



NATH ORGANISES
HANUMAN CHALISA
RECITAL



JAGDISHAN TO
SUCCEED PURI AS
HDFC CEO & MD

P4



WHERE IS JUAN
CARLOS?

P8



PAK BOY WONDER
IS ALL SET TO
RATTLE ENGLAND

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 28 degrees Celsius respectively.

Rainfall: Nil

Relative Humidity

Max: 84% Min: 60%

Temperature

Max: 36.3°C (+3) Min: 29.0°C (+2)
Sun rises 05:46 hrs Sun sets 19:09 hrs
Moon rises 20:34 hrs Moon sets 07:58 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Punjab Police trying to stop Aam Aadmi Party demonstrators marching towards the residence of MLA Sukhwinder Singh Danni during a protest after the death of 111 people who allegedly drank spurious alcohol, in Amritsar on Tuesday. AFP

Huge explosion rocks Beirut with widespread damage, injuries: A massive explosion rocked downtown Beirut on Tuesday, flattening much of the port, damaging buildings and blowing out windows and doors as a giant mushroom cloud rose above the capital. Lebanese Red Cross official Georges Kettaneh said there were dead and wounded, but did not have an exact figure, just saying there were hundreds of casualties.

Vivo likely to quit as 2020 IPL title sponsor: Chinese mobile phone company Vivo is likely to pull out as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor for this year and is in talks with the BCCI for an "amicable separation" amid rising Sino-India diplomatic tensions. The one year pullout could be treated as a moratorium period and if the relations improve, BCCI may look at inking a fresh three-year deal with the company from 2021-2023 on revised terms. PTI



In what will be the fruition of ruling BJP's one of the major promises, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday will lay the foundation stone for the construction of a 'majestic' Ramjanmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, amid chanting of mantras and an elaborate Bhoomi Puja' ritual.

Modi is likely to be in Ayodhya for about three hours. The rituals will begin sharp at 12:15 in the afternoon. It will be his first visit to the shrine of Ram-lalla (Child incarnation of Lord Ram) since assuming office as the Prime Minister of India in 2014.

About 175 dignitaries and 135 seers will be around the Bhoomi Puja venue at the time of per-

formance of the rituals by Modi. Prominent dignitaries who are expected to witness the religious function include RSS chief Mohan Bhagwati and his deputy Bhaiyyaji Joshi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel besides top VHP leaders and members of Shree Ramjanmabhoomi Tirath Khetra Trust, entrusted with the responsibility of construction of the Ram temple.

As per official itinerary, PM Modi will fly from here at 9:35 am in the morning by a special Indian Air Force aircraft and will reach Lucknow at 10:35 am. From Lucknow he will board an IAF chopper and reach Ayodhya at the Saket College Ground at 11:30 am. He will then visit Hanumangarhi temple and worship for 10 minutes before leaving for Ramjanmabhoomi at 12. At the site of Ram-lalla temple construction

India's decision to review Confucius Institutes status makes China fume

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

China today hoped India would treat Confucius Institutes and cooperation between the two countries in the field of higher education in a fair and objective manner and avoid 'politicising' such cooperation.

"We hope Indian relevant parties can treat Confucius Institutes and China-India higher education cooperation in an objective and fair manner, avoid politicising normal cooperation, and maintain healthy and stable development of China-India people-to-people and cultural exchanges," Ji Rong, spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said.

Her comments came in the wake of reports that India's Education Ministry could review the status of Confucius Institutes and "Confucius classrooms" established by China's Confucius Institute and seven Indian universities and colleges, besides several agreements on inter-school cooperation signed between Indian and Chinese higher education institutions over the years.

The two countries are currently locked in a tense military stand-off at eastern Ladakh with little possibility of an early end to the tensions.

Confucius Institutes are public educational partnerships between colleges and universities in China and other countries institutes.

Rong said, "With increasing

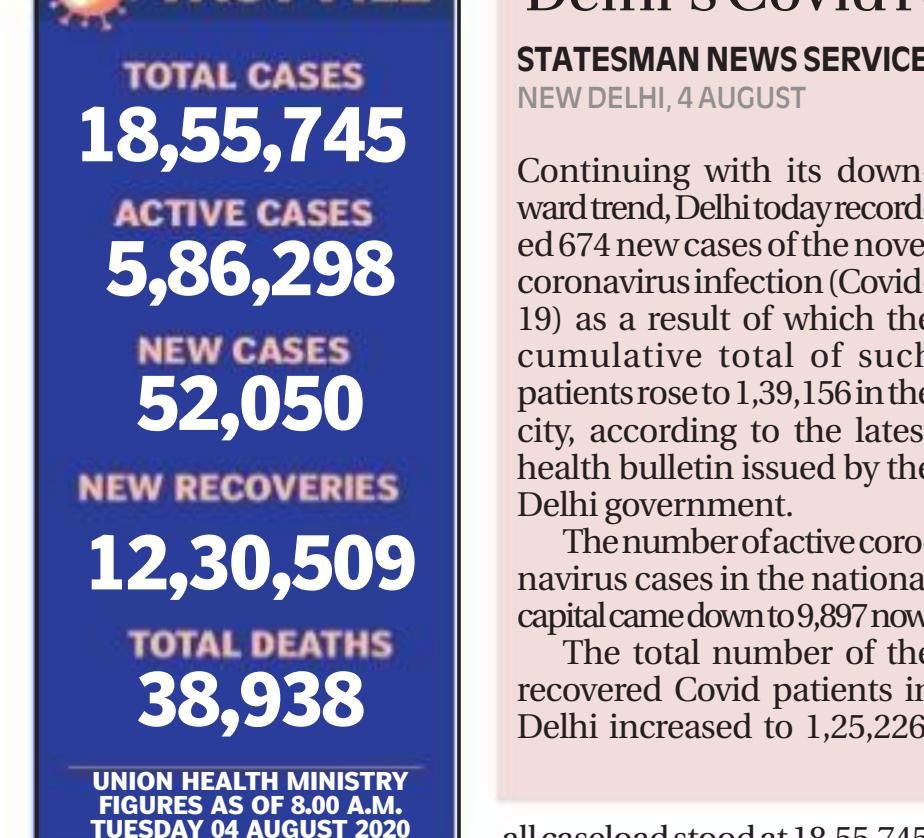
close economic, trade and cultural exchanges between China and India, the demand for Chinese language teaching in India is growing.

All Confucius Institutes were established by the Chinese and Indian universities after signing legally binding cooperation agreements in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, friendly consultation, equality and mutual benefit, and on the premise that the Indian side applied voluntarily and met the conditions for running the Institute."

She went on to say, "The school-running mode of Confucius Institutes has always been 'foreign side mainly managing, Chinese side assisting and both sides raising funds jointly.'

Twice as many recoveries as active cases in India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST



SNS&PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

With 52,050 new coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and 803 deaths in the last 24 hours, India's over-

all caseload stood at 18,55,745 while the total fatalities increased to 38,938, data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare revealed on Tuesday.

The country had crossed the 18-lakh mark on Monday. Cur-

rently, 5,86,298 cases are active and 12,30,509 people have recovered from the disease.

India has one of the lowest Case Fatality Rate (CFR) at 2.09 per cent as compared to the global average.

With a recovery rate of 66.3

per cent, a total of 44,306 people were discharged in the last 24 hours, the Ministry said. In the last 24 hours, 6,61,892 samples have been tested.

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with 4,41,228 cases and 15,576 deaths.

Pradhan tests Covid-19 positive
BHUABENSWAR, 4 AUGUST

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday tested positive to Covid-19.

"I got the test done after noticing Covid-19 symptoms and the report came positive. I have been admitted to a hospital on doctor's advice and am healthy now," Pradhan said in his Twitter handle.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik expressed concern over the hospitalisation of Pradhan.

"Spoke with him and wished for a quick recovery and good health" Patnaik tweeted.

Meanwhile, union minister for Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Pratap Sarangi wished Pradhan speedy recovery. Several other BJP leaders and politicians wished Pradhan speedy recovery.

SNS&PTI

Pradeep Singh tops UPSC 2019; serving officers bag top three ranks

SNS&PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

IRS officer Pradeep Singh (in photo) tops the list of 829 candidates who have qualified for the prestigious civil services, including the IAS, the IPS and the IFS, the Union Public Service Commission announced on Tuesday.

The top three rank holders - Singh, Latif Kishore and Pratibha Verma - are serving officers. Singh is a resident of Haryana, while Kishore hails from Delhi and Verma from Uttarakhand.

"It is like a dream come true. It is a pleasant surprise for me. I always wanted to be an IAS officer. I would like to work for

the deprived sections of society," Singh told on phone from his home in Sonipat.

Singh, aged 29, a 2019-batch Indian Revenue Service (customs and central excise) officer, is undergoing probation at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Faridabad.

He said his main emphasis would be on improving education and farm sectors as he has become part of the most sought-after Indian Administrative Service.

"I have opted for my home state Haryana as the preferred cadre state for the IAS. I am happy that I will now get the chance to work for my state,

said Singh, who had taken leave to prepare for the examination.

Second-rank holder Kishore is a 2018-batch officer of Indian Economic Service (IES) and currently posted as Assistant Director in the Ministry of Rural Development here.

It was my second attempt in the civil services examination. I am happy to have got second rank, he told.

Kishore, aged 26, said education and environment would be his focused areas. He is a native of Delhi.

Verma, an officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), said she wanted to become an IAS officer since her childhood.

"I was inspired by the way IAS officers act as the first responder at the time of any crisis. They are always on the frontline at the time of difficult situation. That is why I

decided to prepare again for the exam (after getting selected in the IRS)," she said.

Verma had got 489 rank in the civil services exam 2018.

I would like to work for women empowerment and children-related issues, especially in my home state Uttar Pradesh, she said.

Verma, who hails from Sultanpur in UP, said her parents played an important role in motivating her for the civil services.

A total of 829 candidates have been recommended for Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among other civil services, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said in a statement, announcing the results of the civil services examination 2019.

Of the total qualified candidates, 304 are from General category, 78 from Economically Weaker Section (EWS), 251 from Other Backward Classes (OBC), 129 from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 67 from Scheduled Tribes (ST) category, according to the UPSC.

Lakhs of people appear for the prestigious examination.

Candidates can obtain any information/clarification regarding their examinations/recruitment on the working days between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours in person or over telephone nos. 011-23385271 / 23381125 / 23098543, the Commission said.

The UPSC has a facilitation counter near examination hall on its campus here, it said.

Results will also be available on the UPSC's website i.e. <http://www.upsc.gov.in>.

Marks will be available on the website within 15 days from the date of declaration of results, it added.

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Delhi government will take stringent action against the defaulters. Delhi has till now evaluated 15,000 companies but in the future, evaluation of 7 lakh companies registered under GST will be done.

MANISH SISODIA
DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Active Covid-19 cases come down below 10K in Capital

Delhi records 674 new coronavirus cases, 12 fresh deaths; recovery rate climbs to 89.98 pc

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Continuing with its downward trend, Delhi today recorded 674 new cases of the novel coronavirus infection (Covid-19) as a result of which the cumulative total of such patients rose to 1,39,156 in the city, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The number of active coronavirus cases in the national capital came down to 9,897 now.

The total number of the recovered Covid patients in Delhi increased to 1,25,226, including 972 patients discharged by different hospitals now following their treatment.

The Covid recovery rate in the city rose to 89.98 per cent.

According to the health bulletin, the number of Covid tests conducted in the national capital today were 9,295.

The number of deaths due to Covid-19 in Delhi, which were taken into account today, was 12. It indicated a decline from 1 August when the figure of Covid fatalities was 26. The Covid death tally recorded yesterday was 17.

The death toll due to the coronavirus infection has now climbed to 4033 in Delhi.

The patients being treated under home isolation in the city numbered 5,461, the bulletin said.

As many as 10,624 hospital beds were vacant in the national capital against the total number of 13,578 Covid beds. The vacant beds in the dedicated Covid care centres numbered 6,294 and the number of such beds in the dedicated Covid health centres was 400.

According to the health bulletin, the number of containment zones or coronavirus hotspots stood at 499 now.



People wearing face masks as a preventive measure against coronavirus, in the Capital on Tuesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Commenting on Delhi's latest Covid figures, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, in a tweet, said, "Active cases left in Delhi less than 10,000 today. Delhi is now at the 14th position in terms of active cases. No. of deaths have come down to 12 today."

I am proud of you, Delhites. Your 'Delhi model' is being discussed everywhere. But we shud (sic) not get complacent and take all precautions."

Meanwhile, the Delhi chief secretary held a meeting of all the district magistrates.

DCPs and CDMOs to review the progress and the action taken on the violations under the Delhi Epidemic Diseases Act. The testing status and containment measures taken by the district author-

ties were also reviewed during this meeting.

An order was issued under the Delhi Epidemic Diseases Act strictly prohibiting with immediate effect the use of hookahs (with or without tobacco) at all public places, including hotels, restaurants, eateries, bars, pubs and discotheques in the city for prevention and control of the Covid-19 disease.

Delhi had yesterday recorded 805 new coronavirus cases. This less-than-1,000 Covid count was reported in Delhi on a day when the total number of Covid tests conducted was 10,133.

The number of active coronavirus cases in the city had then stood at 10,207.

Delhi had last Sunday recorded 15 deaths due to the

novel coronavirus infection, which was the then lowest Covid fatalities figure reported in the national capital in a single day since 1 July.

The city had reported 961 fresh coronavirus cases on Sunday. Kejriwal had then tweeted: "Deaths in Delhi come down to 15. Less than 1000 cases. Let's all keep working hard to ensure that the downward trend continues."

On 26 July, Delhi reportedly recorded 21 deaths due to Covid, which was the then lowest Covid fatality count in the city since 1 July. The corresponding figures on successive days were reported to be 27 July (26), 28 July (28), 29 July (25), 30 July (29), 31 July (27) and 1 August (26).

On 23 June, the city had

recorded the highest single-day spike of 3,947 coronavirus cases so far.

The Delhi government recorded 613 Covid cases on 27 July - the lowest Covid count in the last two months. It, however, rose to 1,056 the next day and dipped to 1,035 on 29 July only to rise to 1,093 and 1,195 on 30 and 31 July respectively.

The Kejriwal government has been asserting that a multi-pronged strategy of aggressive testing, home isolation and other factors has helped keep the Covid cases from surging in the way they did in June.

CM Kejriwal has, however, asked Delhiites not to be complacent and take adequate precautions against the Covid pandemic.

The Congress party has already welcomed the construction of the Ram Temple. It is a matter of faith for every Hindu and also personally for me



JITIN PRASADA
CONGRESS LEADER NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2020

03

Won't spare anyone responsible for Punjab hooch deaths: Capt

With hooch tragedy toll rising to 111, CM blames police's Covid battle for failure to tackle liquor mafia

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 4 AUGUST

With the death toll in the hooch tragedy in Punjab rising to 111, Chief Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh, on Tuesday said no one, whether a politician or a public servant, will be spared if found responsible for the hooch deaths.

The CM said nobody will be allowed to get away with killing people with the poison called spurious liquor. He asserted that he had put the entire force of the Punjab Police to crack down on the liquor mafia.

Some unscrupulous elements took advantage of the police focus on battling the Covid pandemic to sati-



ate their greed at the cost of the lives of Punjabis, said the CM.

While the state government was busy battling Covid, which has claimed 449

lives of our people, Capt Amarinder said.

"This is sheer murder and the killers will not get away with it," he said, referring to the deaths of 111 people (83 from Tarn Taran, 15 from Amritsar and 13 from Batala) due to the spurious liquor. Castigating the opposition for exploiting the tragedy for their petty political interests, the CM said this was not the time to play politics but to stand by the government in its efforts to eliminate the mafia that is indulging in such acts.

The CM said such tragedies have been taking place through the years across states, under different political dispensations. Mafias and criminals do not have any political affiliations and their only interest

is to earn money by hook or by crook, the CM said, noting that 2019 had seen three hooch tragedies, all in the BJP-ruled states of Assam, UP and Uttarakhand, claiming 168, 97 and 30 lives respectively. In 2016, 16 people had died in Janata Dal-ruled Bihar while in 2015, the BJP-led Maharashtra had lost 102 lives to hooch in Mumbai. Under the Trinamul Congress rule in West Bengal, as many as 167 people had similarly died due to consumption of spurious liquor.

Almost every year, India sees some or the other hooch tragedy, which has nothing to do with who is in power in the affected state, said Capt Amarinder, urging the Opposition parties to stop playing politics over the lives of innocent Punjabis.

Himachal on way to realise founder CM's dream: Thakur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today said that the state government is endeavouring to realise the dream of founder Chief Minister of HP, late Dr Y.S. Parmar by making the hill state a "role model".

Paying tributes to Dr Parmar on his 114th birth anniversary in a simple but impressive function here, Thakur said the first CM of HP pleaded for the merger of those hilly areas of Punjab with Himachal Pradesh which had similar culture and lifestyle.

"It was the vision of Dr Parmar that the state's agrarian economy, particularly the horticulture sector, made rapid strides," he said. He said that Dr Parmar was a multi-faceted personality who had left an indelible mark in the hearts of lakhs and lakhs of people of the state because of his simplicity and down-to-earth nature.

He said that it was due to tireless efforts of Dr Parmar that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of Indian Union and since then it had fast progressed ahead on the path of development and prosperity.

He said that Dr Parmar was respected by the people of all walks of life above political considerations. "Dr Parmar knew that roads were the life lines for development of this hilly state, so he stressed on



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur paying his tribute to ex-CM late Y.S. Parmar on his 114th birth anniversary, at Shimla on Tuesday.

construction of roads in the state. He was also in favour of motivating the farmers for cultivation of cash crops. It was on his motivation that people started growing apples which today has emerged as a Rs 5000 crore economy. It was also due to his vision that Himachal Pradesh kept protecting its forest wealth," he said.

Thakur said that each and every Chief Minister of the state had made immense contributions towards development and progress of the state. He said that the present state government is also striving hard to realize the dream of Dr Parmar that Himachal Pradesh got its separate identity as statehood.

He said that the state government had decided to celebrate the 50th year of statehood of Himachal Pradesh in a befitting manner, but it was not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to Dr. Parmar at Vidhan Sabha Complex where he was joined by Speaker and Deputy Speaker Vidhan Sabha, leader of opposition, cabinet ministers, MLAs, former MLAs.

Speaker HP Vidhan Sabha Vipin Singh Parmar said that the state had today emerged as a role model and was steadily forging ahead on the path of progress and prosperity due to the sound foundation laid by Dr. Parmar.

He said that Dr. Parmar made the Centre realize that the developmental needs of hilly states were different from other states of the country.

Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri said that the journey of Himachal Pradesh was in fact the journey of hard work of Dr Y.S. Parmar. He said that Dr. Parmar left all the luxuries of life and chose the path of struggle for maintaining a separate identity of this hilly state. He said that 25 January, 1971 was indeed the red letter day in the annals of Himachal Pradesh as it was due to hard work of Dr. Parmar that Himachal Pradesh got its separate identity as statehood.

He said after laying foundation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district along with Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhray Nishank, Union Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre and Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur.

AAP resistance to monitoring of testing in Delhi disapproved by HC

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday disapproved of the AAP government "resistance" to monitoring of its COVID-19 testing strategy, saying the administration appears to have developed "cold feet" as it was questioning maintainability of a plea for augmenting testing numbers in the national capital on "technical" grounds.

Delhi government con-

tended before a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad that once the main petition was disposed of, it could not have been revived by an entirely separate application which was a substantive petition in itself and was moved by a person who was not party to the initial plea.

It also argued that another bench, headed by Chief Justice D N Patel, in a separate matter, had expressed satisfaction with Delhi government's efforts with regard to

ramping up testing in the national capital and therefore, the instant matter may not be entertained any further.

Delhi government additional standing counsel Satyakam further told the court that the instant petition initially pertained only to expediting testing and declaration of results and was disposed of on May 4, but was later revived by an application which sought several reliefs including augmenting of testing in the national capital.

Himachal Pradesh emerging as 'education hub': CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 AUGUST

Institute would be completed by spending an amount of Rs 392.51 crore.

The Chief Minister said the IIM was provided to Himachal in 2014 and since then, the institute was slowly and steadily forging ahead to emerge as a premier institute of the region.

"This institute situated in a picturesque landscape and peaceful environment provides perfect ambience for the management students," he added.

He appreciated the efforts of IIM management for designing the whole complex in traditional Himachali architecture and said on completion, this Institute would not only emerge as premier educational institute but also an added attraction for the

tourists. Thakur added the campus placement of this institute has been outstanding and expressed hope that in the coming times this institute would emerge as a quality institute of management studies in the region.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhray Nishank said this Institute would prove a milestone in providing an opportunity to the hard-working youth of the State to improve their skills.

"The Centre Government would provide all possible help to ensure that the institute emerges as the best institute of the region.

New courses started by the institute would open new horizons to the students," he said, adding better management was the key to success

Jakhar to write to Sonia to seek action against Bajwa, Dullo

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 4 AUGUST

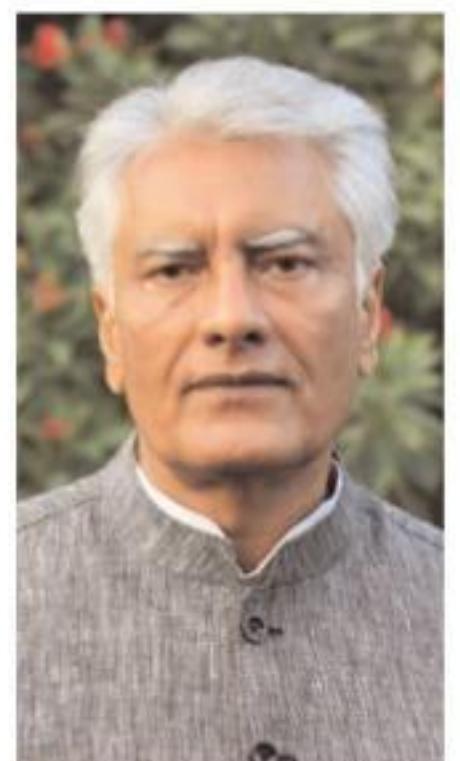
With two senior Punjab Congress leaders, Partap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullo, seeking a Central agency probe into the production of illegal liquor in the state following the hooch tragedy, Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday said he will be writing to party chief Sonia Gandhi to seek action against the "brazen indiscipline" of the two Rajya Sabha members (Bajwa and Dullo) who had chosen to attack their own government.

It was time to stem the rot and save the Congress from the petty machinations of the likes of Bajwa and Dullo, who had no shame in biting the hand that feeds them, said Jakhar adding he would seek strict action against the two leaders who were disgracefully exploiting a tragedy to further their own political ambitions and interests.

Asserting that the actions of Bajwa and Dullo could not be tolerated any longer, the Punjab Congress chief said men like these, who did not have even the courage to face elections, were no asset to the party.

Such back-stabbing members should be shown the door before they can cause any serious damage, said Jakhar. He described the action of the two Members of Parliament (MPs), who had yesterday approached the Governor to demand CBI and ED probe into the liquor deaths, as a manifestation of their desperate desire to grab the high seat of power by hook or by crook.

Pointing out that Bajwa



and Dullo had been engaging in such anti-party activities, Jakhar said their attacks had increased after the Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced his decision to contest the 2022 elections.

"Having probably seen the 2022 polls as their last chance to make it big in the corridors of power, the duo saw their hopes shattered and, out of sheer frustration, were knocking at all possible doors to sneak their way to the top echelons of power, he added, citing rumours of the two MPs being in touch with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," he said.

Jakhar described the attack of the two MPs on their own government as a "copy-paste job" of what happened in Rajasthan in January, in the wake of 107 infant deaths over which Sachin Pilot had flayed his own government.

Had action been taken against Pilot then itself, what is happening today in Rajasthan could have been avoided, he said.

HP girl aces civil services exam in first attempt



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 AUGUST

Muskan Jindal, a 22-year-old girl from Baddi in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh, has cleared in her first attempt Civil Services examination whose results were declared on Tuesday by Union Public Service Commission.

Muskan Jindal has secured 87th rank in Civil Services exam conducted by Union Public Service Commission.

Muskan Jindal had completed B.Com from SD College Chandigarh while she had completed her 10th Class and 12th class studies from Baddi. Her father Pawan Jindal runs a hardware shop in Baddi area while her mother is a housewife. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur congratulated Muskan Jindal for qualifying the Civil Services examination and conveyed good wishes for her future endeavours.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
के कर कमलों से
5 अगस्त, 2020 को
अयोध्या में
श्री राम के भव्य मन्दिर के
भूमि पूजन की
हिमाचलवासियों को
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

कोरोना महामारी से बचाव के लिए दो गज की दूरी - बेहद है ज़रूरी

जारीकर्ता : मुख्यमंत्री एवं जन सम्पर्क, हिमाचल प्रदेश
वेबसाइट : www.himachalpr.gov.in ई-मेल : dprhp@himachalpr.gov.in



जय राम ठाकुर
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

India's Covid testing rate lower than other nations: WHO

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 4 AUGUST

India has one of the lowest testing rates for Covid-19 compared to other countries, including the US, warned the chief scientist of World Health Organisation, Dr Soumya Swaminathan.

Dr Swaminathan who virtually participated in a panel discussion on "The Vaccine Race: Balancing Science and Urgency" moderated by Telangana minister KT Rama Rao, pointed out that testing was "extremely important" and without testing it would be like fighting a fire blindfolded.

"India, as a whole, the testing rate is much lower than the countries which have done well like Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan even United States. We need to have a bench mark in every public health departments like what is the rate of testing per million and the positivity rate."

The moment positivity rate is above 5 per cent you

know you are not testing adequately," said Dr Swami-nathan.

She also had a word of caution on the vaccine. "To get public trust when you are going to vaccinate huge number of healthy individuals you need to set the safety bar of the vaccine quite high," said Dr Swami-nathan and went on to add that disease enhancement, rare side effects can happen when 10,000 people get vaccinated.

Hence even after clinical trials, she said, "We need to keep an eye on the safety profile of the vaccine."

The WHO is also working on to ensure equitable access of the vaccine.

Though the possibility of a vaccine has come as a ray of hope Dr Swami-nathan pointed out how most countries which have successfully controlled the virus in the first phase were able to achieve it because of governance, strategic planning based on scientific knowledge between the peo-

ple and the government. She described testing as the first step to be followed by isolating, contact tracing, quarantining and taking care of those who test positive.

Telangana cancels license of pvt hospital: Telangana government has cancelled the license of a private hospital for treating Covid-19 patients for overcharging patients and even warned that if it continues such practices the hospital may lose its license altogether.

This came after the director of health and family welfare found the Deccan Hospital guilty of inappropriate and surplus billing while treating Covid patients.

The hospital has been prohibited from admitting any more covid patients and ensure no inconvenience to patients currently undergoing treatment and they should be charged according to the government order fixing the charges.



Ram temple will deeply connect the Indian society to its cultural roots to prosper economically and expand culturally.

RSS JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY MANMOHAN VAIDYA

AHEAD OF AYODHYA RAM TEMPLE FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY

India

Disquiet in DMK, MLA may join BJP

Sidelined for party post, Ku Ka Selvam plans to quit DMK

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, 4 AUGUST

Amid pandemic political situation intensifies in Tamil Nadu as DMK is going to lose a senior leader like sitting MLA Ku Ka Selvam to BJP. Nainar Nagendran, the BJP senior leader is on the way to desert the national party to rejoin his former forte AIADMK.

Sources in the political circles says that giving DMK a jolt, the party's sitting MLA Ku Ka Selvam is planning to quit the party as he has been denied the post of Chennai West district secretary.

Though the MLA was supposed to join the BJP on Tuesday evening in the presence of its party president JP Nadda, Ku Ka Selvam denied that he had jumped ship.

Denying the speculation of joining BJP, the Thousand Lights MLA told reporters that he went to meet Union Railway minister Piyush Goyal to seek the permission of two lifts at the Nungambakkam



Railway Station.

Once a loyalist of DMK president MK Stalin, Selvam's move to desert the party is making shock waves in the Dravidian party as it is gearing up to face Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu within six months.

According to sources, Ku Ka Selvam had been vying for the Chennai West District Secretary post, which was held

until recently by J Anbazhagan, who succumbed to Covid-19. Stalin's decision, however, to appoint N Chirarasu, who is close to his son and DMK Youth Wing leader Udhayandhi, as the district in-charge for the Chennai West is believed to be the reason for Selvam's departure.

The DMK leadership had gone into a huddle at Arivalyam on Tuesday after reports that Ku Ka Selvam was set to join the BJP.

According to sources, attempts were made by the DMK leadership at pacifying the MLA. Ku Ka Selvam had begun his political career in the AIADMK but later quit the party to join the rival DMK.

With Stalin's backing he went on successfully contest the prestigious Thousand Lights

constituency in 2016, defeating the then MLA and minister B Valarmathi.

In May, the former DMK leader VP Duraisamy joined the BJP. His departure came after the former Assembly deputy Speaker and former MLA was removed as DMK deputy general secretary.

Meanwhile, senior leader Nainar Nagendran on Monday expressed his disillusionment with the BJP over the lack of importance being given to him. Nagendran, a former minister and prominent leader who quit the ruling AIADMK after Jayalalithaa's death, joined the BJP. He was given one of the vice-president posts in the state, which was unsatisfactory for him.

Recently S K Vedaraman and Arcot R Srinivasan left BJP and rejoined the DMK and the AIADMK respectively due to the same reason of sidelining in the party. Nagendran has not decided the future course of action even though AIADMK leaders asking him to come back to the party fold.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-46-T-2020-21-E3 Removing and commissioning of submersible pumps over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 31.58 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earliest Money	Rs 63200.00
Date & time of submission of tender	31.08.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	31.08.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
	1697/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1st Corrigendum

No.: 50-G/C/K.GATE/DLI Dated: 03.08.2020

1st corrigendum to the tender notice No. 50-G/C/K. gate/DLI dated 30.07.2020.

i) The date of opening of the tender is hereby postponed from 20.08.2020 to 25.08.2020.

ii) The amount of Earnest money may be read as Rs. 1,09,000.00 instead of Rs. 1,09,030.00.

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. 1699/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of India invites Open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work and location	Hiring of 02 (Two) Nos. Non-AC Vehicle such as "Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle" on monthly basis for a period of 03 (Three) years for the officers working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi (Second Call)
Completion period of the work	36 (Thirty Six) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.
Approximate cost of work	₹32.94 Lakh (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh & Ninety Four Thousand only)

Earliest Money amount (to be deposited online)	₹65,900/- (Rupees Sixty Five Thousand Nine Hundred only)
Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs. on 28.08.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs. on 28.08.2020.

The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in. Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.08.2020 to 28.08.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 220-Acs/1/1162/HV/SERd Dated: 04.08.2020 1700/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER M-IV

SHAHADA SOUTH, SCHOOL BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092

No. EDMC/EE-(M)-IV/SH-(S)/TC/2020-21/04 Dated: 04.08.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For online tendering at percentage rate tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the EDMC from approved and eligible contractor and will be received as per time table.

1. Last Date of Download Tender: 14.08.2020 at 12.00 Hours 2. Last Date of Bid Preparation: 14.08.2020 at 14.00 hours 3. Last Date for Close of Bid: 14.08.2020 at 14.01 to 16.00 Hours 4. Date of Re-encryption of online: 14.08.2020 at 16.01 Hours to 17.08.2020 at 14.00 Hours 5. Opening of Financial Bid: 17.08.2020 at 14.01 Hours.

S.N.o.: 1. Name of Work: Improvement development of M.C. Primary School Pandav, S-Block by reconstruction of toilet block in Ward no. 16-E. Head of Account: XL-VII-Edu. Tender Amount: ₹49,39,310/-, Earnest Money: ₹98,800/- Time of Completion: 04 Months, Rates Hold good for: 05 Months, Cost of Tender: ₹500/-, Tender No.: 319054.

The demand draft for tenders cost & earnest money will be deposited in the office of E.E.-M-IV-Shahada (South) Zone, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.

Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website or from the office of the undersigned. <http://engineering.mcdtenders.com>, (WAP & SMS enabled tenders portal)

Executive Engineer-M-IV Shahada (South) Zone

RO No. 34/DP/EDMC/2020-21 EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

HIMACHAL PRADESH

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 on behalf of Governor of H.P re-invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, for the under mentioned work (s)from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD (Electrical) department in appropriate class.

Sr. No. Name of work Estimated cost Earliest money Time Cost of form

1. Construction of Phase-I of Govt.polytechnic building at Kalpa in Distt.Kinnaur(HP)Prov.power wiring therein 22,55,647/- 41,500/- 1 year 500/-NR

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpenn.tenders.gov.in>.

Bidders would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htpenn.tenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in single Cover. Cover 1: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 as specified in Key details under Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid opening details: The bids shall be opened on 31.08.2020 at 11:30 Hrs in the office Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders.

7. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

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

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

10. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

11. Registration with HP Sales Tax is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the sales tax paper to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, 4 AUGUST

Fed up with false promises of political leaders, to provide their village road connectivity, the villagers of Rokhar in Nainital district in Uttarakhand have started road construction work on their own.

Rebel MLAs should give up hospitality of BJP and security of Haryana police if they want dialogue with Cong



AICC SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA
ON WHETHER DOORS FOR DISSIDENTS ARE OPEN

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A couple rides at a check point during a curfew in Srinagar on Tuesday. AFP

Covid-19 cases start declining in Gujarat: For the first time in the past four months, Gujarat has recorded a decline in the number of daily new cases of Covid-19 for three days in a row. With the addition of 1,009 new cases till Monday evening, the Corona tally in the state pushed towards the 65,000-mark of which more than 47,500 have already recovered. SNS

Aircel-Maxis: A Delhi court on Tuesday granted three months to CBI, ED to obtain report on Letters Rogatory form United Kingdom and Singapore in relation to their ongoing probe in Aircel-Maxis matter against former Union minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti. PTI

J&K Covid death toll 396: Amid 396 Covid-19-related deaths so far in Jammu and Kashmir, Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the management of the pandemic in the Union Territory. SNS

Army to call special selection board to screen women officers

NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Consequent to the receipt of government's formal sanction for grant of permanent commission (PC) to women officers, the Army is in the process of convening a special number 5 selection board for screening women officers.

Towards this end, detailed administrative instructions have been issued to all affected women officers listing guidelines for submission of applications for consideration by the board, the Army said in a Press release.

Women officers who have joined the Indian Army through the Women Special Entry Scheme and the Short Service Commission Women are being considered and they have been instructed to submit application forms, option certificate and other related documents to Army Headquarter not later than 31 August, the release added.

Specimen formats and detailed checklists have been included in the administrative instructions to facilitate correct documentation.

Due to the prevailing restrictions in the wake of Covid-19, multiple means of dissemination of instructions have been adopted to ensure these documents reach all affected women officers on priority. The selection board will be scheduled immediately after receipt and verification of applications.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence today signed a tripartite MoU to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of public grievances pertaining to the MoD. SNS

Curfew clamped in Kashmir ahead of 1st anniv of Art 370 abrogation

Opp parties call it a 'black day' in the history of J&K as BJP chalks out fortnight-long celebrations, hoist Tricolour

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 4 AUGUST

Two-day curfew has been clamped in Kashmir where security forces have also been deployed in strength ahead of the first anniversary on 5 August of abrogation of the Article 370 that granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. While the Opposition parties have called it a 'black day' in the history of J&K, the BJP has chalked out fortnight-long celebrations to mark the revocation of the Constitutional provision and splitting of the state into two Union Territories (UTs).

Movement of people has been banned since Monday night in Srinagar after an order was issued by the district magistrate. Curfew will remain in force till Wednesday. Security forces have been deployed throughout the Valley and the main markets, including the Lal Chowk which is the commercial hub of Srinagar, have been sealed with barbed wire and other hurdles (In photo).

Top separatist Syed Alishah Geelani, for whom Pakistan recently announced the highest civilian award - Nishan e Pakistan - has given the call to observe 5 August as black day throughout Kashmir.

The decision to impose curfew was reportedly taken after a high-level meeting presided by the General Officer Commanding 15 Corps of the Army, Lt. General BS Raju and J&K DGP Dilbag Singh.

Officers of security forces,



police, intelligence agencies and civil administration participated in the meeting.

Citing a police communication and inputs suggesting that the separatists and Pakistan-sponsored groups are planning to observe 5 August as black day, therein apprehensions of violence or protests are not ruled out. There are specific inputs about violent protests endangering public life and property. Srinagar's district magistrate last night ordered the restrictions shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force on 4 and 5 August."

Reacting to the decision of the administration, former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted: "The preparations start a full 24 hours earlier this year compared to 2019 with

Srinagar, and I presume the same is being done across the Valley, being placed under strict curfew from tonight for the next two days".

Twitter account of another former chief minister and PDP leader, Mehbooba Mufti, whose detention under the Public Safety Act has been enhanced by 3 months, said: "Protest has been contained simply because the state has become a large jail. Locking up everyone can be a strategy to fight crime, but with everyone in, on whose behalf are you fighting crime, anyway?"

Talking to The Statesman on the issue over the phone from Srinagar, veteran National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah questioned the way of the Modi government celebrating abrogation of the

special status of J&K by imposing curfew. Civil liberties have been curtailed by putting Opposition leaders under detention, he alleged.

The BJP held a meeting here on Tuesday to review preparations for the celebrations. Presiding over the meeting state BJP chief Ravinder Raina asked party activists to adhere to Covid-19 restrictions ordered by the authorities.

He appealed to the masses to express their joyous feelings by celebrating the event by illuminating their homes by lighting local made lights.

He stressed that the National Flag will also be hoisted prominently at Kathua, Samba and other places of historical relevance, especially the places that were the centre of the Praja Parishad Movement.

Promises made by Centre proved to be a mirage: CPM

SNS & PTI

SRINAGAR, 4 AUGUST

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Youssuf Tarigami lashed out at the BJP and said their style of celebrating things was unique and this time they have clamped curfew to rejoice abrogation of Article 370. Why was the administration resorting to curfew, crackdowns and attempts to muzzle the voice of dissent if there was peace and everything was normal in J&K as claimed by the BJP, he asked.

Tarigami on Tuesday said all promises made by the Centre at the time of abrogating Article 370 last year proved to be a mirage.

"It has been a year since BJP government scrapped J&K's special status under Article 370, 35A demoted the erstwhile state into two Union Territories. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah justified the decision on the floor of the House, that it would end decades-long militancy, separatism and corruption in the region and bring development, jobs and prosperity," he said.

The Chief Secretary was made aware of the ongoing research on natural farming methods. He said the government will certify at least 15,000 farmers by the end of this financial year.

The Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Onkar Sharma said that Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojna has picked up in the state and farmers in the state are shifting to this technique of farming.

He said that it is necessary to certify the farmers engaged in natural farming so that they could get a better market and price.

He also emphasized on the need of creating a brand to ease the recognition and marketing of natural produce.

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Necessary initiative

The decision by Kerala to invest in training and 'export' of health workers and to raise a reported \$6.7 billion for this and other projects to rebuild its economy may well be the first concerted action by an Indian state to remedy the expected fall in foreign remittances following the return of many expatriate workers. The state announced that it plans to raise this sum through its infrastructure investment board. Kerala, a state that has been described as one with development indicators comparable to the first world, is a large beneficiary of inward remittances. It received about one-fifth of the \$80 billion sent home by Indian expatriates last year. While nurses from Kerala are already employed in many countries around the world, its expatriate community also includes workers in the Middle East, many of whom have returned in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. It is therefore both prescient and sensible for Kerala to prepare for the future and to show the way to other Indian states that are likely to be hit similarly. While the virus has severely hit construction and infrastructure building activities around the world, it has in parallel increased the demand for health-care professionals and underlined the need for even advanced economies to increase health coverage. As the state's finance minister, Thomas Isaac, said in a recent interview, "Countries have realised that lack of investment in public health system can, in a pandemic time, be totally debilitating to the national economy. There will be demand for Kerala nurses and paramedics all over the globe."

While the initiative is unique and welcome, Kerala is by no means the largest exporter of expatriate workers in India. According to data with the government, Uttar Pradesh may be sending nearly twice as many workers abroad as Kerala. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu send nearly as many as Kerala while other significant manpower movements take place from Rajasthan, West Bengal and Punjab. And yet, not surprisingly, it is Kerala that has taken the lead to plug a gap in inward remittances that is likely to hit all these states. The others may have been lulled into complacency because remittances may not show an immediate drop because, as Mr Isaac explained, returning workers uncertain about their future are coming home with all their savings. Kerala has announced several initiatives to rebuild its economy, and these include improving technological infrastructure and offering loans as well as interest concessions to companies that wish to relocate to the state. With strong development indicators, near total literacy and the country's highest sex ratio, Kerala already has a head start. It is time other states took a leaf out of Kerala's book and examined options to recast their economies. The Union Government too must appreciate the need for a concerted action plan to tackle this fallout of the epidemic. After all remittances from Indian expatriates are significantly higher than the fickle FDI inflows which governments hanker after.

Economic woes

There are two ways to assess the government's decision to decriminalise dishonour of cheques. One is that businesses in a sagging economy need all the help they can get, and that through this decision such help has been extended to ensure that failure to honour cheques will not lead to criminal prosecution. The other, of course, is that such a step may encourage unscrupulous businesses to back out of their commitments. According to the Confederation of All India Traders, 20 per cent of pending cases relate to dishonour of cheques under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and this reveals the size of the problem. Of course, it is also a fact that some of these cases are frivolous in nature, where unscrupulous creditors persist with prosecution even after reaching settlements. The short point is that the absence of punitive action under Section 138 is a double-edged proposition and the Union Finance minister would do well to subject the matter to scrutiny. Overall, though, it is another of the measures announced by the government that has not quite pushed the economy out of its despair.

The other initiative that has evoked a sluggish response is the Government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which was tweaked just a couple of days ago by a doubling of the upper ceiling and by including individual loans given to professionals. The reasons for this sluggishness are not far to find. First, notwithstanding the extension of the Government's guarantee, bankers are so reluctant to bestir themselves that the Finance Minister was forced last week to ask MSMEs to report recalcitrance to her, a fond wish that may never be fulfilled. The second is that the scheme covers only existing bank borrowers and does not extend to those who had not availed bank loans when the coronavirus epidemic struck but now find it difficult to operate their businesses without infusion of funds. Notwithstanding the availability of sufficient collateral, bankers have dragged their feet over such loan requests. Indeed, it has become routine for several public sector banks, which ought to have taken the lead in bringing the Finance Minister's plans to fruition, to say they are so busy with their mergers that they do not have time to process loan applications. To this sorry situation may be added the delays caused by frequent bank closures due to lockdown measures announced by states. Overall, India seems to lack the will or the desire to pull itself out of the economic mess it finds itself in. Unless the Finance Minister makes it possible to unshackle herself from the bureaucracy and take drastic steps to ensure that businesses access the liquidity they need, many will be doomed. While the epidemic is not of her making, dealing with its consequences may well define her stewardship.

Places of Worship

Is the current time one of iconoclasm? Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey inaugurated the occasion of converting the Hagia Sofia Museum of Istanbul into a mosque on Friday, 24 July. The building began life several centuries ago as a Greek pagan cathedral



Is the current time one of iconoclasm? Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey inaugurated the occasion of converting the Hagia Sofia Museum of Istanbul into a mosque on Friday, 24 July. The building began life several centuries ago as a Greek pagan cathedral. It then became the grand temple of the Byzantine Greeks until they lost Constantinople to the invading Turks in 1453 AD. Sultan Mehmet converted it into a mosque. In 1931, the maker of modern Turkey, Kamal Mustafa Ataturk secularised it into a museum. Now again it has become a mosque.

Pakistanis have got inspired to convert Gurdwara Shahidi Asthan built long years ago to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhai Taru Singhji at Naulakha Bazar in Lahore. India has protested and objected to such an act of desecration which would upset all Sikhs here and spread panic in the community in that country.

Bangladesh has not been quiet and on the fringes of Dhaka, some Hindu mandirs have been very recently destroyed. On 5 August, the foundation stone of the new grand temple for Rama Lalla at Ayodhya is going to be legitimately laid. The other three are illegitimate, iconoclastic actions.

From this distance, we Indians we have been under the impression that the Turks were keen to join the European Union (EU). Surely iconoclastic activity is not the way to win Christian hearts over. In any case, there are many Muslims in Europe and up to five per cent of Germans are Turks. On the other hand, making a mosque through conversion does not especially impress Muslims if Erdogan was indeed chasing their support. Moreover, Turkey is a member of NATO and Donald Trump is no special admirer of Islam.

The Pakistanis as well as

Bangladeshis very well know that in India there are proven (documentary evidence or epigraphs) cases of over 3,000 temple desecrations and conversions into mosques. Systematic conversions from temples to mosques began on the morrow of the defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan at the Second Battle of Tarain in 1194 AD., by Shahabuddin Ghori. When passing through Ajmer, he was impressed by a complex of three adjoining mandirs. He asked his slave assistant Qutbuddin Aibak to join them and convert them into a mosque but within three days. Aibak achieved the task within 60 hours and therefore it has been called Adhai Din Ka Jhopda where Ghori prayed on its return journey.

Incidentally, it is a furlong plus away from the dargah of Moinuddin Chishti. Chishti's dargah is also built on the remains of a demolished temple. In 1930s the Punjab High Court rejected the appeal of Lahore Muslims that the Sikhs should vacate the Shahidganj Gurdwara so the former could perform namaz as they did until the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Muslim League incited the Muslim legislators to go in further appeal to the Privy Council. The Premier, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan openly advised against such a pursuit on the ground that the Hindus could retaliate on a number of mandirs converted into mosques over the centuries. Sir Sikandar quoted Ajmer Sharif as an example and eventually no further appeal was made. In July 2020, the Pakistanis took the law into their lands and converted the same gurdwara into a masjid; it was called Asthan Shahidi.

It is the Muslims who had

invaded India, they had demolished Hindu temples by the thousand. In 1992, the illegitimate replacement for the Ram Lalla mandir was brought down. Indian Muslims should have had the grace to offer the Babri structure on a platter to the Hindus. Not to talk of what Rama meant to the Hindus, even poet Allama Iqbal called him Imam-e-Hind. The Shias were so much more considerate than the Sunnis by their leader Ali Muhammad Jafar Rizvi withdrawing all claims to the Babri structure.

If there is a bone of contention between Hindus and Muslims, the bone belongs to the former. The latter have been the conquerors since 1206 and until

1858 in north India especially.

Obviously, there is no clash of interests between the communities but as Prof Samuel P. Huntington had lucidly predicted there would be a fault line clash of civilizations. To quote him: 'fault line conflicts are communal conflicts between states or groups from different civilizations.' Fault line wars are conflicts that have become violent. Such wars may occur between states, between non-governmental groups, and between states and non-governmental groups.

Fault line conflicts within states may involve groups which are predominantly located in geographically distinct areas, in which case the group which does not control the government normally fights for independence and may or may not be willing to settle for something less than that. Within-state fault line conflicts may also involve groups which are geographically intermixed, in which case continually

tense relations erupt into violence from time to time, as with Hindus and Muslims in India and Hindus and Chinese in Malaysia, or full-scale fighting may occur, particularly when new states and their boundaries are being determined, and produce brutal efforts to separate people by force.

Fault line conflicts sometimes are struggles for control over people. More frequently the issue is control of territory. The goal of at least one of the participants is to conquer territory and free it of other people by expelling them, killing them, or doing both, that is, by 'ethnic cleansing.' These conflicts tend to be violent and ugly, with both sides engaging in massacres, terrorism, rape, and torture. The territory at stake often is for one or both sides a highly charged symbol of their history and identity, sacred land to which they have an inviolable right.'

Incidentally, Sir Arnold Toynbee had visited Delhi and Bombay in 1961 to deliver the Azad Memorial Lectures. This was at the personal invitation of Jawaharlal Nehru. During the course of his lectures, Sir Arnold expressed surprise at having seen the masjid with tall minarets we have mentioned above, on the banks of the river Ganga, still standing.

This is despite India's independence, at the holiest of holy places of the Hindus. He went on to say that on his recent visit to Warsaw in Poland, he saw the cathedral in that city as a Roman Catholic edifice. When the Russians had conquered Warsaw a century or more ago, they had converted the earlier Catholic cathedral into a Russian orthodox church. The Poles could not tolerate this but were helpless. When they regained independence towards the end of World War I, they demolished the Russian church and rebuilt their own.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES
Roads are as dangerous as ever

Two years after the nationwide road safety movement that had made us hopeful about a better-managed transport sector and improved road safety, it is worrying that nothing much has really changed in this sector. In July-August 2018, thousands of students across the country took to the street after two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed due to a mad race between two buses on July 29. They sought justice for the killing and demanded safe roads for all. They pointed out the mismanagement in the transport sector and the loopholes in laws that need to be corrected. Subsequently, the government passed the Road Transport Act 2018, the Prime Minister's Office issued a 17-point directive, and a task force was formed to curb road crashes. All these steps, however, did little to bring discipline in the transport sector.

Although the Road Transport Act was made effective in November last year, it could not be implemented efficiently due to the opposition by transport associations, which called strikes several times to put pressure on the government to cancel some sections of the act that penalise the drivers for road accidents. The government had to relax some of the rules amid pressure from them. It is also unfortunate that the task force led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, formed in October last year, held only one meeting until now. Meanwhile, roads have remained as dangerous as ever before. Unfit vehicles still rule our roads and the number of unlicensed and underage drivers is still very high. More buses have been given route permits

The Daily Star
and the number of motorcycles is also increasing in an unregulated way. The number of road crashes and fatalities increased last year compared to the previous year. And the rising trend of road crashes remained almost the same until late March, when the government suspended operations of public transport to contain the spread of Covid-19. In order to bring discipline in the transport sector, the government should make all-out efforts to implement the Road Transport Act.

It should not bow down to the pressure created by the transport owners and workers to turn the law to their advantage. Any decision to reform the law must be taken through discussion with all parties concerned. In addition, the task force formulated last year should start its work without further delay. Besides, the prime minister's 17-point directive which included ordering buses to pick up and drop off passengers only at designated spots and to keep the doors of running buses shut at all times, keeping photos of drivers and helpers along with their names, drivers' licences and phone numbers at two noticeable places inside the vehicles, etc. ~ must be implemented. Moreover, steps need to be taken for bus routes rationalisation and introduction of a bus franchise system in Dhaka city to streamline the public transport system.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

More jets needed

SIR, Apropos the report, 'Rafale jets arrive, to boost India's airpower', (*The Statesman*, July 30), it is a proud moment for India that it has been able to procure one of the most advanced fighter jets from France. The formal induction of five combat jets is a major boost to IAF's airpower and military prowess. The Rafale fighter is India's biggest military acquisition in years. It is a very significant development for India in the wake of a bitter military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh and heightened tensions on the borders with Pakistan.

The India-specific Rafale fighter jet is said to be much more capable than Pakistan's F-16 aircraft or China's fifth-generation stealth fighter, Chengdu J-20 that is yet to be proven in combat. The technical experts claim the supersonic Rafale can be used for ground and sea attacks and can undertake electronic warfare, air defence, ground support and in-depth strikes.

However, in the context of border confrontation with China, so long as Beijing refuses to restore status quo ante along the Line of Actual Control, the Rafale induc-

tion should make India retain a degree of military readiness as a bargaining chip, or as contingency for further violence.

But in the changed security environment, India needs to fast-track the procurement of subsequent batches.

Unfortunately, the political system is always more concerned about accusations of scandals regarding arm purchases than the needs of national security.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru, July 30.

CONGRESS' ROLE

SIR, I refer to 'Congress needs leadership, unity' by Kalyani Shankar (*The Statesman*, 2 August). As a democ-

racy India needs an effective and responsible opposition. Only the Congress party can play this role at the national level. With its long history of

leading the country towards freedom and nurturing India as a democracy, Congress still has the important responsibility of being an

effective opposition.

Even though it won many of the recent elections to the states either on its own or in coalition with

other parties, it has been outmaneuvered largely due to a severe leadership crisis. Defectors played a key role either for power or self. It is also time for the Congress to reset and give scope and ample opportunity to younger leaders.

For now, Rahul Gandhi cannot walk away and create a leadership vacuum. There are young and capable leaders within the Congress who can take over the 'Gandhi family mantle' over time.

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru, 2 August.

CATCH THE BIG FISH

SIR, This refers to your report on the Punjab hooch tragedy, including this morning's reporting that the toll has gone up to 104. The opposition Akali Dal's claim that the illicit liquor industry, being allegedly run with patronage of the ruling party, causes an annual loss of ₹5,600 crore to the state exchequer doesn't seem to be illogical and baseless. This allegation comes even as deaths due to illicit liquor consumption are being reported on a daily basis, taking the toll up to 104. The deaths, occurring in less than a week, have seen the issue snowballing into a political controversy with the opposition targeting Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh.

Capt Singh has been facing flak ever since a huge manufacturing unit for illicit liquor was discovered in his Patiala constituency in May and surprisingly, it was found that the factory was run by two close aides of senior Congress leaders.

In the earlier month, another factory was discovered in Khanna that was allegedly being run by a Congress worker.

Inspite of knowing all this, the spurious liquor racketeers were allowed to move freely in the state. Why could not the police and excise department raid these hideouts then when they are able to do so now? If the agencies are given a free hand, every illegal activity can be checked but unfortunately, their hands are tied by their political bosses. The suspension of seven excise and taxation officers and inspectors, along with two DSPs and four SHOs of Punjab Police, for alleged negligence is just an eye wash. The big fish must be caught.

This tragedy is undoubtedly the direct and natural consequence of the patronage given to Congress leaders, including ministers and MLAs, for freely carrying out rampant illicit liquor trade in the state. It is nothing less than a case of murder. All the guilty should be nabbed and booked as per provisions of law.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 3 August.



ADITYA GOWDARA
SHIVAMURTHY AND
CHETAN SINGAI

On July 20, Mr Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, affirmed at a virtual conference that India would not be joining any alliance in the future. This announcement came as a surprise when there were expectations of India gradually joining the US camp, as its standoff against China continued. Thus, speculation concerning Indian strategy to limit an assertive and aggressive China have resurfaced again. Although the Minister has not said so, it can be inferred that India will limit and counter-balance China through an informal alliance. This inference is for the following reasons: 1. Key takeaways from the event's discussion 2. Costs of a formal alliance and 3. A Probability of similar strategy being propagated by the US.

The first takeaway from the discussion is with the significance of Nonalignment (NAM). The Minister remarked that India had surpassed the era of NAM that was designed for a particular time and geopolitical landscape. This was crucial for a bipolar and a post-war world, where post-colonial states could prevail out of cold war politics and stay neutral to attract cooperation and development from both the worlds. But, in the current multipolar world the erstwhile colonies have undergone tremendous change, wherein most of their issues related to development and poverty have become a concern for domestic policies. Besides, these states have also become significant actors at the international and regional level, safeguarding and extending their national interests. To this end, given its context and aspirations in the region and the globe, a policy of neutrality is not an appropriate and effective strategy for India, as China continues to adapt salami-slicing tactics and questions India's status quo in the Indian Ocean and South Asia.

The second takeaway is concerned with the autonomy and independence of Indian foreign policy. Despite NAM triggering several debates of counterfactual history with the questions of "what if India had joined the US camp?" or "What if India was not part of the NAM?", it still enjoys consensus over its role in shaping independence and autonomy of Indian foreign policy. Moreover, this legacy as Mr Jaishankar emphasised will be continued by India. Since independence India has maintained autonomy in its foreign policy formulation, considering its national inter-



ests, civilisational and colonial history. Consequently, India has always opted to stay out of alliances.

By practising non-alignment, India can make its calculations and decisions based on national interests and capabilities, without any external pressure. Meaning, India will have various policy options at its disposal considering its diplomatic, domestic and military capabilities. It can either choose to internally balance against China by developing its military capabilities or externally balance by enhancing cooperation and coordination with other regional or global players. Or simply choose to negotiate, cooperate, or escalate and de-escalate with China based on its interests and capabilities.

The third takeaway is that India should be articulating its national interests better and be willing to take

risks. Mr Jaishankar emphasised that India is not as weak as it was in its early decades of independence. It has been a prominent player in recognising and solving contemporary international issues such as climate change and terrorism. So to enhance its global leverage, India has to exploit the international opportunities with risks, confidence and better articulation of national interests. Thus indicating that if and when a rising and assertive China becomes an international issue, and if this issue coincides with Indian interests (as the current trend demonstrates), India would not hesitate in actively limiting China.

However, considering its national interests and autonomy, India can neither stay neutral nor join an alliance. Thus based on its independent behaviour and ability to take

risks, India will be actively coordinating with others to tackle international issues such as China's rise and assertiveness, as seen with its increasing coordination with QUAD members.

In addition to these takeaways, the costs of a formal alliance will deter India from joining one. Firstly, joining an alliance when the US is withdrawing from its responsibilities and thinning its security umbrella triggers uncertainty and puts fellow allies in a risky situation against a materially superior China. Furthermore, this anxiety could exacerbate with emerging global protectionism. The international system is evolving into a multipolar world, where regional and middle powers such as Japan, Australia, France, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are playing a significant role in maintaining and shaping regional

order and security. Thus, an alliance that will solely be dependent on the US's leadership and dominance would be insufficient to limit China.

Similarly, India has also been a regional power maintaining its status quo in South Asia and the Indian Ocean by consistently persuading the influence of others. However, joining an alliance will erode Indian influence that has already been challenged with China's growth and assertiveness.

Similarly, repercussions from China for joining an alliance have always bothered India. Shared and contested borders along with physical proximity might have unanticipated mutual disasters for both the countries, while other allies are relatively physically distant. Consequently, India had in the past not allowed Australia to join the QUAD joint naval exercises. But with an informal alliance, India can avoid such major escalations by enhancing diplomatic pressure from fellow states and also keeping the door open to negotiations with China, depending on national interests and capabilities.

Finally, an inference of India favouring an informal alliance might seem unfounded as the US has been hinting to limit China in a similar manner. On July 23, Mike Pompeo, the American Secretary of State, gave a speech asking the world to confront China. He asserted all the democracies of the world should form a new alliance while stressing on the Indo-Pacific region. However, he also specified that since all states cannot challenge China similarly, they have to come to their understanding of limiting the former. This statement comes in the light of a surging multipolar world, where the US is withdrawing from its global responsibilities, and regional powers are playing a prominent role in maintaining regional stability and security. Thus, indicating that the democracies of the world should coordinate on limiting China based on their understandings and capabilities, as the US will not be able to dominate and dictate a formal alliance on its own.

The writers are, respectively, an alumnus of the London School of Economics who comments on foreign policy issues and an Associate Professor at the Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru.

100 YEARS AGO

Occasional Note

According to the announcement made by Sir Henry Hadow, the Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University, the revival of English music is likely to receive a very important and welcome stimulus through the publication by the Carnegie Trust of old English manuscripts, recently discovered, which have passed through the hands of expert musical editors. That mediaeval England held its own as a musical country against all continental competitors is common knowledge, and of late the revival of music in its modern form has been accompanied by the quickening of interest in old English composition. The well-known "Summ icumen in," of the thirteenth century, might be quoted by way of example. Sir Henry Hadow referred to the period between Henry the Seventh and James the First, during which, as he said, Englishmen were writing music rivaling the compositions of the great masters of Flanders and Italy and comparable with the great Elizabethan literature. All that music has been forgotten in the admiration which the England of later days acquired for the great Continental musicians. Perhaps it is characteristic of the national habit of self-depreciation that the British people accustomed themselves to think that their own composers and their own singers could not be so good as those of other countries. One would like to think of it as a sign of the times that a revival of music is in progress at the same time both in England and in India.

News Items

GIRL SOLD FOR RS 15

A kidnapping charge came up for hearing before the Third Presidency Magistrate at Bankshall Street. It appears that a Mahomedan girl was some time ago married at Gya to Sheikh Abdool, who brought her down to live at his house at Manicktollah. After being with her husband for a few days, the girl, it is said, felt homesick and quietly went away to the Howrah station, to catch a train for Gya. While waiting at the station, she was accosted by Sheikh Ramjan, who gained her confidence and took her to the house of Sheikh Jamruthi of Howrah. Here she was detained for a fortnight and then taken and sold by Ramjan for Rs 15 to Osman Molla as the bride for his brother. They then sold the girl to Jesoda, a woman, from whom she was rescued by the police.

RAJENDRA COLLEGE

A plaint was filed yesterday in the court of the First Subordinate Judge on behalf of the Rajendra College Council, the plaintiffs being Babu Ambica Charan Majumdar, president and Babu Janendra Nath Lahiry, assistant secretary of the College Council. The Hon. Chowdhury Mahammed Ismail, of Barisal, is the defendant, and the claim is laid at Rs 2,500. The allegations in the plaint are that the defendant promised unconditionally to pay Rs 2,500 as subscription towards the establishment of Rajendra College at Faridpur; but the defendant failed to make good his promise although notice was given to him to pay his promised subscription. The plaint was admitted and a written statement called for.

CHITTAGONG WATERWORKS

Yesterday while visiting the Chittagong Waterworks, the Hon. Bijoy Chand Mahtab was presented with a note on the Chittagong Water Supply. The Hon. member regretted that such costly waterworks was thrust upon the Chittagong Municipality, and was impressed with the necessity of a sewerage scheme and street watering arrangement. In the evening the Hon. member saw the members of the District Board in meeting and talked with them about the local boards and village sanitation. For some time past the District Board has not spent anything for village sanitation by way of excavating tanks for the supply of good drinking water, although a sum of Rs 40,000 was earmarked annually for the purpose. In the evening he was entertained at a dinner by Mrs. De and Mr. De, the Commissioner of the Division.

SOUTHERN INDIA PLANTERS

Bangalore, Aug 4
The annual report of the Executive Committee of the United Planters' Association of Southern India shows that the Association has a membership of 408 estates with a total average of 175,953 acres, an increase of 6,000 over last year. Among various matters, the report deals with labour, and expresses the view that Act XII of 1920 was passed by the Government of India without consideration of the opinions of this Presidency, and as this measure is inoperative so far as planters are concerned the report suggests amendment of Act I of 1903. The South Indian Planters' War Fund approximately amounted to Rs 85,000, of which the sum of Rs 50,000 was apportioned as a contribution to Lady Willingdon's nursing home.

Pakistan and double-standards

OWEN BENNETT-JONES

Washington's economic sanctions on senior officials of the Chinese Communist Party in retaliation for the mistreatment of Uighurs should, on the face of it, be a source of deep embarrassment for Islamabad. After all, the leading advocate of Muslim rights in China is now the Trump administration.

"The United States," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said recently, "will not stand idly by as the Chinese Communist Party carries out human rights abuses targeting Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in Xinjiang, to include forced labour, arbitrary mass detention, and forced population control, and attempts to erase their culture and Muslim faith." This is in stark contrast with Imran Khan's statement; when asked about the plight of fellow Muslims in China, "Frankly," he said, "I don't know much about that."

But of course everyone knows what is happening. As many — mainly Western — think tanks and journalists have documented, the Chinese government has detained hundreds of thousands of its Muslim citizens in re-education camps. Most of them have never been charged with crimes and can't challenge their detentions. Media reports suggest the detainees have been targeted for contacting people from any of the 26 countries China considers sensitive, such as



Turkey and Afghanistan; attending mosques; having too many children (more than three); and sending texts containing Quranic verses. Often, the only 'crime' these people have committed is being Muslim.

The list goes on. Uighur exiles, who struggle to get published in Muslim countries, even speak of copies of

the Quran being burnt. And yet no one in the Muslim world reacts to these actions. Which poses an awkward question: how can it be that when an American soldier burns religious verses, angry Pakistanis riot so violently that people die, but when a Chinese soldier does the same thing, they shrug their shoulders, and look

the other way?

Pakistan is by no means alone in abandoning the Uighur Muslims. Most of the Muslim world has remained silent. The one Muslim country to show some solidarity — Turkey — has since backed down. In 2019, the Turkish foreign ministry issued a statement saying the Chinese treatment of the Uighurs was "a great embarrassment for humanity." A few months later, President Erdogan resiled from that position, saying a solution could be found to help Muslims interned in Chinese camps "taking into account the sensitivities" of both sides. So much for the post Ottoman powerhouse.

But even if the failure of the Muslim world is a collective one, the failure to defend the Uighurs is especially poignant in Pakistan. When it was created back in 1947, many saw Pakistan as an ideological state; a leader of the Muslims around the globe. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Islamic summit held in Lahore in 1974 attracted kings, presidents and prime ministers from all over the Muslim world. Pakistanis revelled in their centrality to the ummah. And then, in 1998 the nuclear bomb tests cemented the idea that Pakistan was the vanguard of Muslim states, a leader of the faithful with international heft.

So how can it be that the Uighurs are more stoutly defended by American Christians than Pakistan Muslims?

The answer is not so hard to find. Pakistan and the US are in fact driven

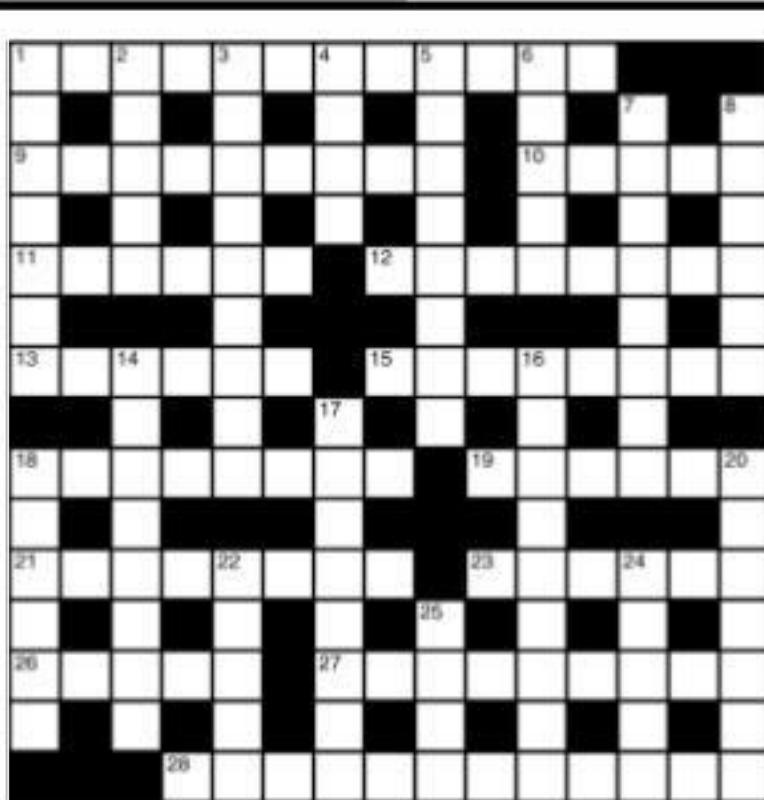
by similar impulses. It barely needs saying that the Americans have no genuine interest in Uighur rights. Washington has only raised the issue to advance its position in its trade dispute with China. If the US was really concerned about defending Muslims in western China, it would have been campaigning on Uighur rights long before President Trump decided to launch his new Cold War.

Meanwhile, Pakistan says nothing because it wants to protect its trade, security and diplomatic relationship with China. In both cases, calculations about national interest have been taken more seriously than human rights. The US is well used to being denounced as hypocritical. But Pakistan likes to think of itself as better than that. As a foreign correspondent visiting Pakistan, I have lost count of the times that government officials have cornered me to ask why the West shows so little interest in the rights of Kashmiri Muslims. I generally reply that the answer is obvious — India has a much bigger economy than Pakistan and foreign countries don't want to jeopardise their trade relationship with New Delhi. It is a reply that is met with expressions of frustration about the perfidy and double standards of the West.

But I can now see a way to answer the question a little more clearly. Next time I am asked why Western governments don't take more interest in Kashmiri rights, I will reply: for the same reason Pakistan doesn't take more interest in Uighur rights.

The writer is a British journalist. His book *The Bhutto Dynasty* will be published later this year. Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Horse race in Eton broken up! (5-2-5)
- 9 Investment fund not suitable when France lost confidence (4,5)
- 10 Stuff found in canyon (5)
- 11 Trouble results when ex-PM meets Queen about Spain (6)
- 12 Essential hit-picking (8)
- 13 Rock band in Glastonbury, perhaps, creating quiver of excitement (6)
- 15 In Calais, I start to arouse terrible envy (8)
- 18 Game that's nice to play wearing crown (8)
- 19 Escort and milliner removing clothes, getting naked on vacation (6)
- 21 A nastier criminal? Well, sort of (8)
- 23 Councillor is repeatedly in big

- 26 trouble (6)
- 27 Spotted in audition for drama (5)
- 28 American stars swim in large, extremely picturesque, river (3,6)
- 29 Refit canteen, transforming it into this? (8,4)

DOWN

- 1 Professor on board with Eccles beginning to take plunge (7)
- 2 Island ousts leader in a hostile manner (5)
- 3 Lead miner finally found in dilapidated toilet clutching two pieces of lead (5,4)
- 4 Responsibility of working American (4)
- 5 Protests, of course, with it being ridiculous (8)
- 6 Time to get hot drink on retirement for the evening? (5)
- 7 Rule out piece of music containing bathetic ending (8)
- 8 Very concerning associate (6)
- 14 Authorises things, having left for Italy (8)
- 16 Directory includes interminably boring compiler of religious scripts (9)
- 17 Make unintelligible order to take off (8)
- 18 Worship Trump, in the end, to get pay increase (6)
- 20 Not well versed about essential part of procedure, shows warrant (7)
- 22 Setter regularly getting cool glass of beer? (5)
- 24 Tapes damaged membranes (5)
- 25 Opposed to carrying on with no restrictions (4)

NO 28034

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



Several indicators are reflecting that the economic activities are reviving in the country

PIYUSH GOYAL
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

HDIL insolvency: Adani Properties, Suraksha Asset Reconstruction and Suntek Realty are among six players which have shown initial interest to acquire debt-laden HDIL through the insolvency resolution process, according to a regulatory filing. HDIL is under corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) pursuant to the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. In a regulatory filing, Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) shared the provisional list of prospective resolution applicants. PTI

SBI Card's new MD: SBI Card on Tuesday said Ashwini Kumar Tewari has taken over as its new managing director and chief executive officer, effective 1 August. Tewari has taken over the charge from Hardayal Prasad who retired on 31 July 2020. SBI Cards & Payment Services said in a release. PTI

Maruti NEXA: Maruti Suzuki's NEXA has become the third largest retailer of passenger cars in the country and currently has a market share of 11 per cent, according to a senior executive. NEXA contributes more than 20 per cent of Maruti's annual volumes, grossing over 30,000 units per month even in this downturn. PTI

PNB MetLife: PNB MetLife Insurance is expanding its product portfolio with three new offerings ~ PNB MetLife Guaranteed Future Plan; Mera Mediclaim Plan and PNB MetLife Smart Platinum Plus, the company said in a statement. These offerings complement the company's concept of "circle of life", which assesses the needs of the customers and offers them solutions on varied financial needs, it said. SNS

Sonalika Tractor: Leading tractor manufacturer Sonalika Tractor reported the highest ever domestic growth of 71.7 per cent in July 2020. Overall (domestic & overseas) sales stood at 10,223 tractors. Domestic sales were at 8,219 tractors compared to 4,788 in the year-ago period, the company said in a Press statement. SNS

FCA's 'Night Eagle': Celebrating the third anniversary of its Jeep Compass in India, FCA has introduced the "Night Eagle" version of Compass, a global limited edition, according to a Press release from the company. Only 250 units of the Night Eagle will be produced in India, the company said. SNS

Metro Dairy: Metro Dairy has forayed into the set-curd space and has launched two sweet variants ~ Metro Aam Doi and Metro Mishti Doi. Simultaneously, the company has also introduced the set-curd version of its plain Metro Dahi, according to a Press release issued by the company. SNS

Tata Consumer Products Q1 profit up 82% at ₹346 crore

NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) today reported 81.78 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 345.55 crore for June quarter helped by increase in demand in some categories.

The company posted a net profit of Rs 190.09 crore in April-June a year ago, said TCPL, earlier known as Tata Global Beverages Ltd, in a BSE filing.

Revenue from operations was up 13.44 per cent to Rs 2,713.91 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 2,392.36 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

Jagdishan to succeed Puri as CEO & MD of HDFC Bank

His appointment has been approved by Reserve Bank for three years starting from 27 October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 4 AUGUST

Sashidhar Jagdishan, the "strategic change agent" at HDFC Bank, will succeed Aditya Puri as the chief executive officer and managing director of the country's largest private sector lender from late October.

HDFC Bank today said the appointment of Jagdishan has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years starting from 27 October.

Puri has led the bank since its founding more than 25 years ago and the appointment of the 55-year-old Jagdishan ends one of the most keenly watched successions in the Indian banking space.

Under Puri's leadership, HDFC Bank has become the most valued Indian lender by investors with a market cap of over Rs 5.71 lakh crore, majorly due to its ability to keep strong controls over bad assets and delivering healthy profit growths, even as the banking system witnessed a spurt in bad loans.

Jagdishan's journey with HDFC Bank started in 1996, after he quit his job with German lender Deutsche Bank to join as a manager in the

The Reserve Bank approved Jagdishan's name ~ the first choice for the bank board ~ in response to three names sent to it late on Monday evening, sources said.

A board meeting would be convened to ratify the appointment of Jagdishan, the bank said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges. Puri's term ends on 26 October.

Jagdishan's journey with HDFC Bank started in 1996, after he quit his job with German lender Deutsche Bank to join as a manager in the

Jagdishan has been working intensely with me since being appointed as the change agent. I do believe he has the necessary skills and I am delighted that HDFC Bank is in good hands. The best is yet to come. Jagdishan is a humane person who cares about people and a thorough executioner.

ADITYA PURI
MD & CEO, HDFC BANK

MD & CEO, HDFC BANK

At present, he is the group head for finance, human resources, legal and secretarial, administration, infrastructure, corporate communications, corporate social responsibility and the "strategic change agent" for the bank.

In an interview with a TV channel, Puri said he is "absolutely delighted" and added that Jagdishan has been working "intensely" with him since being appointed as the change agent.

"I do believe he has the necessary skills and I am delighted

that HDFC Bank is in good hands. The best is yet to come," Puri said, calling Jagdishan as a humane person who cares about people and a thorough executioner.

Under Puri, the bank's profits grew at the rate of over 30 per cent for nearly ten years before the growth got slowed down to 20 per cent in the last few years as the country's economic growth also slid.

Jagdishan will be in charge of a balance sheet that stood at Rs 15.45 lakh crore as of June this year and included over Rs 10 lakh crore in advances. The bank, which was promoted by largest pure-play mortgage lender HDFC, also has a dedicated non-bank subsidiary HDB Financial Services which may go in for listing soon.

The bank had first spoken about looking for a successor in May 2018, when it reportedly told analysts that an internal or external candidate will be announced 12 months prior to Puri's retirement on attaining the age of 70.

Kodak TV to invest ₹500 cr in new unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Kodak TV India today said it will invest over Rs 500 crore in the next three years to set up a fully-automated television manufacturing plant in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. Super Plastronics Pvt Ltd (SPPL), the brand licensee in India for Kodak TV, said the first phase of the plant would be operational by the end of 2021.

This would help the company increase the local value addition and disrupt the affordable smart TV market in India, it added.

The manufacturing plant will be used to develop and test Android TV products within India and reduce dependency on imports from other countries, SPPL said in a statement.

The company said it will make an investment of more than Rs 500 crore over the next three years in a fully automated TV manufacturing plant in Hapur, UP to provide a thrust to its Make in India commitment and leverage its Android

certification."

"With this investment, we are planning to increase our manufacturing capacity to one million units in the new unit. All our future projects will be developed and tested in India in partnership with Google. With this new plant we will generate more than 2000 jobs," SPPL founder and CEO Avneet Singh Marwah said. With this plant, the local value addition in TV manufacturing will go up to 50-60 per cent, he added.

"Currently, the Indian TV industry imports most of the raw materials and has a value addition of only 10-12 percent. However, with this investment and partnership with Google... Kodak TV aims to increase value addition to 50-60 percent," said Marwah.

The new plant and R&D centre will help manufacture technology-driven products and introduce more manufacturing lines aligned to Make in India, he added.

SPPL currently has three manufacturing plants, located in Noida, Una and Jammu.

RBI begins deliberations on monetary policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 4 AUGUST

The RBI's monetary policy committee today started its three-day brainstorming on the bi-monthly monetary policy amid the urgency to revive the economy hit by Covid-19 and increased demand for loan restructuring by the industry.

The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) headed by the RBI Governor is scheduled to announce its decision on 6 August. This is the 24th meeting of MPC.

It is to be noted here that the fast-changing macroeconomic environment and the deteriorating outlook for growth necessitated off-cycle meetings of MPC ~ first in March and then again in May 2020.

MPC has cumulatively cut the repo rate by 115 basis points over these two meetings, resulting in a total policy reduction of 250 basis points since February 2019, with an aim to boost economic growth.

Experts are, however, divided over the possibility of another rate cut by the RBI arguing that one-time loan restructuring was more essential at this juncture to combat the impact of Covid-19.

The central bank has been taking steps proactively to limit the damage to the economy caused by the pandemic and lockdown.

As per a research report by the country's largest lender SBI, banks have cut rates on fresh loans by 72 basis points, the fastest transmission ever recorded.

SBI has cut by an equivalent of 115 basis points on its repo linked retail loan portfolio.

The government has tasked the RBI to keep inflation at 4 per cent (+, - 2 per cent). The central bank mainly factors in CPI while formulating the monetary policy. PTI

July exports close to last year's level: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Showing signs of significant improvement, the country's exports in July have reached almost the level of the corresponding month last year, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said today.

He said several indicators are reflecting that the economic activities are reviving in the country.

"Our exports have almost reached last year's July level, with nearly 90 per cent of our export of July 2019 having come back. And, in fact if we were to remove the oil related exports, where we are largely a small value adder... we are 95 per cent plus on the revival of our exports," he said.

The minister added that the country "today is in a mood" to not only bring back

exports but also become self-reliant, improve the quality and competitive pricing of products. Officially the export numbers for the month of July would be released by the commerce ministry during mid-August.

India's exports fell for the fourth straight month in June as shipments of key segments like petroleum and textiles declined but the country's trade turned surplus for the first time in 18 years as imports dropped by a steeper 47.59 per cent.

Exports in value terms declined by 12.41 per cent to \$21.91 billion in June on weak global demand due to Covid-19.

After falling for a record 60.28 per cent in April, the rate of contraction of the country's total merchandise shipments slowed down to 36.7 per cent in May and 12.441 per cent in June.

CIL trade unions serve one-day strike notice

NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Five trade unions of Coal India have served notice for a one-day strike on 18 August, the state-owned company said today, adding that efforts will be made to avert the stir.

"Five trade unions of CIL... served notice of one-day strike in CIL and its subsidiaries on 18 August 2020..." the public sector undertaking (PSU) said in a filing to BSE. Efforts would be made to avert the strike, it added.

Coal India (CIL) worker unions affiliated to five central trade unions have decided to go on strike against the proposed divestment or buyback of shares of the PSU, a union leader had earlier said.

The unions are protesting against commercial mining and other issues. PTI

DGCA quickly ends SpiceJet's fare discount

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 4 AUGUST

ately needed daily operational funds.

But concerns arose of viability and validity of these very cheap fare schemes offered by airlines in acute financial distress. The now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines, for instance, had offered similar heavily discounted tickets at the height of its financial woes.

SpiceJet had offered an extra ticket "voucher" at base price along with heavily discounted fares.

In its '1+1 offer', SpiceJet declared one-way fares starting Rs 899 (excluding taxes) and a complimentary ticket voucher up to Rs 2,000. The offer was open till 7 August and valid until 31 March 2021.

Such heavily discounted ticket offers in the past from cash-strapped airlines have helped raise desper-

ended its low-fares scheme pointing to government-imposed fare limits since domestic flights resumed on 25 May.

The DGCA may also factored in auditor S R Battiboi and Associates Llp raising "significant doubt" of SpiceJet as a going concern, with reports of the airline having a cash balance of less than Rs 50 crore.

SpiceJet had reported its highest ever net loss of Rs 80.71 crore in the fourth quarter ending 31 March. It took a severe financial hit after the worldwide grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

The latest DGCA move to scuttle its fare discount scheme and engineer cash flow for daily operations may have further lengthened SpiceJet's long road to recovery.

'Worst seems to be over, farm sector to cushion Covid-19 crisis'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

ever, risks on account of rising Covid-19 cases and intermittent state lockdowns remain," it said.

It further noted that the rise in Covid-19 cases and subsequent intermittent lockdowns make the recovery prospects fragile and called for constant and dynamic monitoring.

Pinning hopes on the farm sector, the report said, agriculture is set to cushion the shock of the Covid pandemic on the Indian economy in 2020-21.

"With India unlocking, the worst seems to be over for the economy as high-frequency indicators recovered in June 2020 from unprecedented troughs in April; how-

ever, risks on account of rising Covid-19 cases and intermittent state lockdowns remain," the report said.

Timely and proactive exemptions from Covid-induced lockdowns to the sector facilitated uninterrupted harvesting of rabi crops and enhanced sowing of kharif crops, it said, adding, a record procurement of wheat has enabled a flow of around Rs 75,000 crore to the farmers which will boost private consumption in rural areas.

"Since September, 2019, the terms of trade has moved in favour of agriculture and has reinforced rural demand. This has manifested in an increase in rural core inflation between March and June 2020. As a result, the push for growth in coming months appears to be pitched in rural India," it said.

"Nokia has announced a collaboration with the IISc, to establish the Nokia Centre of Excellence (CoE) for networked robotics," it added. PTI

Nokia to set up robotics lab at IISc

NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Nokia will set up a robotics lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru for research on socially-relevant use cases based on 5G and emerging technologies, the company said today.

Nokia Center of Excellence (CoE) for networked robotics will promote interdisciplinary research involving robotics, advanced communication technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) to develop socially relevant use cases in areas like emergency management, agriculture and industrial automation, a statement said.

"Nokia has announced a collaboration with the IISc, to establish the Nokia Centre of Excellence (CoE) for networked robotics," it added. PTI

I-T dept sets target for select assessments

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

September" said S K Gupta, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax and Member, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

The scheme was first announced by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2019 Budget speech. In the same year in October, the Income Tax Department rolled out the faceless e-assessment scheme that eliminates the physical interface between an assessing officer and an assessee. Eight cities ~ Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune are covered under the scheme. "The cases taken up for faceless assessment include a mix of returns filed by individuals, businesses, MSME as well as big companies," said Gupta.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals as investors shrugged off escalating US-China tensions and rising coronavirus cases.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.61 per cent lower at \$43.44 per barrel.

In the foreign market, the rupee settled 3 paise down at 75.04 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, India's Covid-19 tally increased to 18,55,745 today with 52,050 people testing positive in a day, according to the Union health ministry data.

The recoveries crossed the 12-lakh mark, while the death toll climbed to 38,938.



Pandemic is a big challenge for all of us, so don't make it an opportunity to criticise the government

AFTER ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL KITS AND PROTECTIVE GEAR

NEPAL PRIME MINISTER K P OLI

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2020

09

China, WHO in talks on plans to trace Covid origin

Chinasaysa full investigation may have to wait until the pandemic is under control & has rejected accusations that it delayed releasing information to WHO at the start of the outbreak

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 4 AUGUST

China and the World Health Organization are discussing plans to trace the origin of the coronavirus outbreak following a visit to the country by two experts from the U.N. agency, the foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters the experts conducted preparatory consultations on scientific research cooperation on virus tracing during their two-week stay, which ended Sunday.

Their talks touched on research in the areas of population, environment, mole-

cules, animal traceability and transmission routes of the coronavirus, as well as plans for further scientific research, Wang said.

The two sides also further investigated the possible animal source, intermediate host and transmission route of the coronavirus to more effectively prevent and control the epidemic, Wang said.

Wang said the two sides worked on formulating a plan for China's contribution to the global tracing effort under a resolution passed by the World Health Assembly under WHO. No word was given on when that effort will begin in earnest.

The virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year and has

Scientists think it likely jumped from a wild animal such as a bat to humans via an intermediary species, possibly the anteater-like pangolin.

been linked to a wholesale food market where wild animals were sold.

Scientists think it likely jumped from a wild animal such as a bat to humans via an intermediary species, possibly the anteater-like pangolin.

However, China says a full investigation may have to wait until the pandemic is under control and has rejected accusations that it delayed releasing information to WHO

at the start of the outbreak.

Meanwhile, Both mainland China and Hong Kong reported fewer new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday as strict measures to contain new infections appear to be taking effect.

Mainland China announced 36 new cases across the country, down from 43 the previous day. Of those, 28 were in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and two in Liaoning province in the northeast.

Another six cases were brought by Chinese arriving from overseas. No new deaths were registered, leaving China's total at 4,634 among 84,634 cases reported since the virus was first detected in the

central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

Hong Kong reported 78 new cases over the previous 24 hours, the first time in almost two weeks that new cases had fallen into double-digits.

Authorities in the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city ordered mask wearing in public places, restrictions on indoor dining and increased testing to contain the outbreak. China's central government also sent a medical team to assist in efforts and an exhibition center has been converted into a temporary hospital in the event beds run short. Deaths from the disease in Hong Kong have risen to 38 among 3,589 total cases.

Trump: Compared to India & China, US doing 'very well' against Covid-19

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 4 AUGUST

President Donald Trump has said that as compared to big countries, America is doing "very well" in the fight against the pandemic, while India is having a "tremendous problem" battling the disease and China is witnessing a "massive flare up" in infections.

India's tally increased to 18,557,450 on Tuesday with 52,050 people testing positive in a day. China on Tuesday reported 36 new cases across

the country, down from 43 the previous day. The country's cases crossed the 100-mark on July 29, for the first time in over three months.

I think we're doing very well. I think that we have done as well as any nation. If you really look, if you take a look at what's going on, especially now with all these flare ups and nations that they were talking about, Trump said.

As such, compared to larger countries, the US is doing much better in the fight against the coronavirus, he said.

Don't forget, we're much bigger than--other than India and China. China is having a massive flare up right now, he said. And I noticed that in the news, in the evening news, I never read about that. In any news, I don't read about the other countries. You're starting to see that other countries are having very big flare ups, countries that thought they were over it, like we thought we might be over in Florida, and then all of a sudden it comes back. They do come back, he said.

Sri Lankans to vote in parliamentary election today

COLOMBO, 4 AUGUST

Sri Lankans will vote in the twice-postponed parliamentary election on Wednesday with the powerful Rajapaksa family-run party expected to gain control of the assembly that could allow them to amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers.

Over 16 million people are eligible to vote to elect 196 out of a total of 225 lawmakers for the next five years. Twenty-nine others will be named from a national list according to the number of votes received by each party.

The counting would take place only on the following morning - a departure from the practice of counting the ballots from 8 pm on the election night. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa hopes for a two-thirds majority for the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) in the general election so that he can amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers curbed by a 2015 constitutional change.

His older brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is seeking reelection as prime minister, is assured of a sweeping victory as the main Opposition is badly divided.

As many as five members of the Rajapaksa family are in the fray - Mahinda Rajapaksa, his elder son Namal Rajapaksa, the older brother Chamal Rajapaksa and nephews Shasheendra Rajapaksa and Nipuna Ranawaka. Basil Rajapaksa, the powerful national organiser of the SLPP, said that the entire Opposition would poll less than half of the SLPP's total votes.

Netanyahu warns Hezbollah after Israeli strike in Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 4 AUGUST

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group and others after Israeli forces said they thwarted an infiltration attempt from Syria by suspected militants.

The Israeli military announced late Monday that it had struck targets in Syria after the militants tried to plant explosives in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Israel struck the four suspects, who were believed to have been killed. Netanyahu, who toured a military base on Tuesday, said Israel would not hesitate to take further action. We hit a cell and now we hit the dispatchers. We will do what is necessary in order to defend ourselves. I suggest to all of them, including Hezbollah, to consider this, he said.

The incidents come amid

An Israeli armoured vehicle is pictured in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, near the border with Syria, on Tuesday. ■ AFP

heightened tension on Israel's northern frontier following a recent Israeli airstrike that killed a Hezbollah fighter in Syria and anticipation that the militant Lebanese group would retaliate. Following the airstrike, the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights was hit by explosives fired from Syria and Israel responded by attacking Syrian military positions and beefing up its forces in the area.

Last week, Israel also said it thwarted an infiltration attempt from Lebanon by Hezbollah militants, setting off one of the heaviest exchanges of fire along the volatile Israel-Lebanon frontier since a 2006 war between the bitter enemies.

Israel considers Hezbollah to be its most immediate threat. Since battling Israel to a stalemate during a month-long war in 2006, Hezbollah has gained more battlefield experience fighting alongside the Syrian government in country's bloody civil war.

Manila back under lockdown

MANILA, 4 AUGUST

Commuter trains, buses and other public vehicles stayed off the main roads of the Philippine capital Tuesday and police were again staffing checkpoints to restrict public travel as surging cases forced another lockdown.

Officials deployed dozens of shuttle buses, along with army trucks, to ferry stranded medical personnel and workers of authorized businesses. Most domestic flights to and from the capital were cancelled.

Crowds trooped to some supermarkets to stock up on food after the hasty return to a lockdown sparked panic-buying. The lockdown is milder than was first imposed, which largely confined most people to their homes for weeks, but is more severe than the quarantine restrictions the capital had been under recently. It is being imposed in metropolitan Manila and outlying provinces for two weeks. AP

KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE



Traditional dancers perform in front of the historic Buddhist Temple of the Tooth, as they take part in a procession during the Esala Perahera festival in Colombo on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Imran unveils new map that shows Kashmir as part of Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
ISLAMABAD, 4 AUGUST

grated with Pakistan. The illegal map shows J&K as "India-an illegally occupied J&K--disputed territory -- final status to be decided in line with relevant UNSC resolutions." Thereby cocking a snook at the Govt of India.

"This is the most historic day in Pakistan's history," he said while addressing a news conference after chairing the meeting of federal cabinet, which approved the new map on Tuesday.

Khan said that Pakistan has launched a political map which shows the whole Kash-

mir region, including "India-an illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir" as part of his country's territory.

In the press conference, Khan said: "Today is a historic day we have launched a new political map of Pakistan which is as per the aspirations of the entire nation as well as the people of Kashmir."

He also said the new map is backed by all political parties of the country. "This map also opposes the Indian government's illegal act of August 5 last year," the prime minister said. "The settlement of

Kashmir dispute only lies in the UN Security Council resolutions. "Pakistan will continue to make efforts for the people of Kashmir," said Khan adding that the dispute can only be resolved through political means not military.

Pak to mark 5 Aug as Day of Exploitation: A bellicose and Janus faced Pakistan will be marking the one-year-anniversary of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on August 5, 2020, with rallies, protests, events, speeches and commemorations, declaring the day as "Youn-

e-Istehsal" (Day of Exploitation), when Indian government abrogated Article 370 and 35A and changed the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

The Pakistan government will also be changing the name of its main Kashmیر Highway in the capital Islamabad to Srinagar Highway in solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be heading to Muzafarabad, will be addressing the legislative assembly.

been subjected to intimidation, threats, physical violence and arrests during months-long clashes between police and protesters that began in the city last year.

Lawmaker Alistair Carmichael, said the violence was not the actions of a few rogue officers and was clearly a systematic and quite deliberate change that aligned more with policing in China. It called for Britain to urgently impose sanctions on Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam and the city's police commissioner.

British lawmakers urge sanctions over HK violence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 4 AUGUST

British lawmakers investigating rights violations by Hong Kong police have urged the UK government to sanction the city's leader for allowing excessive police violence toward humanitarian workers helping those injured in pro-democracy protests.

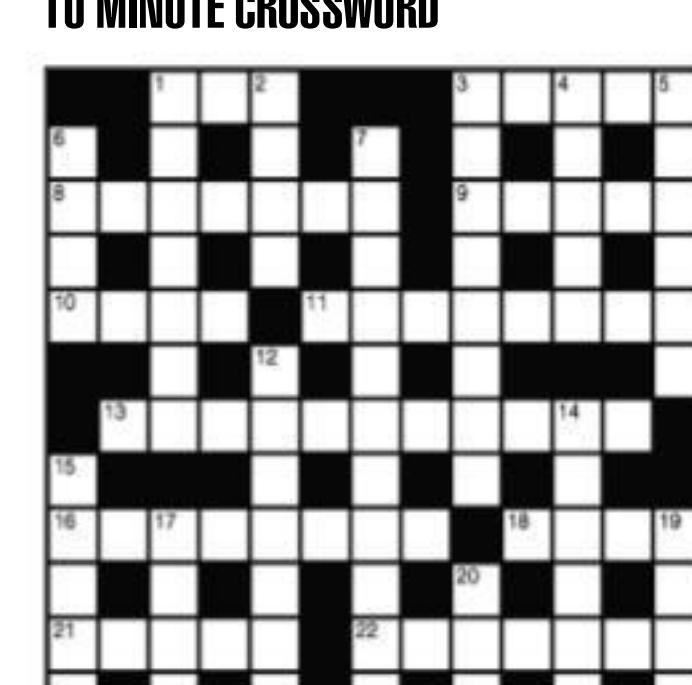
Tuesday's report from the bipartisan All Party Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong said first aid workers, as well as doctors and nurses, have

been subjected to intimidation, threats, physical violence and arrests during months-long clashes between police and protesters that began in the city last year.

Lawmaker Alistair Carmichael, said the violence was not the actions of a few rogue officers and was clearly a systematic and quite deliberate change that aligned more with policing in China. It called for Britain to urgently impose sanctions on Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam and the city's police commissioner.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Say further (3)
- 3 Peak on a cap (5)
- 8 Watch (7)
- 9 Slightest (5)
- 10 Look for (4)
- 11 Lover of beauty (8)
- 13 Keep apart from others (4-7)
- 16 Coal mine (8)
- 18 Partiality (4)
- 21 Jewish leader (5)
- 22 Principal (7)
- 23 Intoxicating (5)
- 24 Unit of weight (3)
- 12 Natural liking (8)
- 14 Instruction (7)
- 15 Char (6)
- 17 Zodiac sign (5)
- 19 Culinary herb (4)
- 20 Swift (4)

DOWN

- 1 Spartan (7)
- 2 Venture (4)
- 3 Changeable (8)
- 4 Hue (5)
- 5 Cad (6)
- 6 Canine animals (4)
- 7 As an inevitable consequence (11)
- 8 Watch (7)
- 9 Slightest (5)
- 10 Look for (4)
- 11 Lover of beauty (8)
- 13 Keep apart from others (4-7)
- 16 Coal mine (8)
- 18 Partiality (4)
- 21 Jewish leader (5)
- 22 Principal (7)
- 23 Intoxicating (5)
- 24 Unit of weight (3)
- 1 Great, BUT...
- 2 Snap, DOWN
- 3 Height, DOWN
- 4 Able, DOWN
- 5 Coal mine bag, DOWN
- 6 Basement, DOWN
- 7 Join, DOWN
- 8 Nebulous, DOWN
- 9 Kiss, DOWN
- 10 Brandy, DOWN
- 11 Tailback, DOWN
- 12 Make-up, DOWN
- 13 Prime, DOWN
- 14 Suggest, DOWN
- 15 Char, DOWN
- 16 Plastic bag, DOWN
- 17 Ignoles, DOWN
- 18 Battle, DOWN
- 19 Fire, DOWN
- 20 Basement, DOWN
- 21 Emir, DOWN
- 22 Kiss, DOWN
- 23 Mettle, DOWN

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A MEDICINE MAN?

MY MOTHER WANTED ME TO GO INTO MEDICINE

ACTUALLY, I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A CARPENTER

HOW DID THE BABY-SITTING GO?

HE HASN'T STOPPED HUGGING ME THE WHOLE TIME.

TIME TO LET GO.

C'MON, DON'T MAKE ME GET THE NERF CROWBAR.

OKAY, ANGUS...

BY MORT WALKER

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NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS: 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental and Neuro-Sciences: 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

22586262, 22585007

23860526

23864470

23868709

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The impact of the second lockdown across Melbourne
City could result in almost 250,000 job losses

VICTORIAN PREMIER DANIEL ANDREWS

AFTER ENFORCING THE STAGE 4 LOCKDOWN FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS PERIOD IN MELBOURNE

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	23°C	19°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	25°C	17°C
MOSCOW	26°C	19°C

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

THUMBNAILS



The full moon is pictured behind the Soviet symbol of hammer and sickle atop a building in Moscow late on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Sweden shoot out: The Swedish government vowed on Tuesday to find the perpetrators of a drive-by shooting that killed a 12-year-old girl in what authorities said appears to be the latest violence from suburban feuds between criminal gangs fighting over territory. AP

IS terror cell suspect: Albania has transferred to Germany a Tajik man accused of being part of a cell of the IS group that allegedly planned to attack U.S. military facilities in Germany, prosecutors said on Tuesday. The suspect, identified only as Komron B., was arrested on his arrival at Frankfurt airport on Monday, federal prosecutors said in a statement. AP

Landslide in South Korea : Three New Zealand citizens have died after landslides triggered by heavy rains destroyed and buried their vacation cottage near Seoul, South Korean officials said on Tuesday. AP

EU regulators investigate Google's plan to buy Fitbit

LONDON, 4 AUGUST

European Union regulators say they're opening an in-depth investigation into US tech giant Google's plan to buy fitness tracking device maker Fitbit. The EU's executive commission on Tuesday said it is concerned that the deal would entrench Google's position in the online ad market by increasing the already vast amount of "data" that the company could use to personalise ads.

EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said the "investigation aims to ensure that control by Google over data collected through wearable devices as a result of the transaction does not distort competition."

Google agreed to buy Fitbit in November for \$2.1 billion. Privacy and consumer groups have called on authorities to block the deal, citing privacy and antitrust concerns. AP

'US should get a very large percentage of TikTok sale proceeds'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 4 AUGUST

President Donald Trump has demanded that the US treasury should get a substantial chunk of the TikTok sale proceeds, as he set September 15 as the deadline for the popular Chinese short video app to be out of business in the country unless it is bought by an American company.

Trump was speaking to reporters at a White House news conference on Monday, hours after it announced the deadline for TikTok to stop operations in the US.

Technology giant Microsoft is in talks with TikTok's par-



ent company ByteDance to buy its US operation. However, the president is in favour of a complete 100 per cent purchase and not the 30 per cent as reportedly being negotiated now.

The United States should get a very large percentage of that price because we're making it possible. Without us, you know, I use the expression, it's like the landlord and the tenant. And without the lease, the tenant doesn't have the value, Trump said.

Well, we're sort of in a certain way, the lease. We make it possible to have this great success. TikTok is a tremendous success. But a big por-

tion of it in this country. It would come from the sale, yeah. Whatever the number is, it would come from the sale, he said.

Earlier in the day, Trump said that TikTok will close down on September 15, unless Microsoft or somebody else is able to buy it and work out

an appropriate deal. He also spoke to Microsoft's Indian-American CEO Satya Nadella on the matter.

Redmond-headquartered Microsoft, in a statement on Sunday, said that following a conversation between Nadella and Trump, it is prepared to continue discussions to explore a purchase of TikTok in the US. Microsoft will move quickly to pursue discussions with TikTok's parent company ByteDance in a matter of weeks and will complete these discussions in any event by September 15, it said.

India's recent decision to ban TikTok and other Chinese apps have stirred a national

debate in the US and there has been increasing demand in America to follow suit.

India in June banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

TikTok, Trump asserted, has to be an American company.

We want no security problems with China. It's got to be an American company. It's got to be American security. It's got to be owned here. We don't want to have any problems with security, et cetera. And something could come out, he said.

I will tell you, there's a lot of excitement, not only by Microsoft, but by other companies in terms of buying it. So, we'll see what happens. But we want and we think we deserve to have a big percentage of that price coming to America, coming to the Treasury, Trump said in response to a question.

Earlier in the day, White House trade adviser and assistant to the president, Peter Navarro, said that TikTok poses a security threat to the country. The Chinese Communist Party may know where your children are. That's essentially the problem. You sign up for a Chinese app like TikTok,

they get your user name and password, maybe if you use that across other applications, they've got that, he told CNN in an interview.

Microsoft, he said, is one of four or five American technology companies, Yahoo, Google, Sysco and others, who helped China originally build their great firewall of China, which is used to surveil, track, monitor, sensor and imprison the Chinese people. "But, more importantly, the one of the few surviving search engines from America in China is Bing, and Microsoft owns that. So you know that there's some fishy stuff going on there, he said.

'Hire American': Trump signs new order on H1B visa holders

Prez says his admin will not tolerate firing of hardworking Americans in the pursuit of cheap foreign labour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 4 AUGUST

In another huge blow to Indian IT professionals eyeing the US job market, President Donald Trump has signed an executive order asking federal agencies to hire Americans and preventing them from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers, mainly those with H-1B visas.

The move came over a month after the Trump administration on June 23 suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year.

The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

"Today I am signing an executive order to ensure that the federal government lives by a very simple rule, hire American," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday before signing the order against hiring H-1B visa holders for federal contracts.

Trump told reporters that his administration will not tolerate firing of hardworking

Nevada to mail all voters ballots; President promises lawsuit

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARSON CITY, 4 AUGUST

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak signed legislation Monday to mail all of the state's active voters ballots ahead of the November election, a move being criticized by President Donald Trump, who promised a lawsuit to block the action.

This bill will enable election officials to continue to support the safest, most accessible election possible under these unprecedented circumstances, Sisolak, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Nevada joins seven states that plan to automatically send voters mail ballots amid the coronavirus pandemic, including California and Ver-

Americans in the pursuit of cheap foreign labour.

"As we speak, we're finalising the H-1B regulation so that no American workers are replaced ever again. H-1B should be used for top highly paid talent to create American jobs, not as inexpensive labour programmes and destroy American jobs," said Trump, who was surrounded across the Cabinet Room table with individuals campaigning against job outsourcing.

Prominent among them were Sara Blackwell, founder

mont, which moved earlier this summer to adopt automatic mail ballot policies.

The plan drew criticism from Trump after making its way through the Legislature over the weekend. The president has long claimed that mail ballots would compromise the integrity of the election, but the consensus among experts is that all forms of voter fraud are rare.

At a Monday press conference, Trump said that he planned to file a lawsuit against Nevada as early as Tuesday.

He called universal mail ballots a disgrace and said they would be a great embarrassment to the United States. He took aim at a provision

that expands who can collect and return ballots, which he said enabled individuals to take thousands of ballots, put them together and just dump them down on somebody's desk after a certain period of time.

He also targeted the provision that allows ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted up to a week later could create a circumstance where the race couldn't be called in a timely manner.

"You'll never know who won that state," he said. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid applauded the lawmakers' decision and called Trump's opposition desperate.

requires all federal agencies to complete an internal audit within 120 days and assess whether they are in compliance with the requirement that only US citizens and nationals are appointed to the competitive service.

As a result, the Department of Labour will also finalise guidelines to prevent H-1B employers from moving H-1B workers to other employers' job sites to displace American workers.

Trump's order follows the federally-owned Tennessee

Valley Authority's (TVA) announcement that it will outsource 20 per cent of its technology jobs to companies based in foreign countries.

TVA's action could cause more than 200 highly-skilled American tech workers in Tennessee to lose their jobs to low-wage, foreign workers hired on temporary work visas, the president said.

Outsourcing hundreds of workers is especially detrimental in the middle of a pandemic, which has already cost millions of Americans their jobs, the White House said in a statement. Given the current climate of rampant intellectual property theft, outsourcing IT jobs that involve sensitive information could pose a national security risk, it said. According to the White House, Trump's actions will help combat employers' misuse of H-1B visas, which were never intended to replace qualified American workers with low-cost foreign labour.

One of the participants present during the signing of the order told the president that as many as 70 per cent of the H-1B visa goes to people from India.

Immigration will be very merit based, but it'll be, it'll be great for the worker. And it'll be great for people coming into our country, but coming into our country legally and loving the country and wanting to help our country as opposed to people coming in. And they don't like our country.

NEW BEGINNING



A view of flags flying as part of 'The Flag Project', Rockefeller Center's new public art initiative featuring 193 newly-designed flags showcasing New Yorkers love for their city as the city continues Phase 4 of re-opening following restrictions on Tuesday in New York City. ■ AFP

'A line in the sand': Both sides dig in on virus relief bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 4 AUGUST

Republicans have yet to offer any aid to states to prevent furloughs, layoffs and cuts to services

reached this week but doesn't know if it's possible, according to a Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private discussion.

Neither side has budged from their positions, with Democrats demanding an extension of the \$600-per-week supplemental unemployment benefit that's credited with propping up the economy. Republicans have yet to offer any aid to states to prevent furloughs, layoffs and cuts to services.

Democratic negotiators spoke of progress Monday but Republicans remain privately pessimistic.

We are really getting an understanding of each side's position. And we're making some progress on certain issues moving closer together, said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

After the meeting, Pelosi told her Democratic colleagues on a call that she's hopeful a deal could be

UK suspends digital visa processing tool

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 4 AUGUST

"We have been reviewing how the visa application streaming tool operates and will be redesigning our processes to make them even more streamlined and secure," a UK Home Office spokesperson said.

"We do not accept the allegations Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants made in their Judicial Review claim and whilst litigation is still ongoing it would not be appropriate for the department to comment any further," the spokesperson said.

From Friday, the current Streaming Tool will no longer be used, with a redesign expected to be in place in a few months' time by autumn.

In the interim period, the Home Office said the streaming or sifting of the "over-

whelming majority" of visa applications will take place by reference to person-centric attributes, such as evidence of previous travel, and nationality will not be taken into account.

The Streaming Tool is said to have used a traffic-light system to grade every entry visa application to the UK since 2015.

The tool is believed to assign a red, amber or green risk rating to applicants and once assigned by the algorithm, this rating plays a major role in determining the outcome of a visa application.

JCWI and Foxglove say applications made by people holding "suspect" nationalities received a higher risk score and intensive scrutiny by Home Office officials, were

approached with more scepticism, took longer to determine, and were much more likely to be refused. They argue that this amounts to "racial discrimination" and breaches the UK's Equality Act 2010.

"This streaming tool took decades of institutionally racist practices, such as targeting particular nationalities for immigration raids, and turned them into software.

The immigration system needs to be rebuilt from the ground up to monitor for such bias and to root it out," said Chai Patel, Legal Policy Director of JCWI.Foxglove, which supports the JCWI's legal campaign against the tool, categorises the tool as an effective sped-up access for certain nationalities.

Confusion over UK's Gandhi coin

LONDON, 4 AUGUST

Campaigners in the UK on Tuesday sought to clarify confusion arising out of recent reports of Mahatma Gandhi being featured on a future commemorative coin

being mistakenly associated with a separate drive for ethnic minority representation on British legal tender.

The UK's Treasury department confirmed that the commemorative coin for Gandhi has been in the works since October 2019, when former Chancellor Sajid Javid proposed it to mark the 150th birth anniversary year of the Father of the Indian nation.

'UK faces 'brain drain of educated British citizens' as EU migration rises after Brexit'

THE INDEPENDENT
LONDON, 4 AUGUST

Brexit has sparked a wave of migration out of Britain to Europe similar to those caused by a serious economic or political crisis, according to a new study.

A statement from Spain's general prosecutor's office in June said it was investigating whether Juan Carlos received millions of dollars in kickbacks from Saudi Arabia during the construction of a high-speed railway there by a Spanish consortium. Since then, Spanish media outlets have published damaging testimony from a separate Swiss investigation into millions of euros (dollars) that were allegedly given to Juan Carlos by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah.

The data showed that migration from the UK to EU states averaged 56,832 people per year from 2008-15, but climbed to 73,642 a year from 2016-18. The number of UK

citizens attaining an EU member state passport also leapt – by more than 500 per cent across the continent and more than 2,000 per cent in Germany.

Additional data from Britons in Germany revealed they had shown "increased levels of risk-taking and impulsivity" in reaction to Brexit, with 57 per cent of interviewees reporting taking a "big risk" with their move, compared with just 24 per cent pre-referendum.

A majority of respondents had also agreed to a pay cut or wage freeze as part of their decision to leave Britain, whereas prior to the referendum the majority received a pay rise. The largest rise in migration was to Spain, with France ranking second.

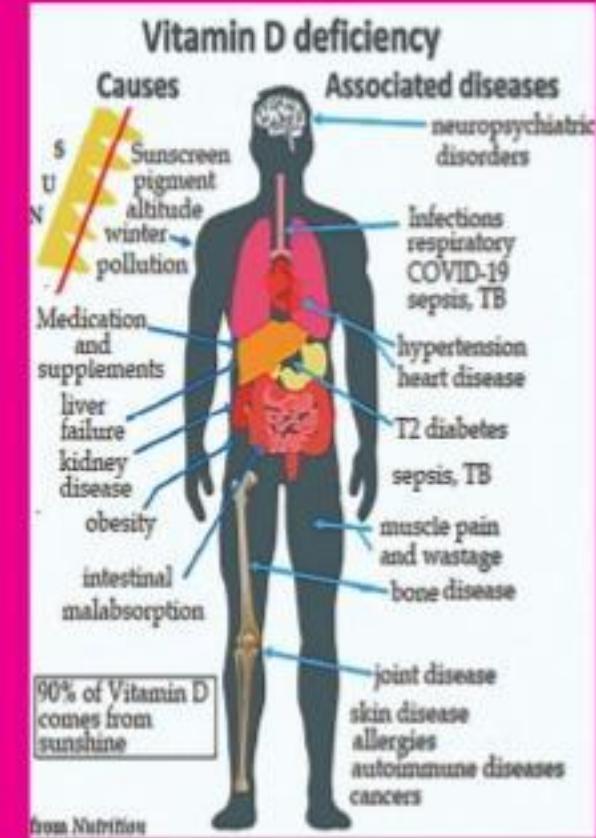
Where's Juan Carlos? Spain mulls former monarch's future

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sunshine is necessary to develop immunity

Vitamin D has proven to be a prophylactic in the fight against Covid-19



iStock

STANANTHANARAYANAN

Just what is "immunity"? Is it a property that gives rise to the immune reaction in the body? Or is it the reaction of the body, when a foreign substance enters, which we know as immunity? While science is at work to create a vaccine or protocols to control Sars-CoV-2, a marketplace has arisen of substances and foods that claim to promote "resistance" and "immunity".

The journal, *Nutrition*, of the Swiss research publishing group, MDPI, carries a paper by Nipith Charoenngam and Michael F Holick, of the Boston University School of Medicine and the department of medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, which goes into the mechanism of the immune reaction and how it could be influenced. And, apart from several physiological benefits of adequate Vitamin D, the paper reports a positive indication that the vitamin could protect people from Covid-19.

An important point the paper makes is that with current lifestyles, there is widespread Vitamin D deficiency, the world over. Over 40 per cent of Americans, with 82 per cent Black Americans and 70 per cent Hispanics, the paper says, are Vitamin D deficient. And, apart from the poor bone health that is well known, Vitamin D deficiency is directly associated with a host of conditions, related to the immune system -- psoriasis, or eruptions on the skin, Type 1 diabetes, paralysis, rheumatoid arthritis,

tuberculosis, sepsis, or blood poisoning, respiratory infection and significantly, Covid-19.

The immune reaction of the body is brought about mainly by white blood cells, or lymphocytes, which arise in the bone marrow. Cells called monocytes lead to bodies called macrophages, which destroy particles or organisms that do not match cells that are native to the body, and this is the *innate immune system*.

Monocytes also give rise to the *adaptive immune system*, through the dendritic cells, or Antigen Presenting Cells, that identify and hold out the active features of the virus to other cells. The T helper cells carry this information to B cells, which give rise to antibodies, or agents that can attach to the features of the viruses and deactivate them.

In short, there is a well-oiled system of identifying invaders and generating agents that can keep them under control. The template of antibodies against an infection can stay, as a memory, for very quick action if the invader should come again -- what we call acquired immunity.

The interesting thing about these different cells of the immune system is that they all have surface features, or *receptors*, which enable them to attach to Vitamin D. And then, there is recorded evidence that low levels of Vitamin D are associated with conditions that are the result of tepid immune response to infection, or excessive response, to the body's own

cells, as in "auto-immune" diseases. Vitamin D is thus found both to enable immune cells to act against invaders as well as to restrain their action against the body's own cells -- making it an *immunoregulatory hormone*. Vitamin D, in its useful form, is called a *hormone* because it is the kidneys that convert Vitamin D that the skin generates when exposed to sunlight, or we take as supplements, into the active form that regulates body functions.

As for sources of Vitamin D, very few foods are sources -- eggs, oily fish do contain the vitamin, but not in great quantities. The practical source is only the action of UV light from the sun, on the skin. When UV light falls on the skin, there is instantaneous generation of Vitamin D, which gets transported by the bloodstream to the kidneys, where it changes to the active form. Ninety percent of our vitamin D comes from exposure to sunlight, the paper says.

A well-known function of Vitamin D is to help absorption of calcium and phosphorus, for healthy bones, and for over a century, Vitamin D supplements have been prescribed to prevent Rickets and bony legs in children. But now we understand the mechanism of active Vitamin D and the value of the hormone in other areas of human health. There are statistics that connect several diseases with low Vitamin D levels.

The fact that most of the Vitamin D we have comes from sunlight explains different seasonal diseases.

Influenza in the northern hemisphere, for instance, is known to peak during the winter months, when nights are long and daytime sunlight is feeble. It is also known with more waking hours spent indoors, the incidence of bone related ailments has increased.

The paper says that the highest incidence of Type 1 diabetes in the world is in Finland. A likely explanation for this, and the high incidence in all countries that have low sunshine for a long part of the year, is that people do not get the sunshine to form Vitamin D. The explanation is supported by the fact that administering supplements does help control the incidence of T2 diabetes. The same is the case, the paper says, with multiple sclerosis, a condition that causes paralysis. Patients of inflammatory bowel diseases are found to be consistently Vitamin D deficient. While this could be because these patients cannot retain dietary inputs, a reverse relationship, of low Vitamin D leading to bowel disease, has been found.

As for tuberculosis, the paper mentions Niels Ryberg Finsen, who won the Nobel Prize in 1903 for showing that sunbathing was a remedy.

Other instances described are rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis and respiratory illness, influenza, whose incidence increases with Vitamin D deficiency. In the case of Covid-19, it is still early to establish a connection. But what we do know is that in the US, there are disproportionately more cases of Covid-19 among black Amer-

icans and among those who are obese. Now, the incidence of Vitamin D deficiency is the highest, in the US, among black Americans, at 82 per cent. In this category at any rate, there is a clear correlation with Covid-19 and the Vitamin D level.

It is well known that the efficiency of Vitamin D generation from sunlight is the highest in fair skinned or white populations. In fact, it is considered that populations at the higher latitudes, who migrated after *homo sapiens* first appeared in Africa, have evolved to be fair skinned precisely to get more Vitamin D from the scant sunlight in regions closer to the Poles. This is then the reason, in addition to low sunlight exposure because of geography and the modern style of working and living in covered spaces, that black Americans are low in Vitamin D.

In the case of those who are obese, the explanation is that Vitamin D is fat soluble. Hence, when the vitamin is generated in the skin or ingested with food, it gets absorbed by fat cells before it reaches the kidneys, to get to the active state. Hence the deficiency -- and the correlation with high incidence of Covid-19 again shows a relationship.

It would appear that getting adequate, direct sunshine on bare skin, is the way to be free of a large number of illnesses, and one of them is very likely Covid-19.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

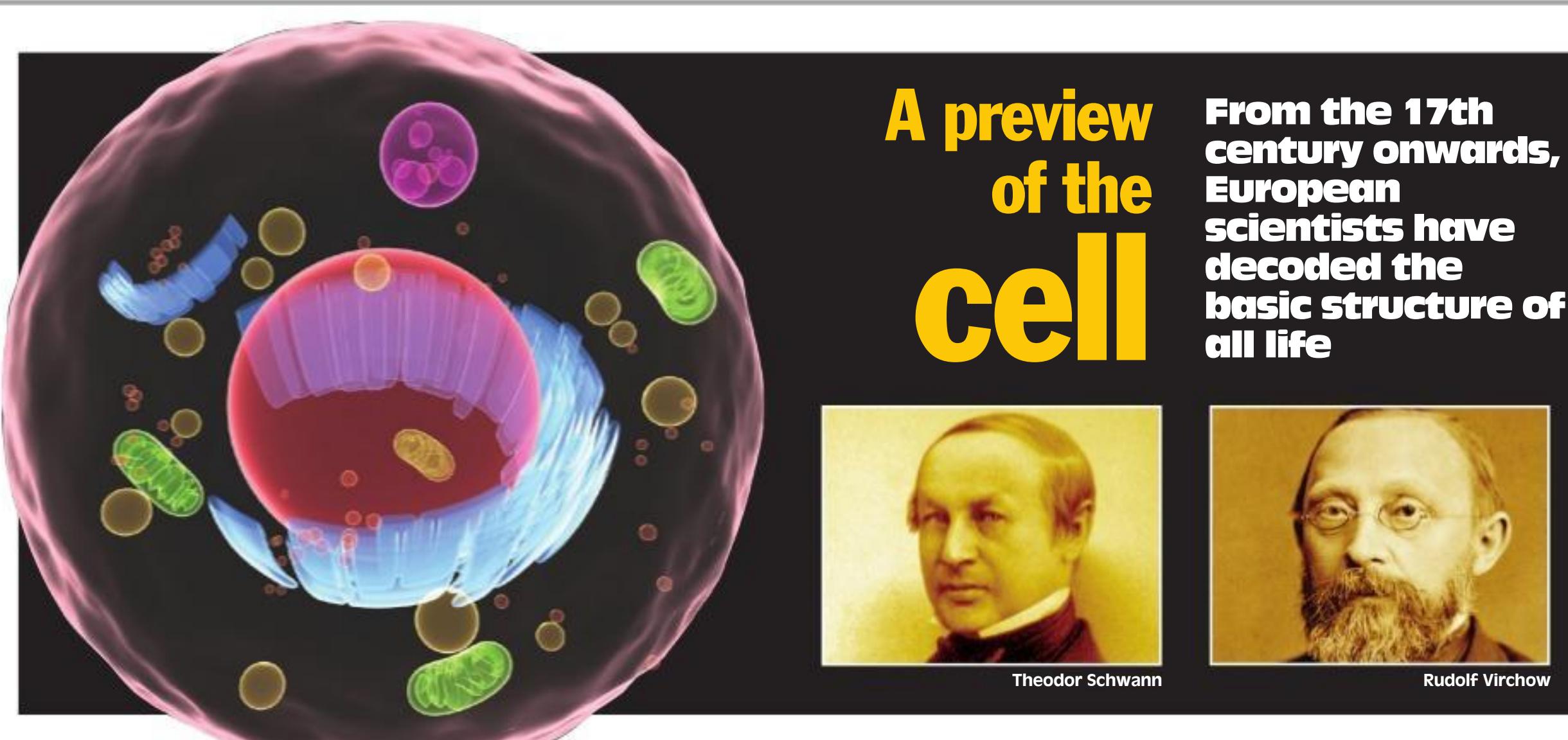
The cell is the basic unit of biology. Every organism either consists of cells or is itself a single cell. A revolution in biology has brought with it tremendous advances in our understanding of how cells are constructed and how they carry out all the intricate functions necessary for life. Particularly significant is the dynamic nature of the cell, as evidenced by its capacity to grow, reproduce, and become specialised, its ability to respond to stimuli and adapt to changes in its environment.

Cell biology itself is changing, as scientists from a variety of related disciplines focus their efforts on the common objective of understanding more adequately how cells work. The convergence of cytology, genetics, and bio-chemistry has made modern cell biology one of the most exciting and dynamic disciplines in contemporary biology.

The story of cell biology started to unfold more than 300 years ago, as European scientists began to focus their crude microscopes on a variety of biological material ranging from tree bark to human sperm. One such scientist was Robert Hooke, curator of instruments for the Royal Society of London. In 1665, Hooke used a microscope that he had built himself to examine thin slices of cork cut with a penknife. He saw a network of tiny boxlike compartments that reminded him of a honeycomb. Hooke called these little compartments *cellulae*, a Latin term meaning "little rooms." It is from this word that we get our present-day term, cell.

Actually, what Hooke observed were not cells at all but the empty cell walls of dead plant tissue, which is what tree bark really is. However, Hooke would not have thought of his *cellulae* as dead, because he did not understand that they could be alive! Although he noticed that cells in other plant tissues were filled with what he called "juices," he preferred to concentrate on the more prominent cell walls that he had first encountered.

One of the limitations inherent in Hooke's observations was that his



A preview of the cell

From the 17th century onwards, European scientists have decoded the basic structure of all life



microscope could only magnify objects 30-fold, making it difficult to learn much about the internal organisation of cells. This obstacle was overcome a few years later by Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, a Dutch shopkeeper who devoted much of his spare time to the design of microscopes. Van Leeuwenhoek produced hand-polished lenses that could magnify objects almost 300-fold. Using these superior lenses, he became the first to observe living cells, including blood cells, sperm cells, and single-celled organisms found in pond water. He reported his observations to the Royal Society in a series of papers during the last quarter of the 17th century. His detailed reports attest to both the high quality of his lenses and his keen powers of observation.

Two factors restricted further understanding of the nature of cells. One was the limited resolution of the microscopes of the day, which even van Leeuwenhoek's superior instruments could push just so far. The second and probably more fundamental factor was the essentially descriptive nature of 17th century biology. It was

basically an age of observation, with little thought given to explaining the intriguing architectural details of biological materials that were beginning to yield to the probing lens of the microscope.

More than a century passed before the combination of improved microscopes and more experimentally minded microscopists resulted in a series of developments that culminated in an understanding of the importance of cells in biological organisation. By the 1830s, improved lenses led to higher magnification and better resolution, such that structures only one micrometre apart could be resolved. (A micrometer is 10⁻⁶ m, or one-millionth of a metre)

Aided by such improved lenses, the English botanist Robert Brown found that every plant cell he looked at contained a rounded structure, which he called a nucleus, a term derived from the Latin word for "kernel." In 1838, his German colleague Matthias Schleiden came to the important conclusion that all plant tissues are composed of cells and that an embryonic plant always arises from

a single cell.

Similar conclusions concerning animal tissue were reported only a year later by Theodor Schwann, thereby laying to rest earlier speculations that plants and animals might not resemble each other structurally. It is easy to understand how such speculations could have arisen. After all, plant cell walls provide conspicuous boundaries between cells that are readily visible even with a crude microscope, whereas individual animal cells, which lack cell walls, are much harder to distinguish in a tissue sample.

It was only when Schwann examined animal cartilage cells that he became convinced of the fundamental similarity between plant and animal tissue, because cartilage cells, unlike most other animal cells, have boundaries that are well defined by thick deposits of collagen fibers. Schwann drew all these observations together into a single unified theory of cellular organisation, which has stood the test of time and continues to provide the basis for our own understanding of the importance of cells and cell biology.

As originally postulated by

Schwann in 1839, the cell theory had two basic tenets -- All organisms consist of one or more cells; and the cell is the basic unit of structure for all organisms.

Less than 20 years later, a third tenet was added. This grew out of Brown's original description of nuclei, extended by Karl Nageli to include observations on the nature of cell division. By 1855, Rudolf Virchow, a German physiologist, concluded that cells arose in only one manner -- by the division of other, preexisting cells. Virchow encapsulated this conclusion in the now-famous Latin phrase *omnis cellula e cellula*, which in translation becomes the third tenet of the modern cell theory -- All cells arise only from preexisting cells.

Thus, the cell is not only the basic unit of structure for all organisms but also the basic unit of reproduction. In other words, all of life has a cellular basis. No wonder, then, that an understanding of cells and their properties is so fundamental to a proper appreciation of all other aspects of biology.

The writer is associate professor and head, department of botany, Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata

PLUS POINTS

Waste to wonder



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad, in collaboration with the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials-Hyderabad, have developed a simple and cost-effective method to derive "activated carbon electrode" material from cornhusk for high-voltage supercapacitors. Their electrode showed better electrochemical performance (high energy density and high-power density) when compared with conventional supercapacitors.

This development is important for India, especially for Uttar Pradesh and the combined Andhra Pradesh-Telangana states, which are the first and second largest producers of corn in the country respectively. They produce a large amount of corn husk waste, much of which is currently burnt as its potential to be converted to valuable electrode material is not harnessed owing to lack of awareness, expertise and technology.

This research on affordable and efficient methods can enable this conversion, which would trigger a cascade of additional earning opportunities for corn farmers and provision of a sustainable energy source. It was led by Atul Suresh Deshpande, associate professor, department of materials science and metallurgical engineering, IIT-Hyderabad, in collaboration with TN Rao, associate director, ARCI-Hyderabad, along with their research students, M Usha Rani, and K Nanaji. Their paper detailing the synthesis and electrochemical performance of the material produced has been recently published in the *Journal of Power Sources*.

Carbon-based electrodes are playing a crucial role in the development of energy storage devices. They are typically derived from expensive, high purity precursors such as polymers, organic precursors and high purity gases using various methods. The production of carbon electrodes from biomass is a simpler straightforward process.

AI could help



Artificial intelligence could help diagnose Alzheimer's faster and improve patient prognosis, a new study has revealed. The new research from the University of Sheffield's Neuroscience Institute examines how the routine use of AI in healthcare could help to relieve the time and economic impact that common neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, put on the health system.

The main risk factor for many neurological disorders is age, and with populations worldwide living longer than ever before, the number of people with a neurodegenerative disease is expected to hit unprecedented levels. The number of people living with Alzheimer's alone is predicted to treble to 115 million by 2050, posing a real challenge for the health system.

The new study, published in the journal *Nature Reviews Neurology*, highlights how AI technologies, such as machine learning algorithms, can detect neurodegenerative disorders -- which cause part of the brain to die -- before progressive symptoms worsen. This can improve patients' chances of benefitting from successful disease-modifying treatment.

Lead author of the study, Laura Ferriolou from the University of Sheffield, said, "Most neurodegenerative diseases still do not have a cure and in many cases are diagnosed late due to their molecular complexity. Widespread implementation of AI technologies can help, for example, predict which patients showing mild cognitive impairment will go on to develop Alzheimer's disease, or how severely their motor skills will decline over time."

"AI-powered technologies can also be used to help patients communicate their symptoms remotely and in the privacy of their own homes, which will be an enormous benefit to patients with mobility issues."

Machine learning algorithms can be trained to recognise changes caused by diseases in medical images, patient movement information, speech recordings or footage showing patient behaviour, making the AI a valuable diagnostic aid. For example, it can be used by trained professionals in radiology departments to analyse images more quickly and highlight critical results for an immediate follow-up.

Algorithms can also listen to patients' speech and analyse their vocabulary and other semantic features to assess their cognitive function. Machine learning can also use information contained within electronic health records or genetic profiles to suggest the best treatments for individual patients.



For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THE 'GOOD' BOY

Fifa says its president Gianni Infantino (photo, left) would "respect" any decision made by its ethics committee, even if it chose to suspend him pending an investigation into meetings he held with the Swiss attorney-general. A special federal public prosecutor in Switzerland has opened criminal proceedings against Infantino.

THUMBNAILS

Race row: England footballer Danny Rose has spoken of his experiences of racism in everyday life, revealing he was stopped by police in Doncaster last week. Subjected to abuse while playing for the Three Lions, he said clashes with police were commonplace.



Sanchez's wish: Jadon Sancho is confident of being a Manchester United player "by the end of the week," as negotiations about the Borussia Dortmund forward have accelerated in the past 24 hours. There still isn't an agreement, the feeling is that a deal will be struck.

Willian's move: Arsenal are favourites to sign Willian should the winger leave Chelsea in the coming weeks. Willian has still not agreed new terms with Chelsea, despite having been offered a two-year extension to his expiring contract. He favours a move to Arsenal.

Personal peak: Liverpool owner John W Henry claims being part of their success in the past 14 months represents a personal peak for him. Since June 2019 the Reds have won the Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup and, after 30 years, the league title.

Probe sought: More than 56,000 Newcastle United supporters have signed a petition calling on the government to launch an investigation into the Premier League's takeover process, following the collapsed sale of the club. The takeover bid failed on Thursday.

New rule: Players who deliberately cough at opponents or referees can be shown red or yellow cards under new guidelines issued by the Football Association amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The instructions will come into force immediately and be applied at all levels.

Pay crisis: A third of international male cricketers have suffered breaches of contract or non-payment from events sanctioned by the game's global governing body or its members, the international players' federation said. Bosses had a duty to protect the players, it said.

Vivo likely to quit as 2020 IPL title sponsors amid Indo-China diplomatic tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 AUGUST

Chinese mobile phone company Vivo is likely to pull out as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor for this year and is in talks with the BCCI for an "amicable separation" amid rising Sino-India diplomatic tensions.

The one year pullout could be treated as a moratorium period and if the relations improve, BCCI may look at inking a fresh three-year deal with the company from 2021 to 2023 on

revised terms. The IPL will be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10 this year.

"Yes, the discussions are on between BCCI office-bearers (president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah) with the representatives of the company. There is a possibility that Vivo will not be title sponsors for one year," a senior BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

Chinese sponsorship became a bone of contention after the BCCI declared it would review the deals following the

violent clashes between the armies of both the countries in eastern Ladakh.

The clash, which led to the killing of 20 Indian soldiers, triggered public outrage and led to calls of boycotting Chinese companies and products.

While the IPL Governing Council on Sunday retained all the sponsors, including Vivo which annually pays Rs 440 crore (approximately) as part of a five-year deal lasting till 2022, there is a strong possibility that the company might part ways for a year.

The Board official said that whenever a decision is taken, it will be amicable and the BCCI is not looking at encashing the bank guarantee.

"In different circumstances, if the sponsors don't keep commitment, BCCI can encash the bank guarantee which it had earlier done in case of errant franchises. But here, both parties are looking at an amicable escape route," the official said.

There were questions raised on the BCCI's decision to retain Chinese sponsors even as the union government banned

close to 60 Chinese apps and social media platforms.

"These are sensitive times and need a cautious approach. Once you had said that you will review sponsorship and then did nothing about it, would raise a question mark over your intent on dealing with the Chinese companies," the official said.

The BCCI is already in talks with a couple of Indian companies who are believed to be interested in a short-term sponsorship deal -- one year period.

"It will be difficult to make up the full amount (Rs 440 crore) in such a short time with the tournament being held overseas. Also, there won't be much traction in an empty stadium. But we will come to that once Vivo officially quits," he said.

Meanwhile, it was decided that Indian players and support staff will have to undergo two COVID-19 RT-PCR tests, 24 hours apart, a week before joining the 14-day quarantine period with their respective teams in India.

If any individual tests positive, he will go into a 14-day quarantine. After the quarantine, he will be required to undergo two more COVID-19 RT-PCR tests within a space of 24 hours and if they come negative, that person will be cleared to fly to UAE for the IPL beginning 19 November.

Pakistan ready to nettle England

Visitors have not lost a series in Blighty since 2010, winning 3 of 6 Tests to square series twice

VITHUSHAN EHANTHARAJAH
MANCHESTER, 4 AUGUST

Test cricket in England is about arming yourself with the most effective fast bowlers. Ones who are not just quick, but skilled enough to control swimming conditions and exploit pitches that encourage seam movement.

Not all overseas teams compile their attacks well given this information. Pakistan, though, know what it takes to thrive in these conditions.

They have not lost a series on these shores since 2010. In between, they have won three of six Tests to square series in 2016 and 2018, while pocketing series wins out in the United Arab Emirates in 2012 and 2015.

A number of their players have had county cricket experience: the most notable in recent times being star batsman Babar Azam and metronomic pace bowler Mohammad Abbas. But while those two will be the marquee names heading into the three-match series that begins tomorrow, the excited whispers are on a 17-year-old who is threatening to take the whole world by storm.

There are queries as to the "real" age of Naseem Shah (in photo). But what is for certain, though, is that he possesses a classless action underpinned by the pace and movement many spend their lives trying to obtain.

To say that of a player with only four Test caps and 12 first-class matches under his belt seems, well, over the top. But there is a convention in those statistics that have never really done precocious talents justice. But within those four

in international whites, he has 13 wickets at 26 and a Test hat-trick taken when he was just 16, making him the youngest to achieve the feat.

The debut, at the Gabba last winter, showed promise. Now there is a sense he is about to go big. In two intra-squad matches up at Derby, where Pakistan were based in the UK a month ago, he took 10 wickets, including a five for 55 and four for 52. None of this is unexpected: from the batsmen dismissed to his head coach, Misbah-ul-Haq, who knows what it takes to oversee wins in this part of the world.

"Before going to Australia," begins Misbah, "Waqar Younis and me just saw him in the Gaddafi Stadium. At that time he just looked like a complete bowler and we decided that even though he hadn't played first-class cricket and then he played four games and took 17 wickets then he went

to Australia.

"We could see the potential but now we've got the evidence at international level, he already got a hat-trick and five-fors."

If you see his experience and his cricket then the sample size is too small but he's already fulfilling his potential.

He is one who could win a Test match on his own so we're looking forward for him to emerge as a very good bowler in this series."

Of course, it is not all on Naseem. Abbas took 10 wickets in the 2018 series and as a bowler in county cricket has 79 first class dismissals at 20.67 for Leicestershire. Tall left-arm Shaheen Afridi is also a unique proposition, as is the stalwart that is Wahab Riaz.

One player who was missing from 2018 was leg spinner Yasir Shah. A hip injury ruled him out of the Test against Ireland and the two against England. His absence meant Pakistan were without their lead-



ing wicket-taker from 2016 (19).

With a clean bill of health, Misbah is keen to see how his wrist-spinner can influence matters this time around.

"Yasir Shah is bowling well

and he played a wider role when we last visited England in two victories at Lord's and The Oval (2016). You could say he was the main bowler who took wickets in the two Test matches. That always plays a huge role on your mind and the opposition's mind, also. He bowled well during the practice matches and we've got a good attack that can cause problems for England.

Misbah, though, is under no illusion that the challenge facing Pakistan's batsman is perhaps greater than what England's have to cope with. That is more down to being used to conditions rather than the make-up of the respective attacks.

And when one of those attacks has two of only four seamers to take over 500 Test wickets in James Anderson and Stuart Broad, the caution and patience preached by Misbah is well-placed. Especially from a right-hander who averaged 45 in English conditions, with two centuries to boot.

"Anderson and Stuart Broad are experienced campaigners and we know how good they are, especially in English conditions with the Duke ball. Obviously that's a challenge for you as a team. If an in-form bowler you can negotiate him well, then you give yourself a chance, so we're looking forward to playing him well."

"You always look for good performances against these top performers and we are looking forward. This is one thing if we can do better, we have a better chance."

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