him said on Thursday. He was being monitored by an expert team at the MGM Healthcare, its director Prashanth Rajagopalan said in a bulletin. The singer-actor admit-ted with mild symptoms "continues to be stable and is maintaining normal oxy-gen saturation," he said. "He is being monitored by the expert team of clinicians in our High Dependency Unit (HDU), Dr Rajagopalan added. The 74 year-old singer, who has worked across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam film industries, was admitted to the hospital on August 5 after cold and on and off" fever for

two-three days then. -PTI

### IAF Chief visits frontline base, flies MiG

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria briefed on readiness, operational status of lodger units

NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria on Thursday flew fighter aircraft MiG 21 Bison on a frontline airbase under Western Air Command to send a message that the Air Force is all prepared to take any challenge from adversaries. Western Air Command

(WAC) looks after both the crucial borders with China in Ladakh and with Pakistan from Ladakh up to Bikaner in Rajasthan. The Indian Air Force said on Thursday that Air



Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria prepares to fly MiG 21 Bison.

Chief Marshal Bhadauria visited a frontline airbase in Western Air Command.

He was briefed by the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of the base on the Commanding

readiness and operational status of the lodger units located at the base.

The Air Force Chief reviewed the operational preparedness of the base interacted with air force personnel serving on the frontlines. He urged the air force personnel to maintain the highest standards of readiness. He also appreciated their efforts in preserving IAFs combat potential during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The Indian Air Force has

kept almost all its airbases Western the Command at a "very high level of readiness" in view of the over three-month

border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

Western Command has over 200 bases placed under its command and has been 1986 (Sri Lanka) and Operation Safed Sagar 1999 (Kargil).

involved in all major operations in India since independence. Due to its geographical location the Command has always been the hub-centre of all operational activities during any operation inlcuding Kashmir Operations 1947-48, Sino-Indian Conflict 1962, Indo-Pak War 1965, Indo-Pak War

Operation Pawan

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Central government to consider amending the Official Languages Act to draft Environment Impact include languages, other than the Hindi and the Assessment notification in multiple languages English for the publica-tion of gazette and other official notifications as

Consider change

in languages Act:

in multiple languages. The top court on Thursday stayed the conpeople in some parts of the country do not undertempt proceedings initiatstand either of the two ed before the high court against the MoEF's for its "We think the spirit in which the high court has failure to comply with its direction. passed the order is cor-

consider amending the Official Languages Act to include other languages as well. These days the translation is the easiest thing to do through Google," CJI Bobde said, pointing to the top court's experience in translating its judgments in different regional languages and instant translation in parliament through software.

#### Top court to govt PARMOD KUMAR THE SC's observation comes in the course of the hearing of an appeal by the Centre against the Delhi HC order directing the MoEF to publish the

# 'Your government could

Apparently on a different page on the translation of original documents, solicitor-general referred to attempts by Environment Impact Albert Einstein to Assessment notification late Bhagavad Gita. Albert Einstein to trans-

### Varun to bring Bill on organ donation

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG 13

BJP MP Varun Gandhi will introduce a private member bill — Donation and Transplantation of Human Organ Bill, 2020 promoting cadaver donation and making it

compulsory for all Indian adults to be registered as organ donors unless a person opts out. The Bill, which also seeks a National Registry

of donors, non-donors and recipients which 'shall have such information as may be prescribed to an ongoing evaluation of the scientific and clinical status of human organs and tissues. The Bill also seeks state

governments to maintain a registry and non-disclo-sure of identity of people in both databases in public domain unless regarding a complaint, a court case, bonafide medical research but with the consent of the person.

"According to the WHO estimates, three to four million lives per year can countries.

be saved in India if we have such a system and most of these people will be

from poor and middle class families who otherwise cannot Lets say even 5 percent

of Indian population agrees to donate their organs and tissues, the number can be multiplied by 15 times in organ banks which is a very significant number as compared to the figures which we have now," said Mr Gandhi, who is likely to introduce the Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament. There is a need of 2,00,000 kidneys, 50,000 hearts and 50,000 livers for transplantation every year. The Bill states that in India, organ donation is largely from living donors and the rate of organ donation from deceased persons is very low at 0.8 million population as compared to more than 30 percent in other

#### **■** Body's meet with mantri creates resentment

### 'No single tribe of Nagas affiliated to Naga Hoho'

**MANOJ ANAND** 

A meeting between the Union minister of state Jitendra Singh and leaders of Naga Hoho in New Delhi has created resentment at the grassroots in Nagaland as all the 14 tribal hohos of Nagaland has made it clear that the 'Naga Hoho does not represent the Nagas of Nagaland" and not a sin-gle tribe of Nagas of Nagaland are affiliated to the Naga Hoho.

A nine-member team of the Naga Hoho met Union minister of state for the ministry of development of north-eastern region Jitendra Singh on Wednesday and apprised him about the slow progress of the peace negotiations between the NSCN(IM) and the central government's representative.

In a statement, the media cell of the 14 tribal hohos of Nagaland at live in Nagaland where Kohima asserted, "The the apex body of each trib-

warned that the 14 tribal hohos will unitedly take its course of action against any individual or organisation if any kind of threat is meted to the tribal leaders

Naga Hoho does not have the mandate of Nagas of Nagaland."

Expressing deep anguish over the ongoing campaign against the peace talks which is almost in its final stage with the PMO setting the deadline of September this year to conclude the talks, the 14 tribal hohos clarified, "Any matter that inv-olves or concerns the Nag-as of Nagaland should be routed through the 14 tribes of Nagaland. Any decision taken by the Naga Hoho or any other organisation on our behalf will not be honoured." It is significant that 80 per cent of Nagas

Naga Hoho which is alleged to have been claiming to be a supreme authority of Naga people in various political circle. The statement also

warned that the 14 tribal hohos will unitedly take its course of action against any individual or organization if any kind of threat is meted to the tribal leaders.

Pointing out that date and time for next round of talks with negotiators of NSCN(I-M) and interlocutor R.N. Ravi is yet to be fixed, security sources said that Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio recently met Union home minister Amit Shah who categorically told the CM to go back to the state and prepare for signing the peaceaccord. The 14 Naga tribal hohos and various other indigenous tribal groups have also written letter to the PM Narendra Modi expressing their desire for

#### **VIKAS DUBEY CASE: ED QUIZZES CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF GANGSTER**

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG, 13

languages.

itor-general Mehta.

rect. There may be people

in Karnataka, rural Maharashtra, Nagaland and other places who may not understand the things

in English and Hindi",

Chief Justice Sharad A.

Bobde heading a three

judge bench told the solic-

The top court's observa-

tion comes in the course

of the hearing of an

appeal by the Centre against the Delhi high

court order directing the

MoEF to publish the draft

The ED has decided to question Jai Vajpayee, close aide of Vikas Dubey, as part of its money laun-dering probe pertaining to the alleged illegal transactions and tainted assets created by dead gangster Vikas Dubey.

According to sources Dubey and Vajpayee have more than two dozen plots and houses in Kanpur, Uttarakhand,

Mumbai and Noida. Besides, Jai owns two bungalows, one each in Dubai and Bangkok, worth ₹25 crore, they said adding "Vajpayee will soon be called for questioning". It is also suspected that Vajpayee was converting the black money of Dubey into white, sources claimed. The ED will soon file a money laundering complaint against the slain gangster, his family members and associates.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY



Invitees to the Independence Day 2020 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items: आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2020 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तूएं साथ में न लाएं:

#### **Prohibited Items**

### Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण

Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें



Bag, Briefcase



थैला, ब्रीफकेस



Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी3 प्लेयर



Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैण्डीकैम





ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई

Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन Inflammable Items, Match

Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc.

विभिन्न इलैक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking.

कृप्या तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

### वर्जित वस्तुएं



Cigarettes, Bidies, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर



शराब, इत्र, स्प्रै

Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray



Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, **Screw Drivers** नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस



Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने

Knives, Scissors, Razors,

Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेज़र, ब्लेड, तार,



Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे



Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to

Please be alert to your surroundings.

मोबाईल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel. यदि, कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं।



Keeping in mind the threat of Covid-19, don't forget to wear face mask/cover and maintain Social Distancing कोविड-19 के खतरे को ध्यान में रखते हुए फेस कवर/मास्क पहनना और दूसरों से उचित दूरी बना कर रखना ना भूलें।



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** 



### **PUBLIC NOTICE**



### PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly till 15.08.2020 vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.
- Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

+

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

**TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090** 



#### SHORT TAKES

**India, Nigeria partner** for space research

New Delhi: India inked an MoU with African nation Nigeria on "cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes". "The MoU envisages India-Nigeria collaboration in space science, planetary exploration, ground stations, development of micro and mini satellites and joint Space R&D. It provides for capacity building assistance by Isro, exchange of scientific know-how, exchanges between academic institutes and joint symposiums/con-ferences. Cooperation in remote sensing, communications and navigation will benefit Nigeria in the fields of forestry, environment, agriculture, mining, water-shed development and connectivity," the MEA said. Last year in September, minister S. Jaishankar had met permanent representative of Nigeria to United Nations

#### **16 Naxals surrender** in Chhattisgarh

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

Dantewada: Sixteen Naxals including four women and some carrying cash rewards on their heads, on Thursday surrendered in Chhattisgarhs Dantewada district, citing disillusionment with the Maoist ideology, a senior official said. A rehabilitation campaign for Naxals being run by the police also helped the rebels in deciding to shun the armed movement and join the national mainstream, he said. All the 16 cadres, three of them carrying cash rewards on their heads, turned themselves in before police and CRPF officials in Dantewada town, Dantewada superintendent of police Abhishek Pallava said. Of these, Rajesh Bhaskar (26), Saade Parsik alias Sahdev (30) and Bheema Telam were active as janmilitia commanders of Maoists, he said, adding they were carrying reward of ₹1 lakh each on their heads. — PTI

#### **Siddaramaiah tests** -ve, discharged

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital here for Covid-19 infection has been discharged after recovery, his office said on Thursday He has been discharged after reports of the second test also came out negative, it said. The statement said Siddaramaiah was admitted to hospital on August 3 for urinary infection and subse quently he had tested positive for the coronavirus infection. As per the advice of the doctors, he will take rest at home for one week, it added. The 72-year-old leader of opposition has thanked doctors and medical staff who took care of him at the Manipal hospital for the last 10 days. — PTI

### **Himachal sees big**

spike of 180 cases

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh registered its highest singleday spike of 180 Covid-19 cases on Thursday, while a 70-year-old man died due to the disease, taking the death toll in the state to 18. The total number of the cases in Himachal stands at 3,817. So far, 2,435 people have recovered from the disease, leaving 1,328 active COVID-19 cases in the state. - PTI

#### Rajasthan trust vote today

■ Continued from Page 1 been trying to save his govern-

The meeting with the leaders was followed by the Congress Legislature Party meeting, where sources said Mr Gehlot expressed his desire to seek a trust vote on the first day of the Assembly session itself. The Opposition BJP has

already announced that it would seek a no-confidence motion against the Gehlot government during the session. The decision was taken at a BJP legislature party meeting

held in Jaipur on Thursday. After the meeting, Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria told the media that the motion of no-confidence will be moved in the Assembly session on Friday. The Congress has 107 MLAs in the 200-member House, and the BJP has 72. Meanwhile, the Congress on Thursday revoked the suspension of two of its MLAs, Bhanwarlal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh, who had rebelled along with Mr Pilot last month.

### India unveils economic aid for Maldives

\$500m package to boost cargo service and connectivity project

KUMARASWAMI

NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

In a major move towards cementing close bilateral Indo-Maldivian strategic ties and keeping Chinese influence in the maritime neighbourhood at bay, India on Thursday announced a "financial package consisting of a grant of \$100 million and a new line of credit (LoC) of \$400 million" for the ambitious Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) in India's southwestern maritime neighbour Maldives. The announcement was made by external affairs

made by external attairs minister S. Jaishankar after a meeting with Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid through video-conference. India also decided to continue quotas for supply to the Maldives of food items like potatoes, onions rice wheat flour onions, rice, wheat, flour, sugar, dal (pulses) and eggs that will ensure food security to the tiny archipelago nation, besides announcing "creation of an air travel bubble between India and Maldives" from August 18 and a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives that will commence soon. India will also extend in-principle urgent financial assistance to the Maldives by way of a soft loan arrangement amid the Covid pandemic.

The complex GMCP project will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting the Maldivian **▶ THE PACKAGE** consists of a grant of \$100m and a new line of credit of \$400m for the Greater

Male Connectivity Project capital Male with three neighbouring islands — Villingili, Gulhifahu (where a port is being built under Indian LoC) and Thilafushi (new industrial zone) — by construction of a bridge-andcauseway link spanning 6.7 km. It is reliably learnt that the 6.7 km GMCP will dwarf in magnitude the 1.39 km Maldives-China friendship bridge (connecting Male with Hulhule and Hulhumale to its east) built earlier and render that insignificant in companion cant in comparison.

It is also learnt that India's total financial commitment in the Maldives covering all loan and grant projects is now well over a whopping \$2 billion since November, 2018, when the Maldivian government under President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih assumed

Once completed, the GMCP will boost economic activity by generating employment and promoting holistic urban devel-opment in the Male region". South Asian foreign policy watchers and observers point out that the GMCP will help in demonstrating India's overarching presence in Maldives through a highvisibility project in the Greater Male region and showcase India's expertise in conceptualising and implementing a complex infrastructural proj-



Children wave tricolours ahead of the Independence Day celebrations at a village in South Dinajpur district, West

#### ■ Punjab, Haryana, HP to get fairly widespread showers

### **IMD** forecasts heavy to very heavy rainfall across country

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Large parts of the country are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the next two-three days, the India meteorological department (IMD) said on Thursday

The IMD said a low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha and West Bengal coasts.

There is also a monsoon trough plus a convergence southwesterly winds with moisture from Arabian Sea is likely to continue during the next two days, which will lead to heavy rains over several parts of the country.

Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places are very likely over major parts of north India



People wade through a flooded bridge near submerged houses after heavy rainfall in Satna on Thursday. -PTI

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan — during the next two days and decrease thereafter, the

IMD said.

"Moderate to severe thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Haryana,

Uttar Pradesh during next Several parts of western India are also expected to

receive heavy to very heavy rainfall. This includes Gujarat, Goa, Konkan, the ghat areas of central Maharashtra, and parts of central India during next 4-5 days, the IMD "Isolated extremely

heavy falls are also likely over Gujarat state during next 2-3 days and over ghat areas of central Maharashtra during next 24 hours," the IMD said.

Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy falls are likely over Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during next 2-3 days, the IMD added. — PTI

#### Bihar polls likely to be held in **November**

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Bihar Assembly elections could be held in five or six phases in November and the Union home ministry is likely to deploy 500-600 companies, roughly 60,000 personnel, of Central paramilitary forces for the same. Ministry officials claim they were going ahead with all necessary arrangements anticipating the polls would be held on schedule.

Home ministry officials claimed that though finalising poll schedule was the prerog-Commission, the Centre was going ahead with all security and other necessary arrangements anticipating that Bihar elections will be held as per schedule which is in

first week of November. While the 2015 Bihar elections were also held in five phases, this time in view of the Corona pandemic it is believed that polling would be completed in six phases or maybe even in another additional round.

Another big challenge, sources added, would be to ensure proper health protocols during both polling and counting in view of the Corona scare. The home ministry, sources said, will soon hold detailed discussion with the Election Commission, health ministry and other concerned agencies to draw a detail blueprint for the health precautions that would be taken during the elections.

Bihar has seen a sharp increase in number of Corona cases while a large parts of the state have also witnessed heavy rainfall leading to

### ■ BJP objects, says Uddhav's son inexperienced, ineligible Aditya to head Maha panel for Padma

**BHAGWAN PARAB** MUMBAI, AUG, 13

Maharashtra ment's decision to anoint Aaditva Thackerav as the head of the panel to rec-ommend Padma awards has kicked off a controv sy in the state. The BJP has opposed the move, saying Aaditya is inexperienced and ineligible for the position.

"It is not correct to form the Padma awards committee under the leadership of Aaditya despite having several experienced and senior ministers in the state cabinet. The decision has been taken in a haste. Aaditya is too inexperienced to head the commit-

**AKSHAYA KUMAR** 

BHUBANESWAR, AUG. 13

The\_Odisha government

on Thursday gave com-

pulsory retirement to the

suspended director of

National Ayush Mission

in Odisha Bibhu Prasad

Sarangi was arrested on

July 9 on charges of sexu-

ally harassing a woman

employee of the Ayush

directorate and remained

in judicial custody till

July 13. Later on July 21,

Administrative Service

(OAS) officer was placed

was suspended from gov-

ernment service in view

of the gravity of the case

Sarangi towards a subor-

dinate lady employee,

prima facie, constitutes

an act of personal immorality and violation

of conduct of rules," read

an official order issued by

the state government.

evidence against

The conduct of

under suspension. "Bibhu Prasad Sarangi

Odisha

Sarangi.



A DECISION to form the ninemember Padma awards committee was taken after the Centre's directives asking the state government to recommend the names for the awards that will be declared on January 26, 2021

tee for such prestigious awards," said senior BJP leader Pravin Darekar, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council.

Referring apparently to the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, Mr Darekar also said that Aaditya's name has surfaced in a Thackeray has been mentioned by one of the

Bibhu Prasad Sarangi

employees, the state gov-

ernment ordered compul-

Sarangi from service with

immediate effect, the

On July 6, Sarangi's

female colleague had filed

a complaint at Mahila Police Station in Bhubaneswar alleging the director had sent her

indecent messages and

WhatsApp on June 29.

Later, when she blocked

him on WhatsApp, Bibhu

allegedly telephoned and verbally abused her.

following a marathon

Sarangi was arrested

Sarangi had also filed a

counter FIR at the Capital

videos

order further read.

obscene

interrogation.

Sexual harassment

slur: Odisha babu

forced to quit job

lawyers in the Supreme

Court, so it will not be proper to allow him to lead this committee," he said. However, Aaditya has claimed that he is not linked to the death of the late Bollywood actor, calling the allegations "dirty politics".

Aaditya is the son of Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray.

A decision to form the nine-member Padma awards committee was taken after the Centre's directives asking the state government to recommend the names for the awards that will be declared on January 26, 2021. The other members of

the committee are industries minister Subhash Desai, animal husbandry minister Sunil Kedar, medical education minister Amit Deshmukh, higher and technical education minister Uday Samant, social justice minister Dhananjay Munde, minister of state for industries Aditi Tatkare, minister of state for forests Dattatraya Bharne.

#### **DMK expels MLA who praised** Modi, met BJP chief in Delhi

Selvam from the primary membership of the party after he virtually embraced the BJP The legislator's reply to the show cause notice sent by the party, when he was suspended on August 5 for violating party discipline and bringing disrepute, was 'unacceptable,' the party said. "The reply he gave

was unacceptable and

hence he is dismissed

from the primary membership of the party and

all his posts," DMK pres-

Chennai, Aug. 13: The DMK on Thursday removal was a discipli-expelled its MLA Ku Ka nary action. Asked on his dismissal

from the DMK, Selvam told PTI that he would consult his lawvers adding he would air his views later.

Recently, Selvam praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and metsaffron party chief J.P. Nadda in Delhi.

Virtually embracing the BJP, the MLA who was formerly theDMK headquarters office secretary and executive committee member had asked people to join the ident M.K. Stalin said in saffron party.

### Rhea opposes CBI probe into Sushant suicide case

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, AUG. 12

Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, who allegedly abetted the suicide by Susnant Rajput, has opposed handing over of the investigation to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In her submissions, Rhea has said that the Patna FIR could regarded as a zero FIR and transferred to Mumbai police And the transfer of the probe to the CBI at the behest of the Bihar Police is "without jurisdiction".

The Maharashtra government has also opposed the CBI probe, pointing out that the investigations by the Mumbai Police were already in an advanced stage.

On the other hand, the Bihar government has said that the Patna FIR is the only case registered by the police on Sushant Rajput's suicide and the same has already been taken over by the CBI.

No impediment could be allowed to come in the way of CBI to undertake and complete the investigation expeditiously, says the Bihar note. Sushant's father Krishna

Kishore had contended that Rhea's plea to transfer the FIR to Mumbai has become infructuous after investigation into Patna FIR lodged by him was

taken over by the CBI. After taking over the investigation, the CBI has already registered an FIR Bandra area in Mumbai.

#### Sanjay Raut wants all to keep quiet till cops complete probe hanging from the ceiling

MUMBAI, AUG. 13

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said that everyone, including the family of Sushant Singh Rajput, should remain quiet for some time and let the Mumbai Police conclude their investigation in the actor's death case. He also termed the transfer of the case to the CBI as illegal. The actor was found

and named several people in the case.

Rhea Chakraborty, the Maharashtra and the Bihar governments have stated their respective positions in their written submissions before the top court. The top court had given all the parties including Rhea, Krishna Kishore Singh, the Maharashtra and the

days to file written notes on their arguments. The top court had on August 11, reserved the order on the point whether the Mumbai police or the

Bihar governments three

CBI will probe the death of actor Sushant Rajput who committed suicide on June Rhea was a live-in partner of Sushant until a few days before he was found hanging from the ceiling

fan of his apartment in

Mumbai, Aug. 13: NCP leader Parth Pawar met party supremo Sharad Pawar at latter's residence here, a day after the veter-

of his apartment in sub

urban Bandra on June 14

and since then Mumbai

Police has been probing the case. "The day is not

far away when the probe

Mr Raut's statement

came a day after NCP

Chief Sharad Pawar had

said that if someone still

wants a CBI or other

agency's probe into it,

then there is no reason to

**Parth visits NCP** 

**Pawar's home** 

oppose it.

is completed," he added.

an leader publicly censured his grand-nephew for seeking CBI probe into actor Sushant Singh Raiput's death. The meeting lasted for a little over two hours.

Parth did not speak to

the media after the meeting. His father and Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar too has remained tightlipped over the episode so far. The meeting between Sharad Pawar and Parth took place after NCP MP Supriya Sule met her cousin Ajit Pawar at Mantralaya earlier in the

### Rahat Indori's unpublished works to see light of day

CHOUDHURY **BHOPAL, AUG 13** 

Unpublished works of famed Urdu poet Rahat Indori, who passed away in Indore on August 11, may see light of the day soon.

His son Satlaj Rahat Indori, who has emerged as the claimant of his late father's rich legacy by already making a mark in the world of 'mushaira'

the latter's unpublished works to release them. 'My father has left behind a large collection of

which remained unpublished. My family has decided to release all his unpublished works in the coming days as a tribute to him," Satlaj, an Urdu poet himself, told this newspaper

Thursday.
Eight books, compilations of poems, authored



INDORI'S SON Satlaj Rahat Indori, who has emerged as the claimant of his late father's rich legacy by already making a mark in the world of 'mushaira', is compiling the latter's unpublished works to release them

His other published works such as Maujood, Mere Baad, Rut, Chand Hai Pagal and journalism background, has been groomed as an accomplished poet under his late father's tutelage.

before the audience. Many Urdu poets try to imitate his writing and presentation styles. But I always try to cultivate my own style, although many say my presentation of couplets at the mushairas resembles that of my father," Satlaj said.

Satlaj has given performances at the "mushairas" in the country and abroad in the past one decade. "I feel proud that I have given performances in the

Therefore, after careful police station and alleged consideration and in line Shabdanachal have also that the contractual "I have been greatly influappointment of the com-(an evening social gatherreceived wide acclaim by enced by my father's writwith policy of zero tolerby late Indori, have been plainant was found illegal ing at which Urdu poetry published. His work Naraz the connoisseurs of "shaings of 'shayaris' as well immorality by any of its during a recent inquiry. is recited), is compiling was a best-seller. yari". Satlaj, who has a as their presentations eral times", he said.



### THE ASIAN AGE

**14 AUGUST 2020** 

### Kamala Harris: A smart choice by US Democrats

he Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's pick of running mate in Kamala Harris is historic in more ways than one. Her selec-tion will resonate with a large section of American voters even as it spotlights the growing importance of Black voters, more so of Black women who have fought for decades since the suffragette revolution for their voices to be heard and their ambitions given equal opportunity. Her Afro-Caribbean-Jamaican and Indian parentage brings to the centrestage once again the immigrants' American dream and middle class aspirations that have been threatened in four years of Trump and at a time when the world is in the grip of a raging pandemic.

The USA of today is far more of a racial and cultural melting pot than it was when a Chennai woman broke her Indian shackles and set forth to study in the USA back in 1958 and her daughter now represents eloquently the fight for equal opportunity and equal justice. The Democratic ticket needed this burst of energy to back the 78-year-old Joe Biden. Whether he is to be viewed as a transitional leader or not, what Democrats have right

Her Afro-Caribbean-Jamaican and Indian parentage brings to the centrestage once again the immigrant's American dream and middle class aspirations that have four years of Trump

now is a Vice President candidate acceptable to a large section of the population besides the fundraising ability of a prosperous West Coast Senator who is married to a Jew. Far from damaging the handy lead pollsters are giving Biden, she may add value.

Biden's choice predictably ignited the misogynistic, sexist Donald Trump into offending nearly half the US population by bringing back affront to women's dignity in his attitude that is more suited to the Middle been threatened in Ages. It is at an inflection point in contemporary history of civil strife in the time of the tragic George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement that his death inspired

bringing Harris into the limelight and making her presence on the ticket a smart choice indeed. Furthermore, when the Donald Trump administration is seen to be not only ineffective in handling the Covid-19 pandemic but also deliberately and cynically contemptuous of a threat that has killed more than 1.66 lakh Americans, she brings strength with substance and not just symbolism to a Democratic ticket promising at least the much-needed empathy to a difficult situation.

The far right may have reason to believe Harris, brought up more as a Black kid singing in the church choir than a Tamil Brahmin (and yet mindful of her mother's legacy) is too far to the left while the liberals believe she is, like Biden, too much at the centre. The Chinese are already annoyed by her brave and moral stand on the discriminatory treatment of Uighur Muslims. Harris' strong views on CAA, Kashmir and other home policies may be seen as abrasive by official India. Most Indian-Americans would, however, sense a chance to be more of a mainstream community in their adopted country with their votes likely to be valuable in battleground states. An antidote to the most divisive president in modern history is bound to come with ideologies and philosophies that are principled and it is not only in her animus towards Trump that a politician such as this must be seen as a champion to fight the forces in these conflicted times.

### Show no mercy to rioters

The vandalism that followed an inflammatory Facebook post and the police firing which cost the lives of three youngsters in Bengaluru on Wednesday point to the urgent need for the authorities to be on a state of high alert against attempts to flame communal passions and throw life into disarray. Hurting religious sentiments is a punishable offence in India. So, anyone who does it knows about its implications, and as such, must be brought to book. The same logic works for believers, too, and they must know that the legal system is capable of dealing with deliberate attempts to denigrate religious figures.

The Bengaluru rioters deserve no mercy as they torched the home of a legislator, set fire to vehicles and even attacked a police station. The Social  $\,$ Democratic Party of India, which now stands accused of having a role in the violence, has a history of portraying themselves as the champions of the Muslim cause in India while pursuing an often-counterproductive path of violence to achieve their ends. Such forces must be made to under-

stand that rule of law prevails in the country. k to condemn the riot and which is ruling the state, was qui blame "appeasement" saying the Congress was silent about the vandalism though a Congress legislator, who is a dalit, was at the receiving end. The Opposition party must respond to the charge and take an unequivocal stand against communal elements in society.

Bengaluru police stopped the violence from turning into a communal riot. However, the assertions by the ministers and senior police officials that the violence was planned beg the question why the police did not take preventive action. They must do more and prevent its recurrence. This country can ill-afford more calamities, manmade or otherwise.

#### THE ASIAN AGE

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### Why Ayodhya was not like battle for freedom



Anand K. Sahay

**Far & Near** 

Independe with little enthusiasm. The mood cannot but be downbeat after Prime Narendra Modi's morale eroding recent Ayodhya foray.

The most narrow-minded Hindu, who (even if inadvertently) takes his cue from an outfit with a militaristic anti-democracy mindset that espouses antago-nism toward particular religions, and weakens the core concepts of modern Indian nationhood rooted in our freedom movement, may have been charged up that day. But even such people have to think of their home fires, the pandemic at the door, and the push of expansionist China's army inside our borders.

Their evidently pseudo "Ram bhakti", or devo-tion to the exalted ideals Ram, has no basis in religion. Its fundamentals lie elsewhere — in the corrosive alleyways of politics that seek religion-based domination of society and the political space — as in Pakistan, for instance, and can without exaggeration be called nonsacred devotion to the divine.

The entire Ayodhya temple project has, in fact, been a massive enterprise in the politics of bigotry in which religion is whipped up as a mobilising tool with the aim of acquiring and retaining power on premises that are unconnected with the demands of everyday life. And this is why, eventually, it is likely to prove of little avail against such powerful counter-urges as have been noted above those of pressing concerns of the country.

Even if an ideologically-crazed and politically greedy Prime Minister is

not ready at present to comprehend this, he is likely to be brought down to earth when ordinary Indians begin to feel the pinch and hold him and his buddies to account.

A (probably modified) Turkish proverb runs thus: "The forest was shrinking but the trees kept voting for the axe, for the axe was clever and convinced the trees that because his handle was made of wood he was one of them." In this the metaphor of our present politics (and indeed that of Turkey) becomes

clear as day.

Just 10 days before
India was to mark the
73rd anniversary of its freedom from colonial rule — and of attaining in that process the com-posite identity of a com-mon nationhood, which an overarching canopy across our com-

plex identities of religion, caste, language and ethnicity — the Prime Minister struck at the fundamental precepts enshrined in the idea of independence. These had even served as a model to many countries as the process of decolonisation unfolded across the world.

It was careful choreography that the templebuilding trust (which seems an extension of the PMO) chose August 5

— the very date last year on which the constitutionally-ordained autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, was snatched away by the Centre by adopting illegal and irregular ways that have been challenged in the Supreme Court, and the region brought under militarised suppression with not even a sem-blance of democratic governance -- to lay the foundation of the Ram

temple in Ayodhya. Kashmir-to-Ayodhya common template was clearly intend-

ed to overtly demonstrate the suppression of Muslim aspirations in India by the Indian State under the RSS-BJP although Muslims were equal par-ticipants in the freedom movement. The RSS-BJP cohorts

had declared from the start that the temple of their dreams would be erected at the exact spot where the Babri Masjid, a 16th century mosque of no particular signifi-cance (the Supreme Court rejected the propa-gands that the mosque ganda that the mosque was on built on the ruins of a temple), had stood and was violently pulled down on December 6,

This was ruthlessly ensured through an illogical and justifiably condemned decree of the Supreme Court in November last year. A judgment in favour of Ram Lalla (beloved Ram) would hardly have presented a problem since it is widely recognised now that many of democracy's characteristic institutions appear to have been all but superseded by the executive under Narendra Modi

government. Mr Modi is known to bring communal mobs to feet without breaking a sweat, and for full theatrical effect he seldom fails to appear in the attire of ancient Hindu sages as depicted in kitsch art. For him, it would have been quite enough to satisfy the faithful by just being around to lay the first symbolic brick for the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, no matter how constitutionally unseemly this is.

And yet, the PM thought it best to make a big deal about invoking the freedom movement, and giving the (patently false) impression that

Truth to tell, the PM has already made his Independence Day address, and it had little to do with the core values of India and the immediate concerns of all Indians

building the temple was the second edition of the glorious struggle for independence, which is imprinted in the psyche of every Indian. Why did

he do so? The reason seems clear. He wanted to steal the emotional association every Indian has with the long-drawn freedom struggle for an act of violent bigotry at Ayodhya — arguably the most reprehensible in free India. Even if no one dared to inform him of this earlier, the Prime Minister may as well be made conscious that his August 5 speech in Ayodhya eviscerates the ideas that underlie the independence of India.

"The soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance," Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said as the midnight hour struck proclaiming the emergence of India on the world stage as a new kind of free nation, one whose very concept had mesmerised the world on account of its perplexing diversity, plurality, and its ambition for democracy. But the present PM presses the delete button on such thoughts every single day. Yet, nothing bestows legitimacy like favourable allusions to the independence move-

So, speaking from Ayodhya, Mr Modi engaged in yet another act of misappropriation by falsely linking the temple project with the freedom movement. He sought to portray the construction of the Ram temple as an act of "liberation". But we have been a free country for over 70 years, and no one in India feels enslaved except by caste, class, gender or communal oppression. That makes Mr Modi's "liberation theology" a grand decep-

Truth to tell, the PM has already made his Independence Day address on August 5, and it had little to do with the core values of India and the immediate concerns of all Indians. From the Red Fort on August 15, he can only give us a of some round propaganda.

#### **PROBLEM OF ORDER**

The violence in Bengaluru where several vehicles were torched, people killed and police injured over a Facebook post is totally unwarranted. People should maintain etiquette and display civic sense while expressing their freedom of speech in responding to a post on social media. Those who vandalised the police station had no right to do so or even to disrupt normal life in the city. They could have argued back on the same platform or maintained restraint. They should immediately be arrested.

V. Nagendra Kumar **Hyderabad** 

#### **WHY JUST JAINS?**

GLAD TO READ that the Maharashtra government told the Bombay high court that it cannot order reopening of Jain shrines for the Paryushan festival from August 15 to August 23 due to spread of coronavirus when two Bhandup residents filed a petition and the court asked the question. However, by the same token, all other temples, including the Venkateswara Temple at Tirupati should be closed too, without further delay.

Bhagwan Thadani

#### **STAND BY THEM**

FROM BONGAON to Bombay, despite masks, humanity's true face stands exposed in public. We, the people of India, are divided along religious lines even as Covid-19 makes rapid strides. From 1899 to 1920, be it the plague, cholera or the Spanish flu, epidemics in Bengal saw lakhs of deaths, including the daughter of Abanindranath Tagore, son of Rabindranath Tagore and Dr Radhagobindo Kar himself. But that was when people also stood by one another. Vivekananda, who was about to sell the Belur monastery land, wrote, "If there is a plague in the city where I was born, I have decided to sacrifice myself for its cure." It is time today to remember their spirit of sacrifice.

Ardhendu Banerjee

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



### Cops slug it out to the beat of Bihar poll drum

his looks like a nightmarish end to federalism as we know it. Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic death has turned into deplorable political one-upmanship. The unprecedented face-off between Bihar Police and Mumbai Police on the investigation of the suicide has far reaching consequences. Many a team of Bihar Police personnel to Mumbai after Rajput's father filed a FIR demanding a probe into the "crime" was out of step. In India, police is a state subject and crimes are investigated by the police depending on where they occurred. If states start to interfere and go after crimes committed against their citizens in another state, we have a recipe for disaster. With the further likely addition of the CBI into this pot, the stew has grown

Had some worthies shown some prudence, we wouldn't have had to see the DGPs of the two states slinging at each other on the TV news. TV newsrooms or Twitter are not the place to conduct a serious investigation into the death of a popular

The case has grown much bigger with the respective state governments getting into the ring. The Bihar CM has given his nod for a CBI probe, bowing to pressure from the actor's family, while Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray refusing to give in to the demand. Both chief ministers have decided to stick by their police chiefs. The Enforcement Directorate has also opened an investigation into alleged money laundering. It is pretty much a no-holds-barred affair now, teetering dangerously on the edge of turning into a farce.

None of this would have merited so much focus and energy were it not for the Assembly elections in Bihar, due in October. The Bihari "sentiment" seems to have taken the frontstage, a thinly veiled euphemism for votes. The politicisa-

tion of the police is one of those vexing issues that no amount of reform has been able to deal with. The recent Vikas Dubey encounter and the police custodial deaths in Sathankulam town near Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu are already forgotten. The Sushant case will likely data watin

will likely drag until it is no longer convenient. Sadly, if this lack of restraint and willful flouting of procedure by the police persists, it will end badly for the country.

#### **CONTROVERSIAL NITI AAYOG EXIT**

The repatriation of Niti Aayog adviser Alok Kumar to his cadre state Uttar Pradesh has set tongues wagging. Barely less than two months ago, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had given Mr Kumar a one-year extension of tenure at the think tank. He was

relieved on July 31. The government's U-turn has left many observers bemused. Some say that since the UP government had

agreed to an extension for Mr Kumar in May, it is unlikely that it would recall the 1993-batch IAS officer. This then implies that the Centre's U-turn may have been caused by some rift among the higher-ups in Delhi over the babu. The buzz is that there are some differences between the Niti Aayog and the health ministry over policy matters, and possibly Mr Kumar was in the middle of the spat. But that may not be the only reason, certainly not enough to warrant this U-turn. After all, Mr Kumar was reportedly handling the majority of the key assignments at the nation's premier think tank. We may never know.

However, some observers believe that Mr Kumar's unexpected exit from Niti Aayog will cast a cloud over the empanelment of 1983 batch IAS officers for additional secretarylevel posts at the Centre.

**ROOPA K'TAKA HOME SECY** Roopa D. Moudgil is the first woman IPS officer of Karnataka and has

eyeing the post for themselves. It's not often that an IPS officer is appointed to a post traditionally associated with the IAS. The violence this week in Pangalore may however evictors Bangalore may, however, quieten This posting comes amid a major rejig that has been happening within the government. Thirteen senior IPS officers were given different posts, and 19 ranked officers were transferred. This 2000-batch IPS offi-

now become the first woman police officer to be appointed the state's home secretary. The decision is proported to the form LAS

sion is unpalatable for IAS

officers who might have been

cer, however, has many firsts to her credit, having become well-known for taking up cases that involve either senior IPS officers or politicians, most recently, late AIADMK chief Jayalalitha's aide Sasikala.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com . Let's multiply the effect.

#### IN BRIEF

#### **Saudi King rests**

after surgery

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman arrived at a planned Red Sea megacity to "rest and recuperate", state media said Thursday, after the 84year-old ruler underwent surgery to remove his gall bladder. The kingdom has sought to quell speculation over the health of the ageing monarch, who has ruled the top oil exporter and the Arab world's bi-

ggest economy since 2015. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman arrived in NEOM, where he will spend some time to rest and recuperate," the official Saudi Press Agency said in a

#### **US: Iran forces** board ship

**Dubai:** Iranian forces boarded a tanker in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, using a helicopter and two ships to take over the vessel, US officials said. They also posted grainy black-and-white footage of the helicopter hovering low over the vessel and special forces personnel fastroping onto the deck. "Today in international waters, Iranian forces, including two ships and an Iranian "Sea King" helicopter, overtook and boarded a ship called the 'Wila',

the US Central Command said in a tweet on Wednesday. A US defence official said the Iranians released the vessel, a Liberian-flagged oil and chemicals tanker, after holding it for four to five hours. It occurred in international waters of the Gulf of Oman,

32 kilometres off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

#### **Israel halts Gaza** fuel supply

Gaza City: Israel announced Thursday it was halting the "import of fuel into the Gaza Strip", the latest punitive measure over a wave of airborne fire bombs from the Palestinian territory. The defence ministry announcement came hours after Israeli jets and tanks hit targets affiliated with Ha-

mas, the enclave's Islamist rulers. No casualties were reported. The latest round of hostilities has seen firebombs attached to bunches of balloons

floating into Israel, setting scrubland ablaze. Sometimes kites are used in the makeshift attacks. In response, Israel has closed a goods crossing with Gaza and slashed the territory's permitted coastal fishing

zone. The fuel sanction was "in light of the continued launching of incendiary balloons from the Strip toward the territory of the State of Israel and of the undermining of security stability", the defence ministry said.

### **LEBANON NOD TO EMERGENCY**

Beirut, Aug. 13: Lebanon's par liament on Thursday approved a two-week state of emergency imposed by the government after last week's deadly port explosion that gives it legal authority to suppress resur-

Calls had circulated on social media networks for protesters to prevent lawmakers from entering the session — the first since the August 4 blast that ravaged swathes of the capital.

But turnout was too low on Thursday morning, ahead of official visits by French Defence Minister Florence Parly and David Hale, the top career diplomat at the US State Department. Security forces outnumbered the dozen or so demonstrators who had gathered on a street near parliament.

Demonstrators tried to heckle tinted vehicles dashing to the debate but they could not stop

it reaching a quorum.

The colossal explosion that killed 171 people and wounded at least 6,500 others has rekindled calls for the ouster of Lebanon's decades-old political elite, many of whom are former warlords from the 1975-

1990 civil war. There has been widespread anger against a political leadership which allowed a large shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate fertiliser to rot for years in a port warehouse despite repeated safety warn-

An AFP investigation found that up until the day before the deadly blast, officials had exchanged warnings over the cargo, but did nothing despite experts' fears it could cause a

major conflagration. As he presented his government's resignation on Monday, Prime Minister Hassan Diab blamed the blast on decades of corruption and official mismanagement.

### Biden, Harris vow to rebuild US

V-P nominee says citizens crying out to overcome pandemic, racial bias, poor economy

Wilmington, United Stat- leadership" on containing Kamala Harris launched their joint White House bid Wednesday, with the newly minted vice-presidential nominee saying Americans are "crying out for leadership" to overcome the triple crisis of a pandemic, racial injustice and a ravaged economy.

Making their first appearance as running mates, before a small crowd of reporters and staffers at a Delaware high school closed to the public due to Coronavirus concerns, the Democratic duo vowed to end Donald Trump's presidency and, in Biden's words, "rebuild this country".
"Everything we care about," said Harris. "It's all on

A formidable 55-year-old US senator from California and a daughter of immigrants, Harris has already made history as the fiwoman of colour tapped for a major party presidential ticket.

Describing a country at the crossroads, she left little doubt of her determination to go on the attack, saying Trump "just isn't up for the job" and has left the nation "in tatters".

"America is crying out for leadership, yet we have a president who cares more about himself than the people who elected him," said Harris.

Despite the awkwardly intimate setting, a far cry from the typical campaign rollout featuring an audience of thousands, Harris appeared telegenic and confident in her first speech as vice presidential nominee — for which she and Biden both arrived

wearing facemasks. "The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," said the former California attorney general as she assailed the president's "failures of

the deadly pandemic and an economy hobbled by measures to fight the contagion. The daughter of Indian and Jamaican imates sought to tap into the nationwide upheaval over police violence and racial disparities.

'We're experiencing a moral reckoning with racism and systemic injustice that has brought a new coalition of conscience to the streets of our country demanding change," she said. For Biden — who leads Trump in most national polls and in swing states like Florida and Wisconsin despite conducting the campaign mostly from his Wilmington, Delaware home — his V-P reveal marks a crucial moment as he aims to build a broad coalition of voters to defeat Trump.

Biden spoke of why he

chose Harris as his partner, stressing she was a tough and experienced legislator who is "ready to do this job on Day 1'

And he said that Harris' story as the child of immigrants and a woman of colour who fought her way to the top ranks of US legal and political circles would inspire the country.

"Her story's America's story," Biden said. "She's worked hard (and) she's never backed down from a challenge."

also laced his remarks with optimism about the future, promising that a Biden-Harris administration will do what it takes to "turn the corner on this pandemic". The event capped a 24hour flurry since Biden's running mate announcement, with Biden saying they raised an impressive \$26 million during the one-day record.



Democratic presidential nominee and former US Vice-President Joe Biden along with vice-presidential running mate and US California Senator Kamala Harris, participate in a virtual grassroots fundraiser at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday.

### Israel ties could ease Obama-era tensions

**Jerusalem, Aug. 13:** During Joe Biden's first trip to Israel in 1973, he met prime minister Golda Meir, who chain-smoked as she detailed regional security threats days before the Yom Kippur War. Biden, a newly elected US senator at the time, later described that meeting as "one of the most consequential" of his life.

In the more than four decades since, his career has been marked by a staunch defence of Israel, especially in its handling of the Palestinian conflict. Biden, set to become the Democratic Party's presidential nominee next week, will face in Donald Trump a president whom Prime

Minister Benjamin Neta-nyahu has described as Israel's best friend to ever sit in the White House. The warm ties contrast

with Netanyahu's acrimonious relationship with Biden's old boss, former president Barack Obama. But some experts say a Biden win would be welcomed across Israel's political and military establishment — not just by Net-anyahu's rivals on the left.

Biden has long been a vocal supporter of the Jewish state, declaring in a 2015 speech that the US must uphold its "sacred promise to protect the homeland of the Jewish people". Kamala Harris, Biden's vice-presidential nominee, is also regarded as a staunch backer of the

After hosting a delegation from the main pro-Israel lobby AIPAC in her office in California last year, she wrote on Twitter of the "need for a strong US-Israel alliance, the right of Israel to defend itself, and my commitment to combat anti-Semitism in our country and around

the world" A strong commitment to defending Israel is key to winning the trust of Israeli leaders, perpetually sensitive to international criticism. "We like people who love us," said Nadav Tamir, a former diplomat and foreign policy advisor to president Shimon Per-"There is no doubt Biden is a friend who has very strong emotions for Israel," he said. Experts suggested Biden

could also restore the traditional American role of interlocutor between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authori

ty has cut ties with Trump, accusing him of egregious bias towards Israel. Biden "will do much better than Trump on the real issues because he underst-

ands that the Israel-Palestinian issue is not a zerosum game," Tamir said. Biden served in an administration that often clashed with

#### **HISTORIC PEACE DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND UAE**

Washington, Aug. 13: US President Trump, in a surprise announcement, said Thursday that Israel and the United Arab Emirates had reached a peace agreement.

The normalisation of relations between the UAE and Israel is a "HUGE breakthrough" Trump tweeted, calling it a "Historic Peace Agreement between our two GREAT friends." Speaking to reporters later, Trump suggested that more diplomatic breakthroughs between Israel and its Muslim neighbours in the region were expected.

"Things are happening that I can't talk about,

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described it as "a historic day and a significant step forward for peace in the Middle East". "The United States hopes that this brave step will be the first in a series of agreements that ends 72 years of hostilities in the region," he said.

In a joint statement, Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan said they had spoken on Thursday "and agreed to the full normalisation of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

"Israeli and UAE delegations will meet in the coming weeks to sign bilateral agreements,' they said.

"At the request of President Trump with the support of the United Arab Emirates, Israel will suspend declaring sovereignty over areas President's Vision for

### Miandad: Will challenge Imran Khan in politics



Islamabad, Aug. Legendary batsman Javed Miandad on Wednesday said that he was the captain of current Prime Minister Imran Khan and will join politics to "chal-

Miandad said on his YouTube channel that he was the driving force for Khan, also a former captain, in cricket.

Miandad said he will join politics and tell people what real politics is all about. He said after joining politics he will call a spade a spade.

"Not only in the affairs of sports, I will also chal-lenge him (Khan) in the field of politics. Imran should remember I was his captain," he said in an angry tone.

The former captain claimed that he made Khan the prime minister. He went on to say that Khan lost his way and was not running the country properly. He said Khan's appointments in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) were ques-

Miandad said Pakistani people were capable of managing the PCB and the practice of hiring people from abroad should

stop.
"Please do not bring people from abroad to manage our cricket. Look for deserving people in Pakistan. Believe in people of Pakistan," he said. He spoke about the new regional cricket system and also said the treatme nt of former captain Sarf araz Ahmed was not right. Miandad, a member of the 1992 World Cupwinning side, was the

### **PAK ARMY CHIEF BIDS TO PLACATE**

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, AUG. 13

SAUDI ARABIA

Pakistan army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa will visit Saudi Arabia this weekend in a bid to remove misunderstandings as financial support for Islamabad hangs in the balance. Pakistan has long pressed the Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting to highlight alleged Indian violations in Kashmir. But the OIC has only held low-level meetings so far.

'If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris,' oreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said

last week. Last year, Islamabad had pulled out of a Muslim-majority countries forum at the last minute on insistence by Riyadh, which saw the gathering as an attempt to challenge its leadership of the OIC. Qureshi's remarks have

revived Riyadh's anger. Saudia Arabia had already made Pakistan pay back \$1 billion two weeks ago, forcing it to borrow from another close ally China, and Riyadh is yet to respond to Pakistan's request to extend the oil

credit facility.
"The first year (of the oil credit facility) completed on 9th July 2020. Our request for an extension in the arrangement is under consideration with the Saudi side," an official said.

Saudi Arabia is also asking for another \$1 billion back.

backbone of the then Pakistan team and is remembered for many memorable innings.



Svetlana Alexievich

#### **NOBELIST SVETLANA TELLS BELARUS** PREZ TO LEAVE

Minsk, Aug 13: Belarusian Nobel prize-winning writer Svetlana Alexievich has condemned police violence against protesters in her country and urged President Alexander Lukashenko to go peacefully. The 72year-old author won the 2015 Nobel literature prize for her work chronicling the horrors of war and life under the repressive Soviet regime, including the 1986

Chernobyl disaster. In her first public reaction to the protests that have broken out across Belarus over Sunday's disputed presidential election, the writer told Liberty/Radio Radio Free Europe that Lukashenko should step down peacefully to prevent a bloody civil war.

"Leave before it's too late, before you've thrown people into a terrible abyss, into the abyss of civil war," she appealed to Lukashenko, whom she has long criticised. — Agencies

extension as Covid-19 spreads **Wellington, Aug. 13:** New Zealand health officials said Wednesday a Covid-19 cluster in Auckland had grown, raising the pro-

city after the virus returned will be extended. National health director general Ashley Bloomfield said a high school student in Auckland had tested positive, taking the number of confirmed infections to five, with another four probable cases.

"This is someone who was a close contact with one of our existing confirmed cases," Bloomfield

Health authorities rushed to implement a lockdown in the country's largest city after testing revealed four family members had contracted the virus from an unknown source.

It ended New Zealand's much envied run of 102 days without community transmission, and resulted in a three-day stay-athome order in Auckland which ends at midnight Friday. Bloomfield said it was "almost certain" more cases would emerge. and teams of health workers were racing to find the cluster's origin.

"We want to find out how large it is as soon as possible, so we've been testing all close contacts, casual contacts, workplace, family related," he said.

### US braces for spect a lockdown imposed on the country's biggest city after the virus returned by the country's biggest city after the virus returned by the virus return

New Zealand mulls lockdown

York, Aug 13: Activists and relief groups in the United States are scrambling to head off a monumental wave of evictions nationwide, as the Coronavirus crisis leaves tens of millions at risk of homelessness.

The jobs catastrophe sparked by the global health emergency and the tepid rebound in the world's largest economy have left Americans struggling to pay rent and vulnerable to eviction. Hopes for relief in the form of a fresh aid

"This is what we want to do as quickly as possible to find out how extensive the outbreak is and who the first case might have been." He said any decision on extending the lockdown depended on what the investigations uncove-

red over the next 24 hours.

"It's too early to say... we'll have a lot more information tomorrow," he said. He played down one line of inquiry investigat-ing whether the virus was imported via freight, then picked up by a male member of the family. -AFP

package from wasnington were dashed as partisan

latest negotiations. The housing crisis is "already a tsunami", said Bambie Hayes-Brown of Georgia Advancing Communities Together, a coalition of nonprofit housing and community

bickering scuppered the

development groups. "We got some funding from the United Way and we went through it so fast. We were just inundated,' said Mariatou Diallo, who

lives in New York. — AFP

#### **DUTERTE TO SKIP** TRIAL OF RUSSIA **VIRUS VACCINE**

Manila, Aug. 13: The Philippines will begin large-scale human testing of Russia's Coronavirus vaccine in October, but President Rodrigo Duterte will not receive the inoculation until regulators guarantee its safety.

Duterte had offered himself up as a guinea pig for the very first jab. But his spokesman Harry Roque said the president was scheduled to receive the vaccine no earlier than May 1, weeks after the Russianfunded clinical trial is due to end in March. — AFF

#### **VACCINATION IN RUSSIAN REGION AFTER MONGOLIA BUBONIC PLAGUE**

head of a remote Russian region on Thursday said that herders and other residents of two districts on the border with Mongolia should be vaccinated

against bubonic plague. The order was issued after Mongolia's health ministry said Wednesday that bubonic plague killed a man in the country's west. It was the latest in a

Moscow, Aug. 13: The handful of cases to emerge there and in neigh-

bouring China this year. The leader of the Siberian region of Tuva. Sholban Kara-ool, said all residents of the region's two border districts, Ovyursky and Mongun-Taiginsky, should be inoculated.

The two districts are home to some 14,000 peo-

FANTASY IFUM Author Woodward made name with coverage of Watergate scam

### Trump book to reveal letters with Kim

Seoul, Aug. 13: Kim Jong Un said his relationship with Donald Trump was like a "fantasy film", according to the publishers of a new book on the US president set to unveil 25 private letters exchanged between the two leaders. The relationship between the pair has been a key driver of recent diplomacy

love from Trump. Investigative journalist Bob Woodward obtained messages between the two leaders "that have not

between Washington and

Pyongyang, veering from mutual insults and threats

of war to a declaration of

been public before" for his upcoming book, according to Simon & Schuster.

In the letters, "Kim describes the bond between the two leaders as out of a 'fantasy film', as the two leaders engage in an extraordinary diplomatic minuet". the publisher revealed on the book's Amazon page. The book, titled "Rage" and a follow-up to 2018's "Fear", is due out on September 15. Trump and Kim have met three times, beginning with their landmark summit in Singapore in June 2018, but little progress has been made on efforts to denuclearise the North.

TRUMP HAS sought to discredit several of the claims made in "Fear", which offered an inside glimpse into his chaotic White House and sold 1.1 million copies in its first week. Trump - who was not interviewed by

Woodward for "Fear" -

has called that book a

"ioke" and "a scam".

A few months after Singapore, Trump told a rally of his supporters that the two men had fallen in love. "No, really, he wrote me

love,"he said. Negotiations have been deadlocked since the collapse of a second summit in Hanoi in February last year. But even with diplomacy at a standstill, Trump has frequently boasted of receiving "very beautiful" and "excellent" letters from Kim. Woodward, a Washington Post reporter, made his name with his coverage of the Watergate scandal and the role it played in the Richard Nixon's resigna-

beautiful letters, and they're great letters. We fell in

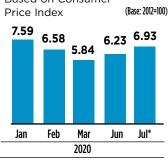
tion from the presidency Trump has sought to disms made in "Fear", which offered an inside glimpse into his chaotic White House and sold 1.1 million copies in its first week.

Trump — who was not interviewed by Woodward for "Fear" — has called that book a "joke" and "a scam". But in January this year, Trump said he had sat down with Woodward for the upcoming work. "I was interviewed by a very, very good writer, reporter," Trump said. "I can say Bob Woodward. He said he' been doing something and this time I said, 'Maybe I'll sit down.'" -AFP

FRIDAY | 14 AUGUST 2020 | NEW DELHI

INDICATORS 38,310.49 -0.15 Nifty 50 11,300.45 -0.07 S&P 5003 3,385.05 0.14 Dollar (₹) 74.84 0.00 Pound Sterling (₹) 97.87 -0.12 88.52 0.62 Gold (10gm)\* (₹) 53,132▲11 0.02 Brent crude (\$/bbl)\* 45.02 -0.41 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.895 0.011 0.685 -0.001 US 10-Yr T-bill yield\* \* As of 9:30 PM IST

#### RETAIL INFLATION Based on Consumer



Figures for April and May 2020 were not released due to lockdown | \*Provisional Figures in per cent Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation KBK Infographics

#### SIP inflows hit 22-month low in July at ₹7,830 cr



Investments in mutual funds through systematic investment plans (SIPs) hit a 22-month low of Rs 7,831 crore in July amidst market volatility. This was the lowest level since September 2018, when investment through this route stood at Rs 7.727 crore. Inflows through SIP have slowed down in the past four nonths. Investment in June 2020 dropped below Rs 8,000 crore for the first time since November 2018.

#### Cadila launches remdesivir at \$37 per vial

Zydus Cadila launched the cheapest generic version of Gilead Sciences' antiviral drug remdesivir in India to treat Covid-19 following reports of shortages at hospitals. Zydus has priced it at Rs 2,800 per 100mg vial. It will be sold under the brand name Remdac to government and private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients. Officials in some states had a few weeks ago complained of supply issues.

#### Mi India pledges 2,500 phones to support students

Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi said its arm MI India will distribute 2,500 handsets worth Rs 2 crore to support online education of children. "MI India distribution and retails came up with a fantastic idea. Together they will be contributing 2,500 smartphones to enable children most impacted by the pandemic to access quality education. In this endeavour we found the right partner Teach for India," COO Muralikrishnan B. said.

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### J&J ties up with Biological E for making Covid-19 vaccine in India

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Biological E. Limited India's oldest biological products company, said on Thursday that it has tied up United States-based Johnson & Johnson to manufacture the latter's Covid-19 vaccine candidate

'We are very pleased indeed to collaborate with an organisation Johnson & Johnson. Given

Covid-19 pandemic, our ability to mount an effective response will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally and in significant quantities. This is best achieved through collaboration," said Mahima Datla, the managing director of BE. J&J is developing a vac-

cine candidate 'Ad26.COV2.S' for the coronavirus through its pharmaceutical arm Janssen

Pharmaceutica NV. The vaccine candidate is currently in phase 1/2a clini-

The phase 1/2a study will involve more than 1,000 adults aged between 18 and 55. The study will also include testing the vaccine in people 65 and older. Human trials in the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Japan will follow.

Johnson & Johnson chief scientific officer Paul

Our ability to mount an effective response (to Covid-19) will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally and in significant quantities

> - Mahima Datla MD, Biological E Limited

Stoffels had told a conference call last month that the company expects initial human results in September and phase 3

efficacy testing could start the same month itself. "The vaccine could be ready by early 2021," he The tie-up with Biological E. would help J&J to ramp its manufaccapabilities turing

"We look forward to deploying our manufacturing infrastructure to sunport Johnson & Johnson's commitment to global access for its Covid-19 vaccine," said Narender Dev Mantena, director of BioE Holdings Inc., who heads BE's novel vaccine initia-

According to the World Health Organisation data, people around the world are working on 42 vaccine candidates for the coronavirus, including two from India, which are at different stages of development.

"Six vaccine candidates are in phase-3 trials, two candidates in phase 2 trials. Ten vaccine candidates, including two being developed in India, are at phase ½," claims the WHO data as on August 10.

#### ■ Investigation wing, TDS directorate to decide on surveys

### **Curtains on I-T raids at will**

New Delhi, Aug 13: The income tax surveys to col-lect information for scrutinv assessment will be undertaken only by the investigation wing and the tax deducted at source (TDS) directorate with effect from Thursday, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has said.

In an order, the CBDT said officers in Directorate General of Income Tax (DGIT) (Investigation) and Principal Commissioner of I-T/Chief Commissioner of I-T (TDS) "only and exclusively" shall be the competent authority for approving survey actions with effect from August 13, 2020.

"The survey action u/s 133A of the Act being an intrusive action, it is expected that the same should be carried out with utmost responsibility and accountability," the CBDT said, adding that with faceless assessment the department is moving towards minimal interface with

#### **MEASURES TO EASE COMPLIANCE BURDEN: FM**

New Delhi, Aug. 13: minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the faceless tax scrutiny assessment and appeal would ease the compliance burden of taxpayers and increase fairness and objectivity in the tax sys-

tem. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Transparent Taxation Honoring the Honest' which provides for launch of faceless assessment and adoption of a taxpayer charter.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Aravind Srivatsan said the previous regime taxmen from inspector onwards, jurisdictional assessing officer to initiate the survey with prior approval of joint commioner of income tax.

Also the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which administers personal income tax and corporate tax, will launch faceless appeals beginning September 25.

"Today is a landmark day in the history of tax administration," Sitha-

raman said. "The CBDT has given a framework and put in form of this platform...It uses technology, data analytics, and also uses artificial intelligence," she said.

"In effect the powers of the assessment authorities which were exercised in the normal course will now have to be backed by credible evidence to seek such approval from now permitted higher authorities. This shows the govern-

ment intention to ensure only genuinely deserving cases would go through this procedure," he said.

In an I-T survey, tax officers visit business premises of the taxpayer to gather information by way of examination of books of accounts, data stored electronically and also access email communication.

Srivatsan said it can be inferred from the order that the faceless assessment scheme could subject the taxpayer to more rigorous audit based on his profiling and industry situation and requires a careful maintenance of supporting documentation with regard to significant tax

AKM Global's tax partner Amit Maheshwari said it will increase accountability in conducting surveys.

'Surveys by nature are very intrusive and sensitive. Now, only a selected division of the tax department can conduct a sur-

### Eicher Motors to buy Volvo's bus business here for ₹100 cr

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, AUG. 13

Eicher Motors, the manufacturer of Royal Enfield brand of premium motorcycles and commercial vehicles, on Thursday said it has inked a deal to acquire the bus business of Volvo Group India as it looks to strengthen operations in Asia's third biggest economy.

Eicher Motors' unit, Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles (VECV), will acquire the bus unit in a cash deal for Rs 100.5 crore, Vinod Aggarwal, managing director and CEO at VECV told Financial told *Financial* Chronicle. The deal to integrate

Volvo Bus India into VE Commercial Vehicles is expected to be closed within the next two months, he said.

The move, Aggarwal said, will strengthen Volvo and Eicher's bus operations in India through synergies in product, purchasing and manufacturing.



Aggarwal said the deal will make the company a large player in the bus business with the widest range.

The pact will cover manufacture and sale of Volvo buses in India, and no debt of the entity has been taken over by VECV, Aggarwal said. The bus manufacturing

facility at Hosakote, Bengaluru, and all 500-plus employees of Volvo Bus India will be transferred to VE Commercial Vehicles as part of the transaction.

The bus business will be consolidated into a new division within VECV and will offer Volvo and Eicher

The focus will now be tapping the mid-premium bus segment priced in the range of Rs 35 lakh to Rs 1 crore, Aggarwal said.

Akash Passey, senior vice president at Volvo Bus Corp, will join as president of the new VECV bus division and report to

Aggarwal. Hakan Agnevall, president at Volvo Bus Corp., said the new bus division will offer a full range of modern buses covering heavy, medium and light

duty buses. Meanwhile, Motors posted a consolidated loss of Rs 55.2 crore for the June quarter as against a profit of Rs 451.8 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Consolidated revenue declined 65.6 per cent YoY to Rs 818.2 crore in the quarter. Hit by the lockdown, volumes fell sharply though the company saw good demand recovery towards the end of the quarter.

#### States' sales tax receipts from fuel may go up by 9%

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, AUG. 13

The recovery trend in saies voiumes and increase in excise duties will see sales tax receipts of states on petroleum products going up by 7 to 9 per cent this fiscal, despite the negative impact of the pandemic, finds Crisil. Firmer crude oil prices will also add to the increase in receipts.

If volumes rebound amidst increased central and state taxes and firmer crude oil prices, there could be a 7-9 per cent rise in sales tax receipts over last year to Rs 1.96 lakh crore, despite an expected 25 per cent fall in collections in the first quarter.

"The first quarter saw petrol and diesel sales volume plunging by a third because of the Covid-19 induced lockdown. But with the economy slowly unlocking and industrial and commercial activities clawing back, vehicular traffic has started to improve," said Manish Gupta, senior director of Crisil Ratings.

In April combined monthly volume of petrol and diesel sales, which combined account for 90 per cent of sales tax collections from petroleum products, were 43 per cent of the pre-Covid levels. This moved up to 85 per cent in June and is around 83 per cent in July. If economic activity rebounds to pre-pandemic levels by November, the annual volume decline may be restricted to 11-12 per cent this fiscal.

Further, the central excise duty and state sales tax rates of petrol and diesel were increased several times in the past few months. Between March and May weighted average diesel retail price had gone up by Rs 16 per litre. By July another Rs 2.8 per litre hike was also imple-

An increase in excise duty increases the taxable value of petrol and diesel for the levy of state sales tax. This higher taxable value of the fuel is providing additional sales tax of Rs 3 per litre to states.

### I-T Charter: Every taxpayer to be treated as honest & with courtesy

New Delhi, Aug 13: The tax department has committed erwise, and provide fair, courteous and reasonable treatment, according to the taxpayers charter adopted on Thursday. The charter also expects taxpayers to pay taxes on time and be honest and compliant.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Transparent platform Taxation Honoring the Honest' which provides for adoption of a taxpayers' charter, which defines the tax department's commitment and its expectation from the taxpayers.

The tax officers will now be committed to a 14-point charter, which includes collecting "only the (tax)

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Markets regulator Sebi has lifted its trading ban on five

entities, including Ruchi

Global and Ruchi Soya

Industries, in a case relat-

ed to alleged manipulation

in castor seeds trading.
National Steel & Agro

Secunderabad Oils Ltd and

UKS Oils Pvt Ltd are the

other entities from whom

Through two interim

orders passed in March

2016 and May 2016, Sebi

had barred the five enti-

ties, among others, from

the securities markets for

alleged fraudulent and

manipulative trading in

castor seeds on leading commodity bourse

Later in March 2017, the

In an order passed on

Wednesday, Sebi revoked

against the five entities

In the show cause notice

(SCN), it was alleged that

by taking open interest

(OI) positions in excess of

the prescribed limits, the

five entities were able to

corner the market at the

direction

with immediate effect.

directions issued against

them were confirmed.

the ban has been lifted.

amount due" as per the law, while taxpayers would have to be "responsible" and fulfill six-point expectations of the I-T Department. including being honest and compliant.

ne cnarter mandates the I-T Department to hold its "authorities accountable for their actions" and states that the department would provide fair, courteous, prompt and reasonable treatment as well as professional assistance to all taxpavers. The officers shall treat

as honest taxpayers "unless there is a reason to believe otherwise", it said. The charter also bars the tax officers from disclosing

fraudulent and deceitful

manner and their excess

OI positions created a false

or misleading appearance

The SCN further said

that Ruchi Global and

Ruchi Soya Industries and

National Steel & Agro

Industries belonged to one

distinct group, while Secunderabad Oils and UKS Oils belonged to

"In the absence of any

material to show that these

two distinct groups were

connected to each other

and traded in the castor

seeds contracts in a con-

certed manner to manipu-

late the market, it is not

correct to allege that the

five noticees together cor-nered the derivative mar-

ket in castor seeds con-

tract...in violation of

PFUTP Regulations, 2003

another distinct group.

in the market.

taxpaver information unless authorised by law and also respect privacy of

Castor seeds case: Sebi lifts

trading ban on 5 companies

taxpayer. The department will have periodically publish standards for service deliverv and provide a fair system to resolve tax issues in

a time-bound manner. cnarter aiso mandates the department to allow every taxpayer to choose an authorised representative of his choice and provide mechanism for lodging a complaint, and its prompt disposal.

The charter expects the taxpayers to honestly disclose full information and "fulfill his compliance obligations". Also, the taxpayer is expected to keep accurate records and know what information and submissions are made by his authorised representative.

#### **PAYTM STARTS** TRADING PLATFORM

**FC BUREAU** MUMBAI, AUG.13

Fintech firm Paytm announced the launch of stock trading on its online investment & wealth management platform Paytm Money with lower brokerage charges than currently offered by traditional and discount brokers. Cash delivery trades are free and intraday trades are charged at Rs 10 only, the firm said.

### levels before 2018 crisis **DIVYA PATIL**

**NBFC** bond sales jump to

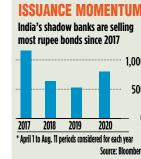
Indian shadow lenders are selling the most local-currency bonds since before a financial crisis engulfed the sector two years ago. in a sign that record stimfundraising burden.

financiers have The raised Rs 81.300 crore billion) through rupee notes since April 1, making it the best start to a financial year since 2017. Offerings from nonbank firms had declined in 2018 and 2019 as at least three shadow lenders defaulted on their repayments, battering investor demand for the sector's debt.

More cash for shadow banks is good news for the economy, which relies on these firms to provide financing to everyone from tailors to business giants. Non-bank lending is crucial in supporting Asia's third-largest economy, which is forecast to contract for the first time in four decades this year due to fallout from the pandemic.

To help non-bank financiers counter the economic impact of the outbreak, the government in May announced a Rs 30,000 crore credit line for these financiers, and said it will fully guarantee investment-grade securities issued under this plan.

To further assist lowerrated shadow banks, the administration agreed to



also provide a partial guarantee to debt rated AA and below, injecting another Rs 45,000 crore. The central bank, meanwhile, funded banks' purchases of bonds issued by these lenders to the tune of Rs 12 850 crore But challenges remain,

signs investor demand for the debt is uneven. It's largely banks, which have to implement the economic stimulus steps, that are buying notes sold by shadow lenders. Other key players in the local credit market, such as mutual funds, halved their holdings of the bonds in the two-year period to June.

Investors Moody's Service warned in June that the stress among these lenders may be deeper and broader than it thought and S&P Global Ratings cut credit scores of several such firms citing liquidity risks.

The financiers are at least benefiting from lower borrowing costs as a result of the stimulus package. — Bloomberg



A broader market rally led to outperformance medium and small sized companies in the stock market while the Sensex and Nifty-50 indices closed in the red for the second day, compared to 1.5 to over 2 per cent gains registered by the mid-cap indices.

The Sensex closed 0.15 per cent or 59.14 points lower and Nifty-50 ended down 0.07 per cent, or by 7.95 points. The Nifty Midcap-50 Index rose 2.20 per cent and the Nifty Midcap-100 gained 1.57 per cent while the BSE Midcap Index gained 1.59 per cent and the BSE Smallcap gained 0.76 per cent.

Domestic institutions remained net sellers by Rs 763.54 crore while the foreign portfolio investors were net buyers by Rs 416.28 crore. Some big midcap gain-

ers on NSE included Bharat Forge (15.67 per cent), Ashok Leyland (14.46 per cent), BHEL (8.18 per cent). Cholamandalam Invest ment & Finance (8.07 per cent), Tata Power

(5.67 per cent).
Sameet Chavan of
Angel Broking said, the
Nifty-50 is clearly struggling to surpass the 11350-11400 hurdle.

### Maruti Alto crosses 40 L sales milestone

**MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, AUG 13** 

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Thursday said its entry level small car Alto has crossed the cumulative sales milestone of 40 lakh units in

India market. Launched in Sept-ember 2000, Alto has been the most selling car for 16 consecutive "Alto is the preferred

the fiercely competitive

choice of Indian car buyers with 76 per cent of Alto customers choosing it as their first car," the company, which sells one car out of the two bought in the country, said. Shashank Srivastava, executive director at Maruti Suzuki India,

said Alto has been ranked as the No 1 for 16 years in a row. "We are immensely proud to announce another remarkable milestone of 40 lakh cumulative sales. This has become a record," he said.

**AMAZE CLOCKS 4 LAKH SALES** 

Pune, Aug. 13: Honda on Thursday said its popular family sub-compact sedan Honda Amaze has cumulatively sold 4 lakh units since its first introduction in the country in 2013. The Amaze, now in its second-

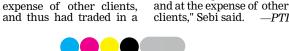
generation, is currently Honda's largest selling model in India.

—Michael Gonsalves





issued













#### **INOX to sponsor India at Olympics**

TAKE

New Delhi: The INOX group will be the official sponsor of the Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced on Thursday. The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's promotions through

its entertainment company -INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said, "We are happy to announce this partnership with INOX Group which will be beneficial for all our athletes and the organisation. I would like to thank INOX Group and Mr. Jain for showing their support for Team India, even under the current circumstances."

INOX Group has earlier supported various sporting events teams and leagues in table Tennis, football, badminton, running, basketball and cricket, and building awareness among masses through effective pro-motional initiatives. — PTI

#### **Archery camp** from August 25

New Delhi: The national archery camp for Olympic hopefuls will resume at the Army Sports Institute in Pune on August 25, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Thursday. The camp was called off midway in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 16 recurve archers eight men and as many women, along with four coaches and two support staff will report for the camp on August 25 and undergo the mandatory 14-day period inside the ASI campus before starting their

"...in view of the ensuing 2021 Olympics, the Sports Authority of India has sanctioned the National Archery Camp for Olympic-bound athletes from August 25, 2020 at the Army Sports Institute in Pune," the SAI said in a statement.

training sessions

While the men's team has earned an Olympic quota, the women's team is yet to claim one. The players will strive to seal their Tokyo tickets at the Olympic qualification event in Paris next year.

#### **Tiger Shroff joins India Run as One**

Mumbai: Youth Icon Tiger Shroff joins Sunfeast India Run As One — India's largest citizen movement to restart liveli hoods, beginning this Independence Day.

The actor has been at the forefront of fitness and active living. However, this time he isn't there to promote fitness, but to lead from the front and encourage citizens to join this first-ofits-kind virtual participatory

movement, for purposeful giving and wellness from within India and across the world. Since the nationwide

lockdown, it is estimated that over 140 million workers have lost their livelihoods. "I believe that in the current scenario. when things are difficult, we

should focus on keeping our mind and our bodies healthy and try to help those who are lesser fortunate. India Run As One is a great movement through which we can make

contributions to help the people who have taken a heavy

blow due to the pandemic,"

Tiger said

#### **PEREZ SET TO RACE AT SPANISH GP**

Montmelo, Spain: Sergio Perez will race at the Spanish Grand Prix this week after testing negative for the coronavirus. Governing body FIA cleared him on Thursday to return to the paddock for the race in Montmelo on the outskirts of

Barcelona. The Racing Point driver missed the past two races at Silverstone in England after contracting the virus on a visit back home to Mexico last month. He flew by private plane to visit his mother in hospital. "I've definitely missed racing and it was hard to watch from

the outside," Perez said. - AP

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Rs. 20.00 per copy.



Neymar (left) and his Paris Saint-Germain teamamte Kylian Mbappe celebrate after Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored PSG's second goal during their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon on Thursday. PSG won 2-1.

# Billions & 25 years

### Later PSG make Champions league semis

**Lisbon, Aug. 13:** After years of failing to live up to their billing in Europe, Paris Saint-Germain are within 90 minutes of the Champions League final thanks to their dramatic win over Atalanta on Wednesday, and coach Thomas Tuchel now knows "everything is possible" for his team.

PSG were on the verge of disappointing Champions League exit as they trailed Atalanta 0-1 into the 90th minute in Lisbon.

Mario Pasalic's 27thminute strike for the Italians was finally cancelled out by Marquinhos, who scrambled in a lastgasp leveller.

Then, three minutes into injury time, Kylian Mbappe set up fellow sub-stitute Eric Choupo-Moting to convert the clinching goal.

The money ploughed into the French champions by their Qatari owners has increased the pressure on PSG to deliver. After all, Atalanta's

entire wage bill is believed to be equivalent to what PSG pay Neymar per year (about 36 million euros). This is the club's semifinal since 1995 and the first since they were taken over by Qatari owners, who pumped in money for the elusive Champions League tro-

**Southampton, Aug. 13:** James Anderson returned to form with a double strike against Pakistan on

Thursday as the England

great moved closer to

becoming the first paceman to take 600 Test wick-

Pakistan were 85-2 at Tea

on a rain-interrupted first

day of the second Test at

2-24 in 12 overs, having come into this match, hav-

ing taken just six wickets

in three previous Tests

this season at an expen-

sive average of over 41.

Abid Ali, dropped twice in the slips, was 49 not

By his own admission,

Anderson had not been at his best with a match haul

three-wicket win in the

Trafford home ground

In humid conditions

conducive to Anderson's

bowling, the 38-year-old

needed just eight balls to

strike and have Shan Masood, fresh from his

Test-best 156 last week,

lbw for one with an

inswinger to the left-han-

Masood was so clearly

out, he did not bother to

Azhar, under pressure

after a run of just one fifty

in 10 innings since becom-

ing skipper in November.

Brief Scores (at Tea): Pakistan 85/2 in 33.5 overs

(Abid Ali 49 n. o., Babar

Azam 7 n. o., J.

2/28) vs England.

review the decision. His exit brought in

last week.

Test at his Old

Hampshire's Ageas Bowl. Anderson had figures of Madrid, Aug. 13: Lionel Messi might never have been faced with a more daunting task Barcelona than engineer-

ing a victory against Bayern Munich in Lisbon on Friday. The only surviving for-

mer winners of European club football's greatest prize — with five titles each — meet in a heavy-Champions League quarterfinal behind closed doors at the League Estadio da Luz. It is not often that

Messi's Barcelona come into such a big European tie as the underdogs, but they have this time, with Quique Setien's team having lost out to Real Madrid in the Spanish title race while Bayern appeared flawless on the way to winning a German league and cup double.

Messi is now 33, yet Barcelona appear more reliant on him than ever. He scored twice against Bayern in the quarter-finals in 2009 when Barcelona went on to win the Champions League

under Pep Guardiola. He hit four against Arsenal the following year and five against Bayer Leverkusen in 2012

### Barca dial Messi for Bayern tie Live on TV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL

Barcelona vs Bayern Munich from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

**FORMULA ONE** 

**Spanish Grand Prix** Practice 1 from 2.25 pm; Practice 2 from 6.25 pm Star Sports Select 2, HD

but on both occasions,

Barca were favourites.

Messi also sank Real
Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in 2011 when his double in the first leg of the semi-final, including one of the finest goals the competition has ever

seen, transcended a rival-

ry that had been dragged

to its ugliest point. And he was part of perhaps the tournament's greatest comeback, the 6-1 destruction of Paris Saint-Germain after Barcelona lost 0-4 in the first leg of that last-16 tie. Yet this time threatens to be different.

With Luis Suarez and

**Englishman Anderson strikes** 

The only surviving former winners, Spain's Barcelona and German's Bayern Munich, of **European club football's greatest** prize — with five titles each meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarterfinal behind closed doors at the Estadio da Luz.

alongside him, Frenkie de Jong and Sergio Busquets behind him and **J**ordi Alba out wide, Messi should not be on his own. Even in defence, Gerard Pique still has a claim to be the best defender in Spain and Marc-Andre ter Stegen is among the most

impressive goalkeepers in the world. But the sense remains that Messi must perform if Barcelona are to defeat Bayern, widely seen as the favourites to lift the tro-

phy on August 23. It will take something very special not only to nis own team out oi the doldrums but also to neutralise an opponent that many believe are the most complete side in Europe.

### Sikki, physio test Covid-19 positive

#### Gopi academy is shut for sanitisation as Coronavirus strikes Games camp

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Barley a week after probables and Olympics bound shuttlers returned to courts at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy N. Sikki Reddy and physiotherapist Kiran George have tested positive for Covid-19 at the ongoing national camp in Hyderabad on Thursday. Sikki and Kiran, who

have been attending the national camp at the academy, are both asymptomatic.

They had undergone the Sports Authority of India's mandatory Covid-19 test for players, coaches and support staff before the start of training on August 7 at the facility. With Sikki and Kiran

being tested positive for the virus, the Gopichand Academy has been closed for sanitisation, SAI said on Thursday.
"SAI's mandatory Covid-

19 test was given to all athletes, coaches, support staff and administrative staff at the badminton national camp, and two campers have tested positive for Covid-19," Gopi said.

"All necessary precautions as per protocol are being taken so that players can come back for training safely and as soon as possi-ble," he added.

Both Sikki and Kiran are from Hyderabad and have been attending the camp from their homes. All pri-mary contacts of Sikki and Kiran are undergoing the RT PCR test again. The badminton camp was

allowed by SAI for eight Olympic hopefuls, including Rio Games silver-medallist and world champion P. V. Sindhu, following the approval from the Telangana government on August 1.

Sikki was seen training with three Indonesian doubles coaches — Namrih Suroto, Agus Dwi Santoso and Miftah — besides two sparring partners from that country on August 7. She was pictured on the

first day of training where all of them could be seen along with another physio Johnson Solomon and the Indonesians who also trained with world champion Sindhu and world championships bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth.

#### **KOSOVO LETS GO OF TIE DUE TO COVID-19**

Nyon (Switzerland), Aug. 13: A club from Kosovo had to forfeit its Champions League qualifier because players tested positive for Covid-19, the first time UEFA had to make such a ruling during the pandemic. UEFA said on Wednesday that KF Drita must forfeit its

preliminary round game in the 2020-21 competition and awarded it as a 3-0 win for Northern Ireland's champion Linfield. The teams could not play a scheduled game on Tuesday at an empty stadium next to UEFA's headquarters after the Drita squad was put into quarantine.

Two players had tested positive for Covid-19 in Switzerland since last Thursday.

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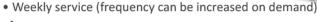
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Dhampur, Deoband, Patel Nagar, Gandhidham ( New stoppages can be introduced based on demand from customers)

#### **Time Table**

Station Code	Station Name	HARDOI-GANDHIDHAM Teevra Spl.	
		Arrival	Departure
HRI	HARDOI	-	05:40
DPR	DHAMPUR	19:00	02:15
DBD	DEOBAND	09:35	17:50
PTNR	PATEL NAGAR	23:00	06:30
GIMB	GANDHIDHAM	02:55	-
0	0, 10	02.00	

#### For Calculation of Freight Charges

- 1. Visit our website fois.indianrail.gov.in or download "RAIL SUGAM" app.
- 2. Click "Freight Calculator. 3. Enter from and to station.
- 4. In wagon type, enter "BCN" BOGE 5. In Tarrif lines, select "General" 6. Enter "Commodity category"
- 7. Enter "Commodity name" 8. Under column "Wagon Load" – You
- will get the freight rate/tonne for your cargo.



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## international ton 30 yrs on

**New Delhi, Aug. 13:** Testsaving hundreds have become extinct now but Sachin Tendulkar carved out one such innings exactly 30 years ago, the seeds of which were sown during one afternoon in Sialkot, eight months prior to that gloomy

England's James Anderson

Manchester day. It was on August 14, 1990, that Tendulkar scored the first of his 100 international centuries, a majestic 119 not out on a fifth day track to save the game for India.

Asked about that special

first, and it seemed like

August 14 and next day was our Independence Day, so it was special. The headline was different and that hundred at least kept the series alive till next Test at the Oval," Tendulkar said on the eve of the 30th anniversary of his first ton.

So what exactly was the feeling, apart from the pure joy of achieving the milestone? "The art of saving a Test match was a new experience for me. Tendulkar said but added he knew he could save a game when he batted with "bloodied nose" and a

blood-soaked jersey after being hit by Waqar Younis. "In Sialkot where I got hit and scored 57, we saved that Test match, too, from 38 for 4. Waqar's and playing through pain defined me. After those kind of hits you are either stronger or you are nowhere to be seen.

As scary as it may seem now, Tendulkar, in the first innings of that Manchester match, was hit on the back of the head by one of the fastest pacers in the world back then, Devon Malcolm.



























