

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020



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

Oracle wins bid for TikTok in US, beating Microsoft

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

Full report on Page 4

PM to open 7 Bihar infra projects today

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

Khalilzad to visit Delhi for talks

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

Full report on Page 3



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

WEATHER

Max: 36°C
Min: 27°C
RH: 57%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrpada Bahula
Trayodashi till 10.55 pm
Star: Ashlesha till 2.19 pm
Variyam: 1.18 am to 2.45 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.21 am; 11 pm to 11.47 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.27 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.26 PM
MOONSET TODAY 4.32 AM

Umar Khalid arrested for role in N-E Delhi riots

11L pages of evidence against him: Police

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPT 14.

Former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid has been arrested by the Delhi Police's special cell for his alleged role in the riots in north-east Delhi in February this year. The FIR against Mr Khalid alleges that he made provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to citizens to come out on streets and block roads during Donald Trump's visit to India.

The special cell arrested Mr Khalid on Sunday night, after 11 hours of interrogation. Earlier, police had also seized his mobile phone. While seeking Mr Khalid's police custody, Delhi Police stated in the Karkadooma court that their computer team has extracted 40 GB of data from Mr Khalid's mobile phone and they want to question him about it. It runs into 11 lakh pages.

Delhi Police was granted 10 days' custody to interrogate him. In Mr Khalid's speech against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Amravati, that went viral on social media, and one of the two that the police is focusing on, he can be heard as saying "when Donald Trump comes to India on February 24, we will say that the Prime Minister and the government of India are trying to divide the country... They are destroying the values of Mahatma Gandhi, and the people

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Dominic Thiem of Austria holds up the championship trophy after defeating Alexander Zverev of Germany in the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships in New York on Sunday. ■ Report on Page 8 — AP

Govt assures SC Delhi jhuggis not to be razed now

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

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

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

The has court adjourned the matter for

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

four weeks. As senior counsel Abhishek "Manu" Singhvi, appearing for one of the applicants, told the court that some demolitions had taken place in the city on Friday as well as on Monday, and that instructions should be issued to stop it, Mr Mehta said these demolitions may relate to a different case, not this one.

Monday's hearing was over a plea moved by former Delhi PCC chief Ajay Maken seeking the rehabilitation of over two lakh residents of the 48,000 jhuggis in the city before they are evicted from the homes.

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

Bhushan for review of SC conviction for contempt

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Advocate Prashant Bhushan on Monday moved the Supreme court seeking a review of its August 14 judgment holding him guilty of criminal contempt of court for his two tweets in which he criticised the apex court's work in the last six years under four Chief Justices.

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

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

Worry amid cases: Over 200 MPs 65-plus test Covid +ve as Parliament begins

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

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

Almost 80,000 deaths have been reported in India since the outbreak of the virus in January, while 92,000 positive cases were reported between September 13 and 14 alone.

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



Parliamentarians observe silence during an obituary reference in the Rajya Sabha on the opening day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

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

New Delhi, Sept. 14: The ministry of labour and employment did not have any data of migrant workers who lost their jobs and their lives during the Covid-19 lockdown, minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Monday informed the Lok Sabha through written replies to several members' questions.

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

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

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

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Rajnath to brief LS, RS today on Ladakh standoff

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

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

The defence minister's statement comes after the issue was raised by the Opposition at the busi-

Bill to cut MPs' salaries by 30%

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

ness advisory committee meetings of both Houses on Sunday.

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

Andhra Pradesh has contributed more than 9,800 new cases. The government underlined the increasing recovery rate which has now reached 78 per cent. "We have now moved from 'managing travel related cases' to containing clusters and large outbreaks due to local transmission to wide spread of infection in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. This would require concerted effort by the government with people's participation to prevent large scale morbidity and mortality," the minister added.

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

■ More on Page 3

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

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

The submission was made before a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta during hearing of a PIL seeking a declaration that same sex marriages be recognised under the Hindu

Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act.

Mr Mehta opposed the relief sought in the petition saying "our laws, our legal system, our society and our values do not recognise a marriage, which is a sacrament, between same sex couples".

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

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

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

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

Suga wins vote, all set to be Japan PM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"Now I'm handing the baton to new LDP President Suga," Abe said after the vote. "We can count on him."

Mr Suga has been a loyal supporter of Abe since Abe's first stint as prime minister from 2006 to 2007. Abe's tenure ended abruptly because of chronic illness, and Suga helped him return as PM in 2012. — AP

SHORT TAKES

RAMANI: AKBAR TARGETED ME TO STOP AVALANCHE OF ALLEGATIONS

New Delhi: Journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Monday that she was "targeted selectively" through a criminal defamation complaint by former Union minister M.J. Akbar to halt the avalanche of allegations of sexual misconduct against him in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018. Ms Ramani made the submission before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja through her lawyer during the final hearing in the complaint filed by Mr Akbar against her. Ms Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist. Mr Akbar resigned as Union minister on October 17, 2018. Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court on Monday that over 14 women accused Akbar of sexual harassment during the #MeToo movement but he has filed complaint only against Ms Ramani. "Priya Ramani was targeted selectively... Either everyone's articles and tweets are defamatory or none is. Or are the other allegations accepted," she said.

Ms John read Mr Akbar's statement that he was aware of the existence of other allegations on the date of the filing of complaints. "He chose to go after Priya Ramani. Till date there is no complaint against anyone else. Priya Ramani was selectively targeted to halt the avalanche of allegations that came out against him at that time," she told the court. Contradicting Akbar's testimony, John said that "Complainant (Akbar) wants us to believe that he didn't have full details of the tweets as he was in Africa. In the evidence of Joyeeta Basu (witness appearing in support of Akbar's complaint), this is falsified." — PTI

'Rhea not in hurry for bail application'

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

Umar Khalid arrested for role in N-E Delhi riots

Continued from page 1 of India are fighting against them. If those in power want to divide India, the people of India are ready to unite the country."

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

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

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

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

The police has also summoned Mr Roy and Ms Dewan for questioning in connection with the riots.

China envoy for 5-point plan to defuse tension

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

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

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

India relations" to the "right direction".

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

Special diet for jawans on duty at India, China border

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

Security personnel deployed at remote high altitude location along the Indo-China border during the coming harsh winter season would be provided with ₹3 special high quality immunity booster diet as part of their ration which would not only help build immunity to fight Corona but also keep them fit during deploy-

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

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

Modi hails Harivansh as 'outstanding umpire' and a 'torchbearer of democracy' NDA's Harivansh elected RS dy chairman

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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



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

— PTI

to the Upper House of Parliament after his previous term ended in April, had defeated Congress's BK Hariprasad, who was the joint candidate of the opposition parties in 2018 for the post.

"Harivansh Ji belongs to all sides of the aisle. He has conducted proceedings in an impartial manner. He has been an outstand-

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

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

TMC MP hurls 'personal remark' at Sitharaman

New Delhi, Sept. 14: Personal comments aimed at finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman from Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy in Lok Sabha on Monday drew a sharp reaction from the treasury benches with Parliamentary affairs minister pralhad Joshi demanding his unconditional apology. Mr Roy's comments were expunged by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The TMC MP was objecting to the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill when he made the remarks targeting Sitharaman while referring to the stress in the economy.

Mr Joshi said, "We can also do it. But this is not our culture. He is a senior member. What is he talking? He should apologise unconditionally. It is an insult to women," he said. — PTI

Jumbled seating 'new normal' in Parliament now

New Delhi: The Parliament, for the first time in its history, witnessed a reorganised seating arrangement as the monsoon session began on Monday with many members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha sitting in each other's Houses during proceedings to follow the new Covid-19 protocols for maintaining social distancing.

— PTI

Actor-MP Ravi Kishan raises drugs issue in LS



Ravi Kishan

New Delhi, Sept. 14: BJP member Ravi Kishan on Monday raised in Lok Sabha the issue of drug menace in Bollywood and asked the Government to take strict action against those involved in drug trafficking.

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

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

ed," he said. Kishan, who is also a Bhojpuri actor, also praised the Bureau (NCB) for doing a good job in unearthing the drug mafia which is trying to spread the menace among youth.

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

— PTI

25 MPs test Covid +ve as Parliament session begins

Continues from Page 1 the country".

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

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

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

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

Among them is home minister Amit Shah, who after undergoing the mandatory quarantine period last month, had to be admitted again to AIIMS a couple of days ago. He had earlier been admitted there on August 18 for post-corona care but was discharged on August 30-31.

Govt: No data of lockdown fatalities of guest workers

New Delhi, Sept. 14: The government does not have data regarding the number of migrants who died or were injured during migration to their native places due to the lockdown, Union minister Santosh Gangwar told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

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

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

A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25

to contain spreading of coronavirus infections. There was an exodus of a large number of migrant workers to their native places from different parts of the country during the lockdown. The lockdown restrictions were eased from late May. Mahtab also asked whether the government has taken adequate measures to safeguard social, economic, legal and health rights of migrant labourers before implementing lockdown in the country due to Covid-19.

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

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

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

Cong's MP tribal leader Rathia dies of Covid

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, SEPT. 14

Veteran tribal leader of Congress and former minister Chaneshe Ram Rathia on Monday died of Covid-19 in a hospital in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh.

Seventy eight-year-old leader, who served as minister in the Digvijay Singh as well as Ajit Jogi governments in undivided Madhya Pradesh and

Chhattisgarh respectively, had been suffering from age-related ailments.

He tested positive for coronavirus last fortnight and was admitted to a Covid-19 hospital in Raigarh.

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

He is survived by his wife, 2 sons and 3 daughters.

He was first elected to undivided Madhya Pradesh assembly in 1977

from Dharamjaigarh in Raigarh district and won the seat five times in a row in successive elections.

His son Laljit Singh Rathia currently represents the constituency in Chhattisgarh assembly.

Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh as a separate state in 2000.

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

US Afghan envoy to hold Delhi talks today

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

"The visit takes place at a time when the Afghanistan government and Taliban have formally sat on the negotiating table for talks in a bid to



Zalmay Khalilzad

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


Afghanistan's 18 provinces raising serious doubts over the positive outcome of the talks.

In this context, both Afghanistan and the United States are keeping India in the loop as they also engage with Pakistan urging the two neighbours to play a larger role in ending the "endless war" as US President Donald Trump says. Mr Khalilzad was in Pakistan on Monday for similar discussions.

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

to take the plunge as was evident from the virtual address of Mr S. Jaishankar on Saturday. India has also sent an official to Doha to witness the peace talks.

"Addressed the conference on Afghan peace negotiations at Doha today. Conveyed that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled, respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, promote human rights and democracy," EAM S. Jaishankar said on Saturday.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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

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

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

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

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

**Last date for issuance of license by Districts DCsP is
23.10.2020**

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

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

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

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Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/9254/2020

IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill 3, injure 6 in Pak

Peshawar: At least three persons were killed and six other injured when some unidentified assailants opened fire at them in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, police said. The accused ambushed the car in Peshawar's Michni road, killing Muhammad Ali and his two gunmen while six persons sustained injuries as they were caught in the firing. In another incident, the provincial vice president of the ruling Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Tahir Iqbal, was assassinated and his three friends wounded as their car was ambushed by unknown gunmen in Haripur district. Chief Minister of the province Mehmod Khan ordered an inquiry into the killing of the party leader and sought a report from the provincial police chief.

Pompeo: US envoy to China to leave

Beijing: The US ambassador to China appears to be leaving his post, based on tweets posted Monday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He thanked Ambassador Terry Branstad on Twitter for his more than three years of service. There was no immediate confirmation from the State Department. "Ambassador Branstad has contributed to rebalancing US-China relations so that it is results-oriented, reciprocal, and fair," he wrote in a follow-up tweet. China's foreign ministry said it was aware of Pompeo's tweet but had not received any notification that Branstad was leaving. Branstad was embroiled in a recent controversy when China's official *People's Daily* rejected an opinion column that he had written. It wasn't clear whether his apparent departure was related to the piece. Pompeo tweeted last week that China's ruling Communist Party refused to run Branstad's op-ed.

Lukashenko visits Russia

Sochi: Belarus' authoritarian president visited Russia Monday in a bid to secure more loans and political support, as demonstrations against the extension of his 26-year rule entered their sixth week. Alexander Lukashenko's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi come a day after an estimated 150,000 people flooded the streets of the Belarusian capital, demanding Lukashenko's resignation. The Interior Ministry said 774 people were arrested in Minsk and other cities of Belarus for holding unsanctioned rallies on Sunday. Protesters in Belarus have dismissed Lukashenko's reelection for a sixth term in the Aug. 9 vote as rigged. The United States and the European Union have criticised the election as neither free nor fair and urged the Belarusian leader to engage in talks with the opposition, a demand he rejected. In a bid to win Moscow's support, the 66-year-old former state farm director has tried to cast the protests as an effort by the West to isolate Russia.

ATWOOD WINS DAYTON PEACE PRIZE

Cincinnati (US), Sept. 14: Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes "The Handmaid's Tale", a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding. The Canadian writer and teacher has earned the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, officials of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials announced Monday. The award is named for the late US diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

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

Georgia Dy punching PoC fired 10 dead in Chicago weekend violence

Clayton (US), Sept. 14: A sheriff's deputy in Georgia has been fired after being captured on video repeatedly punching a Black man during a traffic stop, authorities said Sunday.

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

and got upset and demanded he get out of the vehicle when he questioned why they needed it since he wasn't driving, Williams said.

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

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

10 dead in Chicago weekend violence

Chicago, Sept. 14: Gun violence in Chicago left 10 people dead over the weekend and 43 others injured. It came amid a surge in violence this year in the nation's third-largest city. Statistics released by the Chicago Police Department bring the number of shooting victims for the year thus far to 2,887 and the number of homicides to 542. Last year at this time, according to police statistics, there were 1,862 shooting victims and 364 homicides.

The violence follows the longer Labour Day weekend that ended with the same number of homicides and roughly the same number of shooting victims. — AP

3 dead, 3 injured in Tennessee rampage

Nashville (US), Sept. 14: A gunman killed two people and wounded three others in a series of shootings and carjackings that ended with a high-speed chase as he fled police. He ultimately wrecked the car he stole and killed himself, while his remaining hostage survived, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said.

The string of crimes began Sunday morning along Interstate 24 near Beechgrove when Dangelo Dorsey, 29, opened fire inside a moving vehicle, killing one person and wounding another, TBI Director David Rausch said. — AP



US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event at Xtreme Manufacturing in Henderson, Nevada on Sunday. Trumps visit comes after Nevada Republicans blamed Democratic Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak for blocking other events he had planned in the state. — AFP

Israel to renew curbs, daily cases see spurt

Jerusalem, Sept. 14: Israel said it will reimpose a national lockdown to battle a coronavirus surge, as the number of daily infections around the world reached a record high.

Britain, France, Austria and the Czech Republic also reported spikes, as global cases rapidly approached 29 million with more than 921,000 Covid-19 deaths, according to an AFP tally.

The Israel lockdown will last three weeks starting Friday, keeping people to within 500 metres (yards) of their homes. It is the first developed economy to take such drastic steps to contain a second wave of infections. "I know these measures will exact a heavy price from all of us," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The World Health Organization reported 307,930 new cases worldwide on Sunday, the highest daily figure in its database since the beginning of the pandemic.

The surge has sparked concern in Europe, where Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz warned that his country was facing "the beginning of the second wave". The Czech Republic has also faced a surge, with one epidemiologist saying over the weekend that at the current rate, cases could overwhelm hospitals.

New restrictions are set to come into force across England on Monday, with

UK trials antibody cocktail treatment

London, Sept. 14: The UK on Monday began human trials of a new antibody treatment for patients hospitalised with Covid-19. As part of the government-backed Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 theERapY (RECOVERY) Trials, monoclonal antibodies, or potent laboratory-made antibodies, will be given to about 2,000 patients in the coming weeks to see if they are effective against Coronavirus.

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

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

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

Europe to see more deaths in Oct, Nov: WHO

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

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

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

TRUMP DEFIES GOV, HOLDS INDOOR RALLY

Las Vegas, Sept. 14: In open defiance of state regulations and his own administration's pandemic health guidelines, President Donald Trump on Sunday hosted his first indoor rally since June with a packed, mask-less Nevada crowd. Eager to project a sense of normalcy in imagery, Trump soaked up the raucous cheers inside a warehouse. Not since a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was blamed for a surge of Coronavirus infections has he gathered supporters indoors. There was no early mention from the President that the pandemic had killed nearly 200,000 Americans and was claiming 1,000 lives a day.

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

British MPs resume feuding over Brexit

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

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

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

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

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

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

Even some Brexiteer lawmakers were aghast that Britain would wilfully

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

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

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

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

The latest row revives the bitter wrangling over how to implement British voters' shock decision in 2016 to quit the bloc, which led to parliamentary deadlock and repeat-

BORIS DEFENDS LAW, SAYS EU 'UNREASONABLE'

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

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

ed postponements.

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

TikTok owner picks Oracle over Microsoft

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

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

TikTok and the White

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

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

FOREIGN LABS: NAVALNY WAS POISONED

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

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

Afghan government mounts pressure on Taliban for truce

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

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

But the Taliban, who fought a years-long guerrilla campaign against American and Afghan forces after they were forced

KHALILZAD MEETS PAK ARMY CHIEF, DISCUSSES AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS

Islamabad, Sept. 14: US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Monday met Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed the Afghan peace process among other issues.

Pakistan military's media wing — the Inter-Services Public Relations — said that "matters of mutual interest, regional security, and the ongoing Afghan Reconciliation Process were discussed during the meeting". — PTI

from power in a 2001 US-led invasion, did not mention a truce as they came to the negotiating table.

Afghan presidential spokesman Seddiqi tweeted Monday that the pr-

esence of government negotiators at the talks "is aimed at achieving a ceasefire, ending the violence and ensuring lasting peace and stability in the country". — AFP

FILM | FEST

Mr Jones is set in 1993 during what has come to be known as the Holodomor: to kill by starvation

The mendacity of Duranty and the truth of Mr Jones

SUPARNA SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

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

Despite that, you won't find them screaming on TV screens. You'll find them repeating the truth, calmly, with facts. The acclaimed, 71-year-old Polish writer-director Agnieszka Holland's English language feature film, *Mr Jones*, tells the story of two foreign journal-

ists in Stalin's Russia — Gareth Jones (James Norton), a freelance Welsh journalist, and Pulitzer award-winning Walter Duranty (Peter Sarsgaard), who was the *New York Times*' bureau chief in Moscow.

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

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

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

tiff

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

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

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

In between, George Orwell and his *Animal Farm* make brief appearances.

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

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

Duranty immediately debunks it in *NYT*, painting the famine with government propaganda. He calls it "widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition".

Jones was killed a year later. He was 29.

Duranty died aged 73, in Florida, in 1957. Holland's Mr Jones carries an urgent message: Two people may tell the same story differently. But there is only, always, one truth. You'll know you've spotted it when authoritarian regimes, their cohorts and apologists scream, "It's not true."

THE ASIAN AGE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mathematician who found formula to help rural poor

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

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

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

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

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

Champions in all respects

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

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

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

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Aakar Patel

Jaishankar's prescriptions are simplistic, just excuses

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

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

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

Mere liberalisation does not mean economic growth. What Jaishankar says in his three points is reductive and simplistic.

make atomic weapons. He called them the three burdens.

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

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

parts of India.

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

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

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

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

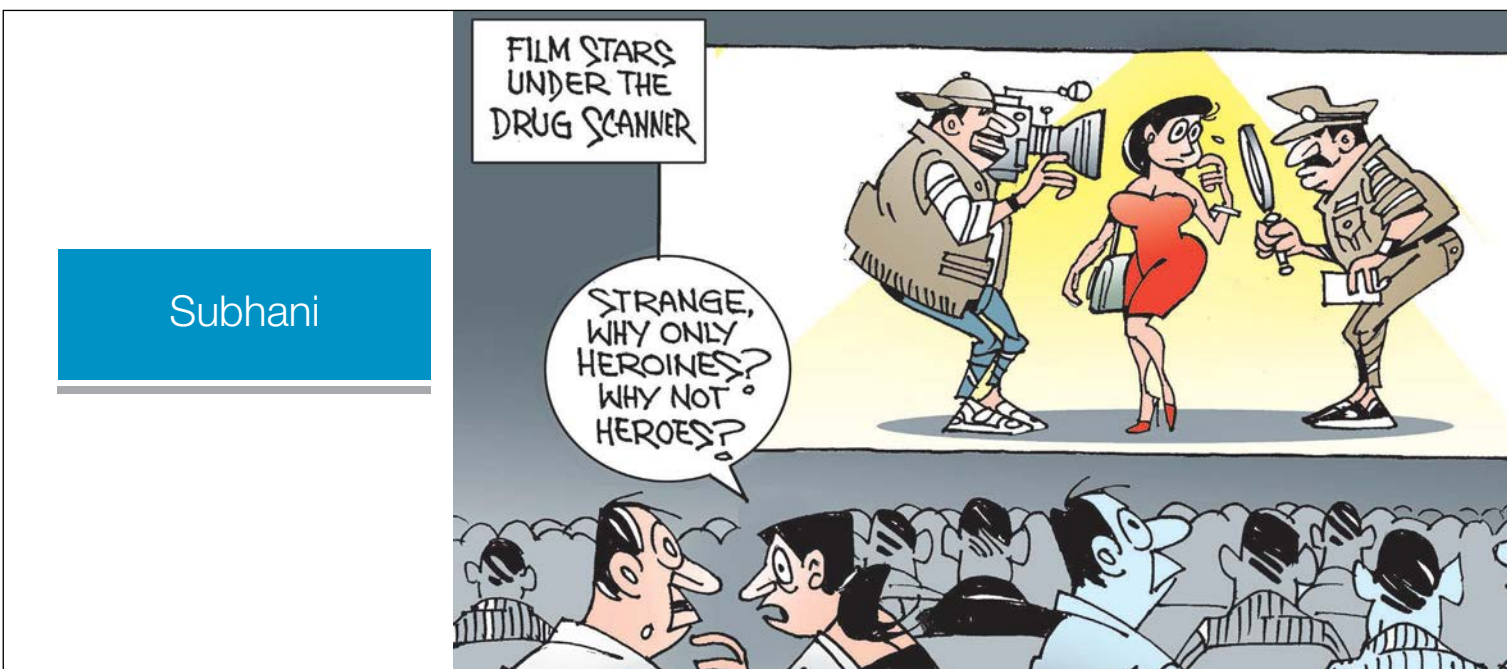
Jaishankar calls these three things "burdens" and he lays them at the Congress' door. Let us see what his party has done and is doing. India may have been partitioned, but Pakistan and Bangladesh are still next to us. They have not been relocated to Africa. What stops India from unifying the subcontinent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

could unify South Asia with visa-free travel and trade if we chose to. The BJP does not want it.

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

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

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist



Subhani

Mediation vital on LAC, Ladakh disengagement



Mohan Guruswamy

We have two outstanding issues between India and China: Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. These two territorial disputes aren't going to be resolved in the foreseeable long term.

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

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

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

tion is because both sides are vying for better tactical positions to locate their bunkers and sangars (small built-up structures) on higher ground to observe the other side. In the Depsang Plains overlooking DBO, it is by as much as 20-30 km.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS COVID IN INDIA

It may not be an exaggeration to say that India is better off than other countries amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken the whole world in its grip.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken his mind on the pandemic, telling people that a two-yard distance and a mask can save futures. While the

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

Asim Sohail
Araria, Bihar

UAE-ISRAEL DEAL

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

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

ANIMAL WELFARE

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

Yashi Bairagi
Ujjain

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

quick BITES

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

* As of 9:30 PM IST

WPI inflation back in positive zone, CPI softens

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

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



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

Bank credit up 5.49%, deposits rise by 10.92%

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

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

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

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Govt seeks additional spend of ₹2.35 L cr PSBs to get ₹20K cr more to soak NPAs

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

In a bid to help banks mitigate the surge of bad loans during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government on Monday sought Parliament's approval to infuse Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) through recapitalisation bonds, according to supplementary demand for grants tabled by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who sought the legislator's nod for gross additional expenditure of Rs 2.35 lakh crore. The Rs 20,000-core fund infusion is expected to support state-owned lenders, which are under severe pressure due to increasing threats of higher non-performing assets (NPAs) during the pandemic.

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

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

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



Nirmala Sitharaman

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

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

Of the total cash outgo, Rs 40,000 crore has been sought towards enhanced expenditure under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Rs 20,000 crore towards capital infusion in public sector banks and Rs 33,771.48 crore for direct

benefit transfer under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme.

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

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

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

Govt weighs selling Air India without debt burden

SIDDHARTHA SINGH & ANURAG KOTOKY SEPT. 14

India is proposing to drop a condition that the winning bidder for Air India will have to take on \$3.3 billion of aircraft debt, people with knowledge of the matter said, as the government struggles to sell the loss-making carrier kept afloat by taxpayer-funded bailouts.

The Centre is being advised to drop the rule on concern it will deter buyers, the people said, asking not to be identified. A group of bureaucrats has vetted the plan, and under the new proposition, potential buyers will be allowed to bid on the enterprise value and not on the entity value,



the people said.

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

UBS explores merger with Credit Suisse

CATHERINE BOSLEY SEPT. 14

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

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

Spokesmen for the banks refused to comment.

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

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

— Bloomberg

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

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 14

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

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

Of late, the equity market is getting more and more polarised, with mutual fund investments moving mostly into large-cap stocks, and in some sectors, the themes of "big becoming bigger" and "winner takes it all" hold true, analysts said.

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

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



strong balance sheets and attractive valuations," HDFC Securities said.

Existing multi-cap funds are required to ensure compliance by February.

However, Sebi later issued a clarification on September 13 saying that funds have many options available other than simple rebalancing, to meet the requirements of the circular based on preference of unit-holders and could allow unit-holders to switch to other

schemes; merge multi-cap scheme with large cap schemes; convert to other scheme category.

The Sebi is also likely to examine any other proposals from the industry participants in this regard, said Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

However, market reacted to Sebi's new rule led to many small-cap stocks gaining over 10 per cent—VIP Industries (14.42 per cent), Century Textiles (11.51 per cent), Avanti Feeds (13.62 per cent), Century Plyboards (12.28 per cent) and Birla Corp. (12.42 per cent).

"Sebi circular on allocation by multi-cap schemes spurred buying in a lot of small and midcaps in anticipation of fund buying that could emerge later," said Deepak Jassani, head of retail research, HDFC Securities.

IT STOCKS SOAR AFTER HCL TECH LIFTS GUIDANCE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 14

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

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

The other top IT sector stocks TCS (Rs 2492.30 up 5 per cent), Infosys (Rs 977.95 up 3.44 per cent) and Wipro (Rs 307.15 up

4.81 per cent) also hit fresh 52-week highs.

The BSE IT index gained a massive 4.76 per cent when Sensex and Nifty closed in the red.

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

FEMALE FUND MANAGERS BEHIND MALE BY 200 YEARS



SUZY WAITE SEPT. 14

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

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

Fund managers are coming under increased pressure from clients to improve diversity within firms, with many in the US and Europe being forced to provide data on their gender line-ups, according to the report. Of the \$15 trillion of assets in Citywire's database, just \$2.9 trillion is managed by women, all-female teams or a team of women and men. Turnover is also a problem, with 42 per cent of female fund managers changing job positions in the past decade, compared with 27 per cent of men, the research shows. Factors, including company culture, flexible working and maternity leave, are all contributing to high turnover, the report said.

— Bloomberg

MSMEs yet to receive their dues

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

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

While announcing the stimulus package, the government had set a deadline of 45 days to clear pending payments of CPSEs and ministries.

However, till now around Rs 10,000 crore has been reportedly paid by the ministries and CPSEs.

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

payment of MSME dues on priority," the government said.

In order to clear MSME payments faster, the government had mandated all the CPSEs and companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore to board on TReDS online platform. but many corporates are yet to join it or transact thereon," it said.

The government also has not issued any instructions to the states mandating the use of TReDS.

PSBs have 2.09% NPAs under Mudra loans

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, SEPT. 14

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

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



Of this, public sector banks have disbursed a total of Rs 9,00,131 crore in the past three financial years. They provided loans of Rs 2,12,205 crore in FY18, Rs 3,05,489 crore in FY19 and Rs 3,82,437 crore in FY20. In these years, the non-perform-

ing assets, or bad loans, have risen from Rs 7,277 crore in FY18 to Rs 11,483 crore in FY19 and Rs 18,835 crore in FY20, as per the data from the government.

NPA as a percentage of the loans stood at 2.09 per cent at the end of FY20.

As per an earlier data provided by the government, among the PSU banks, Punjab National Bank had a higher NPA under Mudra loan. private banks like Dhanalakshmi Bank and Federal Bank too had reported significantly higher NPAs.

SHORT TAKES

Hari meets Carlsen in online chess

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

With an Elo rating of 2714, he is the second lowest rated player in the field and would be up against Carlsen, who has been near unbeatable in recent times, and the highly-rated American Nakamura. The others in the fray are American Wesley So, Russians Ian Nepomniachtchi and Alexander Grischuk, experienced Armenian Levon Aronian, Iran's teen prodigy Alireza Firouzja and Americans Leinier Dominguez and Jeffery Xiong, the lowest rated player in the tournament. The ten players will be competing for a \$250,000 prize fund in nine rapid and 18 blitz games. — PTI

Defeating Anand was special: Vidit

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

The 25-year-old Gujrathi, who became a Grandmaster in 2013, beat the five-time world champion Anand in 2019.

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

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

Hyderabad FC sign Lalawmpuia

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

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

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

Bernal fails in France, Tadej wins

Culoz, France: Egan Bernal's defence of the Tour de France was reduced to cinders on Sunday as the Colombian suffered a meltdown on the first major mountain of the race, while the overall leader Primoz Roglic denied any suggestions he was doping.

With three massive mountains, the stage itself was won by 21-year-old rookie Tadej Pogacar, but the extent of the 2019 champion's astonishing collapse on the final climb is the story of the Tour so far. Jumbo-Visma's Roglic retained the overall lead. — AFP

Live on TV

TENNIS

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

BASKETBALL

NBA Eastern Conference Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7): Boston Celtics vs Miami Heat from 4 am (Wednesday); **NBA Western Conference Semifinals (Game 7, decider):** Los Angeles Clippers vs Denver Nuggets from 6.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD

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TENACIOUS THIEM

Wrests US Open title after a historic comeback

New York, Sept. 14: Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverev in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open on Sunday for his first Grand Slam title.

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

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

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

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

"I wish we could have two winners today. I think we both deserved it," said Thiem.

The title is the 27-year-old Thiem's maiden Grand Slam trophy after three previous defeats in finals of tennis majors.

Thiem was runner-up at the Australian Open earlier this year and also lost in the last-two showdowns at the French Open in 2018 and 2019.

He also becomes the first new Grand Slam champion since Croatian Marin Cilic won at Flushing Meadows in 2014. Thiem is also the first Grand Slam champion other than Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer since Stan Wawrinka won the third of his majors at the 2016 US Open.

"I achieved a life goal, a dream of myself, which I had for many, many years," the winner added.

Zverev, 23, smashed four aces and 16 winners in the first set as he displayed an impressive serve and volley game to take a 1-0 lead in just 30 minutes.

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

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

The tide was beginning to turn though as Zverev's



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

play became increasingly cagey as his suspect second serve got slower and his forehand, another weakness, became more defensive.

After Thiem took set four, Zverev found himself serving for the championship at 5-3 in the fifth set. But he could not hold and soon Thiem found

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

However, like Zverev moments earlier, Thiem failed to clinch the match and it went to a tie-break.

He found himself 5-3 up after two double faults by Zverev but Thiem, by now exhausted and limping,

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

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

Zverev smashed 15 aces

I'LL BE GRAND SLAM CHAMP, SAYS ZVEREV

New York, Sept. 14: Alexander Zverev pledged to bounce back from his bitterly disappointing loss in the final of the US Open on Sunday to capture a Grand Slam one day.

The 23-year-old German went two sets and a break up in his first Grand Slam final before losing in five sets to Austria's Dominic Thiem.

"I was super close to being a Grand Slam champion. I was a few games away, maybe a few points away," a dejected Zverev told reporters.

"For me what upset me the most is not the third set, it's the fifth set."

"I had a lot of chances in the fifth set and didn't use them," he added.

The second seeded Thiem beat the fifth seed Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in 4hr 2min.

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

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

Zverev said it hurt to lose in the manner he did.

"Obviously being two sets to love and a break up in a Grand Slam final then losing is not easy," he told reporters.

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

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

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

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



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

England hit Oz hard, pull level

Manchester, Sept. 14:

Australia batted itself into a winning position before dramatically collapsing as England won the second one-day cricket international by 24 runs to stay alive in the series.

England's decision to bat first at Old Trafford had appeared to backfire with the world champions limited to 231-9 and Australia reaching 143-2 with 20 overs left on Sunday.

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

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

England captain Eoin Morgan said bringing Woakes and Archer back into the attack dramatically swung the game in the home team's favor.

Earlier, no England batsman reached 50, with Morgan (42) and Joe Root (39) leading the scoring. Both men were dismissed by Adam Zampa.

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

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

Brief scores: England 231/9 in 50 overs (Eoin Morgan 42; Adam Zampa 3/56) bt Australia 207 in 48.4 overs (Aaron Finch 73; Chris Woakes 3/32).

AUSTRALIA EYE CROWDS FOR BOXING-DAY MATCH

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

There is speculation that MCG may miss out on hosting the Boxing Day Test, an annual highlight on the calendar, since Victoria is reeling under pandemic.

"We just have to work out what a safe crowd would be. It is too hard to say now what that number is," Andrews said in a daily news briefing.

With Melbourne looking a dicey venue, Adelaide is seen as the front-runner for the Boxing Day Test against India. — PTI



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

Kohli, AB look to turn RCB around

New Delhi, Sept. 14:

South African veteran AB de Villiers said captain Virat Kohli is "leading from the front" as Royal Challengers Bangalore look to shed their wooden-spooners tag in the Indian Premier League.

De Villiers said India skipper Kohli was inspiring much hard work in the build-up to the IPL's start in the UAE on Saturday.

"I think everyone has bought into this hard-working environment and a lot of credit should go to Virat for that," De Villiers said in an interview posted on his team's YouTube channel on Monday.

"He leads by example, he sets the standards and it is pretty easy to follow when you have a captain leading from the front," he added.

Bangalore begin their campaign against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai next Monday. Kohli, who took over as captain of the Bangalore team in 2013, has said he has "never felt so calm" entering an IPL season. "It's a tricky one because we say that (we'll improve) every season. (But) I promise you, 'it's different', that's all I can tell you," said de Villiers. — AFP

PSG lose amid racism scuffle

Paris, Sept. 14: Neymar insisted he had been the victim of racism as he was one of five players sent off in a mass brawl at the end of Marseille's 1-0 win over French league champions Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday.

PSG's Brazilian star appeared to accuse Alvaro Gonzalez of calling him a "monkey" in a series of furious tweets after he was sent off in injury time for slapping the Marseille defender on the back of the head.

"Look at the racism. That's why I hit him," Neymar, who was returning from Coronavirus quarantine, said as he left the pitch. Gonzalez later denied making a racist comment.

"The only regret I have is not hitting this idiot in the face," Neymar, the world's most expensive player, tweeted.

Neymar was red-carded after a VAR review, while teammates Layvin Kurzawa and Leandro Paredes were also sent off. Marseille striker Dario Benedetto and defender Jordan Amavi were also expelled.

"It's easy for VAR to show my 'aggression'. 'Now I'd like them to show the image of the racist who called me a 'MONKEY SON OF A BITCH'. I'd really like that!" Neymar tweeted.

Florian Thauvin's close-range volley on 31 minutes earned Marseille a first victory over their bitter rivals since November 2011 but the ugly scenes overshadowed the game at Parc des Princes.

PSG's last goal came in the 3-0 win over RB Leipzig in the Champions League semifinal on August 18. — AFP



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

Everton ride on Calvert's goal, tear up Tottenham

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

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

Spurs are also hoping for an upturn in Jose Mourinho's first full season as boss, but the hosts

looked short on ideas as they slipped to a damaging home defeat for their aspirations of mounting a challenge to get back into the top four this season.

Everton settled the quicker with their new midfield trio helping to control possession, but it was on the counter-attack they wasted by far the best chance of the game.

Richardson intercepted Ben Davies's wayward pass and accelerated past Toby Alderweireld and Hugo Lloris before skewing high and wide with an open goal to aim at and Calvert-Lewin begging for a cut-back.

Everton surrendered meekly to a 1-0 defeat

when they visited the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in July without mustering a meaningful shot on goal.

BETIS EASE PAST ALAVES

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

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

In Loving Remembrance



Sri Tikkavarapu Chandrasekhar Reddy

July 13, 1932 - September 15, 1993

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

-Bhagavad Gita

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

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