

CBI TAKES OVER
SUSHANT SINGH
DEATH PROBE



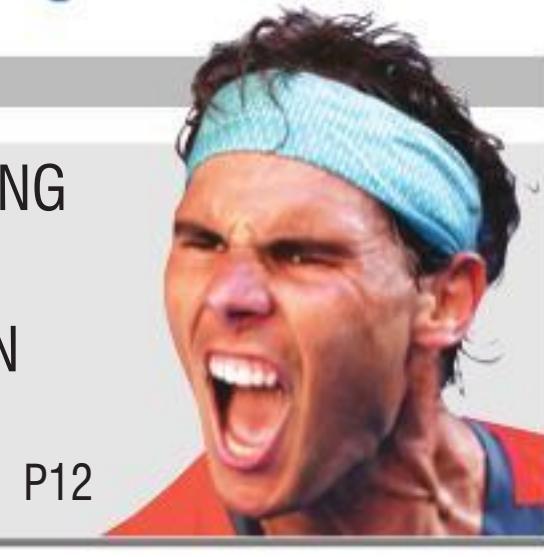
A WOMAN WHO
EPITOMISED DELHI



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

RAJAPAKSA CLAN
EYES BIG WIN IN
LANKA POLLS

NADAL GETTING
READY FOR
FRENCH OPEN



P9 P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of thundery development. Strong surface winds during the day. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 96% Min: 53%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 37.5°C (+3) Min: 27.2°C (0)

SUN RISES

05:47 hrs

MOON RISES

21:58 hrs

SUN SETS
19:07 hrs
MOON SETS
09:45 hrs

THUMBNAILS



During rain in Kolkata on Thursday. SNS

CPI(M) leader Shyamal Chakraborty dead of Covid: Prominent CPI(M) leader Shyamal Chakraborty, who tested Covid-19 positive, died at a private hospital in Kolkata on Thursday, his party said. He was 76. Chakraborty, an ardent trade unionist and a former Rajya Sabha member, was admitted to the hospital after he tested positive for Covid-19 on 30 July. Chakraborty had pneumonia and suffered two major heart attacks. Though he survived the first one, he succumbed after the second attack, a spokesperson of the hospital said.

Kulbhushan Jadhav case: India on Thursday said it has not received any information from Pakistan after the Islamabad high court asked the government there to give another chance to New Delhi to appoint a counsel for former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, who is on death row on charges of espionage and terrorism. Islamabad high court on Monday had directed the government to inform India to appoint a lawyer for Jadhav in order to file a review petition against his conviction. India had recently said that Pakistan had blocked all its efforts to seek remedies in Jadhav's case.

Ahmedabad Covid-19 hospital blaze leaves 8 patients dead

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, 6 AUGUST

At least eight people were killed and one sustained burn injuries in a fire that broke out early this morning at a private hospital in the city.

This is the second major non-industrial fire in Gujarat in a span of 14 months. At least 20 students were killed in Surat in May last year when fire engulfed a commercial building atop which they were attending a tuition class. A few years ago, about half a dozen infants were killed at a hospital in Ahmedabad due to a fire caused by short circuit in the incubators they were in.

Shrey Hospital in the upmarket Navrangpura area where the eight patients died was a designated Covid-19 facility. The fire started at around 3.30 a.m. at the Inten-



Relatives grieve for their loved one outside the mortuary room of the Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad on Thursday. AFP

sive Care Unit and thick smoke soon engulfed the floor, making it difficult for the hospital staff to put it off on their own.

Several fire tenders were

pressed into service while ho-

spital staff tried to evacuate

some of the patients. More than

40 patients have been eva-

cuated and shifted to the Gov-

ernment-run Sardar Vallab-

hbhai Patel Hospital.

Though the fire is suspec-

tive to have been caused by a short circuit in the ICU, chief minister Vijay Rupani has ordered an inquiry into the incident. A trustee of the hospital and a staff who was an eyewitness are being questioned.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for each of the deceased while Rupani has promised Rs 4 lakhs ex-gratia for each bereaved family.

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tive to have been caused by a short circuit in the ICU, chief minister Vijay Rupani has ordered an inquiry into the incident. A trustee of the hospital and a staff who was an eyewitness are being questioned.

As said the central bank would remain "watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use the available space to support the revival of the economy."

The committee, however, unanimously decided to continue to keep its accommodative policy stance "as long as necessary to revive growth".

The RBI allowed banks to restructure loans of companies that were not in default for more than 30 days as on March 1, 2020. Lenders can

look and extremely weak state of the economy in the midst of an unprecedented shock from the ongoing pandemic, the MPC decided to keep the policy rate on hold," he said.

Das said the central bank will remain "watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use the available space to support the revival of the economy."

The committee expects inflation to remain elevated in Q2 (July-September), ease only in the second half of 2020-21 fiscal.

The 115 basis point rate cut this year was on top of the 135 basis points reduction in an easing cycle last year.

"Given the uncertainty surrounding the inflation out-

look and extremely weak state of the economy in the midst of an unprecedented shock from the ongoing pandemic, the MPC decided to keep the policy rate on hold," he said.

Das said the central bank will remain "watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use the available space to support the revival of the economy."

The committee, however, unanimously decided to continue to keep its accommodative policy stance "as long as necessary to revive growth".

Stating that the move will help companies that have been struggling with the economic fallout of the coronavirus, Das said the resolution plan may be invoked any time within 2020 and will have to be implemented within 180 days from the date of

invocation.

"The underlying theme of this resolution window is the preservation of the soundness of the Indian banking sector," he said.

The bank also announced setting up an expert committee headed by KV Kamath - the former chairman of BRICS Bank and ICICI Bank - for corporate and personal loan resolution plans, which will look into sector-specific financial parameters for restructurings. The RBI also decided to broaden the scope of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) by including start-ups and enhancing borrowing limits for renewable energy sectors.

MORE ON PAGE 8

Centre releases ₹890 crore Covid-19 assistance to states

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

| FACT FILE | |
|----------------|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 19,64,536 |
| ACTIVE CASES | 5,95,501 |
| NEW CASES | 56,282 |
| NEW RECOVERIES | 46,121 |
| TOTAL DEATHS | 40,699 |

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.
THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, 6 AUGUST

The Centre has released Rs 890.32 crore as the second instalment of the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package to 22 states and Union Territories.

In a press release, the government said that the amount of the financial assistance is based on the Covid-19 case load in these states/UTs. The Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package was announced by the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 24 March 2020, in which he said the government has provisioned 15,000 crore rupees for treating coronavirus patients and strengthening the medical infrastructure of the country.

The second instalment of the aid will be used to strengthen public health infrastructure for testing, including procurement and installation of RT-PCR machines, RNA extraction kits, TrueNat and CB-NAAT machines, bolster infrastructure for treatment and development of ICU beds, installation of oxygen generators and procurement of bedside oxygen concentrators among others.

The first instalment of Rs. 3,000 crore was released in April 2020. India's Covid-19 tally, meanwhile, breached the 20-lakh mark on Thursday, while recoveries surged to 13.70 lakh, according to data provided by the states and union territories.

According to Union health ministry figures updated at 8 a.m., the country saw a single-day spike of 56,282 infections,

taking India's Covid-19 caseload to 19,64,536, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 40,699 with 904 new fatalities being reported in a 24-hour span.

However, a tally compiled by news agency PTI based on information provided by various states and Union territories showed India's Covid-19 caseload at 20,19,930, death toll at 41,573 and recoveries at 13,70,347.

Delhi tally: A total of 1,299 fresh cases of Covid-19 were recorded in Delhi on Thursday, which pushed the cumulative total of such patients to 14,531, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The single-day count of such cases on Wednesday was 1,076 and it was 674 on Tuesday.

"Delhi Police has taken the case registered under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) at Paschim Vihar police station seriously. It is a sensitive case and the Delhi Police is making all efforts to catch the culprit," Eish Singhal, Delhi Police PRO said.

However, police had not arrested the accused person till Thursday night.

The incident occurred last Tuesday evening when the girl was alone in her West Delhi home. She was sexually assaulted by the unidentified man who also hit her multiple times on the face and head with a sharp object, police said.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today visited the AIIMS, where he announced financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the victim's family. Kejriwal said there could be no compensation for what had happened to her. He promised to ensure that the culprit gets the harshest possible punishment.

Outrage grows over brutal sexual assault on minor girl in Capital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Amid growing outrage over the sexual assault on a 12-year-old girl and her brutalisation by an unidentified assailant at her home in West Delhi's Paschim Vihar area, Delhi Police today said they have scanned footage from over 100 CCTV cameras and were questioning suspects in connection with this heinous crime.

The horrific incident, which convulsed Delhi, has again highlighted the sustained rise in crimes and atrocities against women and even minor girls in the national capital.

This 12-year-old victim of brutal sexual assault is fighting for her life in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. The minor girl is under observation after a surgery at the hospital.

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SEE PAGE 2

Reserve Bank hits pause button on interest rate cut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 AUGUST

The Reserve Bank on Thursday kept interest rates on hold to contain elevated inflation, even as it allowed banks to restructure some corporate and individual loans as part of efforts to revive the economy that faces its first contraction in more than four decades.

It also raised the limit of loans that can be availed against gold ornaments and jewellery and announced additional liquidity measures over and above those that have already been taken to reduce the asset-liability challenges in the NBFC sector.

over the last 3-4 months.

After reducing the interest rate by a total of 115 basis points since February, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously in favour of the status quo, leaving repo rate at 4 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on the three-day deliberations of the panel.

The committee expects inflation to remain elevated in Q2 (July-September), ease only in the second half of 2020-21 fiscal.

The 115 basis point rate cut this year was on top of the 135 basis points reduction in an easing cycle last year.

"Given the uncertainty surrounding the inflation out-

look and extremely weak state of the economy in the midst of an unprecedented shock from the ongoing pandemic, the MPC decided to keep the policy rate on hold," he said.

Das said the central bank would remain "watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use the available space to support the revival of the economy."

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Stating that the move will help companies that have been struggling with the economic fallout of the coronavirus, Das said the resolution plan may be invoked any time within 2020 and will have to be implemented within 180 days from the date of

invocation.

"The underlying theme of this resolution window is the preservation of the soundness of the Indian banking sector," he said.

The bank also announced setting up an expert committee headed by KV Kamath - the former chairman of BRICS Bank and ICICI Bank - for corporate and personal loan resolution plans, which will look into sector-specific financial parameters for restructurings. The RBI also decided to broaden the scope of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) by including start-ups and enhancing borrowing limits for renewable energy sectors.

MORE ON PAGE 8

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The RBI also decided to broaden the scope of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) by including start-ups and enhancing borrowing limits for renewable energy sectors.

According to Union health ministry figures updated at 8 a.m., the country saw a

Badarpur Eco park will help reduce pollution in Capital: Jaju



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Eco park, built on 885-acre land in Badarpur, will bring down pollution level in Delhi, claims BJP leader in charge of Delhi and national vice president Shyam Jaju on Thursday.

Jaju stated that it is a matter of pride for the people of Badarpur area that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted the world's largest eco park to its residents.

The BJP leader requested the people of Delhi and party workers to plant maximum number of trees for the cleanliness and protection of the environment.

He also stated that the Union ministry of road transport and highways is going to construct a highway from Sarai Kale Khan to Ballabhgarh via Mithapur Chowk under which a flyover will also

He informed that thousands of trees will also be planted on both sides of this highway. Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri who represents Badarpur and other BJP leaders were also present on the occasion.

be constructed at Mithapur Chowk.

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Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri who represents Badarpur and other BJP leaders were also present on the occasion.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

Annexure A
Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Ltd., 41, Rani Jhansi Road, Jhan-dewalan, New Delhi-110055

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of general public that Maheshwari Technical Services Limited has ceased to function as a Participant of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) as its Participantship has been surrendered. The certificate of registration granted to Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Limited has been cancelled by the Securities and Exchange Board of India with effect from July 28, 2020. Henceforth, Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Limited shall not carry on any activity as a Participant of NSDL. In case any Client of Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Limited has any grievance or dispute in respect of the depository services rendered by Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Limited while it was functioning as a Participant of NSDL, he/she may report the same in writing to "The Officer Incharge", Investor Relationship Cell, National Securities Depository Limited.

4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013, India. For publication of this notice or email at relations@nsdl.co.in. No grievances/claims/disputes etc., will be entertained after this date.

For Maheshwari Technical & Financial Services Limited Ram Chandra Maheshwari (Chairman)
Date :
Place :

SALE BY AUCTION

ON 9-8-2020 at 10-30 to ICMR, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi. Air Conditioners, Photostat, Furniture, Misc. Entry 10.000. Full payment with tax. 9818003790.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KOUR Shyam Sunder Rao and Rao Shyamsundar Kour and K. Shyam Sundar Rao all are same and one identical person, vide affidavit sworn before the First Class Judicial Magistrate, Howrah dated 31.07.20.
I, ABULAIK Khan, R/o. 36/2, Topsia Road, Kolkata-700039, do hereby declare that, my daughter 'Sadaf Khan' and 'Sadaf' is same and one identical person, vide affidavit sworn before Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Kolkata, dated 06.08.2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mr. Rajpal S/o. Shri Bhagratram R/o H.No. A-2/127 Dharmpura Extn., Nafajgarh, New Delhi - 110043 has evicted his son Sunny (SUNNY) from all his movable and immovable property due to disobedience and misconduct. After the published date of this information, Any person or any organization that deals with any type of transactions with SUNNY then he himself will be responsible.

The Statesman

KOLKATA

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13A, Dabgram Industrial Growth Centre, P.O. Satellite Township, Siliguri-734015 Tel: 2568615, 2568063 and 2568787. Fax: (0353) 2568296, Email: siliguri@thestatesmangroup.com City Office: 3rd Floor, Rina Bhawan, Opp. HDFC Bank, Panitanik More, Sevoke Rd, Siliguri-734015. Ph: 0353-2524077

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ranchi@thestatesmangroup.com

AIR-SURCHARGE; Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1 All other stations in India - Re. 1

We have a plasma bank with antibodies donated by recovered coronavirus patients. The facilities of the government's cord blood bank can be utilised for the treatment of the COVID-19 patients

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Capital

Outrage grows over savage sexual assault on 12-year-old girl in Delhi

Minor girl fighting for her life in AIIMS; Kejriwal says the brutal assault on her has 'shaken him to the core', announces Rs 10 lakh compensation for her family

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Amid growing outrage over the sexual assault on a 12-year-old girl and her brutalisation by an unidentified assailant at her home in West Delhi's Paschim Vihar area, Delhi Police today said they have scanned footage from over 100 CCTV cameras and were questioning suspects in connection with this heinous crime.

The horrific incident, which convulsed Delhi, has again highlighted the sustained rise in crimes and atrocities against women and even minor girls in the national capital.

This 12-year-old victim of brutal sexual assault is fighting for her life in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. The minor girl is under observation after a surgery at the hospital.

"Delhi Police has taken the case registered under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) at Paschim Vihar police station seriously. It is a sensitive case and the Delhi Police is making all efforts to catch the culprit," Eish Singhal, Delhi Police PRO said.

"Police have already scanned through CCTVs and are questioning suspects on the basis of the same," he said. However, police had not arrested the accused person till Thursday night.

The incident occurred last Tuesday evening when the minor girl was alone in her West Delhi home. She was sexually assaulted by the unidentified man who also hit her multiple



Congress workers stage a protest during Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's visit to AIIMS on Thursday, demanding justice for the 12-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted and brutalised at her home in the city last Tuesday.

times on the face and head with a sharp object, police said. The girl's neighbours saw her lying in a pool of blood and informed police and her parents.

The girl was reportedly bleeding as she had severe wounds on her body when she was taken to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital initially. She was later shifted to the AIIMS because she was found to be in a very serious condition.

The AIIMS doctors today said she has been operated upon and was stable. "She has suffered severe injuries but her condition is stable now. She was operated upon late on Tuesday night.

She is in the ward and on oxygen support," a doctor at the AIIMS said.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today visited the AIIMS to enquire about the condition of the girl.

Announcing financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the victim's family, Kejriwal said there could be no compensation for what had happened to her. He promised to ensure that the culprit gets the harshest possible punishment.

The CM said, "The child is unconscious and in a critical condition. She underwent a surgery at AIIMS and is under observation for 24 to 48 hours."

Before visiting the AIIMS,

Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi, "The savage assault on the 13-year-old girl-child has shaken me to the core. Allowing such beasts to roam around freely is intolerable..."

Talking to reporters after his visit to the AIIMS, Kejriwal said the condition of the girl is serious, adding that he spoke to Delhi Police commissioner S.N. Srivastava, who told him that the police were trying to nab the accused.

The CM said the Delhi government will ensure strict punishment for the accused by engaging the best lawyers in the case.

Kejriwal said the girl has suffered serious internal

injuries. "She has undergone a surgery and the doctors are trying their best to save her. It would take around 24-48 hours to assess whether she will be out of danger. We hope that she recuperates and gets discharged from the hospital," he said.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal hit out at the city police over the delay in the arrest of the accused who sexually assaulted the girl two days ago.

"I am summoning the DCW. I am going to ask him about the investigation," Maliwal said.

"What CCTV footage has

been scanned? How many statements have been recorded so far? How is it possible that the accused is still at large?" she asked.

Maliwal also visited the AIIMS to check on the girl and said the victim's condition was "quite serious".

"The girl has multiple head fractures and bite marks all over her body," Maliwal said. "She has been brutally assaulted to the extent that every body part has injury marks," the DCW chief said.

She demanded that the accused be immediately arrested and sentenced to death.

The Covid-19 cases push Delhi's caseload to over 1.41L

1,299 fresh Covid cases push Delhi's caseload to over 1.41L

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

A total of 1,299 fresh cases of Covid-19 were recorded in Delhi on Thursday, which pushed the cumulative total of such patients to 1,41,531, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The single-day count of such cases on Wednesday was 1,076 and it was 674 on Tuesday.

The number of Covid tests done today in the city was 20,436. The count of such tests conducted on Wednesday was 16,785 whereas the tests conducted on Tuesday numbered 9,295.

The number of single-day cases of Covid-19 was found to be increasing with the rise in the number of daily tests conducted in the national capital.



A health worker collects a swab sample for Covid test in the Capital on Thursday

DEEPAK

There were now 1,27,124 recovered Covid cases in Delhi, including 1,008 patients discharged by various hospitals now after they got cured.

The Covid recovery rate was 89.82 per cent now whereas it was 89.93 per cent on Wednesday.

The health bulletin stated that the city had 10,348 active cases which was higher than yesterday's figure of 10,072 cases.

There were 15 patients who died of Covid-19 and were taken into account today, raising the cumulative total of such fatalities in Delhi to 4,059.

The patients taking treatment under the system of home isolation numbered 5,244, the bulletin added.

The number of containment zones or red zones in the city stood at 466.

High humidity in Delhi, light rains likely this weekend

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

People of Delhi witnessed high humidity on Thursday, a day after rains drenched the city.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded a maximum temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal.

Humidity levels shot up to 96 per cent, causing inconvenience to the residents.

After receiving more than normal rainfall in July, Delhi has witnessed a subdued monsoon in August so far. The Safdarjung Observatory has recorded just 19.7 mm rainfall so far this month against the normal of 60.9 mm, a deficit of 68 per cent.



The Palam weather station has recorded 44 per cent less rain this month. Only light rains are predicted over the next two to three days.

In July, Delhi had

gauged 236.9 mm precipitation, 12 per cent more than the normal of 210.6 mm.

The direction by a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan came while disposing of a PIL seeking a ban on allegedly illegal online health service



Take COVID-19 as a challenge and intensify the fight against it. We should be proactive in dealing with it

YOGI ADITYANATH
UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 07 AUGUST 2020

03

Punjab ministers seek expulsion of Bajwa, Dullo from Congress

Entire Amarinder Singh Cabinet calls for stern action against the two Cong MPs for taking on the party-led state govt over the recent hooch tragedy and demanding a central agency probe into it

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 6 AUGUST

Two days after Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar sought strict action against two party MPs, Pratap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullo, the entire Punjab Cabinet on Thursday also pitched for the duo's immediate expulsion from the Congress for their alleged 'anti-party and anti-government' activities, which they termed as 'gross indiscipline'.

The activities of the two party's Rajya Sabha MPs from Punjab call for immediate and strict action against them by the party high command, said the Cabinet ministers, seeking the expulsion of Bajwa and Dullo for attacking their own Congress government, led by chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh, over the



Pratap Singh Bajwa



Shamsher Singh Dullo

recent hooch tragedy in the state.

The two MPs had approached the Punjab Governor to demand a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the spurious liquor disaster that claimed 113 deaths in the

years away, they said, pointing to the MPs' repeated attacks on the state government, including Chief Minister Singh.

Questioning their move to raise concerns over the hooch tragedy, the ministers charged that the two MPs had never bothered to raise any issue of interest of the state they represent in the Rajya Sabha.

The ministers said that by bypassing all party and government forums to protest against the government handling of the hooch tragedy and to approach the Governor for CBI and ED inquiries into the case, the two MPs had not only attacked the very basis of democratic governance but had sought to undermine the Punjab Police force, which was effectively cracking down on the liquor mafia despite the Covid pandemic

pressures it was tackling currently.

This is not the way democratic systems and institutions are meant to function, said the ministers, pointing out that a CBI probe was needed only if the police failed to deliver, which was not the case at present.

Moreover, the decision on recommending or not recommending a CBI probe rests with the state government, and not with two MPs, who are unable to even represent the interests of Punjab properly in Parliament, the ministers charged.

Instead of doing their job as MPs, both Bajwa and Dullo seem intent on destabilising their own government, either out of their own greed for power or at the bidding of those who want to destabilise the ruling Congress in Punjab, the ministers alleged.

HP CM denies police report on people's migration from villages on China border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday denied the reports of migration of rural folks from villages alongside China border in the state as was claimed by HP Police on 25 July and said there was no migration of people in these areas.

Talking to media during his visit to Dharamshala in Kangra district, Thakur said people in border areas alongside China were highly patriotic and were ready to fight, and even prepared to make supreme sacrifice if need arises.

"Many development projects are being carried out in these areas but these can't be discussed in the public domain as it is a sensitivity issue.

Talking to media during his visit to Dharamshala in Kangra district, Thakur said people in border areas alongside China were highly patriotic and were ready to fight, and even prepared to make supreme sacrifice if need arises.

A panel of five battalion commanders (Superintendent of Police) visited border villages in Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti districts after the aggression by People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Galwan valley.

The local population do

not point out issues related to development and connectivity in these areas and the state government is making efforts to resolve these at

the earliest," he said, adding they had, on record, stated that they were not going anywhere.

He further stated that the development of border areas was on top priority of the state government and the government was extending full cooperation to the local population.

The police panel had recommended strengthening of road and communication infrastructure, besides starting of economic activities as tribal tourism and marketing of local products.

Thakur, during the media interaction, also ruled out the possibility of opening of temples till 31 August and said the major reason for the decision was the ongoing monsoon wherein viral and bacterial infections threat looms large.

"At one point of time, we were almost ready to open the temples and religious shrines but the rise in COVID-19 cases has forced the state government to revise the decision. Hence, the temples will not be opened at least till 31 August owing to the rainy season," he added.

It is worthwhile to mention here that in a press conference on 25 July, Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu had cited the police panel's report on migration from border areas which might prove a threat to nation-

AZURE SKY



People relishing pleasant weather at Tikkal Tal in Haryana on Thursday.

Dalai Lama calls for world peace on atomic bombing anniversary

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 AUGUST

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Thursday called for world peace and urged governments, organizations and individuals to rededicate themselves to making the achievement of peace the centre-piece of our lives.

In a statement on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, he said despite many great developments that also took place in 20th century, it was an era of violence in which over 200 million people were killed including the horrific use of nuclear weapons.

"Now, in our increasingly interdependent world, we have a chance to make this a more peaceful century," he added.

Reiterating his call for global peace and demilitarization,



Dalai Lama and fellow Nobel Laureates paying their respects at Hiroshima Memorial Park in Japan.

the ultimate aim of a demilitarized world. War means killing and violence leads to counter violence. We need to put an end to combat and the production of weapons and construct a more peaceful world," he said.

Dalai Lama added that human beings have created many of the problems in today's world.

"As long as we have strong negative emotions and we view our fellow beings in terms of 'us' and 'them', there will be a tendency to try to destroy them.

We must recognise the oneness of humanity, and understand that we will not achieve peace merely through prayer; we need to take action, he added. It is worthwhile to mention here that Japan on Thursday remembered the victims of the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world's first atomic bomb attack.

'Missing' Covid patient found dead in govt hospital toilet in U'khand

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 6 AUGUST

A coronavirus positive patient, who disappeared from Sushila Tiwari Hospital in Haldwani in Uttarakhand on 5 August, was found dead in the toilet of this hospital itself on Thursday.

The incident has exposed the poor management of the state government-run Sushila Tiwari Hospital. After the hospital staff failed to track the 56-year-old male patients, they lodged a complaint of the missing patient with the local police.

After the patient disappeared on Wednesday, the hospital administration claimed that the person is suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure. They even asserted that the health of the patient was stable. Based on the complaint of the Sushila Tiwari hospital, the police began searching the person from Wednesday evening onwards. The patient failed to reach his home at Ramnagar Gul-



lerghati and this puzzled everybody. The hospital staff found a toilet locked from inside on Thursday morning for a long time. When they broke the door, they found the missing patient dead inside. For over 24 hours the dead body of the patient remained inside the hospital campus and the hospital management and police were searching him at the wrong places.

Earlier a suspected Covid-19 patient, admitted at Sushila Tiwari Hospital, ran away from the campus by breaking the window. He was arrested by Bhimtal Police. But, the fresh case has shocked everybody.

Haryana registers FIRs against 11 sanitiser brands for poor quality

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 6 AUGUST

As many as 11 sanitiser brands have been booked by the Haryana government for 'poor quality' of their samples collected from various districts across the state.

Along with the first information reports (FIRs), a notice has been issued to cancel or suspend the license of the respective brands, Haryana health minister Anil Vij said on Thursday.

He said about 248 samples were collected by the Food and Drug Administration of Haryana, out of which reports of 123 samples have been received. Out of the received reports, 109 samples have been passed, while 14 samples have been failed.

Among these, nine brands were found substandard, while five brands were found with excessive quantity of methanol present in them, which acts as a toxin. Death may occur by consuming methanol.

The minister said that instructions have been given to recover the entire stock of failed brand sanitizer back from the market so that people do not suffer any kind of loss.

The health minister said that samples

of 'Best Time Unit' and 'Mother Health' brands in Kaithal district have failed. Similarly, nine sanitiser samples of 'Global Bottlers' in Karnal district have been failed due to the excessive amount of methanol present in them which is harmful for the body.

Apart from these, two brands in Hisar district have also not been found of good quality. A case has been registered against them and a notice has been issued for taking appropriate action.

Vij said that at the initial stage of Corona outbreak, a complaint of selling fake sanitizers in the market was received, due to which the Food and Drug Administration was instructed to conduct raids in the districts of Haryana. Following this, raids were conducted in various districts from 6 March to 8 March 2020 by the administration and about 158 samples were collected. Similarly 90 samples were collected from different parts of the state on 22 May, 2020. Appropriate action will be taken after receiving the report, he added.

Meanwhile, Haryana Chief Min-

ister Manohar Lal Khattar today urged the patients who have recovered from COVID-19 infection to come forward and motivate people suffering from this infection to put up a tough fight against this Pandemic.

Infact all such survivors should encour-

age people to not fear from this Pandemic, rather ensure proper precautions are taken for it. The Chief Minister also appealed to the people who have recovered from COVID-19 infection to donate their plasma.



West Bengal and Odisha were struck by a deadly super-cyclone on 20 May. The cyclone caused significant loss of life and massive destruction of property. While lives are limping back to normal, the reconstruction of the states, especially West Bengal, will involve considerable cost. This is a time for people to come forward with their assistance, to aid relief and rehabilitation work.

We ask readers to contribute generously to The Statesman Calamity Relief Fund, the proceeds of which will be used to aid reconstruction work. Contributions may be sent to:

THE STATESMAN CALAMITY RELIEF FUND
ACCOUNT NO: 13032020000138
BANK: HDFC BANK, CHOWRINGHEE SQUARE, KOLKATA
IFSC CODE: HDFC0001303

Contributions may also be sent by cheque/DD to The Statesman Calamity Relief Fund, Statesman House, 4 Chowinghee Square, Kolkata 700 001. Donations above Rs 201 will be acknowledged in the columns of the newspaper. In the event of electronic transfers, please send us your name, address and contribution details by e-mail to editor@thestatesman.com

You may, if you wish, also contribute to

WEST BENGAL STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND
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BANK: ICICI BANK LTD., HOWRAH
IFSC Code: ICIC0006280

Contributions are entitled to deduction u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Natural farming: Promising initiative by Himachal apple growers

ARCHANA PHULL
SHIMLA, 6 AUGUST

It may just be a modest beginning, but a promising one, with apple growers in Himachal Pradesh evincing interest in 'natural farming', shunning the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in their orchards.

As many as 4,754 apple growers in the apple belt in Shimla district (which produces 70 per cent of the apple harvest in Himachal) have switched to the Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) technique in their orchards, covering an area of 345,332 hectares over the last three years as a part of state government's project.

In all, 6,700 apple growers in state have adopted SPNF (which involves a 'desi cow').

They are set to reap the benefits of apples grown

with this natural technique, which requires lesser input and gives better output, in terms of 'healthy fruit' (which is sans any chemical sprays) and the price in market.

The growers are satisfied with results so far. They have been getting better price for apples produced with natural farming through different link-ups even without certification. Once they are certified, as is the move, they will much more higher price for their produce," said an official with State Project Implementing Unit of 'Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan' Yojna, under which natural farming is being encouraged in Himachal.

More so, the natural farming of apples had reduced the requirement of labour by 61 per cent, the advantage that has come handy for the apple orchardists in COVID-19

crisis when labour availability has been an issue.

The apples produced in Himachal start flooding the market mid July onwards. The Kinnar apples come last in October. The apple economy of Himachal runs in Rs 4000-4500 crore, with around 1.5 lakh families associated with it. Shimla district produces 70 per cent of total apple in state, followed by Kullu and Kinnar. As per officials, apple is produced on 1.25 lakh hectares in state with productivity as low as 3-4 tonnes per hectare.

The state generally contributes 30-40 per cent of total apple production in India, followed by Kashmir, which is at the top with 50 per cent production.

A good apple harvest in Himachal Pradesh means around four crore apple boxes (one box carries 20-22 kilograms of apple).

The impact of scab on leaves and fruit was 9.2 percent

and 2.1 per cent respectively in orchards following SPNF.

In chemical farming, the impact of scab was 14.2 per cent on apple leaves and 9.2 per cent on fruits. Sudden leaf fall to the extent of 18 per cent was recorded on these apple plants.

"The farmers and apple growers, are being trained in SPNF technique in a phased manner in HP. It is yielding good results as many of them have switched to this practice. We now propose to engage farmers, who have successfully adopted it to spread it more," said Dr Rajeshwar Chandel, Executive Director, Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojna.

So far more than 54,000 farmers, including vegetable and apple growers, have switched to natural farming practice (SPNF) in the state, while over 70,000 farmers have so far been trained.



SC seeks chargesheet in Palghar lynching case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Maharashtra Police to produce a chargesheet in the Palghar lynching case before it for scrutiny.

A bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy asked the Maharashtra government about the action taken against the erring police officials as months have passed after the lynching incident.

The top court asked for inquiry reports, details of investigation and also asked the police to file a chargesheet in the case before it for scrutiny.

Advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha who claimed to be the main petitioner in the case, contended before the bench that Maharashtra is a land of Sadhus but they were literally handed over to the mob by the police itself.

Justice Bhushan asked advocate Rahul Chitrin, appearing for Maharashtra government, regarding the

progress made in the inquiry conducted against the policemen in the lynching of the two Sadhus and their driver in Palghar.

Jha contended that the state government must file relevant excerpts of the chargesheet and also file an affidavit on the progress of the investigation so far.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "Let all chargesheets come on record and let the court decide what is relevant or not."

The top court will hear the matter after three weeks.

On June 11, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea seeking a CBI probe into the lynching of sadhus in Palghar, and sought a response from

the Maharashtra government. It also issued notice on a separate plea seeking a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe to ensure evidence in the matter is not destroyed.

"There is a reasonable apprehension of bias, if Respondent No. 2 (Maharashtra Police) proceeds with the investigation. It is judicially acknowledged that right to fair and just investigation is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Therefore, the petitioners have approached this court inter alia, seeking transfer of investigation of the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation", argued the petitioners.

TENDER

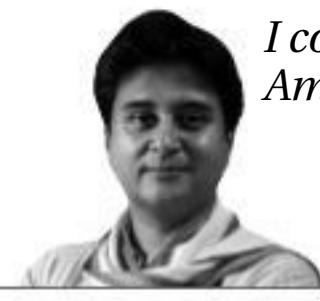
"HP.PWD.TENDERS"

Sealed item rate tender on form PWD-8 are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of H.P. by the Executive-Engineer, Rohru Division, HPPWD, Rohru for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD, so as to reach in the office of the Executive-Engineer, Rohru Division, HPPWD, Rohru on or before 04-09-2020 upto 10.45AM, and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 AM. In the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form documents can be had from his office (Rohru Division HPPWD, Rohru) against cash payment (Non refundable) on any working day during the office hours upto 3.00 PM. 03-09-2020 on. No application for issue of tender forms will be received on 03-09-2020 after 3.00PM. If the Office happens to be closed on the above mentioned dates, the tenders will be sold/ opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

The earnest money in the shape of National in the name of the XEN, must accompany each tenders. Conditional tenders and application (for purchase of tender-forms) received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The Offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 120days. The XEN Reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

The copy of the latest renewal/enlistment, sale-tax clearance certificate must also accompany the application for the purchase of tender-documents. Saving certificate /Time deposit account/Saving bank account in any of the post offices in HP, duly pledged.

| Sr. No. | Name of work | Estimated Cost | E/Money | Time/cost of forms |
|---------|--|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | A/R & M/o on HPPWD Rest House Building at Khedra (H.P.) | Rs.17750/- | Rs.8400/- | 2 Months |
| 2 | C/O Dfkl Khal Dhanpurkar road km 0/0 to 0/765 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 1/750 to 1/768) | Rs.29260/- | Rs.6000/- | 2 Months |
| 3 | A/R & M/o to PWD Rest House at Rohru in Tehsil Rohru Distt: Shimla (H.P.) Dismantling roofing & P/F prepatined sheet roofing/C U shape drain/plinth protection, providing wood work in vertical post in verandah,toilet fitting etc in servans quarters | Rs.434482/- | Rs.8500/- | 2 Months |
| 4 | C/O Rohru Arhal road km 0/0 to 1/50 (SH:- C/O B/Wall at RD 3/350 to 3/368 & 6/410 to 6/422) | Rs.263896/- | Rs.5300/- | 2 Months |
| 5 | R/R damages to Pujari Koti Sarithar road km 0/0 to 1/60 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 3/960 to 3/985) | Rs.23816/- | Rs.4800/- | 2 Months |
| 6 | C/O Dali Link road Dali Kanchi to Gauni Khroru km 0/0 to 2/2400 (SH:- C/O Cross Drainage work 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 0/20 & 1/320) | Rs.409580/- | Rs.6200/- | 2 Months |
| 7 | C/O Link road from Pujari to Parmasari km 0/0 to 2/0 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr. Wide road from RD 0/640 to 1/090) | Rs.347276/- | Rs.7000/- | 2 Months |
| 8 | R/R Damage on TKHR road km 0/0 to 8/500 (SH:- Removal of slips various RD 68/0 to 80/0) | Rs.352800/- | Rs.7200/- | 2 Months |
| 9 | Targal to H.B. Brasli km 0/0 to 2/0 (SH:- C/O B/Wall at RD 0/60 to 0/110) | Rs.312878/- | Rs.6300/- | 2 Months |
| 10 | R/R damages on Sheet Ganganagar Kalgaon Kupri Methi road km 0/0 to 8/165 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 3/765 to 5/785 & 5/915 to 5/935) | Rs.446490/- | Rs.9000/- | 2 Months |
| 11 | C/O Banoti to Lalpani Mattha road km 0/0 to 7/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in wire crate at RD 1/130 to 1/180) | Rs.243811/- | Rs.5000/- | 2 Months |
| 12 | Widening and strengthening of Rohru Chirgaon road (MDR-64) km 0/0 tgo 21/210 (SH:- Consultancy services for preparation of DPR including geotechnical investigation (MDR-64) from km 0/0 to 21/120) | Rs.390920/- | Rs.8800/- | 2 Months |
| 13 | C/O Baul Nallah to Dharkulli road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr. Wide road at RD 2/210 to 2/450) | Rs.499053/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 14 | R/R damages on Sheet Ganganagar Kupri Methi road km 0/0 to 8/165 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 2/222 to 2/307) | Rs.298958/- | Rs.6000/- | 2 Months |
| 15 | C/O Kimli Khad to Titar Thetri road km 0/0 to 1/500 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road portion RD 0/765 to 0/930) | Rs.195653/- | Rs.9900/- | 2 Months |
| 16 | R/R damages on Bhawani Hingwala Gawas road km 0/0 to 7/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 2/375 to 2/395) | Rs.190306/- | Rs.3000/- | 2 Months |
| 17 | C/O Shatawat Wall Kerety road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- C/O 3.00 Mtrs span solid slab culvert at RD 0/670 C/O Abutment left side only) | Rs.405320/- | Rs.8100/- | 2 Months |
| 18 | C/O Shatawat Wall Kerety road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- C/O 3.00 Mtrs span solid slab culvert at RD 0/670 C/O Right side wing wall wall side only) | Rs.474366/- | Rs.8500/- | 2 Months |
| 19 | C/O Shatawat Wall Kerety road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- C/O 3.00 Mtrs span solid slab culvert at RD 0/670 C/O Slab portion only) | Rs.201710/- | Rs.4000/- | 2 Months |
| 20 | Improvement of Kansakot Kutara Daigaon road km 0/0 to 15/0 (SH:- Providing and fixing W-metal Beam crash barrier at RD 0/500 to 0/650) | Rs.476378/- | Rs.8500/- | 2 Months |
| 21 | R/R damages on Bhannoma kothal Kashkandi road km 0/0 to 7/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 4/585 to 4/615) | Rs.209137/- | Rs.4200/- | 2 Months |
| 22 | C/O Link road to village Atgaon km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- C/O Cross Drainage work 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 0/450) | Rs.201516/- | Rs.4000/- | 2 Months |
| 23 | C/O Gawas Nattu to Dunga road km 0/0 to 1/0 (SH:- F/C 5/7 Mtrs. Wide road at RD 0/285 to 0/480) | Rs.494655/- | Rs.9900/- | 2 Months |
| 24 | C/O Link road from Peja Shakhwan to Gharai Dogni road km 0/0 to 2/210 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr wide road between km 1/420 to 1/570) | Rs.497136/- | Rs.9800/- | 2 Months |
| 25 | C/O Kuli Nardu road km 0/0 to 1/0 (SH:- C/O 900mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 0/370, 0/720 with wing wall Both side 7.00 mtrs) | Rs.382448/- | Rs.7600/- | 2 Months |
| 26 | C/O Shatawat Wall Kerety road km 0/0 to 2/500 (SH:- C/O Essential R/Wall at RD 1/970 to 1/990, 1/950 to 1/970 & 2/05 to 2/015) | Rs.381470/- | Rs.6700/- | 2 Months |
| 27 | C/O Link road to Kharapather Balokhar Ganganagar teer Nahal Sheetavan Kalgaon teer km 0/0 to 4/500 (SH:- Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 2/0 to 2/615) | Rs.498605/- | Rs.9800/- | 2 Months |
| 28 | C/O Link road to Kharapather Balokhar Ganganagar teer Nahal Sheetavan Kalgaon teer km 0/0 to 4/500 (SH:- Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 2/705 to 3/615) | Rs.498128/- | Rs.9800/- | 2 Months |
| 29 | C/O Siryan Nalla Methi Kupri Butihal Kalgaon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- C/O P/L Kharanja stone Soling various RD 2/0 to 2/240, 2/735 to 2/810, 3/0 to 3/100, 3/200 to 3/500) | Rs.188690/- | Rs.3800/- | 2 Months |
| 30 | C/O Siryan Nalla Methi Kupri Butihal Kalgaon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- C/O Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 1/855 to 2/690) | Rs.498432/- | Rs.9800/- | 2 Months |
| 31 | C/O Link road to H.B. Bajnudhar Kewaldar Mohan Lal Parisar in km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Improvement of narrow reaches at Various RD 0/525 to 0/720) | Rs.495854/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 32 | C/O Link road to H.B. Bajnudhar Kewaldar Mohan Lal Parisar in km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Improvement of narrow reaches at Various RD 0/720 to 0/810 and 1/015 to 1/140) | Rs.499775/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 33 | C/O Kofli Karala Khangtari road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- Providing and laying Kharanja Stone soling at RD 2/735 to 3/735) | Rs.267900/- | Rs.5300/- | 2 Months |
| 34 | C/O Link road to village H.B. Bhajnudhar km 0/0 to 3/345 (SH:- P/L Local GSB in km 0/0 to 2/0G-II 1/500 to 2/0) | Rs.440782/- | Rs.8800/- | 2 Months |
| 35 | C/O Siryan Nalla Methi Kupri Butihal Kalgaon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 1/090 to 1/150) | Rs.485248/- | Rs.9500/- | 2 Months |
| 36 | C/O Kshashdar road Naga rai Dogni road km 0/0 to 1/375 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in wire crate at RD 0/477 to 0/487, 50) | Rs.292874/- | Rs.5800/- | 2 Months |
| 37 | C/O Kshashdar road Naga rai Dogni road km 0/0 to 1/375 (SH:- Providing Kharanja stone soling at RD 0/0 to 0/050 & 0/645 to 1/180) | Rs.156721/- | Rs.3200/- | 2 Months |
| 38 | R/R damages on Rohru Arhal Basha road km 0/0 to 12/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in PCC at RD 0/935 to 0/975) | Rs.335988/- | Rs.6700/- | 2 Months |
| 39 | R/R damages of Andhra Gushali Rohal road km 0/0 to 9/0 (SH:- P/L GSB at RD 7/700 to 9/0) | Rs.414843/- | Rs.8300/- | 2 Months |
| 40 | C/O Link road to village Gheota Ghasani road km 0/0 to 3/400 (SH:- Providing Kharanja stone soling at RD 0/0 to 0/500) | Rs.133952/- | Rs.2600/- | 2 Months |
| 41 | C/O Bagi Naurodhik Kulfadhar road km 0/0 to 5/0 (SH:- P/L Kharanja stone soling at RD 2/735 to 3/735) | Rs.267899/- | Rs.4200/- | 2 Months |
| 42 | R/R damages to Khadrala Khangtari road km 0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- C/O B/Wall in wire crate at RD 0/740 to 0/770 & 1/60 to 1/690) | Rs.458769/- | Rs.9600/- | 2 Months |
| 43 | C/O Ganashdar Tikkar Baidhar road km 0/0 to 23/525 (SH:- Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 7/105 to 7/180 and 7/360 to 7/450) | Rs.498625/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 44 | C/O Ganashdar Tikkar Baidhar road km 0/0 to 23/525 (SH:- Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 7/105 to 7/180 and 7/360 to 7/450) | Rs.498625/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 45 | C/O Naddu Kainchi to Bauli Nallah road km 0/0 to 1/300 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtrs wide road km 0/630 to 1/135) | Rs.494877/- | Rs.10000/- | 2 Months |
| 46 | A/R & M/o Sanji Munchhara road km 0/0 to 6/0 and Link road to village Astani Km 0/0 to 1/0 (SH:- Repair and maintenance of road C/O Un-lined surface drain,clearance of culvert and C/O sub grade and earthen shoulders etc between RD 0/60 to 6/0 & 0/100) | Rs.426024/- | Rs.9500/- | 2 Months |
| 47 | R/R Damages Panuu Thiyantu and km 0/0 to 4/500 (SH:- Removal of slips portion RD 0/400 to 0/430, 0/560 to 0/600, 0/620 to 0/650, 0/840 to 0/900 to 0/920, 0/990 to 1/010, 1/585 to 1/610, and 1/200 to 1/220 and B/Wall in wire crate at RD 1/585 to 1/615) | Rs.482088/- | Rs.9600/- | 2 Months |
| 48 | A/R & M/o Badiyara Masli Dhakgaon road km 0/0 to 12/0 (SH:- C/O B/Wall in wire crate at RD 4/750 to 4/765) | Rs.105810/- | Rs.2100/- | 2 Months |
| 49 | A/R & M/o Badiyara Masli Dhakgaon road km 0/0 to 12/0 (SH:- C/O Cross drainage work 900mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 7/465 to 7/835) | Rs.409583/- | Rs.8200/- | 2 Months |
| 50 | A/R & M/o Badiyara Masli Dhakgaon road km 0/0 to 12/0 (SH:- P/L GSB in km 7/400 to 7/520, 7/825 to 7/870, 6/100 to 6/220, 8/500 to 8/590, 9/600 to 9/720, 10/120 to 10/210, 10/315 to 10/450, 10/570 to 10/720, 10/870 to 10/990 & 11/410 to 11/545, 11/545 to 12/0) | Rs.397946/- | Rs.7900/- | 2 Months |
| 51 | R/R damages on Samoli Parsa road km 0/0 to 7/0 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in PCC at 1/4:8 to RD 0/450 to 0/460) | Rs.253447/- | Rs.5000/- | 2 Months |
| 52 | C/O Link road to Kharapather Sheeghat Saronthi Tikkar road km 0/0 to 3/350 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 14/500 to 14/530) | Rs.473482/- | Rs.9400/- | 2 Months |
| 53 | C/O Link road to Tunadar Kwealdhar Saneed Nathu Ram road km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- Widening of narrow reaches at various RD 1/210 to 1/795) | | | |



CONDEMNING DESECRATION OF DR B R AMBEDKAR'S STATUE IN MP'S SHIVPURI DISTRICT

BJP MP JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 07 AUGUST 2020

THUMBNAILS



A health worker takes blood sample for a serological test or Covid-19 antibody testing, in New Delhi on Thursday. AFP

SC extends protection to TV anchor: The Supreme Court on Thursday extended the protection from any coercive action till next date of hearing to TV news anchor Arunish Devgan in connection with the cases lodged over his alleged defamatory remark against Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti during a show telecast on 15 June.

TRS MLA Ramalinga Reddy passes away: Ruling TRS MLA in Telangana Sripeta Ramalinga Reddy (59) died of heart attack on Thursday while undergoing treatment for an infection in the leg at a private hospital in Hyderabad.

ASSOCHAM 'Wisdom series': The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), one of the apex trade associations of India in association with ITC Sunfeast concluded the second edition of its Wisdom Series lecture on the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Vocal for Local ~ Moving towards Self-Reliant India'. On the occasion, Swami Ramdev appealed to Indian consumers to proactively embrace Indians brands to help build a self-reliant India, according to a Press release..

BJP sarpanch shot by terrorists: Continuing to target BJP activists in Kashmir, a BJP leader and sarpanch Sajad Ahmad was shot dead by terrorists on Thursday outside his residence in Qazigund of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Bhoomi Pujan became an official function: CPM

Says merging of state, politics & religion is something that was flaunted by PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The political project of converting India into a Hindu majoritarian republic has scored a significant success with the beginning of the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, the CPI (M) said today.

Giving its view on yesterday's event in the UP town, the party in an editorial in its journal People's Democracy said: "Modi in his speech at Ayodhya conflated the image of Ram, with national honour and national unity. He called the Ram temple a symbol of national sentiment."

The party said the Bhoomi Pujan event for Ram temple at Ayodhya, though organised by the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, became an official function with the Prime Minister laying the foundation for the temple, and the Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Governor in attendance.

"The merging of state, politics and religion is something which was flaunted by Modi in Ayodhya. What a contrast to the stand taken by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, regarding the construction of the Somnath temple in Gujarat," the party said.

Nehru denied any state funds for the purpose and conveyed his objection to President Rajendra Prasad inaugurating the temple. The principle he stood for was clear and simple: A secular state cannot patronize or fund the construction of a religious place of worship, the CPI (M) said.

"Ethno-religious nationalism which seeks to mobilise people on religious and ethnic identity, is the very opposite of the anti-colonial inclusive nationalism which pervaded our freedom struggle and the establishment of the independent Indian state," the party said.

For the BJP-RSS combine, the Ram temple project was a matter of "national honour" setting right the so-called

It's back to business in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AYODHYA, 6 AUGUST



"I am opening my shop after about four or five days, he said.

Uttar Pradesh observes a coronavirus lockdown on Saturdays and Sundays, and several shops had remained shut even during the next three days as restrictions came into force before the Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

"Once the Ram temple is built, we hope it will help us and we will be able to recover the losses which we have incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Sweet shop owner Rakesh Kumar is also optimistic about what the future holds.

"The construction of Ram temple will have a positive impact on the 70-80 sweet shops around the Hanumangarhi temple, he said.

The shopkeepers pay a monthly rent of Rs 1,000 to the temple management.

Arvind Kumar said they have been running their shops in the area for three or four generations.

The construction of a grand Ram temple will definitely help us to overcome the challenge of Covid-19, he said.

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Finally, one must remember the date chosen for the Bhoomi Pujan - 5 August - the party said. It is the date on which, a year ago, Jammu & Kashmir lost its special status and was disbanded into two Centrally-run Union Territories, the CPI (M) said.

The Congress leaders who are now joining the chorus of celebrations on the Ram temple must realise their opportunistic approach will only facilitate those who want to establish a Hindu Rashtra, the CPI (M) said.

Expressing his party's view, CPI general secretary D Raja said abrogation of Article 370

and Ayodhya temple were part of RSS agenda. Ever since BJP came to power with Modi as PM in 2014, the RSS became aggressive and started influencing the political course, using the different organs of the Indian state, and undermining the "very Constitution of the country," Raja said.

The authority prohibited in any kind of assembly of people.

The clashes broke out when the bike-borne activists were going to a temple at Bhorai Singori, playing loud music and shouting Jai Sri Ram slogans. Sonitpur district police chief Mugdha Jyoti Mahanta said.

Locals objected to the booming music and questioned the presence of such a large gathering amid Covid-19 pandemic, leading to strife.

The Army conducted a flag march in the troubled areas of Sonitpur district, which witnessed clashes between two communities following a bike rally by Bajrang Dal activists to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, officials said. Twelve people were injured in the clash.

In UP, as many as 666 villages have been affected by

At this time, it is the most sought after photo by the customers, he said. Cloth merchant Ravi Chandra Gupta, who has a shop in a lane leading to Ram Janmabhoomi, complained about the impact of COVID-19 on business.

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Assam police today detained two persons in connection with the clash that broke out yesterday in the Dhekiajuli and Thelamara areas of Sonitpur district. The situation remains under control as the district authority imposed indefinite curfew in both the localities.

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Important visit

The tentative step taken by Washington to cock a snook at Beijing by deciding to send Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to Taipei could well become one of many significant steps countries around the world take to rein in China's increasing belligerence and expansionism. Beijing has objected to the visit saying it vehemently opposes official exchanges between the United States and Taiwan, claiming the latter is a renegade territory that will one day return to its fold. That has not happened in the past 70 years, and it is unlikely to happen so long as Taiwan's people exercise their will. Certainly, no Taiwanese who has seen the position of Tibetans, Uighurs and now of the people of Hong Kong will ever wish to be part of China's suffocating embrace. The United States has sought to downplay Mr Azar's visit saying it is not the first by an American official - the last such visit was in 2014 when the head of the Environmental Protection Agency Gina McCarthy had travelled to Taipei - and says it is aimed at gathering valuable inputs on how to tackle Covid-19. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who normally does not mince words, was by his own standards quite circumspect when he told reporters, "He's going there with a deep and important purpose. We're still in a global pandemic. Taiwan has had some significant success in how they have handled this. We have wanted them to be part of the conversations at the World Health Assembly that - China has prevented that from happening. And so, he'll go there and talk to them about public health issues." The United States had cut off diplomatic ties with Taiwan in 1979 and officially follows the "One China" policy. But without recognising Taiwan officially, Washington does maintain trade ties and even supplies weapons to the country.

Because of China's overwhelming influence on global affairs, only a handful of countries - mostly small ones such as Nauru, Tuvalu, St. Lucia, Haiti and Honduras - maintain full diplomatic ties with Taiwan. India maintains no diplomatic relations but has expanded trade and people-to-people ties from the mid-1990s. On 20 May, two BJP MPs were in virtual attendance for the swearing-in of Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen, in an attempt to convey a message to Beijing on its claims over Arunachal Pradesh, but which were in fact a precursor to the violent Chinese intrusions in Ladakh. Among other nations in the QUAD, Australia enjoyed diplomatic relations with Taipei until 1972 when it established ties with Beijing. Now Australia's government on its own admission "supports the development, on an unofficial basis, of two-way economic and cultural contacts" with Taiwan. Japan has a somewhat more troubled relationship with Taiwan, having ruled the country for 50 years until 1945 after the Treaty of Shimonoseki. But after Taiwan was voted out of the United Nations in the early 1970s, Japan fell in line with the rest of the world and chose diplomatic ties with Beijing. It is against this backdrop that nations around the world might wish to re-examine their positions on Taiwan; if so, Mr Azar's visit may well prove path breaking.

Managing waste

On 15 August 2019, just under a year ago, the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech deprecated the use of single-use plastic. A few weeks later, on the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mr Narendra Modi announced that India would phase out single-use plastic by 2022. In March 2020 came the coronavirus epidemic and those lofty and well-intended goals appear now to have perished under the staggering weight of biomedical waste, a lot of it plastic and capable only of single use. According to one estimate, India may be generating more than 100 tonnes of Covid-related waste every single day, an addition by about a sixth to the already burgeoning waste tally of the country. With the focus of administrators riveted to managing a public health emergency, and without India having either embraced a comprehensive waste disposal policy or inculcated good waste segregation habits, the position can only get worse. The informal trade of scavengers and rag-pickers has been the first to face the consequences of handling biomedical waste, which can be seen lying abandoned outside smaller hospitals and crematoria and is often mixed with municipal waste before making its way to landfills. In the national capital alone, several dozen sanitation workers had been afflicted by the virus and many have lost their lives. This story has been repeated in other major cities as well. But it will not be long before the weight of this waste overwhelms all of society, as the country's estimated 4 million sanitation workers act as catalysts.

Enforcement efforts have been largely ineffectual. While the Central Pollution Control Board was quick to release guidelines on how to treat Covid-related waste, having done so in March, these remain largely on paper. The rules state that masks, gloves, tissues and swabs from Covid-19 patients under home isolation must be collected separately and treated as biomedical waste. Before being sent to common biomedical waste treatment facilities, masks and gloves should be cut to prevent re-use and kept in a paper bag for at least 72 hours. But these guidelines are being routinely flouted. Petitions filed in courts and before the National Green Tribunal claim that Covid waste is being dumped carelessly in the open.

The reasons for this are not hard to find - while the Government worked overtime to publicise its Aarogya Setu app, it has done little to educate people on waste management, especially waste generated by Covid. Unless this changes and fuelled by ineffective management of the consequences of the first.

Swamiji and Politics

Swamiji had, however, little faith in politics since it often reduced men to brutes who 'in the name of politics rob others and fatten themselves by sucking the very life blood of the masses'. None could deny this, looking at what is presently happening at various levels. Indeed, it is imaginable what therefore would have been his reaction had he seen politics suffused with lies and lust for power as it is today in this country



Swami Vivekananda was an all-renouncing monk. Like other worldly things, politics was also a thing from which he kept himself aloof. So, he was never found to participate in any political activity of his time, let alone give voice to any political view. Not only that, he made it mandatory for members of his monastic organization to avoid politics in all forms. Violations made one liable to be dismissed from the organisation.

That the norm was quite stringent was evident from Nivedita's disassociation from Ramakrishna Mission, consequent upon her links with politics. It is important to remember in this context that Swamiji did not grant her Sannyasa in spite of her earnest entreaty.

But then, Swamiji was an Acharya which meant he was a pathfinder-teacher of mankind. Accordingly, by virtue of his deep sympathy for man, he shared his thoughts with us, making no exception to his ideas on politics.

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Swamiji's concern for India was born of his spiritual realisation that every speck of dust of India was holy. Sages walked its soil and had freely contributed for human progress with no sense of racial prejudice and discrimination. Their descendants pursued the same policy through the vicissitudes of history. Humanity at large was benefited as a result and respected India for centuries. He gave an inkling of India's exceptional character and contribution in his maiden speech at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago. He believed India's survival with its originality was essential as an example for rest of the world to emulate. Hence, any nation overpowering and obliterating it politically was intolerable to him. So, he said British should be ousted from India at any cost.

Youths of the land drew lessons and inspiration from his works containing his patriotic ideas to fight for political freedom as well as for nation-building. This is why Swamiji became, posthumously, a political suspect to the British.

Real prosperity will not come out of moral degradation, for which, Swamiji saw, politics was responsible to a great extent. He said "law, government, politics are phases, not final in any way", because "the goal is beyond them". He thought politics had missed that goal as it did not care for man's inner growth and perfection.

Swamiji noticed that caste, creed and community-based politics was plaguing India fast. It was giving primacy to "temple and mosque", which he had set aside as "secondary details". Humanism was getting short shrift, diabolism gaining the social space perpetrating divisions between man and man. He was angry with politics because it was playing a foul game.

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Swamiji saw socialism from a different angle, mixing spirituality with it. In a speech before an audience of European intellectuals he said: "In India we have social communism, with the light

of Advaita - playing in and around; in Europe you are socially individualists, but your thought is dualistic, which is spiritual communism. Thus, the one consists of socialist institutions, hedged in by individualistic thought, while the other is made up of individualist institutions, within the hedge of communistic thought."

Socialism as a political philosophy was then gathering momentum and earning popularity rapidly. Its waves had also reached India. Swamiji was well posted regarding its movements in the West. He found it to resemble some of his ideas on the "uplift of the masses", and thereby chose to declare himself as a "socialist".

He was particularly impressed by its concern for the proletariat. But he was unimpressed by it as well because he did not see it as a means for comprehensive alleviation of suffering, therefore called it "half a loaf".

Percieving its innate debilities, he knew that socialism could not diminish the yawning chasm between the haves and have-nots. Besides, he marked, there were differences among its promoters and leaders, culminating in diverse views.

For instance, as Prof. Subodh Sengupta had written: "Socialism, made popular in the modern world by Saint Simon (1760-1825), Fourier (1772-1832) and Robert Owen (1804-1892), is a tricky concept of which no one has been able to give an acceptable definition. From each according to his ability and to each according to his needs," said Marx, but Lenin replaced it with "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work". Bernard Shaw rejects both the formulae.

Swamiji's study of socialistic movements was keen and supple, because of which he could correctly predict the revolutions of Russia and China, although they were non-industrial countries. His forecast was especially correct when he said in 1897 that India would achieve freedom in fifty years. Although unthinkable at the time, it happened exactly that way in 1947. The world was literally topsy-turvy for fifty years after Swamiji's demise in 1902. Inordinate ambition for power and mastery made international politics venomous. Imperialism, Fascism and Nazism perpetuated

heinous crimes and genocides. Two bloody socialistic revolutions killed millions. Above all, two protracted world wars and a couple of atom bombs fetched misery beyond definition to mankind. Long before these, Swamiji's super-sensitive mind received premonitions of such unprecedented predicaments which urged him to tell us with a note of serious caution that the world was standing on the "vortex of a volcano" due to erupt any moment. To allay their dangers, he strikingly suggested international organizations when the concept of UNO and its sister organizations would have seemed wistful.

He said: "Even in politics and sociology, problems that were national twenty years ago can no more be solved on national grounds only. They are assuming huge proportions, gigantic shapes. They can only be solved when looked at in the broader light of international grounds. International organizations, international combinations, international laws are the cry of the day."

Unforgetful of the fact that politics is an integral part of modern life, he knew it was impossible for people to do away with politics, for their life was bound with political compulsions indispensably. He, accordingly, did not ask householders to turn away from politics. He was innovative in this connection. He said: "I could not preach religion in England without showing the wonderful political changes Vedanta would bring. So, in India, social reform has to be preached by showing how much more a spiritual life the new system will bring; and politics has to be preached by showing how much it will improve the one thing that the nation wants - its spirituality."

Swamiji was an unattached observer of politics. Dirt of politics could not touch him. But his analysis of politics was pithy, precise, adroit and innocuous, for which he is remembered with high respect and devotion by various scholars. Christopher Isherwood remarked: "In fact, when one sees the full range of his (Swamiji's) mind, one is astounded."

He had further said that Swamiji's "was not nationalism in the smaller sense, it was a kind of supernationalism, a kind of internationalism sublimated". Similarly, renowned Indologist Prof AL Basham made a sincere study of Swamiji's works and proclaimed that "in centuries to come he (Swamiji) will be remembered as one of the main moulders of the modern world."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

75 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when humanity learned of the devastation a single nuclear bomb can unleash. The lingering suffering caused to the survivors, the hibakusha, should give us daily motivation to eliminate all nuclear arms. They have shared their stories so the horror experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never be forgotten. Yet the nuclear threat is growing once more. A web of agreements and instruments has been constructed to prevent the use of these uniquely destructive weapons and ultimately to eliminate them. But that framework has idled for decades and is starting to erode. The potential that nuclear weapons will be used - intentionally, accidentally or as a result of miscalculation - is dangerously high. Fuelled by mounting international tensions and the dissolution of trust, relations between countries that possess nuclear weapons are devolving into dangerous and destabilising confrontations. As governments lean heavily on nuclear weapons for security, politicians are trading heated rhetoric about their possible use and devoting vast sums of money to improving their lethality, money that would be much better spent on peaceful, sustainable development. For decades, nuclear testing led to horrific human and environmental consequences.

This relic of a former age should be confined there forever. Only a legally binding, verifiable prohibition on all nuclear testing can achieve this. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has proven its worth, yet some states have still to sign or ratify the treaty, preventing it from fulfilling its full potential as an essential element in the framework to eliminate nuclear

weapons. Along with climate change, nuclear weapons represent an existential threat to our societies. Most of the roughly 13,000 nuclear arms currently in global arsenals are vastly more destructive than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Any use would precipitate a humanitarian disaster of unimaginable proportions. It is time to return to the shared understanding that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought, to the collective agreement that we should work towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and to the spirit of cooperation that enabled historic progress towards their elimination.

The United States and the Russian Federation, as the possessors of some 90 per cent of nuclear weapons, are expected to lead the way. The "New START" treaty retains verifiable caps. Its extension for five years would buy time to negotiate new agreements, including by potentially bringing in other countries possessing nuclear weapons. Next year, the United Nations will host the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), one of the most successful international security agreements.

It contains the only treaty-based commitments undertaken by the five largest nuclear-armed countries to pursue the elimination of nuclear weapons and imposes verifiable obligations not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons. Its near universal membership means the vast majority of the international community is bound by these commitments. The NPT Review Conference is an opportunity to stem the erosion of the international nuclear order. Fortunately, most United Nations member states remain committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Social audit of food dole needed

SIR, The Covid-19 pandemic and consequential lockdown have indeed axed or jeopardised the livelihood of a large section of people. In such an unprecedented situation both the Union government and the state government have done well to extend their free food grain supply schemes to cater to the needs of the burgeoning mass of livelihood-less and hungry people. The impact of the scheme could hardly be underestimated; it should not be overestimated as well.

The free food grain scheme does not mean that we need not worry about hunger and malnutrition of the beneficiary. Mainstay of the

scheme is the public distribution system (PDS) which is less efficacious as it perennially suffers from widespread porosity. How far such a system can help to ameliorate hunger of the targeted beneficiaries does not require much imagination. Plain vanilla economic rationality dictates that the

cost, once paid or 'sunk', should not have any effect on usage. In fact, there is a 'psychological sunk cost' effect - people are more likely to make use of something they have paid a lot for. They judge things to be valuable because those are free of cost. Rice and fortified atta /wheat are hardly con-

sumed by a large section of people. Highly subsidised rice and wheat distributed through PDS are used either as feed or sold in the open market to use money earned for buying tastier food. Subsidised food grains sold in the open market are recycled in procurement operation as a result of which open

market equilibrium gets disbalanced. This has been corroborated by a survey undertaken in Jungle Mahal areas after introduction of distribution of Rs 2/- per kg rice there through PDS. However, pragmatic approaches to both procurement and distribution of food grains are the most binding require-

ment, more than 'easy' populism at this hour. At the same time, government could have shown some prudence by engaging civil society for social audit of proper use of subsidised food grain by the real needy families.

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 31 July.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

SIR, This refers to your report 'Long wait is over: First bricks laid for Ram Mandir' (*The Statesman*, 6 August). Our drivers cannot forget their political identity. They cherish blind faith. They infect everyone with religious emotion. They play this crucial game to capture the vote-bank. In this way, they weaken the power of the nation. They spoil India's secular credentials and tolerant culture. Religious fanatic environment is being raised in every corner of the nation. Relationships between communities will be damaged in this way. Tolerance and good governance can never be achieved if they keep going this way. India needs more teachers, doctors, engineers, researchers, artists and other professionals. Only they can build the structure of new India. India needs proper education at all levels. India needs a liberal space where people exchange their views freely. Our leaders are probably afraid to allow these basic demands.

Yours, etc., Uttam Bhowmik, Tamluk, 6 August.



Distractions of their own making

DEEPAK THAPA

There are those who, having come to power, readily succumb to the great man's disease'. That is when a politician assumes that winning an election has somehow conferred on him (and, it is mostly a him) god-like omniscience. That is clearly the affliction of Prime Minister KP Oli, who has throughout both his prime ministerial stints taken to launching into impromptu lectures without consideration of the audience, including at times providing 'scientific' advice to a room full of scientists.

His performance in Parliament in early June when he asserted that a supposed Nepali exceptionalism resulting from our geography and food habits have made us resistant to viruses, corona or otherwise, is a classic instance to prove true the old saying: 'A little knowledge is a dangerous thing'.

Oli is not the only leader who has tried to explain this world now being shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. Angela Merkel was likewise guilty early on. The difference, of course, was that unlike the ridicule heaped on Oli for stringing together bits and pieces of what he has read and heard into a 'theory' of his own, the German chancellor was universally praised for her sound knowledge of how the virus spreads and also for her ability to use that understanding to explain the various steps the lockdown would undergo in her country. Merkel was not relying only on her own scientific background (she has a doctorate in chemistry, after all) but instead being fully aware of what she does not know, she consults with experts all the time before opening her mouth.

It was thus a pleasant surprise to learn that on Tuesday, when he had called in host of public health and other experts for a chat, PM Oli decided to shut his trap for a change and instead listened to what those with a better handle on the coronavirus had to say. That is a role Oli certainly is not used to and was something that appeared to take the conferees off-guard as well. This changeover can only be an admission by Oli that things are not going right with his government's handling of the pandemic, a fact obvious to anyone save his devoted lackeys.

Among the latter is the Minister for Health, Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, who had declared that the government has outperformed 'powerful countries' and that all those criticising this record must have clouded vision. It turns out that it was he himself who



suffered from faulty sight since less than a week later, Dhakal had to go on record to warn of a 'catastrophic situation' in the Kathmandu Valley with the rise in infections. That both propositions cannot be true at the same time seems to have been lost on the minister, who went even further to say: 'If something sparks in Kathmandu, that will lead to an explosion in villages and small towns'.

Underscoring Dhakal's point, on the same day, the Health Ministry also warned those above 60 and children under 12 to stay at home in densely populated areas like Kathmandu. There was also a half-hearted crackdown on those venturing outside without masks, with fines of Rs 100 imposed on the errant. The messaging from the authorities has always been mixed; there has been flagrant disregard of the mask rule by the high and mighty, starting with the prime minister himself.

It cannot be that these individuals who rule over our lives and who are supposed to act like role models have not grasped the elementary fact that no matter what kind of quackery

people like Oli may peddle, each and every one of us is susceptible to the Covid-19 virus and there is no knowing who the carrier could be. Considering how close it has hit the Indian establishment, with the home minister there hospitalised, it is most likely only a matter of time before our own leadership is felled one by one. Unless this laissez-faire attitude among the top political, bureaucratic and security brass changes, the fight against the current pandemic will be an uphill one, with a lockdown followed by an easing followed by another lockdown, then another easing and so on, in a continuous cycle. Different towns have already gone into lockdown mode, and that is a situation other places are likely to be forced into before long.

The tragedy is that during all the time Nepal has been grappling with this public health menace, the political leadership's attention has been somewhere else. In early May, after the political crisis precipitated out of the blue by Oli's introduction of two unnecessary ordinances had abated, Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali

heaved more than a sigh of relief when he said: 'We were under a lot of tension since our mind had been diverted for the last two weeks or so. No one can justify our infighting at the time we are facing corona. The environment has now been created for us to concentrate on our main mission'. Little did Gyawali or anyone else know that the venality of our politicians is such that even three months later, that tussle between a prime minister with the stubbornness of a bull and a challenger, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, with the tenacity of a bulldog would continue to hold the country hostage to their personal whims. Just the juxtaposition of news about Covid-19's rampage across the country and images of an unnaturally high death toll due to floods and landslides this monsoon alongside the by-now tedious update on which politico met whom and where and for how long, day after day, should have shamed both into reaching some kind of compromise. That is, if shame were a quality that could be associated with either.

I do not think it has been com-

mented on, but so caught up has the government and the ruling party been in this battle of attrition (of our country, not of their seemingly endless energy) that even little humane gestures have been completely forgotten. I am referring to the usually pro-forma notes of condolence that would be put out by both the heads of state and government over the loss of lives following the natural calamities that strike us every year. So far, we have not heard a squeak or seen a tweet or press release from either. That probably has everything to do with the entire focus of these two staunch allies being on this perennial squabble within the Nepal Communist Party, into which the president has willingly let herself be drawn.

Even the kings of yore would have perfunctory messages of grief, even if it was actually their secretariat that did so in their name. Surely, reaching out to people in pain cannot be beneath the comrade duo at the highest levels of government.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

Yesterday's deluge in Calcutta will be remembered among the noteworthy local events of 1920. Up to Thursday the rainfall of the year as recorded at Alipore was about five inches below normal. During Thursday and up to Friday afternoon the city must have received, roughly, something like ten inches of rain, wiping out the deficiency with a bound, and sending up the total for the year as much above the normal as it had been below. It was the heaviest rainfall which Calcutta has experienced for a good many years, though the falls of 14.80 inches in a day recorded by Father Francotte on September 19, 1900, and 13 and half inches on June 17, 1908, remain unbeaten, and a downpour of four inches in twenty minutes is remembered in 1913. All the painfully familiar features of heavy rain in Calcutta have been reproduced. Once more streets are turned into canals and open spaces into lakes; business and traffic have been impeded; people have either found themselves marooned or have had to wade; and to these immediate troubles must be added the prospect of water-logged basements and damp walls which are bound to mean suffering and ill-health to the inhabitants, more especially in the poorer quarters of the city. At present the difficulties in the way of a remedy appear to be accepted as insuperable. The effects of a flood are bad enough in the city; in the rural districts the plight of the people is far worse.

NEWS ITEMS

CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

Madras, Aug 6

At the High Court sessions, Justice Krishnan and a special jury heard a case in which C.M. Mani, senior student of Royapuram Medical School, stood charged with the offence of attempted murder. It was alleged against the accused that he attempted to murder a fellow medical student by name Idi Chandi, by mixing arsenic in his food. The offence was alleged to have been committed in the hostel attached to Royapuram Medical School. The case for the prosecution was that accused wanted Idi Chandi to marry his sister, and as Idi Chandi would not do this the attempt was made to poison him. The accused pleaded not guilty. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and his lordship agreeing with the verdict acquitted the accused.

PURE MILK SUPPLY

Before the Police Magistrate of Sealdah, Motilal Seraogi, a Marwari, was charged with cheating, among others Rai Bangsidhar Banerji Bahadur, Rent Controller, and others by inducing them to part with money in advance on the pretext of supplying pure milk from the Pinjrapole. Mr. S.C. Roy, Court Inspector, said that the accused induced a number of gentlemen to enlist themselves as his customers by falsely representing that the accused by motor car service, would supply pure milk to them from the Pinjrapole. Bangsidhar, Devendra Nath and other deposed to the effect that they had advanced money to the accused without receiving any supply during the last six months. Mr. K.C. Gupta, vakil, for the accused urged that the accused had no mala fide intention. The accused was released on bail pending further hearing.

LIFE'S MYSTERY

Dr. W. M'Dougall, delivering his presidential address at a meeting of the Society for Psychical Research, said the grounds of the aloofness of so many men of science from the work of this society in spite of their minds being more or less open to conviction in the society's sphere, was a sense of responsibility towards the public. Men of science were afraid that the least display of interest or acquiescence on their part might promote a great outburst of superstition among the public, a relapse into the belief in witchcraft, necromancy and "black arts" generally, with all the moral evils which must accompany the prevalence of such beliefs. His intimate study of these cases of divided personalities had led him to the conclusion that the argument for the unity of the ego was as strong as ever.

THE CROWN AND THE EMPIRE

At the luncheon given by the Royal Colonial Institute to Prince Arthur, Connaught, Governor-General designate of South Africa, and Lord Forster, Governor-General designate of Australia, Prince Arthur said: Perhaps I have an advantage over the great Governors and statesmen, who have had the destiny of South Africa in their keeping in the past. I think I can safely say that in spite of the prevalent unrest both at home and abroad, the prestige of the Crown and all that it stands for has never been higher than it is today. The strength of my position, therefore, seems to rest on the fact that, as a humble member of the Reigning House, I approach the difficult and complex problems which no doubt await me with an unbiased and impartial mind.

A woman who epitomised Delhi

FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

You never said I'm leaving.
You never said, good bye,
You were gone before I knew it
And only God knew, why!

All people die, but not all people live! Sadia Dehlvi lived! She travelled, chased her dreams, worked in a profession she loved, fell in love, mended a broken heart and still put one foot in front of the other battling what she knew from the start was an incurable cancer. She did so with grace, dignity, integrity and courage. Even during her weakness and painful moments, she had the heart to laugh at her lovely foibles.

Sadia Dehlvi — the woman, the myth, the legend that she was — men wanted to be with her, women wanted to be with her and above all, the kids wanted to be with her! In the passing away of Sadia Dehlvi, a Muslim woman of much capability and prominence of the past 60 years, an era has ended — the era of a vibrant, vivacious and valorous Delhi-ite, keeper of the heritage and sainthood of Delhi. She was proud of the well-cemented inter-faith concord as she believed that the soul of India is inclusive, pluralistic, and democratic.

When someone asked about Sadia's illness some time ago, despite



being in agony, she said, "One of the few advantages of dying from Grade 3, Stage IIIC endometrial cancer, recurrent and metastasized to the liver and abdomen, is that you have time to write your own obituary. The other advantages are no longer bothering with sunscreen and no longer worrying about your cholesterol."

Having seen her versatility and sharing the hobby of writing, I first

wrote an article on her in the "Evening News" (a publication of "The Hindustan Times", now closed) of 19 July 1988 - on her project of uplifting the literacy levels of Muslim girls in the walled city of Delhi. Very early in her life, Sadia had also started making films on social causes - "Amma and Family" in 1995, with Zohra Sehgal, being the most popular one. In her television series in

2001, "Zindgi Kitni Khoobsurat Hei", she acted as the lead.

I had known Sadia since my childhood as her father Yunus Dehlvi and two uncles, Idrees Dehlvi and Ilyas Dehlvi, all pillars of the best Urdu publications — *Shama, Sushma, Khilauna, Bano, Shabistan, Mujrim, Doshi* and a whole lot of publications from Shama Book Depot and Khilauna Book Depot — were acquainted with me as I had often visited them in their office in Asaf Ali Road.

Sadia must have spent a very colourful life, living it to the fullest, yet she was a very spiritual and ecumenical soul. In her benchmark, "Sufism, The Heart of Islam," she has focused on the fact that true Islam that many have forgotten has been about the Sufi way of life that joins lacerated hearts and broken families. Her work, *The Sufi Courtyard: Darqahs of Delhi*, nicely laid out what in Urdu is known as, "Chaudah Khwaja ki Chaukhat" Rendezvous of Fourteen Saints. Her book, "Jasmine and Jinns" is a hallmark on the life and times of the Shah Jahanabadi walled city of Delhi.

Sadia was marked by her unquestionable love for her family, especially her only son, her love of music, her life-long love of learning, her love of cuisine, her acceptance of everyone and refusal to judge or dismiss anyone, her enjoyment of people, and of

hearing and telling funny stories. I vouch if ever there was a competition of best dishes, she would have won numerous times, with her inimitable *puriya dilli* (old Delhi) dishes learnt from her mother and grandmother. Her pool parties were legendary. She could make killer cabbage rolls and mouth-watering and nostril-tickling *Shami Kebabs*.

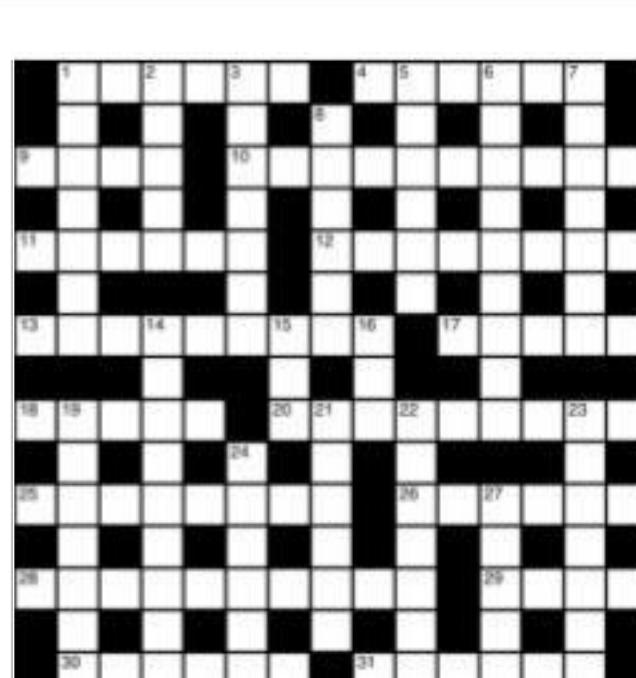
Being the heart and soul of Delhi, she loved the city's variety of seasons. Delhi has distinct seasons, and once upon a time lifestyles revolved around the weather. I would hear stories of how shopkeepers pulled down their shutters when the first rains arrived and went to Mehrauli for picnics with their families. Special dishes were made in the monsoon like "Harimir Qeema", Chilly and Minced meat, Besani Roti and fresh Mango Chutney. "Nihari" was always associated with winter, and was eaten "nihar muh" (early morning), that is on an empty stomach.

In her rather short time on this earth, Sadia's journey was like a rock thrown into a lake - sending ripples ever outward into the future. Your addiction doesn't define you. She was a writer, a traveller, a columnist, an educationist, a social activist, a poet, a thinker and above all a never-say-die community worker. She loved music, and her friendships and family ignited the hearth that was her heart! Without Sadia, Delhi will be poorer!

The writer is a commentator on social, cultural and educational issues and Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

CROSSWORD

NO 28036



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Neat Conservative PM no longer? Back off! (6)
- 4 Witnessed retreat, with soldiers returning (6)
- 9 Harshly criticize second hit (4)
- 10 Airport staff dreadfully rude? Wrong, when keeping cool head (6,4)
- 11 Mostly loyal worker becomes absentee (6)
- 12 Some flipping moss, a grass, or seaweed (8)
- 13 Playing a simple chord, initially without a complaint (9)
- 17 When finally very keen to get back in bed (5)
- 18 Checks case for source of smelly underwear (5)
- 20 Rescued organ dumped in river, by the sound of it? (9)
- 25 One refrain contains 15 16 relating to Greek god's blood (8)
- 26 City even mice deserted originally? (6)
- 28 Our ordeal involved getting hold of lost deposit in Foreign bank (10)
- 29 Standard recipe for salmon (4)
- 30 Playing together, except for number about one

DOWN

- 1 Related to heat that's somewhat tropical - or Icelandic? (7)
- 2/24 Fancy a malt? Test old whiskey with new label (5,6)
- 3 Become visibly cheerful, seeing broadcast plug hit (5,2)
- 5 Cut use of heroin, finally going for Hitsville's No 1 (6)
- 6 Fruitful product of internecine war is losing weight for a short time (9)
- 7 River with poster that's
- 14 Tabloids regularly feature this corrupt Tory's goal (9)
- 15/16 Fizzy drink will briefly give you zip (3,3)
- 19 Cake counter's surprisingly lacking 15 16 (7)
- 21 Casually spinning lie, say (6)
- 22 Contrary way poets work (7)
- 23 Called for more to come from the heart, ultimately? (7)
- 24 See 2
- 27 Country with China as neighbour to north-east (5)

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



The pharma and medical devices sector in India is attracting very good levels of foreign direct investment

P D VAGHELA

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS SECRETARY

THUMBNAILS

Wipro partners Intel: IT services major Wipro on Thursday said it has partnered with Intel to enable its LIVE Workspace solution with the latter's vPro platform that will help customers drive business continuity by enabling remote IT support and solutions. Wipro integrated the Intel vPro platform into LIVE Workspace, a suite of digital workplace services to provide remote manageability of devices, a statement said.

Yes Bank shares: Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd on Thursday offloaded shares worth nearly Rs 202 crore in Yes Bank through open market transaction. A total of 15 crore shares representing 1.19 per cent stake of the private lender were sold by Adani Electricity at an average price of Rs 13.45 apiece, bulk deal data on NSE showed.

PNB Housing Fin MD: PNB Housing Finance on Thursday announced that Hardayal Prasad, the former SBI Card head who left the card issuer company last month, has been appointed as its new MD and CEO. The housing finance arm, promoted by country's second largest state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), currently has Neeraj Vyas as its interim chief.

Paytm CEO: Fintech major Paytm on Thursday said it has appointed Bhavesh Gupta as the chief executive officer of its lending business. Gupta will develop and expand Paytm's lending services to strengthen the company's vision of financial inclusion for 500 million Indians, a statement said.

Health Insurance: Leading health insurance company Max Bupa has introduced a new health insurance plan "ReAssure". It is a comprehensive plan that provides unlimited sum insured for any type of hospitalisation, including the ones related to Covid-19, the company said. Customers can claim for any illness or any family member covered during a policy year, as many number of times as they want, it added.

Samsung offer: Samsung has announced exclusive Independence Day offers for its televisions, refrigerators, smart ovens, washing machines and air conditioners. The offers, including attractive finance schemes with up to 15 per cent cash back and easy EMIs, will be valid till 31 August 2020, it said in a Press release.

Wockhardt Foundation, Biogentica pact for research: Wockhardt Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation, partnered with Biogentica, the collective of doctors, scientists and healers. The partnership will conduct multidisciplinary research into remedies and strategies to combat the coronavirus, says a Press release.

Headline inflation to remain elevated in Q2-FY21: Das

The Reserve Bank of India Governor, however, did not give any range on inflation expectations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 AUGUST

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das today said the country's headline inflation is expected to remain elevated during the second quarter of the current fiscal year and may subside thereafter.

Domestic food inflation remains elevated across most economies since the onset of the pandemic, Das said in his statement while unveiling the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy review.

Supply chain disruptions on account of Covid-19 persist, with implications for both food and non-food prices, as per RBI's Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21.

"Volatility in financial markets and rising asset prices also pose upside risks to the outlook. Taking into consideration all these factors, headline inflation may remain elevated in Q2 of 2020-21, but may moderate in H2 of 2020-21 aided by large favourable base effects," it said.

» Taking into consideration all these factors, headline inflation may remain elevated in Q2 of 2020-21, but may moderate in H2 of 2020-21 aided by large favourable base effects

» Higher domestic taxes on petroleum products have resulted in elevated

domestic pump prices and will impart broad-based cost push pressures going forward

» While the space for further monetary policy action is available, it is important to use it judiciously to maximise the beneficial effects for underlying economic activity

Keeping the key repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent in Reserve Bank's bi-monthly policy review, Governor Das said the decision on repo has been taken while "ensuring inflation remains within the target".

Das, however, did not give any range on inflation expectations.

The RBI has set the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation or retail inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

"A more favourable food inflation outlook may emerge as the bumper rabi harvest eases prices of cereals, especially if open market sales and public distribution offtake are expanded on the back of significantly higher procurement," as per the policy review by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI.

Nonetheless, upside risks to food prices remain, he said, adding that the abatement of price pressure in key vegetables is delayed and

remains contingent upon normalisation of supplies. Protein-based food items could also emerge as a pressure point.

Higher domestic taxes on petroleum products have resulted in elevated domestic pump prices and will impart broad-based cost push pressures going forward, Das said further.

The MPC noted that in an environment of unprecedented stress, supporting recovery of the economy assumes primacy in the con-

duct of monetary policy.

While the space for further monetary policy action is available, it is important to use it judiciously to maximise the beneficial effects for underlying economic activity, it said.

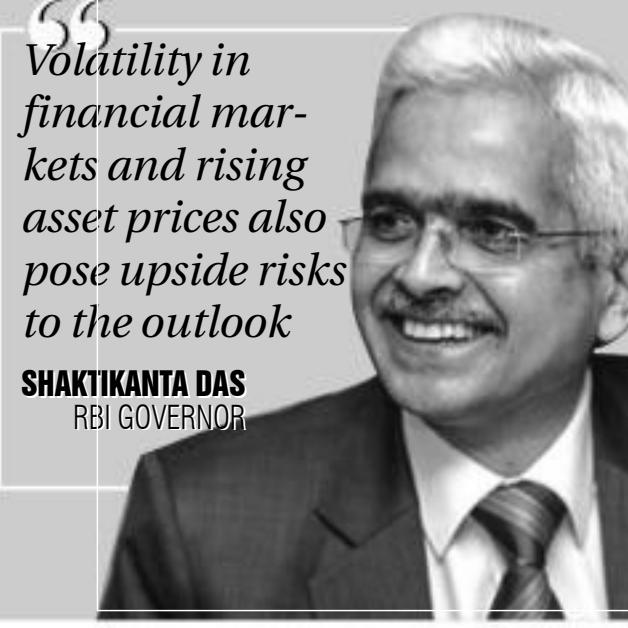
"At the same time, the MPC is conscious of its medium-term inflation target... Given the uncertainty surrounding the inflation outlook and extremely weak state of the economy in the midst of an unprecedented shock from the ongoing pandemic, the MPC decided to keep the policy rate on hold, while remaining watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use available space to support the revival of the economy," Das said.

All the six MPC members voted unanimously for keeping the policy repo rate unchanged and continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward, RBI said.

stances as the trajectory of economic growth, inflation and external demand continues to remain uncertain," Kumar said in a statement.

"The RBI has addressed the need to offer some form of restructuring facility for standard accounts that are facing difficulty in debt restructuring. We welcome the fact that a new resolution framework for Covid-19-related stress facility has been extended to large corporate, SME and personal loans with necessary safeguards in each segment," he added.

Bank of India's managing director and chief executive AK Das said the RBI policy has "several positive" measures which will help in financial stability, including additional liquidity of Rs 10,000 crore to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and the National Housing Bank (NHB) towards directed lending to NBFC and HFC, extension of timeline of MSME restructuring, and incentive scheme for priority sector lending.



SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI GOVERNOR

Total-Adani to apply for petrol pump licence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

A newly formed joint venture of French supermajor Total and an Adani group firm will soon apply to the government for permission to open petrol pumps in India, Adani Gas chief executive said.

Total-Adani Fuels Marketing Ltd will apply for licences to offer the full bouquet of auto fuels at retail outlets, Adani Gas CEO Suresh Manglani said in first quarter earnings call.

Last year, Total had bought 37.4 per cent stake in billionaire Gautam Adani-promoted Adani Gas to enter the world's fastest-growing fuel market.

"Definitely, we will take full benefit of the expertise and strength of Total," he said.

Total-Adani Fuels Mar-

keting Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Adani Gas, will offer natural gas, petrol, diesel, and electric vehicle charging facilities. He said the joint venture will seek licence under the liberalised fuel retailing regime announced by the government. Last year, the government allowed any entity with a networth of Rs 250 crore to set up petrol pumps in the country.

This replaced the earlier regime of only companies that have invested Rs 2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals to be allowed to retail fuel in the country.

Manglani said Total has got a second seat on Adani Gas board after the appointment of Jose Ignacio Sanz Saiz, who is vice-president for gas,

Canara Bank slashes MCLR by up to 30 bps

NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

State-owned Canara Bank today slashed its marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by up to 30 basis points across various tenors.

The overnight and one-month lending rates have been cut by 20 basis points (bps) to 7 per cent each. The three-month MCLR has been revised to 7.15 per cent from 7.45 per cent, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The six-month MCLR has been cut to 7.40 per cent from 7.50 per cent, the bank said. The one-year MCLR has been revised to 7.45 per cent from 7.55 per cent earlier.

The revised lending rates will be effective from 7 August, Canara Bank said.

The reduction in MCLR will bring down burden on bor-

J&J signs \$1 billion deal for Covid-19 vaccine

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 6 AUGUST

Johnson & Johnson yesterday announced its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies entering into an agreement with the US government for manufacturing and delivering 100 million doses of Janssen's SARS-CoV-2 investigational vaccine, Ad26.COV2.S.

Following US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approving the vaccine for use in the US, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) in collaboration with the US Department of Defence had committed over \$1 billion (Rs 7,496 crore) for the vaccine production.

Johnson & Johnson has developed the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in collaboration with BARDA and under oversight

of the FDA. The pharmaceutical giant said it is working to ensure broad global access to the Covid-19 vaccine.

The 130-year-old Johnson & Johnson has a 70-year presence in the country since it began producing its iconic baby powder and Band-Aid in 1959 from Mulund, Mumbai.

"Based on the positive preclinical data recently published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature, the Phase 1/2a first-in-human clinical trial of the vaccine candidate, Ad26.COV2.S, is underway in healthy volunteers in the United States and Belgium," J&J informed in a media release. The SARS-CoV-2 vaccine programme leverages Janssen's AdVac™, the same technology used in Johnson & Johnson's Ebola vaccine and HIV, RSV and Zika vaccine candidates.

is safe and effective.

India will be among major beneficiaries of the vaccine. The 130-year-old Johnson & Johnson has a 70-year presence in the country since it began producing its iconic baby powder and Band-Aid in 1959 from Mulund, Mumbai.

"We are scaling up production in the US and worldwide to deliver a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for emergency use," said Paul Stoffels, managing director and vice-chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer, Johnson & Johnson.

Johnson & Johnson announced it will supply more than one billion doses globally through the course of 2021, provided the vaccine

HPCL net zooms 157% in Q1 to ₹2,253 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) today reported a 157 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit on the back of inventory gains and better than industry performance.

Consolidated profit of Rs 2,252.65 crore, or Rs 14.78 per share, was 156.7 per cent higher than Rs 877.48 crore, or Rs 5.76 share, earning in the same period a year back.

"This was achieved despite the challenges of Covid pandemic due to relatively better physical performance (than industry) in the market sales and higher capacity utilisation in refineries," HPCL chairman and managing director Mukesh Kumar

Surana told reporters.

The net profit rose despite sales falling to Rs 45,945.48 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21, from Rs 74,595.64 crore a year back.

During April-June, HPCL achieved a domestic sales volume of 7.24 million tons against 9.82 million tons in the same period of the previous year - a degrowth of 25.8 per cent as against 29.2 per cent degrowth for PSUs oil marketing companies, the company's MD said, adding the company's refineries operated at over 100 per cent of capacity during the Covid-19 period.

The company had an inventory gain of Rs 633 crore in the April-June quarter as compared to an inventory loss of Rs 536 crore in the same period a year back.

IDBI Bank inks pact to sell 27% stake in insurance JV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

IDBI Bank today said it has entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) with the other two joint venture partners in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company (IFLIC), to divest 27 per cent of its stake in IFLIC.

In June, the private sector lender had informed about the stake sale-purchase proposal among the three JV partners.

"IDBI Bank has entered into an SPA with Ageas Insurance International NV (buyer) and the Federal Bank Ltd (buyer) on 5 August 2020, wherein IDBI Bank Ltd has agreed to sell up to 27 per cent stake in its joint venture IDBI Federal Life Insurance Com-

pany Ltd to these buyers," the bank said in a regulatory filing. Under the SPA, 23 per cent of the stake would be sold to Federal Bank, said the private sector lender.

The transaction would be concluded subject to regulatory approvals, IDBI Bank said. Currently, LIC-promoted IDBI Bank holds 48 per cent in IFLIC, while Federal Bank and Ageas hold 26 per cent each.

"IDBI Bank is expected to receive up to Rs 595.30 crore from sale of up to 27 per cent stake in IFLIC," said the lender.

The bank will receive Rs 507.10 crore by selling 23 per cent stake to Ageas, and Rs 88.19 crore by selling 4 per cent to Federal Bank, IDBI Bank

added.

In a separate filing, Federal Bank said it will purchase up to 4 per cent stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Co Ltd from IDBI Bank at a price not exceeding Rs 27.56 per equity share.

"The bank currently holds 26 per cent stake in IFLIC, making it an associate of the bank. Post-purchase, the total stake will increase up to 30 per cent," Federal Bank said.

IDBI Bank said the transaction is expected to be completed by 31 December this year, subject to regulatory approvals and satisfaction of the terms and conditions set out in SPA.

Ageas Insurance International NV is one of Europe's large insurance companies.

Vodafone Idea Q1 losses mount to ₹25,460 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

India's third largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea today reported a sharp rise in its losses to Rs 25,460 crore for the April-June quarter of financial year 2020-21 due to high provisioning for statutory dues.

The losses of Vodafone Idea stood at about Rs 4,874 crore in the year-ago period.

The revenue from operations came in at Rs 10,659.3 crore for the first quarter of FY2021, against Rs 11,269.9 crore in the same period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

The company said it has recognised additional charge of Rs 19,440.5 crore in June quarter towards adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liability

ties.

"...during this quarter, on prudence, we have recognised a charge of Rs 19,440 billion as an exceptional item towards the total estimated AGR liability, in addition to estimated recognised liability of Rs 460.0 billion as on 31 March 2020," a company statement said.

The company said that the first quarter numbers were impacted by the nationwide lockdown due to coronavirus.

Ravinder Takkar, managing director and chief executive officer of Vodafone Idea, said: "Q1FY21 was a challenging quarter as availability of recharges due to store closure and ability of customers to recharge on account of economic slowdown were impacted."

Stock market benchmarks rise on RBI stance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 AUGUST

Gold and silver prices touched record levels in the national capital today and the yellow metal rose by Rs 225 to Rs 56,590 per 10 grams amid a strong rally in the international market, according to HDFC Securities.

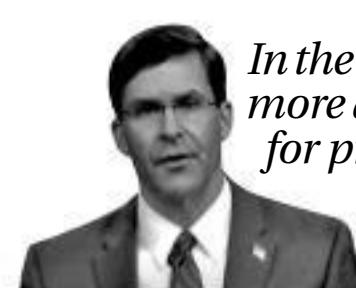
Silver price surged by Rs 1,932 to Rs 75,755 per kilogram. On Wednesday, it had closed at Rs 73,823 per kg.

In the previous trade, gold had closed at Rs 56,365 per 10 grams.

In the international market, gold was trading with gains at \$2,045.70 per ounce, while silver was quoting at \$27.57 per ounce.

per cent to finish at 11,200.15 points.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.82 per cent, followed by Infosys, Bajaj Finance, HCL Tech, TCS, ICICI Bank and Tech Mahindra.</p



In the last seven months coming as part of Covid, we've seen China become more aggressive, trying to use the tragedy of Covid-19 to their advantage for propaganda purposes

US DEFENCE SECRETARY MARK ESPER

NOTING THAT CHINA HAS DEPLOYED TROOPS ALONG THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL WITH INDIA

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 07 AUGUST 2020

09

Rajapaksa clan eyes big win in Lanka polls

Political party representatives allowed to keep vigil at counting centres overnight as counting begins for twice-postponed parliamentary elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, 6 AUGUST

The counting of votes in Sri Lanka's twice-postponed parliamentary election began amidst tight security on Thursday with the powerful Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) saying it is confident of recording a historic victory by securing a two-thirds majority.

The election, conducted amidst Covid-19 pandemic fears, concluded in a peaceful manner on Wednesday, with a voter turnout of over 70 per cent, according to Chairman of the National Election Commission Mahinda Deshapriya.

Deshapriya said nearly 71 percent of the 16.2 million eligible voters exercised their franchise which was significant in the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

The counting of ballots was underway at all the 64 counting centres across the country under heavy security.

Senior police superintendent Ashoka Dharmasena said: We have deployed 3,328 personnel to all 64 counting centers.

The ballot boxes were transferred to the counting centres after the polls closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and kept under tight security.

The political party representatives were allowed to keep a vigil at the counting centres overnight to ensure there was no tampering with them.

As the counting of votes began, SLPP founder and its National Organiser Basil Rajapaksa - who is the younger brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with the eldest being Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa - said that the party is all set to form a new government, News 1st Channel reported.

He said that his party would make history as the only party to come into power within a short span of time since its formation, defeating other old political parties. "We are con-



Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa casts his ballot at a polling station in Colombo on Wednesday. ■ AFP FILE PHOTO

fident of the SLPP recording a historic victory. We hope for a two-thirds majority at the election but it is up to the people to decide," he said.

He said he is confident that the economy can be revived under the leadership of President Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda.

Deshapriya on Wednesday said that the counting will begin at 7 a.m. but there will

be slight delays as all counting officials would be subject to health checks.

The counting procedure too would be subject to Covid-19 guidelines, he said.

Deshapriya said that the counting will happen in three stages - the first was to count the total number of votes in each box.

The number of votes polled by each party/group would be

counted in the next stage and the final count would be the counting of preference votes -- or individual votes marked against the candidate numbers. Every voter was allowed to mark votes against three candidates of the same party they had voted for.

We hope that the first result could be issued by 3.30 PM. We aim for 2.30 PM but to avoid being blamed later, I would say 3.30 PM, Deshapriya said.

The election held under the proportional representation system would elect 225 members, 196 of them from 22 electoral districts and 29 based on the cumulative votes polled by each party/group.

On Wednesday, President Gotabaya voted in his Colombo suburb polling station while his elder brother and the prime ministerial aspirant Mahinda voted in his home constituency in the southern district of Hambantota.

"We are hopeful of winning two-thirds support," Mahinda, 74, told reporters after

voting. He said his younger brother Gotabaya's election as president was endorsed by 6.9 million voters last December and that he was hopeful of securing the same support.

Former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that only his party, the United National Party, was capable of turning around the economy which is currently in poor state due to Covid-19 and mishandling by the current government.

Mahinda's SLPP is expected to win control of the 225-member assembly by a comfortable margin, according to analysts.

President Gotabaya hopes for a two-thirds majority for the SLPP so that he can amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers curbed by a 2015 constitutional change.

The president is not a candidate while Mahinda is running from the north western capital district of Kurunegala.

Poll stations were manned

by over 8,000 health officials who supervised the maintenance of health guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The election, which was postponed twice due to the coronavirus, is to elect a 225-member Parliament for a 5-year term.

Over 16 million people were 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 election, originally scheduled for 25 April, was put off until June 20 as the Covid-19 outbreak hampered the preparations.

The 5 August date was later fixed as the health authorities issued guidelines for holding the poll.

Some 20 political parties and 34 independent groups are in the fray with over 7,200 candidates from 22 electoral districts.

Hong Kong activists charged for taking part in Tiananmen vigil



HONG KONG, 6 AUGUST

Twenty-five Hong Kong democracy activists were charged on Thursday with taking part in a banned candlelight vigil in June marking the anniversary of China's 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

They included prominent activist Joshua Wong (picture), media tycoon Jimmy Lai and leaders of the Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, and were formally charged with "knowingly taking part in an unauthorised assembly".

Lee CheukYan, chairman of the alliance, was charged with organising the assembly on June 4 at the city's Victoria Park.

The annual candlelight vigil in Hong Kong usually attracts huge crowds and is the only place on Chinese soil where such a major commemoration of the crackdown is allowed.

But city authorities banned the event this June for the first time in 30 years, citing measures to control the spread of the coronavirus.

"Clearly, the regime plans to stage another crackdown on the city's activists," 23-year-old Wong said on Facebook.

"As our voices might not be heard soon, we hope the world can continue speaking up for the city's liberty and human rights," he added.

All 25 are expected to appear in court on 15 September.

N Korea's escalating virus response raises fear of outbreak

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 6 AUGUST



North Korea is quarantining thousands of people and shipping food and other aid to a southern city locked down over coronavirus worries, officials said, as the country's response to a suspected case reinforces doubt about its longstanding claim to be virus-free.

But amid the outside skepticism and a stream of Pyongyang propaganda glorifying its virus efforts, an exchange between it and the United Nations is providing new clarity - and actual numbers - about what might be happening in North Korea, which has closed its borders and cut travel - never a free-flowing stream - by outsider monitors and journalists.

In late July, North Korea said it had imposed its "maximum emergency system" to guard against the virus spreading after finding a person with Covid-19 symptoms in Kaesong city, near the border with rival South Korea.

State media reported that leader Kim Jong Un then ordered a total lockdown of Kaesong, and said the suspected case was a North Korean who had earlier fled to South Korea before slipping back into Kaesong last month.

North Korea's public admission of its first potential case and the emergency steps it

took prompted immediate outside speculation that it may be worried about a big outbreak after months of steadfastly claiming it had no cases.

Foreign experts are highly skeptical of North Korea's assertion of no cases, in large part because of its long porous border with China, where the virus emerged, and its history of hiding past disease outbreaks.

In a report to the World Health Organization, North Korea said it has quarantined 64 first contacts of the suspected Keasong case and 3,571 secondary contacts in state-run facilities for a period of 40 days, according to Dr. Edwin Salvador, WHO representative to North Korea.

Salvador said that North Korea also informed WHO of the suspected first case, saying the person was tested for Covid-19 but the results were inconclusive. Salvador said WHO has requested that North Korea share more information about the person.

Two Indian children caught up in foster care in UK amid parental row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 6 AUGUST

Two minor children with Indian nationality, aged 11 and 9, are caught up in the foster care system in England, with local authorities wanting to change their citizenship status to British amid a legal row with their parents, which has landed in the UK's Court of Appeal.

In a judgment handed down by a three-judge bench on Thursday, it was decided that the Birmingham Children's Trust must seek the court's approval before any attempt to apply for British citizenship for the children in the face of parental opposition.

Changing a child's citizenship is a momentous step with profound and enduring consequences that requires the most careful considera-

tion, the judges noted.

In the present case, the local authority would require leave to apply for the court to exercise its inherent jurisdiction if it was in the children's interests for them to become British citizens, there is reasonable cause to believe that they would be likely to be significantly harmed by that course not being pursued; the nature of the harm being their liability to removal from their lifelong home country on reaching adulthood, the judgment concludes, indicating that a future application for a change in citizenship before the court has some prospect of success.

The case, which originated in the Birmingham Family Court, involved the UK-based father being represented in court by promi-

While the reasons behind the removal were not revealed in court, it was noted that contact with the parents has not taken place for nearly five years now

nent Indian lawyer Harish Salve.

The Singapore-based mother was assisted by a Ms Rao. The unusual case dates back to August 2015, when the children were removed from the parental care who came to the UK in 2004.

While the reasons behind the removal were not revealed in court, it was noted that contact with the parents has not taken place for nearly five years now. The mother left the

UK in November 2015 while pregnant and now lives in Singapore.

The father has remained in England, but his antagonism towards the local authority has made contact unachievable, the court noted.

In the course of a complex set of proceedings over the years, the children became the subject of placement orders, or were to be put up for adoption. However, the search for adoptive parents was not successful and in December 2018, the local authority applied to discharge the placement orders.

The parents responded with an application to also discharge the underlying care orders in order to secure the children's return to their care or to the care of family members in India or Singapore.

But following a court ruling in December last year, it was determined that the children must remain in long-term foster care for the remainder of their childhoods.

It was during the course of those proceedings that the local authority, the Birmingham Children's Trust, stated that it would seek to secure the children's immigration status by making applications for British citizenship, which would have the effect of removing their Indian nationality.

Although these children had been in the care of the local authority for several years, no steps had been taken to regularise their immigration position. That is a matter of justified concern, even though there is no immediate threat of removal.

The parents responded with an application to also discharge the underlying care orders in order to secure the children's return to their care or to the care of family members in India or Singapore.

"We're not going to let the arms embargo expire on October 18. We're deeply aware that snapback is an option that is available to the United States.

Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal in 2018 and has steadily reimposed US penalties on Iran, leading Iran to step up uranium enrichment and heavy water production outside the allowed limits.

The remaining participants in the 2015 nuclear deal have said the US no longer has standing to invoke snapback. Administration officials and Iran hawks argue that as a permanent member of the Security Council, the US remains party to the separate UN resolution that endorsed the deal and still has the legal grounds to call for the reimposition of sanctions.

Under the nuclear deal, the UN arms embargo against Iran will expire on 18 October if Iran is in compliance with the agreement.

For several months, Pompeo and other US officials have been lobbying for the indefinite extension of the embargo, saying its expiration would allow Iran to import weapons at will and further destabilise the Middle East.

The European members in the nuclear deal have said they have concerns about Iran's ability to import-export weapons but have also pointed out that it was envisioned by the agreement. China and Russia have threatened to veto any attempt to extend the embargo.

Pompeo: US to call UN vote on Iran arms embargo extension

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 AUGUST

The Trump administration will press ahead with efforts to extend a United Nations arms embargo on Iran despite widespread opposition to such a move at the world body, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said.

The decision sets the stage for a potential crisis at the UN Security Council amid rising tensions in Middle East.

Pompeo said on Wednesday the United States would call for a Security Council

vote next week on a US-drafted resolution to extend the embargo that is due to expire in October. The resolution is widely expected to fail, as the other members of the Security Council have signalled their opposition.

The Security Council's mission is to maintain international peace and security," Pompeo told reporters. "The council would make an absolute mockery of that mission if it were to allow the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism to buy and sell weapons openly.

If the vote fails, Pompeo suggested the US would invoke the so-called snapback mechanism that would restore all UN sanctions on Iran. Snapback was envisioned in the 2015 nuclear deal in the event

Iran was proven to be in violation of the accord, under which it received billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme.

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LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSSWORDS BY KEN SAVAGE

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Stabilising weights (7)

5 Surprise attack (4)

7 Rich soil (4)

8 Adversary (8)

9 Naval vessel (11)

11 Pakistani language (4)

12 Diplomacy (4)

16 Vitamin-rich liquid (3-5)

17 Disciplinarian (8)

19 Destroy (4)

20 Crooked (4)

21 Winter sport (7)

DOWN

1 Type of loaf (7)



I am dealing with some form of low-grade depression. Not just because of the quarantine, but because of the racial strife, and just seeing this administration, watching the hypocrisy of it

FORMER US FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

DURING THE SECOND EPISODE OF HER EPODCAST

WEATHER

| CITY | MAX(°C) | MIN(°C) |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| SINGAPORE | 31 | 27 H |
| HONG KONG | 29 | 26 CL |
| TOKYO | 35 | 26 S |
| LONDON | 36 | 21 S |
| DUBAI | 40 | 32 CL |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 19 | 13 CL |
| NEW YORK | 27 | 21 H |
| MOSCOW | 25 | 14 CL |

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

THUMBNAILS



Polish President Andrzej Duda after being sworn in for a second term in office on Thursday in Warsaw. AFP

Poland's leader sworn in for second term: Poland's conservative President Andrzej Duda was sworn in for a second five-year term before parliament members on Thursday, but most opposition parliamentarians and former presidents and prime ministers did not attend. AP

Pak opposition leader indicted: A Pakistani court on Thursday indicted Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz in a corruption case. Separately, the Lahore Accountability Court issued bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for treatment, in a land allotment case involving Geo Media Group owner Mir Shakil Rehman. PTI

Scotland locks down city: Officials in Scotland ordered bars, cafes and restaurants in the city of Aberdeen to close on Wednesday, reimposing anti-virus restrictions after a cluster of 54 Covid-19 cases in the area was linked to a single bar. AP

More crew test positive on Norway cruise ship: A northern Norway ship says two more crew members who worked on a Norwegian cruise ship have tested coronavirus-positive, bring the total to 55. Following the outbreak on the MS Roald Amundsen, all cruises were halted on Monday and Norway closed its ports to cruise ships for two weeks. AP

Lebanon probes blast amidst rising anger

Tuesday's blast in Beirut caused by accidental fire that ignited a warehouse full of NH4 at city's port killed 137 people; more than 5,000 injured

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, 6 AUGUST

Lebanese officials targeted in the investigation of the massive blast that tore through Beirut sought to shift blame for the presence of explosives at the city's port, and the visiting French president warned on Thursday that without serious reforms the country would continue to sink.

The blast on Tuesday, which appeared to have been caused by an accidental fire that ignited a warehouse full of ammonium nitrate at the city's port, rippled across the Lebanese capital, killing at least 137 people, injuring more than 5,000 and causing widespread destruction. It also may have accelerated the country's coronavirus outbreak, as thousands flooded into hospitals in the wake of the blast.

Tens of thousands have been forced to move in with relatives and friends after their homes were damaged, further raising the risks of exposure.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited on Thursday amid widespread

pledges of international aid. But Lebanon, which was already mired in a severe economic crisis, faces a daunting challenge in rebuilding. It's unclear how much support the international community will offer the notoriously corrupt and dysfunctional government.

Macron, who viewed the devastated port and was to meet with senior Lebanese officials, said the visit is an opportunity to have a frank and challenging dialogue with the Lebanese political powers and institutions.

He said France will work to coordinate aid but warned that if reforms are not made, Lebanon will continue to sink. Losses from the blast are estimated to be between \$10 billion to \$15 billion, Beirut governor Marwan Abboud told the Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath on Wednesday, adding that nearly 3,000 people are homeless.

The head of Lebanon's customs department meanwhile confirmed in an interview with LBCTV late Wednesday that officials had sent five or six letters over the years to the judiciary asking that the



A soldier walks at the site of the explosion in the port of Beirut on Thursday, two days after a massive explosion devastated the Lebanese capital. AFP

ammonium nitrate be removed because of the dangers it posed.

But Badri Daher said all he could do was alert authorities to the presence of dangerous materials, saying even that was extra work for him and his predecessor. He said the port authority was responsible for the material, while his job was to prevent smuggling and collect duties.

The government said on Wednesday that an investigation was underway and that port officials have been placed under house arrest.

The investigation into the explosion is focused on how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive chemical used in fertilizers, came to be stored at the port facility for six years, and why nothing was done about it.

The cargo had been stored at the port since it was confiscated from a ship years earlier. Based on the timeline and the size of the cargo, that ship could be the MV Rhosus.

The ship was initially seized in Beirut in 2013 when it entered the port due to technical problems. It came from the nation of Georgia, and had been bound for Mozambique. The stockpile is believed to

have detonated after a fire broke out nearby in what appeared to be a warehouse holding fireworks. Daher, the customs official, said he did not know if there were fireworks near the ammonium nitrate.

Another theory is that the fire began when welders were trying to repair a broken gate and a hole in the wall of Hangar 12, where the explosive material was being stored.

Local news reports say the repair work was ordered by security forces who investigated the facility and were concerned about threats.

Security officials have declined to comment while the investigation is underway. Port officials have rejected the theory in interviews with local media, saying the welders completed their work long before the fire broke out.

1.2 million seek jobless aid in USA after \$600 federal checks end

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 AUGUST

Nearly 1.2 million laid-off Americans applied for state unemployment benefits last week, evidence that the coronavirus keeps forcing companies to slash jobs just as a critical \$600 weekly federal jobless payment has expired.

The Labour Department's report on Thursday marked the 20th straight week that at least 3 million people have sought jobless aid. Before the pandemic hit hard in March, the number of Americans seeking unemployment checks had never surpassed 7,000,000 in a week, not even during the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

The new jobless claims were down by 249,000 from the previous week after rising for two straight weeks.

The pandemic, the lockdowns meant to contain it and the wariness of many Americans to venture back out to eat, shop or travel have delivered a devastating blow to the economy despite the government's emergency rescue efforts.

The nation's gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, shrank at an annual rate of nearly 33% from April through June. It was by far the worst

FB, Twitter remove Trump clip over Covid misinformation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
SAN FRANCISCO, 6 AUGUST

Facebook and Twitter have removed a video clip from an interview in which US President Trump claimed children were "almost immune" to coronavirus.

The social media platforms said the statement by the US President made during the interview to Fox News violated their rules related to Covid-19 misinformation.

While Facebook removed the clip posted by the President, Twitter briefly suspended @TeamTrump, a Trump campaign Twitter account for tweeting the video clip which contained the same claim.

This is the first time Facebook removed a post by Trump for violating its Covid-19 misinformation policy.

A Twitter spokesperson said that the tweet by @TeamTrump was in violation of the Twitter Rules on Covid-19 misinformation.

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Adapt to succeed

Here is how professional skills will help you to start and manage a prosperous career

KARUN KAURA

To acquire a successful career is not an easy task. It requires years of dedication, hard work and some distinct skills. Achievements not only come to people who are just immensely knowledgeable but also possess skills that help them work more efficiently. A person must not only possess knowledge but should also know how to use the knowledge with the help of certain skills. These skills are not acquired overnight. It takes years of experience along with some setbacks. However, with time, we can see people getting unskilled and hence learning new things, which take them forward in their careers.

To begin with, adaptability is one of the most important skills. Be it towards work environment, people, or technological advancements, a person must readily adapt to any changes that may come. He or she needs to be in line with the current trends, which are happening in the company.

Even if the company is moving from use of chalkboard to white board to pen down their ideas in meetings, an employee needs to adapt to the changes. This might not be easy for many people but then that is what differentiates success from failure. Even if you are uncomfortable to changes, you need to put on a brave face and confront everything with utmost sincerity.

A greater adaptability marks out the person's flexibility with situations and circumstances. It puts faith of the company in the employee and imparts the image that the employee is capable of adjusting to any new conditions. In addition, this skill is important for a better career growth. Adaptability presents more career opportunities.

Simultaneously, an employee must also know how to work in a team and be an excellent team player. Collaborative working is a skill, which many lack. To succeed in future endeavours, knowledge and experience in teamwork plays a big role. The more you adapt yourself around new people, the more chances you get of learning and working efficiently. Sometimes, two minds at work turn out to be more productive than a single mind at work.

A certain trust needs to be built up among the employees, which can be achieved by creating effective and productive working relationships. Effective teamwork also builds up morale in the workplace that encourages employees to work harder and voice out their opinions more freely. Leadership skills also play a vital role in shaping someone's career. Possessing the ability to guide people and take in charge of projects certainly sits better with the management. In fact, they look for employees with good leadership skills. A company needs an employee who

people can look up to in circumstances when they need support.

It is also imperative to possess good communication skills, which can help the employee to be vocal about their ideas and suggestions. Good communication helps in efficient and concise collaboration. One who shows remarkable leadership skills is very vital for the company. An effective leader can encourage all the employees to work efficiently and put their best effort.

To achieve a successful career, one must be very clear of his or her goals. It is crucial to maintain a competitive nature with a hunger for knowledge and thirst for experience. Competitiveness without goals often leads to wasted energy so it is advisable that setting new targets and goals keep the spark alive in the work and leads to better performance and the eagerness to work.

Sometimes, work can get tedious and lack of achievements may lead to lack of motivation. For a better career, motivation is the key. Irrespective of where you stand in your career or how good or bad you might be doing; it is crucial to keep yourself motivated all the time. Motivation will enable the person to put in those hours of dedication and hard work. Striving for more is how an employee will be able to keep himself or herself as an important asset to the company and the team. When

people always see an employee going beyond in their work, it creates a highly respected image of the employee.

Motivation and passion go hand in hand. If you are not passionate towards what you are doing, you will never be motivated enough to achieve your goals and be successful. Therefore, even if situation becomes tough to handle, a passionate employee must never take no for an answer. In order to thrive in your career, 'want' is the ultimate feeling that a person should embrace. You need to 'want' to achieve your goals and map your road towards success.

The road towards success will always be overflowing with risks, and it is quite unavoidable. A dedicated person must be willing to take all risks that come in the way. Overcoming all the risks will lead to success. Unless you are willing to take that risk, you will never be able to know what capabilities you hold and you may end up staying stationary within your career for a long time.

It is true what many experts say, the path to success is not a straight path, it is filled with curves and obstacles at every bend. The journey to reach the peak in career is not going to be an easy one unless you are willing to give your hundred per cent efforts.

The writer is CMD Kaya Spirits

PLUS POINTS

Strengthening skills



Post Covid onslaught, in the new world order, the companies are increasingly gearing towards virtual hackathons rather than physical hackathons. The top IT companies and start-ups are hiring through virtual hackathons where candidates are tested on the basis of their knowledge and skills in high power events. Catering to this change, Board Infinity, a career exploration platform organised a series of virtual hackathons called Decode recently. It saw more than 2000 registrations and participation of more than 800 learners. These hackathons were conducted around topics like exploratory data analysis using python, advanced excel features, feature engineering, linear regression, etc. Each hackathon was spread across a period of two-days lasting almost 48 hours. The participants were given a brief on the problem statement by an industry professional. After two-days, students submitted their solution and the winners were announced. An individual online session was also held with the coach for a detailed discussion.

Golden opportunity



Unacademy – a learning platform in India announced that they would be organising EnGenius – a three-day live virtual summit for all GATE and ESE aspirants across the country from 7 to 9 August. It will provide learners with an opportunity to connect with top educators, visionaries in the field of engineering, and the senior leadership team at Unacademy to gain insights on cracking one of the toughest examinations in the country. The summit will include sessions from current and former leaders of government organisations, public sector units and IITs, along with Unacademy's top educators such as Praveen Kulkarni, Jaspal Singh, Ankur Goyal, Saurabh Kumar Pandey and others. Additionally, well-known personalities from different fields will also be conducting live sessions to share their experiences and success stories with the learners. To know more, download Unacademy Learning App from Play Store, App Store or visit: www.unacademy.com

A ray of hope



The British Council will be hosting Study UK Virtual Fair 2020 on 8 August. The fair provides a free, direct platform for Indian students to interact with 20+ UK universities. Students can interact directly with university representatives and attend different seminars. Attendees will be able to learn about scholarships, application processes, Graduate Immigration Route eligibility (from UKVI officers) and attend informative sessions on IELTS, studying and living in the UK. Every year, thousands of students, parents, education counsellors and agents, attend these fairs to understand about courses, offers, specialities, scholarships, etc. from the UK universities. All information will be available on British Council India website and social media pages. One can register through <https://in.registration.studyuk.britishcouncil.org/study-uk-virtual-fair-2020>. For further details visit: <https://www.britishcouncil.in/study-uk/events/education-uk-fair>

Aiding learners



The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is offering the Dean's International Excellence Award - India, awarding students a merit-based scholarship for entry onto a full-time postgraduate programme in the faculty of humanities and social sciences. There are 10 scholarships. In order to be deemed eligible for it, candidates must be available to commence academic studies in the UK by the start of the academic year in September/October 2020. Have an offer of study for a full-time, postgraduate, humanities and social sciences programme at the University of Strathclyde, and has to register as a Indian, fee-paying student. The last date of application is 18 September. For details visit: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/humanitiesocialsciences/deaninternationalexcellenceaward-india/>



MAKE USE OF YOUR EXPERTISE

MANSI MEHTA

They say talent is a rare gift, and to manage such rare talent is nothing short of a challenge. The journey of being a talent manager, truly, starts with patience. The patience to understand your client's process, genre and perspective. On the other hand, the ability to correctly gauge the market and opportunities that fit best and at the same help engage the artists to the best of his/her capabilities. You are your artists' biggest fan and harshest critic; it requires you to have passion, compassion and an immense love for the artist that one is managing. The key is, to believe in your client's talent while keep pushing them to become the best version of themselves. To understand them and help guide them in the right direction, one has to share their passion for the art form.

One of the biggest challenges we face in the business is to keep the artists relevant and being able to pitch them to the right people for the right projects, without reducing them to a mere commodity. A manager's job is multi-fold- they have to figure out what their client's USP is, what kind of roles suit their competencies, what kind of characters can they do justice to and keep up with all the latest conversations in and around the industry, to just name a few.

There is no particular degree to start your career as a talent manager. That being said, the job demands

from you to have outstanding management and soft skills, since the day-to-day lives of an artist are to a great extent curated by you, from their dates to their promotions to their styling appointments. It is the manager's job to help the artist navigate through the heaps and heaps of scripts in the direction most suited for them.

Truth be told, this profession is quite herculean and the only way to survive, is to love what you do. It is a round the clock job and you have to be at constant beck and call for your artists. At times, it may be solving a crisis on set or ensuring the shoots do not run into overtimes. All while maintaining and protecting the integrity and respect of our artists.

While the artists are the priority, it is of prime importance to strike a balance between them and the clients that they are working with. This is where your potential as a competent manager are actually put to test – a situation may arise wherein you might need your artists to fall back despite them believing otherwise and vice versa. You are always the arbitrator in the equation.

To sum it up, talent management of an artist from any genre or art form is like a marriage. You have to try hard, tirelessly to make it work. So, strap on those shoes and get ready to dive into this exciting world.

The writer is partner, Inega



The exciting world of a talent manager is nothing short of a challenge - a sector that calls for hard work and patience



MISSING ELEMENT

Tiger Woods (photo, left) is preparing for a journey into the unknown as he heads into this week's Professional Golfers Association Championship looking for a 16th major title against the surreal backdrop of a deserted course at TPC Harding Park. Throughout his career, he has known only roaring galleries following his every shot.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Sanchez moves: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has confirmed Alexis Sanchez will complete a move to Inter Milan. Sanchez joined Inter on loan from United in August last year and the Serie A club have been keen to secure the 31-year-old on a permanent basis.

Tour talk: Chris Silverwood has said he and England would be happy to tour Pakistan for the first time since 2005. England are scheduled to tour in 2022 with Pakistan welcoming back international and franchise cricket following the 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka team.

Bale out: Gareth Bale has been left out of Real Madrid's 24-man squad for the Champions League last-16 second leg against Manchester City. Bale played no part in the last six games of Madrid's title-winning La Liga campaign and was omitted.



Murray's point: Andy Murray says players need assurance that they would not face mandatory quarantine upon returning to Europe from the U.S. Open before travelling to New York. The USA will set up a strict bio-security 'bubble' to minimise the virus risk.

Travel rules: Clubs in next season's European competitions could be forced to forfeit matches if they fail to inform Uefa of travel restrictions in place to curb the spread of Covid-19, according to guidelines issued by European soccer's governing body.

55 redundancies: Arsenal are set to make 55 redundancies among club staff in an effort to "take the club forward" from the coronavirus pandemic. They said they had been badly affected by the loss in broadcast revenues and matchday income during lockdown.

Russian row: The board of Russia's anti-doping agency, Rusada, called on the country's sports authorities on Wednesday to consider firing its director, Yuri Ganus, over allegations that he had presided over serious financial irregularities for a long while.



Ups & downs: Rory McIlroy is hoping the first major golf championship of the year can spark his game and get him back to the form that saw him reach world number one earlier this year. He got off to a rousing start in 2020 with a string of top-10 finishes.

Ramos appointed: Odisha FC on Thursday appointed Brazilian Rogerio Ramos goalkeeping coach of the team ahead of the seventh season of the Indian Super League. The former national team goalkeeping coach has signed a two-year deal.



Bolt's regret: Usain Bolt recently recalled his football stint with Central Coast Mariners in the A-League, saying he had deserved more than he got. "I think I didn't get a fair chance," Bolt said, adding: "I didn't do it how I wanted to do it, but I think I would've been good at it."

MISSING ELEMENT

Tiger Woods (photo, left) is preparing for a journey into the unknown as he heads into this week's Professional Golfers Association Championship looking for a 16th major title against the surreal backdrop of a deserted course at TPC Harding Park. Throughout his career, he has known only roaring galleries following his every shot.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MADRID, 6 AUGUST



Rafael Nadal (in photo) on Wednesday said he still intends to play at the French Open next month and remains hopeful it will go ahead, despite withdrawing from the US Open due to coronavirus concerns.

Nadal also insisted the US Open will not carry an asterisk without its defending men's champion, even if he admitted it will take place under "special circumstances", with several top players expected to sit out.

The 34-year-old Spaniard's withdrawal was confirmed shortly after the Madrid Open was cancelled on Tuesday, with a rise in coronavirus cases in Europe raising doubts around other events, including the French Open, which is due to start in Paris on 27 September.

Nadal, who would be going for a record-extending 13th title at Roland Garros, was asked if he thinks the tournament will go ahead.

"I trust it will yes, it is in my mind and I am preparing for it," said the 34-year-old in a briefing with international media on Wednesday.

"But we have to wait for events, to see how everything evolves because it is true that in recent weeks the situation seems to have worsened a little. But my hope and my intention would be to be there if conditions allow."

Nadal also explained his decision to pull out of the US Open. "My heart says today is not the moment to take long travels without knowing exactly what can and cannot happen. My decision is to stay at home in Mallorca where the situation is good, it looks under control here, and to wait for future opportunities."

Women's world number one Ashleigh Barty has also chosen not to compete in New York, where a depleted entry list in

both the men's and women's draws looks inevitable.

Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are all still due to play.

"The tournament is still big, it's a Grand Slam," Nadal said. "I am not arrogant enough to say the tournament is not big because I am not playing. There will be important players."

"Of course it's a tournament under special circumstances but still a Grand Slam and the winner will feel like the winner of a Grand Slam. It's true it will be under special circumstances with a lot of important players not travelling there."

Nadal added: "My words can have repercussions so it is difficult to say if it is the right decision or not, for some players it will be right for others not."

"I respect a lot the amount of work and positive intentions of the ATP and USTA (United States Tennis Association) to try to come back to the

tour. I have taken my decision so you know my thoughts but I respect there are other players in different situations and they need to play because they have financial problems and need to earn money after a few months without income."

Nadal also said lessons need to be learned after the "mistake" of the ill-fated Adria Tour in June, which was organised by Djokovic and led to several players, including the Serb, testing positive for coronavirus.

"I think most of the players want the best for the world and for people. Of course there was a mistake in the tour organised in Serbia and Croatia but mistakes are normal when you face a situation you haven't faced before," Nadal said.

"The players need to make decisions but I am not saying mine is the right one. Every decision can be right or wrong. We are facing unpredictable situations."

Nadal still preparing to play at Roland Garros despite Open withdrawal

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Martial seals Mancunians' place in Euro quarter-finals

Manchester United 2-1 LASK (7-1 agg)

MARK CRITCHLEY

MANCHESTER, 6 AUGUST



Safe passage to the next week's Europa League mini-tournament in Germany was never in doubt for Manchester United, as anyone watching this lukewarm 2-1 win over LASK Linz at Old Trafford could tell.

Inter Milan beat Getafe 2-0 to move up to.

A five-goal first-leg lead meant Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side were never in danger of missing out on a fortnight in Cologne even though they had to come behind to avoid a second defeat in four games.

Jesse Lingard and Anthony Martial (in photo) overturned Phillip Wiesinger's spectacular 25-yard strike to claim a 7-1 aggregate win. Lingard's equaliser was his second goal in as many games after an otherwise barren 18-month spell and though he departed as a frustrated substitute shortly after, he gave himself a chance of starting Monday's quarter-final against Copenhagen.

The same cannot be said for many of the others out on the pitch. Solskjaer made just two changes to the starting line-up if Solskjaer decides to field his first-choice line-up for the rest of the tournament.

Given United's lead, nobody anticipated an evening of high-octane entertainment but the first half failed to even live up

to those modest expectations. United only managed two shots on goal. Both were Maguire headers. Both were from corners. Both were off-target.

At least LASK came closer, with Maguire's fellow centre-half Andres Andrade reacting quickest to a corner that was only half-cleared and nodding a bouncing ball against the crossbar.

Dominik Thalhammer's visitors were more productive

than their hosts and took a deserved lead at the start of the second half through Wiesinger's strike from distance. Timothy Fosu-Mensah's clearance of a corner left much to be desired but he could not foresee Wiesinger's clean first-time strike towards the top right-hand corner and goalkeeper Sergio Romero could not stop it.

That proved to be just what United needed to awaken them from their slumber. Mata's cute pass around the corner caught out LASK's sleepy defensive line and fed Lingard, who still had a lot of ground to cover.

Once one-on-one with keeper Alexander Schlager, he delayed his shot a little too long and was almost caught out by the recovering defender, though finished just in time to equalise.

The final half hour was played at a meandering pace and contained only two highlights. The 18-year-old centre-half Feden Mengi, who has come on leaps and bounds with in United's youth set-up this season, was handed his full debut, replacing Fosu-Mensah for the final six minutes. Martial was brought on with him and scored the winning goal moments later, latching onto Mata's through ball and finishing sweetly. THE INDEPENDENT

Roles reversed as Guardiola seeks to follow trail blazed by Zidane

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON, 6 AUGUST



Zinedine Zidane may never have been hired as Real Madrid coach but for the success of Pep Guardiola (in photo) at Barcelona, but it is Guardiola who now must follow the Frenchman's example to complete his mission at Manchester City.

Zidane's Madrid travel to Manchester on Friday looking to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit from February as the Champions League resumes after a five-month coronavirus shutdown.

Much has changed since the sides last met. Then under pressure, Zidane, in his second spell in charge at the Bernabeu, has again interrupted Barca's dominance of La Liga with a run of 10 straight victories after Spanish football's return in June to take the title.

Even for the club where Champions League success matters more than anything else, the pressure is off Madrid as Zidane looks to protect his perfect record in the competition as a coach.

Three times he led Madrid to Champions League glory in his first spell in charge between 2016 and 2018 and Zidane is yet to be eliminated from the competition as a coach.

"When he has done what he has done, winning three

Champions Leagues in a row, taking two La Liga titles from Barca when they -- in this decade -- have dominated this competition like no other club, it shows his ability," Guardiola told DAZN.

"Although people may not believe me because he is from Real Madrid, I am very happy that things are going well because it is very good for football that things go well for people like him."

When Zidane was first handed the Madrid job, they were aiming to copy the formula of their rivals in appointing a former midfield great, who had only previously coached the club's youth team.

Guardiola won 14 trophies in four seasons at the Camp Nou between 2008 and 2012, including two Champions Leagues.

League titles and cups have continued to flow for Guardiola at Bayern Munich and in Manchester, but he has not tasted

success in Europe's elite club competition since 2011.

Despite winning two Premier League titles among six major trophies since arriving in England, Guardiola admitted earlier this season his time at City would be judged "a failure" if he did not win the Champions League.

The pressure on City has reduced since the first leg as their two-season ban from European competition was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning this month is not their final chance for three years to end their wait to win the Champions League.

However, Guardiola has hinted they may never get a better chance, with the competition reduced to one-off matches from the quarter-finals and all on a neutral site behind closed doors in Lisbon.

The former Barca and Bayern boss has often lamented the lack of atmosphere generated by the City support on big European nights compared with the cauldrons of some of the continent's more intimidating arenas.

"Of course, we have the chance to fight (again next season) but the situation that we have is not coming back again," said Guardiola. "I think the big clubs don't miss these chances to try until the last effort they have in their bodies."

BCCI, Vivo suspend IPL partnership for one year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Here we are talking about diplomatic tensions and you expect that after November, when IPL ends and before the next IPL starts in April 2021, there would be no anti-China sentiment? Are we serious?" the veteran official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The BCCI sent out a one-line statement, without giving any details, to say that Vivo will not be associated with the IPL this year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd have decided to suspend their partnership for Indian Premier League in 2020," the press release stated.

The company, on its part, stated that the association is being paused.

The BCCI is now likely to take a tender for new IPL title sponsors as mandated by its constitution. The glitzy T20 league starts on September 19 in the UAE, forced out of India due to the rising COVID-19 cases.

The new development is in stark contrast to what came out of Sunday's IPL's Governing Council meeting, where it was decided that Vivo, along with all other sponsors, will remain on board.

This was after BCCI had announced in June that all sponsorship deals pertaining to IPL will be reviewed in the aftermath of the clash at the Galwan Valley.

Masood's unbeaten 151 takes Pakistan past 300

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

MANCHESTER, 6 AUGUST



battling on 45 -- to hold one end up and soak in all the pressure to bat majestically.

Earlier, resuming the day at 139/2, Babar Azam (69) couldn't contribute anything to his overnight score as he was enticed into a false drive by James Anderson who had him caught at first slip by hosts' skipper Joe Root.

Asad Shafiq (7) followed suit soon after as Ben Stokes took

a superb catch at second slip off Stuart Broad's bowling to rid of the new batsman.

Wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan tried to play half-modernly alongside Masood at the other end but half an hour before the end of the first session, Chris Woakes did him with a wider from the crease delivery that caught Rizwan's edge of the bat and flew to keeper Jos Buttler.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN 1ST INNINGS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Shan Masood not out | 151 |
| Abid Ali c Archer b Archer | 16 |
| Ashar Ali c Ibw b Woakes | 0 |
| Babar Azam c Root b Anderson | 69 |
| Asad Shafiq c Stokes b Broad | 7 |
| Md Rizwan c Buttler b Woakes | 9 |
| Shadab Khan c Root b Bess | 45 |
| Yasir Shah c Ibw b Archer | 5 |
| Md Abbasi c Root b Archer | 0 |
| Shaheen Shah Afridi not out | 1 |
| Extras: (b 1, lb 7, nb 1) | 9 |
| Total:(106 Ov, RR: 2.94) | 312 |

Fall of wickets: 1-36 (Abid Ali, 15.1 ov), 2-43 (Ashar Ali, 18.1 ov),