



Sisodia seeks DDC study to improve Delhi's revenue

Deputy CM directs DDC to suggest short and long-term measures and submit its report within two months

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia today directed the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) to undertake a detailed study to suggest a roadmap for improving Delhi's revenue base which has been severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sisodia, who also handles the finance portfolio, asked the DDC to suggest short and long-term measures in this regard. He also directed the DDC to consult leading experts of the field and relevant organisations working in the area of public finance to carry out the study.

The deputy CM asked the DDC to submit its report within two months.

According to an official, Sisodia has noted that the ongoing Covid pandemic has put a huge burden on government revenues in Delhi



and that all-out efforts thus need to be made for revenue augmentation so that the

state government is able to undertake all the necessary works and programmes for the

welfare of people of the city. Sisodia cited data from Delhi's Economic Survey for

2019-20 to highlight the scope of improvement in the city's revenue base.

As per the Economic Survey, though Delhi is one of the highest per capita income states in the country, its position is 19th in terms of own tax revenue as the percentage of GSDP (4.73 per cent) during 2018-19, the official said.

Commenting on the development, DDC vice chairman Jasmine Shah said, "The Delhi government's early call for opening the economy and a robust healthcare strategy has set the right conditions for an economic revival.

The DDC will do a rigorous study with a view to improving the revenue base of Delhi.

We will involve field experts to conduct this study. We are confident that we will be able to take care of the revenue deficit as we have handled the Covid-19 crisis successfully."

In an attempt to improve

Delhi's revenue deficit situation, the Trade and Taxes Department of the Delhi government has started analysing the return filing status of taxpayers registered under the GST.

Yesterday, Sisodia held a meeting with officials of the department where it was pointed out that tax returns of around 15,000 taxpayers were analysed and nearly 970 taxpayers have not filed their returns for 2020-21 from January to March.

The Delhi government has also found out that this year nearly 10,800 companies paid less or zero tax from January to March, the official said.

Taking cognizance of these findings, the Delhi government has prepared a list of defaulters.

The deputy CM has appealed to all the companies to immediately deposit their tax dues. The Delhi government would take stringent action against the defaulters, he said.

tled at 35.4 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature oscillated between 33 and 36 degrees Celsius at most places. After more than normal rainfall in July, monsoonal precipitation have remained subdued in Delhi in August so far.

The Safdarjung Observatory has recorded just 6.7 mm rainfall in August so far against the normal of 49.3 mm, a deficiency of 86 per cent.

The Palam and Lodhi Road weather stations have recorded 59 per cent and 96 per cent less rains this month. Only light rains are predicted over the next two to three days.

In July, Delhi had gauged 236.9 mm precipitation, which was 12 per cent more than the normal of 210.6 mm.

During the rain in the Capital on Wednesday. DEEPAK

A fresh spell of rains drenched parts of the national capital on Wednesday, bringing relief from sultry weather.

The rains inundated a few low-lying areas and affected traffic on some roads.

The India Meteorological Department said rainfall occurred over many places in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Greater Noida. The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 12.6 mm rainfall.

The Lodhi Road and Palam weather stations gauged 18.5 mm and 14.4 mm precipitation. The mercury dropped slightly due to rains and set

ties. With regard to providing compensation to students who were seriously injured in the violence, he said that it can be awarded only if there was an admission of breach and in the present case the issue was still being examined.

He said the case of the petitioners was based on an "assumption of wrongdoing" by the police and it involves disputed questions of fact for which the evidence on record has to be examined.

He concluded his arguments for the day by saying that the petitions were "grossly misconceived" and ought to be dismissed.

The bench listed the matter for further arguments on August 14.

On Tuesday, August 4, during the over five hour long hearing, the petitioners had said that there was need for an SIT which was independent of the police and the central government who by their conduct have shown that their investigation into the violence was "not independent".

They had also argued for a fact finding committee saying the same was suggested by the Supreme Court and setting up such a body would be the best way to soothe or put balm on the wounds of the students'.

Delhi Police opposes in HC setting up of SIT, CoI on JMI violence

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST



File photo

The police on Wednesday opposed in the Delhi High Court setting up of an SIT or a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) to look into the violence at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) university in December last year, saying it would "amount to supplanting the law".

The submission was made before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aman Lekhi, representing Delhi Police, during the hearing of several petitions which have alleged that ruthless and excessive use of force and aggression was unleashed by the police and paramilitary forces on students at the university.

The incidents of violence in the varsity had occurred in relation to student protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

Lekhi commenced arguments after the counsels for various petitioners finished theirs.

On Tuesday, arguments on behalf of the petitioners - lawyers, JMI students, residents of Okhla in south Delhi, where university is located, and the Imam of Jama Masjid mosque opposite Parliament

House -- had gone on for more than five hours and the remaining were adjourned to Wednesday.

The batch of PILs have sought setting up a Special Investigation Team, a CoI or a fact finding committee as also medical treatment, compensation and interim protection from arrest for the students and registration of FIRs against the erring police officers.

After the petitioners'

lawyers completed their submissions on Wednesday, Lekhi urged the court to permit him to argue on another date as he was already attending several other hearings in other matters.

The bench insisted however that he at least start his arguments.

Lekhi commenced by stating that the petitions were not maintainable and the reliefs sought cannot be granted as charge sheets have been filed

in connection with the violence and they should have sought whatever relief they wanted before the subordinate court.

He further said that setting up a fact finding committee or a SIT would amount to supplanting the law as it exists now.

On the issue of police entering the varsity without permission, the ASG said that internationally police are not denied access to educational institutions and universi-

Won't interfere with govt decision banning social media for defence personnel: HC

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST



If the government has concluded that permitting use of certain social networking websites, including Facebook and Instagram, by its defence personnel is enabling enemy countries gain an edge, the courts would be loath to interfere with the decision, the Delhi High Court said on Wednesday.

It said warfare in today's world is not confined to "accession of territory" but extends to affecting the economy and "inciting civil unrest" by enemy nations.

The high court's order came while dismissing a senior Army officer's plea challenging the Indian Army's recent policy banning armed forces personnel from using 89 social networking platforms.

A bench of justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon, while pronouncing the order, said, "Sorry we are dismissing. Thank you."

The high court, while considering the controversy for the stage of admission only, said other means of communication are still available to the petitioner officer and the ban was with respect to certain social networking websites only.

It dismissed the petition

of Lieutenant Colonel P K Choudhary seeking a direction to the Director General of Military Intelligence to withdraw its June 6 policy by which all Indian Army personnel were ordered to delete their accounts from Facebook, Instagram and 87 other applications.

We may also notice that warfare and inter-country rivalries and animosities today are not confined to accession of territory and destruction of installations and infrastructure of enemy countries but also extend to influencing and affecting the economies and political stability of enemy country including by inciting civil unrest and disturbance and influencing the political will of the citizens of the enemy country.

In such a scenario, if the government, after complete assessment, has concluded that permitting use of certain social networking websites by personnel of its defence forces

is enabling the enemy countries to gain an edge, the courts would be loath to interfere. In the circumstances, no case for interference is made out. Dismissed, the bench said.

The court said it was evident from the records produced that the earlier advisories and directives qua conduct and behaviours of army personnel on social networking sites have not been abided by some.

The material produced shows certain army personnel to be unsuspecting by answering all kinds of questions relating to their postings and whereabouts and postings and whereabouts of others merely on being told by a person befriended on social networking sites, of a defence background and which information when collated from a number of sources can easily convey a full picture to an expert espionage eye, it noted.

The bench said even if there is any error in the authorities issuing this policy and direction, without complying with the procedure prescribed in the Army Act, considering that the issue has an element of urgency and concerns the safety and security of the entire country, we do not deem it necessary to, for the grievance of the petitioner only, render an adjudication on the questions urged and which may require us to refer to the documents and materials shown to us in confidence.

The court said besides stating that Facebook and Twitter are more convenient, no answer was forthcoming as to why the filial and other social needs of Choudhary cannot be fulfilled by other means of communication cited by Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, which are still available.

The Centre, represented by standing counsel Ajay Digpal, had earlier told the court that the policy decision was taken as it was found that Facebook was a bug and it was infiltrating as a cyberwarfare and there were so many instances of personnel being targeted.

Choudhary, who is currently posted in Jammu and Kashmir, said that he is an active user of Facebook and uses the platform to connect with his friends and family as most of them are settled abroad, including his elder daughter.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

COURT NOTICE
(U/O Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
SH. ANTRERPRET SINGH
Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Gurugram
Kitab Kaur Dahiya
Versus
General Public etc.
CNR No. HRGR02-001516-
2020
Next Date: 08-08-2020
Publication Issued to:
General Public etc.,
Gurugram.
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsele on 28-08-2020 at 10:00 a.m. For details log on to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&dis-trict=gurugram.
Dated, this day of 05-08-2020.

Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Gurugram
Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
Sardar Patel School, C-5/230-B, Sector-31, Noida has initiated the process of change of school name from Sardar Patel School to "Presidium, Noida-31" to be made effective from session 2020-2021 and onwards
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

The Statesman

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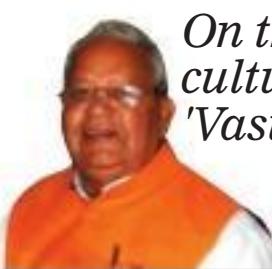
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AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
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On this historic day, I pray that this temple will emerge as a symbol of cultural and national unity which will go along with the principles of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

KALRAJ MISHRA
RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

03

Pb govt school students to get free smart phones

Amarinder Singh Cabinet paves the way for distribution of 1,73,823 smart phones among girls and boys of government schools, who have been preparing to take Class XII Board exams amid Covid pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 AUGUST

The Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday paved the way for distribution of 1,73,823 free smart phones by November among students, both girls and boys, of government schools, who have been taking online classes amid the Covid pandemic while preparing to take their Class XII Board exams this year.

The distribution of the first batch of 50,000 smart phones, which has already been received by the Punjab government, will begin shortly. The phones will be equipped with various smart features such as touch screen, camera and pre-loaded government applications like 'e-Sewa App' with e-content related to Class XI and Class XII, as approved by the department



of school education.

The second batch of such phones will be procured by the state government soon, and the entire distribution process will be completed by November, said an official spokesperson after a meeting of the Punjab Cabinet, head-

ed by chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh, which has approved the modalities for distribution.

The Cabinet noted that four months of the academic year 2020-21 had already elapsed without regular on-campus classes, and while pri-

vate schools were undertaking online classes, the students of government schools faced a competitive disadvantage, especially those studying in Class XII.

Though he had initially announced that the first batch of smart phones, received just a few days ago, would be given to girls, the CM said today that they would be given to both boys and girls of Class XII in government schools, who do not have smart phones to access the online classes that have currently replaced physical classroom education.

As part of its election promises, the Amarinder Singh government had announced the Punjab "smart connect scheme" in its budget for the financial year 2018-19. The scheme was aimed at providing digital access to youths, as well as information regarding education, career

opportunities, access to skill development and employment opportunities, in addition to basic citizen-centric services through government applications etc.

At a September 2019 meeting, the Punjab Cabinet had decided to distribute mobile phones among about 1.6 lakh girl students not having smart phones and studying in Classes XI and XII in government schools during the fiscal 2019-20.

The contract in this regard was signed with M/s Lava International Ltd. after an open competitive bidding process. However, during the process of procurement and delivery of smart phones, the country was hit by Covid pandemic and the delivery and distribution of smart phones could not take place in the academic year 2019-20, the official spokesperson added.

Another minor girl raped, killed in Western UP in a week

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, 5 AUGUST

Another horrific incident of rape and murder of a minor girl has been reported in Meerut Zone in Western Uttar Pradesh over the last one week. An eight-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered in a village in Khurja area in Bulandshahar district a couple of days ago.

Last week, a similar outrage was reported in Mansoorpur area in Muzzaffarnagar district when a nine-year-old Dalit girl was raped and killed by a man from her village.

In the latest such horror in Uttar Pradesh, the dead body of the eight-year-old girl was recovered on the evening of 4 August from a sugarcane field of a village in Khurja.

Police have arrested an accused Ashok Kumar, 22, in connection with this incident. The dead body of the deceased girl has been sent for post mortem. Suresh Kumar, circle officer of Khurja in Bulandshahar district, said that they were waiting for the minor girl's post mortem report.

A case of murder has been lodged against Ashok Kumar and the charges of rape would be added only after it is confirmed in the post mortem report, the police officer said.

The deceased girl had come to the village of her mother in Khurja with both her parents to celebrate the festival of Rakshabandhan last Monday. While the parents went to meet some relatives, they left the girl with her maternal uncle's family.

The alleged accused Ashok, a neighbour, called the girl and offered to get her some fruits.

The innocent minor girl went with him to get fruits. Her family members, who were busy in celebrating Rakshabandhan, did not notice her absence. When they realised that she was nowhere in the house, it was too late.

On Tuesday evening, when her parents returned from the relatives' house and enquired about their daughter, they were shocked to know that she had gone missing.

The matter was then reported to the Khurja police station, with the complaint filed by the girl's family report-

edly pointing the needle of suspicion towards Ashok.

Taking action, police arrested Ashok, who initially tried to mislead them but later broke down. In his statement, Ashok said that he "attempted to rape her" and then killed her for fear of being identified. After killing the girl, he dumped her dead body in a sugarcane field of the village. Police subsequently recovered the body and sent it for post mortem.

A similar incident was reported on 30 July in Mansoorpur village of UP's Muzaffarnagar district, where a minor Dalit girl was also raped and murdered by her neighbour Sumit Kumar, 21. Sumit was later arrested by police and sent to jail.

Such horrific crimes against minor girls occur regularly in this region, said Atul Sharma, director of NGO Sankalp. She said that young girls or even minors are not safe in these areas. Such incidents are reported more from the rural belt as a result of which parents in villages seek early marriages for their girl children, she added.

Himachal govt stresses on vigil, readiness to mitigate disasters

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Anil Khachi on Wednesday stressed on the need to keep constant vigil and readiness to mitigate the disasters and said people should be made aware about preparedness during such hazardous situations.

After the 14th meeting of State Executive Committee (SEC) under Disaster Management Act, 2005, he said mock drills and exercises should be conducted after COVID-19 situation eases and advised the Disaster Management Cell to explore the possibilities of conducting training through online mode.

"Himachal is prone to various hazards both natural and manmade, which consists of earthquakes, landslides, flash floods, snow avalanches, droughts, domestic and wild fires, road accidents, stampede, etc."

However, the hazard which poses the biggest threat to the state is earthquake as the



HP Chief Secretary Anil Khachi presiding over 14th meeting of the State Executive Committee.

Police Department to equip the SDRF.

He directed that the Police department may immediately start planning for the training of the Staff deployed for HPSDRF.

"School and college buildings should be strengthened as they are most useful life-line structures during disasters.

Besides, safety audit of lifeline buildings should be done and further measures must be taken for its retrofitting," he added.

He directed the DM Cell, DDMA and 39 Departments to update their Disaster Management plans.

He directed the MPP and Power Department to send a report of an early warning and alert system by the dam authorities in the State within one week.

Chief Secretary also interacted with Deputy Commissioners, Professors of IIT Roorkee and IIT Mandi through video conferencing for their proposals sent to SDMA for funding under the Mitigation Fund.

MIRROR IMAGE



A waterlogged street in Shimla following heavy rain on Wednesday.

LALIT KUMAR

HP focusing on dev of tribal areas along int'l border: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday said that the state government was giving special thrust on development of tribal areas as they share international border.

"We are giving special attention to strengthen infrastructure such as roads, communication, power and water supply in these areas. We are ensuring that adequate funds are made available so that pace of development does not suffer in tribal belts due to want of funds," he said. (Some parts of the tribal belt of Spiti and Kinnar in Himachal Pradesh share a border with China).

Inaugurating and laying foundation stones of developmental projects worth over Rs 62.17 crore in tribal district Kinnar through video conferencing from Shimla, the Chief Minister said that the Congress leader from the area had been making tall claims regarding development in the district Congress tenure, but actually nothing



ister Narendra Modi. He said that this has paved the way for construction of a magnificent Lord Ram Temple.

A documentary on the developmental journey of Kinnar district was also screened on the occasion.

Lok Sabha MP from Mandi. Of which Kinnar is a part, Ram Swaroop Sharma said that the state has witnessed unprecedented development during the last two and a half years tenure of the present government. He also detailed various welfare schemes launched by the state government.

Sharma also appreciated the effective steps taken by the state government for tackling COVID-19 pandemic in Himachal Pradesh.

Vice Chairman HP State Forest Corporation, Surat Negi hailed the Chief Minister for dedicating developmental projects worth crores of Rupees in the district through video conferencing.

He said that all the 65 Panchayats of the district have been taking the benefits of developmental schemes initiated by the state government.

HP University to conduct UG final year exams from 17 Aug



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 AUGUST

HP University on Wednesday announced that it will conduct undergraduate final year examinations from 17 August at 134 examination centres across the state.

These exams had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HP University Controller of Examination JS Negi said the eagerly awaited final year papers of about 37,000 students of BA, B.Sc, B. Com would be conducted under strict provisions of standard operating procedure issued

by the Union Home Affairs ministry.

He further said that the students will have the choice to appear very near to their home but subject to the confirmation from the college regarding the stream such as Science, Arts and Commerce and only after this, students can appear in the Center of their choice.

"All the principals of the colleges have been directed by the Higher Education department and the University to conduct these examinations carefully and cautiously in view of the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

China violated Indian airspace in Himachal twice: DGP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 AUGUST

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China had violated Indian airspace twice in the month of April at Samdo in Lahaul Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh, Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu said on Wednesday.

Talking to the media, Kundu said two Chinese choppers had entered the Indian airspace on 11 April and 20 April at Samdo near Kauri, the last point on the strategic Hindustan-Tibet road, located at around 344 km from Shimla.

"We had reported the airspace violation in April to the state government and a report in this regard was sent to the Union government," he said.

He added however, there were no reports of Chinese incursion into Indian territory after the 15 June clash at Galvan border in Ladakh.

Kundu said Himachal Pradesh shares 240 km bor-

der with China, 160 km in Kinnar district and 80 km in Lahaul Spiti district and adequate measures are being taken to ensure safety and security of border and local population.

Kundu further stated that he had recommended to the state government to shift DIG Intelligence post to Dharamshala in Kangra district owing to its proximity with Pathankot in Punjab.

"Pathankot has Indian Air Force base which was

attacked by terrorists in the past and part of it falls in Damtal in Kangra district of Himachal.

In addition, there are other military installations in Kangra district for which we need to build an intelligence network to prevent any terror attack on these.

Further, Dharamshala has the offices of Tibetan government-in-exile and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama which makes the area more sensitive from a security and intelligence point of view that needs more attention," he added.

HP DGP Sanjay Kundu addressing media persons in Shimla on Wednesday.

Decide as per law Brinda's plea for FIRs against Thakur, Verma: HC to lower court

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked a magistrate court to decide in accordance with law the plea by CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat seeking lodging of FIRs against BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma for their alleged hate speeches in relation to anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh.

The direction by a bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan came after Karat's counsel urged the



high court to dispose of her matter by asking the magistrate court to decide on her complaint.

Karat's lawyer told the bench that the magistrate court had on February 26 reserved judgement on her application after hearing arguments of all sides, but did not pronounce the order as similar issues were pending in the high court.

On the request of the CPI(M) leader, the high court asked the magistrate court to decide her application "in accordance with law, rules, reg-

ulations and government policy applicable to the case and as expeditiously as possible and practicable".

With the direction, the high court disposed of Karat's plea which had sought directions to the magistrate court to pass an order on her complaint.

The petition had also sought directions to police to

lodge FIRs against Thakur and Verma.

Apart from Karat's plea for lodging FIRs against the two BJP leaders, the bench was also hearing several other petitions seeking action against these two BJP leaders as well as their party colleagues Kapil Mishra and Abhay Verma for alleged hate speeches by them.

It was also hearing another plea which has alleged that Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, as well as AAP leaders Man-

wish Sisodia and Amanullah Khan, and AIMIM MLA Waris Pathan also gave hate speeches.

Besides, the pleas have also sought other reliefs, which include setting up of an SIT, FIRs against police officers who were allegedly involved in the violence and disclosure of persons arrested and detained.

While disposing of Karat's plea for lodging FIR against Thakur and Verma and another petition, moved during the riots, seeking safe passage of injured people, the bench said all the remaining petitions

would be heard on August 24.

The Delhi Police, in a consolidated affidavit filed in all the matters, had earlier said that investigations into the northeast Delhi riots have not revealed any evidence till now that political leaders instigated or participated in the violence that claimed at least 53 lives. It had also said its prima facie investigations revealed that this was not a case of any sporadic or spontaneous violence "but appears to be a part of a well thought of conspiracy to destabilise the harmony in society".



What has Aaditya Thackeray got to do with Sushant Singh Rajput case? It seems the Opposition still cannot digest that the Shiv Sena-led govt has come to power in the state

SHIV SENAS LEADER SANJAY RAUT

ALLEGING CONSPIRACY TO LINK AADITYA THACKERAY TO ACTOR SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH CASE

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ndia

THUMBNAILS



A BJP activist celebrates before the groundbreaking ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. In New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Lalu shifted to RIMS director's residence: Jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad was on Wednesday shifted from the paving ward of the RIMS to the residence of its director to protect him from exposure to coronavirus, a senior official said. Some security guards posted at the ward tested positive for Covid-19. The residence was vacant.

1,195 cases in Kerala: Kerala on Wednesday reported 1,195 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of persons affected with the virus in the state to 29,151. With reports of seven more deaths on Tuesday the toll has risen to 98. ■ SNS

SP Balasubrahmanyam tests +ve for Covid-19

State records 5,175 new Covid cases, while 6,031 patients have been discharged

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 5 AUGUST

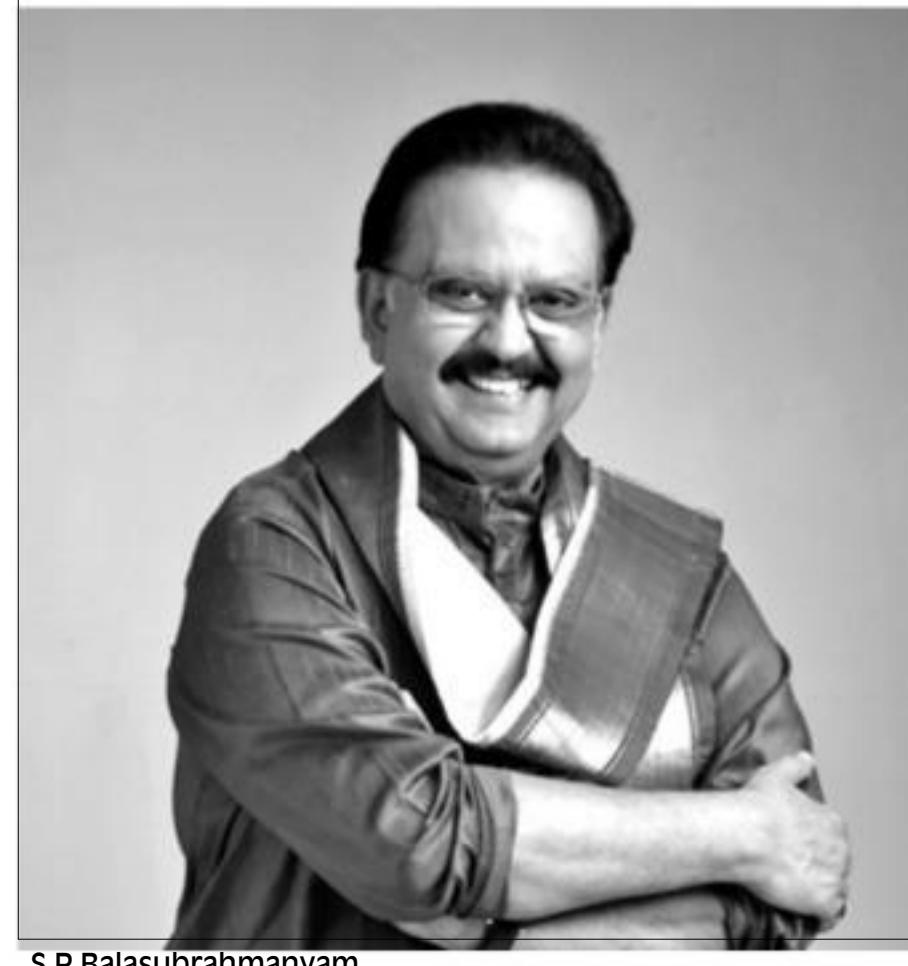
Renowned playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam has tested positive for coronavirus today. In a video released by him, the singer said that he got himself tested after he developed mild chest congestion, fever and cold.

"I am fine now. Doctors said that I have mild infection and can be at home quarantine. But I preferred getting treated at the hospital," he said.

UML leader Kader Mohideen also tested coronavirus positive today. He is under treatment in a private hospital in Trichy.

Meanwhile, VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan's sister Banumathi passed away after being infected by the virus.

However, Tamil Nadu seems to have got a hold of Covid-19 pandemic as the number of infected patients discharged from the hospital daily outnumbers the new cases. On Wednesday the state recorded 5,175 new Covid cases, while 6,031 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the state. While the total number of Covid patients in the state so far, touched 2,73,460, the number of patients dis-



S P Balasubrahmanyam

charged till now is 2,14,815 which is almost 78 per cent of total infected people.

Meanwhile, the death rate is on the rise, today 112 people reportedly died of Covid, taking the total number of deaths due to corona virus to 4,461. The pandemic situation in Chennai is also getting better as 86 per cent of people affected by coronavirus reportedly recovered while 11 per cent is under treatment.

In the city, the pandemic has affected more men than women. As per data, 58.99 per cent of the patients have been male and 41.01 per cent are female. The viral infection has contracted mostly persons in the age group of 30 to 39.

The Greater Chennai Corporation gave an areawise break up of the places which have Covid-19.

A hotspot, Kodambakkam has 1,349 cases and a containment zone, Anna Nagar has 1,198 patients testing positive. Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar has 952 Covid cases, Adyar has 1,012 active cases and the neighbourhood of Ambattur has 1,401 patients hospitalised. Teynampet has the highest death toll in the city with 332, followed by Royapuram with 262 deaths. Royapuram which was one of the most dangerous areas for the viral infection, is now showing high recovery with 10,404 patients testing negative. Anna Nagar, the current hotspot had 10,432 persons recovering and Kodambakkam had 10,519 persons overcoming the viral infection.

The state government has given permission to stand-alone gyms to reopen from 10 August. The government has directed that only persons below the age of 50 should be permitted to use the facilities.

MP CM beats Covid, discharged from hosp



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 5 AUGUST

After testing positive again for Covid-19 on 3 August, a second time in nine days, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was discharged from a private hospital at Bhopal today. Chouhan was admitted to Chirayu Hospital at Bhopal on 25 August after his first test came positive.

They (doctors) advised discharge as per ICMR discharge policy dated 8th May 2020 wherein the patient can be discharged after 10 days of symptom onset and no fever for 3 days.

There will be no need for testing prior to discharge,' said the health bulletin.

Chouhan tweeted that he is healthy and has returned home. He thanked the doctors and nurses for taking excellent care of him as well as all other patients admitted there. The CM compared the medical staff to God and said he would always remain indebted to them.

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra had also confirmed the development and said the CM would stay in the hospital for now. As a result, the state Cabinet meeting on 4 August was also held virtually.

A health bulletin from the hospital today morning said the health of Chouhan is stable on 12th day of admission and he is asymptomatic since last 10 days. The bulletin said

further that treating physicians examined the CM today morning and found all clinical parameters within normal limits.

Coronavirus has claimed the life of a 70-year-old Samir Roy, a Trinamul Congress leader, who remained an elected councillor with the Burdwan Municipality for 45 years till his death.

A lawyer by profession, Samir was suffering from kidney ailments. He was shifted to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital on Monday where his rapid antigen test was done.

Yesterday, at around 7.30 pm, he was told about his Covid-19 positive report and, according to Dr Kunal Dey, medical superintendent with the hospital, "He suddenly complained of hypertension and his condition began deteriorating. At 7.45 pm, he collapsed."

Roy remained an unchallenged warrior as an elected councillor from the Congress since 1975, braving the CPI-M's alleged atrocities.

He joined TMC responding to Mamata Banerjee's call.

In 2016 Assembly election, he however felt quite disappointed with the party and had filed his nomination as an independent candidate against TMC candidate, Rabirajan Chatterjee, and was defeated.

As Covid-19 cases are rapidly increasing, the Burdwan East administration has prepared to clamp a fresh week-long absolute lockdown in the entire six municipalities and eight Panchayat villages in five blocks from tomorrow.

TENDER

H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Conservator of Forests, Mandi Forest Circle, Mandi, District Mandi on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD having Class A/B for works as detailed in the tender documents.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earliest money @ 4.5%	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of Forest Rest house at Balichowki (Nauna) in Thach Forest Range under Nahan Forest Division.	Rs. 700014/-	03/08/2020	315037/- upto 10.20 AM	11/08/2020

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Divisional Forest Officer, Nahan Forest Division, Coker, PIN 75023, Tel. No. 0697-255267 e-mail: nahanford@923@gmail.com

2065/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

DMK relieves Selvam of party post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 5 AUGUST

The DMK on Wednesday suspended its MLA Ku Ka Selvam, who is apparently leaning towards the BJP, and relieved him of party posts, a day after he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and met saffron party chief J P Nadda.

The Dravidian party also sent the legislator a show

cause notice, asking him why he should not be expelled from the primary membership of the party.

Reacting to his suspension, the MLA, after visiting the BJP state headquarters 'Kamalayam', told reporters here that he would not worry even if the party expelled him. He also questioned the party leadership for allegedly not holding polls to fill

posts like that of district secretaries.

"They have suspended me. I am not worried even if they expel me. I will continue to work for the people," Selvam said.

Expressing his resentment openly, he said he had worked for the DMK for over two decades and still was not considered for the west district secretary position in the city and

demanded "intra party elections".

"It was the father, then the son and now the grandson... in the place of successor politics, it is now becoming family politics," he said without explicitly naming the DMK.

Apparently, the trio he indicated are late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, his son and incumbent chief M K Stalin and his son

Udhayanidhi Stalin, the party's youth wing secretary.

Recently, DMK MLA J Anbazhagan, who was the west district secretary here passed away due to COVID-19.

"Those who are above 55, please don't be in the party (DMK)... then you will have to face the situation which I faced," the disgruntled legislator said.

Lockdown deals sweet shops a blow on Ram Temple foundation day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 5 AUGUST

The complete lockdown in West Bengal on Wednesday which coincided with the laying of the foundation for the Ram Temple at Ayodhya has dealt a blow to its sweet shops as they were forced to cancel orders and remain closed in keeping with the protocol.

Felu Modak, a famed sweet shop at Rishra in neighbouring Hooghly district, had been ordered to prepare a special 'sandesh', a typical Bengali milk-based delicacy, but had to cancel it at the last minute as the government notification on bi-weekly lockdown dates did not give any relaxation for August 5.

"We had received orders to make a variety of sweets to be themed on the Ram Temple bhoomi pujan. The clients were expecting that the lockdown date will be changed by the government. When it became clear that this is not going to happen, they cancelled the order," Amitabha Dey, one of the owners of the decades-old shop, said.

He said the shop has always innovated popular sweets on social and religious occasions, sporting events like FIFA World

Cup or even during political occasions as per the orders of the customers.

"We had also prepared sweets which were taken to Delhi for Vaipayeeji (former prime minister) and Advani Ji (veteran BJP leader). We were told that they had liked the sweets," he said proudly.

The situation is different this time as people are scared and are staring at great economic loss due to the lockdown and the raging coronavirus pandemic, he said.

The in-charge of an outlet of Bhikharani Chandmal, a known brand which sells north Indian variety of sweets, said the lockdown has affected the delivery of sweets to celebrate the Ram Temple foundation.

He said the shop has always innovated popular sweets on social and religious occasions, sporting events like FIFA World

Cup or even during political occasions as per the orders of the customers.

"We had also prepared sweets which were taken to Delhi for Vaipayeeji (former prime minister) and Advani Ji (veteran BJP leader). We were told that they had liked the sweets," he said proudly.

The situation is different this time as people are scared and are staring at great economic loss due to the lockdown and the raging coronavirus pandemic, he said.

The possibility of delivery to customers who order online is almost nil due to the strict patrolling by the police during the lockdown, he added.

Dhiman Das, the owner of the famed K C Das chain of sweet shops struck a different note. "We don't prepare sweets themed on such religious events," he said.

It is on the occasion of

popular Bengali festivals like Bijoya Dashami, Bhai Phonta (brothers' day) and Poila Baisakh (Bengali new year's day) that new additions are made to the rich repertoire of sweets immortalised by the chain's founder Nabin Chandra Das.

"But these events are engrained in the cultural heritage of Bengal for centuries. Let's see if the Ram Temple is embraced in the same way by the people of Bengal in the coming years," he said but conceded that there was possibility of getting bulk orders to celebrate the bhoomi pujan had the shop been allowed to open during the day.

"The bi-weekly lockdown is affecting all sweet shops in the state. Things had improved a little in June. Large quantities of milk are being wasted now, but we don't have any choice," he said.

Sandip Sen of Sen Mahasay, yet another popular sweet shop, said it does not believe in "stunts like sweets themed on Ayodhya and Ram temple."

One or two sweet shops may have resorted to such "gimmicks," Sen, one of the office bearers of Paschim Banga Mistanna Byabosayee Samiti, said.

Book those involved in hooch tragedy: Pb CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 AUGUST

of recent times, the CM also mooted enhancement of punishment for spurious liquor manufacturing and smuggling under the Excise Act, to ensure that repeat offenders remain behind the bars and are not able to come out easily to indulge again in the crime.

As several ministers agreed, during a Cabinet meet, to the suggestion of Advocate General Atul Nanda that a strict law like Punjab Control of Organised Crime

(PCOCA) was needed to combat organised crime like illicit liquor smuggling, the CM asked the sub-committee, that was set up under Brahmin Mohindra to examine the provisions of the proposed law, to finalise and submit its report at the earliest.

The CM's directives on the hooch tragedy, which has claimed 113 lives so far, came during two separate video conferences—one of the Cabinet meeting and the

other a review meeting of the case with top police and administrative officials.

Amarinder also led his council of ministers in observing a two-minute silence as a mark of homage to the victims of the tragedy. "Finish off this business, clean up the border areas," was Amarinder's strict directive to police and district officials during the review meet earlier, which was attended by senior officers of the state.

People are experiencing this proud moment because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wisdom and foresight



UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH
DURING THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 06 AUGUST 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A vendor carries mannequins in Hyderabad on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile poll: The election for the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile will be held next year, Chief Election Commission of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) announced on Wednesday. CEC Wangdu Tsering and two newly elected additional election commissioners issued a set of instructions on voter registration, code of conduct, social media practices and a separate 12-point guideline for the candidates. ■ PTI

Siddaramiah stable: Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramiah, undergoing treatment for coronavirus, is now stable and has no fever, Manipal Hospitals, where he is admitted, said in a statement on Wednesday. Siddaramiah was admitted on Monday night after having fever in the morning, said his son Yathindra. ■ PTI

Doctors remove 24-kg tumour: A 24-kg tumour was removed from a woman's abdomen by doctors at a hospital in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district, officials said on Wednesday. The patient is stable and under medical observation. ■ PTI

CSE examination: After a gap of 13-years, Richard Yanthan of Lakhati village in Wokha district of Nagaland cleared the Civil Services Examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He secured 133rd position in the CSE-2019, the results of which were declared by the UPSC on Tuesday. ■ PTI

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Bhoomi poojan: People throng shops with TV sets

Streets immersed in religious fervour as ceremony gets underway in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AYODHYA/MUMBAI, 5 AUGUST

From blowing of conch shells and ringing of bells to ceaseless chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Siya Ramchandra Ki Jai', streets of this temple town got immersed in a religious fervour on Wednesday as the foundation laying ceremony for Ram Temple got underway here.

Some jewellery shops in the famous Shrigaar Haat area turned into places for community television spots as passers-by and even some security personnel and mediapersons joined shopkeepers to watch the live telecast of 'bhoomi poojan' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the temple and his speech.

Many recalled that these scenes were similar to ones quite common in late 1980s when *Ramayan* serial was telecast on Doordarshan and people used to gather at few houses and shops having TV sets.

Roof tops of buildings in the area, close to Hanuman-garhi Temple, became hubs and vantage points for video journalists and photographers, while roadside trees provided the much-needed shade to security forces deployed for the occasion. Some shopkeepers were also seen distributing laddoos (sweets), while saffron flags with pictures of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman were seen on many balconies, verandahs and rooftops.

Chants of Jai Shri Ram, blowing of conch shells and ringing of bells reached a crescendo the moment the word got around about Modi's arrival at the main venue, where access was highly restricted due to safeguard measures in place to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. Another round of chants began when the prime minister began his speech with 'Jai Siya Ram' and crowds in front of TV sets also responded loudly to Modi's 'Siya Ramchandra Ki Jai' slogan. Wearing a green-coloured mask, 60-year-old Shanti, who was glued to a TV set at a jeweller's shop, said, "I feel extremely overwhelmed to experience this glorious and historic moment. I feel happy that



People watch a live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking part in a religious ritual during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ram Temple, in Ayodhya on Wednesday. ■ AFP

PM's attendance marks victory of Hindutva: Owaisi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 5 AUGUST

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for attending 'bhoomi pujan' at Ayodhya, saying by doing so the PM violated his constitutional oath and the tenets of secularism.

An "emotional" Owaisi said: "Prime Minister's attendance marks the victory of Hindutva and defeat of secularism. The Prime Minister with that silver brick has laid the foundation of a Hindu Rashtra."

Referring to PM's speech where he said the country was emotional today, Owaisi said he, too, was feeling the same. For 450 years at the same spot, there stood a mosque and graveyard of Muslim elders.

Heslammed Modi for referring to the temple as a symbol of India. The Prime Minister must understand the country's symbol can neither be a temple nor a mosque. He has imposed his religion and ideology on the country and endorsed majoritarianism. Owaisi

criticised PM Modi for equating 5 August with 15 August. "How can a temporal movement be equated to a country?"

On RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remark that the Bhoomi Pujan marked the beginning of a New India, he said: "In this New India will the minorities, particularly Muslims be treated as second class citizens?"

Owaisi also took a dig at the "so called" secular parties, particularly the Congress. He took a dig at the party's call for brotherhood pointing out that the Ram Mandir movement led to communal riots and a mosque was demolished, then how can that be a symbol of brotherhood.

He called out Miss Mamata Banerjee for maintaining a "deliberate silence" today due to apprehension about losing votes of a particular section of the society.

Owaisi said he plans to call on chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to rebuild the mosques razed during the demolition of the Secretariat.

built."
Sena says bhoomi puja fulfills Thackeray's dream:

The Shiv Sena said the 'bhoomi puja' performed for Ram temple construction at Ayodhya on Wednesday "fulfils" the dream of its founder Bal Thackeray, while the party's rul-

tered the development as a "matter of joy". The Shiv Sena, an ex-BJP ally which has been a strong supporter of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, congratulated the people of the country over the long-awaited foundation stone laying ceremony for the grand temple.

Maha former CM Shivaji Rao Patil Nilangekar passes away



Former Maharashtra chief minister Shivaji Rao Patil Nilangekar died here on Wednesday after a brief illness, family sources said.

Nilangekar, 89, died at a private hospital here.

He tested coronavirus positive in July but recovered and was discharged after testing negative.

Nilangekar, senior Congress leader from Latur in Marathwada region, was the state chief minister from 1985 to March 1986.

He resigned from the post when the Bombay High Court passed strictures against him after fraud was alleged in the results of the MD examination in 1985 "at his best" to help his daughter and her friend get through.

Nilangekar was tested positive for coronavirus in July and shifted to Pune for treatment.

Doctors at the Pune hospital where he died said he suffered an acute chronic renal failure with cardiac arrest.

Nilangekar, a close associate former chief minister late Vasantdada Patil, became the chief minister after the latter resigned as CM in protest against Prabha Rau being appointed state Congress president without his knowledge.

'Bhoomi pujan': WBCM calls for unity; BJP says TMC ignoring Hindu sentiments

SNS & PTI
KOLKATA, 5 AUGUST

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed 'bhoomi pujan' for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday called for preserving brotherhood between communities and the age-old legacy of unity in diversity.

"Hindu Muslim Sikh Isai Apas mein hain Bhai Bhai! Mera Bharat Mahan, Maheen Hamara Hindustan."

"Our country has always upheld the age-old legacy of unity in diversity, and we must preserve this to our last breath!" Banerjee tweeted.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh, meanwhile, hit out at the TMC government in the state of "disregarding Hindu sentiments" by clamping a lockdown on a day when "bhoomi pujan" ceremony was being organised in Ayodhya.

"We requested for altering the date of the lockdown. But it was not done. When devotees of Lord Ram wanted to celebrate the day in a small way in Bengal, they were stopped by the police. The TMC government has disregarded the sentiments of the Hindus in the state. The TMC will pay dearly for this in days to come," Ghosh said.

He asked Banerjee to come clean on whether she supports the construction of the Ram temple or not.

"After Ram temple verdict last year, she had remained silent. This time too, she is not clearly saying whether she

Gujarat Cong reminds of Rajiv role in Ram Temple move

AHMEDABAD, 5 AUGUST

Resisting the saffron surge in the state with its back to the wall for nearly a quarter century now, the Congress in Gujarat has reminded the people that it was Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who had already paved the way for Ram Temple construction.

Even as PM Narendra Modi launched the construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya on Wednesday, some Congress leaders in Gujarat took to social media to recall Rajiv Gandhi's role in initiating the process way back in 1985.

Welcoming the move to construct the Ram Temple, a social media post made viral by Nishit Vyas, general secretary of Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, said Rajiv Gandhi has unlocked the premises in 1985. The social media post circulated on WhatsApp adds that the 'Shilanyas' and 'Bhoomi Pujan' were also done by Rajiv Gandhi in 1989.

Chief minister Vijay Rupani said that this day would be written in golden letters in history as years of struggle has materialised. In a video message, he said many Gujaratis have made their contribution to the 'kar sewa' for building the Ram Temple. Construction of the grand temple proves that the BJP always fulfills its commitments.

The city had 10,583 vacant hospital beds for Covid patients whereas there were 6,646 vacant beds in the dedicated Covid care centres and 396 in the dedicated Covid health centres. Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today held a meeting of state officials to review the mortality data provided by government and private hospitals in the city. Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev was said to have chaired another meeting on formulation of augmented surveillance strategy.

Delhi records...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The city had 10,583 vacant hospital beds for Covid patients whereas there were 6,646 vacant beds in the dedicated Covid care centres and 396 in the dedicated Covid health centres. Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today held a meeting of state officials to review the mortality data provided by government and private hospitals in the city. Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev was said to have chaired another meeting on formulation of augmented surveillance strategy.

Meeting of parties called by Farooq not held due to J&K admin restrictions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 5 AUGUST

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday foiled a meeting of mainstream political leaders to discuss the current situation in J&K that was scheduled to be held at the Srinagar residence of National Conference (NC) chief and sitting MP Farooq Abdullah as no participant was allowed to reach the venue. Approach roads to his residence on the Gupkar Road were sealed with concertina wires.

However, there were no restrictions on BJP activists who assembled at many places, including Srinagar, to celebrate the first anniversary of abrogation of the Article 370.

They hoisted the Tricolor at many places in the Kashmir valley and in the Jammu division to celebrate the day.

Leaders of the mainstream opposition parties were fuming with anger on the issue of the authorities allegedly not letting them to move out of their houses, though the curfew was lifted by Srinagar's district magistrate late last night. The DM had earlier clamped curfew till Wednesday.

The leaders who were scheduled to attend the meeting claimed they had been placed under house detention



and were asked not to venture out of their homes.

The meeting had been called by Abdullah to chalk out 'political strategy on Article 370' which was abrogated by the central government last year on this day.

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah took to the Twitter to vent his anger by sharing pictures of the sealed road and said; "One year on, this is Gupkar road today-police vehicles opposite our gates, concertina wire strung across the road at regular intervals & no vehicles allowed. My father had called a meeting of leaders of MAINSTREAM parties to deliberate on the current situation."

Naqvi greets people on first anniv of Art 370 abrogation

NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Union minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday greeted people of Jammu and Kashmir on the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and making the erstwhile state into a Union Territory of India along with Ladakh.

"After the abrogation of Article 370 and section 35-A that granted special status to J&K, people of Jammu and Kashmir have become equal partners in the development of the country. My heartiest greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," Naqvi said here.

"With the abolition of 370 problems of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have come to an end. The people of this region have now become a part of the country's mainstream of development. I congratulate the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh on completion of one year after scrapping the provisions of 370," Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said.

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Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Upto 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Upto 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Upto 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Upto 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Upto 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Upto 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Upto 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Upto 27.12.2020
00761	Renigunta	05:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:15	Renigunta	20:45	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:00	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:50</		

Unfair crackdown

In cracking down on Al-Jazeera and two local broadcasters for the airing of a documentary that highlighted the plight of illegal workers in Malaysia during the Covid lockdown, the Southeast Asian country may have reacted with greater indignation than it is entitled to. The action by Malaysia's government follows the airing of a documentary last month called "Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown" that focused on the plight of undocumented workers detained during raids in areas under tight containment measures and that of migrant workers. The Malaysian government described the documentary as inaccurate and unfair, and promptly launched a manhunt for a Bangladeshi worker who was especially critical of the authorities. He was arrested on 25 July and his work permit revoked, and Malaysia announced that he would both be deported and never again allowed to enter the country. Before the arrest, his photograph, name and address were splashed across media, a step Human Rights Watch said placed him at great risk in an environment hostile to migrant workers. As the rights body noted, "The government's action sends a chilling message to the country's many migrant workers: If you want to stay in Malaysia, don't speak up no matter how badly you have been treated." Any lingering doubts anyone might have had on Malaysia's message were laid to rest by a statement of the country's Immigration chief who "strongly" warned migrants to "be careful" or risk losing their work permits.

There are more than 2.2 million registered foreign workers in Malaysia, mostly from Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh. There are in addition many undocumented workers who slip through the cracks of the country's immigration checkpoints. As job layoffs began to pinch during the economic slowdown following the virus outbreak, many Malaysians turned their ire on these workers. They were accused of both spreading the virus, and of "stealing" jobs from locals hit by the epidemic. Already, there are reports that many migrant workers have lost their jobs; some are going hungry and have been evicted from even their cramped quarters which in any event were breeding grounds for the virus to spread. Al Jazeera is under investigation for sedition and for violation of the country's immigration laws but has staunchly defended itself saying its report was accurate. Malaysia's conduct is in sharp contrast to that of Singapore, which too had reported multiple virus outbreaks from quarters occupied by migrant workers. The smaller country confronted the outbreak as a public health emergency and avoided stigmatization of the workers, while simultaneously launching measures to ensure that the standard of living in workers' dormitories was improved. Malaysia would do well to remember that while workers migrate to a foreign land in search of opportunity, they also fulfil a need that the local work force finds difficult to meet in normal circumstances. Allowing workers to be ill-treated, as alleged, and then stifling criticism does not solve the problem.

Covid and fraud

The arrest of an American this week for using Covid-19 relief funds to purchase a Lamborghini car costing a reported \$233,337 (Rs 1.74 crore) showcases how even adversity is transformed into opportunity by the unscrupulous. The victim of the fraud in this case was the US government and the arrested man is alleged to have filed five applications under the Federal Paycheck Protection Program to different banks, claiming that he employed dozens of people. Two banks deposited money into his account, a sum of about \$1.7 million in all, with which the man is alleged to have gone on a spending spree, buying in addition to the luxury car, a pick-up truck, a Rolex watch, a lease for a luxury apartment and liquor, besides entertaining himself at strip clubs. But it isn't governments alone that are vulnerable. Highlighting the vulnerability of people to fraud, the consulting firm KPMG put out an advisory recently telling Indians how to be cautious about fraud. The report highlighted several areas of possible fraud that individuals and businesses need to be careful about - sales and distribution, covering artificial inflation of prices and sale of damaged, expired or counterfeit products; fake online sales; kickbacks to ensure procurement of products hit by lockdowns or import restrictions; cyber frauds due to increased remote working, and reduced focus on compliance that triggers contravention of laws. Many other kinds of fraud have also been reported in the country, and among the most pernicious is the misuse of the Loan Moratorium scheme under the guise of which scamsters elicit banking details of the victim. Not even the PM Care Fund has been spared, and there are reports of identical IDs having been created by fraudsters to attract digital payments. Europol has identified several risks, which it says are illustrative and not comprehensive. Besides bogus websites and fake apps, the European police organisation has cautioned against fake investment opportunities that are related to Covid-19 and "money muling", whereby fake healthcare organisations and NGOs employ people to canvass donations against a commission. Sadly, authorities in India do not appear to have done enough to caution citizens about this new class of crime. Except for a short slide on its website warning people against revealing bank card numbers, verification codes and PIN numbers, the nodal Ministry of Consumer Affairs appears to have gone into hibernation during the crisis. Certainly, there is little evidence that the ministry is aware of the phenomenon of Covid frauds or has taken any steps to curb them. Indeed, the last press release disclosed on the ministry's website was issued in January 2019, which tells its own tale. As people reel under the onslaught of an unprecedented economic slump, with incomes compromised and savings depleted, it is important for the Government to take measures to protect

However, in 1941, Gandhi first presented his concrete programme for the benefit of the members of the Congress in the form of a booklet entitled Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place. He revised it in 1945, and in the following year he added one more item to it, namely, 'improvement of cattle'. In the Gandhian constructive programme, the most important element was his scheme of education, which, in the words of Acharya Kriplani, "...is the coping stone of Gandhi's social and political edifice.'

Gandhi wrote extensively about education. His writings include hundreds of pages of critiques of the evils and deficiencies of British and other modern educational models. His contribution to education is unique in the sense that he made the first attempt to develop an indigenous scheme of education in

As the liquor mafia is well connected, bootlegging thrives. It is evident from the fact that speak-easies are conveniently located on all the highways passing through Punjab. Unfortunately, the Punjab government is not rising to the challenge of dealing with this menace for the reasons best known

to it. It must strain every sinew to act against this menace which not only causes loss of revenue but saps the energy of society.

Yours, etc., Tarsem Singh, Mahipur, 4 August.

BE PHILOSOPHICAL

SIR, I refer to your editorial in *The Statesman* (2 August) captioned 'When death is life' which is as philosophical as the words of the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro who is said to have told his countrymen to be bold enough to face the Corona pandemic and not to be afraid of death which may occur at any point of time.

It is not that he told his people to surrender to the virus, to abandon treatment if required but to take it as a challenge and not to die before the actual death. Such a stand on the part of the Brazilian President will help his people

divert their attention from the disease and make life easier. The rest of the world may get some plus points to convey to the people of their country as they would also feel that when the killer virus cannot be driven away by physical force, it may be good to remain strong mentally and deal with the problem as it appears. A philosophical approach to life at times helps to bypass problems.

Yours, etc., AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 2 July.

NO SELF-MEDICATION

SIR, This refers to your report 'Self medication with borrowed prescriptions adding to Covid crisis' (3 August). At a time when coronavirus is affecting lives and has thrown a serious challenge to the medical fraternity, attempts to arrest the disease through self-medication

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Yours, etc., Dilip Kumar Sengupta, Kolkata, 4 August.

Bapu's Nai Talim

'Literacy is not the end of education nor even the beginning. It is only one of the means by which man and woman can be educated. Literacy itself is no education. I would therefore begin the child education by teaching it a useful handicraft and enabling it to produce from the moment it begins its training.' ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Education, like family, marriage, religion, law and politics is one of the most important institutions of society which plays a pivotal role in maintaining and developing the social system. Gandhi used to say: 'We will know what type of education to provide if we know what type of society we want.' Education is a vital sub-system of the social system because it improves personal lives and helps society to run smoothly.

Mahatma Gandhi's ideal society of the first order is a completely rural society in a state of pure anarchy, in which there is a more or less complete absence not only of the state, government, parliament and political parties, but also of all complicated machinery, advanced science and technology, modern education, labour-capital and peasant-labour conflict, and of such social evils as casteism, untouchability and communalism. The horizontal organization of the society rests on oceanic circles of independent and interdependent villages, and the vertical organisation on varna or the four-fold hereditary occupational division without any social, or for that matter, economic inequality involved. Economic relations in this society are harmonized and equalized through the institution of Trusteeship.

Gandhi's conception of the ultimate values of non-violence, freedom and equality shall also be realized. The society that he visualized was named as Sarvodaya (equal and full development of all), or Poorna Swaraj (complete independence for all) or Ram Raj (The Kingdom of Heaven).

The first-order ideal society, as a rule, is to be approached through the practical or second-order ideal society by a process of successive approximation. Gandhi's conception of practical or second-order ideal society was based on his Constructive Programme. The programme had been developed by him since 1922 when, after suspension of the Non-cooperation movement, he retired from active politics for about eight years and devoted himself to the organisation and implementation of a programme of constructive work. He wrote regularly in Young India and Harijan on constructive works.

As Gandhi was more a moral idealist than an academic so his reflection on education did not emphasise intellectual development, but rather primacy and goal of developed human beings as moral beings. He emphasised on the centrality of work, vocational training, productive manual labour, the focus on real needs and simple living, development of non-violent relations, greater emphasis on moral development and a holistic approach that involved the integrated training of body, mind, and spirit. In his words: 'I hold that true education of the intellectual can only come through a proper exercise and training of the bodily organs, e.g., hands, feet, eyes, ears, nose etc.'

Throughout his adult life, Gandhi was involved in innovative and sometimes controversial educational experiments and he learnt from their successes and failures. His quest for a truly sensible education system dates back to 1904 when he set up the Tolstoy Farm in South Africa's political edifice.'

Gandhi wrote extensively about education. His writings include hundreds of pages of critiques of the evils and deficiencies of British and other modern educational models. His contribution to education is unique in the sense that he made the first attempt to develop an indigenous scheme of education in

the taverns in the border states where it is comparatively cheaper. For the same reason, cheap liquor is often smuggled from these states.

As the liquor mafia is well connected, bootlegging thrives. It is evident from the fact that speak-easies are conveniently located on all the highways passing through Punjab. Unfortunately, the Punjab government is not rising to the challenge of dealing with this menace for the reasons best known

to it. It must strain every sinew to act against this menace which not only causes loss of revenue but saps the energy of society.

Yours, etc., Tarsem Singh, Mahipur, 4 August.

BE PHILOSOPHICAL

SIR, I refer to your editorial in *The Statesman* (2 August) captioned 'When death is life' which is as philosophical as the words of the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro who is said to have told his countrymen to be bold enough to face the Corona pandemic and not to be afraid of death which may occur at any point of time.

It is not that he told his people to surrender to the virus, to abandon treatment if required but to take it as a challenge and not to die before the actual death. Such a stand on the part of the Brazilian President will help his people

divert their attention from the disease and make life easier. The rest of the world may get some plus points to convey to the people of their country as they would also feel that when the killer virus cannot be driven away by physical force, it may be good to remain strong mentally and deal with the problem as it appears. A philosophical approach to life at times helps to bypass problems.

Yours, etc., AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 2 July.

NO SELF-MEDICATION

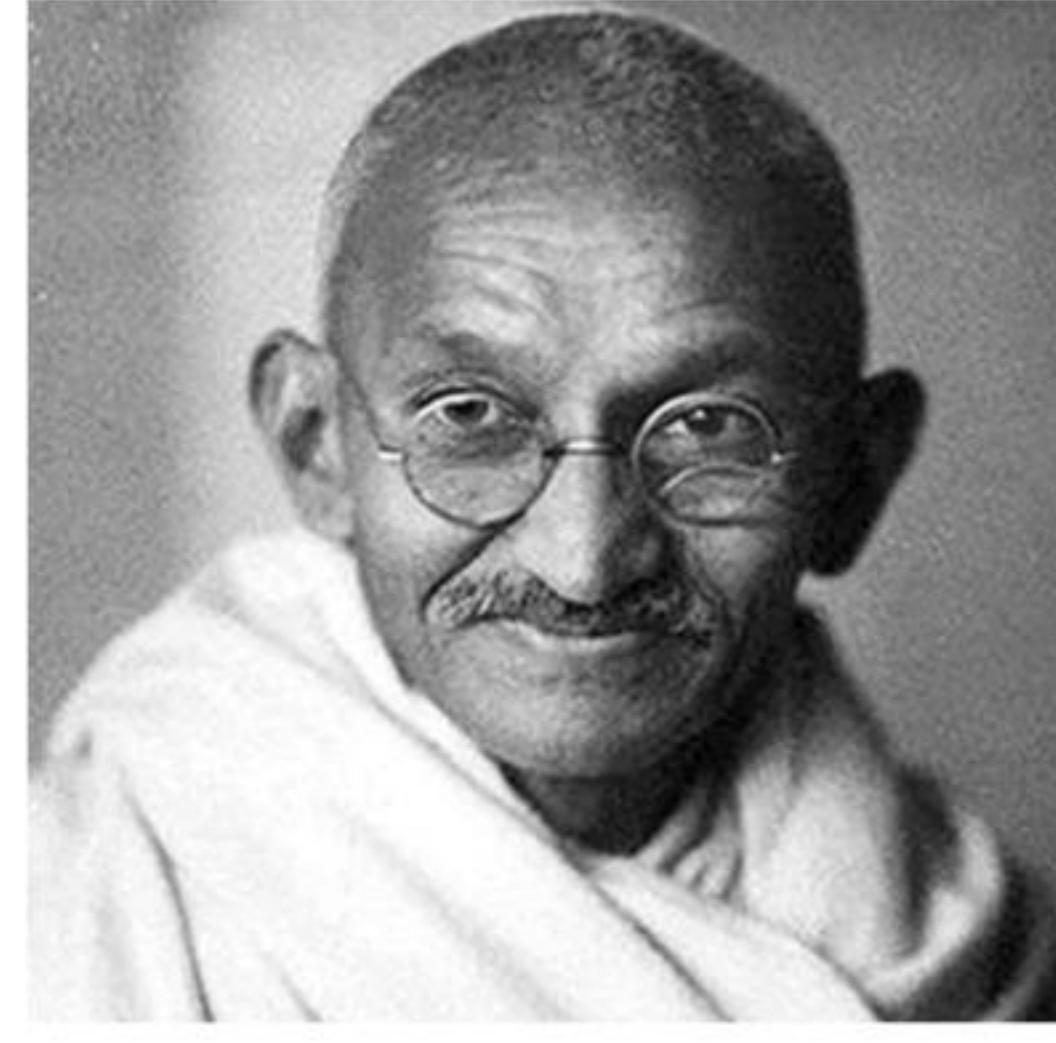
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British India. Although he never wrote a lengthy book, most of his important writings on education have been compiled and edited by Bharatan Kumarappa in two books, Basic Education (1951) and Towards New Education (1953).

Gandhi was a moral idealist. His philosophy of education is a harmonious blending of Idealism, Naturalism and Pragmatism. Idealism is the base of Gandhi's philosophy whereas Naturalism and Pragmatism facilitated the translation of philosophy into practice. If one asks about the purpose of education, the question could be answered appropriately in the words of Gandhi:... Education for life, education through life, and education throughout life.' In various formulations, he presented the goal of education as character-building that focuses on the development of courage, strength, fearlessness, virtue, and the ability to engage in selfless work directed at moral and spiritual aims.

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A MEMBER OF THE



ASIAN VOICES
Is Cambodia's education system failing its people?

A high rate of grade repetition, school dropout and low student achievement plague the Cambodian education system.

Hong Menea The Kingdom's education system needs to grow its people but some flaws might stifle this growth.

Coming from the Khmer Rouge occupation, with the loss of many scholars and academicians and a collapsed government, the education system had to be reconstructed from scratch - one that will chart the course of the Kingdom.

Nearly 30 years after the first election, Cambodia continues to grapple with the system which has seen a high number of school dropouts, grade repetitions and low student achievement.

The outcome is symptomatic of weak direction and policies stemming from flip-flopping goals dictated by donors, alleged Cambodian Independent Teachers' Association (Cita) president Ouk Chhayavay.

"It is compounded by poverty and lack of morale among students who cannot afford the corruption and favouritism (practiced by teachers) in schools."

We need reform," she said. Countless reports and studies on the education system over the years show how the segment is steeped in structural problems, not just involving student performances but also school systems and apathetic teaching behaviour.

It is definitely a dilemma which the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport also noticed in 2018, saying that Cambodia is facing a learning crisis which requires 'immediate yet visionary and systemic solutions'.

This, despite its success in raising student enrolment based on the fact

that nearly every child can attend primary school, the ministry said in a 2018 report entitled Education in Cambodia: Findings from Cambodia's experience in PISA-D (Programme for International Student Assessment for development), jointly produced with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

"Cambodian education has been characterised as the education utterly in need of reforms to revive from the high rate of grade repetition, school dropout and low student achievement," the ministry said.

For Chhayavay, the problem itself is due to the government's constantly changing direction since the fall of the Khmer Rouge in the 1980s. "In the beginning, it wanted to achieve quality in education but donors wanted 100 per cent passing rate, so tutoring commenced privately."

"Later, the government changed its goal to ensuring quality but many couldn't keep up, so they failed resulting in grade repetitions. Then, the government returned to pushing for 100 per cent passing rate."

As of now, nothing is clear. It is based on what

TARINI MEHTA

Is development to mean that the life and health of people does not matter and that the environment is valued in terms of what can be extracted from it or how it can be used as an industrial dumping ground?

The rhetoric, oft-repeated in policy documents, is that the Government of India is committed to sustainable development – which by its definition would integrate environmental, social and economic concerns into the development framework. The pathway of development that has been adopted, however, is quite the opposite, as evidenced by the recently released Draft EIA Notification.

This is the latest in a series of measures that have been initiated over the past decade to reduce the scope and effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessments, one of the primary tools for the achievement of sustainable development, environmental democracy and good governance. EIAs, which ensure that industries are set up on the basis of strong environmental standards and checks, are steadily being set aside in favour of a regime where more and more industries can operate without having to take the environment into account, nor people's life and health.

By greatly reducing the number of projects that will require EIAs, the Draft Notification is moving India away from globally-recognised standards of environmental governance and norms of International Environmental Law. What is more, it is an attack on environmental democracy.

A mark of progression in civilisational development, environmental democracy is an expression of the acknowledgment of the human-environment connection and the need, therefore, for people to have the right to participate in decisions that impact the environment and thereby their lives. This, in fact, is the foundation of democracy itself. The word 'democracy', i.e. rule by the people, originates from the Greek word *demos* meaning all citizens living in a particular city-state and *kratos* meaning rule or power. At its heart, it is a means of allowing people to participate in decisions and activities that have a bearing on their lives. Choice, inclusion, having a voice, equality are all aspects of this.

Indeed, environmental democracy is a natural progression of democracy, justice, as well as human rights,

Development must not devalue life



as the environment is the basis of survival and access to all that is necessary for staying alive and living a productive life. Basic needs form the basis of human rights and those same needs make a healthy environment vital for human rights, and thereby make the environment a necessary arena for public participation.

By limiting public participation in Environmental Impact Assessments and excluding altogether a number of industrial and development activities from the EIA process, the Draft Notification is weakening environmental democracy and hurting India down a pathway of unsustainable development.

What is more, through vaguely worded provisions, the Draft Notification gives wide discretion to the Government to exempt further projects from having to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments. Leeway has also been given to the Central

Government in the case of projects involving 'strategic considerations'. All that has been revealed about this category is that it involves projects in addition to those 'concerning national defence and security' (Section 14 e, Draft Notification, March 2020). Considering the vagueness of the term and the discretion given to the Government, one wonders how far the term will be extended. Would hydropower projects that the Government is keen to promote be considered 'strategic'? Would trans-boundary projects be categorised as such? Furthermore, when classified in this manner, access to information about these projects would be denied to the public; knowledge regarding the environmental and social impacts would in effect be hidden.

Roads and pipelines in border areas will also not require public consultations. The definition of a border area, however, covers some of the

most biodiverse regions, such as in the Northeast. Some border projects are also transboundary projects or have transboundary impacts, for which international law requires Environmental Impact Assessments; consultations with affected populations is a key part of this.

The International Court of Justice has, in fact, affirmed that Environmental Impact Assessments are a requirement under general international law, where there is a risk that a proposed industrial activity could have a significant adverse impact in a transboundary context.

The legalisation of a system of poor environmental standards will not only further the degradation of the environment, it will also give rise to more tragedies such as the recent gas leak in Vishakhapatnam where eight hundred people had to be rushed to various hospitals after inhaling toxic styrene vapours and twelve people lost

their lives. The company, LG Polymers, had been operating without an environmental clearance, with the consent of the State Pollution Control Board. It thus continued to operate close to areas with a dense population without any environmental safeguards and checks. It is, in fact, one of the many companies that had applied for an Environmental Clearance when the government announced in 2017 that 'post facto' or post-operational Environmental Clearances would be granted.

What kind of future is India heading towards with a governance framework where people's health and welfare is endangered, and where the environment, the very basis of survival, is destroyed? For whom is this development?

The writer is Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability, O.P. Jindal Global University, India.

The risk to Himalayan glaciers



by the year 2035.

The scandal sparked a flurry of new research, including my own, and we can now see that some Himalayan glaciers will survive into the next century. The latest data tells us that if we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, then between one-third and one-half of glacier ice will be lost by 2100. If not, and we carry on with business as usual, then two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers will vanish by the end of this century.

But how did such an error come to be presented as fact by a world-leading scientific organisation? This is a tale of repetitions and an apparently unintended typo lending credibility to an unfounded statement. The IPCC quoted a report from the World Wildlife Foundation, which had taken

the Himalayan meltdown date from an interview in New Scientist. That interview quoted speculation by an Indian glaciologist, who apparently misquoted another scientist's work predicting glaciers worldwide would shrink by 80 per cent by 2350.

The IPCC did eventually apologise for their failure to identify this error. Although embarrassing, it did not undermine their core conclusions. The IPCC undertook to improve their peer-review process before their next report in 2013.

The Himalayas are sacred mountains. Their name in Sanskrit means "abode of snow". But glaciers are a political issue in central Asia. Glaciated rivers provide water to over a billion people for food production and hydropower. India and Nepal in par-

ticular rely on glacier melt water to buffer seasonal droughts before the summer monsoon. These countries are rapidly industrialising and generally oppose limiting their carbon emissions.

After the IPCC report, the Indian government acted quickly to suppress panic with a controversial discussion paper presenting selective evidence showing that glaciers in northern India and Pakistan were stable or even expanding. However, the Karakoram glaciers in question benefit from greater winter snowfall and cooler summers as a result of global heating. How persistent this Karakoram anomaly will be remains unknown.

Glaciologists were left wondering what the fate of Himalayan glaciers would be. Little research was being done and data was scarce. Problems with accessing remote, high-elevation glaciers in politically unstable regions deterred fieldwork. Civil war in Nepal, the Taliban in Pakistan and suspicion of foreign scientists in China and India made these mountains difficult places to work.

Field observations and surveys suggested that glaciers had not noticeably changed. Glaciologists soon realised that changes in ice volume were hidden by rock debris on the surfaces of many large glaciers. So measurements of changes in glacier area were misleading and concealed the scale of ice loss.

Then, in the early 2010s, rapid advances in satellite Earth observation technology and declassification of Cold War satellite photographs opened a window into these remote mountains. The scale of glacier change across the Himalayas could be seen for the first time.

The new satellite data allowed

glaciologists to measure changes in glacier melt water to buffer seasonal droughts before the summer monsoon. These countries are rapidly industrialising and generally oppose limiting their carbon emissions.

New research shows that the rate at which glacier ice is lost from the Himalaya has doubled in the last 20 years and is similar to the rate of ice loss globally. Although extreme altitudes were thought to protect glaciers from climate change, we now know that high mountains are warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet.

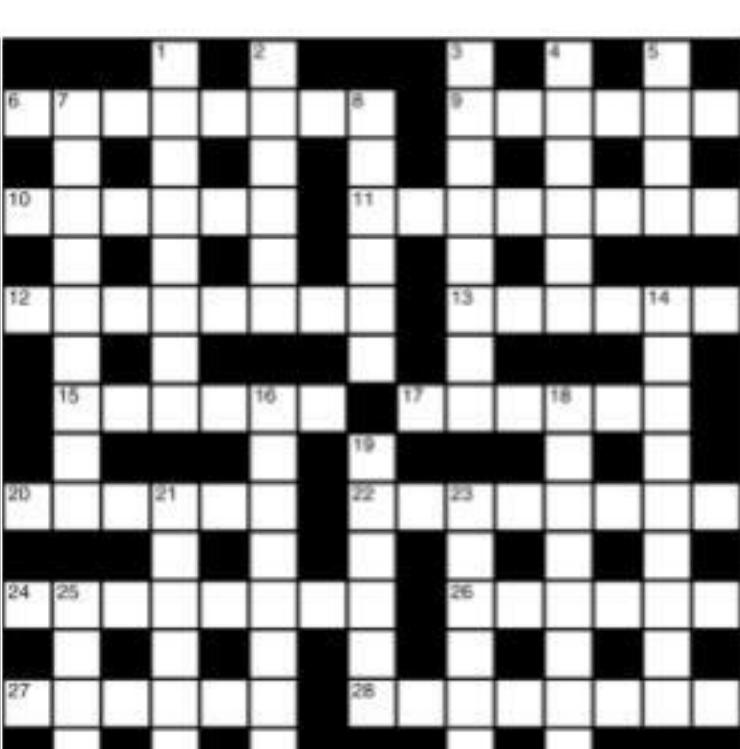
The proliferation of data allowed glaciologists to train computer models to project how glaciers will change in the future. These models tell us that between one-third and one-half of glacier ice in the Himalaya will be lost by 2100. If we don't act to keep climate change within the ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5° then two-thirds will be lost in the same period.

While the weakening of the summer monsoon and atmospheric pollution affect glacier life expectancy, rising global temperatures are causing Himalayan glaciers to shrink. These predictions are bad news for the one billion people who depend on glacier-fed rivers for water in spring at the start of the agricultural season.

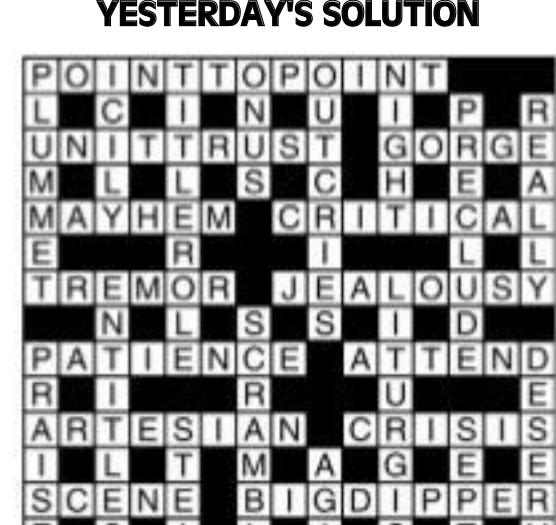
As glaciers decline, droughts are becoming more frequent before the summer rains, putting intense stress on populations in southern and central Asia. Governments, including India's, have now recognised the scale of the problem. To avoid a humanitarian crisis, the world must keep global heating within a range that will limit glacier loss.

The writer is Ice and Climate Research Fellow, University of Sheffield. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 6 Fuel talk of avoiding loud row (8)
- 9 A position where ball stops following attempt? (6)
- 10 By playing three of diamonds one indicated support (6)
- 11 Lack support to carry gun around (8)
- 12 Prisoner's means of communication curtailed by committee's conclusion (8)
- 13 Distribute Remain flyers on a regular basis (6)
- 15 Standard space to print

DOWN

- 17 and write one's name (6)
- 18 Scheme to cut precious stone in multiple layers (6)
- 20 Old coin displayed by gallery in empty salver (6)
- 22 Unable to pass time in debauched surroundings (8)
- 24 False reports of isolated people in the main wanting independence (8)
- 26 Boy's best friend to stop working, packing nothing and going on vacation (6)
- 27 I regularly disobey guards close to second home (6)
- 28 Prevailing wisdom in anthropological circles (8)

DOWN

- 1 Little fish flipping bit children (8)
- 2 Secret papers suppressed by hospital study (6)
- 3 Ill-informed rating managed to convey negative response (8)
- 4 Trained killer helping to make bureaucrat terrified (6)
- 5 High toll can end in mourning (4)
- 7 Decoration America awarded to President finally includes servicemen (9)
- 8 When one might eat

NO 28035

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The tenants of the Calcutta Port Commissioners along the Strand Road find themselves outside the scope of the Rent Act because of the way in which the definition of the word "premises" was altered during the passage of that measure through the Bengal Legislative Council. They are in a peculiar position. What they hold from the Commissioners is the bare land, on monthly tenancies which have existed so many years that the holdings might be regarded, to all intents and purposes, as permanent. The tenants have put up their own buildings, and many of them have let out part of these buildings to sub-tenants. The sub-tenants are protected by the Rent Act, but the original tenants who hold the bare land are left out in the cold. They have been paying rent for the land at the rate of Rs 20 per cottah. The Commissioners have raised this rent to Rs 40 per cottah, and the tenants are naturally dismayed. They are willing to pay a ten per cent increase, or even more, but the doubling of the rental is regarded as extortionate. A deputation to the Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners received a sympathetic hearing, and came away with some hope that the monthly tenancies might be converted into leases for a longer period; but they failed to obtain any reduction of the enhanced rent. That the Port Commissioners would deal with their tenants in any profiteering spirit, however, is hardly imaginable.

NEWS ITEMS

OIL WORKERS' DISPUTES

Madras, Aug 5

The court of enquiry's decision in the dispute of the kerosene oil and petrol workers attached to the Burma Oil Company, Standard Oil Company is published today. The court has referred the recognition of their union, etc., to the Capital and Labour Committee to decide. Regarding the rates of wages the Court decided that the net minimum wages should be increased by fifty per cent, an addition to thirty-seven and a half per cent rise allowance. As regards the overtime work, the court accepted the employers' proposal to give half time ordinary rates for night work and ordinary rates at other times. As regards strike pay, the court are not prepared to recommend strike pay by employer since in other countries strike pay is paid by unions and not by the employee.

BANK OF BOMBAY

Bombay, Aug 5

Presiding over the annual general meeting of the Bank of Bombay, Mr. S.J. Gillon gave an account of the trade of India with foreign countries. He said in the past year imports and exports exceeded in value all previous records. Although trade had not reverted to pre-war channels, owing to the crippled condition of European countries, our turnover with the British Empire had increased, and the United States had become as important a customer now as Japan. In spite of the difficulties that cotton mills on this side had to contend with namely, insufficiency of rolling stock, precarious supply of coal, and the difficulty of replacing old machinery, the textile industry had a very prosperous year, and the outlook was promising.

BENGAL COUNCIL

Dacca, Aug 5

A meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council was held yesterday in the Council Chamber, new Government House, Dacca, His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay presiding. There were several absences among the non-official members, while the visitors gallery was crowded with a large number of spectators. In all 112 questions were put and answered. These comprised 24 starred, and 88 un-starred questions. The number of resolutions on the agenda was seven, of which five were accounted for by Babu Akhil Chandra Dutta, and two by Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarty. Sir Charles Stevenson Moore presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Alluvial Lands Bill, 1920, and moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Port Act, 1890.

PARLIAMENT AND THE HUNTER DEBATE

On behalf of the Western India Liberal Association, Sir Dinshaw Wacha has sent a lengthy cable to Parliament to consider and deal with the true issues involved in the Hunter report in the spirit of calm and lofty statesmanship. The Association says the cable was sent specially to Parliament, firstly because of the coming debate in both Houses, and secondly because of the public utterances of some European organisations in India, and their supporters in England, with regard to the cruel excesses committed at Amritsar. Those utterances evidently aimed at rousing racial feelings and obscuring the real issues which are writ plain on the face of the report. The Association earnestly hopes the plain and momentous issues will in no way be obscured during the debate.



Gold prices scaled new highs on weak dollar and concerns over economic growth amid rising virus cases

TAPAN PATEL
HDFC SECURITIES SENIOR ANALYST (COMMODITIES)

THUMBNAILS

Tyagi gets extension as Sebi chairman: Ajay Tyagi was on Wednesday given an 18-month extension, till February 2022, as the chairman of the Sebi, according to a personnel ministry order. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of Tyagi's term for 18 months, with effect from 1 September 2020 up to 28 February 2022, it said. Tyagi was appointed as the Sebi chairman in March 2017 for three years. He was earlier this year given a six-month extension till August. PTI

RIL 2nd biggest brand: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020. "This year's highest entrant at number two, Reliance Industries excels on every attribute," FutureBrand said, releasing its 2020 Index. One of the most profitable companies in India, Reliance is, "very well respected" and "seen as behaving ethically" as well as being associated with "growth," "innovative products" and "great customer service," it said. PTI

Airtel pact: Telecom company Bharti Airtel on Wednesday announced a multi-year strategic collaboration with Amazon Web Services to offer a suite of cloud solutions to businesses in India. "The strategic collaboration between Airtel and AWS will offer suite of cloud solutions to drive digital transformation of businesses in India," Harmeet Mehta, chief information officer and head - cloud and security business, Bharti Airtel, said. PTI

HP production: Tech major HP on Wednesday said it has started manufacturing operations at contract electronics manufacturer Flex Ltd's facility at Sripuram budur near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. HP, which already has its own manufacturing plant in Panthagaram district of Uttarakhand since 2006, said the latest expansion is a part of the company's "long-term commitment to the Indian market". PTI

JSW Steel USA CEO: Domestic steel major JSW Steel on Wednesday said Mark Bush has been appointed as the chief executive officer of its US operations. Bush succeeds John Hritz, who will continue on the company board and assist JSW Steel USA on strategic and other legal matters, the steel company said in a statement. PTI

SRL CEO: Diagnostic company SRL Ltd on Wednesday announced the appointment of Anand K as its new chief executive officer. This is pursuant to the resignation of Arindam Halder, the former CEO, who has decided to pursue opportunities outside the company after leading it over the last four years, SRL said. PTI

Banks, NBFCs' asset quality risks remain elevated: Icra

Rating agency has already cut GDP growth forecast for current fiscal to (-) 9.5% from (-) 5% earlier

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Asset quality risks for banks and NBFCs remain elevated despite the recent decline in loans under moratorium, ratings agency Icra said today. Accordingly most of the banks as well as NBFCs have reported a decline in the loans under the phase 2 (June-August 2020) of the moratorium as compared to phase 1 (March-May 2020).

"This is due to the fact that the last 10-15 percentile of the borrowers who continue to opt for the moratorium will be more vulnerable to slippages," Icra said in a statement.

"Although the gradual relaxations in restrictions imposed during the lockdown have helped in improving the collection efficiencies and thereby reduction in residual assets under moratorium, the pace of recovery seems lower than expected because of localised re-imposition of lockdowns by various states over the last two months."

PACE OF RECOVERY

» Although the gradual relaxations in restrictions imposed during the lockdown have helped in improving the collection efficiencies and thereby reduction in residual assets under moratorium, the pace of recovery seems lower than expected because of localised re-imposition of lockdowns by various states over the last two months

The ratings agency has already cut the GDP forecast for the current fiscal to (-) 9.5 percent vis-a-vis an earlier estimate of a (-) 5 per cent contraction.

As per Icra estimates, the median loans under moratorium would be around 25-30 per cent compared to a broad band of 10-50 per cent of total loan books with many of the borrowers being common under Phase 1 and 2.

"In general, the moratorium levels across banks are lower than those of NBFCs with



» Early trends for July indicate a nominal improvement in collections over June 2020 lev-

els but remain considerably lower than the pre-Covid levels of around 90-95 per cent for most asset classes

» Besides, Icra said that while loan restructuring could postpone the recognition of stress in the lender book in the near-term, high share of such assets would be a credit negative

private banks having even relatively lower levels," the statement said.

"Early trends for July 2020 indicate a nominal improvement in collections over June 2020 levels but remain considerably lower than the pre-Covid levels of around 90-95 per cent for most asset classes."

According to Icra, given the commonality of borrowers under both phases, the asset quality risks are likely to continue to remain high for the lenders.

"However, unlike the previous asset quality cycle, where the stressed assets build-up was driven largely by corporate segment, this time, the stress is relatively higher for borrowers in micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), agriculture and retail (especially self-employed) segments," Icra said.

"Therefore, the debate is now on the need for a further extension in moratorium or a one-time restructuring for the borrowers who continue

to face challenges and remain under moratorium by end of August 2020."

Besides, Icra said that while loan restructuring could postpone the recognition of stress in the lender book in the near-term, high share of such assets would be a credit negative.

"Also, the efficacy of this restructuring would be crucial as lenders would be faced with many requests coming from the smaller ticket size borrowers (in the retail and MSME space) vis-a-vis the large borrower restructuring done by them in the past," the statement said.

Furthermore, Icra said as the one-time restructuring window is made available, more borrowers may opt for it to ease out the near-term uncertainties, conserve liquidity and to smoothen their cash flow as the economy takes a turn for revival.

"If the RBI were to consider one-time restructuring, it is expected to be extended to certain sectors which would take longer to recover," the statement added.

In the international market, gold was quoting with gains at \$2,032 per ounce, while silver was trading at \$26.40 per ounce

remain buyers in the safe-haven gold as they expect that the metal will hold its value better than other assets as fall-out from Covid-19 cripples the global economy.

Kishore Narne, head - commodity & currency, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said gold and silver have been the best performing assets so far this year with 40 per cent and 50 per cent returns, respectively, and the upturn is likely to continue.

With central banks pushing "unprecedented amounts" of liquidity, trade war concerns, geo-political uncertainty, rising Covid-19 infections and threat of a second wave of infections, prices of both precious metals are likely to go higher, Narne added.

Gold jumps by ₹1,365; silver zooms ₹5,972

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Gold prices jumped by Rs 1,365 to Rs 56,181 per 10 gm in the national capital today following a strong rally in global market, according to HDFC Securities. Silver also depicted a strong trend as it zoomed Rs 5,972 to Rs 72,726 per kg from Rs 66,754 per kg in the previous trade, it said.

The precious yellow metal had closed at Rs 54,816 per 10 gm in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi rose by Rs 1,365 with strong rally in international prices," HDFC Securities senior analyst (commodities) Tapan Patel said.

In the international market, gold was quoting with gains at \$2,032 per ounce, while silver was trading at \$26.40 per ounce.

"If the RBI were to consider one-time restructuring, it is expected to be extended to certain sectors which would take longer to recover," the statement added.

World's oldest airline faces its biggest crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 5 AUGUST

In July, KLM operated 30 per cent of its original flight capacity but revenues lagged far behind. Air travel and global tourism are largely ghost industries at present.

Civil aviation has not seen such bleak times in its 110-year history, neither did KLM since its first flight took off from London to Amsterdam 100 years ago.

On 15 May 1920, pilot Jerry Shaw flew a leased De Havilland DH-16 from London to Schiphol. KLM's historic flight carried two journalists, a letter from the Mayor of London to his Amsterdam counterpart and a bundle of newspapers.

A century later, a pandemic virus has grounded the airline industry. Some airlines have shut shop forever, others are fighting for survival.

Exclusive R&D policy for pharma sector soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, 5 AUGUST

Observing that scientists who achieve breakthrough innovations should also be rewarded, secretary of department of pharmaceuticals, PDV Vaghela today said the Centre will soon come up with an exclusive policy for research and development in the sector.

Vaghela said the government is planning to set up three National Centres of Excellences (CoE) for drugs, medical devices in the country while the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) here will house one CoE for drug discovery.

"We should be ready that our scientists also become millionaires. If they (scientists) can invent good products and do some research, why not? That is happening

Godrej Properties posts ₹20.23 cr loss in Q1

NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Realty firm Godrej Properties today reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 20.23 crore in the April-June quarter due to Covid-19 pandemic and announced raising Rs 1,000 crore through an issue of debentures to improve liquidity.

Despite the nationwide lockdown during most part of the April-June quarter of 2020-21, Godrej Properties' sales bookings grew by 71 per cent to Rs 1,531 crore in the quarter.

The company posted a loss during the June quarter as it was not able to recognise the revenue as constructions were stalled due to lockdown, Godrej Properties executive chairman Pirojsha Godrej told reporters through a virtual Press conference. PTI

Canara Bank Q1 net up 23% at ₹406 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

year-ago period, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) were up slightly to 8.84 per cent of the gross advances as on 30 June 2020 as against 8.77 per cent at June-end last year.

In absolute value, gross NPAs or bad loans stood at Rs 57,525.52 crore as against Rs 39,399.02 crore by the year-ago same period.

Net NPA ratio, however, fell to 3.95 per cent (Rs 24,355.23 crore) from 3.55 per cent (Rs 23,149.62 crore).

Provisions and contingencies for the first quarter were raised to Rs 3,826.34 crore as compared to Rs 1,899.13 crore in the year-ago period.

Lockdowns affect services sector output: PMI

NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

Lockdown measures implemented to curb Covid-19 outbreak continued to subdue the Indian services sector's growth in July.

Accordingly, the latest PMI survey data showed that growth remained severely restricted by lockdown measures implemented to curb the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in July.

"Further substantial reductions in both activity and inflows of new work were recorded, as ongoing lockdown restrictions stifled demand and forced companies to cease operations," IHS Markit said in a statement.

"Subsequently, firms made further cuts to staff numbers, with the rate of job shedding the most marked on record."

According to the survey, the 12-month outlook for output was negative for a third successive month, with fears of a substantial economic downturn common among survey respondents.

Consequently, the IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index registered a reading of 34.2 in July, and despite rising slightly from 33.7 in June, "signalled a further rapid reduction in services sector output".

An index reading of above 50 indicates an overall increase in economic activity, or growth, and below 50, an overall decrease.

"Moreover, the latest reading was among the lowest recorded in nearly 15 years of data collection, surpassed only by the unprecedented falls in the previous three months," the statement said.

Uber to hire 140 engineers for expanding tech teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, 5 AUGUST

19 pandemic. The move had impacted driver and rider support operations, and other functions of its India operations.

"Uber is recruiting 140 more engineers for its tech teams in Bengaluru and Hyderabad to build products in various areas such as rider and driver growth, delivery, marketplace, customer service, digital payments, risk and compliance, safety, and finance technology," a statement said.

These expansion plans are in line with its vision to make mobility and delivery more accessible, and to become the backbone of transportation in thousands of cities across the globe, it added.

Uber has started reaching out to prospective candidates for building new teams and adding to existing ones, including Uber infrastructure, marketplace, Uber for Business (U4B), marketing and advertising platforms, it said.

Uber had recently hired Jayaram Valliyur as senior director to lead its global finance technology team, spread across multiple geographies.

Prior to Uber, Valliyur worked for Amazon for 14 years, where he was responsible for bootstrapping and scaling its India development centre. He also led teams in charge of transportation, new seller registration and identity verification, the statement said.

Equity indices pare early gains to end flat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 AUGUST

Domestic equity benchmarks the Sensex and the Nifty surrendered early gains to end flat today as profit-taking emerged in market majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

Investors also remained on the sidelines ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision on Thursday, traders said.

After rallying 452 points during the day, the BSE Sensex slipped in the red to end 24.58 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 37,663.33 points.

The NSE Nifty inched up 6.40 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 11,101.65 points.

HDFC Bank and Reliance

Industries were the top drags on the Sensex, tumbling over 1 per cent, as investors booked profits after their recent bull run.

PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Nestle India and HCL Tech too ended with losses.

On the other hand, Tata Steel rallied 6.33 per cent, followed by Titan, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and M&M.

According to traders, despite positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflows, stock-specific action dictated domestic market movement during the day.

"Indian benchmark indices were volatile in trade before closing flat with a positive bias. Global cues were also positive

SERVICES SECTOR CONTRACTS

» India's services sector contracted for the fifth successive month in July as coronavirus-induced restrictions stifled demand, a monthly survey said.

» The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index stood at 34.2 in July, slightly higher than 33.7 in June.

while gold again jumped to record highs. Positive earnings reports are driving stocks and markets around the world, and the same trend is visible in the Indian markets too.

"Liquidity is a major dri-

ver for the markets and it is chasing companies which are declaring stable earnings or outlook. Uncertainties remain while in the near term markets will look forward to the commentary and RBI

actions at the end of the MPC meeting tomorrow," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, power, FMCG, utilities, IT and healthcare indices slipped up to 0.87 per

cent, while metal, auto, basic materials, consumer durables and telecom rose as much as 4.05 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices outperformed benchmarks, rising up to 0.85 per cent.

Meanwhile, India's services sector activity contracted for the fifth successive month in July as coronavirus-induced restrictions stifled demand, a monthly survey said.

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index stood at 34.2 in July, slightly higher than 33.7 in June.

Global equities advanced amid encouraging corporate earnings, even as gold zoomed past the \$2,000 per ounce mark on safe-haven buying. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong

Kong and Seoul settled with gains, while Tokyo closed lower.

Stock exchanges in



Our hospitals have been battered but we have not breached our hospital capacity. And the field hospitals that we constructed still have space.

SOUTH AFRICA HEALTH MINISTER ZWELINI MKHIZE
AS SOUTH AFRICA SEES DIP IN NEW VIRUS CASES BUT WARNS OF RETURN

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 06 AUGUST 2020

09

US sending highest official to Taiwan since ties cut in 1979

Alex Azar's visit and meeting with President, will likely create new friction between the US & China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI, 5 AUGUST

Azar would be the first HHS secretary to visit Taiwan and the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, the last being then-Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy

The U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services is scheduled to visit Taiwan in coming days in the highest-level visit by an American Cabinet official since the break in formal diplomatic relations between Washington and Taipei in 1979.

The visit by Alex Azar, and especially a planned meeting with Taiwan's president, will likely create new friction between the U.S. and China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

Taiwan is a key irritant in the troubled relationship between the world's two largest economies, which are also at odds over trade, technology, territorial claims in the South China Sea and China's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China has lodged "solemn complaints" over the visit with U.S. officials in both Beijing and Washington.

The Taiwan issue is the most important and sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations," Wang said at a daily briefing. He said Washington needs to stop all forms of official contact with Taiwan and make good on its commitment to Beijing to avoid serious damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

The U.S. maintains only

unofficial ties with Taiwan in deference to Beijing, but is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment. The American Institute in Taiwan, which operates as Washington's de facto embassy on the island, said Wednesday that Azar's historic visit will strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan partnership and enhance U.S.-Taiwan cooperation to combat the Covid.

In a tweet, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it looks forward to welcoming Azar and his delegation.

This is the highest-level visit by a U.S. Cabinet official since 1979! Taiwan and the U.S. are like minded partners cooperating closely in combating coronavirus and promoting freedom democracy & human rights worldwide.

The ministry said Azar will meet with independence-minded President Tsai Ing-wen, with whose government Beijing cut off virtually all

contacts four years ago, and with Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and top health officials.

AIT said Azar will discuss the disease, global health and Taiwan's role as a supplier of medical equipment and technology.

The visit is believed to be scheduled for next week, although AIT said details on the timing and agenda would be announced later.

Azar would be the first HHS secretary to visit Taiwan and the first Cabinet member to visit in six years,

the last being then-Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy. His Cabinet ranking is higher than previous U.S. visitors. Taiwan has been a model of transparency and cooperation in global health during the COVID-19 pandemic and long before it, Azar said in the AIT statement.

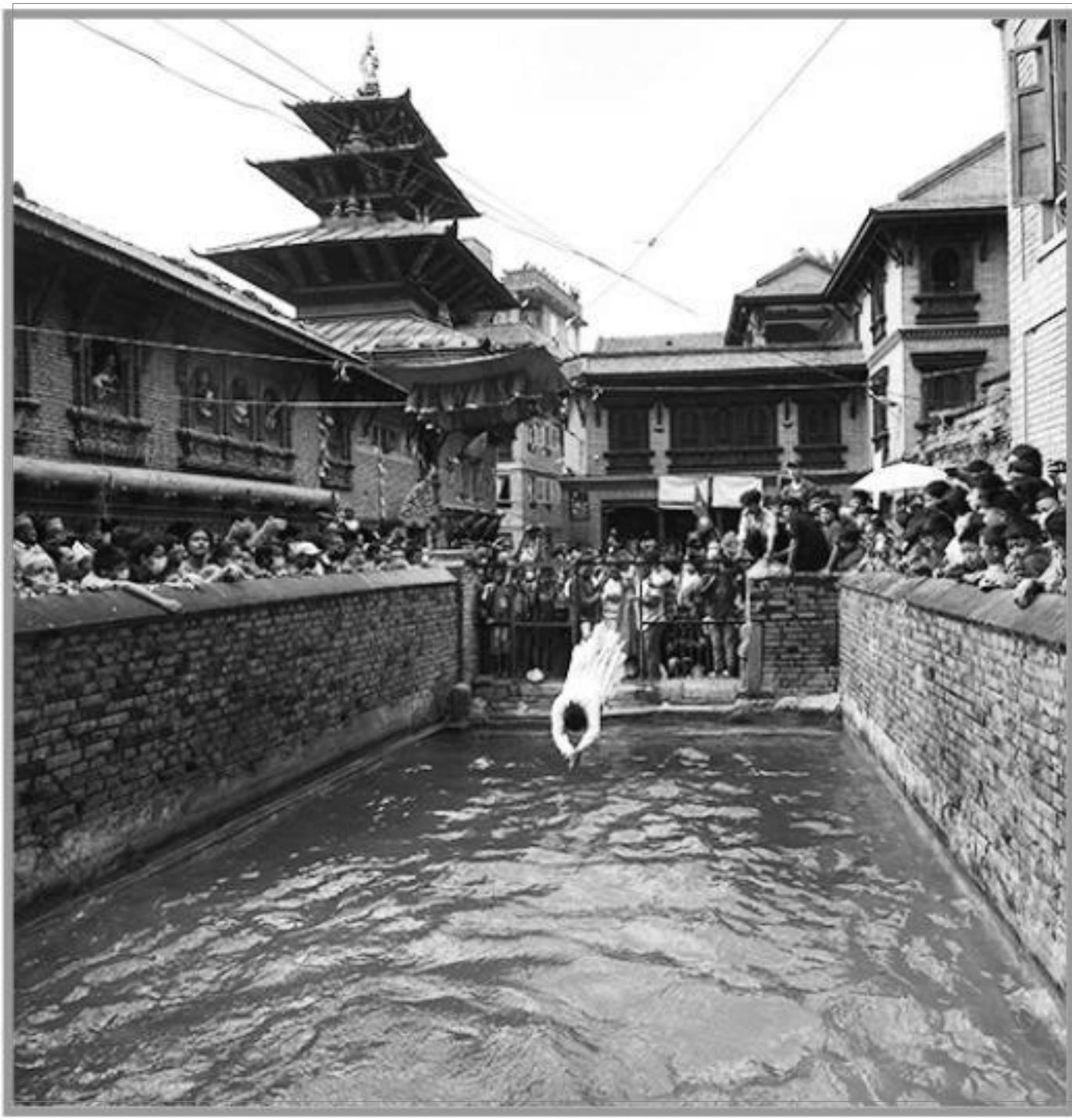
This trip represents an opportunity to strengthen

our economic and public health cooperation with Taiwan, especially as the United States and other countries work to strengthen and diversify our sources for crucial medical products.

Azar's visit was facilitated by the 2018 passage of the Taiwan Travel Act that encouraged sending higher-level officials to Taiwan after decades during which such contacts were rare and freighted with safeguards to avoid roiling ties with Beijing.

McCarthy's visit to Taiwan in 2014 sparked a protest from China's foreign ministry, which accused the U.S. of betraying commitments made to it about maintaining only unofficial links with Taipei. Taiwan's strong performance in handling its outbreak has also won it plaudits while highlighting its exclusion from the World Health Organization and other U.N. bodies.

HOLY DIP



A devotee dives into a pond during the Deopokhari festival in Harisidhi village, Kathmandu, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Lankan election sees high turnout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, 5 AUGUST

Sri Lankans, wearing face masks and carrying their own pens, turned out in large numbers to vote on Wednesday in the twice-postponed parliamentary election which is expected to be won by the powerful Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP).

According to Chairman of the National Election Commission Mahinda Deshapriya, the election, conducted amidst COVID-19 pandemic fears, concluded in a peaceful manner, with the voter turnout being 70 per cent.

Ampara (72.8 per cent), Killinochchi (71.52 per cent), Mannar (79.49 per cent), Vavuniya (74 per cent), Mulaitivu (76.25 per cent), Trincomalee (73.5 per cent), Batticaloa (76.15 per cent) and Nuwara Eliya (75 per cent) recorded high voter turnout.

The polls closed at 5 pm local time and the ballot boxes were transported to counting centers. The counting would take place only on Thursday - a departure from the practice of counting the ballots from 8 PM on the election night.

The results would be announced by Thursday evening, Deshapriya said.

"We have to be grateful to the voting public for records such a high turnout despite

Video suggests explosions in North Korean city near China

SEOUL, 5 AUGUST

A video shows plumes of black smoke rising from a North Korean city near the border with China amid reports that deadly explosions occurred there earlier this week.

There has been no official word from North Korea or China about what happened in the North Korean city of Hyesan on Monday. But South Korean media and outside monitoring groups reported that gas explosions in a residential area left dozens of people dead or injured.

The video acquired by AP shows orange flames and black smoke shooting into the sky from Hyesan as loud explosion-like sounds are heard. A few people can be seen watching the scene from the Chinese side of the border. The video was provided by Wang Bo, a travel agent who said he shot it from a park in the Chinese border town of Changbai.

I just saw explosions and there were a lot of onlookers who were looking in that direction. We don't know the reason why there were explosions, Wang said. Wang, said the explosions happened not far from the city's orphanage and tourism office.

'After Covid US attitude changed towards China'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 5 AUGUST

America's attitude towards China has changed greatly since the coronavirus pandemic hit the country, US President Donald Trump has said, asserting that the Chinese government should have stopped the deadly contagion in Wuhan.

Trump, who has in the past upped the ante against Beijing over its handling of the outbreak, told reporters.

I think our attitude on China has changed greatly since the China virus hit us. I think it changed greatly. They should have been able to stop it. So, we feel differently, he said. Last month, Trump said that China must be held fully accountable for its "secrecy, deception and cover-up" that

Australian PM: US-China war no longer inconceivable

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CANBERRA, 5 AUGUST

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Wednesday his government held a less dramatic view of U.S.-China strategic tensions than a predecessor who warned of a potential hot war before U.S. presidential elections in November.

Former prime minister and China scholar Kevin Rudd wrote in the Foreign Affairs journal this week that the risk of armed conflict

between the United States and China in the next three months was especially high.

Morrison said his administration had expressed similar views in a defense policy update last month when he announced USD 190 billion in new warfare capability spending, including longer-range missiles. "Our defense update expresses it differently and certainly not as dramatically as Kevin," Morrison told the Aspen Security Forum in an online address from Canberra.

allowed the coronavirus to spread all over the world.

China has denied the allegations. The US is the worst

affected country with over 4.7 million cases and more than 1,56,000 deaths.

Trump told reporters that cases are declining in 70 per cent of the jurisdictions, compared to 36 per cent last Monday. That's a big, big number.

Eleven out of 13 states with the positive rate above 10 per cent have seen a decline in daily cases since mid-July.

In other states, the data suggests that the need for continuing vigilance always is strong, even though the numbers are getting very good -- states that have a test positivity rate between five and 10 per cent. In the states with the lowest positivity rates, we also see slight increases in daily cases in a couple of them, he said.

Trump said that fatalities nationwide are at roughly half the level of the April peak.

Oli-Prachanda meeting postponed

KATHMANDU, 5 AUGUST

An informal meeting between Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and the ruling party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda to sort out their differences was postponed on Wednesday for a day, sources said. They will now hold the informal talks on Thursday morning to resolve the ongoing crisis within the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), sources said.

Sources close to Prachanda said that the meeting was postponed at the request of Prime Minister Oli.

The two leaders held marathon meetings on Sunday and Monday but failed to agree on a power-sharing deal.

AP

Imran says Pak will continue to raise Kashmir issue at world stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 5 AUGUST

Pak has been unsuccessfully trying to drum up international support against India for withdrawing J&K's spillover status

Notwithstanding the unsuccessful attempts made by him to raise the Kashmir issue at the world stage, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday reiterated that his country would continue to raise the matter at all international forums.

Addressing the Pakistani-occupied Kashmir's legislative assembly on the first anniversary of India's decision to

revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, Khan claimed that many world leaders didn't even know what was going on in Kashmir.

Khan said that it was due to his government's efforts that the Kashmir issue was high-

lighted and now, the world was taking notice of it.

Significantly, Khan in the past admitted that there has been a "lukewarm response" to the Kashmir issue at the world stage due to what he described as the "commercial interests of the Western countries in India, which is a big market. Khan said he personally briefed world leaders including US President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, German Chancellor Angela Merkel

and French President Emmanuel Macron about Kashmir.

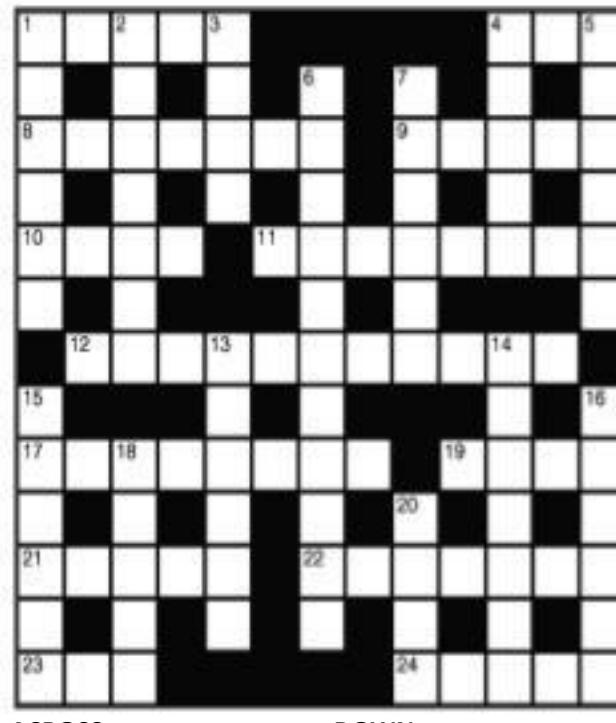
Pakistan has been unsuccessfully trying to drum up international support against India for withdrawing J&K's special status and bifurcating it into two Union territories.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was its internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda.

Khan also defended the new political map of Pakistan and said that it was essential to respond to India's decision to include Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as part of India. India on Tuesday slammed Pakistan for unveiling a "so-called new political map" which claimed J&K and parts of Gujarat as its territories, asserting that it is a "political absurdity" and these "ridiculous assertions" have neither legal validity nor international credibility.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidysagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23253230

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383338, 18001803838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

FIVE RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

SCRABBLE®

BRAND

G R A M S I

U Q I Y R N

U Y L T I C

C S A R L T H

T E H O R S

I E N V G T A

PAR SCORE 165-175

by JUDD

RACK 1 = 14

RACK 2 = 18

RACK 3 = 9

RACK 4 = 36

RACK 5 = 77

JUDD'S TOTAL 50-60

RACKS TOTAL 94

RACK



I met with some of our great generals and they just seem to feel that it was. This was not a some kind of a manufacturing explosion type of a event.... It looks like a terrible attack..

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP
AFTER THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	26°C	16°C
LONDON	25°C	19°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C
MOSCOW	27°C	19°C

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

THUMBNAILS



Museum employees pose in front of a monument of Marchese by Spinetta Mamilaspi at the Victoria and Albert museum in London on Wednesday. AP

Greece car crash: Greek police say a car believed to be transporting migrants who recently entered the country crashed into roadworks on a highway overnight, killing seven people and injuring five. Authorities said all of the dead and injured were men. Their nationalities were not known. AP

Newspaper offices attacked: Unidentified assailants fired on the offices of a newspaper in the Mexican city of Iguala Tuesday, two days after a journalist from another outlet was killed there along with a policeman protecting him. The newspaper *Diario de Iguala* said nobody was working at the offices because of pandemic. AP

Fire near Marseille, 22 hurt: Fires fueled by strong Mediterranean winds have raced across multiple towns in the Marseille region of France, leaving at least 22 people injured, destroying several businesses and forcing the evacuation of 2,700 tourists, nursing home residents and others. AP

Mourners honour Nobel laureate & peace advocate John Hume

LONDON, 5 AUGUST

Mourners remembered activist John Hume on Wednesday, celebrating the visionary politician who devoted his life to peace and forged the agreement that ended violence in his native Northern Ireland.

Only close family, friends and a smattering of politicians mourned the Catholic leader at his funeral at St. Eugene's Cathedral in Londonderry, also known as Derry, as the pandemic's social distancing rules kept numbers low.

But Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama and U2 singer Bono were among those offering tributes to the man seen as the architect of Northern Ireland's Good Friday peace agreement. Even in the darkest moments, when people would have been forgiven for having no hope, John made peace visible for others," Father Paul Farren said.

His vision revealed what could be, and with time and determination and single-mindedness and stubbornness he convinced others that peace could be a reality." Hume shared the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize with the Protestant leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, David Trimble. Their efforts ended the sectarian violence that plagued the region for three decades and left more than 3,500 people dead. Starting out as a civil rights activist, Hume fought for equal rights in what was then a Protestant-ruled state. But he condemned the Irish Republican Army because he detested violence and said injustice did not merit the taking of even one human life. AP

Ammonium nitrate caused Beirut blast

More than 2,700 tons of chemicals were stored in a warehouse ever since it was confiscated from a cargo ship in 2014

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, 5 AUGUST

Fireworks and ammonium nitrate appear to have been the fuel that ignited a massive explosion that rocked the Lebanese capital of Beirut, experts and videos of the blast suggest.

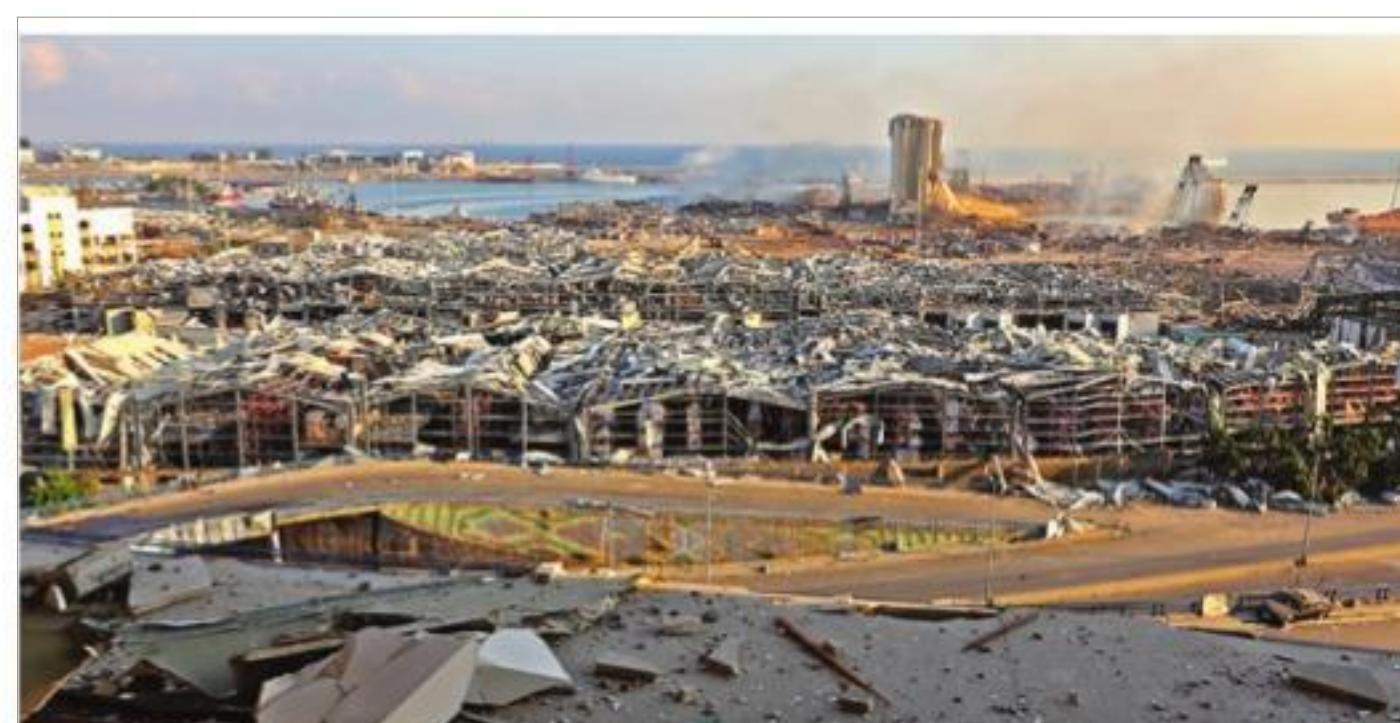
The scale of the damage from the epicentre of the explosion at the port of Beirut to the windows blown out kilometres away resembles other blasts involving the chemical compound commonly used as an agricultural fertilizer.

But the compound itself typically doesn't detonate on its own and requires another ignition source. That likely came from a fire that engulfed what initially appeared to be fireworks that were stored at the port.

Online videos of the disaster's initial moments show sparks and lights inside the smoke rising from the blaze, just prior to the massive blast.

That likely indicates that fireworks were involved, said Boaz Hayoun, owner of the Tamar Group, an Israeli firm that works closely with the Israeli government on safety and certification issues involving explosives.

Before the big explosion, you can see in the centre of the fire, you can see sparks,



A view of the aftermath of Tuesday's blast at Beirut's port on Wednesday. AP

you can hear sounds like popcorn and you can hear whistles," Hayoun told The Associated Press.

"This is very specific behaviour of fireworks, the visuals, the sounds and the transformation from a slow burn to a massive explosion. Jeffrey Lewis, a missile expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, offered a similar assessment. It looks like an accident, Lewis told the AP.

First, there was a fire preceding the explosion, which is not an attack. And some of the videos show munitions what I could call popcorn, exploding like 'pop, pop, pop.' He added that it's very

common to see fires detonate explosives." If you have a fire raging next to something explosive, and you don't put it out, it blows up," he said.

The white cloud that accompanied the massive blast appeared to be a condensation cloud, often common in massive explosions in humid conditions that can follow the shock waves of an explosion, Lewis said. Orange clouds also followed the blast, likely from toxic nitrogen dioxide gas that's released after an explosion involving nitrates.

Experts typically determine the power of the blast by measuring the crater left behind, which appeared massive in aerial footage shot on Wednesday morning by the AP.

The Beirut blast, based on the crater and glass windows being blown out a distance away, exploded with the force equivalent to detonating at least 2.2 kilotons of TNT, said Sim Tack, an analyst and weapons expert at the Texas-based private intelligence firm Stratfor.

What initially started the fire at the port remains unclear. Beirut was sunny before Tuesday's explosion, with a daily high of 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Lebanese interior minister Mohammed Fahmi, in comments to a local TV station, made no mention of ignited

fireworks but said it appeared the blast was caused by the detonation of more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored in a warehouse at the dock ever since it was confiscated from a cargo ship in 2014. That amount could cause the explosive force seen in the blast Tuesday, Tack said.

Russia to send 5 plane loads of aid to Beirut: Russia's emergency officials say the country will send five plane loads of aid to Beirut. Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations will send rescuers, medical workers, a makeshift hospital and a lab for coronavirus testing to Lebanon. Czech Interior Minister Jan Hamacek says Lebanon has accepted an offer to send a team of 37 rescuers with sniffer dogs.

France is also sending several tons of aid and emergency workers after Tuesday's explosion in Beirut, which

Macron travelling to Lebanon

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, 5 AUGUST

killed at least 100 people and injured thousands.

It was unclear what caused the blast, which appeared to have been triggered by a fire and struck with the force of an earthquake.

It was the most powerful explosion ever seen in the city. Several other countries across the Middle East and Europe are sending aid.

The European Union is activating its civil protection system to round up emergency workers and equipment from across the 27-nation bloc.

The EU commission said the plan is to urgently dispatch over 100 firefighters with vehicles, sniffer dogs and equipment designed to find people trapped in urban areas.

gency officials say the country will send five plane loads of aid to Beirut. Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations will send rescuers, medical workers, a makeshift hospital and a lab for coronavirus testing to Lebanon. Czech Interior Minister Jan Hamacek says Lebanon has accepted an offer to send a team of 37 rescuers with sniffer dogs.

'Arthritis drug can shorten hosp stay for severe Covid patients'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 5 AUGUST

The drug tocilizumab, which is used in the treatment of various forms of arthritis, can greatly shorten the time on ventilation and hospital stays for patients with severe COVID-19, according to a Swedish study.

We support awarding visas for permanent, employment-based immigration in a way that is responsive to labour market needs. We want to attract and keep talent in this country, which is why Democrats will end the Trump administration's freeze on green cards for new immigrants and instead pursue a meaningful reform agenda, said the proposed platform.

Democrats oppose President Trump's illegal chaotic, and reckless changes to the legal immigration system, including decisions to slash family-based immigration as well as H-1B and other visa programmes that can help our economy, it said. A Biden administration, the platform said will eliminate unfair barriers to naturalization, reduce application backlogs, and make US immigration processes faster, more efficient, and less costly.

The study, published in The Journal of Internal Medicine, included 87 patients with severe Covid in intensive care at Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden.

"The report is, as far as we know, the first from Sweden to present results of a specific drug intervention for severe cases of Covid," said Piotr Nowak from Karolinska University Hospital.

In the study, 29 of the patients received tocilizumab, a drug approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis that blocks the so-called IL-6 receptor to pre-

vent viral hyperinflammation or cytokine storm.

Hyperinflammation triggered by the new coronavirus is central to the pathological process and causes high levels of the cytokine IL-6, which are associated with a more severe COVID-19 disease, the researchers said.

The differences between the treatment and control groups were significant, they said. The study found that patients who received tocilizumab were hospitalised for a much shorter length of time, including time spent on a ventilator, than those who received the standard treatment.

The time spent on ventilation was reduced by ten days, the time spent in intensive care by eight days, and the total hospital stay by ten days, according to the researchers. The treatment was not associated with serious adverse events, they said.

Tropic storm Isaias whips up eastern US, six dead, many displaced

WINDSOR (US), 5 AUGUST

At least six people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain Tuesday along the U.S. East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people.

Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Another person died in Pennsylvania when their vehicle was overtaken by water and swept downstream.

Two others were killed by falling trees toppled by the storm in Maryland and New York City, and a sixth person died in Delaware when a tree branch fell on them, authorities said. Isaias sustained top winds of up to 65 mph (105 kph) more than 18 hours after coming ashore, but it was down to 45 mph max winds as of 10:50 p.m. EDT Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The storm's center was about 45 miles southeast of Montreal, moving northeast into Canada at about 38 mph (61 kph).

As Isaias sped northward, flooding threats followed. The Schuylkill River in Philadelphia was projected to crest early Wednesday at 15.4 feet (4.7 meters), its highest level in more than 150 years. By Tuesday night, the river had already topped its banks in low-lying Manayunk, turning Barley Street into a coffee-colored canal.

Aerial video by WRAL-TV showed fields of debris where rescue workers in brightly colored shirts picked through splintered boards and other wreckage of the Windsor, North Carolina, mobile home park where two people were killed.

Emergency responders searching the area Tuesday afternoon found no other casualties, and several people initially feared missing had all been accounted for, said Ron Wesson, chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. He said about 12 people were hospitalised.

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MAKESHIFT



An Australian pelican trying to land on a street light pole on Botany Bay in Sydney on Wednesday. AP

Police in camouflage fatigues, city streets drain of life in Oz's toughest lockdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE, 5 AUGUST

Melbourne's usually vibrant downtown streets were draining of signs of life on Wednesday on the eve of Australia's toughest-ever pandemic restrictions coming into force.

Many of the stylish boutiques and eateries in a city dubbed Australia's Hipster Capital that prides itself on superior coffee had already closed their doors ahead of a ban on non-essential businesses that will throw 250,000 people out of work from Thursday.

Defence personnel in camouflage fatigues and police officers patrolled the streets enforcing pandemic rules that include mandatory masks, which the few pedestrians were abiding by.

The closing down of Australia's second-largest city, which usually accounts for a quarter of the nation's economic activity, also coincided with frenetic preparation.

Hairdresser Niki Fiocca said she had been solidly booked by customers in recent days before her salon must close for at least six weeks.

I just hope that this all works out for us, said Fiocca, revealing she felt a little bit under stress. If everyone did the right thing, maybe this wouldn't have happened, she added, referring to Melbourne's growing infections.

Victoria set a new daily record of 725 cases on Wednesday. Elsewhere in Australia, only 14 new infections were found.

A Victoria state government website crashed on Wednesday when it was overwhelmed by employees in essential services applying for permits that didn't have to endure the same. The playing field was lev-

eled when the rules were spread citywide. Now she must adapt to the new lockdown that will put the non-essential workforce, and many of her customers, out of work.

Many Melbourne businesses in this city of 5 million are not expected to survive the second and harshest lockdown. Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Michael Kidd urged Australians who live outside Victoria to support family and friends in Melbourne.

The surprise phone call, an email, a video catch-up, even a card or a letter with positive messages of love or support can make a big difference to our family members and our friends in Victoria who find

the orders she seeks, the effect of which will be to confer protection on the sources' identities, said Justice Mark Warby in a ruling at the Royal Courts of Justice.

"That is confidential information, the protection of which at this stage is necessary in the interests of the administration of justice. This is an interim decision," he noted.

The People's article referenced in court involved the former actress' friends speaking out against her alleged bullying and they have so far only been identified in confidential court documents, according to The Daily Telegraph'. Markle, the wife of Prince Harry, says her friends gave the interview without her knowledge, and denies a claim

made by ANL that she "caused or permitted" the article to be published in People'. The UK court battle revolves around the reproduction of sections of a "private and confidential" handwritten note Markle sent to her estranged father, 75-year-old Thomas Markle, in August 2018.

The focus is on five articles in total – two in the Mail on Sunday and three on MailOnline – which were published in February 2019 and reproduced parts of the letter. Markle is seeking damages from ANL for alleged misuse of private information, copyright infringement and breach of the UK Data Protection Act. On Tuesday, members of the royal family took to social media to wish Markle for her 39th birthday.

themselves living under the restrictions, Kidd said in a nationally televised news conference.

The Centre in a federation



The constitutional scheme was carefully crafted to create a strong Centre, says NIRMALENDU BIKASH RAKSHIT

It is a stark reality that often some Chief Ministers and local leaders bitterly allege that by defying Constitutional norms, the Centre steals a march on them. According to them, we are living under a federal system which has meticulously divided power between the Centre and the states, and hence the former can, by no means, step out of its boundary within which it is kept by the Constitution. It is true that the Centre has sometimes come out of its orbit, but more often than not, these leaders keep up a row over a petty affair for political reasons.

Of course, we have adopted a federal system. It has some salient features of its own.

1) As a dual polity, it consists two sets of Government – Union or Central and Provincial;

2) Powers are divided between them by the Constitution itself and, hence, neither of them can go beyond its own domain.

3) The Constitution is rigid in the sense that the most important provisions cannot be amended without their concurrence; and

4) There is a Supreme Court to settle disputes regarding the sphere of their authority.

But it is difficult if not impossible to keep them at par. America, the 'model-federal' state, started with a weak Centre. But within two centuries, the system has utterly changed in

favour of the Centre or Federal government. The attempt of the Southern states to secede from the federation led to the 'Civil War' of 1862-64 and the President, Abraham Lincoln, had to use force to keep them within the federation. Mellowed by this experience, other federations like Canada, Australia, Switzerland etc., drafted their Constitutions in such a fashion that the central Government can exercise overriding powers in national interest.

The makers of our Constitution were practical enough not to ride a hobby-horse. So, they drafted a Constitution with a realistic view. As Dr BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, observed, 'I want a strong Centre – even stronger than

which was created by the Government of India Act, 1905.' According to him, circumstances in the modern world were such that we could not deny power to the Centre. In fact, war, fear of war, defense problems, economic crises, industrialisation, business cycle etc. have rapidly centralised this trend. As L Lipsom put it, "All the great driving forces of modern life now move in a centralized direction."

This is why our Constitution has deliberately adopted a centralised federal system. It has done so in various ways.

First, the distribution of powers has sufficiently served this purpose. The legislative power has been divided in three lists. Ninety-seven items have been included in the Union List, where the Centre enjoys exclusive authority to make laws. The concurrent list mentions 47 items on which both the Centre and the states can make laws. But, here again, the Central law prevails. Though the state-list is drafted for the states, the Centre can intrude here under Art. 249, Art. 252 and Art. 253. Above all, the residuary power has been vested in the Centre and it has tremendously widened its authority.

Administrative relations too mark the same trend. Art. 256 states that the executive power of the state shall be so exercised as to ensure compliance with Central laws. And, as Art. 257 points out, the Union can give directions to the states in this regard.

Moreover, the state's source of revenue is so little that they have to depend upon the Centre for finances.

Secondly, the President can exercise three types of Emergency powers under Art. 352, Art. 356 and Art. 360 on the basis of ministerial advice. In such a case, the Constitution temporarily

becomes unitary. The makers thought that the normal scheme would be unable to cope with an unforeseen crisis and endanger the security of the state.

Thirdly, the Governor is nominated by the Centre (Art. 115) and, according to Art 156, he can be thrown out at any time and without showing the reason. So, as Dr SL Kashyap observes, 'he has no security of service'. Art. 163 has offered him an undefined territory where he can exercise his 'discretionary power' without, and even against, the will of his cabinet and, obviously, he is guided by the Centre in such matters. As Dr MV Pylee puts it, 'he is not a mere figure-head' and, so, he can strengthen the central authority by his discretionary power.

Fourthly, Dr VD Mahajan points out that the Election Commission is formed by the President and it conducts and controls all the elections of the Parliament and the State Assemblies.

Fifthly, the Auditor-General is an employee of the Centre, but he keeps a watch over the finances of both the Centre and the states. Sixthly, Art. 172(2) states that the Parliament can change the method of the composition of the upper House of the legislative Council of state.

Seventhly, Art. 3 empowers the Parliament to change the boundary of a state or to create a new state of the federation. According to Dr VD Mahajan, 'this is a tremendous power over the states'. Eighthly, Art. 257 A, as added by the 42nd amendment, empowers the Centre to deploy armed forces to deal with a grave situation in any state.

Of course, there are many other functions which have bolstered this tendency. This is why Dr VD Mahajan has opined that 'India is federal in form, but unitary in spirit.' But the units must have sufficient power and enough opportunity to perform their own job. This is why states have now become assertive and demanded greater autonomy.

Dr SL Sikri has observed that there is some truth in the complaint of the states. We actually need 'co-operative federalism' which can enhance their position and power.

But, at the same time, it is to be noted that the Centre has much greater responsibility and larger duties than the states. Moreover, it must prevent fissiparous tendencies of various types and the subversive activities of enemy-agents. The makers have wisely framed such a Constitution which can stem the rot. Moreover, India had to fight against Pakistan on three occasions, and had to face the alarming Chinese aggression in 1962. It must be a power-state in order to protect the country's unity, integrity and freedom.

So, we have to perform gigantic tasks with regard to defense preparation, national unity and economic affluence. In such situations, it is not possible to prevent the centralising tendency in any way. Surely the makers of the Constitution wisely enacted it so that it could fit in with varying conditions.

Dr HC Das has, however, regarded it as a 'quasi-federal' Constitution. But it reveals a fatal mistake, because every federal state of modern times has a centralising bias.

The writer is an author, columnist, Griffith Prizeman and former Reader, New Alipore College, Kolkata.

Inflicting dogma on the Constitution

Addition of the words 'secular' and 'socialist' in the Preamble added nothing of substance to the Constitution, argue G.L. VERMA



shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

In its historic judgment in the case of Kesavanand Bharti Vs. State of Kerala 1973, the Supreme Court had held that the secular character of the Constitution was part of its basic structure. It confines the scope of secularism to non-discrimination on the ground of religion. This being the position, it was superfluous and unnecessary to insert the word in the Preamble.

In a landmark judgment in the case of S.R. Bommai and Others vs Union of India (1994), a nine-judge Constitutional Bench held inter alia "...The State does not extend patronage

to any particular religion, State is neither pro particular religion nor anti-particular religion. It stands aloof, in other words, maintains neutrality in matters of religion and provides equal protection to all religions subject to regulation and actually acts on secular part." In the light of such unequivocal declarations in Article 15 of the Constitution and various judgments of the apex Court, hardly any justification survives to continue with the word 'secular' in the preamble.

Study of our ancient history would leave no one in doubt that a secular ethos was prevalent in the social and political life of the country. Emperor Ashoka had placed rock edicts all over the country which

preach religious tolerance and respect for all faiths. If India is a secular state today, it is because of its cosmopolitan culture embracing all precepts, faiths and beliefs. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan described secularism as tradition in consonance with ancient religious practices, teachings in Upanishads and Vedas giving unique message to mankind – 'Ekam Sadvipra Bahudha Vadanti' – i.e. same truth is propounded by sages in several ways. He called Hindu philosophy a compendium of cosmopolitan beliefs where there is complete pluralism with God being omnipresent and omniscient in innumerable forms including Sagun and Nirgun. Unlike other religions, it has no one God, no one scripture or one

belief. It can accommodate every sect, faith or belief in integrated manner just as an ocean can amalgamate all waters. It is like a Banyan tree with Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism etc. as its branches preaching the same philosophy in their own way.

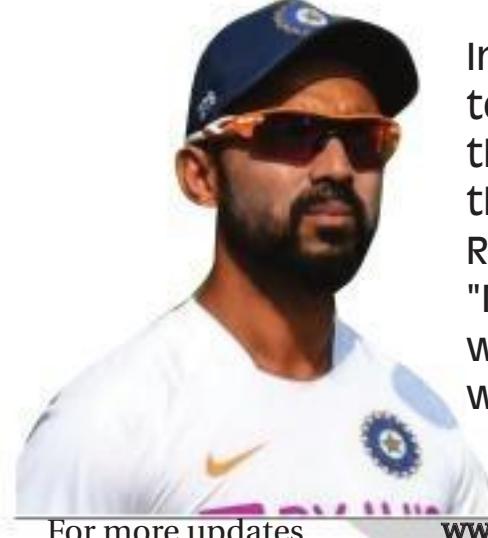
A look at post-independent India would lead to the irresistible conclusion that the word 'secularism' was misused for political purposes. It reached such a low ebb that appeasement of minorities was considered as an attribute of secularism. Attempts were made to divide society on lines of majority and minorities. Instances of communal riots and disharmony have left deep scars on our polity. Charges and counter-charges on appeasement and promoting vote banks have vitiated elections. Unfortunately, our electoral system also created such circumstances where political parties needed support on religious lines. Political parties made communal appeals to garner votes on religious lines. When Congress was ruling at the Centre, it went to the extent of even doing away with the judgment of Supreme Court in the Shahbano case to appease Muslims. It cannot be denied that several schemes and projects were launched with a view to appease minority communities. The then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had openly declared that Muslims have first right over the resources of country. There are states that openly try to provide reservation to minority candidates in government jobs not with a view to ameliorate their condition but to strengthen their electoral prospects. Supreme Court has repeatedly laid stress on a uniform civil code. But no attempt was made to ensure its implementation.

Similarly, the word 'Socialist' added in the Preamble is to controversial because socialism is defined in different manners. For some it is guild socialism while for others it is democratic socialism and for communists it is Marxist Socialism. Since the word 'socialism' is not defined in the Constitution, its varied interpretations to suit different situations is always possible. Makers of our Constitution were cautious not to drag it into dogmatic debates and hence chose to navigate the ship safely through muddy waters. Instead of using controversial phrases, they made out a separate chapter which they called Directive Principles of State Policy. This chapter envisages the brief roadmap of the social and economic equality to be achieved and contains directives for the State. It signifies the basic tenets of social order which will be free from exploitation and inequality in utilisation of natural resources of the country.

After prolonged debate in the Constituent Assembly, the word 'socialism' was excluded. Those days, Socialism was treated as an old hat that had lost its shape because everyone wore it. Had the word 'socialism' been inserted, the natural question would have been - which type of socialism and how about the means to achieve the same.

Bringing in the 42nd amendment to the Constitution during the emergency and inserting the words 'Secular' and 'Socialist' in the Preamble was uncalled for. Now they should be dropped. If the two words are removed from the Preamble, the nature of the Constitution shall not be affected in any manner. On the contrary, it is necessary to remove these words because the Constitution cannot be labelled by controversial dogmas.

The writer is an Advocate, Delhi High Court.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com**THUMBNAILS**

Nagar gets direct entry: Young Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal has received a direct entry into the US Open singles main draw after several top players pulled out of the Grand Slam starting August 31. The world no.127 was the last man to receive direct entry into the field of 128, which was determined using the latest ATP rankings, according to the tournament website. Nagal is the only Indian in the men's field with Prajnesh Gunneswaran, ranked 132, missing out.

Women's T20 Challenge: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is excited about playing in the UAE for the first time and is looking forward to come out of the long break and headline the Women's T20 Challenge, to be held during the IPL in November. "Yes definitely I'm excited for the Women's Challenge, because this is our first tour to Dubai and we haven't played there before," Harmanpreet said during a webinar on Wednesday.

New rule: Front foot no balls will be decided by the TV umpire and not the on-field officials for the first time in Test cricket with the series between England and Pakistan, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday. The ICC added that the front foot no-ball technology will be assessed before any decisions are taken regarding its use in future games.

Help needed: Not all cricketers, who wear the India jersey, are privileged. Especially, if they are disabled players, waiting for the BCCI to take them under its wings. As per the reforms mandated by the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee, the BCCI was supposed to create a committee for the development of physically challenged cricketers in India but the cricket board is yet to fulfil its constitutional obligation.

Ireland get 2nd ODI win over England: Paul Stirling and Andrew Balbirnie starred as Ireland claimed only a second win over England in its history after overcoming the world champions in the final over. Set a target of 329 the same score they finished on to beat England at the 2011 World Cup the Irish laid the foundations with a 214-run stand between Stirling and captain Balbirnie in the final match of the Royal London series on Tuesday.

Bundesliga official's offer: Football Delhi's endeavour to revive the game in the capital city received a boost with a top official of German premier league, Bundesliga offering his organisation's help in the sport's development. Peer Nauert, the head of global marketing for Bundesliga International, said his organisation can share its expertise with the local officials in Delhi to run the game.

Stefan Bradl joins Alex Marquez: After a heroic return just four days after surgery in Jerez, Marc Marquez will miss the Brno race with Stefan Bradl joining the Repsol Honda Team alongside Alex Marquez. The Czech GP marks the fourth round of the 2020 MotoGP World Championship and presents the first change of circuit for the season in the MotoGP class.

Help your help: HelpYourHelp the initiative from Edelweiss has been supported by Dipa Karmakar (Gymnast) and Padma Shri Awardee, Hima Das (Indian Sprinter and Arjuna Award), Rani Rampal (Captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team), Sukant Kadam (Ace Para-Badminton Shuttler) and Shiv Chhatrapati Awardee, Manika Batra (Table Tennis Champion) along with Bollywood celebrities. The sports personality came forward and have extended their support to this movement, by taking the pledge to HelpYourHelp.

FRESH START

India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane (*in photo, left*) took to social media on Wednesday to share his excitement at the prospect of playing for Delhi Capitals this season in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Rahane was traded by Rajasthan Royals to Delhi Capitals in November last year. "New beginnings for me in the @ipl this year. Looking forward to the season," Rahane said in an Instagram post along with a photo of him batting.

www.thestatesman.com

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Winning Ashes in England and Test series in India are two big mountains to climb: Smith

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 5 AUGUST

Beating arch-rivals England in their own den and achieving test success in India are the "two big mountains" which Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith (*in photo*) wants to climb before calling time on his career.

Australia had retained the Ashes in England last year with a 2-2 draw but the defeat in the last Test at The Oval still rankles Smith, who was the star of the series with 774 runs at an average of 110.57 from four Tests.

The 31-year-old had scored three centuries during the four-Test series in India in 2017 but Australia still ended up losing 1-2 and a Test win against Virat Kohli and his men ranks high in his list. Australia are scheduled to tour India in October 2022.

"They're the two big mountains to climb and if you can do that, it would be pretty special. Hopefully I get another crack at it, we'll see how we go," Smith was quoted as saying by Cricket.com.au. "I'm getting a bit old now. You never know how long I've got left, and you never know what the future holds. But it's certainly something to strive for, that's for sure."

Talking about last year's Ashes, Smith said: "To know that we'd got the Ashes back was pretty special. Unfortunately, we couldn't win them which is something I'd still like to do."

"It just doesn't feel the same you get to the end of the series and we're there holding up the Ashes but I just lost the last Test match, and we actually hadn't won anything. It was cool to get them back, but I was actually more disappointed that we hadn't won them."

Australia will hope to retain the Ashes at home in 2021-22 before getting a chance to beat England away with the tour scheduled in 2023. "From my personal perspective, I think it's unfinished business. It's great to retain the Ashes but it just doesn't sit right with me when you don't win it. We drew the series good, but not great."



"So I probably left at the end of the fifth Test (feeling) more disappointed than a sense of achievement," he said.

Smith had suffered a concussion after being hit on his neck by a delivery from England pacer Jofra Archer during the second Test at Lord's. He was ruled out of the remainder of the match and also had to miss the third Test which England won by one wicket. Smith returned to score 211 in the fourth Test at Old Trafford to help Australia retain the urn. "I've seen it a few times. It's not hard to watch. I've looked back at the knock a few times, and I just count myself lucky at times to have been able to get up from it and to only have a concussion," he added.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 5 AUGUST

Although there are those tempted to read political pressure into the way Vivo's supposedly temporary split from the Indian Premier League has come about, long-time insiders of India's sport industry tend to think that the Chinese title sponsor may have stepped back as it could be feeling that it might not get its money's worth from this year's tournament.

"You've to reckon with the fact that there're other sponsors supporting IPL franchises and they stick with them," said a veteran, adding: "There was no way the Board of control for Cricket in India could have had a home tournament this year with the coronavirus

around but a West Asian show with no one in the stands wouldn't have suited a company pouring more than Rs 400 crore annually into it. The fun had gone out of it a long while ago. It's not going to be like it's every year at home. The crowds, the excitement - nothing will be there. How can a sponsor not think of his own interests?" The chief executive officer of a northern Indian IPL franchise went a little step further to say that it was not as if sponsors associated with the IPL were refusing to stick with it or the franchises but each of them was inclined to cough up a lot less than it had done earlier.

"You can't bypass the economic downturn every industry and business is hamstrung by," said a source, insisting on

anonymity like all other respondents, anxious that they don't rub the BCCI up the wrong way by pointing out the other side of things.

He said that it was the clearest sign yet that quotes even the IPL couldn't take any one and anything for granted.

Asked if Vivo's pull-out will have its knock-on effect, virtually every professional spoken to by The Statesman said yes. "The points are simple: the economy is in the doldrums and those with the moneybag do their calculations punctiliously. They won't splurge unless they're sure of the right kind of yield," said a source. Will things look up in the future? "They might and everything will be hunky-dory again then," he said.

Rafael Nadal to miss US Open

AGENCIES
MADRID, 5 AUGUST

Defending champion Rafael Nadal will skip the U.S. Open because of the coronavirus pandemic, putting on hold his bid to equal Roger Federer's men's record for Grand Slam titles.

Nadal explained his decision in a series of tweets sent in Spanish and English on Tuesday. The situation is very complicated worldwide, the COVID-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it, Nadal wrote.

The 34-year-old from Spain called sitting out the tournament scheduled to begin Aug. 31 in New York a decision I never wanted to take, but added that he would rather not travel.

Rafa is one of the greatest champions in our sport and we support his decision," U.S. Open tournament director Stacey Allaster said.

The current No. 1-ranked woman, Ash Barty, already had announced she would be missing the U.S. Open. The U.S. Tennis Association's entry list announcements Tuesday noted that 2019 women's champion Bianca Andreescu is in the field - at least for now; players can withdraw until the start of play - but made no mention of Nadal.

Pak captain Ali fails as England strike

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, 5 AUGUST

Babar Azam struck a fluent unbeaten half-century as Pakistan moved to 121 for two at tea following a session cut short by rain on day one of the first test against England at a gloomy Old Trafford on Wednesday.

It was a profitable period before the break for the tourists, who will resume with the imperious Azam (52 not out) and opener Shan Masood (45 not out) as they seek to mount a big first innings total having won the toss and elected to bat.

The pair were able to up the scoring rate after lunch, adding 68 runs in 16 overs before rain forced them from the field.

It was chalk and cheese from the first session, where England's bowlers beat the bat almost at will and picked up the wickets of captain Azhar Ali for a duck, trapped leg before wicket by Chris Woakes, and Abid Ali (16) (*in photo*), who was bowled by Jofra Archer.

England had found the right line and length then, but were wayward after lunch and Azam, the key player in the Pakistan batting line-up, was able to capitalise as he moved to his half-century from 70 balls with nine fours. Pakistan have gone with three seam bowlers, including young firebrands Shaheen Afridi, 20, and Naseem Shah, 17, who are likely to play a key role in the series with their pace and movement.

They have also selected the leg-spin duo of Shadab Khan and Yasir Shah, and with the wicket already showing some sign of wear, they could be crucial in the fourth innings if Pakistan can get enough runs. England decided against gambling on Ben Stokes' nagging quad injury, selecting him as a specialist batsman in a side unchanged from the one which secured a series win over the West Indies at the same ground a week ago. Pakistan openers Shan Masood and Abid Ali showed sufficient composure to bat through the first hour for 32 without loss, both men beaten on the outside edge on a couple of occasions but sticking admirably to the task of seeing off James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

In the end it was the first-change bowlers, retained here instead of Sam Curran and Mark Wood, who got England back into the conversation.

Archer, who created more headlines off the field than on



it against the Windies, needed just seven deliveries to make his presence felt. After pushing the batsmen back in his first over, he started the second with a fuller ball at Abid, juggling it in off the pitch and pegging back off stump.

He made his way back for 16, his exit made all the more frustrating by a brief rain shower which forced the sides off after only three more deliveries. It was only a brief recess but within 10 minutes of the restart Woakes sent captain Azhar Ali for a more permanent trip to the pavilion.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan 1st innings:
Shan Masood batting 45
Abid Ali b Jofra Archer 16
Azhar Ali (c) Ibv b Woakes 0
Azam batting 52
Extras: 8 (b 1, lb 6, w 0, nb 1, p 0)
Total: 121
Bowling: Anderson 8-2-32-0,
Broad 11-4-24-0, Woakes 8-2-14-1,
Ali, Archer 9-3-22-1, Bess 5-1-
22-0

Simply put, it's all about calculations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 5 AUGUST

Although there are those tempted to read political pressure into the way Vivo's supposedly temporary split from the Indian Premier League has come about, long-time insiders of India's sport industry tend to think that the Chinese title sponsor may have stepped back as it could be feeling that it might not get its money's worth from this year's tournament.

"You've to reckon with the fact that there're other sponsors supporting IPL franchises and they stick with them," said a veteran, adding: "There was no way the Board of control for Cricket in India could have had a home tournament this year with the coronavirus

around but a West Asian show with no one in the stands wouldn't have suited a company pouring more than Rs 400 crore annually into it. The fun had gone out of it a long while ago. It's not going to be like it's every year at home. The crowds, the excitement - nothing will be there. How can a sponsor not think of his own interests?" The chief executive officer of a northern Indian IPL franchise went a little step further to say that it was not as if sponsors associated with the IPL were refusing to stick with it or the franchises but each of them was inclined to cough up a lot less than it had done earlier.

"You can't bypass the economic downturn every industry and business is hamstrung by," said a source, insisting on

anonymity like all other respondents, anxious that they don't rub the BCCI up the wrong way by pointing out the other side of things.

He said that it was the clearest sign yet that quotes even the IPL couldn't take any one and anything for granted.

Asked if Vivo's pull-out will have its knock-on effect, virtually every professional spoken to by The Statesman said yes. "The points are simple: the economy is in the doldrums and those with the moneybag do their calculations punctiliously. They won't splurge unless they're sure of the right kind of yield," said a source. Will things look up in the future? "They might and everything will be hunky-dory again then," he said.

I-League is a bleak house in hard times

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, 5 AUGUST

As if it wasn't enough that prioritising the Indian Super League by the All-India Football Federation had left the I-League pitifully marginalised, Covid-19's economic impact was said by a few of the clubs playing in the competition to have left them virtually scrapping the bottom of the barrel.

"We don't know if and when it is going to be held this time around but, as we try to limber up for it we realise how difficult it is to raise funds when a pandemic is doing its stuff across the land," a very senior official told The Statesman today, adding: "The biggest problem for the clubs in the I-League is that, unlike the ISL, it has no cap on spending for

players, which leads to inflated expenditures. You end up paying a king's ransom to a player not because he happens to be great but due only to the fact that there could be others trying to take him away. A Rs 18 crore ceiling serves the ISL very well since the rule has to be adhered to, but the I-League is a different matter."

According to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, sponsors will be harder than ever before to come by because of the havoc played by the coronavirus.

"The industrial landscape is bleak. Everyone is indoors and no action is discernible. Unless the industries get into a position where they can afford sponsorship, it's very difficult to carry on," the official said.

Going by what he said, there were clubs struggling to pay their staff members in the back offices. Besides, try as they may for money to be collected, sponsors' interest in



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