



SONIA, RAHUL SEEK
WITHDRAWAL
OF EIA 2020

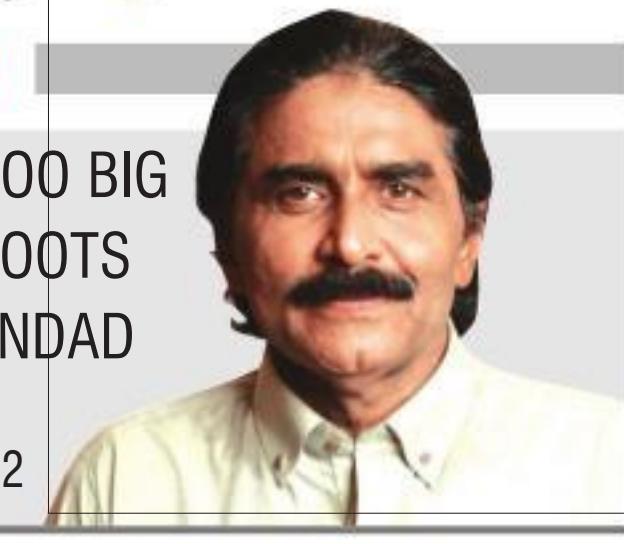


THOUSANDS DECRY
LUSHENKO'S
RE-ELECTION



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

BIDEN, HARRIS
SHRED TRUMP IN
DEBUT SHOW



KHAN IS TOO BIG
FOR HIS BOOTS
NOW: MIANDAD

P9

P10

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of light to moderate rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 32 and 24 degrees Celsius respectively.

Rainfall: 015.6 MM

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 81%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 28.9°C (-5) Min: 24.5°C (-3)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

05:51 hrs 19:01 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

01:45 hrs 15:08 hrs

THUMBNAILS



New Delhi Railway Station illuminated with the colours of the Tricolour ahead of Independence Day celebrations, on Thursday. DEEPAK

Contempt law: The Supreme Court Thursday allowed former Union minister Arun Shourie, veteran journalist N Ram and activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan to withdraw their plea challenging the constitutional validity of a legal provision dealing with criminal contempt. A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra was informed by senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who was representing the petitioners, that they want to withdraw the plea as several petitions on the same issue are pending before the apex court and they don't want "this to be entangled" with them.

Ayodhya temple trust head has Covid: The head of the Ram temple trust, Mahant Nitanya Gopal Das (90), tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday and was rushed to the Medanta hospital in Gurgaon, officials said. On August 5, Das shared the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Adityanath, Uttarakhand Governor Anandiben Patel and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Bengaluru violence: State minister flags role of SDPI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, 13 AUGUST

Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the role of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) behind the Tuesday night violence in parts of Bengaluru, had come to light and investigation will go deep into it and its connections.

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

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

Speaking to reporters here,



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

"Already, several SDPI office-bearers have been arrested. Muzammil Pasha, the SDPI district secretary is the main (person), also Firoz, Afraz

Pasha and Shaik Adil, all of them are from SDPI. Their role is completely being investigated and they have been arrested," he added.

Three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a city locality on Tuesday night over an inflammatory social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's relative.

Cong asks govt to restore 'civility' in TV debates

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill on Thursday urged the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to take steps to restore "civility" in television debates and pitched for the issue of an advisory to enforce a code of conduct by news channels.

In a letter to I&B minister Prakash Javadekar, Shergill said it is imperative to restore civility through a code of conduct in order to "tame the dangerous beast" that television debates have become. "Constant interruptions coupled with toxic and defamatory smears impact the mental and physical well-being of all individuals on the panel," he said in the letter.

The letter by Shergill comes a day after the death of Congress leader and spokesperson Rajiv Tyagi following a heart attack. He was 52.

Tyagi suffered the attack soon after participating in a TV debate from his residence in Sector 16 of Vasundhara in Ghaziabad and fell unconscious. He died on the way to hospital.

PTI

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

With a record single-day increase of 66,999 cases, India's Covid-19 tally mounted to 23,96,637 on Thursday, while the number of patients who have recovered from the disease surged to 16,95,982, pushing the recovery rate to 70.77 per cent in the country, according to the Union health ministry.

The death toll due to Covid-19 climbed to 47,033 with 942 people succumbing to the disease in the last 24 hours, health ministry data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The case fatality rate in the country has declined to 1.96 per cent.

There are 6,53,622 active Covid-19 cases in the country presently, which account for 27.27 per cent of its total caseload. India crossed the 20-lakh mark in terms of Covid-19 cases

from yesterday's 88.96 per cent.

There were 10,975 active cases of Covid-19 and 4,257 hospitalised patients in Delhi. In both cases, the figures were lesser yesterday.

The active cases of Covid-19 yesterday numbered 10,946 and the number of patients admitted to hospitals stood at 4,235. On 10 August, the count of such patients was 4,002.

The number of hospitalised patients has been continuously rising for the past few days as indicated by the figures provided by the Delhi government.

SEE PAGE 2

on 7 August.

Pranab in coma: The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged and he is deeply comatose, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said on Thursday.

Doctors attending on him said Mukherjee has stable vital parameters and he continues to be on ventilator support.

helped the forest staff in ferrying the cage from the village to the road head.

A group of women, who had missed the action as they were busy with household work, asked the passing forest team to wait and show them the leopard as the cage was covered with a sheet. The forest team obliged.

Social activist Jagmohan Dangi said: "Such activities break the monotony. These days villagers are busy in their fields and many others are engaged in construction work in the area." Villagers joined the walk from the cowshed to the road head, with the forest department team to say goodbye to the leopard who amused them for 3-4 hours.

In historic breakthrough, UAE, Israel establish diplomatic ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI/JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON, 13 AUGUST

In a major diplomatic breakthrough, the UAE on Thursday became the first Gulf country and the third in the Arab world to establish diplomatic relations with Israel as part of a deal to halt the controversial annexation of parts of the West Bank that Palestinians see as a part of their future state.

US President Donald Trump took to Twitter to break the news saying, Huge breakthrough today. Historic Peace Agreement

Jordan and Egypt, are the only two other Arab states to have diplomatic ties with Israel

between our two GREAT friends, Israel and the United Arab Emirates!

A White House announcement said that the leaders of the US, Israel and the UAE spoke today and agreed to the full normalisation of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who

has often boasted about Israel's close relations with states in the Arab world under his leadership, even without normalised ties, tweeted minutes later simply saying, "Yom Histori" (Historic Day) in Hebrew.

UAE's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was a bit guarded in his Twitter message saying the UAE and Israel also agreed to cooperation and setting a roadmap towards establishing a bilateral relationship, highlighting that "an agreement was reached to stop further Israeli annexation of Palestinian territories".

When a leopard rescue breaks the monotony

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 13 AUGUST

ard feasting on the calf terrified him. Mustering courage, Balwant locked the door from outside.

The villagers informed the forest department and as the rescue team reached Khanda village, the cowshed turned into a hotspot, with onlookers crowding every nook and corner of the place. Khanda is located about 50 kms from district headquarters Pauri.

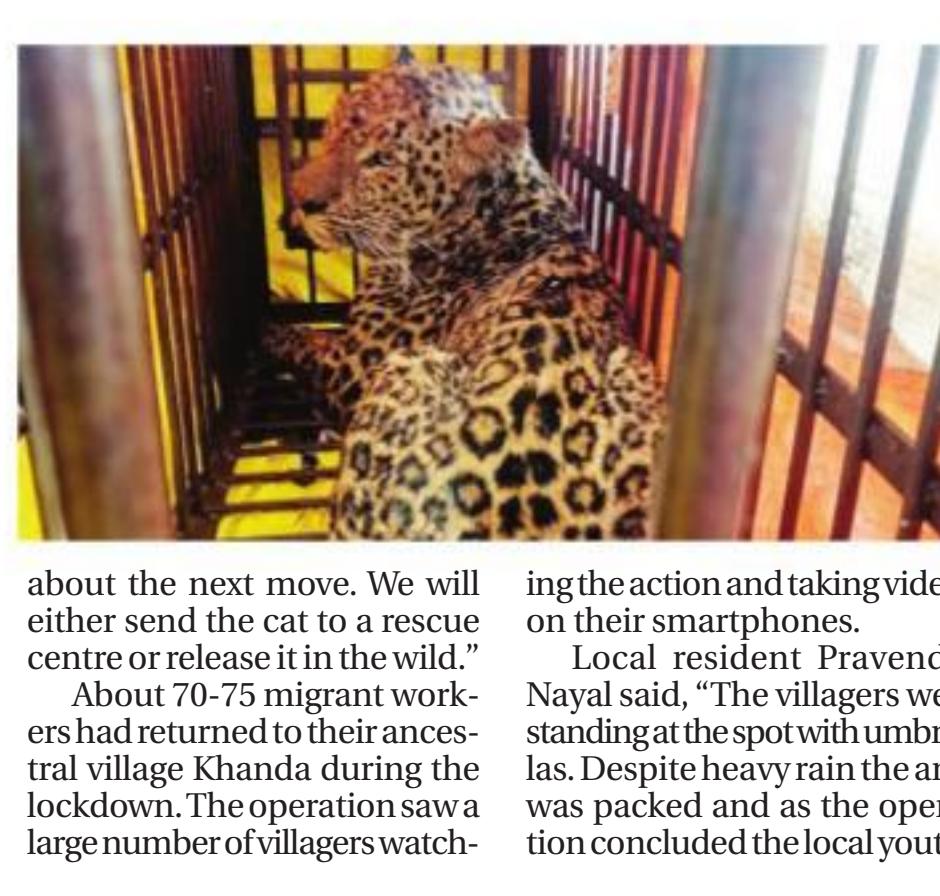
Forest ranger Anil Bhatt of Nagdev range said, "We fixed a cage on the door and used different tricks to get the feline to move towards the cage. The tricks worked and the leopard was trapped in the cage. We have brought the leopard to Pauri and are waiting for orders from senior officers of the department

about the next move. We will either send the cat to a rescue centre or release it in the wild."

About 70-75 migrant workers had returned to their ancestral village Khanda during the lockdown. The operation saw a large number of villagers watch-

ing the action and taking videos on their smartphones.

Local resident Pravendra Nayal said, "The villagers were standing at the spot with umbrellas. Despite heavy rain the area was packed and as the operation concluded the local youths





Law and order is dying in UP. 12 August's Aligarh incident of local BJP MLA and police levelling charges against each other and manhandling is most serious and very worrying.

MAYAWATI
BSP PRESIDENT

Covid-19: Delhi reports 956 new cases, 14 fresh deaths

The national capital's coronavirus caseload nears 1.5 lakh while death toll mounts to 4,167

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Delhi today added 956 fresh cases of coronavirus infection (Covid-19) that pushed the city's Covid caseload to 1,49,460. According to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin, 15,356 tests were conducted to identify Covid cases in the national capital today.

The health bulletin said that 913 coronavirus patients recovered in the city during the past 24 hours, which took the total number of recovered cases to 1,34,318. The Covid recovery rate rose to 89.86 per cent from yesterday's 89.83 per cent.

There were 10,975 active cases of Covid-19 and 4,257 hospitalised patients in Delhi. In both cases, the figures were lesser yesterday.

The active cases of Covid-19 yesterday numbered 10,946 and the number of patients admitted to hospitals stood at 4,235. On 10 August, the count of such patients was 4,002.

The number of hospitalised patients has been continuously rising for the past few days as indicated by the figures provided by the Delhi government.

The health bulletin stated that 14 deaths due to Covid-19 were taken into account in the city today, which pushed the cumulative total of such fatalities to 4,167.

On 11 August, only eight deaths owing to the coronavirus infection were recorded in the national capital. This had prompted Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to then say that

"Today, there were only 8 deaths due to coronavirus in Delhi. Less than 10 deaths



Girls wearing face masks amid the Covid pandemic cross a road in the Capital on Thursday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

occurred today after many days. We have taken many steps to bring down the num-

tweeted to state that, "In the fight against the corona(virus), our main purpose is to bring

The single-day Covid count in the city was 1,113 yesterday when 14 deaths due to coronavirus were recorded.

On 23 June, Delhi had reported highest single-day spike of 3,947 coronavirus cases so far.

The health bulletin today reportedly put the Covid positivity rate at 6.2 per cent.

It said that out of the total number of beds in Delhi's Covid hospitals, 10,694 were vacant. The bulletin added that 3,730 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by people under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat

Mission and "bubble flights". The number of rapid antigen tests conducted today was 8,878 while the RT-PCR,

CBNAAT, and True NAAT tests figures were 6,478, thereby altogether adding up to 15,356, according to the bulletin.

The total number of coronavirus tests conducted in Delhi was 12,58,095 till date. The number of tests done per million, as on today, was 66,215, the bulletin reportedly said.

The number of containment zones or coronavirus hotspots stood at 513 in the national capital.

The health bulletin said that 913 coronavirus patients recovered in the city during the past 24 hours, which took the total number of recovered cases to 1,34,318. The Covid recovery rate rose to 89.86 per cent from yesterday's 89.83 per cent.

down the number of deaths to zero."

According to the health bulletin, the number of patients getting treatment under home isolation in Delhi was 5,762.

Kejriwal had yesterday

reportedly put the Covid positivity rate at 6.2 per cent.

It said that out of the total number of beds in Delhi's Covid hospitals, 10,694 were vacant. The bulletin added that 3,730 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by people under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat

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INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Invites to the Independence Day 2020 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2020 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

Prohibited Items

Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण
	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें
	Bag, Briefcase थेला, ब्रीफकेस
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकार्डर, सोडी, डीवीडी, एमपी३ प्लेयर
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडीकैम
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes जलनशील पदार्थ, दियामलाई
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e.g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पार्म टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैबलेट, पार्वर वैकं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पार्म टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैबलेट, पार्वर वैकं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे

वर्जित वस्तुएं

Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण
	Cigarettes, Bidies, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईर
	Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, इंग्लिश, स्प्रे
	Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नक्कली हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
	Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आमंत्रित विवरण, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेजर, ब्लेड, तार, एलेक्ट्रिक
	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking. योवाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार के चारों ओर रखने से बचें क्योंकि इसमें जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

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

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking.
कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

Please be alert to your surroundings.
कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

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

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090



SC verdict enthuses HP's struggling tribal women

A 'customary law' bars tribal women of Himachal Pradesh from inheriting ancestral property

ARCHANA PHULL
SHIMLA, 13 AUGUST

It may still not be an easy fight for them, but the Supreme Court's recent verdict that the amended Hindu Succession Act, which gives daughters equal rights to ancestral property, will have a retrospective effect comes as a ray of hope for the tribal women of Himachal Pradesh, who do not have inheritance right as per century-old "customary law" in tribal areas of the state.

"We have been battling to get the right to inherit property for long at different levels, but to no avail so far. Nobody is ready to amend the 'customary law' that bars tribal women of HP from inheriting ancestral property. The SC judgement for women gives us fresh energy to battle it out socially as well as legally," said Rattan Manjari, Chairman of Mahila Kalyan Parishad, a women NGO, in the tribal district of



Tribal women from Kinnar.

FILE PHOTO

been abandoned by their families.

"If they have the right to property, they can at least live with dignity despite being single," she said. With the passage of time, the tribal society in Kinnar has shed many customs like "common marriage" (polyandry), wherein all brothers used to marry one woman mainly to protect small land holdings from division with agriculture being traditionally the main occupation of people.

"But the people are not ready to shed this century-old customary law. The Parishad launched the signature campaign and even took the issue to gram sabhas some years back to build consensus in tribal society for amendment in law, but there was resistance, mainly from the men folk," Manjari said.

Argued RS Negi, convenor of Kinnar-based Him Lok Jagriti Manch and a retired IAS officer, "The tribal areas have their own Revenue Act, which needs to be amended to give

this right to the women. There is resistance from the tribal society on this because the land holdings in Kinnar are very small (1-2 bighas on an average) and the tribal girls are increasingly marrying outside. The phenomenon would throw the tribal land open to non-tribals."

Negi said the amendment could be done with some riders so that the land does not go to non-tribals as a matter of right.

The Parishad's representations to the politicians in the state and at the Centre have also fallen on deaf ears so far. In 2015, however, the HP High Court order in an individual case gave the right to tribal women as per Hindu Succession Act, 1956, but before the tribal women could draw advantage, some other people went to the apex court on that and the matter was stayed. "The Parishad wanted to file a petition in SC, but we were told to file a PIL in HC," Manjari said.

SAD exploiting hooch tragedy for political gains: Amarinder

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 13 AUGUST

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday accused the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) of "exploiting" the recent state hooch tragedy to push their own political agenda with an eye on the next Assembly polls in the state.

Reacting to SAD leader Bikram Majithia's statement accusing Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta of 'shielding' senior superintendent of police (SSP) Amritsar Rural, Dhruv Dahiya, over the latter's alleged failure to act on a complaint against the liquor mafia, leading to the tragedy, the CM said there was no question or need of shielding an officer who had an unblemished track record, including against drug and illicit liquor smugglers.

Amarinder said SSP Dhruv Dahiya had, in fact, been on his personal security team. "A person with links with mafia, as was being suggested by the SAD, could hardly be trusted with my security," he quipped.

Contrary to what Majithia has been falsely claiming,



promoting their own vested interests, Amarinder said it reflected the appalling low that the party had touched in its desperation to connect with the people.

The CM said the entire supply chain in the hooch tragedy, originating from Ludhiana and moving via Moga to Tarn Taran, Amritsar (Rural) and Batala was unearthed from investigation which was conducted by Amritsar (Rural) under the supervision of the SSP.

The CM said while small-scale manufacturing of illicit liquor had been going for years, with the police force under DGP Gupta, busting several modules in recent months, the lockdown resulting from Covid had spiked the demand for liquor due to non-availability of the same.

Some of these liquor smugglers saw in this the opportunity to make a fast buck and started using all kinds of chemicals in the manufacture of the hooch, leading to the tragedy, he added. Recently, close to 120 people had died after consuming illicit liquor in three districts of the state.

HP industries hit by lockdown, migration amid pandemic: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 13 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said the industries in the state have been severely affected due to the lockdown as well as migration of the labourers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that out of about 3636 corona cases in the state, 800 cases were from the industrial areas of the state.

While addressing the inaugural session of a webinar organised by the CII here on 'HP Economic Summit-Get-

ting the Growth Back', the Chief Minister said the COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely affected the world economy, has also affected the targets set by the state government after the success of the Global Investors Meet held in Dharamshala in November last year.

He said that the state government has taken a holistic view to make Himachal Pradesh an industrial hub of the country. He said that private sector participation could be fruitful in areas like tourism, infrastructure and industrial infrastructure, including housing, power generation, Con-

struction and make it more attractive and industry-friendly. The CM said that various policies such as tourism policy, film policy, information technology policy, AYUSH Policy and affordable housing policy have been framed to attract investment in these sectors.

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Tricoloured kites up for sale at a shop ahead of Independence Day celebrations, in Kolkata Thursday.

Kerala records 1564 new Covid cases: Kerala on Thursday recorded the highest single day spike in Covid-19 cases as 1,564 persons tested positive for the virus. It is also for the first time that over 1,500 cases have been reported in the state. Total 766 patients have recovered. With today's new cases, the total number of persons affected with Covid in the state rose to 39,708.

DIGC launches OPV: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard was launched and rechristened as Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sarthak* on Thursday. The launching ceremony at Goa Shipyard Limited, GSL, Yard 1236, was conducted through video conferencing from ICC Delhi headquarters.

Guwahati: Early warning system for floods launched

PTI
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

A tool to alert local authorities in Guwahati about flash floods and heavy rainfall was launched on Thursday.

Parts of India likely to receive heavy rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Developed under The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) project supported by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) can be replicated to predict urban floods in any part of the country.

Launched at an online event, the fully automated web-based tool will help take timely and appropriate measures in event of a natural disaster heading toward the city, TERI said in a statement.

"The FEWS pilot project was undertaken on an experimental basis, to enhance resilience for urban floods, in assistance with the Guwahati Municipal Corporation, North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS).

"This is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement during a meeting with the chief ministers of six states Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala wherein he highlighted the need for development of local-level flood warning system," said TERI.

Speaking at the launch

event, Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, said, "Nature-based risks can now be integrated into early warning system, which is how FEWS is designed.

Together with science communication, the results of these assessments can enhance the resilience of flood-prone cities and geographies in the country.

"We are delighted that our FEWS assessments can provide a flood management roadmap for cities that have perennial issues of urban flooding," he said.

G V Sarma, Member Secretary, NDMA said the expectations of the civil society on the disaster management apparatus is increasing every day.

B P Yadav, DGM Hydrology, IMD talked about building flood forecasting capabilities at the local level.

lead to heavy rains over several parts of the country. Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places are very likely over major parts of north India - Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan - during the next two days and decrease thereafter, the IMD said.

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

"Moderate to severe thunderstorms accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, east Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in next 24 hours," IMD said.

There is also a monsoon trough plus a convergence of southwesterly winds with moisture from Arabian Sea is likely to continue during the next two days, which will

"We have categorised the country into 27,000 water-sheds, and based on it we issue flood warnings. With increasing incidents of urban flooding, our main focus is to develop local city-specific forecasting systems for accurate advisory."

"Currently there are 25 Doppler Weather Radars in India to detect or predict likelihood of high-intensity rainfall events."

IMD will install 20 radars in hill districts in the Eastern and Western Himalayas in the next two years," Yadav said.

Explaining the features of FEWS, Prasoon Singh, Project Lead and Associate Fellow, Earth Science and Climate Change, TERI said early warning systems have proven to be an effective tool in reducing our vulnerabilities toward predicting natural disasters.

"Though assessing recurring events such as floods is complex due to multiple levels of interactions and dynamic nature of urban water system, tools such as FEWS, can be customised to incorporate such uncertainties, thereby improving our resilience against urban flooding."

"The system is developed with an inbuilt urban drainage to predict flood at street-level accuracy."

The flood level and hotspot areas can be visualised over Google Maps which will help in identifying flood-affected areas, disaster preparedness, and management of urban flooding related issues such as traffic disruption, providing relief and recovery, and managing storm water," he added.

"All state and districts are statutorily required to have their disaster management plans in consonance with National Disaster Management Plan 2019. They should make use of tools such as Early Warning System," he further added.

B P Yadav, DGM Hydrology, IMD talked about building flood forecasting capabilities at the local level.

Gold smuggling case: Swapna denied bail

RSS IDEOLOGUE S GURUMURTHY SAYING THAT THE HINDU PHENOMENON WAS MARGINALISED EARLIER

The court also denied bail to another accused Sayid Alavi even though he claimed it on medical grounds.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 13 AUGUST

The additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Economic Offences) court in Kochi on Thursday denied bail to Swapna Suresh, the second accused in the sensational gold smuggling case.

While rejecting her bail petition, the court said that Swapna is an extremely influential woman in the corridors of power, therefore cannot be released on the grounds that she is a woman.

"Indian women are generally considered as a weaker section of society. Therefore, discretion can be exercised in favour of a woman. Swapna is an extremely influential lady. Even after her resignation from the consulate, she continued to help the top officials there. That apart, she managed to obtain employment in the project proposed by the government.

Her extreme influence in the corridors of power is evident from the available records. Such a woman is not entitled to the benefit of the provision to section 437 of CrPC (provision for granting bail in non-bailable offence), the court observed.

The court also denied bail to another accused Sayid Alavi even though he claimed it on medical grounds.

"If accused persons are allowed to step out of the jail on the grounds of sickness, it would open the flood gates for the accused," court said.

"We saw the rioters com-

DMK fires Selvam for anti-party remarks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 13 AUGUST

manently dismissed its member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ku Ka Selvam.

In a disciplinary notice made public, MK Stalin, the party chief, wrote that, "the senior party functionary and executive committee member who was suspended from his duties continues to violate party regulations and has been bringing dishonour to the party."

His response to the explanation sought by the party has not been satisfactory. Therefore, he is being dismissed from being a party."

According to sources DMK is facing huge disgruntlement in the party due to the growing clout of Udayanidhi Stalin.

B'luru riots: Youth form human chain to protect temple

PTI
BENGALURU, 13 AUGUST

Youth, including those from a minority community, decided to protect a temple when a mob was going on a rampage here after being irked over a social media post on an allegedly communally sensitive issue.

A video of the youth quickly forming the human chain to protect the Hanuman temple on Shampura Main Road has gone viral, even as the mob was indulging in arson.

The human chain was formed on Tuesday night as a result of some quick thinking while violence sent shock waves across DJ Halli, KG Halli and neighbouring areas of Pulakeshingagar.

"We saw the rioters com-

ing in groups towards the temple and their intention seemed to damage it. Then we decided to form a human chain to protect it," a youth who wished not to be named, said.

On Tuesday night, a mob had gone on the rampage at Pulakeshingagar irked over the social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's relative.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are re-invited by the Executive Engineer I&PH Division Pooh, on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractor/Bidders of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Department are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Cost form	Time period
1	C/O FIS Lippa to Karla in GP Spillow, Tehsil Pooh District Kinnar (H.P): C/O outlets; Anchor Blocks; Crossing arrangements for pipe, C/O B.P.Tank,P/L & Joining of GI/API Pipe 125 mm Dia)	12175067/-	154255/-	2500	24 Months

1. Tender inviting notice and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://htptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

3. KEY DATES for E-Tender are as under:

1. Date of on the publication	9-8-2020 11:00 AM Upto 11-8-2020 5:00 PM
2. Downloading of e-tender documents	9-8-2020 11:00 AM Up to 11-8-2020 5:00 PM
3. Date of submission of e-tendering	11-8-2020 5:00 PM Up to 26-8-2020 5:00 PM
4. Date of Physical submission	27-8-2020 10:30 AM
5. Date of opening bid	27-8-2020 11:00 AM.
6. Date of opening Financial bid	Will be intimated separately

CONDITIONS:

4. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers:

i) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "eligibility information/ Technical bid".

5. Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.

6. Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded).

i) The Earnest money in the shape of small saving instruments, demand draft or fixed deposit duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Pooh. OR certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit. In the event of said exemption an affidavit regarding number of tenders in which he/ they participated and total value of their earnest money involved be uploaded with the tender documents in case he/ they gives false information, he/ they will be liable to be blacklisted.

ii) The cost of tender form in the shape of small saving instruments, demand draft or fixed deposit duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Pooh. Of demand draft of Rs. As above.

iii) The contractor/bidder should be submit the original documents in respect of Earnest Money, cost of tender document in the office of the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Pooh. Before 27-8-2020 upto 10:30 AM.

iv) Certificate of registration as per their class with any Government Department/Government undertaking, Pan card, Adhar card , latest copy of income tax /income Tax clearance certificates and EPF, GST issued by the appropriate authorities.

v) Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. vi) Undersigned have reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

6. Cover-2 shall contain SOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

i) The tenders of the contractors/firms who failed to fulfil the eligibility requirement will be summarily rejected.

ii) The negotiation /clarification,if any will be taken from the successful contractor/bidder only in respect of no error , omission and technical aspects in financial bid.

iii) The representatives of the firm should inspect the site himself and make conversant with the site conditions.

iv) If opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

v) The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

vi) Before submission of on line Bids, Bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary documents has been uploaded with the bid.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Pooh.
District Kinnar,(HP)

2228/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on Form No. 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.) for the following works Sr. No. 1 to 5 from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD (Electrical) department and for work at Sr. No. 6 from the firms authorized for executing specialized job or Electrical contractor having similar work experience, so as to reach in his office on or before 14.09.2020 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The application for issuing of tender form will be received in his office against cash payment Rs. 350/- (Non-refundable) for each work on or before 11.09.2020 up to 01:00 P.M. and the tender forms can be had from his office on same day. The application for the purchase of the tender documents should be accompanied with earnest money of each work separately in the shape of National Saving Certificate/FDR/ Call Deposit / Saving Bank account /Bank draft of any Schedule Bank / Post Office duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HP.PWD, Mandi (H.P.). Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The receipt of application for issue of tender forms by post shall not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender forms shall be issued to registered Contractors or their authorized representatives. The copy of enlistment / renewal order and valid Electrical License shall be attached with the application for purchase the tender document.. The ambiguous / telegraphic / conditional / fax / E-mail or by post tenders shall also not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender shall be issued to those Contractors / Firms who are found eligible, suitable and competent. The decision of the Executive Engineer regarding suitability / eligibility / competency of Contractors/ Firms shall be final binding on the Contractors / Firms applying for the issuing of the tender. The offer for the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons, if there happens to be any holiday the same will be opened on next working day.

Work No. 1:- Repair and maintenance of Government Degree College at Banjara District Kullu HP (SH: Providing Electrical fixture and repair of points therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 182357/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 3650/- only, Time allowed: - One Month

Work No. 2:- C/o Block Elementary Education office building at Jai Devi Tehsil - Sunder Nagar District Mandi HP (SH: Providing El therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 143392/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2900/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 3:- C/o Lecturer Hall at Home Guard Training Centre at Sharabai, Tehsil - Bhuntar, District Kullu HP (SH: Providing El therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 256597/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 5150/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 4:- Rewiring in HPPWD Rest House at Killar, Tehsil - Pangi District Chamba HP Estimated Cost: Rs. 260058/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 5250/- only, Time allowed: - One Month

Work No. 5:- C/o Science lab at Government Senior Secondary School at Tattapani, Tehsil - Karsog, District - Mandi HP (SH: Providing El therein) Ground floor, 1st floor and 2nd floor therein Estimated Cost: Rs. 226170/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 4600/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work.

Work No. 6:- C/o Lecturer Hall at Home Guard Training Centre at Sharabai, Tehsil - Bhuntar, District Kullu HP (SH: Providing and installation of Air conditioner therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 204424/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 4100/- only, Time allowed: - Two Months.

Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division,
HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.)

2235/202

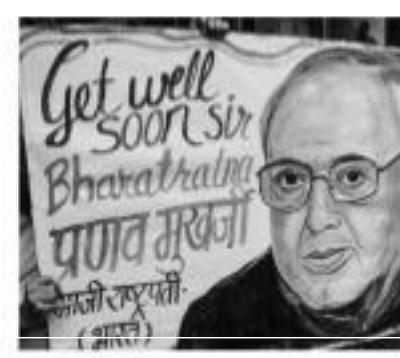


I need not speak after he (Sharad Pawar) has spoken. Parth is immature, new in politics. Now what else can I say? Naya hai woh (he is new)

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER CHAGAN BHUJBAL

AFTER PAWAR SNUBS GRANDNEPHEW FOR SEEKING CBI PROBE IN SUSHANT CASE

THUMBNAILS



A 'Get well soon' poster of former President Pranab Mukherjee, who is currently in hospital, seen outside a Mumbai school on Thursday

AFP

Sharpshooter held in UP: An alleged sharpshooter carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head was arrested after being injured in a brief encounter in Muzaffarnagar, police said on Thursday. Vinod, alias Kala, a member of the Minu Tyagi gang, was arrested on Wednesday evening, SHO of Chapur police station said.

PTI

Very heavy rain in 8 MP districts: The India Meteorological Department has issued an 'orange alert' with a forecast of very heavy rainfall in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh till Friday morning. Monsoon has been active in many parts of the state, IMD Bhopal centre's senior meteorologist Mishra said.

PTI

Abolish EIA 2020: Cong

Sonia, Rahul accuses the Centre of dismantling with India's environment rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the government of dismantling India's environment rules and demanded that the draft EIA 2020 be withdrawn immediately.

The draft environment impact assessment (EIA) notification, 2020, which involves the procedure of issuing environmental clearances to various projects, was issued by the Environment Ministry in March this year and has received thousands of suggestions from the public.

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said the EIA 2020 is only a draft and not a final notification and the ministry has received thousands of suggestions from the public which will be considered before a final draft.

In an article, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has said that the government has a social obligation to protect the environment and must withdraw the EIA.

"Simply put, the government must stop dismantling India's environmental regulations. An essential first step is to withdraw the Draft EIA

2020 Notification. What is essential is widespread public consultation to shape a national agenda that will place India at the forefront of the battle against global warming and pandemics," she said in the article. Rahul Gandhi also shared the article on Twitter saying, "Nature protects, if she is protected."

"Government of India must stop dismantling India's environmental regulations. Essential first step is to withdraw the Draft EIA 2020 notification," he said. Noting that the origins and spread of the global novel coronavirus pandemic and its catastrophic impact are a warning to the entire world, Sonia Gandhi said the protection of the environment must go hand in hand with promoting public health and access to dignified livelihoods for all.

She said India, with its rich biodiversity and widespread inequality, must especially pay heed now. "Our nation has all too often sacrificed the environment and the rights of our people while chasing the chimera of unbridled economic growth," she said.

"Of course, progress requires trade-offs, but there must always be boundaries that cannot be transgressed,

she said.

The pandemic should have made the government reflect and reconsider its environmental and public health gov-

ernance. Instead, the Ministry is handing out clearances during the lockdown without proper public consultations. The announcement of coal

auctions by the Prime Minister in previously declared 'no go' areas, signals that the government is in no mood to course-correct," she said.

upon this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. "Otherwise, the present transfer from Bihar Police to CBI as is done is totally without jurisdiction and contrary to law". The apex court had on August 11 reserved its order on Chakraborty's plea and asked the parties concerned to file their written submissions by Thursday.

Rhea dealt with the legal provisions and said her transfer plea was maintainable.

"Even on a reading of the FIR, no part of the offence has taken place in Bihar. Even the FIR alleges that all acts have happened only in Mumbai and as such Patna has only been mentioned owing to the complainant's residence being at Patna," she said. However, the Bihar government referred to legal provisions and said that it had the jurisdiction as some of the consequences of the offence were there under its jurisdiction. It said: "The Mumbai Police had only been carrying out inquest proceedings u/s 174 / 175 CrPC...The proceedings are only for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of death.

"It is submitted that the investigations in Bihar are totally illegal and such illegal proceedings cannot be transferred to CBI in the present manner by way of illegal executive orders. The petitioner has no objection if the transfer of investigation to CBI is done in exercise of powers conferred

al organ donation day on November 27 and has been planned keeping in mind the spirit of "serving the nation even after death." CRPF Director General A P Maheshwari will take the first pledge over a webinar launch event of the campaign on Friday that has been named 'e-sanjeevani'.

The event will be attended by AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Gulera and the head of its Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation Dr Aarti Viji.

"This campaign targets the heart of the problem by creating awareness, dispelling fears, and attesting the acceptability of organ donation as a norm," CRPF spokesperson said.

CRPF to launch organ donation drive on 14 Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

The country's largest paramilitary force, CRPF, will launch a mega campaign to raise awareness about organ donation amongst its about 3.25 lakh personnel on Friday, officials said.

The voluntary mission will culminate on the nation-

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UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Audited)	Year Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
1 Income		8,030	13,257	10,619	55,141	8,030	13,257
(a) Revenue from operations		16	3	38	61	16	3
Total income		8,046	13,260	10,657	55,202	8,046	13,260
2 Expenses		7,070	11,218	12,050	47,205	7,070	11,218
(a) Cost of materials consumed		(385)	38	(2,956)	745	(385)	38
(b) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work in-progress and stock-in-trade		529	637	239	2,085	529	637
(c) Employee benefit expense		226	183	252	840	226	183
(d) Finance cost		218	186	265	811	218	186
(e) Depreciation and amortisation expense		373	601	1,004	2,639	373	601
Total expenses		8,031	12,863	10,854	54,325	8,031	12,863
3 Profit before Taxes (1-2)		15	397	(197)	877	15	397
4 Tax expense (Including deferred tax)		7	81	(191)	38	7	81
5 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (3 ± 4)		8	316	(6)	839	8	316
6 Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss)		6	(15)	7	1	6	(15)
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss							
7 Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (5 ± 6)		14	301	1	840	14	301
8 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of the Share is Rs. 10/- each)		489	489	489	489	489	489
9 Earnings per share							
(of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised):							
(a) Basic		0.16	6.46	(0.11)	17.15	0.16	6.46
(b) Diluted		0.16	6.46	(0.11)	17.15	0.16	6.46

STANDALONE NOTES :

- (i) The unaudited standalone financial results of the Company have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on August 13, 2020. The statutory auditors have carried out limited review under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listed Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015 and expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results .
- (ii) The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) (Amendment) Rules, 2016.
- (iii) In view of the lockdown across the country due to the COVID19 pandemic, the business operations were suspended since 24th March 2020 in compliance with the directives issued by the relevant authorities. However, during the later part of the current quarter, many markets have resumed operations partially and in piecemeal in accordance with Government guidelines and directives. Accordingly, Revenue from operations for the current quarter is Rs.80.30 Crores (Pr Yr 132.57 Crores) a decrease of 39.42% over corresponding period last year. The Company has profit before tax of Rs.3.97 Crores in the corresponding period last year. Further, based on the current indicators of future economic conditions and company being engaged in dairy business (essential commodities) expects better results in the subsequent quarters. The Company has made detailed assessment of the recoverability and carrying values of its assets comprising property, plant and equipment, inventories, receivables and other current assets as at the period end and on the basis of evaluation, has concluded that no material adjustments are required in the financial results.
- (iv) The company is operating under a single segment i.e., "Dairy Products - comprising Ghee, Milk Powder , Casein & Whey Powder " and therefore there are no reportable segments as per IND AS-108 " Operating Segment ".
- (v) Contingent Liabilities - Claims against the company not acknowledged as debts - Rs.71 Lakhs.
- (vi) Deferred tax Liability /Assets and provision for slow moving/non moving inventory will be made at the year end.
- (vii) Previous period figures have been recast/regrouped/reclassified wherever necessary to make them comparable with those of current period.

CONSOLIDATED NOTES:

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For and on behalf of Board of Directors
For MILKFOOD LIMITED
sd-
(Gita Bawa)
Director
(DIN: 00111003)

Docs with medical degrees from PoK barred from practice

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 13 AUGUST

Concerned that the entire territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral part of India, Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the territory. Accordingly, any medical institution in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh requires permission/recognition under IMC Act, 1956. Such permission has not been granted to any medical college in PoJKL."

"Therefore, any qualification obtained from medical colleges located within these illegally occupied areas of India shall not entitle a person for grant of registration under Indian Medical Council Act 1956 to practice modern medicine in India." There are three medical colleges in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur towns of PoJKL."

The mal-practices in admission of students from J&K into these colleges came to light recently when it was said that candidates could get admission there by getting a nomination letter from the Kashmir-based top pro-Pakistan separatist leaders.

India announces \$500 m help for Maldives project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

As part of its "Neighbourhood First" policy, India today announced a \$500 million package to help the Maldives implement a connectivity project linking its capital Male with three islands and the launch of a cargo ferry service between the two countries.

An air travel bubble between India and the Maldives to facilitate the movement of people from both sides for employment, tourism and medical emergencies will also be created. It will become operational from 18 August and health protocols in both countries will be strictly followed. The announcements were made during a virtual meeting between external

Place: New Delhi

Date : August 13, 2020

Bhadauria reviews preparedness of IAF at frontline base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Mindless violence

While the violence that rocked Bengaluru was unfortunate, it highlights the tendency among some sections of the citizenry to take matters into their hands before giving the law a chance to address their grievances. The facts that have emerged are that a social media post caused outrage. If the statement made on social media constituted a criminal offence, which prime facie it appeared to have, the offended community ought to have exhausted legal options before feeling provoked enough to take to the streets and indulge in widespread arson. Instead, even as some elements within the community tried to offer saner counsel, the mob turned incendiary and attacked, first, the house of an MLA whose relative was reported to have made the offensive post, and then public establishments, including two police stations. This is senseless and undermines the rule of law, even as it underscores the existence of a misplaced sense of entitlement that provokes mindless violence. The law makes provision to tackle comments intended to provoke enmity between communities, and while its presence on the statute book in the same form that our erstwhile colonial masters wrote it is open to scrutiny, invoking it was an option that ought to have been exercised by those who felt offended by the social media post before they decided to play merry hell with public order. The unfortunate fact is that certain sections of the populace have lost faith in the ability of the law enforcement machinery to address their grievances and believe that violence of the sort that rocked Bengaluru is the only way to deal with offenders, and to deter others from following suit. This is neither the first time such extreme reactions have occurred, nor will it be the last so long as broad social consensus is not reached on how to deal with those who seek to disturb communal harmony.

For its part, the Karnataka government has taken all the set-piece measures that follow such violence. It has arrested the original offender - the person who posted the comment - and some of those who indulged in the violence. It claims to have identified the group that mobilized the mobs and has arrested its leader. It has imposed prohibitory orders to bar assembly of more than four persons and ordered an inquiry by the district magistrate. It has further warned it will seek restitution for damage from those who caused it, which is easier said than done. But these measures will in no way ensure that a similar incident does not occur some time in the future. For there will always be those who seek to provoke, sometimes as part of a larger plan and occasionally for no reason other than to cause offence, and those who will get sufficiently provoked by appeals to faith to respond disproportionately. Until an inter-faith initiative is taken to tackle provocations, we will continue to witness the sort of violence and arson Bengaluru was witness to.

Impressive recovery

Even as the rest of the world grapples with the economic fallout of coronavirus, with Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer admitting his country's economy is in deep recession, one South Asian country appears to have ridden the storm remarkably well. With Standard Chartered Bank having said the worst has passed Bangladesh, the country's economy is poised to grow at a healthy rate in the current fiscal. Bangladesh registered a GDP growth of 5.24 per cent in the fiscal ending 30 June, belying projections of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that growth would be between 1.6 and 3.8 per cent. While StanChart has forecast 5.6 per cent growth in the current fiscal, the government expects a V-shaped recovery and has targeted an 8.2 per cent growth in GDP. If this happens, it will be a remarkable turnaround by a country that has quietly but steadily ratcheted up its economic performance in recent years. In June and July, the country saw remittances go up and in July, exports on which the country depends also registered a growth. Economists thus believe there is fiscal and economic policy space to boost growth. Bangladesh has foreign currency reserves of \$40 billion and economists believe that the low debt-GDP ratio allows the government to offer more stimulus measures. Indeed, they point out that when the turbulence provoked by the virus epidemic rocked the world, Bangladesh was in better shape to face the headwinds than many other nations. It had low external debt, low overall public debt and efficient debt service capability because of its foreign exchange reserves. This means the country will be almost uniquely placed to tap into international liquidity as economies around the world seek to identify areas that could fuel recovery.

Overall, Bangladesh has handled the coronavirus epidemic quite adequately, if not spectacularly. With a population of 164 million, it has reported just over a quarter million infections and 3,500 plus deaths. While dealing with the epidemic, it also weathered the ravages wrought by cyclone Amphan, even as it continued to offer sanctuary to hundreds of thousand displaced Rohingya refugees from neighbouring Myanmar. The stock market has responded positively to the economic resurgence and the benchmark index of the Dhaka stock exchange surged 680 points, or 17.1 per cent, in the past two months. During this period, market capitalisation grew 13.6 per cent. Strong regulatory measures adopted recently appear to have aided retail investor confidence. Experts say exemplary punishment handed out to rogue players, compelling listed companies' directors to hold a minimum 2 per cent shares individually and 30 per cent shares jointly, a buoyant monetary policy, positive export growth and a beginning of an economic recovery are the main reasons for the surge in confidence. Clearly, an impressive economic story is

Online exams only way

Online examinations will help tide over the challenge of setting up physical test centres and speed up the process of evaluation which is the need of the hour. The ability to conduct examinations requiring nothing more than an internet connection means that examination may be accessible to all students and from any location they are presently at



In view of the University Grants Commission's guidelines asking universities across the country to conduct the final year examination by end-September to protect the academic future of students, it may be iterated that online examinations are the only answer.

The pandemic has forced people across the world to stay indoors causing postponement of examinations. Examinations in educational institutions of many countries including in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa have been suspended till the situation improves. But in the UK, medical students took their examinations online in an open book format. Advanced Placement (AP) examinations in the US were notified to be administered online in free response format, with resources provided to the students. In Germany, examinations are to be held under strict hygiene regulations. The universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham decided to replace the summer term examinations with an online system.

In India, examinations were postponed for an indefinite period. Discussions are underway with controversies galore in a few states, including West Bengal. The UGC says that examinations are a must if degrees are to be awarded whereas Vice-chancellors of some universities are finding it difficult to hold examinations under the circumstances. In view of the ambiguity and uncertainty faced by thousands of students, it is imperative that the standoff should come to an end. Online examination is an easy answer to the present crisis.

In fact, it is time to go in for technology that helps. A report published in ZDNet in 2019 suggests how Monash University could cut down a huge portion of the examination cost by conducting 80 per cent of its examinations online. Incidentally, with the outbreak of Covid19, the report is more relevant for uni-

versities previously averse to adopting an online examination system.

Lack of awareness is one of the biggest impediments in experimenting with online examination management systems. Online examination management system software can hold low and high stakes examinations comfortably. However, it is imperative that if examinations are to be taken online, fair access for all students should first be ensured. Provision should be made that students in rural areas or without internet connection are also able to take the test. It must be ensured that test security is maintained. Also, it is to be ensured that students from different socio-economic backgrounds prepare for the new format examination in an equitable and fair way, given the disruptions of classroom learning.

There is apprehension that students could resort to using unfair means in an online test. They may find impersonators to take the examination on their behalf. It is also a matter of concern that a student may have someone helping from behind the webcam with an answer. They may also use smartphones to cheat on their online test. They may even log in to a different web browser to seek answers and thus malign the integrity of the examination. There may be other methods of malpractice, like connecting external storage devices, screen sharing and switching answers effortlessly.

But there have been great advancements in the online examination system. The first layer of anti-cheating measures may ask students to click their pictures, give identity proof and furnish registration details so that the proctors might be able to verify

the candidate's credentials. Auto proctoring and live proctoring can also be used as antidotes to online cheating. Artificial Intelligence (AI) based proctoring may monitor the student's live webcam feed to check whether there is some helper in the background. The proctor may converse with the student through a chat window regarding any clarification required.

Thus, online examinations may be envisaged to deliver faster results while fully maintaining transparency. Online examination platforms can even be easy to use. The examination may support multiple languages and question types like MCQs, short and long questions. Unlike conventional examinations, online examinations can be held without the logistical challenges that physically conducting an examination at different centres entails. Methods

like online authentication, secure browser and online proctoring may do away with the possibility of malpractices. Application of AI may change the way examinations are being graded. The automated grading may discard the need for assigning teachers. So faster results may be duly customized by the university authorities to be shared with students, especially at this critically challenging time for the world of education.

It is known that part of the resistance to online evaluation is due to difficulty in breaking conventional habits. Both teachers and students are accustomed to paper-based tests and feel that they might not be well equipped to move on to online examination. They might feel that their own competency is not the only concern. The need for last-minute software updates, delays

due to overloaded systems and unreliable internet efficiency have made online assessment less acceptable.

Online examinations will not just mean a change in platform for assessment but also cause a series of changes in assessment styles. Students who have been used to answering essay type questions and short questions will suddenly feel restricted to mostly MCQs. The experience will give them the enthusiasm to usher in a world which needs them to be novel in attitude and approach. During this pandemic situation, it would be a huge task for university authorities to manage and organise conventional examinations successfully. Their duties might include accommodating thousands of students, looking for large numbers of invigilators to proctor them and assessing papers for months to get the results out. Revaluation is another task which is often a big concern. Online examination would allow authorities to conduct examinations through the internet or a company-wide internet for remote candidates. This would include processing modules for evaluators to finalise results as soon as the candidates finish the test. Unlike the previous pen and paper examination, it is possible to conduct open book examinations on an online examination system. Many companies have resorted to online examination software as their preferred medium of choice for assessing professional capabilities.

Online examinations will help tide over the challenge of setting up physical test centres and speed up the process of evaluation which is the need of the hour. The ability to conduct examinations requiring nothing more than an internet connection means that examination may be accessible to all students and from any location they are presently at.

God'. Gandhi regarded this as one of his most important discoveries. For him, the new proposition had several advantages over the old. It avoided anthropocentrism, and implied that the concept of Truth was prior to that of God.

Indeed, Gandhi was an exceptional revolutionary. His achievements as a social reformer were embedded in his intuitive ability to fuse timeless principles with evolving strategies. He crafted his agenda in the context of the prevalent situation in the country.

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 12 August.

INTERMINABLY PERMANENT

SIR, Please refer to your editorial 'Infinitely Interim' (11 August). Due to historical splits, the Congress Party headed by Sonia Gandhi is a splinter group.

The unhonoured, unweped and unsung Sitaram Kesari passed on his crown in 1998 with some such words: "I want to place my 'topi' at the feet of Sonia ji and request her to come forward and take it". Hence, it is an 'estate' waiting to be inherited by the 'entitled'.

There is no question of 'infinitely interim'. It is simply a case of interminably permanent ownership. I should not dilate on the

character of this 'estate'.

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BLATANTLY BIASED

SIR, This is with reference to your report 'Mamata govt playing 'cruel joke' on Bengal farmers', published today.

It has become a regular feature for the Governor of West Bengal, Mr Jagdip Dhankar, to criticize the Chief Minister Ms Mamata Banerjee on every event whether it is Amphan, floods, drought, violence or rape in the State.

It seems that he has become a representative of State BJP and that's why he finds everything wrong in the activities of the state government. But in actual practice

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

ASIAN VOICES

Rough measures

Government, ruling party rush out steps, fix loopholes later as occasion demands. The government unveiled a package of real estate measures on July 10, including one to remove most of the tax benefits for people leasing out houses.

The related bill was approved by the parliament on Aug. 4, but just three days later, the government rolled the revision back and decided to retain the tax benefits. Three years ago, the government offered tax privileges to landlords to encourage them to rent out their houses. Landlords could register house leases to receive tax favors.

However, caught unawares by the sudden U-turn in the tax benefit policy, they took to the streets to protest. Taken aback by the strong backlash, the government flip-flopped on the decision. It effectively admitted carelessness in policymaking. Considering it offered tax benefits, the government may have found it hard to justify going back on its word.

Recent measures to extend jeonse (rent-free lease) periods to four years and limit the lease rate increase to 5 percent only in case of contract extension are causing turbulence in the market. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the government tout them as bulwarks to protect tenants but they prompted homeowners to shift from jeonse to monthly rent, which is more expensive for tenants.

Now the government is reportedly seeking new regulations to discourage landlords from switching to monthly rents. The party is said to be moving to ban any hike of more than 5 percent in any case. Homeowners have taken to

The Korea Herald
the streets to protest recent real estate regulations. About 1,000 people held a rally in Yeouido, Seoul, on Saturday to oppose the June 17 measures that restrict loans for home purchases, among other things. About 3,000 residents in Gwacheon, Gyeonggi Province, rallied demanding the government scrap its plan to build low income housing on a vacant lot in the city. They cite concerns about a worsening residential environment. Some residents in Mapo-gu and Nowon-gu, Seoul, oppose the government's plans to build apartment blocks that will include a large proportion of public rental units.

Started by the unabated popular anger at real estate measures, the ruling party went so far as to propose bills to impose sanctions against high-ranking public officials for owning multiple houses. This appears to be a bid to calm public sentiment, but such sanctions are hard to imagine in a free market economy that guarantees private ownership of property.

The administration under President Moon Jae-in has announced real estate measures on 23 occasions in about three years. The government and the ruling party have shown a pattern of taking drastic and rough measures first and soon after, plugging up loopholes with quick fixes. They failed to grasp the reality of the market, and tried only to regulate it stringently without paying heed to the possible side effects.

Rep. Kim Tae-nyeon, the floor leader of the ruling party, reportedly said that "the situation was so urgent that we had to pass real estate bills in a hurry (unilaterally)." It would be hard to expect rough-and-ready measures to function properly.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

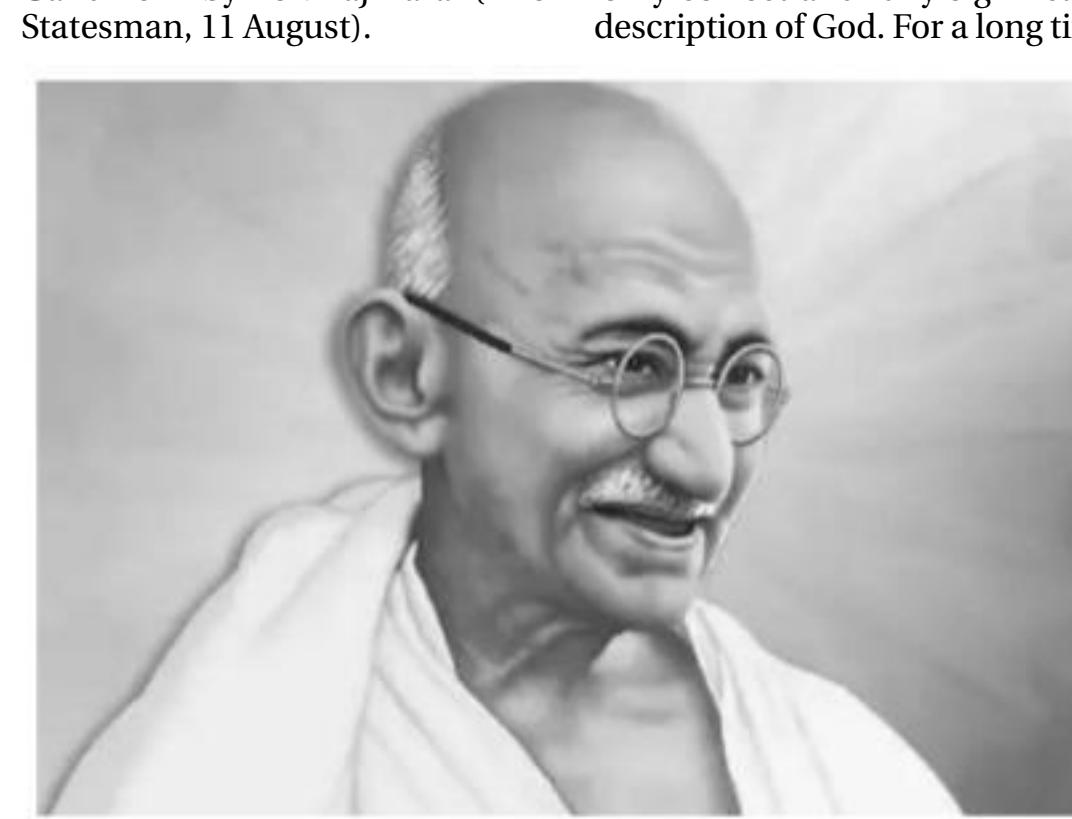
editor@thestatesman.com

Gandhi, truth and God

SIR, This is with reference to the article entitled 'Now is the time for Gandhism' by Lok Raj Baral (The Statesman, 11 August).

speak of satya (ultimate reality or Truth) and regarded this as the 'only correct and fully significant' description of God. For a long time

Gandhi said 'God is Truth'. Subsequently, Gandhi was urged upon by the Sanskrit proverb, Satya nasti paro dharma (There is no religion higher than the truth). As a result, in 1926 he reversed the proposition and said, 'Truth is



Mahatma Gandhi was a deeply religious thinker. Hinduism, Christianity and Jainism profoundly influenced him. He preferred to use the term 'God' as eternal principle, cosmic power, energy, spirit, or shakti.

Later in life he preferred to

God'. Gandhi regarded this as one of his most important discoveries. For him, the new proposition had several advantages over the old. It avoided anthropocentrism, and implied that the concept of Truth was prior to that of God.

Indeed, Gandhi was an exceptional revolutionary. His achievements as a social reformer were embedded in his intuitive ability to fuse timeless principles with evolving strategies. He crafted his agenda in the context of the prevalent situation in the country.

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CARING FOR ELTERS

SIR, Your editorial, "At Great Risk" (The Statesman, 24 June), covering the entire gamut of miseries of seniors ended with a sentence full of sympathy for these hapless souls: "For if there is one section of the people that needs help it is the elderly". This provoked the state government to take some steps for seniors in limited areas. Of about 75 lakh seniors, a maximum of one lakh or so may get the benefit. No road map was given for other seniors scattered in different parts of our state.

Yours, etc., Kripananda Rudra,

East Kolkata Senior Citizens Forum, 11 August.

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It seems that he has become a representative of State BJP and that's why he finds everything wrong in the activities of the state government. But in actual practice

the state government is far ahead in various schemes sponsored by the government of India as per statistics issued by various central government agencies.

Instead of criticizing the state government, he may take an initiative to ask the central government to disburse required funds for affected farmers of Amphan and also to clear the state's various legitimate dues which Ms Banerjee and the Finance Minister have sought time and again.

We have seen many governors in the state, but Mr Dhankar is really a special one for his partiality.

Yours, etc., Sumit Kumar Das, Baidyabati, Hooghly, 11 August.

ISHAN JOSHI

Mainstream Indian media has a lot on its plate. The social media phenomenon, accentuated by Covid-19 in recent months, has resulted in professional media having boxed itself into a corner. The content creation and presentation rubric it operates in across traditional/new media looks well past its sell-by date.

If, however, one accepts the premise that a free media is an essential component of societal progress per chance knowledge acquisition, the question arises: What is to be done?

First, professional media across platforms needs to reclaim its mojo as a source of credible news and informed opinion where the bar is expressly not set low to compete with social media. But Indian media, in the main, just hasn't twigged. It's like watching lemmings rush to the sea.

While media is a business and has bills to pay like all businesses, it is not just any business. Unless content curators drive the company, the knowledge – as opposed to merely information – space which is up for grabs across the Indian media landscape cannot be occupied.

Ideally placed to do so, ironically, are those very battered and bruised traditional media houses of some vintage whose founding charter includes a well-defined public interest bias and where editorial-commercial convergence is limited to the organisational apex.

In a media environment where the resurgence of the nation-state as the primary unit of interaction between countries is - rightly or wrongly - in vogue, any worthwhile contribution to the public discourse needs urgently to be context-specific.

But it is one thing to identify pan-Indian themes, quite another to indulge in equalization; that's intellectually inept, conceptually clumsy and shows up in the content routinely dished out by major domestic and foreign media outlets.

At the other extreme, are media firms including some behemoths with a dual strategy of an excessively granular-India focus ensconced in an overarching theme of articulating what they perceive to be the national interest.

It is a model which combines the lowest common denominator of prurient interest with a meta understanding derived almost wholly from the state with virtually no free agency. Does it make money? Yes, for a few. But the law of diminishing returns is setting in even for them.

The third dimension an independent, contemporary media platform needs to be wary of apart from corporate and government lobbies is the increasingly powerful and rapidly proliferating special interest groups

Options before mainstream media



sans accountability. Some of them may well have started life as well-meaning civil society outfits but they have, over the past decade and powered by social media, become ideologically-driven, online mobs that brook no opposition and/or debate.

It is in this chaotic media ecology that an opportunity arises for those with the bandwidth to cement their place as purveyors of credible news and informed comment which the discerning few are ready, able, and willing to pay for. The next challenge is to convert the few into the many.

The value of a public interest charter, the importance of disruption and the urgency of implementing content and/or organisational restructuring cannot be wished away in this campaign.

It will, of course, spark the wrath

of the mediocre, - whether it's the suits, the hacks or the self-serving trades unions. Not to mention various governments that exercise direct and/or indirect control on the media which comes in many forms, from the well-known advertisement squeeze to the hoary traditions of restricting access through denying accreditation and scaring off media houses via quasi-judicial industrial tribunals which lack the domain expertise to sit on judgment on media issues including those of employability.

Many genuine efforts to upgrade and expand media platforms in India came a cropper when the corona virus struck in early 2020. On the other hand, many media owners and managers have cynically used the spread of Covid-19 to hack away at their wage bills with the bottom-line

as the only focus.

But these depressing developments do not take away from the key learning of the past three decades, which is the centrality of the effort needed to develop and curate brand defining, platform-agnostic content, conceptualizing strategy, and coordinating its implementation with editorial/business leadership teams.

It's also the most profound transformative challenge for core leadership teams in contemporary media. But to step up to it requires understanding what's happening, and that's still a far cry both in newsrooms and boardrooms.

The varied competencies media professionals of some quality have acquired ought to enable them to bring to the table an approach which is marked by an emphasis on creat-

ing and presenting traction-inducing, quality content which doesn't need dumbing down.

Serious can still be sexy in media. For that to come to fruition, though, media platforms' financial/human resource allocation and focus ought unambiguously to be on leading the reader/consumer rather than following him/her. To turn a profit while doing so may not be as difficult as some have us believe.

If media is a circus, the clowns at whose expense the laughs are being generated today are the readers/consumers. There is nothing wrong in a bit of comic relief if that's your game. But investing in consumer education is the only survival strategy left for mainstream media.

The writer is an independent journalist.

Change in procurement norms vital

K K KAPILA

The Modi Government conceived notable campaigns such as Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Transforming India's Development Agenda and more recently Atma Nirbhar Bharat, amongst others, that have been widely welcomed by a large section of society. These campaigns are meant to reflect the changed dynamics of India, defined by its growing aspirations. Hence it becomes imperative for the Government in power to lead the country towards fulfilment of aspirations of its citizens as well as stand tall in the global forum.

The zeal of the Prime Minister is worth applauding but successful outcomes depend on how effectively our various institutions/government departments work in unison, with their well-defined roles. The transformation processes entail anticipated and planned changes as well as bear consequences of market forces and global impacts.

The success of such potential concepts depends upon well thought out matching actions aimed at catalysing growth. In the process, it is also necessary to create awareness, positive perceptions and acceptance to such actions in the minds of the general public. When the intent is good and communicated suitably, understanding and appreciation hap-

pen automatically.

Self-reliance calls for a changed mind set with regard to existing norms or premises in the government's think tanks. For instance, the Central Vigilance Commission in

August last year felt that the current Government Tendering based on Least Cost or L1 needed a revisit. In the present times, when procurement of Works and Goods requires to address the need for high-end com-

plex technology based solutions, quality parameters and value for money in award of contracts, the 'Least Cost Selection' method is neither the most appropriate nor capable of delivering the results commensu-

rate with the high growth trajectory of development envisioned for the country, especially in high impact infrastructure projects or setting up of complex processing units or purchase of a 'State of Art' machine/equipment.

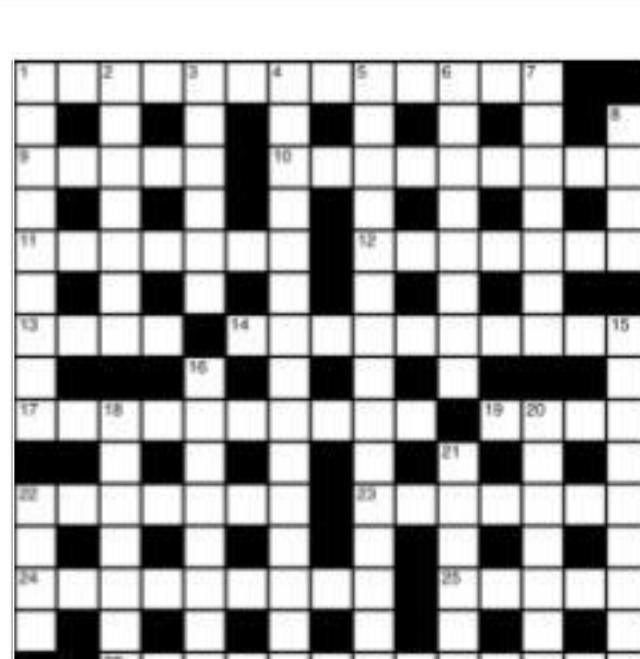
Besides, how long will our expanding urban areas continue to suffer on account of insufficient and faulty infrastructure, deficiency in goods and services? How long will projects remain stalled due to arbitration or run well past the costs and timelines for completion?

The ambitious plans for the country, besides the popular campaigns of the Prime Minister, include Smart Cities, creation of Indian Companies of global standards, need to have strong pillars in place – proactive, participative, inclusive, sustainable and transparent.

For this to happen we need a change, post haste in Procurement Policy, from Least Cost to Lowest Workable Rates, wherein parameters of quality have also been integrated. Any supporting policy will fetch results only when done in consultation and collaboration with concerned stakeholders so as to strengthen the Policy Framework to assist in building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

The writer is Chairman, Infrastructure Committee of Consulting Engineers Association of India.

NO 28043



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- Ideas I encountered in part of field doctor brought into line, possibly (13)
- Fix support for pot after front falls off (5)
- Duck answer when probing business deal? (9)
- Way of working: very ornate, disregarding one old leather (7)
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- One of French, most celebrated in Cannes, primarily as visionary (10)

DOWN

- Bucks laid out, investing in gems mostly, or toy design (6,4)
- Misinterpret return of crude power (4)
- The champion, dismissing bridge team as less substantial (7)
- Material that's grand in fashionable shift (7)
- Formal state banquet's second prepared with spring vegetables (9)
- Extreme characters engaged in a lot of sport in open space (5)
- Mora's crying a lot about Queen's congratulatory message? (9,4)
- Remote working after lawyers showing indication of pressure (9)
- Confrontational poem used in commercial (7)
- Pleasant around even parts of North – observe (6)
- Pacific ecosystem rumbled North and cut out (8,7)
- Official in royal household diverted abnormal child after intervention by old king (4,11)
- Study algebraic variables (I'm up in them) prepared for prompt use (5-3)
- We will block number given
- Places at table? It's easily done (2,5)
- Looks to dispose of stone god (4)
- International player being dealt with submissively (3,2,4)
- Use of cosmetic items getting family in panic (8)
- Very hot fuel filling container? Good (7)
- A fabulous figure – a centrist politician and a graduate ... (5,4)
- ... affected American college centre (6)
- Extract of dirty poem, one showing errant character (4)

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

100 YEARS AGO

OPTIONAL NOTE

No sooner is the intrepid Mr. Austen Chamberlain out of one wood than he plunges into another. He has succeeded, apparently, in safeguarding for the present both his political skin and the unpopular Excess Profits and Corporation taxes. He has now chosen, however, to attack the bread subsidy nine months before he need have breathed a word on the subject. Undoubtedly the bread subsidy will have to go. It is more than even Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's son can stand. The "poor" labouring man, however, who is likely to have 8 and half d. to pay for what used to be his three-penny loaf, will never forgive the Chancellor of the Exchequer who gives the subsidy its quietus. To the genuine industrial and the profiteering classes, who are already clamouring for Mr. Chamberlain's head on a charger, there must now be added, in all probability, the mass of the working-men. The absurdity of it all is that all and more than all that Mr. Chamberlain hopes to gain from his unpopular economies could have been secured with ease from extremely popular, and legitimate, savings effected in departments such as Sir Eric Geddes's, where the blatant and large scale extravagance exceeds anything seen on a comparatively restricted scale, in the popular restaurants during the war.

NEWS ITEMS

PRESS WORKERS STRIKE

In accordance with the threat of the strike conveyed in yesterday's application of the compositors of the Government Press, Simla, the workers were due to come out this evening at 5 o'clock, but from statements made it appears that the authorities had beforehand taken the situation well in hand. Immediately after lunch, at the time when the men were going back to work, they were asked by police specially called in for the purpose to keep away. Upon this one of the men is said to have observed that the works had now agreed to wait for Sir Thomas Holland's return, as desired by the authorities yesterday, but they were informed that this change of determination at this late hour could not weigh with the authorities, and no one was thereafter allowed to enter the office precincts. A lock-out has thus been enforced.

TAMLUK FLOODS

Tamluk, Aug 13

The situation in the flooded area is steadily improving. The breach has been repaired for the first time during the flood, after five previous unsuccessful attempts, and the water has subsided in some places about nine inches. Mr. F.A.A. Cowley, Chief Engineer, who has been personally supervising the work at the breach, informed me this morning that the position was well in hand, and emphasised that the Government was well in touch with the situation. Mr. Cowley anticipates that the water in about half of the affected area will have drained off in from ten to fifteen days, provided nothing unforeseen occurs, and this should permit of cultivation by the end of the month. Normally a considerable portion of the flooded area is not cultivated.

MAN CHARGED WITH ARSON

A rather curious incident occurred yesterday in the Chief Presidency Magistrate's Court in connection with the hearing of a case in which a European, named Taylor, appeared on a charge of committing arson in a flat in Dhurrumtollah. During the hearing of the evidence, a court official suddenly reported smoke coming from the vicinity of the dock. Upon investigation, a sergeant of police discovered that the smoke was emanating from the prisoner's pocket in which a lighted cigar end was found. The prisoner explained that whilst waiting for his case to be called he had been smoking a cigar, and, in his hurry to get to the dock, he placed it in his pocket, thinking that he had put it out. Prisoner was fined Rs 50 upon the charge of arson at Dhurrumtollah.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Lambeth Conference, which sat in private throughout, has now issued a voluminous report of its proceedings. The report shows that eighty resolutions were adopted, dealing with religious and social problems. The most important of them embodied an appeal to all Christian peoples dealing with the reunion of Christendom. The appeal, which was adopted practically unanimously, urged that Christianity should be manifested in united fellowship. It emphasises that the causes of division lie deep in the past, while the present calls for a new outlook, and demands a reunited Catholic Church. It visualises a Church in which the divided heritage of the past shall be possessed by the whole in common, and suggests that the basis for an United Church should be the acceptance of the Holy Scriptures and the Nicene Creed Baptism.



Markets seem to be in a wait and watch mode, and investors are advised to tread cautiously and accumulate stocks

VINOD NAIR

HEAD OF RESEARCH AT GEOFIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

THUMBNAILS

Sebi norms: The Securities and Exchange Board of India on Thursday came out with a framework for handling investor complaints by exchanges as well as standard operating procedure for actions to be taken against listed companies for failure to redress such grievances. Under the framework, exchanges can levy penalty on companies in case of non-redressal of investor complaints and ask depositaries to freeze the shareholding of the promoter entities. This will come into force from 1 September, the Sebi said.

PTI

Galaxy Note20: Samsung's Galaxy Note20 has seen huge interest among Indian consumers, with pre-registrations for the Galaxy Note20 series crossing 5 lakhs in the country. Customers pre-booking Galaxy Note20 will be eligible for benefits worth ₹7,000, while those pre-booking Galaxy Note20 Ultra 5G will get benefits worth ₹10,000, the company said.

SNS

Senco Gold: Celebrating the 74th Independence Day of India, Senco Gold & Diamonds has unveiled an exclusive range of jewellery collection named "Freedom Collection". This is a unique range of gold and diamonds collection which is specially designed to express the meaning of freedom, it said.

SNS

Benefits of spices: In order to educate people about the benefits of natural oils in spices, Tata Sampann brought together chef Sanjeev Kapoor, new-age celebrity mother Mira Kapoor, nutritionist Kavita Devgan, and Dr Manoj Nesari, advisor (ayurveda), ministry of Ayush, for an online session on how spices can benefit one's health, said a release.

SNS

Poonawalla Finance: Poonawalla Finance Private Limited, a non-deposit taking NBFC, entered into an agreement to offer a collateral-free special term loan scheme for Chartered Accountants (CAs). The move will benefit over three lakh CAs, who are members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), according to a Press release.

SNS

Yamaha: Japanese two-wheeler major Yamaha on Thursday said it has launched its online sales in India responding to changes in customer behaviour in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Considering the convenience of the customers, Yamaha Motor India has introduced the online sales on its website with 'Virtual Store' to enhance the buying experiences of its customers, the company said in a statement.

SNS

Honda Amaze sales: Honda Cars India Ltd on Thursday announced that its popular family sedan Honda Amaze has cumulatively sold 4 lakh units since its first introduction in the country in 2013, the company said.

SNS

BE tie-up with Janssen for Covid-19 vaccine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, 13 AUGUST

Biological E Ltd (BE) has entered into an agreement with Janssen Pharmaceutical NV, part of pharma major Johnson & Johnson, for creation and enhancement of production capabilities to manufacture the latter's Covid-19 vaccine.

Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine candidate (Ad26.COV2.S) is currently in Phase 1/2 clinical trials, a Press release from the city-based vaccine maker said today.

"We are very pleased indeed to collaborate with an organisation like Johnson & Johnson. Given the magnitude of Covid-19 pandemic, our abil-

Retail inflation rises to 6.93% in July on higher food prices

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.15 per cent in July 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses, meat and fish, government data showed today.

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.15 per cent in July 2019.

Retail inflation for June has been revised upwards to 6.23 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.09 per cent, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The Reserve Bank of India has been mandated by the government to keep the CPI-based inflation at 4 per cent (+, - 2 per cent).

Retail inflation has remained above the 4 per cent mark since October 2019.

Last week, the Reserve Bank had kept interest rates on hold to contain elevated inflation. The central bank mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at its bi-

monthly monetary policy.

As per the NSO data, inflation in rural India was 7.04 per cent, while in urban areas it was 6.84 per cent during July, translating into a combined rate of price rise of 6.93 per cent.

The rate of price rise in 'meat and fish' segment was 18.81 per cent in July over the same month last year.

Similarly, the annual inflation was 12.41 per cent in 'oils and fats' and 11.29 per cent in vegetables.

The annual inflation in the food basket was 9.62 per cent, the data showed.

In the 'fuel and light' segment, the CPI-based inflation stood at 2.8 per cent.

As the various Covid-19-related restrictions were gradually lifted and non-essential activities started resuming operations, availability of price data has also improved.

NSO collected prices from 1,054 (95 per cent) urban markets and 1,089 (92 per cent) villages during the month of July 2020, an official release said.

The price data are usual-



Figures for April and May 2020 were not released due to lockdown

*Provisional Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation KBK Infographics

ly collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and selected 1,181 villages through personal visits by field staff of the Field Operations Division of NSO, under the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, on a weekly roster.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icra, said the CPI infla-

tion hardened to a sharper-than-anticipated level, led by core items that are still adjusting to the new demand-supply dynamics, even as the increase in food inflation was along expected lines.

"As expected, the soaring vegetable prices amidst heavy rainfall and localised lockdowns, contributed to the spike in food inflation in July

2020, which is expected to soften somewhat in the ongoing month," she said.

Nayar opined that the stabilisation in prices of crude oil and retail fuels in recent weeks would ease the incremental pressure on the CPI inflation in the ongoing month.

Suman Chowdhury, chief analytical officer, Acute Ratings & Research, said inflationary concerns may lead to a delay in further rate cuts and can raise the risks of stagfla-

"It is also expected to have an adverse impact on bond yields in the near term and may trigger the higher use of liquidity and yield management tools to optimise the cost of government's borrowings," Chowdhury said.

Rahul Gupta, head of research ~ Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the CPI remains above RBI's target range mainly due to uptick in food inflation.

While the nationwide lockdown is easing, food inflation still remains a concern as regional lockdowns still persist, he said.

"Such reforms would further lay the roadmap for making the income tax system seamless, painless and faceless and promote ease of living in line with Prime Minister's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision," he added.

Ficci president Sangita Reddy said: "This is another milestone in our journey of structural reforms and will tremendously boost the confidence of the taxpayers in the country."

She said Prime Minister Modi has clearly articulated that the government is committed to honour and respect honest taxpayers and make them a part of the team that is working towards realising the vision of an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Assocham secretary-general Deepak Sood said the overall feeling among taxpayers is that such schemes can go along way in bringing reforms in direct taxation.

"The relationship between the taxpayer and the government should be seamless, fearless and the one that cements mutual confidence. The e-assessment is a step in that direction," he added.

'Faceless assessment of tax to promote transparency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

Faceless tax assessment and appeals unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today will promote transparency and certainty, and empower honest taxpayers, corporate India and experts said.

In a major overhaul of tax administration, Modi unveiled faceless tax assessment and appeals to reduce the scope for corruption and overreach by officials, and said a taxpayers' charter is being implemented to ensure a free, fair and transparent tax environment.

Launching the "Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest Platform" through video conferencing, he said the taxpayer base at just 1.5 crore in India is very low and urged those who owe taxes to come forward and honestly pay their dues and contribute to nation building.

"The platform lays down the framework for big reforms such as faceless assessment, faceless appeal, and taxpayers' charter and will greatly benefit taxpayers," CII president Uday Kotak said.

meters per day (mmscmd) and 81.16 mmscmd, as against 105.41 mmscmd and 96.55 mmscmd respectively in Q1 FY20," GAIL said.

Tata Steel loss: Domestic steel major Tata Steel today reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 4,648.13 crore for the quarter ended June, mainly on account of reduced income.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 714.03 crore in the same period a year ago, Tata Steel said in a BSE filing.

Total income dropped to Rs 24,481.09 crore during the quarter under review, from Rs 36,198.21 crore earlier.

The company's expenses also reduced to Rs 27,892.09 crore from Rs 34,447.42 crore in the April-June period of the preceding fiscal.

GAIL profit falls 80%, Tata Steel loss at ₹4,648 cr in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

gas," it later said in a statement.

The company suffered a pre-tax loss of Rs 545.46 crore on the marketing of natural gas in the first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal, as compared to a pre-tax profit of Rs 850.48 crore last year. Revenues from natural gas marketing too

dipped 39 per cent to Rs 9,443.72 crore as the shutdown of industries led to lower take of the fuel.

While pre-tax profit on gas transmission business fell 16 per cent, loss on petrochemical business came at Rs 154.43 crore.

Total revenue from operations at Rs 12,087.46 crore was lower than Rs 18,311.46 crore revenue in Q1 of 2019-20.

"During the quarter, natural gas transmission and marketing volume stood at 90.22 million standard cubic

Sensex and Nifty end marginally lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 13 AUGUST

UltraTech Cement were among the gainers, rallying up to 4.31 per cent.

According to traders, lack of directional cues from global markets amid spiking Covid-19 cases kept investors on the edge.

"Uncertainty in global markets has emerged due to the doubtful US stimulus package and impact of the US-China trade meeting over the weekend.

"Domestic stock valuation concerns and continuing high rate of virus infections impacted the Indian markets. Markets seem to be in a wait and watch mode, and investors are advised to tread cautiously and accumulate stocks," said Vinod Nair head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Electric vehicles can be sold without pre-fitted batteries: Government

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 13 AUGUST

Revenue from viscose ~ pulp, viscose staple fibre and filament yarn ~ segment declined by 77.75 per cent to Rs 558.12 crore in Q1 of FY2020-21 as against Rs 2,509.11 crore a year ago.

According to the company, the domestic textile industry was severely impacted by the extension of lockdown in key manufacturing hubs and reduced labour availability.

"The operational and financial performance of the viscose business was subdued for the months of April and May 2020 due to lockdown, but witnessed a steady improvement in the month of June 2020 and thereafter, with a rise in the capacity utilisation across the plants to 79 per cent currently," it said.

Meanwhile, Baylor College of Medicine and BE today announced a licensing agreement for the development of a safe, effective and affordable Covid-19 vaccine.

BE is looking forward to deploying its manufacturing infrastructure to support Johnson & Johnson's commitment to global access to its Covid-19 vaccine, director of Bio E Holdings Inc, Narendra Dev Mantena, who heads BE's novel vaccine initiative said.

Besides, equity mutual funds, which mainly depend on SIP for flows, saw a withdrawal of Rs 2,480 crore, data from Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

This was the first outflow

required to be type approved by the test agencies specified under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, it said. Market analysts BIS Research said the electric vehicle market in India will be worth \$216 billion (Rs 16 lakh crore) by 2030.

In a 12 August letter sent to transport secretaries across the country, the ministry clarified that vehicles without batteries can be sold and registered based on the type approval certificate issued by the test agency.

"There is no need to specify the make/type or any other details of the battery for registration," the ministry said. However, the prototype of the electric vehicle and the battery (regular battery or the swappable battery) is

in more than four years.

As per the data, the 45-player industry raised Rs 7,831 crore through SIP route last month. This was the lowest level since September 2018, when investment through the route stood at Rs 7,727 crore.

Besides, investment in June 2020 dropped below Rs 8,000 crore for the first time since November 2018.

Investment through the route was Rs 7,917 crore in June, Rs 8,123 crore in May, Rs 8,376 crore in April and Rs 8,641 crore in March.

Experts said the slowdown in monthly SIP contribution could be due to the strain on cash flows and incomes experienced by several investors on account of the Covid-19 situation.

The ministry notification said the Central government is striving to create an ecosystem to accelerate the uptake of electric mobility in the country

in a Twitter post. "This will help in sharply reducing cost of vehicles and facilitate establishment of battery swapping ecosystem. Battery can be provided separately," he said.

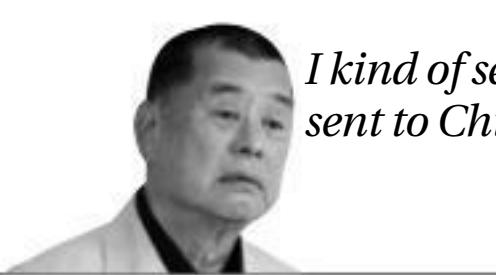
The ministry notification said the Central government is striving to create an ecosystem to accelerate the uptake of electric mobility in the country.

"It is time to come together

to work jointly to achieve the broader national agenda to reduce vehicular pollution and oil import bill," the road transport ministry said.

For promoting use of electrical two-wheelers and three-wheelers vehicles, recommendations were brought to the ministry to delink the cost of battery (accounting for 30-40 per cent of the total cost) from the vehicle cost.

"Vehicles could then also be sold in the market without the battery," the ministry has notified. "This



I kind of settled down a little bit because I knew that I wouldn't be sent to China at least.

HONG KONG MEDIA TYCOON JIMMY LAI
AFTER HIS ARREST UNDER THE NEW SECURITY LAW

The Statesman
NEW DELHI FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020

09

Lebanon army gets sweeping powers

Move criticised by rights groups & other critics who say govt was already operating with increased powers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT (LEBANON), 13 AUGUST

Lebanon's Parliament on Thursday approved a state of emergency in Beirut in its first session since the catastrophic August 4 explosion, granting the military sweeping powers amid rising popular anger at official corruption and mismanagement and political uncertainty.

The government resigned after the blast that killed more than 170 people, injured at least 6,000 and wrecked the capital's port and caused widespread damage across the capital.

The disaster has raised popular fury toward Lebanon's leaders to a new level as the country reels from an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, along with the coronavirus pandemic.

Before it resigned, the government declared the state of



Lebanese sit in a building heavily damaged due to the 4th August chemical explosion in Beirut. AFP

emergency that gave the military the power to declare curfews, prevent public gatherings and censor the media, as well as refer civilians to military tribunals for alleged security breaches. The action required approval by lawmakers, which they granted Thursday.

The move has been criticised by rights groups and others who say the civilian government already was operating with increased powers because of

the coronavirus outbreak. Some pointed to the military crackdown on protesters last week, fearing the extended powers could lead to silencing dissent.

Parliament met outside its regular location to observe social distancing amid a surge of coronavirus cases and because of nearby ongoing protests by those who want the entire political class to step down.

The session opened with a moment of silence for those killed in the blast. It then moved to discuss the resignation of nearly a dozen lawmakers last week to protest the government's handling of the blast. A major Christian party bloc is boycotting the session.

It still was not known what caused the fire responsible for igniting nearly 3,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that were stored for years in Beirut's port. But documents have emerged that show the country's top leadership and security officials were aware of the stockpile.

After the government resigned Monday, the Cabinet is in a caretaker capacity. It was not immediately clear if Parliament had technically extended the government decision on the state of emergency for 15 days or simply imposed it to take effect

starting Thursday, said rights lawyer Nizar Saghieh.

"There is incredible chaos," Saghieh said. He said the state of emergency's only justification is to extend the power of the state and security agencies and control the opposition. "We were waiting for the army to help in reconstruction, not be an extension of power, he said.

Lawmaker Simon Abi Ramieh protested that Parliament was convened to vote on the state of emergency while it was already in effect and called instead for forming a parliamentary committee to investigate the explosion.

"We are living in a state of institutional blunder," he said. We are in a place and the Lebanese people are somewhere else.... The public wants to know the truth behind the negligence that led to the explosion.

Islamic State threat in West Syria growing, says US commander

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 13 AUGUST

Elements of the Islamic State group are working to rebuild in western Syria, where the US has little visibility or presence, the top US commander for the Middle East warned on Wednesday.

In the region west of the Euphrates River where the Syrian regime is in control conditions are as bad or worse than they were leading up to the rise of the Islamic State, said Gen Frank McKenzie.

"We should all be concerned about that."

McKenzie said insurgents are operating with some degree of freedom, and he said the US and its allies have little hope the Syrian regime will do anything to tamp down the group there. The western part of the country has historically been controlled by Russian-backed Syrian government

troops, while the US and its allies, the Syrian Democratic Forces, have largely been in the north and eastern part of the country. President Donald Trump has touted the defeat of IS as one of his key national security achievements.

He ordered the removal of US forces from the northern border near Turkey, as part of a planned move to pull all American troops out of the country.

But he was eventually convinced by US military leaders to leave US forces in the east to continue working with the SDF and help protect oil fields from IS.

Speaking online to a United States Institute of Peace forum from his U.S. Central Command office in Tampa, McKenzie said that the slow-moving effort to transfer people out of Syrian refugee camps has been further com-

plicated and delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

And that, he said, fuels concerns about the radicalization of people particularly the youth in the camps, which officials worry are breeding grounds for IS insurgents.

The al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria is home to as many as 70,000 people mostly women and children who were displaced by the ongoing civil war in Syria and the battle against IS. Many fled as the US-backed SDF cleared out the last pockets of land held by IS last year.

Leanne Erdberg Steadman, the USIP director for countering violent extremism, said getting people out of the camps is key to having them abandon violence and secure a new future. Officials said that there have now been the first few reported cases of Covid-19 at al-Hol.

Pak court suspends 1 year jail sentence of two senior JuD leaders

LAHORE, 13 AUGUST

A Pakistani court on Thursday suspended a one-year jail sentence of two senior leaders of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah and close aides of mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attack Hafiz Saeed in a terror-financing case.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore in June handed down one-year imprisonment to Abdul Rehman Makki and Abdus Salam for terror financing.

The ATC had also imposed a fine of 50,000 Rupees on each of them, failing for which they will have to undergo another six months in prison. The JuD leaders were convicted under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. Both had challenged their conviction in the Lahore High Court (LHC). "The Lahore High Court today suspended one-year sentence each of Abdul Rehman Makki and Abdus Salam and ordered their release on bail," a court official told PTI.

A two-member bench of the LHC comprising Asjad Javed Gural and Waheed Khan held the hearing on their petition on Thursday and after hearing the arguments from both defence and prosecution, it accepted the plea of Makki and Salam and ordered the suspension of the ATC sentence. The bench also ordered their release on bail. Both leaders were serving their sentence at Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. As per the verdict, both were found guilty of terrorism financing. PTI

ILLUSTRATIVE ART



A woman with a face mask walks past graffiti promoting hand washing and wearing face masks as preventive measures against the spread of Covid-19, in Kibera, Nairobi, on Thursday. AFP

Iran briefly seized oil tanker near Strait of Hormuz, claims US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 13 AUGUST

The Iranian navy boarded and briefly seized a Liberian-flagged oil tanker near the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the United States, a US military official said on Thursday.

The US military's Central Command published a black-and-white video showing what appeared to be special forces fast-roping down from a helicopter onto the MV Wila, whose last position appeared to be off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates near the city of Khorfakkan. The Iranian navy had the vessel for some five hours before releasing it

tion of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, did not respond to a request for comment. As tensions between Iran and the US heated up last year over America's unilateral withdrawal from its 2015 nuclear deal, tankers plying the waters of the Mideast became targets, particularly near the strait, the Persian Gulf's narrow mouth. Suspected limpet mine attacks the US blamed on Iran targeted several tankers. Iran denied being involved, though it did seize several tankers.

In July, a US-sought oil tanker was hijacked off the coast of the UAE after allegedly smuggling Iranian crude oil. The vessel later ended up back in Iranian waters, suggesting Iran itself seized the vessel.

B'desh court indicts country's first Hindu CJ, 10 others in graft case

DHAKA, 13 AUGUST

A Dhaka court on Thursday indicted Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others on charges of embezzling 40 million taka from a bank, a court official said.

The indictment comes seven months after another Dhaka court issued an arrest warrant against the 69-year-old ex-chief justice who lives in the US and was described as a "fugitive" by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

"The court today framed charges against SK Sinha and 10 others, beginning their trial in the Farmers Bank scandal," said a prosecution lawyer in Dhaka. He said six of the accused in the case were former officials of the bank while among the rest includes a reported aide of Sinha.

The prosecutor said only three of the accused faced the trial in person as the rest were "on the run to evade justice". Special Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam read out the charges and set August 18 as the date for the next hearing.

The ACC filed charges against Sinha and 10 others while the court referred the case to the independent graft body for investigation.

The ACC said it found evidence of fraud involving transactions of 40 million taka (\$472,995) borrowed with fake documents by two businessmen in 2016. The money was deposited in Sinha's account.

Thousands in Belarus decry president's re-election as rigged

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINSK (BELARUS), 13 AUGUST

Thousands of protesters rallied in Belarus' capital and other cities for a fourth straight night Wednesday, decrying an election they say was rigged to extend the 26-year rule of the country's authoritarian leader and the crackdown on subsequent demonstrations.

In several parts of Minsk, groups of hundreds of people formed human chains. Motorists blared horns in support and, in some areas, slowed to a crawl to block police vehicles. On one avenue, people stood on balconies, clapping in an expression of support.

Riot police fired rubber



People protest against police violence during recent rallies of opposition supporters, who accuse strongman Alexander Lukashenko of falsifying the polls in the presidential election, in Minsk on Thursday. AFP

bullets at them. Similar protests were held in at least five other

cities, according to the Viasna rights group, to contest the official election results, which show President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term with 80 per cent of Sunday's vote and the main opposition challenger garnered 10 per cent. Crowds have taken to the streets every night since to demand a recount.

Earlier in the day, groups of hundreds of women formed human chains in several districts of Minsk, chanting Shame! and calling for an end to the crackdown on the demonstrations. Hesitant to use force against all-women rallies, police dispersed them without violence.

But in recent nights, authorities have responded with a level of brutality remarkable even during Lukashenko's

rule. Police have dispersed protesters with tear gas, stun grenades, water cannons and rubber bullets and severely beat them with truncheons. Black-uniformed officers chased protesters into residential buildings and deliberately targeted journalists, beating many and breaking their cameras.

We stand for a peaceful protest, said Ksenia Ilyasovich, a 23-year-old IT specialist who joined other women at a Minsk protest earlier Wednesday. We worked up the courage and came out to rally. We stand here for all.

In three previous nights of protests, at least 6,000 people have been detained and hun-

dreds injured, according to the official count, but even that tall figure appears to downplay the scope.

Anguished relatives were besieging prisons across Belarus trying to find their missing relatives.

Even those who were loyal saw the real face of this government during the past three days, said 63-year-old Galina Vitushko, who stood outside a jail in Minsk, trying to find her son, a 43-year-old doctor. She said that she desperately needs to give him insulin since he has diabetes.

How can you treat your own people like that? she asked, breaking into tears. The real winners don't behave like that.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Outer edge (3)	1 Wealth (6)
3 Section of a circle (3)	5 Ground meat (5)
8 Imply (7)	3 Alligator pear (7)
9 Home (5)	4 Break the rules (5)
10 Weld (5)	5 Formal neckwear item (3)
11 Begin again (7)	6 Sav (6)
12 Vulgar display (11)	7 Church service (4)
16 Party (Informal) (7)	13 Dark green vegetable (7)
18 Tin-glazed earthenware (5)	14 Until now (2,4)
20 Tibetan city (5)	15 Make evident (6)
21 Distinguished (7)	16 Latin American dance music (5)
22 Tree (3)	17 Expensive (4)
23 Ignited (3)	19 Defame (5)

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



YOU'RE INTO FINANCES, COSMO. WHERE SHOULD I PUT MY MONEY THESE DAYS?
COSMO'S CORNER

GREG + MORT WALKER

HERE! LET ME HAVE IT! I CAN TRIPLE IT FOR YOU OVERNIGHT!

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Hong Kong can never succeed having China as opposed to the thousands of geniuses that ran it, having China run it

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

ON ENDING THE SPECIAL US TRADING RELATIONSHIP WITH HONG KONG

World

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	29	27 H
HONG KONG	31	28 S
TOKYO	34	27 CL
LONDON	26	18 R
DUBAI	39	32 S
SAN FRANCISCO	30	17 CL
NEW YORK	29	22 H
MOSCOW	18	9 CL

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

THUMBNAILS



Brazilian soldiers disinfect the Christ The Redeemer statue prior to its opening on 15 August. In Rio de Janeiro on Thursday. AFP

Swiss canyoning accident:
Three Spanish tourists were killed and one is presumed dead after being caught in a flash flood while canyoning in the eastern canton (state) of St. Gallen in the Swiss Alps, authorities in the Alpine country said. AP

Israel strikes rebel sites:
Israel said it struck Hamas militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Thursday in response to continued launches of explosives-laden balloons from the Palestinian territory into Israel. The military said its targets included a compound used by Hamas' naval force and underground infrastructure and observation posts. AP

Singapore Covid vaccine:
The first batch of volunteers aged between 21 and 55 in Singapore have received a dose of a potential coronavirus vaccine being developed in the country. Called Lunar-Cov19, the vaccine is developed by Duke-NUS Medical School and American company Arcturus Therapeutics. AFP

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Survey & Const., Tilak Bridge, Northern Railway, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:

Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Single Packet)
Tender Notice No.	278-W/S&CT/KJ/FLS/NL/RBL-AKJ-AY/2020 Dated: 10.08.2020

Full Name of work	Final Location Survey (FLS) for new line between Rae Bareli Akbarganj-Ayodhya (118 Kms.) Carrying out detail Engineering survey including Leveling, alignment, soil exploration, preparation of plans, L-sections, GA plan of Bridges etc. bill of quantities and other ancillary activities related in connection with preparation of DPR.
Approx. Cost	₹1,03,88,985.00 (Rs. One Crore Three Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five only)
Completion period	06 months (Six months)
Earnest Money amount	₹2,01,900/- (Rs. Two lakh One thousand and Nine hundred only)
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 14.08.2020 to 07.09.2020 upto 11:30 hrs.
Last date/time of upload of tenders	07.09.2020 at 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer(s) on IREPS website w.e.f. 23.08.2020 to 07.09.2020.
Date and time of opening of tender	07.09.2020 at 11:30 hours (immediately) after close of uploading of tender (D2) in the office of Chief Administrative Officer/Const., N.Rly. Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006

This notice is available on www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in website and documents on www.ireps.gov.in site is available.

Tender Notice No. 278-W/S&CT/KJ/FLS/NL/RBL-AKJ-AY/2020
Dated: 10.08.2020

1756/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

US allows exemptions in H-1B, L-1 travel ban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 13 AUGUST

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

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

President Donald Trump, in his June proclamation, banned the entry into the US of workers in several key non-immigrant

visa categories, including the H-1B, arguing that they eat into American jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Companies depend on it to hire tens of thou-

sands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The State Department, which issued the revised travel advisory, on Wednesday said that the exemptions have been given under national interest category. In its advisory, the State Departments said that H-1B and L-1 visas can now be issued for employees who are seeking to

resume ongoing employment in the United States in the same position with the same employer and visa classification. Forcing employers to replace existing employees may cause financial hardship, it said.

All those on H-1B visas working in the healthcare sector, especially those related to the

Secretary of State to exempt the healthcare sector from the travel ban on H-1B, L1 and J1 visas.

duct ongoing medical research in an area with a substantial public health benefit (e.g. cancer or communicable disease research) are also exempted from the 22 July travel ban. Notably in the last few weeks, several lawmakers have written to the Secretary of State to exempt the healthcare sector from the travel ban on H-1B, L1 and J1 visas.

Antibody study finds 6% of England Covid-infected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 13 AUGUST

An estimated 3.4 million people in England, or around 6 per cent of the population, have contracted coronavirus so far, a new study involving antibody home tests concluded on Thursday.

The study, following what is described as the world's largest home antibody testing programme involving a finger-prick test, is published by Imperial College London and involved over 100,000 volunteers.

It also found many regional differences in infection rates, with the level higher in London where 13 per cent of people showed antibodies. People from

black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups, care workers, and people living in larger households were also among the most likely to have been infected, a factor already part of a wider Public Health England (PHE)

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ing months as part of the government's national testing effort.

The antibody study tracked the spread of the deadly virus across England following the first peak of the pandemic in June-July and found that almost everyone with a confirmed coronavirus case was found to have antibodies.

Those aged 18-34 were most likely to have antibodies (8 per cent) with the lowest prevalence in those over 65 (3 per cent).

Experts highlighted that testing positive for antibodies does not mean someone is immune to Covid-19, as there is no firm evidence yet that the presence of antibodies means someone cannot be re-infected with the virus.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, 13 AUGUST

A puzzling new outbreak of the coronavirus in New Zealand's largest city grew to 17 cases on Thursday, with officials saying the number will likely increase further.

And a lockdown in Auckland designed to extinguish the outbreak could be extended well beyond three days.

It was a turnaround from Sunday, when the South Pacific nation of 5 million marked 100 days without any cases of local transmission.

For most people, life had long returned to normal as they sat down in packed sports stadiums and restaurants or went to school without the fear of getting infected.

The only cases for months had been a handful of returning travellers who have been quarantined at the border. But then earlier this week, health workers discovered four infections in one Auckland household.

The source of the new infections continues to stump officials.

Biden, Harris shred Trump in debut show

Hitting hard at Trump administration's record during their first joint appearance, Harris presented a long list of missteps taken by incumbent



Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden (L) and vice presidential running mate, US senator Kamala Harris, conduct their first press conference together in Wilmington late Wednesday. AFP

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden made a maiden public appearance with his running mate Kamala Harris on Wednesday during which the Indian-American shredded Donald Trump's White House record, saying that the president is not "up to the job."

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

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

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

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

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

Hitting hard on the three and half years of the Trump administration during her first appearance after being picked as the vice presidential nominee of the Democratic party on Tuesday, Harris presented a long list of missteps taken by the Trump government.

"But compare that to the moment we find ourselves in now. When other countries are following the science, Trump pushed miracle cures he saw on Fox News. While other countries were flattening the curve, he said the virus would just poof, go away like a miracle," she said.

She said it was due to the fault of the Trump administration that the US had to shut down various of its regions again while other countries were opening up.

Harris alleged that it is because of Trump's failure to

take it seriously from the start. His refusal to get testing up and running, his flip-flopping on social distancing and wearing masks, his delusional belief that he knows better than the experts. All of that is the reason that an American dies of Covid-19 every 80 seconds, she said.

It's why countless businesses have had to shut their doors for good. It's why there is complete chaos over when and how to reopen our schools... Trump is also the reason millions of Americans are now unemployed. He inherited the longest economic expansion in history from Barack Obama and Joe Biden, she said.

"This election isn't just about defeating Donald Trump or Mike Pence. It's about building this country back better, and that's exactly what Joe and I will do," she said.

"As Biden-Harris Administration, we will create millions of jobs and fight climate change through a clean energy revolution, bring back critical supply chains so the future is made in America, build on the Affordable Care Act so everyone has the peace of mind that comes with health insurance, and finally offer caregivers the dignity, respect, and the pay they deserve," she said.

We'll protect a woman's right to make her own decisions about her own body, root

out systemic racism in our justice system, and pass a new Voting Rights Act, a John Lewis Voting Rights Act, that will ensure every voice is heard and every voice is counted," Harris added.

She said the Biden-Harris administration will ensure equality for Americans.

"The civil rights struggle is nothing new to me. It's why he got into public service. It's why he helped reauthorize the Voting Rights Act and restore unemployment discrimination and employment discrimination laws," Harris said.

It's the social network's latest step to combat election-related misinformation on its platform as the 3 November election nears one in which many voters may be submitting ballots by mail for the first time.

Google said it has launched

Radical or moderate? Trump paints Democratic ticket as both

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 13 AUGUST

An overzealous prosecutor trying to hide her crime-fighting past who is also weak on crime. The most radical pick for vice president ever but too moderate to energize progressive Democrats.

President Donald Trump's campaign is struggling to define California senator Kamala Harris. And without a clear message, Trump has reverted to his usual playbook, resorting to sexist and racist attacks

Like Biden, Harris has staked out relatively moderate stances over the course of her career on issues such as health care and law enforcement.

And without a clear message, Trump has reverted to his usual playbook, resorting to sexist and racist attacks. He has repeatedly called Harris nasty and has leaned into appeals that appear stuck in a fictionalized version of the

1950s.

The 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me. They want safety & are thrilled that I ended the long running program where low-income housing would invade their neighborhood. Biden would reinstate it, in a bigger form, with Corey Booker in charge! he tweeted on Wednesday, incorrectly spelling the name of the Democratic senator and former mayor of Newark, New Jersey, who is also Black.

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The 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me. They

ASHUTOSH KUMAR

If the year is almost behind us and the entire world, reeling under the after effects of the pandemic, is hoping that not only normalcy will return but also offer opportunities to recover lost ground. Students across have been hit hard due to the uncertainty surrounding their educational and professional future. Those in their academic years will see adjustments that will bring academics back on track in some time as the pandemic faces. The real problem is with those who are looking to take up professional examinations. Re-calibrating to the schedule that has shifted a couple of months away can lead to higher anxiety for those pursuing competitive exams.

Financial services as a sector has been home to many professional aspirants. Within the financial sector, banking has traditionally, and, will in future too witness a huge demand of good quality human resources given the fiduciary responsibility involved in the job of bankers. That is probably why exams for banking aspirants are among the toughest to crack.

The delay in exams due to the pandemic hence comes as a blessing in disguise. Aspirants now have some extra time to prepare, which will help them score well. So, what should students, aspiring to be bankers of the future, do in order to successfully get through the competitive examination? Here are some guidelines –

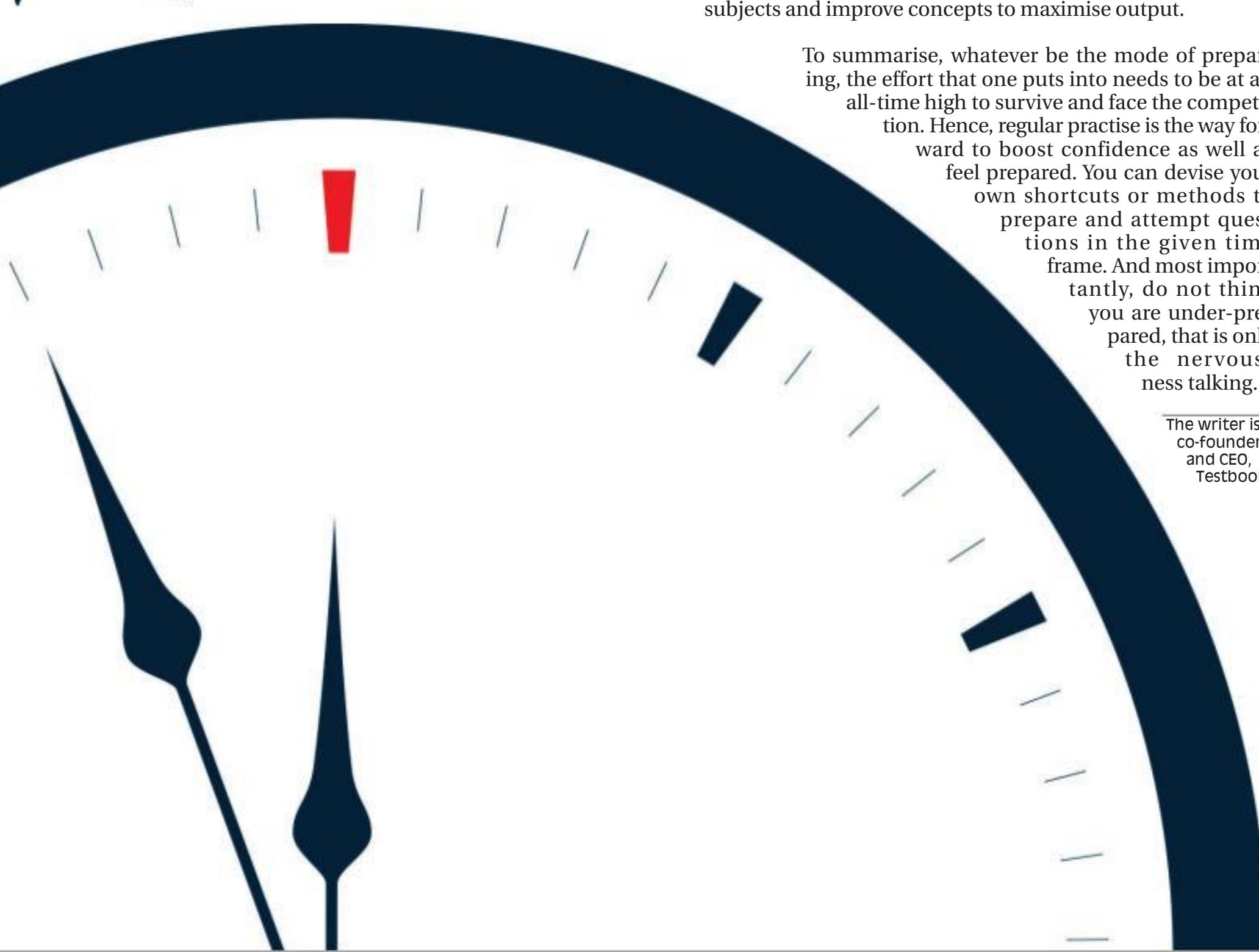
Read a lot more than you do

A section of the banking examinations focuses on general knowledge. Hence, it is quintessential that one is aware of what is happening around. Be certain that you follow daily news, know simple yet tricky facts like country capitals, currencies, central banking headquarters etc.

Understand what is required

The first step to successfully crack competitive examinations is to thoroughly understand what is expected to be known by the aspirants. Getting a grip of the syllabus is very important to be in sync with what to prepare for. Analysing your strengths and weaknesses after a scrutiny of the

Financial services as a sector has been home to many professional aspirants. Here are some guidelines on how they can become ace bankers



topics and grading them as per weighted allocations based on importance will help in setting priorities and time commitments to each of the line items in your list.

Build on the basics

Before you start attempting questions and mock test papers, always clear your doubts and concepts. Remember, "No question is silly". It is important to understand the basics thoroughly before proceeding further on complex theories and problems because every concept is born from the basics.

Time is the most important factor

Every exam is about speed as much as it is about accuracy. It is necessary that you maintain good speed to complete the paper on time and with utmost accuracy since you only have 36 seconds per question. While practicing to have speed, you must also train your brain to move to the next question when you realise you are spending too much time on a question and come back to it later. Thus, it's important you practice with a timer.

Take mock tests

Once you think you are reasonably prepared, sit down to take a full-length mock paper or previous year question papers. This will help you face the challenges and give you an idea as to how prepared you are and what requires more attention. With each mock paper you take, you will be more confident and gain more speed and accuracy. Fifteen days prior to the exam attempt as many papers you can to get hold of your knowledge and analyse the short comings. Utilise the last days to brush up subjects and improve concepts to maximise output.

To summarise, whatever be the mode of preparing, the effort that one puts into needs to be at an all-time high to survive and face the competition.

Hence, regular practise is the way forward to boost confidence as well as feel prepared. You can devise your own shortcuts or methods to prepare and attempt questions in the given time frame. And most importantly, do not think you are under-prepared, that is only the nervousness talking.

The writer is co-founder and CEO, Testbook

PLUS POINTS

Strategic partnership



Ryan International Group of Institutions known for private K-12 education in India, announced a strategic collaboration with Toppr, one of India's fastest-growing and transformative education technology companies, to launch the first-of-its-kind, integrated offline-online (Synchronous-Asynchronous) K-12 learning experience recently.

Speaking about the collaboration, Ryan Pinto, chief executive officer, Ryan Group of Institutions said, "The disruption caused by the present situation has seen a huge acceleration towards online education redefining the way we approach teaching and learning. Our collaboration is an important step towards the adoption of an integrated Synchronous-Asynchronous K-12 learning experience, that makes personalised learning an achievable reality for every child. It marks another important milestone in Ryan Group's strategic move towards an adaptive, learning system that addresses the needs of all children regardless of circumstance, ability or geography."

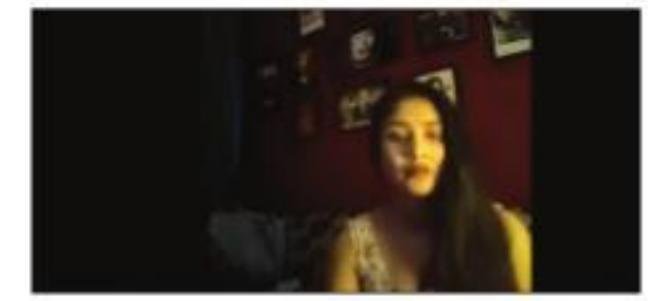
A way to rehabilitate



Sanskriti School of Rehabilitation organised a webinar on "Overview of Disability and Referral Services in India" recently. During the webinar, Dr Himanshu Das (NIEPVD) Divyangan, Dehradun was present as the chief guest, and Priyadarshi Mishra, rehabilitation officer (CRCSD) and Daya Rani, lecturer in special education-MR Mandi (HP) were the key speakers.

Dr Das said, "No one is born to be perfect but the term 'disability' spoils the vision of society to see the ability of the person with disability." In Indian referral services there are various opportunities available and national institutes are engaged in the field of providing disability rehabilitation services to the persons with disability as also in undertaking research and development efforts.

Worthy webinar



In an engaging webinar hosted by the Adamas University recently, celebrities and dignitaries such as Vivek Vaswani, film director and actor, Debolina Dutta, actress, Dr Anuttama Banerjee, psychologist and many others spoke about the struggles of celebrity life, nepotism, stardom and vulnerability that workers of film industry face.

The webinar was moderated by Prof Mrityunjay Chatterjee. Debolina Dutta spoke about her 22-year-old journey at the Tollywood film industry and said that a celebrity's life is minutely entangled in the web of success and failure. Anuttama Banerjee spoke about the loneliness in a celebrity's life. She pointed to the fact that celebs often cannot open up to their psychotherapists in fear of getting their private life leaked in front of common people. At the end, few questions from the attendees were answered by the panel. –Soumi Mandal

Unique opportunity



Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is inviting applications for the newly launched online BSc Degree in Programming and Data Science. Students may fill the application form (<https://www.onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in>) to enroll in the qualifier process and also upload required documents and pay the application fee of Rs 3000. The maximum number of applications are limited to 2,50,000. Applications will be closed once it reaches 2,50,000 or on 15 September, whichever occurs first.

The programme is open to those who have passed +2, with English and Maths at Class X. Graduates and working professionals can also enroll themselves. For details visit: <https://www.onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in>

BETTER CHANCE OF EMPLOYMENT

ASHWANI AWASTHI

Built Environment Sector provides numerous opportunities for budding professionals

This year is forcing us to evaluate many things in our lives. With the raging Covid-19 pandemic, the very bases of daily life as we knew have undergone an unimaginable metamorphosis. There is a 'new normal' around us and new compulsory scenarios have emerged. Economies are suffering and many industries and sectors are badly hit; most noticeably travel, tourism and hospitality sectors will take a long time to recover. At such a time, it is important for the youth who are making career choices to evaluate the post Covid-19 scenarios and accordingly choose a sector. However, all is not gloomy as some opportunities have also emerged and our youth need to

recognise them and utilise their time wisely. Two sectors that continue to witness growth are - technology and real estate and infrastructure. Technology has emerged as the key to growth and enabling continuity in day to day life. Real estate and infrastructure requirements are timeless and growth in this sector is expected to bring prosperity for our country's economy too. This article will lay out opportunities in real estate, construction, and infrastructure sectors, together called Built Environment (BE) sector.

Opportunities post Covid-19 in the real estate, construction, and infrastructure sector

Like any other industry, the Built Environment (BE) sector too was battling its own challenges before the pandemic and due to lockdowns, the impact was immense, yet the industry, with the government's support, is already working towards rectifying most of its issues. Although the next 6 to 12 months may be turbulent, but the sector is expected to experience growth thereafter and the demand for skilled professionals is likely to be huge. The practical way forward for the BE sector

would be an increased use of technology, and people who upskill themselves will stand a better chance where

employability is concerned.

Employability in a post Covid-19 world

Postgraduates who have a sector specific management degree and role specific skills will find it easier to find employment in the post Covid-19 world. This hiatus in the economy is a good time for the youth to upskill themselves. In about 12 to 15 months the economy is expected to start turning around and demand for skilled professionals will be on the rise. Most organisations are using this time to introspect and redefine their requirements but basis the current situation, there is expected to be an increased demand for the following job roles in the construction and real estate sector:

Claims and dispute resolution

When work resumes after a long break, disputes are bound to arise in contracts and many contracts will have to be rewritten. This will give rise to more job roles in this field. Those who have an MBA degree in Construction Economics and Quantity Surveying (CEQS) have the skills and capability of reviewing construction contracts and establishing effective contract management procedures to reduce the likelihood of disputes arising.

Supply chain management in construction industry

The supply chain in the construction industry was completely disrupted because of the lockdowns and sealed borders between states. The industry came to a complete standstill due to a shortage of critical components and material. To ensure that the organisations avoid such a disruption in the future, they will try to strengthen any weak links in the supply chain system.

Health and safety: Covid-19 has exposed the need to make health and safety a core priority for any organisation

and they are establishing risk mitigating programs for employees who need to work onsite.

Roles in financial feasibility

Financial feasibility of new and ongoing projects will need to be assessed and reviewed to see how revolving credit, loans, cash flow reserves etc can impact the profitability and how to work in a low revenue environment.

Postgraduates from all real estate streams like CEQS, Construction Project Management (CPM) and Real Estate and Urban Infrastructure (REUI) are proficient in assessing client requirements and undertaking feasibility studies.

Sound technical knowledge

Once the pandemic subsides and the industry picks up pace, organisations are likely to upgrade their technical infrastructure to reduce dependence on migrant labour. Several products and services in the sector can be on cloud-based deployment; digitisation combined with a strong network infrastructure can help to substantially mitigate losses. All this will lead to a global increase in demand for Business Information Modelling (BIM) solutions and students who are trained in BIM, AutoCAD, Revit and other software related to it will be in high demand.

The future generally looks bleak when one is facing a crisis but at the same time, a crisis is also an opportunity waiting to be tapped. This is the right time for young professionals or budding professionals to explore and evaluate the available options and newer opportunities, which are materialising. To be a winner in the post Covid future, it is important to arm and upskill oneself as per the demands of the time to come so that you can benefit from the emerging opportunities.

The writer is managing director, RICS School of Built Environment



iStock

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

SILLY SLIP

Twitter has apologised to Manchester United defender Phil Jones (*in photo, left*) for mocking him on its official UK account. On Tuesday, it took aim at the centre-back, with its verified TwitterUK account posting: "Name a better footballer than Phil Jones."

THUMBNAILS

Tyson bout: Mike Tyson's return to the ring against Roy Jones Jr has been put back until 28 November. Tyson, 54, who dominated boxing for almost 20 years, was due to take on 51-year-old Jones in an eight-round exhibition in California on 12 September.

World Cup: Asian qualifying matches for the 2022 Qatar World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup have been postponed to 2021 owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Fifa and the Asian Football Confederation said on Wednesday. The matches were set for October-November.

Paris marathon: The Paris Marathon on 11 November has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The race was originally scheduled to take place on 5 April, but was postponed at the start of the coronavirus crisis and moved to the end of the year.

Community Shield: Fans are unlikely to be allowed in to watch the Community Shield game between Liverpool and Arsenal at Wembley later this month. The 2020-21 curtain-raiser on 29 August is a pilot event to allow a limited number of supporters to attend a football match.

Positive test: Barcelona have announced that one of their players has tested positive for coronavirus. The La Liga side said the player in question had "no symptoms" and was in "good health." He was to have started his pre-season training on Wednesday.

Back-up venues: Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates are the back-up venues for the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup that is set to take place in India. According to a website, the countries are on standby in case the tournament cannot be hosted in India.

Perez tests negative: Sergio Perez will race at the Spanish Grand Prix this week after testing negative for the coronavirus. His team said on Thursday that governing body FIA cleared him to return to the paddock for the race in Barcelona.

Miandad says, Khan's conceit has led to Pak cricket's decline

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LAHORE, 13 AUGUST

Erstwhile Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad (*in photo*) has lashed out at his former teammate Imran Khan, saying that the current Pakistan prime minister has left cricket in the country in tatters. According to Miandad, who used to be described as Pakistan's chief strategy-maker regardless of who led them on the field, Khan is too big for his boots now.

Indirectly referring to PCB chief executive Wasim Khan,

Miandad said that Khan had played havoc with cricket by appointing officials with little knowledge of the sport to the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"Officials in the PCB do not know the ABC of the sport. I will talk to Imran Khan personally about the sad state of affairs. I will not spare anyone who is not right for our country," Miandad said in a video released on his YouTube channel.

Indirectly referring to PCB chief executive Wasim Khan,

he said: "You have brought in a person from abroad, if he steals things from us, how will you catch him?

"The players that are currently playing should have a big future in cricket. I don't want these players to end up as labourers. The PCB has left players unemployed after dumping the departmental tournament and now they cannot offer employment themselves. I was saying this before as well but they didn't understand," he added.



The 63-year-old also accused Pakistan's World Cup-winning captain of not paying adequate attention to how the PCB was functioning.

"I was your captain, you

weren't my captain. I will come to politics and then I will talk to you. I was the one who led you all the time, but you act like God now. It is almost like you are the only intelligent person in this country, as if no one else has gone to Oxford or Cambridge or any university in Pakistan. Think about the people," said Miandad.

"What's the meaning of being a Pakistani? To live and let live. Help your own people. Be intelligent. I have echoed the nation's voice. I know it is difficult for the common people to raise their voices, but I am in a position where I can amplify their collective voice for the world," he added.

Miandad played 124 Tests and 233 One-Day Internationals for Pakistan, making 8832 and 7381 runs, respectively.

Pak off to steady start

AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON, 13 AUGUST

Azhar Ali's struggles continued as the Pakistan captain was dismissed by Jimmy Anderson soon after lunch before more rain brought another delay to the opening day of the second test against England on Thursday.

Pakistan was 85-2, with Abid Ali (*in photo*) on 49 and Babar Azam on 7, when a heavy shower landed on the Rose Bowl and forced the players off less than an hour into the middle session on a day of changing weather in Southampton.

down in the three-match series. Another victory for England will clinch a first test series against Pakistan in 10 years, and a second series of this pandemic-affected summer having already beaten the West Indies.

Pakistan rode its luck after the loss of Shan Masood and reached an early lunch at 62-1 against England on the first day of the second test in changing conditions at the Rose Bowl on Thursday. Jimmy Anderson trapped Masood lbw off the 14th ball of the innings to leave Pakistan on 6-1, and the seamers kept the pressure on after being made to bowl first under overcast skies. Abid Ali was dropped twice in the slips, firstly by Dom Sibley at third slip on 0 and then Rory Burns at second slip on 21. He also was dropped on the box off a delivery from Chris Woakes.

Pakistan, which won the toss under sunny skies, is 1-0



Captain Azhar Ali, in need of runs after making only 139 in his last 12 away test innings, was on 20 by the time rain fell 10 minutes before the end of the session prompting the

umpires to call an early lunch. Anderson, who kept his place despite bowling poorly in the first test won by England by three wickets last week, had 1-15 off seven overs in a return

to form. Pakistan won the toss under sunnyskies, which turned gray by the time play began after a shower forced the stoppage nearly two hours later. England dropped paceman Jofra Archer and chose Sam Curran ahead of Mark Wood as the replacement in a selection that gives more length to the batting department. Batsman Zak Crawley replaced allrounder Ben Stokes, who has returned to New Zealand for family reasons and will also miss the third test.

Pakistan's only change saw Fawad Alam come in for his first test appearance for 11 years as an extra batsman at the expense of allrounder Shadab Khan, who was utilized for only 11.3 overs across the two innings in the three-wicketloss in Manchester last week.

Another victory for Eng-

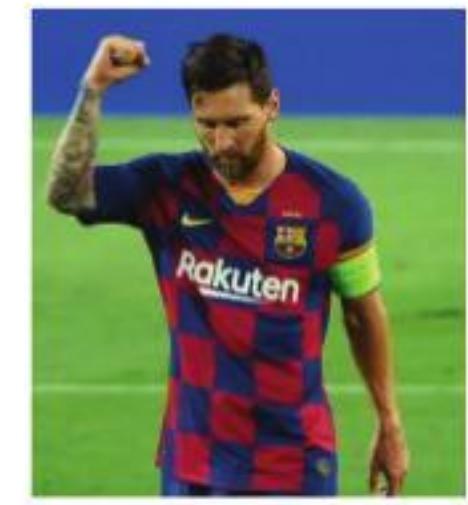
land will clinch a first test series against Pakistan in 10 years, and a second series of this pandemic-affected summer having already beaten the West Indies.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan 1st innings:	
Masood lbw b Anderson	15
All c Burns b Curran	60
Azhar Ali c Burns b Anderson	2
Azam batting	13
Shafiq batting	0
Extras: 8 (b 4; lb 4; w 0; nb 0; p 0)	
Total: 102 (3 wkts; 37.4 Ov)	
Bowler: Anderson 14-3-33-2, Broad 10-4-21-0, Curran 7.4-1-19-1, Woakes 6-1-21-0 (at tea)	

Bayern Munich pitted against Messi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LISBON, 13 AUGUST



Bayern Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka said the German giants are working out how to curb the legendary talents of Barcelona star Lionel Messi (*in photo*) ahead of tomorrow's Champions League quarter-final. "Thousands of people before me have tried to answer this question," Goretzka replied yesterday in Lisbon when asked how to stop Messi.

"It is nice - after playing against (Juventus star Cristiano) Ronaldo a few times - to play the other formative player of the last decade." That can only be done collectively," the 25-year-old central midfielder said of Messi, "because he is a gifted footballer; I don't know how, but we have to force our game on them."

Messi scored his 31st goal this season on Saturday and was looking to lift the Champions League for the fifth time in his career with Barcelona.

Treble-chasing Bayern, however, have won all 13 games since the coronavirus lockdown restart. They underlined their impressive form on Saturday when Robert Lewandowski, the Champions League's top scorer, netted twice and created two more in the last 16, second-leg rout of Chelsea to seal a 7-1 thrashing on aggregate.

Bayern are chasing the treble having already won an eighth straight Bundesliga title and lifted the German Cup, but Goretzka says Barcelona are far more than just Lewandowski's goals. "At the moment, we're playing as a unit, in addition to the quality of the individual players. We have a clear plan in hand and our intensity without the ball can make the difference."

But he admitted being wary of Arturo Vidal, Barca's ex-Bayern midfielder. "I got to know him for a few weeks and played against him many times. He has a first-class mentality with amazing fitness," added Goretzka.

Serena excited ahead of 'tough match' with Venus

THE INDEPENDENT
KENTUCKY, 13 AUGUST



Serena Williams (*in photo*) is excited to face sister Venus in the Lexington Open second round and feels the "tough match" will provide the perfect preparation for the US Open which starts on 31 August.

The 23-time grand slam champion made a winning return to the Women's Tennis Association tour on Tuesday but needed three sets to get past Bernada Pera in Kentucky.

It was the number one seed's first competitive fixture since a Fed Cup qualifier in February and she eventually got close to top gear to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. A straight sets victory later in the day for Venus Williams over Victoria Azarenka by a 6-3, 6-3 score saw her book a last-16 meeting with her younger sister. Serena Williams told a Press conference: "I have a really tough match in the next round, but it is good in general because I haven't played. A lot of players have been playing little things and little matches and playing against other players but I've only been training."

Djokovic says he'll play at US Open, after all

The Big Three will be represented at the U.S. Open, after all: Novak Djokovic announced on Thursday he will enter the Grand Slam tournament and the hard-court tuneup preceding it in New York.

Djokovic initially complained about the U.S. Tennis Association's plans to try to protect people from the coronavirus pandemic with such measures as limiting the size of players' entourages, going so far as to say he didn't know whether he would participate.

"It was not an easy decision to make with all the obstacles and challenges on many sides, said the No. 1-ranked Djokovic, who tested positive for COVID-19 in June, but the prospect of competing again makes me really excited. The U.S. Open is scheduled to begin Aug. 31, without spectators. Before that, the Western & Southern Open normally held in Cincinnati will be played at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, starting Aug. 22.

Badminton player Reddy tests positive for COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST

for training safely and as soon as possible."

Sikki was seen training with three Indonesian doubles coaches Namritha Suroto, Agus Dwi Santoso and Miftah besides two sparing partners from that country on August 7.

"The camp will be shut for at least 4-5 days now," source in the academy said.

She had clicked a picture on the first day of training where all of them could be seen along with another physio Johnson Solomon and the Indonesians who also trained with world champion PV Sindhu and world bronze-winner B Sai Praneeth.

It has also been learnt that Sikki had done tapping for Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth, who had joined the camp on Monday. "The players and coaches, who might have come in contact with Sikki and Kiran, will be tested again on Friday morning," the source said.

The badminton camp was allowed by SAI for eight Olympic hopefuls following the approval from the Telangana government on August 1.

"All necessary precautions as per protocol are being taken so that players can come back

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

"Devon and Waqar, during that phase, were easily the two quickest bowlers in the world bowling at 90 mph.

"Yes, I didn't call the physio as I didn't want to show them that I am in pain. My pain threshold was fairly high. It's okay to get hit. So what. You don't show your pain to the bowler," he legend said.

Coach Ramakant Achherkar prepared him for all sorts of pain by making him play on the

Choupo-Moting completes stunning comeback

Atlanta 1
PSG 2
MIGUEL DELANEY
LISBON, 13 AUGUST

A mental block utterly shattered for Paris Saint-Germain, heartbreak for Atalanta. That is the only way to put it. The images said enough, as Atalanta couldn't quite do enough. There is no shame in that, but there is a lot of pain and a lot of cruelty. Three minutes of perseverance from PSG transformed this game, and may have transformed the club in the Champions League.

They are into the semi-finals for the first time since 1995, and the first time in this Qatari era, after a remarkable late turnaround to beat Atalanta 2-1. It was another chaotically entertaining climax to go with so many in the competition over the past few years. PSG are once again elated it involved them actually going through rather than collapsing.

And yet for all the visible joy in that, it would have been nothing compared to the emotions Atalanta were on the brink of experiencing. Mario Pasalic was on the brink of going down

in club history, and putting them into the Champions League semi-finals. Their city of Bergamo, which has suffered so much throughout the coronavirus, can only be proud. This little club really put it up to one of the most lavishly funded football projects on the planet.

And yet for all the stars the intensity of these ties is further infused with so much history. With PSG, that history has been one of emotional trauma and losing their nerve, and it was impossible not to think it weighed on every single move.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting. The brilliance of Neymar (*in photo, left*) and Kylian Mbappe in both should be acknowledged. They stepped up. That is all the more important given what was really weighing PSG down. What really elevates the Champions League is how the intensity of these ties is further infused with so much history.

With PSG, that history has been one of emotional trauma and losing their nerve, and it was impossible not to think it weighed on every single move.

30th anniversary of first ton: Sialkot sowed seeds of Manchester hundred: Tendulkar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 AUGUST



Test-saving hundreds have become extinct now but Sachin Tendulkar (*in photo*) carved out one such innings exactly 30 years ago, the seeds of which were sown during one afternoon in Sialkot, eight months prior to that gloomy Manchester day.

It was on August 14, 1990, that Tendulkar scored the first of his 100 international centuries, a majestic 119 not out on a fifth day track to save the game for India. Asked about that special first, and it seemed like yesterday, "I scored that 100 on August 14 and next day was our Inde-

pendence Day, so it was special. The headline was different and that hundred at least kept the series alive till next Test at the Oval," Tendulkar told PTI on the eve of the 30th anniversary of his first ton.

So what exactly was the feeling, apart from the pure joy of achieving the milestone? "The art of saving a Test match was a new experience for me," Tendulkar said but added he knew he could save a game when he batted with a "bloodied nose" and a blood-soaked jersey after being hit by Waqar Younis. "In Sialkot where I got hit and scored 57, we saved that Test match, too, from 38 for 4.

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

"I was used to getting hit on my body from my days at Shivaji Park as Achherkar sir would make us play on that and it would have enormous wear and tear.

"The same pitch we played on one day and next day we were back for nets. So balls would just jump off length and hit my nose."

"In fact, I would just throw the ball up and take it on my body to absorb the pain."

Back to the match, the shots that he remembers are the exquisite backfoot cover drives off Chris Lewis deliveries that darted in. "Lewis bowled sharp inswing and throughout my career, backfoot cover drive had been my favourite shot."

"The bowler who was the best by far in that series was Angus Fraser. He had a beautiful late outswing, high arm action, so ball would bounce