THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2020



NATION 4

It's witch hunt, Rhea ready to be arrested, says her lawyer



SPORT 8

IPL schedule out, MI to face CSK in first match on September 19 TABLOID 16

Bobby Deol say that he won't last in Bigg Boss for more than 30 minutes



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Actress Anna Koenig poses at the photo call for the film Assandira during the 77th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice on Sunday.

1 killed, 7 hurt in stabbing attacks in Birmingham

London: UK police said a murder inquiry has been launched on Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in mul-

tiple stabbings overnight in the city of Birmingham. According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related. While a man and a woman are battling serious injuries, the injuries of five others are not thought to

be life-threatening, the force said. A hunt has been initiated for a male suspect.

More on Page 6

Powerful typhoon

slams South Japan

Tokyo: A powerful typhoon that officials warned could bring record rains and gusts strong enough to flip cars slammed into southern Japan on Sunday, prompting authorities to urge millions to seek shelter. Typhoon Haishen weakened somewhat as it neared Japan's mainland.

Covid cases: India

overtakes Brazil

New Delhi: India on Sunday surpassed Brazil's novel coronavirus tally of 41.23 lakh to be Number Two in the world with its own 41.31 lakh cases so far. Despite fewer testing on Sunday, several cases were recorded taking India just behind the US. ■ More on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



We will supply everything.. junior artistes, technicians, costumes, drugs...

MEATHER



Max: 33°C Min: 26°C **RH:** 72% **Rain: 20%**

Forecast: Partly cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Panchami till 9.38 pm Star: Bharani full day Varjyam: 4.11 pm to 5.59 pm Durmuhurtam: 12.38 pm to 1.27 pm; 3.05 pm to 3.54 pm Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

> **SUNSET TODAY 6.35 PM** SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.02 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 10.13 PM **MOONSET TODAY 10.13 AM**

High-alert on border with Pak after Intel warning

'Pak could act as China's proxy, open another front with India'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Following specific intelligence inputs that China could use Pakistan to trigger large-scale violations along the border, the Border Security Force and the Army have been put on high alert along the international border and the Line of Control

'We have specific inputs that Pakistan could try and foment trouble along the borders. But we have taken adequate preventive measures and substantially increased our security presence along the Indo-Pak border," a senior BSF official said.

India and China are engaged in a four-month long tense military standIn an attempt to divert the focus and attention of Indian security forces, China could use Pakistan to start an armed offensive along the border and LoC by violating ceasefire.

and tensions between the two armies flared up again last week after India, in a preemptive move, occupied around two dozen peaks on the southern banks Pangong Tso and Spanggur Gap.
Given the tense situa-

tion along the Indo-China border, there are intelligence inputs that in an attempt to divert the focus and attention of Indian security forces, China could use Pakistan to start an armed offensive along the border and LoC by violating cease-

Earlier, the home ministry had increased the presence of forces along some parts of the Indo-China border, particularly in Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Close to 100 companies

or 10,000 personnel of para-military forces have been rushed to border areas. Most of the additional security companies that have been deployed along Chinese borders are those that were pulled out of Jammu and Kashmir a couple of weeks back.

Both ITBP and SSB have beefed up security deployment in the Doklam region in Sikkim and Kalapani region in Uttarakhand following increased Chinese activity

Rajnath in Iran to discuss regional security



Defence minister Rajnath Singh with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami to discuss bilateral ties between the two countries during his visit to Tehran. 'Had a very fruitful meeting with Iranian defence

minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran. We discussed regional security issues including Afghanistan and the issues

of bilateral cooperation,' Mr Singh said in a tweet. Later, his office said in a

statement, 'Both the

ity in Afghanistan.'

ward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stabil-

cussed ways to take for-

- PTI
■ Report on Page 3

Security beefed up at Matoshree after threat calls

Mumbai, Sept.

6 . Maharashtra chief minister U d d h a v Thackeray's

personal resid e n c e "Matoshree" in Bandra

here has received calls in which the caller allegedly threatened to blow it up, the CMO said in a statement on Sunday.

According to police, "Matoshree" received two calls on Saturday night from a man, who said he was calling from Dubai on behalf of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. Following this, the police have beefed up security at the bungalow located in Kalanagar Colony, a police official said. The CMO said the state cabinet expressed concern over the threat call and sought Centre's intervention

POLL BOUND Opp. parties accuse BJP of using tragedy to woo voters

BJP releases SSR posters in Bihar

NAYEAR AZAD PATNA, SEPT. 6:

The BJP has created a flutter in poll-bound Bihar with the launch of its poster campaign seeking justice for Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Opposition parties said the BJP is capitalising on a tragedy and the posters and pamphlets have been released to influence voters ahead of Assembly elections scheduled in October-November this

Talking to reporters in Patna, RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwary said, Tejashwi Yadav was the first to demand a CBI probe into the case but never used it for political reasons. It's tragic to see BJP doing politics over Dismissing the

Opposition's allegations, BJP leaders in Patna said



posters and pamphlets with the slogan 'Justice for Sushant' and 'Naa bhoole hain, Naa bhoole-ny dengey' (Neither have we forgotten, nor will we let anyone forget) have been distributed all across the state, especially among the youth.

that the posters were released by the art and culture wing of the party and have nothing to do with politics.

"Sushant is the son of the soil who represented Bihar in Bollywood. His untimely death has been a shock to all of us which is visible not only in the Bihar but globally Ribar R.IP has stood by the demand of justice for the late Bollywood actor," BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said. The party has also been demanding that the proposed Rajgir film city in Nalanda district be named

after the actor. Sources said that posters and pamphlets with the slogan "Justice for Sushant" and "Naa bhoole Naa bhooleny dengey" (Neither have we forgotten, nor will we let anyone forget) have been distributed all across the state, especially among the

The BJP is also planning to release a video on the life and struggles of Sushant Singh Rajput on

social media soon.

Some reports said that the BJP has so far printed about 30,000 posters and stickers, and 30,000 masks, all with the message, "Na bhoole hain...", and a photo of Rajput. They will be pasted on rickshaws and on doors of houses.

"The art and culture wing of our party is a forum of artists belonging to all streams and have found their way to express solidarity and love for Sushant Singh Rajput. Not only are they paying tribute but have plans to keep the memory of Sushant alive through different activities. There should be no political interpretation to the gen-uine concern expressed by any forum of Bihar BJP. Mr Anand said.

Sushant Singh Rajput, who hailed from Patna, was found hanging at his apartment in Mumbai's Bandra June 14.

Opp. plans joint offensive against govt in House

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Opposition parties are planning a joint offensive against the government to corner it in Parliament on issues of national security like the border situa-tion with China, handling of the Covid pandemic, economy and GST compensation to sources said.

Leaders of various opposition parties are expected to meet later this week to formulate a joint floor strategy in both the houses of Parliament, they

The Monsoon session of Parliament will com-mence on September 14 Covid-induced changes in its proceed-Congress President

Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's strategy group on September 8, the sources

■ More on Page 3

Faulty GST led to record GDP downfall: Rahul

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

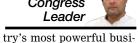
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lashed out at the Central government on Sunday over contraction of the economy and linked it with a "faulty GST". "Another big reason for record GDP contraction is the Modi government's Gabbar Singh Tax (GST). Many have been badly affected by this - lakhs of poor families, crores lost their jobs, states' economy was affected," he tweeted.

In a video, which he shared in the post, Mr Gandhi says: "GST was the second biggest attack on the unorganised sector. GST was UPA's idea - one tax, intended to simplify the system. NDA's GST was different

 four different types of tax slabs, up to 28 per cent tax. It has become complicated. Small enterprises cannot pay this amount. These four slabs are only meant to help the privileged, the coun-

Another big reason for record GDP contraction is Modi government's **Gabbar Singh Tax** (GST). Many have been badly affected by this- lakhs of poor families, crores lost their jobs, states' economy was affected.

> - Rahul Gandhi, Congress Leader



nessmen. He further added in the video, "NDA's GST has left states at the receiving end. The Centre is not able to pay the states. The GST is not just a failure, it's an attack on the poor." In the last couple of days Mr Gandhi has been

doing a series of videos

attacking the government

over its policies.

Bharati, hailed as Constitution's saviour, no more

Kasaragod (Kerala), Sept. 6: Kesavananda Bharati, on whose petition the Supreme Court delivered the landmark judgment on the celebrated doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution, died here on Sunday due to age related ailments. He was 79. People from all walks of

life paid homage to the departed seer at the Edneer Mutt of which he became the head over five decades ago. Former judge of Madras high court Justice K.

Chandru said: Kesavananda Bharati case is significant for its ruling that Constitution can amended but not the basic structure."

The case in which Bharati had challenged Kerala Land Reform laws nearly four decades ago set the principle that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the ver-dict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court.

Senior advocate Arvind P. Datar said when some parcels of land of the Edneer Mutt were Mutt acquired under the land reform laws of Kerala, Bharati moved the Kerala high court against it and partially succeeded.

While the seer did not get the relief he wanted,



Kesavananda Bharati

In 1973, when the Indira Gandhi-led government made changes to the 24th, 25th, 26th and 29th amendments of the Constitution for nationalisation of banks and privy purses, Kesavananda Bharati filed a case questioning the Kerala government move to take over the mutt property. Senior lawyer Nani Palkhivala fought his case and a 13-judge bench ruled that Parliament cannot alter the basic structure of the Constitution.

the case became significant for its landmark judgment which clipped the widest power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and simultaneously gave judiciary the authority to review any amendment.

However, when the 29th Constitutional Amendment was adopted by Parliament giving protection to Kerala laws, the seer moved the Supreme ■ Turn to Page 3

Metro gets airport-like 'touch-free' security



Drivers stand in a metro coach as Delhi Metro Rail Corporation gears up to resume its services from today with certain restrictions, at Khyberpass yard

in New Delhi, on Sunday. The CISF has planned an airport-like 'contact-free' security check for the Delhi Metro and will deploy modified hand-held and

doorframe metal detectors for scanning passengers, who will be required to put metallic objects such as belts and pens in their

BJP slams Rahul: 'Little knowledge is dangerous'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

As Congress leader Rahul Gandhi continued his attack on the Modi government over the "historic downfall" in the country's GDP, claiming that the Good and Service Tax was one of the major causes for it, the BJP on Sunday hit back saying "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" and asked when will the Congress leader stop lying. Reminding the former

Congress president that

American flag pin affixed

he had to once "apologise" to the Supreme Court for party claimed that the Congress leader wants to have a tax regime where airplane and slippers are taxed the same and essential commodities and services which have no tax are brought under the tax regime. Mr Gandhi had earlier

claimed that demonetisation was the first attack on the informal sector in the economy and that the GST was an absolute

Trump 'hired Faux-Bama to mock and fire predecessor'

Washington, Sept. 6: According to a new book by US President Donald Trump's former attorney, Michael Cohen, even before the incumbent sought the Oval business the tycoon was so obsessed with President Barack Obama that he hired a "Faux-Bama" to participate in a video skit in which Mr Trump would "ritualistically belittled the first black President and then fired him.

Cohen's

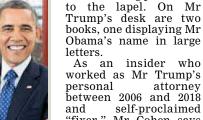
Disloyal: True Story Of



The business tycoon (Donald Trump) was so obsessed with President Barack Obama that he hired a 'Faux-Bama' to participate in a video skit in which Mr Trump would 'ritualistically belittled the first black President and then

The Former Attorney To President Donald J. Trump, doesn't name the man who was allegedly hired to play Mr Obama or provide a

specific date for the incident, but it does include a photograph of Mr Trump sitting behind a desk, facing a black man wearing a suit with an



worked as Mr Trump's attorney between 2006 and 2018 and self-proclaimed "fixer," Mr Cohen says he is uniquely equipped to unleash on President, whom he describes as "a cheat, a liar, a fraud, a bully, a racist, a predator, a con man" and a person interested in using the presidency exclusively for his personal financial bene-Mr Cohen alleges that

his former boss was "guilty of the same crimes" that landed him in a federal prison. Mr Cohen was jailed for

three years in May last year after pleading guilty to making illegal hush money payments to silence two women alleged to have had an affair with Mr Trump, and lying to Congress. He is under house arrest. — Agencies









book,





IN BRIEF

Police arrests 2 for

murdering 25-yr-old New Delhi: Two men took a 25-year-old man to a jungle area in Southeast Delhi allegedly on the pretext of having sex but they stabbed him to death after he refused to give them his mobile phone, the police said. The accused, Sumit (20) and Kartik (24), both residents of Gautampuri. have been arrested in connection with the killing of Sanni Dayal, it said. The incident took place on Saturday night at a deserted jungle area of Ali Vihar in Southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar, the police said, adding that a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons in

furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered. DCP (Southeast) R.P. Meena said, "During investigation, the mobile phone of the deceased was missing and when contacted it was found to be switched off. Call record detail of the mobile number was collected and its last location was traced to Gautampuri in Badarpur."

NCB seizes ₹48cr

worth drugs, 7 held

New Delhi: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday claimed to have busted an international heroin smuggling syndicate with the arrest of seven persons, including foreigners, and seizure of drugs worth about ₹48 crore in Delhi. Among the arrested are an African man and a woman from Myanmar, the federal antinarcotics agency said. The agency unearthed a modus operandi where the mastermind was coordinating the operations from abroad by creating various layers of anonymity, it said. "To circumvent the current situation of controlled international passenger flights, the mastermind and the syndicate involved were exploiting the international courier route," the agency's deputy director (operations) K.P.S. Malhotra said in a statement. The operation began early this month with the seizure of a parcel, originating from South Africa, containing 970gm of heroin from a courier service in the nation-

Govt's anti-dengue

al capital. - PTI

campaign kicks off New Delhi: The Delhi government's 10-week anti-dengue campaign kicksarted on Sundav. with chief minister Arvind Kejriwal checking his house for stagnant water. The campaign seeks to build greater awareness on prevention of vector-borne diseases in Delhi. "Honourable chief minister Arvind Keiriwal kickstarted the anti-dengue campaign by removing the stagnant clean water at his residence. He said that like last year, two crore Delhiites will come together to make this initiative successful and ro defeat dengue," the chief minister's office tweeted. Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, cabinet ministers Rajendra Pal Gautam and Kailash Gahlot shared pictures and videos on Twitter as part of the campaign. Mr Sisodia tweeted in Hindi. "Often we feel that there is not a single place in our house where there is stagnant water but if you take 10 minutes to check properly, you will find stagnant water somewhere. That's why it is important to join the #10Hafte10Baje10Minute campaign — to protect your family from dengue @ArvindKejriwal."

Greater Noida: Woman

jumps off 16th-floor

Noida: A 21-year-old woman preparing for competitive exams died after she allegedly jumped off her 16th-floor apartment in Greater Noida on Sunday, police said. The woman was living alone and no suicide note was found in the highrise apartment located in the Bisrakh police station area, an official said. The police were alerted about the incident at 4 pm, a local official said. "The woman had completed her nursing training and was preparing for competitive exams. She was staying alone in the house. She jumped off the balcony of the 16th-floor flat and died on the spot," the official told PTI. The reason behind her taking the extreme step is not known, the policeman said. The body was taken into custody and sent for post-mortem, the police said, adding that

further probe was underway.

■ FIR against fake news site on NCPCR plaint

Alt News co-founder booked for doxing girl

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

The Delhi police has registered an FIR against AltNews AltNews co-founder Mohammed Zubair for allegedly threatening and torturing a girl child through Twitter.

The FIR was registered against Mr Zubair on a complaint received from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) under provisions of Information Technology Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) at Cyber Cell. Mr Zubair, however, refuted the allegations and said that this is an absolutely frivolous complaint.

'I will be responding to it legally," he said.
The NCPCR, in the com-

plaint, said the commission took cognisance of the complaint received under Section 13(1) and (k) of the CPCR Act, 2005, as in the complaint the picture of a minor girl is

24-year-old

college student

killed in Noida

by carjackers

AGE CORRESPONDENT

A 24-year-old college

student succumbed to

injuries a day after u n i d e n t i f i e d assailants allegedly robbed his car, police

Akshay Kalra was

found with severe injuries on his head

by a police patrolling team in Sector 62 here

on Thursday night.

Before falling uncon-

scious, he had told the

police that he got injured while resist-

ing the assailants,

"He was rushed to a

nearby private hospital and his family was informed. He passed

away during treat-ment on Friday night," additional

deputy commissioner of Police, Noida, Ranvijay Singh said.

teams are working on

the case. We have got

some clues but cannot

share with the press

right now. The details

would be shared at

appropriate time. The

case will be worked

Earlier, DCP, Noida, Rajesh S. said Kalra,

who studied at a city-

based private univer-

sity, had gone out of

his house for a short

drive in his Hyundai Creta on Thursday

night and was perhaps

hit by a "blunt object'

in the head by the car-jackers. "It is, howev-

er. not clear whether

the incident took place

out of some personal

enmity or robbing the

car was the sole objec-

tive behind it," the

DCP had said.

out soon," he said.

police

Muitipie

they said.

said on Sunday.

NOIDA, SEPT. 6

Mohammed Zubair

seen to be circulated and posted by various Twitter handles with indecent and disgraceful remarks and comments, which seems to be a cognisable offence of 'doxing' and requires immediate registration of an FIR.

Notably, 'doxing' involves publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual or organisation on the internet.

"You look into the matter and take prompt action in respect to the Twitter handle and posts harassing, threatening, and stalking the minor girl. Further, you are also requested to ensure the safety of the girl child and

action against the alleged perpetrators," Priyank Kanoongo, the NCPCR chief, in his letter.

Mr Kanoongo said he is seeking action under POCSO and relevant acts against online threats and repeated incidents of stalking of a minor girl on Twitter by Mr Zubair.

"As per the complaint, Mohammed Zubair, bearing the Twitter handle zoo online, is harassing, threatening, and stalking a minor girl," he said. The NCPCR chief has

also written to Twitter India to take action in the matter. On Saturday, the NCPCR chief had tweeted, "According to the ATR received in @NCPCR_, an FIR has been lodged against the alleged persons for threat-ening and torturing a girl child on @Twitter. As per the request made by @TwitterIndia, an additional time of 10 days has been provided to them to provide relevant information."

Noida reports 220 cases, biggest single-day hike

Noida, Sept. 6: Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar recorded one more fatality linked to Covid on Sunday, pushing the district's death toll from the disease to 47, according to official data.

The district also recorded 220 new patients, the biggest single-day spike in cases yet, a day after 213 people tested positive for the novel coronavirus here, it showed.

The overall infection tally has now reached 8,737, while the number of active cases jumped to 1,429, according to the data released by the Uttar Pradesh health department for a 24-hour period.
However, no Covid patient got discharged

during the 24-hour period after a long time, even as a discrepancy emerged in

the government data. The official data shared the press on Saturday had put the total recoveries in Gautam Buddh Nagar so far at 7,341 but the figure dropped to 7,261 on Sunday.No official explanation was available immediately over the reduced recovery num-

Meanwhile, the mortality rate among Covid patients in Gautam Buddh Nagar reached 0.53 per cent with the lat-est death, while the recovery rate, according to Sunday figures, stood at 83.10 per cent.

Gautam Buddh Nagar currently stands 22nd among districts in UP in terms of Covid-linked deaths, sixth in recoveries, seventh in infection tally and 10th in active cases, according to the data.

There were 61,625 active cases across Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. — PTI

After a gap of more than five months, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is all set to welcome passengers in a phased manner in stages beginning from September 7.

The Metro, which had suspended its services in

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

March due to the outbreak of Covid, is looking to reopen with caution putting into place a series of measures such as closed token counters, limited entry and exit points, thermal scanners, and sanitisamong others to enable commuters to adhere to Covid related social distancing protocols.

On Monday, the Yellow Line (Samyapur Badli to HUDA City Centre) will be opened. Over a period of next five days, i.e. by September 12, rest of the lines will also be made operational with all safety measures in place.

a precautionary measure and to avoid human contact, automatic thermal scanners have

The Metro is looking to reopen with caution putting into place a series of measures such as closed token counters, limited entry among others to enable commuters to adhere to Covid related protocols.

been placed at the platforms along with sanitiser dispensing machines for the passengers and the

able to travel by Metro after five months. I request people to follow all the protocols and not to compromise on social distancing norms while standing at the platforms and also inside the train. I would also urge

them to avoid travel if not

required," he said. Also, arrangements have

ures in place

(Samyapur Badli to

HUDA City Centre) will be opened. Over a period of next five

September 12, rest of the lines will also be

with all safety meas-

made operational

days, i.e. by

been made for passengers to sit on alternate seats in the train or stand mainbeen provided at all queu-ing areas like frisking, ticketing, AFC gates, lifts, and escalators.

a hawk-eyed vigil on the travellers flouting norms along with security checking and dog squad patrolling. They have been provided not only with masks but also face shields to protect themselves from falling prey to the deadly virus.

As per the DMRC guidelines, trains will be sanitised at terminal stations. Similarly, once they are back to the depots after the end of the day, the trains will again be thoroughly sanitised. Also, the train doors will be kept open at terminal stations

to let fresh air in. Notably, after the Central government suspended the Metro rail services in the last week of March, commuters were compelled to use other public transport such as private cab services and buses in Delhi. Many of them had to wait for hours as transportation was regulated

plaints from scores of people, the Delhi government later allowed e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, and cycle rickshaws to ply on roads with a single passenger for hassle-free commut-

passengers with social distancing norms, only one or two gates will be kept open for entry or exit of passengers at a station.



A worker sanitises a metro coach as DMRC gears up to resume its services with certain restrictions at Khyberpass

Delhi Metro resumes services

DMRC urges people to use transport only if urgently needed

today, new guidelines issued

ing.
To maintain orderliness and regulate the flow of

Delhi records over 3,000 Covid cases

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Delhi recorded 3,256 fresh coronavirus cases on Sunday, taking the tally to over 1.91 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 4567. authorities said.

Twenty-nine fatalities were recorded in the last

As many as 26,829 rapid antigen tests and 9,217 RTPCR/CBNAAT/TrueN at tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. The number of Containment zones stands at 1,076.

The total number of cases stands at 1,91,499, of which 1,65,973 patients have either been discharged, recovered or migrated. The number of active cases stands at 20,909.

According to official

THE TOTAL number of cases stands at 1,91,499, of which 1,65,973 patients have either been discharged, recovered or migrated. The number of active cases stands at 20,909

data, there has been a rise of 80 per cent in the number of home isolation cases of Covid in the national capital in the last 16 days, and parallely the containment zones count too has spiralled up to 976 over the same period.

Amid steady rise in fresh and active coronavirus cases in the last several days, the number of people in home isolation here on Saturday reached the five-figure mark again after over a month's time. The number of home iso-

lation cases of Covid on September 5 stood at 10.514. The corresponding figure a day before was 9,822, according to the Delhi health department. On August 21, the home isolation cases count was 5,818, so from that date, the rise is of 80 per cent in

16 days. Parallely, the number of containment zones too have multiplied from 589 on August 21 to 976 on September 5, according to official figures.

The Delhi government had been laying a lot of emphasis on home isolation, especially for asymptomatic patients as part of its Covid management strategy in the past several months.

Medical experts have flagged that asymptomatic patients who may not have

Nizamuddin

been tested, and roaming around in the open, could be one of the factors leading to rise in fresh cases in last one week or so.

Delhi recorded 2,973 fresh Covid cases on Saturday, the highest single-day spike in 71 days, as the tally in the city mounted to over 1.88 lakh, even as chief minister Arvind Kejriwal asserted that the situation in the city was completely under control.

This was the fifth successive day in September when over 2,000 new cases have been reported in a day. Also, over 38,000 tests were conducted on Saturday. Twenty-five fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 4,538, according to the bulletin issued by the Delhi health department on Saturday.

Law varsities to hold **CLAT-2020 on Sept. 28**

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 9

The governing body of consortium National Universities met yesterday, under the chairmanship of its president V. Vijayakumar, hon'ble vice-chancellor of NLIU, Bhopal and took some important decisions not only to clarify the position to thousands of CLAT-2020 aspirants but also to ensure smooth functioning of the Consortium. All the Vice-Chancellors of the Member NLUs were present but the Vice-Chancellor NLSIU had left the meeting in the

The Consortium of National Universities unanimous ly reiterated its decision to hold the CLAT on 28th September, 2020 as announced earlier. Except NLSIU, Bangalore, earlier. no other Law University is going to hold its test independently as was erroneously reported in the social media. The interview of Professor Sudhir Krishnaswami, vice-chancellor, NLSIU Bangalore, to Bar and Bench was purely his personal opinion. No other member University is neither feeling hard pressed in the Consortium nor has any plans of conducting its own independent

admission test for 2020.



People at Hazarat Nizamuddin Dargah, which was closed over five months ago after the outbreak of the coronavirus, opened for devotees in New Delhi on Sunday.

Dargah reopens for devotees AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5

The famous Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah, which was closed over five months ago after the outbreak of the coronavirus, opened for devotees on Sunday, with a "moderate" number of people visting the shrine to pay obeisance to the Sufi saint.

Union minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was among the people who paid obeisance to saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia on the first of the reopening of the shrine, caretakers of the dargah

The minister appreciated measures taken by the shrine to protect devotee from the corondisease, they

shot dead law student in Shiv Vihar AGE CORRESPONDENT THE VICTIM was pursuing LLB from a private

NEW DELHI, SEPT 6

The Delhi police crime branch team probing the February riots said Sunday that a man, who carried a reward of ₹1 lakh on his arrest for allegedly killing a 26-yearold law student near a school in Northeast Delhi, has been arrested.

Mustaqeem, 25, alias Sameer Saifi, a resident old Mustafabad, who allegedly shot dead Rahul Solanki near Rajdhani Public School in Shiv Vihar on February 24, was arrested by a special investigation team on September 3, police said. He has been sent to judicial custody, they said.

Mustageem joined the protest against CAA and NRC near Farukia Masjid, they added.

Solanki was pursuing LLB from a private colcollege in Ghaziabad and had stepped out of his home to to buy milk when he was killed

Delhi riots: Police arrests man who

lege in Ghaziabad and had stepped out of his home to to buy milk when he was killed.

The SIT has arrested seven other accused — Arif, Anis, Sirajuddin, Salman, Sonu, Saifi and Irshad — in the Solanki case and they have been chargesheeted for actively participating in the riots with a common objective to cause death, burn properties on February 24,

Solanki was shot dead near Rajdhani Public School and a case was registered at Dayalpur police station. Later, the investigation was handed over to

During investigation,

police said.

eyewitnesses described the person who opened fire on Solanki. They identified the accused from his clothes and appearance after they were shown a video of the incident, a senior police officer said.

"We had deployed our sources in Mustafabad to identify the alleged shooter on the basis of his description. Our team questioned hundreds from the area and verified their presence at the spot through physical and technical means. But we did not find any information. After six months, on September 3, one of our sources informed us and he was apprehended from Bhajanpura Majar," the

officer said. Mustageem denied his involvement Initially but accepted after detailed questioning, he said.

SHORT TAKES

Two arrested for

killing doc in Assam

Jorhat: Two persons were arrested for allegedly murdering a doctor in Assam's Jorhat district, police said on Sunday. Rahul Basumatary (26), an intern doctor at the JK Saikia Memorial Homeopathic Medical College, was found dead in his rented accommodation in Chandan Nagar in the Lichubari outpost area of Jorhat town on Saturday morning, they said. "The incident came to light after the landlord found Basumatary's bike missing from the compound. He went upstairs to inquire about it but instead found his body lying on the floor in a pool of blood," a police officer said. After a preliminary investigation, it was found that Basumatary was murdered on Friday night with a kitchen knife and his throat was slit. The knife has been recovered from the spot, police said. "We have arrested two persons, including the main culprit who killed the doctor and stole his bike and mobile. They are being interrogated now," the officer said. — PTI

WB: Crab catcher

killed by tiger Kolkata: A crab catcher was killed by a tiger in West Bengal's Sundarbans on Sunday, the second such A senior forest official said Gopal Baidya (57) was fishing in a creek along the mangrove forest, when the tiger pounced on him, grabbed him by the neck and dragged him deep into the forest. "Baidya became motionless right before the eyes of his companions -- all of them residents of Satjelia village in South 24 Parganas district," the official said, adding that his body could not be recovered. Two days ago, Maniruddin Gazi (32), a resident of Hemnagar from North 24 Parganas, district,

was killed in a similar tiger attack in the Sundarbans. Gazi's half-eaten body was recovered from the forest only a day later. "We have been trying to convince the villagers not to go fishing near earmarked tiger habitats. We will also have to verify if the deceased, in both the cases, had proper permits," the official added.

21-yr-old student

kills self over PUBG Kalyani: A 21-year-old student allegedly took his life in West Bengal's Nadia district for not being able to play PUBG, police said on Sunday. Pritam Halder, an ITI student, was found hanging in his house in Purba Lalpur in Chakdaha police station area, they said. After having breakfast on Friday morning, Pritam went to his room, his mother Ratna said. "When I went to call him for lunch, his room was locked from inside. After repeated bangings when he did not open the door, I called the neighbours. They broke into the room and found him hanging from the ceiling fan," she said. Police said they have registered a case of unnatural death. Ratna claimed that his son was apparently frustrated for not being able to play PUBG. "He would play it at night. I think he died by suicide as he was not being able to play PUBG," she said.

Bharati, hailed as Constitution's saviour, dies at 79

Pritam's father Biswajit

maker. They also have a

daughter. - PTI

Halder is a retired Armyman

and the mother is a home-

■ Continued from Page 1

Court challenging it. The apex court ruled that the 29th Amendment is valid and held that the two Kerala land Acts that were included in the Ninth Schedule are entitled to the protection of Article 31B of the (validation of certain acts and regulations) Constitution.

The verdict had held that though Parliament has power to amend under Article 368 of the Constitution, it did not have the power to emasculate its basic features.

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the top

The hearing in the case commenced on October 31, 1972, and concluded on March 23 1973 and its the most referred Constitutional law.



Aspirants exit an examination centre as they take a break during the National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance

Former MLA 'beaten to death' over land dispute

Lakhimpur Kheri, Sept. 6: A 75-year-old former MLA died here on Sunday after he fell on the ground during an altercation with a group of people over a land dispute, police said, even as the victim's son alleged that he was beaten to

According to police, Nirvendra Mishra, who was a legislator thrice, had a dispute with Radheyshyam Gupta and Sameer Gupta over a peice of land under the Sampoornanagar police station area.

Radheyshyam Gupta alongwith his aides had gone to dig the land, and as soon as Mishra came to know about it, he hurried to the spot with his supporters and an altercation ensued, a police official said. "During the altercation, Mishra fell on the ground. He was first rushed to the Palia health centre and then to a clinic, where he was declared brought dead," Superintendent of Police (SP) Satendra

Kumar Singh said. However, the former MLA's son Sanjiv alleged that dozens of people had beaten up his father with sticks which led to his death. Sanjiv also alleged that he too was injured in the attack

Later, Additional SP Arun Kumar Singh said, 'On a complaint of Nirvendra Kumar Mishra's son, an FIR is being registered against the accused."

Plea in SC for investigation by CBI in 'franchise racket'

seeking investigation by multiple agencies in an alleged "franchise racket" has been filed in the

The petition filed by 38 individuals has alleged they have been cheated and duped by 'Westland Trade Private Limited' which floated bogus com-Supermarket, Hyper Mart

etc. It has sought an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation Enforcement Directorate (ED) & SFIO (Serious Fraud Investigation Office) or by a Special Investigation Team to investigate vari-

money laundering and black money hoarding by directors & beneficiaries of the company.
The plea alleged that the

company collected franchise fees of Rs three lakh and assured certain payouts and attracted 500 investors. However, the company

defaulted in the payment during the lockdown and sent an email in May saying it was enforcing Force Majure (unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling a contract) clause listed in the agreement, according to the plea.

The injury is large because under a well planned conspiracy, direc-

the petitioners by fraudulently and dishonestly inducing them to deliver their hard earned money," the plea alleged.

A man was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Noida in August in connection with 'franchise fraud' in which scores of people have been allegedly duped to the tune of around Rs 30 crore. According to police, a group of people in the National Capital Region (NCR) had floated a company, Hypermart, registered in Sector 63 of Noida, and five-six more such firms to target peo-ple with offer of giving them a franchise store of the firm in their city.

Opp. parties plan joint offensive against govt

■ Monsoon Session to commence Sept. 14

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Opposition parties are planning a joint offensive against the government to corner it in Parliament on issues of national security like the border situation with China, handling of the COVID pandemic, economy and GST compensation sources said.

Leaders of various Opposition parties are expected to meet later this week to formulate a joint floor strategy in both the houses of Parliament,

they said.

The Monsoon session of Parliament will commence on September 14 amid COVID-induced changes in its proceed-

ings. Congress Congress President Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's strategy group on September 8, the sources

Opposition leaders are

WITH TENSIONS escalating in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control with China, the Opposition will demand answers from the government on the issue

minded parties should

work closely with each other to take on the government in Parliament. This was expressed by Trinamul Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray and JMM's Hemant Soren at a recent meeting of non-NDA chief ministers with Congress president Sonia Gandhi on JEE/NEET and GST

issues. The Congress strategy group has already met once and discussed the issues to be raised during

the session. Senior Congress leaders have also been asked to to put up a united fight against the government both inside and outside

Parliament. TMC leader Derek O'Brien had earlier said that like-minded opposition parties will work together in Parliament and find common ground on public issues.

There will be a lot of teamwork among such parties in Parliament, he had said. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said

on Sunday that consultations are underway for a joint Opposition strategy. CPI leader D Raja also

said that meetings of opposition leaders will be soon held in this regard. With tensions escalating in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control

with China, the Opposition will demand answers from the government on the issue.

MP files divorce plea against actress

AKSHAYA KUMAR BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 6

The controversy sur-rounding BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty Anubnav allegedly harassing his actress wife Varsha Priyadarshini took a new twist on Sunday after the lawmaker's legal counsel informed the media that his client has filed a divorce petition in the court of Principal Judge, Family Court, Patiala House, New Delhi, seeking a divorce.

'My client has filed a divorce petition under

Marriage Act, 1955 on the ground that the marriage between the two has never been consummated and as such no child was born. Though the couple got married on February 8, 2014, Varsha stayed with husband for months. The married life was full of cruelty, tyran-ny, misery, harassment suffering Anubhav and his family members,' Ashwini Dubey, the legal counsel of the lawmaker, told a local television channel here

over phone from Delhi.

Section 13 (i)(a) of Hindu copy of which is with this newspaper, the respon-Priydarshini) fears about the pain while thinking about having sexual intercourse as such she never allowed the petitioner (Anubhav) to consummate their marriage. Whenever the petitioner tried to have physical touch or make relation with the respondent, she never allowed for the same. This kind of behavior of the respondent, made the petitioner uncomfortable, unhappy. made The petitioner never felt

that he is married, it said.

Int flights from

airport in next

2 months: Yogi

International flight operations from the

Kushinagar airport will

commence in the next

months, Uttar Pradesh

Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath said Sunday,

according to a state gov-

The Union Cabinet had on June 24 approved the Kushinagar airport's status as an internation

al facility, stating it will

offer improved connectivity to the important

ernment statement.

Kushinagar

Lucknow,

■ Had a very fruitful meeting with Iranian defence minister: Rajnath India, Iran ministers discuss regional security

minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said he had a "very fruitful" meeting with his Iranian counter-part Brigadier General Amir Hatami and discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including the situation in Afghanistan.

reached Singn Tehran from Moscow on Saturday on a transit halt after concluding his threeday visit to Russia where he attended a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) Organisation defence ministers. He also

Tehran, Sept. 6: Defence held bilateral talks with his counterparts from Russia, China and the Central Asian countries.

"Had a very fruitful neeting with Iranian meeting with defence minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran. We discussed regional security issues including Afghanistan and the issues of bilateral cooperation," Singh said in a tweet

Ministers discussed ways to take forward bilateral cooperation views on exchanged regional security issues, including peace and stabil-



Defence minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting in

Afghanistan," Singh's office said in a separate tweet on the meeting held at the request of the

Iranian defence minister. The meeting between the two ministers took place in a "cordial and warm

atmosphere," it said, adding that the leaders emphasised upon the ageold cultural, linguistic and civilisational ties between India and Iran. Iranian defence minister Hatami and his Indian counterpart Singh held talks in Tehran on international, regional and bilateral issues, Iran's official Irna news agency reported on anday. Visit of Mr Singh is the first travel of a top Indian official to Iran since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in December 2019, it noted. Iran and India enjoy tra-

ditional friendly ties.

Buddhist pilgrimage Adityanath on Sunday met civil aviation minis-ter Hardeep Singh Puri at Kushinagar and discussed the progress in the project. Within the next two months, International flights will commence operations from this airport, Yogi was quoted as saying in the government statement. Once this airport begins operating inter-national flights, it will become fourth international facility in the

At present, two international airports — Chaudhary Charan International Airport at Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi — are operational in the state, the

UP government said. An international airport is also under construction at Gautam Buddh Nagar near the national capital. -PTI

Raj: Ajmer Dargah, many temples to reopen today

major religious places in Rajasthan, including the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, will reopen on Monday as per the 'Unlock-4' guide-lines issued by the Centre in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state government has allowed religious places to reopen from September 7 and has asked them to adhere to social distancing and other Covid-19 guidelines under 'Unlock-4'.

Religious places were closed after the Centre imposed a nationwide lockdown in March to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. The 'Unlock' process began on of many religious places

▶ THE STATE govern-ment has allowed religious places to reopen from September 7

June 8 and so far, the central government has implemented four phases. The Tripura Sundari

temple in Banswara, the Dargah of Sufi saint Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer, the Siddh Hanuman Mandir in Bharatpur, the Kaila Devi and Madan Mohan temples in Korpulis and the ples in Karauli and the Galiyakot Dargah are among the major religious places in the state that will reopen on Monday. However, managements

to reopen amid the pandemic. The Govind Dev and Moti Dungri Ganesh temples in Jaipur, the Nathdwara temple in Rajsamand, the Khatu Shyam temple in Sikar, the Karni Mata temple in Bikaner, the Salasar Balaji temple in Churu are among those which will remain closed.

Jaipur Collector Antar Singh Nehra told PTI that barring a few, most religious places in the state capital will not be opening tomorrow.

The authorities of religious places have expressed inability to reopen in view of the pan-



A man carries an injured boy during a rescue operation after a wall collapsed in

Young IPS running Covid care centre in Assam

young IPS officer is winning hearts in Assam by treating people during the coronavirus pandemic while donning the khaki uniform, thanks to his

medical background. Barpeta Superintendent f Police (SP) Robin Kumar is performing the dual duties of a corona warrior — a police officer and a doctor — as the district is witnessing a spike

in Covid-19 cases Kumar, a 2013 batch IPS officer, is a specialist in medicine (MBBS, MD) which has helped him respond to the call of duty

the needy during the ongoing medical emergency.

Besides heading the district's police department. Kumar is currently running a 50-bedded Covid care centre with four ICUs in Barpeta Police Reserve for police personnel and their families and is also planning to hold health camps for women and eld-

erly people.
"I find myself fortune to dedicate myself in both the roles of district police chief and a doctor. It gives me immense satisfaction," Kumar told PTI over



Barpeta SP Robin Kumar conducts a health checkup in Assam's Barpeta dis-

The SP has also held a health camp for those police personnel who are 50 years or above in

After joining Assam Police, Kumar, a native of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, first organised a health check-up camp at Tezpur during his previous posting in Sonitpur district a few years ago. "When the pandemic struck, I took permission of Assam DGP Bhaskar

Jyoti Mahanta to open a Covid care centre for the police personnel in Barpeta. Now, we are run-ning the centre smoothly," he said. The Covid care centre has four ICUs, 32 general beds and 14 after care beds. Kumar's service

earned laurels from differ-

ter Sarbananda Sonowal described the SP's act as "great gesture of service to humanity". "An Assam Police warrior in the truest sense. Great gesture of service to humanity by Barpeta SP Dr Robin Kumar, utilising his skills to help doctors and healthcare workers in the fight COVID-19, Sonowal said. The IPS Association, a body which represents the Indian Police Service officers across the country, said Kumar has set an example by leading from the front.

MP temple to raise cows for 'pure milk' RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY

BHOPAL, SEPT. 6

The ancient shrine of Mahakaleswar in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh is planning to raise cows to meet its demand of milk in the wake of the recent directive by the Supreme Court to offer only pure milk to the Jyotirlinga in the temple. The temple administration is working out a plan to procure Gir cow breeds to raise them in the shrine to make their milk available to the devotees to offer to the Jyotirlinga, being worshipped in the sanctum sanctorum of the 18th century shrine.

"The temple administration is mulling to procure Gir cow breed, a famous milk cattle in India, to raise them in the 'Gaushala' of the temple to meet the demand of milk of shrine", Mahakaleswar temple administrator S.S. Rawat milk said.

Around 1,000 litres of milk is being offered to the Jyotirlinga every day.

SHORT TAKES

Minor dies inside car

due to suffocation

Ahmedabad: A six-year-old boy suffocated to death after accidentally getting trapped inside a car parked by the roadside for a few hours in Ahmedabad on Sunday, police said. The boy's mother, a domestic helper, was taking him along to her place of work around 10 am, when he entered the car parked on Airport Road without her knowledge, police said. The minor, identified as Ajay Saraniya, entered the vehicle out of fun, but accidentally got himself locked inside, an official of the Airport police station said. His body was found inside the car around 1 pm. Prima facie, he appeared to have died of suffocation as he remained locked inside the car for a few hours. Meanwhile, some local residents alerted the police around 1 pm after finding the boy inside the car. The police reached the spot and recovered the body. The body was sent for postmortem, and a case was registered, police said, - PTI

Woman kills self,

ex-beau booked

Nagpur: A 21-year-old man has been booked for allegedly driving his former girlfriend to commit suicide here, police said on Sunday. The woman died in hospital on September 3, a day after she allegedly drank poison at her residence, an official said. The accused, Suraj Gupta, has been upset since the woman ended her relationship with him, and started harassing her, he said. Gupta had allegedly also threatened to harm family members of the deceased earlier, the official said. A case has been registered under section 306 (Abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Fake aide of mantri

held for cheating

Kurukshetra: Police have arrested a man who allegedly posed as an aide of Haryana sports minister Sandeep Singh to cheat people by promising them jobs. Mandeep Saini was arrested by Kurukshetra police on Saturday, police said. On Sunday, a court here remanded the accused to one-day police custody. Police said Saini, a resident of village Tangoli in Kurukshetra district, allegedly defrauded people by promising jobs to them and their family members. Maya Ram, a resident of village Surmi in Pehowa block lodged a police complaint alleging Saini had duped him and seven others of ₹78.560 on the pretext of providing jobs to their kin. The minister, at a press conference Saturday, said he got a complaint about the man posing as his aide. — PTI

Charred body of

Thai woman found

Surat: The charred body of a Thai woman was found in a flat in Magdalla area of Surat in Gujarat, police said on Sunday. Neighbours of the woman, identified as Mimmi, found flames emanating from her second floor rented flat in the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, an official said. "The door of the flat was locked for inside. Her body has been sent for post mortem to ascertain whether it was murder or suicide," assistant commissioner of police A.K. Varma said. Neighbours said a woman had visited the deceased at around 8:30pm on Saturday. Varma said more information was being collected about the victim from Thailand and CCTV footage of the street, which is part of a containment zone, was being checked.

BSF chief inspects international border in J&K



Director general of Border Security Force (BSF) Rakesh Asthana during his visit to the International Border area at Samba sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Better vigil on China border soon: MHA

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, SEPT. 6

Amid escalating border tension with China, the Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the border management along the International Border with China by launching schemes aimed at improving the standard of living of people in those area where they can become the important stakeholders in border management.

Disclosing that the secretary of the border management wing of the min-

BHUBANESWAR

Minor raped

by mother's

colleagues,

policeman

Bhubaneswar, Sept. 6: A 13-year-old was raped at

her residence here by

her mother's collegaues

and a policeman among

others during the March-April lockdown

and the police has launched a manhunt to

"At least seven persons

were involved in the

heinous act and the

mother's collegues are

Bhubaneswar deputy

commissioner of police

U.S. Dash said on

The complaint on the

sordid incident was filed

by the girl's mother, who

is an employee of a lead-

ing private TV channel

here, at the Info-city

police station here, he

said, adding the case was shifted to Mahila police

Two of girl's tormen-

tors were colleagues of her mother. They were emboldened by the

woman's engagement in

the office for long hours

due to the lockdown, the

While the girl stays with her mother in a

rented house at the Info-

city, her father and other

members of the family

stay at their native place

at Kendrapara, over 85 km from here, it said.

The two employees of

the TV channel came to

complaint said.

station on August 30.

absconding,

trace them.

Sunday.

Sanjeeva Kumar visited Ladakh to monitor the implementation of the border area development scheme along the border with China, authoritative security sources in the ministry of home affairs told this newspaper that the ministry has asked respective state governments and union territories to prepare the schemes in consultation with the border guarding forces and submit it to the of the home ministry.

out that border management wing

improving road connectiv-

security sources said ity is the key component of the scheme, security sources said that the ministry has already started massive exercise to improve the connectivity along the international border with

INFRASTRUCTURE

DEVELOPMENT from

zero to 10 kilometres

from the international border is given priority under the border areas development scheme,

Stressing the need for augmenting connectivity along the China border

under the present circumstances security sources said that several road projects are at various stages implementation. Creation of border outposts is another key component of the scheme. Infrastructure develop-

ment from zero to 10 kilometres from the international border is given priority under the border development scheme, security sources said adding that adequate funds are being pumped in for speedy implementathe schemes submitted by the state gov-

■ Another woman also run over by the vehicle

Kolkata woman molested, pushed off speeding car

Kolkata, Sept. 6: A 31-yearold woman was allegedly molested and then pushed off a speeding car, which then ran over another woman who along with her husband tried to stop the vehicle on hearing screams, police said on

The incident happened in the Anandapur area in the eastern part of Kolkata on Saturday night, they said. The woman went out for a ride with a friend who allegedly molested her in the speeding sedan, an officer

The friend molested her after she insisted on going home, and kept on driving the vehicle aimlessly, he said. She started screaming and a couple on hearing that tried to stop the

vehicle, he added. The couple was leaving a housing complex in the area when they heard the ▶ THE INCIDENT happened in the Anandapur area in the eastern part of Kolkata on Saturday night. The woman went out for a ride with a friend who allegedly molested her in the speeding sedan, a police official said.

screams. As they tried to stop the car, the woman was pushed off the speeding vehicle, the officer car then hit The

Nilanjana Chatterjee who along with her husband tried to stop it, police said. husband told reporters that Chatterjee came on the way of the vehicle while trying to stop it, the person behind the wheel

stepped on the gas and ran "We initially did not get any help from the police when I dialled the emer-

Ambulances were also not willing to come due to the COVID situation. However, on the second attempt, the Anandapur police station arranged an ambulance, which was brought to the spot by a sergeant," alleged

He said that though he wanted to file a separate with charges attempt to murder, he was told by police that it would be included in the case lodged in connection with the molestation.

Police said that a case has been filed incorporating all the charges. Chatteriee has been admitted to a nearby private hospital with fractures in her legs, they

The woman who was allegedly molested was rescued and sent to her home, police said. -PTI

Actress grilled for 6 hours by NCB

'It's witch-hunt, Rhea ready to be arrested'

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 6

Bollywood blasts media for chaos at NCB office The Narcotics Control

Mumbai, Sept. 6: Several

Bollywood personalities,

including actors Taapsee Pannu, Swara Bhasker,

and filmmaker Anubhav

Sinha, criticised media's

mobbing of actor Rhea

Chakraborty, flouting all

standard protocols amid

Covid-19 pandemic, as she reached Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) office on

Bureau (NCB) on Sunday grilled actor Rhea Chakraborty from noon to evening in connection with the drugs case pertaining to Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide. The central agency summoned her early in the day adhering to which she appeared at the agency's office in Ballard Estate, South Mumbai.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the suicide to ascertain the motive the behind actor's extreme step, meanwhile grilled the late actor's sister Neetu at the DRDO guesthouse on Sunday, where the visiting team

has set up their base. The NCB officials grilled Rhea on the lines of the disclosures made by her brother Showik, Rajput's former house manager Samuel Miranda and arrested drug peddler Abdul Basit Parihar. the probe has revealed that Parihar supplied drugs and Showik pray karma finds the address of each and every human being part of this lowest low of mankind we are witness to," the actor wrote.

This was the "lowest" the country had stooped

to, said Bhasker. "India... witness our lowest! Shameful witch hunt! Disgusting," she

"In the name of justice Mirza said the behavthese people have lynched iour by the media present a human being off her right to live even before proven guilty. I sincerely

facilitated its procurement, the latter has claimed to have done that at the behest of his sister Rhea, a claim made by househelp Dipesh Sawant

too in his statement. "Rhea kept denying the charges despite being put up with relevant material supporting it. She may be confronted with other arrested accused as a part of the investigation," said on ground was "reprehen-

an officer privy to the investigation.

"Rhea Chakraborty is ready for arrest... it's a witch-hunt. If loving someone is a crime, she'll face consequences. Being innocent, she hasn't approached any court for anticipatory bail in all cases foisted by Bihar Police with, ED and NCB," Satish Maneshinde, her lawyer, said.

'You are not Maharashtra'

Kangana hits back at Sena leader Raut for abusive language

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing war of words between actress Kangana Ranaut and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut heated up on Sunday after the actor hit back at the Shiv Sena leader saying he doesn't represent the entire Maharashtra.

In an editorial in Sena Mr Raut hit back and asked Ranaut not to return to Mumbai for criticising Mumbai Police. "Sanjay Raut ji, if I criticise Mumbai Police or if I criticise you, then you can't say I am insulting Maharashtra. You aren't Maharashtra," Ranaut said in a video

She further added, "Mr Sanjay Raut, you called 'haramkhor ladki'. You know how many girls are raped every day in the country, how many of them are tortured and killed — sometimes by their own husbands. And you know who is responsible for all this? It is this mindset which you very shamelessly displayed in front of the entire country. The daughters of this country will never forgive



Kangna Ranaut

Asked if he would apologise for his remark against Ranaut while reacting to her tweet on a news channel, Mr Raut said that "anybody who lives and works here and speaks ill of Mumbai, Maharashtra and Marathi people, I would say (to them to) apologise first, then I will consider apologising"

"If that girl apologises Mumbai Maharashtra for calling Mumbai ʻmini Pakistan', then I will think about it. Does she have the courage to say same Ahmedabad?" he asked.

The actress had recently compared Mumbai to PoK in a tweet, evoking ire of leaders of the ruling

MONSOON SESSION

Antigen test compulsory for mantris in **Maharashtra**

BHAGWAN PARAB

With the Covid-19 cases rising at an alarming rate in the state, the Maharashtra government is facing a tough challenge to hold a twoday monsoon of the State Legislature that goes underway on Monday The state government has taken elaborate measures including mandatory coronavirus tests to ensure the smooth passage of the shortest-ever monsoon session.

Just a couple of days before the beginning of the session, Nana Patole, the chairman of the vidhan Sabha, had test ed positive. The session proceedings will now be chaired by deputy chairman Narhari Zhirwal.

Congress' Sunil Kedar, the minister for animal husbandry, dairy development and youth welfare & sports, was also tested positive a few days ago taking the total number of ministers affected by the coronavirus to seven. In addition to this, nearly 35 MLAs in the state have been tested

Over 90K cases in 24 hrs, India No. 2 in world

VINEETA PANDEY NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

India on Sunday surpassed Brazil's coronavirus tally of 41.23 lakh to be number two in the world with 41.31 lakh cases so far. Despite fewer testing on Sunday, several cases were recorded taking India just behind the United States of America that has 64.32 lakh Covid-

the house when the As per Union health minwoman was in office and raped her daughter. istry data, India had in the They also threatened to last 24 hours recorded its kill her if she divulged biggest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases with 90,633 the incident to anyone, the complaint said. fresh cases. Among the latest to test positive were

politician Haryana Deepender Hooda. In Tamil Nadu, senior PMK leader Velusamy died of coronavirus.

"India now contributes about 30 per cent of daily cases reported across the world," said health economist Rijo M. John. According to economist

Prof Shamika Ravi, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been two of the largest Covid-19 hotspot states in India since begin-"Tamil Nadu is showing stability at 6,000 cases daily, while Maharashtra is still on exponential growth —

actor Arjun Kapoor and reporting higher daily cases — now at 17,500 daily," she said.

As many as 1,065 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total fatalities in the country to 70,626. The current case fatality rate in India is 1.72 per cent.

India's recovery rate, at the same time, too has picked up and for the second successive day, India clocked a record recovery of more than 70,000 patients in a single day. The total numbers of recoveries have reached nearly 32 lakh, taking the country's recovery rate to 77.32 per cent. "This has

ensured that the active caseload accounts for merely 20.96 per cent of the total positive cases so far," health ministry officials said.

Meanwhile, the ministry health has decided to deploy central teams in Punjab and union territory of Chandigarh to assist them in strengthening public health measures for containment, surveillance, testing and efficient clinical management of Covid patients with the aim to reduce mortality and save lives. Punjab has reported 60,013 cases, whereas it has 15,731 active cases, on date.

Over 38K Punjab cops tested Covid +ve so far

have tested positive for Covid-19 since the pandemic began, an official statement said on Sunday. It said senior police officials are calling up Covid-19 infected personnel to motivate them to fight the disease. The Punjab Police is also providing free health kits with a pulse oximeter, sanitisers and medicines to the infected policemen, it

According to the statement, 3,803 policemen in the state have tested posi-

Chandigarh, Sept. 6: Over tive for the disease so far. Twenty of them have died, while 2,186 cops 3,800 Punjab policemen have fully recovered. At present, 1,597 policemen are Covid-19 positive, it

> Covid positive "All police personnel are being provided health kits which include a digital thermometer, pulse oximeter, sanitisers, medicines, icines, vitamins etc. These kits cost ₹1,700 including taxes but are being provided free of cost to the positive police officials," the statement said.

Social media abuzz with anti-Hindi protests

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR CHENNAI, SEPT. 6

"I don't know Hindi, get lost." This crypt message evolved into a Tamil hashtag and trended on Twitter the whole of Sunday, besides setting Facebook and Instagram afire, after a photograph of two film personalities in T-shirts was uploaded in a tweet with the words "Deep in discussion, good things coming

Music director Yuvan

Sankar Raja's white tee had the words "I am a Tamil speaking Indian" emblazoned in English and Tamil while the red shirt of Tamil film actor, Shirish, had the words "Hindi theriyadu poda!!!" (I don't know Hindi, get lost). Shirish, who tweeted the picture, was the hero of the Tamil film Metro and Yuvan, who retweeted it, is also the music legend

'Interesting," said one of the early responses from

DMKKanimozhi Karunanidhi, evoking comments attacking the DMK and supporting the learning of Hindi. One user uploaded an old video of DMK president M.K. Stalin reading out a Hindi speech and another video showed AIADMK late leader J. Jayalalithaa addressing a meeting in Hindi.

Even the comments on Yuvan's page were mixed, some supporting the idea of opposing Hindi and others bit scurrilous on the

music director. But within hours, the Tamil hashtag meaning 'I don't know Hindi, get lost' started trending with tweeple across the world posting comments, replies, memes, videos and cartoons.

Though it was the Tamil speaking people who pushed the hashtag to the top of the trending list, along with other hashtags like #StopHindiImposition and #TamilSpeakingIndia, were others who joined in. 'I am from Bihar.

My mother tongue is Magali, not Hindi! & I am against imposition @Kaushik_Raz.

Breaking into the thread of messages was one @battarfli, who wanted Tamil friends to help postpone the NEET exams. But as the day progressed more photographs of Tamil actors and actress T-shirts bearing words like 'I am Indian, I don't speak Hindi' and others were uploaded, promoting the hashtag.



Youngsters collect water lilies from a pond in Nadia district of West Bengal on



THE ASIAN AGE

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

No more slogans please, we need hard measures

he war on coronavirus, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to win for us in 21 days, gets more hopeless by the day with the daily increase in caseload crossing 90,000, a figure higher than all other nations. India added the last million to the number of infected people in 13 days, a record of sorts in pandemic history the

world over. With 41 lakh infections, India is set to become the nation with the second largest number of Covid-19 patients, overtaking Brazil soon.

The nature of the pandemic has also been shifting. Those states which fared better in early stages are now becoming increasingly vulnerable. The southern states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka see no let-up in new cases; even Kerala has started reporting cases upwards of 2,500 every day. Delhi is reported to be witnessing a relapse with the numbers increasing. Telangana's finance minister is the latest high profile person to contract the virus.

When lockdown was declared, India had less than 500 cases but the number rose to 5.6 lakh when it ended on June 30. The economic cost is going to be humongous if the nation cannot arrest the spread of the pandemic.

The saving grace till now has been the case fatality rate which has been quite low but experts fear that the situation could change as the pandemic moves towards the villages from cities and towns where the health infrastructure is in better shape. It is in this context that the criticism of Congress leader and former finance minister P. Chidambaram must be looked at. He has pointed out that India is the only country that has not benefited from the lockdown. When lock-down was declared, India had less than 500 cases but the number rose to 5.6 lakh when it ended on June 30.

The economic cost the nation is made to pay is going to be humongous if it cannot arrest the spread of the pandemic. The nation's GDP experienced a historic contraction by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter. It will be cold comfort to think that the period was spent mostly in lockdown. This quarter, which started with half-a-million infections, will see the number multiplied several times when it ends.

It is time the government explained to the people what its game plan was when it declared the lockdown and set a deadline to win the war, and how it all went awry. The lockdown had not only shut down the economy completely, it had also put people to untold miseries. Millions of guest workers were made to trek their way back home in villages from the towns and cities and several of them fell and died by the wayside. There was little help coming from the government; even the courts refused to see the

unfolding human catastrophe in the earlier days. It will be suicidal for the nation to return to lockdown; instead, it must launch a massive awareness campaign on the pandemic and educate the people on the need of social distancing. It must also ramp up the healthcare infrastructure in the interiors. Instead of advising the resourcestarved states to borrow, the government must loose its pursestrings instead. The time for hollow slogans and meaningless gestures has passed

Kesavananda's lessons

t a time when socialism has emerged as a saviour to the suffering in a coronavirus-hit world, the Supreme Court's landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment holds a few lessons. It was this judgment that led to the formulation of the basic structure doctrine for the Constitution, one that has been cited over and over again to settle multitudes of lawsuits having far reaching impact on our society and governance.

Led by then chief justice of India S.M. Sikri, the 13-judge constitution bench's 7-6 verdict in the apex court's longest trial at 68 days put muchneeded curbs on a government's unbridled majoritarianism, holding the Constitution of India above it, ruling that even the Parliament cannot tamper with the basic structure of the document, in particular Part Three concerning fundamental rights. The seminal verdict included the concept of the welfare state in the ambit of that basic structure.

Today a tribalist, populist government is invoking force majeure to escape accountability after single-handedly decimating the economy. Its stooges have filed a petition in court to remove the words "socialist" and from the

Few are aware that Kesavananda (1973) validated the constitution amendments enacted by the then Indira Gandhi government to uphold the nationalisation of banks and abolition of privy purses. The judgment also defined the extent to which Parliament could limit property rights, in order to redistribute large land holdings to cultivators.

Kesavananda Bharati, pontiff of Kasaragod's Edneer Mutt, who, at 29, contested in court the Kerala government's move, under two state land reform acts, to take partial control of his temple property, is no more. But the eponymous judgment that bears his name is a legacy critical to India's functioning as a parliamentary democracy.

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A controversial judge with a tumultuous legacy



Faizan Mustafa & Pranav Verma

view with apprehension the attitude of remarked Lord Atkin in his sto-Liversidge (1941), "who show themselves more executive-minded than the executive". Justice Arun Mishra has demitted office, and it is worth evaluating the implications of his tenure on the independence of the judiciary. As his critics have argued, his tenure may have contributed even more to the already alleged transformation of the Indian Supreme Court into an executive court — or, as Lord Atkin warned against, a court more executive-minded than the executive itself.

Growing deference to the executive: Constitutional democracies are predicated upon a natural and healthy tension between the executive and the judiciary, with the latter serving as a counter-majoritarian check upon the former. indication in recent years of this basic principle having come under strain was the public adulation by Justice Arun Mishra (appointed as Supreme Court judge on July 7, 2014, after the UPA government had twice blocked his welldeserved elevation) for the Prime Minister, calling him "an internationally acclaimed visionary", and "a versatile genius who thinks globally and acts locally". Justice M.R. Shah who sat on many benches with Justice Mishra too in 2018, immediately after taking over as Chief Justice of Bihar, had called Prime Minister a "model and hero". True, an overwhelming majority of Indians similarly admire Prime Minister but should a judge say so publicly is the moot question. To be fair, Justice Mishra's praises were not unprecedented by any means. It was, in fact, a grim reminder to an earlier time where the Supreme Court bent way over backwards for the

executive. When Mrs Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980, Justice P.N. Bhagwati wrote to her, that .. I am sure that with your iron will and firm determination, insight and uncanny dynamic vision, great administra-tive capacity and vast expe-rience, overwhelming love and affection of the people and, above all, a heart which is identified with the misery of the poor and the weak, you will be able to steer the ship of the nation safely to its cherished Interestingly, the same Justice Bhagwati in

State of Rajasthan (1977) had favoured mass dissolu-tion of nine elected Congress governments by the Janata government by observing that "never in the history of this country has such a clear and

unequivocal verdict been the people, never

massive vote of no- confidence in the ruling party"

It appears that the clock seems to have started to run backwards for the Supreme Court, unlearning the lessons on the need for an independent judiciary acting as a check over the untrammelled powers of the executive. Justice Ranjan Gogoi's nomination to Rajya Sabha and his justification of acting as "bridge between Parliament and judiciary" rather than a watchdog over the legislature and government gave further credence to the allegation of

an executive court. That the judiciary is independent from the executive is equally a matter of perception as it is of fact — i.e. it must not only be independent, but in order to inspire confidence, it must also appear to be so. The government is the biggest litigant — ie in 80 per cent cases — before the courts, and the implications implications of such praises of the chief executive upon an zen's perception of the top court axiomatic. A strained relationship with the Bar: Justice Mishra also leaves

behind a legacy of a liberal and frequent use of contempt threats against the Bar. In fact, long before the contempt case against Mr Prashant Bhushan was instituted, the judge threatened contempt action against senior

advocate Sankaranarayanan while the latter was arguing for Justice Mishra's recusal in the Indore Development Authority Case (2019). Justice Mishra not only threatened contempt in the midst of the oral arguments, but also promised to 'see through" the conviction. On senior lawyers objection, he offered dandavat pranam ie prostration

in abject apology.

The Indore Development Authority Case (2019) also reignited the debate on recusal by judges when Justice Mishra steadfastly denied

multiple JUSTICE A.K. MISHRA (2014-2020)recusal ground of him leading a bench which was to re-

examine his own earlier opinion passed as part of a smaller bench — this raised a significant perception of bias. Lord Esher in Allison (1894) observed that the question is not that the judge, in, fact, was biased. It is the "perception" of bias that has to be the guiding factor. The Indian Supreme Court, too, in Ranjit Thakur (1987) held that judge should look at the party's perception.

The ghost of the judges' press conference: The year 2018 marked a watershed moment for the Indian Supreme Court when four of its senior-most judges took to the media and alleged through an open press conference, that sensitive cases were being allotted to a select few judges. The then future CJI Ranjan Gogoi, during the press conference, indicated that the assignment of Judge Loya's case to Justice Arun Mishra was one of the reasons that

forced the judges to go public. Justice Mishra in Bhushan's sentence order said that it must be the 'first and the last occasion that judges had gone to press' (Para 44).

Justice Mishra was part of 540 benches and deliv-ered as many as 132 judg-ments, which means he really worked very hard. Several matters with significant stakes for the central government came to be heard by benches which were led by Justice Mishra — these include, the Rajasthan disqualified

MLAs case; the dispute

over the control of Delhi government over services; the Karnataka disqualified MLAs case; the CBI director Case; the AGR dues case; Sahara papers; a total of eight cases pertaining to the Adani group. The last being Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd (2020) delivered last Monday benefitting the Adani Group with Rs 5,000 crore. He delivered a controversial judgment in *Haren Pandya* (2019) convicting the accused who were acquitted by the Gujarat high court. Justice Mishra has also held in Davinder Singh (2020) that sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes is permissible. His judgment in Chebrolu Leela Prasad Rao (2020) quashing 100 per cent teachers in ST areas was also seen as diluting the reservation scheme. The final order was eviction of 48,000 slum clusters. In many cases, Justice Mishra overlooked the earlier precedents. But Justice Misĥra's judgment in Vineeta Sharma (2020) upholding coparcenary rights of Hindu daughters

is widely appreciated. Justice Mishra's tenure at the Supreme Court would be located in the context of the court's overtly deferential approach towards the executive, a strained relationship with the Bar, and a continuing lack of clarity in allocation of sensitive cases, all of which seem to have contributed to the tumultuous that he leaves legacy

Faizan Mustafa is a constitutional law expert. **Pranav Verma** is an LLM student at Cambridge University. The views are personal.

LETTERS

NEHRU AND MODI

This refers to "Blame it all on those vile Mughals" (Sep 6).The nation is into debating the roles of each among the pantheon of leaders who helped shape Independent India. The names of Nehru and Gandhi often spark heated debates. But history's palimpsest is constantly overwritten by aspirations of the day. Compared to today's trajectory, the Nehru era was ahead of its times and it enabled sustenance of both democracy and economic progress at fair levels. The first of the famed IITs was established ahead of our first general election and several technological and research institutes would go to form the bulwark of our macroeconomics.

R. Narayanan Navi Mumbai DON'T CUT PAY

A PART OF THE salary of the chief minister, state ministers, MLAs, state service officers and state gov ernment employees will be deducted every month from September. This money will be deposited in the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund. Perhaps, this decision was taken in haste. Government employees are nulling out all stops to de They must, therefore, be given their salaries. The MLA funds, MP funds and all relief funds, including the three at the disposal of the Centre, should be put to use to save the coronavirus-hit.

B. Shafiq Lucknow

ACTION SONGS

NOWADAYS, the number of Catholics going for Sunday and weekday Mass have decreased considerably. Some don't find the time, while others find the homilies boring. In my opinion, action songs should be sung during every Mass so that the atmosphere in the church becomes more lively. This way, more people will attend Mass. The reason why all retreat centres draw huge crowds is because action songs are sung and Mass is celebrated. Also, the Sunday Masses in our churches are only celebrated for 40 minutes. Like retreat centres, they should be celebrated for two full hours. **Jubel D'Cruz**

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to M.N. Alam (Sep. 2). Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

G. Kishan Reddy



NEP presents Telangana with opportunity to course-correct

lot has been deliberated on the transformative potential of the recently issued National Education Policy (NEP). The policy that has stood out for introducing sweeping changes in school and higher education is a boon for Telangana where it will improve learning outcomes, especially for socially and economically vulnerable

It is important to understand the performance of Telangana in education. The performance grading index used by the ministry of education ranks Telangana at 17 out of the 37 states and Union territories in 2018-19. The broad-based metrics included learning outcomes and quality, access, equity, infrastructure and facilities, and governance processes. Telangana was ranked 30th in infrastructure and facilities and 20th in access. It also performed below-par in two other parameters - learning outcomes and quality, and access to education.

The National Achievement Survey, conducted by NCERT, too, revealed that the performance of Telangana students from classes five to eight as

poorer in comparison to students from other southern states. Even the Comptroller and Auditor General in its audit report in 2018 pulled up Telangana, where 14-26 per cent of primary school students and 21-47 per cent of upper primary school students scored less than 40 per cent between 2014 and 2017.

It is thus imperative for Telangana, which is financially well endowed, to implement the NEP.

The NEP understands the critical importance of good quality childhood care and education (ECCE). Experts believe that over 85 per cent of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of six. By bringing ECCE to the centre of education with an explicit focus on building foundational and numerical skills for every child by end of Grade 3, a quantum improvement in learning outcomes is expected. The NEP also aims for a holistic, comprehensive education as it breaks down prevailing insularity by introducing the 5+3+4+4 system of school education.

The NEP further strikes the right chord in terms of equity and access.

Schools are often regarded as the second home in a child's life and this will thus, in turn, build an inclusive and empathetic society. In both domains of school and higher education, the NEP has opted for restructuring of the system in terms of curriculum, pedagogy and recreational opportunities to prevent any form of exclusion or isolation of disadvantaged communities. The NEP aims to provide food and nutrition in terms of breakfast and midday meals in government schools. This will encourage parents of children, who often have to make their child work for their next meal, to send them to school.

Another striking example to improve equity is the attempt to include the mother tongue as the medium of both educational and vocational education. By including regional languages, in this case Telugu, as a medium of instruction, NEP 2020 strives to focus the child's energies on learning concepts rather than a new language. The NEP also acknowledges special mechanisms required to ensure that children belonging to tribal communities receive the benefits of these interventions. The decision to promote tribal languages will contribute to their educational empower ment. Telangana has at least 10 districts with scheduled areas and children belonging to Lambada, Koya, Gond, Yerukala, Chenchu and other communities will stand to benefit.

One of the reasons for poor infra-structure and facilities of schools is lack of funds with states. The NEP stipulates the Centre and states work together to increase public investment in the education sector to six per cent of GDP. The Telangana state government's budget allocations to education for the 2020-21 fiscal saw a reduction from previous allocations. This is of major concern given that data recordby the 2011 census shows Telangana's literacy rate as 66.4 per cent, much below the national average of 74.4 per cent.

Lastly, the NEP has proposed sea changes in higher education that will better align with the needs of a changing employment market. Telangana has a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 36.2 per cent. The NEP issues a bold

cation including vocational education to 50 per cent by 2035. It also aims to enhance access by establishing more high-quality higher education institutes (HEI) in aspirational districts and special education zones containing larger numbers of social and economically disadvantaged groups. By 2030, the NEP aims to have at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in/near every district. Aspirational districts in Telangana such as Jayashankar Bhoopalpally, Kumarambheem Asifabad and Khammam will benefit. Kumarambheem

Education is a concurrent subject and this stipulates the collaboration of both the Centre and the state to enact proposed reforms. State governments will also now need to act in a manner in which we can truly usher in the vision of India as a "knowledge powerhouse" as envisaged by the Prime Minister. This is an opportunity that the state of Telangana cannot afford to miss at any cost.

> The writer is Union minister of state for home affairs and represents Secunderabad in the Lok Sabha

















SHORT TAKES **BERLUSCONI RESPONDING TO VIRUS DRUGS**

Rome, Sept. 6: Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi is responding "optimally" to Covid-19 treatment but is the most vulnerable type of patient and is in "the most delicate phase" of the virus, his per-

sonal doctor said on Sunday. Dr Alberto Zangrillo repeated Sunday that he nevertheless remained "cautiously optimistic" about Berlusconi's recovery. The three-time premier turns 84 in a few weeks and has had a history of heart problems that required being fitted with a pacemaker several years ago.

Zangrillo suggested Berlusconi wouldn't be released anytime soon, recalling that the virus "requires adequate treatment and takes its time.'

SPEAKING ILL OF PEOPLE WORSE THAN VIRUS: POPE

Vatican City, Sept. 6: Speaking ill of other people and spreading gossip is worse than Covid-19 and Satan is the worst offender of all, Pope Francis said on Sunday.

When people see someone making a mistake, "the first thing we usually do is go and tell someone else about it. Gossip like this closes off the community," the pope said in comments on a passage in the Bible where Jesus talks about what must be done to welcome back into the community those who have committed errors.

"The great gossip is Satan who always says bad things about people," Francis said. Satan "is a liar who seeks to divide the Church, to drive our brothers apart, so that they are no longer a community," he

MOM KILLS 5 KIDS, GERMAN **CITY MOURNS**

Berlin, Sept. 6: More than 800 people came together for a memorial for the five children who were allegedly killed by their mother at their home in the western city of Solingen, the German news agency dpa reported on Sunday.

Neighbours, friends and others mourning the deaths of the five young children lit candles Saturday night in front of the building where they had lived. They brought flowers, toys and balloons with the names of the dead children them: Melina, Leonie, Sophie, Timo and Luca, dpa reported.

It's nard to mourn on your own, to express your sadness, Hans-Peter Harbecke, a neigh bourhood organiser, told public broadcaster WDR. "It's easier when you're together, it's more intensive as a community." Prosecutors have charged the 27-year-old mother of the five children, who were found dead at their home on Thursday, with murder.

The killings have caused widespread shock in Germany. Investigators have said that postmortem examinations on the children, who were between 1 to 8 years old, showed signs of sedation and suffocation, but it was still unclear how exactly they died.

HEZBOLLAH, **HAMAS CHIEFS MEET OVER TIES**

Beirut, Sept. 6: Leaders of Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas movement, met to discuss diplomatic normalisation between the Jewish state and Arab countries, a report said on Sunday.

They stressed the "stability" of the "axis of resistance" against Israel, the Hezbollah-run Al-Manar TV channel reported, without saving where or when the meeting took place.

Hassan Nasrallah, head of Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, was pictured meeting Ismail Haniyeh, who heads the political bureau of Hamas, the Islamist movement that control the Gaza

They discussed "political and military developments in Palestine, Lebanon and the region" and "the dangers to the Palestinian cause" including "Arab plans for normalisation" with Israel, Al-Manar said.

The meeting comes after an August 13 announcement that the Jewish state and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to

normalise ties.
While the US-backed diplomatic drive aims to boost a regional alliance against Iran. Palestinians have condemned it as a "stab in the back" as they remain under occupation and don't have their own state.

1 killed, 7 hurt in late-night stabbings in Birmingham

Victims were drinking, dining at outdoor tables, UK cops launch manhunt

said a murder inquiry has been launched on Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in multiple stabbings overnight in the city of Birmingham.

According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related. While a man and a woman are battling serious injuries, the injuries of five others are not thought to be life-threatening, the

A hunt has been initiated for a male suspect, who is believed to have gone on a stabbing spree, starting at Constitution Hill in Birmingham. "The events during the early hours of this morning are tragic, shocking and understand-ably frightening," said Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, responsible for policing in Birmingham.

"Please be assured that we are doing absolutely everything we can to find whoever was responsible and try to understand what exactly happened. We have well-rehearsed plans for dealing with major incidents," he said, calling on the public to remain vigilant and report

anything suspicious.
The force is also calling for anyone with CCTV or mobile footage to contact the police. The police believe the incidents, which took place between 12.30 am and 2.20 am local time, are linked and are following a number of lines of enquiry.



Police forensics officers gather evidence inside a cordon on Hurst Street, following a major stabbing incident in the centre of Birmingham, central England, on Sunday.

An increased uniformed and armed response has been put in place across the city. The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said: "Last night's events are truly terrible and have shocked the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and the country." "My first thoughts are with the victims and their families at this time. I have every faith in West

working extremely quickly on this investigation." Earlier, the police had declared a "major incident" as cordons were put up and an investigation was launched following reports of the stabbings.

A major incident describes any situation involving serious harm or a security risk to the public and covers special arrangements for all of the emergency services to West Midlands Police attended and some of the

said they are uncertain as to the motive behind the stabbings and are working after they were called to reports of one stabbing just after midnight in the city centre.

Officers have set up a cordon at the junction of Hurst Street, a popular nightlife area in the city centre referred to as the Village, and Street. Bromsgrove services Emergency

injured people were rushed to local hospitals. injured A heavy police presence cers urged people to remain calm and stay away from the area as cordons remain in place.

Many people had been seated at outdoor tables eating and drinking on Saturday evening just before the incident. The streets in the area had already been closed to traf-

ember or December."
Fauci said that being ready in October, before the election, is "unlikely, not impossible." White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany denied any pressure to get the vaccine out before vot-

Wouldn't trust Trump's word on vaccine: Harris

Washington, Sept. 6:
Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala

EX-FBI AGENT Harris said in comments released on Saturday that if a Coronavirus vaccine is available before November's election, she would not take President Donald Trump's word on its safety and efficacy.

Trump faces intense pressure to curb the contagion that has clouded his re-election prospects, sparking worries his administration could rush vaccine research to fit a political timetable.

would not trust Donald Trump and it would have to be a credible source of information that talks about the efficacy and the reliability of (a vaccine)," Harris said.

I will not take his word for it."A shot against the virus that has killed over 188,000 in the US and hob-bled the world's largest economy has become another flashpoint ahead of the November 3 vote.

This week news broke that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked states to sweep away red tape that could prevent a network of vaccine distribution centers being "fully operational by Nov 1, 2020."The US Food and Drug Administration has also raised the possibility that a vaccine might be given emergency authorization before the end

Trump dangled the possibility in front of supporters last week at the Republican National Convention saying the US "will produce a vaccine before the end of the year, or maybe even sooner.' However, Anthony Fauci, the country's leading infectious disease expert, said on Thursday that the initial results of vaccine trials could come in "Nov-

LABELS U.S. PREZ AS 'CRUEL'

Washington, Sept. 6: Peter Strzok spent his FBI career hunting Russian and Chinese spies, but after news broke of derogatory text messages he had sent about President Donald Trump, he came to feel like he was the one being hunted.
There were menacing

phone calls and messages from strangers, and anxious peeks out window shades before his family would leave the house. FBI security experts advised him of best practices — walk around your car before entering, watch for unfamiliar vehicles in your neighbourhood — more commonly associated with mob targets looking to elude detection.

Being subjected to outrageous attacks up to and including by the president himself, which are full of lies and mischaracterisations and just crude and cruel, is horrible," Strzok said in an interview.

"There's no way around it." A new book by Strzok traces his arc from veteran counterintelligence agent to the man who came to embody Trump's public scorn of FBI and his characterisation of its Russia investigation as a witch hunt.'

The texts cost Strzok his job and drew vitriol from Trump. But even among Trump critics, Strzok isn't a hero. His anti-Trump texts on a government phone to an FBI lawyer gave Trump and his supporters a major opening to undercut the bureau's credibility right as it was conducting one of the most consequential investigations in its history.

ers head to the polls. "No one is pressuring

the FDA to do anything,' she said Thursday. "The priority here is saving

Belarus braces for new silent



NIRAV MODI EXTRADITION IRIAL IU RESUME

London, Sept. 6: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who has been lodged at a prison in London since his arrest in March last year, is set to appear via videolink for the second leg of his extradition trial at a UK court on Monday.

The 49-year-old jeweller is fighting extradition charges related to the estimated \$2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case brought by the Indian government, being represented at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

In line with the Coronavirus lockdown District restrictions. Judge Samuel Goozee directed Modi's appearance from a room in Wandsworth Prison in south-west London with social distancing norms in place for the part-remote setting for the five-day hearing scheduled to conclude

on Friday.

Justice Goozee had presided over the first leg of the extradition in May, during which the CPS sought to establish a prima facie case of fraud and money laundering against Modi. The upcoming hearings are ear-marked to complete those arguments after the Indian government had submitted additional "corroboratory evidence".

It will then go on to deal with the additional extradition request, made by the Indian authorities and certified by UK Home Secretary Priti Patel earlier this year, which add on the charges of "causing the disappearance of evidence' and intimidating witnesses or "criminal intimidation to cause death" against Modi.

mass protest over Lukashenko

of Belarusians staged a peaceful new march on Sunday, keeping the pres-sure on strongman Alexander Lukashenko who has refused to quit after his disputed re-election and turned to Russia for help to stay in power. Holding red-and-white

flags and placards, protesters including many students took to the streets of the capital Minsk despite authorities mounting a massive show of force and detaining some demonstrators.

Troops, water cannon, armoured personnel carriers and armoured reconnaissance vehicles were deployed to the city centre ahead of the march and metro stations in Minsk's centre were closed.

Unprecedented protests broke out after Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet state for 26 years, claimed re-election with 80 percent of the vote on August 9.

Opposition Svetlana Tikhanovskaya says she won the vote but Lukashenko's security forces have detained thousands of protesters, many of whom accused police of beatings and torture. Several people have died in the crackdown.

Tikhanovskaya Belarus under pressure from authorities and took shelter in EU member Lithuania.

Belarusians have been demonstrating across the country for nearly a month even though the

Police declare Portland stir a 'riot', open fire, tear gas

Portland, Sept. 6: Police of protesters in an ensu- "This is a riot. Police are arrested dozens of people ing game of cat-and-mo- giving announcements to and used tear gas against use through a residential disperse. People are nunareas of demonstrators in Portland on late Saturday as the western US city marked 100 days since Black Lives Matter protests erupted against racism and police brutality.

Police quickly declared the rally a "riot" after protesters hurled Molotov cocktails at them, and they responded with a barrage of tear gas to disperse the crowd.

injured by the fire bombs, Officers arrested dozens

At least one person was

police said

TROOPS, WATER

sonnel carriers and

armoured reconnais-

sance vehicles were

deployed to the city cen-

protest movement lacks a

clear leader, with many

activists jailed or forced

Many say they will keep

taking to the streets until

"Lukashenko must go,'

Nikolai Dyatlov, a 32-year-

tre ahead of the march

and metro stations in

Minsk's centre were

out of the country.

Lukashenko quits.

old protester, said.

closed.

cannon, armoured per-

district of east Portlana. "It was Day 100 for Black Lives Matter protests in Portland since George Floyd's murder and they wanted to prevent us from marching," said 20-yearold protester Jay, her eyes

red from the tear gas. "It's our constitutional right to be here and to express ourselves."Police said people were "engaging in tumultuous and vioconduct thereby intentionally or recklessly creating a grave risk of causing public alarm."

throwing Molotov cock tails," Portland Police said on Twitter. The nightly protests were sparked by the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis in May.

Floyd's death triggered similar protests nationwide, but it is in Portland a city of 6.50.000 that is more than 70 percent white - that activists have remained on the streets practically every night, demanding racial justice and police account

Cops swoop down on Hong Kong protesters

Hong Kong, Sept. 6: Nearly 300 people were arrested by Hong Kong police on Sunday as riot officers swooped on democracy protesters opposed to the postponement of local elections.

Sunday was meant to be voting day for the city's partially elected legislature, one of the few instances where Hong Kongers get to cast ballots. But the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam sus-

pended the polls for a year - citing the Coronavirus angering the pro-democracy opposition who had been hoping to capi-

government sentiment. Throughout the afternoon officers were heck led by people shouting slogans such as "Give me back my vote!" and "Corrupt cops!" as officers conducted multiple stop and searches and ordered crowds to disperse.

Berlin, Sept.6: Germany, the current head of the

likely on Russia

Navalny case curbs

European Union, will discuss possible sanctions against Russia over the poisoning of Alexei Navalny if the Kremlin does not provide an explanation soon, its foreign minister said on Sunday. opposition

Russian opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner Navalny fell ill on a flight last month and was treated in a Siberian hospital before being evacuated to Berlin.

Germany said last week there was "unequivocal evidence" that President Vladimir Putin's top foe had been poisoned using Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok. "We have high expecta-

tions of the Russian government to solve this serious crime," Heiko Maas told German daily Bild. "If the government has nothing to do with the attack, then it is in its own interest to back this up with facts."

If Russia does not help clarify what happened "in the coming days", Germany will be compelled to "discuss a response with our allies," Maas said. The crime against Navalny was a violation

of the international Chemical Weapons Convention and there must be an appropriate response, he said. "When we think about sanctions, they should be as targeted as possible." Western leaders and many Russians have expressed horror at what Navalny's allies say is the first known use of chemical weapons against a highprofile opposition leader on Russian soil.

The Kremlin has denied responsibility for the attack and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Germany is yet to share any findings with Moscow's prosecu-

Foreign spokeswoman Zakharova on Sunday accused Germany of stalling efforts to probe

the Navalny case. "Berlin is stalling the process of investigation for which it's calling. On purpose?" she said on

SPACE I MISSION Spacecraft was launched on board a Long March-2F carrier rocket on Friday

China's reusable spacecraft lands successfully

Beijing, Sept. 6: China's experimental which was reusable spacecraft, launched into orbit two days ago, successfully returned to its predeter-mined landing site on Sunday, according to the official state media.

spacecraft launched on board a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Friday. The successful return an important breakthrough in china's

research on spacecraft which will provide a more convenient and economical way for the peaceful use of space, state-run *CGTN TV* reported.

Chinese military officials, who were tightlipped about the launch earlier, said there were many firsts in this launch. 'The spacecraft is new, the launch method is also different," they said. An official, quoted by the

launch comes weeks after China launched Tianwen-1, the country's first Mars

China Morning Post on Sunday, declined to com-Hong Kong-based South ment on the details of the

late July.

mission, from Hainan in

mission but suggested China launched Tianwen-"maybe you can take a 1, the country's first Mars IT HAS flown four classified missions to look at the US X-37B." date, carrying secret pay-The X-37B is an unmloads on long-duration anned space plane that opflights in Earth orbit, the erates like a smaller ver-Post report said. Friday's

sion of the space shuttle. which is launched by a rocket and cruises back to earth for a runway landing. It has flown four classified missions to date, carrying secret payloads on long-duration flights in Earth orbit, the Post said. Friday's

launch comes weeks after

1, the country's first Mars mission, from Hainan in

The China National Space Administration said its spacecraft, including an orbiter, lander and rover, was performing well on its way to Mars. A month before that, China completed the network of satellites for its BeiDou navigation network, a competitor to the Global Positioning System (GPS) system of the US. -PTI



China's reusable spacecraft aboard a Long March-2F carrier rocket.

FINANCIAL

Chronicle

MONDAY | 7 SEPTEMBER 2020 | NEW DELHI

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,357.18	-1.63
Nifty 50	11,333.85	-1.68
S&P 500*	3,426.96	-0.81
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.48
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.22	0.46
Euro (₹)	86.62	0.27
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,770▼56	0.10
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.66	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.930	0.034
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.721	0.00
* As of Friday/Saturday		

Faceless vetting of all imports by December 31

The Customs Department will roll out pan-India faceless assessment for all imported goods by October 31, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has said. While faceless assessment for import of certain goods was already rolled out in Bengaluru and Chennai ports on June 8, it was extended to Delhi and Mumbai Customs on August 3. This will now be extended in phases to all ports across the country by December 31.

Thriveni Earth bags ₹31,428 cr NTPC contract



Thriveni Earthmovers has bagged a contract worth Rs 31,428 crore from NTPC to develop and operate Talaipalli coal mine in Chhattisgarh. Thriveni Earthmovers... a Coimbatore-based mining company, has bagged another mine development and operation contract from NTPC on August 26, with a contract value of Rs 31,428 crore," an official said. NTPC had terminated the contracts awarded to BGR Mining & Infra.

EV charging kiosks at 69,000 pumps mulled

The Centre is mulling setting up at least one electric vehicle (EV) charging kiosk each at nearly 69,000 petrol pumps across the country to induce people to go for electric mobility. The government is also thinking of making it compulsory to install EV charging kiosks at all companyowned, company-operated petrol pumps of state refiners. Power minister R. K. Singh suggested oil ministry officials to issue an order in this regard.

Airtel launches 'unlimited' net plans at ₹499

Bharti Airtel launched 'unlimited' category broadband plans starting at Rs 499 per month, which will come bundled with subscription to video entertainment apps and high definition set-top box (STB) against refundable deposit. The move comes within a week of Reliance Jio revising broadband plans with unlimited data usage and bundling subscription fee of video entertainment apps in them.

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Rangarajan says half the economy may do well

Chances of positive growth this fiscal

New Delhi, Sept 6: A small positive economic growth in 2020-21 may not be ruled out as sectors like agriculture and essential goods and services were fully operational in the first quarter despite coronavirus-induced down, according to a paper co-authored by former RBI governor C. Rangarajan.

Although many international and national agencies have projected a sharp contraction in the GDP in 2020-21—ranging from World Bank's projection of 3.2 per cent to SBI's 6.8 per cent—there are reasons to believe that the outcome may be better than these strong contrac-

tionary prospects, the paper said.

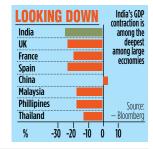
"We may note that some key sectors like agriculture and related sectors, public administration, defence services and other services may perform normally or better than normal given the demand for health services," said the paper authored by Rangarajan and India EY India chief policy advisor

D. K. Srivastava.

However, the paper, titled 'India's Growth Prospects and Policy Options: Emerging from the Pandemic's Shadow' also stated that the story of the Indian economy as it unfolds under the impact of Covid-19 is disquieting.

The report said half the economy could support positive growth. It pointed out that goods and services categorised as essential





TATA STEEL PRODUCTION BACK AT **100% CAPACITY, SAYS NARENDRAN**

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Tata Steel's production level has now recovered to 100 per cent as the company sees a revival in domestic demand in the current quarter led by a good monsoon and rural economy, its CEO and MD T, V, Narendran has said.

The company is now dependent exports compared to the first quarter, he added. Due to the lockdown,

goods and services in other sectors, technically called 'permitted goods and services' together with agriculture and pubadministration, defence and other services, may have a weight in the range of 40-50 per cent of total output. "These were fully operational even in the first quarter of 2020-21. Thus, nearly half of the economy may perform normally or better than normal over the full

steel makers like Tata Steel were forced to cut down their operations by up to 50 per cent in April. The players also had to turn to exports to find markets for their produce. However, with the relaxation of lockdown norms, the company ramped up its production in a phased manner. "Production is running

at 100 per cent, Narendran told PTI.

Also, given the current geopolitical situation, the government at the central and state levels have become more active in attracting investment from abroad. "Thus, a small positive growth may not be ruled out," the paper said.

India's economy has suffered its worst slump on record in April-June quarter of 2020-21, with the GDP contracting by 23.9

Over ₹10 L cr loans may come up for restructuring: Bankers

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Banks may restructure loans of more than Rs 10 lakh crore ,largely attributed to fiveto-six critical sectors, including aviation, commercial real estate and hospitality, according to bankers.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week asked banks and NBFCs to roll out one-time loan restructuring scheme for Covid-19 related stress by September 15. According to a top official of a public sector

bank, it is win-win for both lenders and borrowers. Explaining the rationale. the banker said, companies will try to save their non-performing (NPA) and buy crucial time for getting cash flow back for servicing the

Secondly, banks have to

make only 10 per cent provision against restructured account as compared to 15 per cent if the same account turns into NPA, the official said, adding that the lure of 5 per cent conservation of capital will also push banks for recast.

Given the benefit, the official said, it is estimated that 12-15 per cent of total loan book would avail of one-time restrucMicro, small and medi-um enterprises (MSMEs) are already covered under the ongoing restructuring scheme which was tweaked recently to cover those impacted by Covid-19 crisis. A total Rs 100 lakh crore

worth of loan is outstanding in the banking system. Another banking official said nearly half of the 30 per cent of the total loan book which sought moratorium that ended on August 31 may opt for

restructuring. Companies in about halfa-dozen vulnerable sectors —hospitality aviation. entertainment, commercial real estate and travel

& tourism— whose businesses have been impacted severely due to the Covid-19 crisis will make a beeline for the scheme.

The K. V. Kamath committee report is expected to give financial parame-ters like hair cut, debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans for over half a dozen vulnerable sectors, the official added.

month, Punjab National Bank managing director S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao said about 5-6 per cent of loan book would go for restructuring as per RBI

SBI mulls VRS for 30K staff

New Delhi, Sept. 6: In a bid to optimise its costs, the State Bank of India (SBI) has planned a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS). About 30,190 employees are eligible to opt for the scheme.

The country's largest lender has a total employee strength of 2.49 lakh, at the end of March 2020, down from 2.57 lakh in the previous year.

According to sources, a draft scheme for VRS has been prepared and the board approval is awaited. The proposed scheme—Second Innings Tap VRS-2020-is aimed at optimising human resources and costs of the bank. Besides, the draft scheme, seen by

PTI, said it will provide an option and a respectable exit route to employees who have reached a level of saturation in their career, may not be at the peak of their performance, have some personal issue or want to pursue their professional or personal life outside

The scheme will be opened to all permanent officers and staff who have put in 25 years of service or completed 55 years of age on the cut-off

the bank.

The scheme will open on December 1 and remain open till the end of February.

As per the proposed eligibility criteria, a total of 11,565 officers and 18,625

staff members will be eligible for the scheme. The total net savings for the bank would be Rs 1,662.86 crore if 30 per cent of eligible employees opt for retirement under the scheme, as per estimates based on July 2020 salary.

"The staff member whose request for retirement under VRS is accepted will be paid an ex-gratia amounting 50 per cent of salary for the residual period of service (up to the date of superannuation), subject to a maximum of 18 months' last drawn salary," the draft report said. Other benefits like gratuity, pension, provident and medical benefits will be given to employ-ees seeking VRS.

A person retired under the scheme will be eligible for engagement or reemployment in the bank after a gap of two years.

Ahead of amalgamation of SBI's five associates with it in 2017, the merging subsidiaries had announced VRS for their employees. In 2001 also the bank had announced VRS to optimise human resources

However, the scheme is not finding favour with bank unions. Such a move at a time when the country is in the grip of a pandemic reflects the anti-worker attitude of management, Ashwani Rana, vice-president, National Organisation of Bank Workers, said.

New customers nearly double for online grocery sites

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 6

The pandemic has given a reason for several firsttime online shoppers to buy groceries. Online grocery sites are seeing almost double the number of first-time users compared to pre-Covid times.

BigBasket has seen the number of new customers increasing by 84 per cent compared to pre-Covid levels. Their retention rate is also higher by 50 per cent. The number of visits too has gone up by 55 per cent compared to pre-Covid

times.
"There has been a significant change in consumer behaviour since March 2020...we have experienced an 84 per cent increase in new customers accompanied by excellent retention rates and basket sizes," Seshu Tirumala, national category head of BigBasket.

Similarly, Grofers has seen 64 per cent more firsttime online grocery shoppers and 15 per cent more first-time online shoppers. The current situation has led to a natural demand for online grocery, and more people are gradually moving from offline shopping to online, finds Grofers.

Grofers too has seen a higher customer retention rate. Almost 62 per cent of the customers who came in the first month of the pandemic are still shopping with the platform, it claimed.

Increased customer base is not a metro phenomenon. Grofers has seen a spurt in demand from nonmetro markets as well. It has witnessed an increase of 54 per cent in orders in smaller cities like Indore, Agra and Panipat.

These customers are driving demand for predominantly immunity-boosting foods. According to BigBasket, fruit with higher vitamin C content and those increasing immunity and general health saw 2x the household penetration growth when compared to regular fruit and vegetables like onions, tomatoes and pota-

Suddenly ed-tech is hot, gets over \$1 bn from PE/VC funds

SANGEETHA G

Companies in the online education space have attracted over 200 per cent more private equity and venture capital funding in the first eight months of this year compared to last year. Between January and

August this year, ed-tech companies have received a total funding of \$1,191 million across 36 deals. In the same period last year, they could garner only \$373 million across 31 deals-a growth of 219 per cent. During the entire calendar year 2019, the space had witnessed just 43 deals aggregating to \$409 million, as per data from Venture Intelligence.

The growth in investments also saw ed-tech increasing companies their share in the total venture capital funding in the first eight months of this year to 23.1 per cent against 5.2 per cent in 2019. Though the ed-tech space has seen a gradual rise of investments and share in the past five years, 2020 saw a quantum jump. In 2015, ed-tech companies had



received just \$84 million and had a minimal share of 1.1 per cent in the venture capital funding.

Emergence of newer companies to tap the opportunity in online education combined with maturing of some of the larger companies has led to the increase in the funding. However, the pandemic was a game-changer. The new education policy of the government too enhances the role of online

in continuous learning. "In this pandemic situation where every other sector is struggling to survive, ed-tech is one and only sector that has seen maximum traction from VC/PEs, and the ed-tech industry has seen the highest investments in the last 3 months. Due to Covid-19, the complete education sector has

been forced to move online whether its schools or colleges or traditional classroom training centres, and if we see the education sector has moved 10 years ahead. With a lot of job losses around the globe there is a heavy demand for high-quality skills programmes that can help freshers and professionals to secure their careers and job in this pandemic situation," said Diwakar Chittora, founder and CEO

of IntelliPaat. According to Bengaluru-based RedSeer, online higher education is expected to grow 10-fold to \$5 billion by FY25. This will see several new companies coming up in the space, consolidation and some of the larger ones growing stronger. All these will attract more venture capital.

Among the larger deals, Byju's received \$300 million from Tiger Global in January, \$200 mn from General Atlantic in February and \$122 mn from DST Global in Aug-ust. Unacademy got \$150 mn from SoftBank and others, and \$110 mn from Steadview Capital and others.

Equity mutual funds see redemptions in August

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT, 6

mutual investors booked profit in equity mutual funds in August too, just like in July, encouraged by gains in the broader market and need to protect tneir savings in times of job losses and

Equity mutual funds have seen almost daily redemptions last month, barring a few days of net buying, as per August month data now available with Securities and Exchange Board of India. Data released by custodians to Sebi shows August saw redemptions worth Rs 8,358.68 crore from equity mutual funds, a tad lower than Rs 9,195.04 crore reported in July 2020.

In August, equity mutual funds saw redemptions on all but four trading days during the month. Only on August 31, when the equity market fell sharply due Indo-China border stand off and extremely negative first quarter GDP data fears, equity mutual funds turned net buyers by a sizable amount of Rs 891.58 crore, being the highest single day invest-



ment in the month.

The redemption trend remained similar to those seen in the month of July and the first day of September also saw redemption worth Rs 263.68

Monthly data to be released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India later during the week, will throw more light on equity mutual fund trends in August.

At the same time fixed income/debt mutual funds have seen investments worth Rs 24,293.21 crore in August as against Rs 31,897.85 crore in July, indicating investors are moving away from equity mutual funds but getting back to debt investment.

Debt mutual fund investments had turned negative in April (-Rs 9,797.50 crore) after Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund had closed six funds abruptly on April

RONOJOY MAZUMDAR women looking to man age their investments wisely now have another thing to worry about: whether the advice they

are getting is biased.

Financial

advisers

give women

a ride

A two-year academic study covering every local financial-planning firm in Hong Kong found consultants frequently pushed women into chancier investments than they recommended for men with similar risk appetite.

"Advisers think they

can fool the women and

get away with selling

them advice with subpar results," study coauthor Bhattacharya of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology said, suggesting that's because they perceive women to be less financially literate than men. "This is what we call statistical

discrimination." The motivation, the researchers suggest, is the financial planners saw an opportunity for commissions. The logic less likely to be able to spot bad advice and more likely to buy products if the recommendation chimed with what they wanted to do anyway.

It's an attitude that could cost not only clients but backfire on the advisers themselves. A separate gender-bias survey from Bank of America Corp recently found wealthy female investors who have negative experiences with their financial advisers are in fact more likely than men to fire them. —Bloomberg



Vaccine-makers plan to resist Trump pressure

ROBERT LANGRETH

Drugmakers are planning a public pledge to not send any Covid-19 vac-cine to the FDA for review without extensive safety and efficacy data, according to people familiar with the effort.

The joint stance is seen as a bulwark against political pressure being applied on the Food and Drug Administration to get a vaccine out as soon as possible. It is likely to be announced in a multicompany statement as soon as this week. The plans, which could still change, were described by people involved in the effort on condition of anonymity. The companies involved

in the discussions include

Pfizer Inc, Moderna,

are developing vaccines for Covid-19. The drug industry has long relied on the FDA as a gold-standard seal of vaccines,

Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi

and possibly others. All

approval for its drugs and assuring patients that the products are safe and effective. But in the middle of the pandemic, the agency has made several controversial decisions to allow emergency use of therapies without rock-solid evidence they work.

A vaccine, which will

need to be taken by millions of healthy people, requires uptake to be effective in batting down the virus in the US. One recent poll found that a majority of the public thought a vac-cine approval would be



driven by politics. Health officials inside the Trump administration have said the process will be based entirely on science, and FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn has said he would not participate if he thought a vaccine were being rubber-stamped.

At the same time, the president has accused the agency of slowing work to hurt him politically, and said he believes a vaccine will be ready before

election day on Nov. 3. At a news conference at the White House on Friday, President Donald Trump said a vaccine could be ready "maybe even before November first" or "some time in the month of October." "I think you're going to

see results that are shockingly good," Trump said. It's not clear what Trump was talking about, since results of trials are typically kept confidential while they're ongoing, with occasional looks by a panel of experts to see if there are safety issues, or overwhelming signs a product is working or fail-

Much of the vaccine work is being done under the umbrella of the government's Operation Warp Speed, which has struck deals with drug-

makers to fund development and manufacturing. Others in the administration, including Moncef Slaoui, the chief adviser for the Warp Speed programme, have tamped down those expectations. Slaoui told National Public Radio last week that it's "extremely unlikely" a vaccine would be ready by election day.

In an interview with the news organisation Axios last week, Eli Lilly & Co chief executive officer David Ricks said that most companies in the industry wouldn't submit a Covid-19 product to the FDA until they were confident in the science behind it. The company is developing a Covid-19 treatment, but isn't among the companies but isn't that are part of the vaccine effort. —Bloomberg

Venue

IPL FIXTURES

Teams

M Date

Time

SHORT TAKES

Gasly wins after Hamilton penalty

Monza, Italy: Pierre Gasly won an extraordinary Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sunday for his maiden Formula One success in his 55th race and the first by a

French driver since 1996. Alpha Tauri's Gasly benefitted from a 25-minute red flag suspension after Charles Leclerc crashed his Ferrari Spain's Carlos Sainz was second in a McLaren with Canada's

Lance Stroll of Racing Point in Pole sitter Lewis Hamilton was on his way to a comfortable win before a 10-second stop-go penalty pushed the Mercedes

world champion to the back of

The six-time champion eventually ended up in seventh place. "It was such a crazy race and we capitalised on the red flag," said Gasly who was dropped by the Red Bull team last season. "I have been through so much in the space of 18 months, to get my first win in Formula 1 l am struggling for words.

Mick grabs first F2 win of season

Monza, Italy: Mick Schumacher, son of legendary Formula One driver Michael, won for the first time this season in the European Formula 2 Championship on Saturday at Monza in Italy.

The 21-year-old German finished 3.185 seconds ahead of Italian Luca Ghiotto with Dane Christian Lundgaard in third. Schumacher's fourth consecutive podium finish, and seventh this season, lifted him to third in the driver standings on 131

points.

Schumacher had hit a wall in qualifying on Friday and told the F2 website that he had his mechanics on the Italian Prema Racing team to thank for his win. "It was a long night for the boys," he said. "They stayed up until 2am yesterday and worked on the car to get it ready. They did that and they did it in style,

Heavyweights off to winning starts

so I am very, very proud of them." — AFP

Paris: European heavyweights England, France, holders Portugal and Belgium all enjoyed winning starts to their Uefa Nations League campaigns on Saturday even if there were signs of international rust after the coronavirus

England needed a stoppagetime penalty to beat Iceland 1-0 while world champions France saw off Sweden by the same scoreline.

Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo to thrash Croatia 4-1 with topranked Belgium coming away from Denmark with a 2-0 win. In Reykjavik, Raheem Sterling's last minute penalty salvaged England from another embarrassing result against Iceland. Gareth Southgate's men also survived going down to 10 men and seeing Birkir Bjarnason miss a late spot-kick for the hosts. — AFP

Nuggets numb Clippers in playoff

Miami: The Denver Nuggets bounced back with a vengeance on Saturday, powering to a 110-101 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers to even their NBA playoff series 1-1. It was all-square between the Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics, too, after the Raptors notched a second straight win, 100-93, to knot their Eastern Conference semi-final series 2-2 in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida, The Nuggets turned the tables with a blistering first half in which they led by as many as 23

Live on

points. — AFP

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star

Sports Select 1, 2, HD **UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE**

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs Poland from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Six, HD:

(Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD **WWE RAW**

Bouts from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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ROYAL OPENING

IPL schedule out, MI to face CSK in first match

days of anxious wait, the BCCI on Sunday released the schedule for the upcoming IPL, and in keeping with tradition, defending champions Mumbai Indians will take on runners-up Chennai Super Kings in the opener in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

Moved out of India due to a surge in Covid-19 cases, the upcoming edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be held in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE.

After the tournamentopener in the capital city, Dubai will host its first game the next day when Delhi Capitals take on Kings XI Punjab followed by the third match on Monday between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The action will then to Sharjah on September 22 when Rajasthan Royals will host Chennai Super

There will be 10 double headers, with the first match starting at 3:30pm IST and the second 7:30pm, according to a BCCI release.

In all, 24 matches will be held in Dubai, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in Sharjah. Venues for the playoffs and the IPL 2020 final will

final is slated for November 10. The upcoming 53-day edition is by far the longest in the history of

the league.

be announced later. The

The schedule was expected to be out in the last week of August but the announcement was delayed after 13 personnel of the Chennai Super Kings camp tested positive for the dreaded virus. Also, due to different quarantine rules in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, IPL's operations team took time to finalise the schedule. As per IPL rules, the defending champions and the last year's runner-up face off in the tournament opener. The same is going to happen this year after concerns over Chennai Super Kings' readiness were erased with their first practice

This year's IPL was originally scheduled to be held from March 29 to May 24 but was postponed barely two weeks before the start of the tournament due to the virus out-

ssion in Dubai on



Mumbai Indians players Rohit Sharma (left) and Japrit Bumrah at a practice session in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Chahar 'touch and go' for opener

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR

They may have suffered a series of blows, with a dozen Covid-19 positive cases and player pull-outs, but Chennai Super Kings are not worried about the preparation time, or lack of it. As expected, M.S. Dhoni's team will take on Mumbai Indians in the opening match of IPL-13 to be held in Abu Dhabi on

September 19. Having started their training a week late due to extended quarantine period, Super Kings have the least preparation time going into the high-profile showdown against their arch-rivals.

K.S. CEOViswanathan, however, said Super Kings are raring to go. "A great leader on and off the field, Dhoni has navigated the team through a difficult phase. All members are in good shape and in a positive frame of mind. We have had three training sessions so far (including Sunday) and our preparation is on track. We have no worries in playing the opener,"

. Iswanathan. Along with a couple of net bowlers, the team's throwdown specialist and analyst are also in quarantine. Viswanathan said the support staff, headed by Stephen Fleming, has ensured that players get adequate training in the run-up to the tourna-ment. "We have enough bench strength. We have another throwdown spe-

cialist who is available

Viswanathan said the support staff, headed by Stephen Fleming, has ensured that CSK players get adequate training in the run-up to the tournament.

and part of the nets." Deepak Chahar, who is Dhoni's No.1 choice in the fast bowling department, and Ruturaj Gaikwad, considered kaina s replacement, will complete their 14-day quarantine on September 11. They will undergo two Covid-19 PCR tests, 24 hours apart. Their return to the bubble is subject to those test results. They

must also undergo a car-

"We can't predict (when they will return) at this point of time. They have to complete their quarantine period and then undergo a series of tests. It will be touch-and-go, said Viswanathan.

Viswanathan also said the team management hasn't decided on replacements for Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh.

CPL PLAYERS TO LAND

Players who are currently part of the Caribbean League are Premier expected to land in the UAE on September 12. The CPL final is scheduled to be held on September 10. They have to undergo a six-day quarantine upon arrival.

Serena survives Sloane scare

New York, Sept. 6: Serena Williams battled into the US Open last 16 Saturday.

Williams, chasing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, came from a set down to oust 2017 champion Sloane Stephens 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, in what she called an "intense" encounter on Arthur Ashe Stadium. "In that first set I

don't think she made any errors, honestly. She was just playing so clean and I just said, 'I don't want to lose in straight sets'," said Williams, who will play 15th seed Maria Sakkari for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Greek player, who stunned Williams at the Western & Southern Open last month, progressed with a 6-3, 6-1 dismantling of America's 22nd Amanda

Anisimova. Back on the court on Saturday, Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev, Italy's sixth seed Matteo Berrettini and Andrey Rublev, all entered the last 16 with

easy three-set wins. Second seed Dominic Thiem also progressed to round four, overcoming 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-2, 3-6,

And Canada's 94th-ranked Vasek Pospisil shocked eighth-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut and Australia's 21st seed

ROHAN IN DOUBLES QUARTERS

New York, Sept. 6: India veteran Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies in a hard-fought three-setter to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Open men's doubles event here.

The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair on Saturday overcame a set deficit to beat the German duo 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a second round encounter that lasted one hour and 47 min-

Bopanna Shapovalov will take on Dutch-Romanian combination of Jeal-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau in the quarterfinals. -PTI

Alex de Minaur upset 11th-seeded Russian Karen Khachanov.

In the women's draw, unranked Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova, playing her first tournament in three years, knocked out 18th seed Donna Vekic.

Second seed Sofia defeated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.



Sofia Kenin of the United States returns to Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in their US Open third round match in New York on Saturday. Kenin won 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

THE RESULTS

Men's singles third round: Matteo Berrettini (ITA x6) bt Casper Ruud (NOR x30) 6-4, Casper Ruud (NOR x30) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Andrey Rublev (RUS x10) bt Salvatore Caruso (ITA) 6-0, 6-4, 6-0; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) bt Jeffrey Wolf (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Vasek Pospisil (CAN) bt Roberto Bautista (ESP x8) 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Alex De Minaur (AUS x21) bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x11) 6-4, 0-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) bt Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) bt Corentin Moutet (FRA) 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; Dominic Thiem (AUT x2) bt Marin Cilic (CRO x31) 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Women's singles third round Alize Cornet (FRA) bt Madison Keys (USA x7) 7-6 (7/4), 3-2 retired; Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Donna Vekic (CRO x18) 6-4, 6-1; Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) bt Amanda Anisimova (USA x22) 6-3, 6-1; Serena Williams (USA x3) bt Sloane Stephens (USA x36) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; Victoria Azarenka (BLR) bt Iga Swiatek (POL) 6-(BLR) bt Iga Swiatek (POL) 6-4, 6-2; Karolina Muchova (CZE x20) bt Sorana Cirstea (ROU) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (9/7); Elise Mertens (BEL x16) bt Caty McNally (USA) 7-5, 6-1.

Fresh controversy hits US Open

New York, Sept. 6: The US Open was plunged into controversy on Saturday after New York health officials ordered the women's top doubles pairing be with-drawn from the tournament due to possible exposure to coronavirus.

Number one seeds Kristina Mladenovic and Timea Babos were yanked from the competition after Mladenovic was instructed to quarantine for coming in contact with Benoit Paire, who tested positive for Covid-19 last weekend. "All persons who were identified as having prolonged close contact with the infected player will quarantine in their rooms for the remainder of their quarantine period," the United States Tennis quarantine in their rooms

Association said. "Kristina Mladenovic is one of these individuals, and as the women's doubles competition has begun, the women's doubles team of Mladenovic and Babos has

been withdrawn from the

US Open," it added.

The USTA said that local public health issues had issued the quarantine notices, which prevented the players commuting from their hotel to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

The shock intervention came a day after health officials tried to prevent Adrian Mannarino, who had also been in contact with Paire, from playing

1 19-Sept 7.30 pm MI vs CSK Abu Dhabi 20-Sept 7.30 pm DC vs KXIP Dubai 21-Sept 7.30 pm SRH vs RCB Dubai 22-Sept 7.30 pm RR vs CSK Sharjah 23-Sept 7.30 pm KKR vs MI Abu Dhabi 24-Sept 7.30 pm KXIP vs RCB Dubai 25-Sept 7.30 pm CSK vs DC Dubai 26-Sept 7.30 pm KKR vs SRH Abu Dhabi 9 27-Sept 7.30 pm RR vs KXIP Sharjah 10 28-Sept 7.30 pm RCB vs MI Dubai 11 29-Sept 7.30 pm DC vs SRH Abu Dhabi 12 30-Sept 7.30 pm RR vs KKR Dubai 13 1-Oct 7.30 pm KXIP vs MI Abu Dhabi 2-Oct 7.30 pm CSK vs SRH Dubai 15 3-Oct 3.30 pm RCB vs RR Abu Dhabi 3-Oct 7.30 pm DC vs KKR 16 Sharjah 4-Oct 3.30 pm MI vs SRH Sharjah 4-Oct 7.30 pm KXIP vs CSK Dubai 5-Oct 7.30 pm RCB vs DC Dubai 6-Oct 7.30 pm MI vs RR Abu Dhabi 7-Oct 7.30 pm KKR vs CSK Abu Dhabi 8-Oct 7.30 pm SRH vs KXIP Dubai 9-Oct 7.30 pm RR vs DC Sharjah 24 10-Oct 3.30 pm KXIP vs KKR Abu Dhabi 10-Oct 7.30 pm CSK vs RCB Dubai 26 11-Oct 3.30 pm SRH vs RR Dubai 27 11-Oct 7.30 pm MI vs DC Abu Dhabi 28 12-Oct 7.30 pm RCB vs KKR Sharjah 29 13-Oct 7.30 pm SRH vs CSK Dubai 30 14-Oct 7.30 pm DC vs RR Dubai 31 15-Oct 7.30 pm RCB vs KXIP Sharjah 32 16-Oct 7.30 pm MI vs KKR Abu Dhabi 33 17-Oct 3.30 pm RR vs RCB Dubai 34 17-Oct 7.30 pm DC vs CSK Sharjah 35 18-Oct 3.30 pm SRH vs KKR Abu Dhabi 36 18-Oct 7.30 pm MI vs KXIP Dubai 37 19-Oct 7.30 pm CSK vs RR Abu Dhabi 38 20-Oct 7.30 pm KXIP vs DC Dubai 39 21-Oct 7.30 pm KKR vs RCB Abu Dhabi 40 22-Oct 7.30 pm RR vs SRH Dubai 41 23-Oct 7.30 pm CSK vs MI Sharjah 42 24-Oct 3.30 pm KKR vs DC Abu Dhabi 43 24-Oct 7.30 pm KXIP vs SRH Dubai 44 25-Oct 3.30 pm RCB vs CSK Dubai 45 25-Oct 7.30 pm RR vs MI Abu Dhabi 46 26-Oct 7.30 pm KKR vs KXIP Sharjah 47 27-Oct 7.30 pm SRH vs DC Dubai 48 28-Oct 7.30 pm MI vs RCB Abu Dhabi 49 29-Oct 7.30 pm CSK vs KKR Dubai 50 30-Oct 7.30 pm KXIP vs RR Abu Dhabi 51 31-Oct 3.30 pm DC vs MI Dubai 52 31-Oct 7.30 pm RCB vs SRH Sharjah 1-Nov 3.30 pm CSK vs KXIP Abu Dhabi 1-Nov 7.30 pm KKR vs RR Dubai 2-Nov 7.30 pm DC vs RCB Abu Dhabi 56 3-Nov 7.30 pm SRH vs MI Sharjah

RCB coach all praise tor Kohli

New Delhi, Sept. 6 Basu Shanker, the man responsible for the fitness transformation of the national team, feels India and RCB skipper Virat Kohli has returned from the long break an even fitter athlete after working on "specific physical pointers" that needed attention.

Kohli was stuck in Mumbai for five months due to the coronavirusenforced lockdown and had his first proper hit in the nets only after his arrival in the UAE for the Indian Premier League, beginning September 19.

However, he ensured during the break that his supreme fitness level was not impacted and, in fact, it helped him skill-wise on his return to action even though he was "scared" to

"He (Kohli) has come back in much better shape. He is at his best weight at the moment and his movement patterns are pretty much in sync with his best self in the past," former India trainer Basu, who is now the strength and conditioning coach of Royal Challengers E said from Dubai. Bangalore, "He has taken this break

as an opportunity to work

on all the pointers which needed attention from a physical point. I guess his motto to life is Bear the cross and wear the crown'," said the man who worked with the Indian team between 2015 to 2019.

He has worked extensively with Kohli, both at RCB and during his time with the Indian team.

Basu said Kohli was able to work on things which an international cricketer finds it difficult to do in a packed calendar. "He had the time to be very specific with his meal plans and running intervals at home. He did not have much of a choice during the lockdown and he invested on a treadmill and worked on his endurance which is otherwise not possible during a packed calendar.

"Apart from that, his customised strength work to compliment that was his mantra during the lockout. So a combination of running and strength work and he kept it simple by just following this to the T," said Basu.

The RCB squad has been training for a week now and Basu said it is only a matter of time before the matter of time botton
players are match ready.
— PTI

BUTTLER SHINES AS ENG SEAL T20 SERIES

Southampton (United Kingdom), Sept. 6: Jos Buttler made a dashing 77 not out as England beat Australia by six wickets in a series-clinching win in the second Twenty20 international at Southampton on Sunday. Victory saw England go an unbeatable 2-0 up in a

England, set 158 to win, finished on 158-4 with seven balls to spare. They needed 18 off the last two overs, with Australia having failed to score 19 off two overs in a dramatic two-run defeat in the first game. Brief scores: Australia 157/7 in 20 overs (A. Finch 40, M. Stoinis 35) lost to **England 158/4** in 18.5 overs (J. Buttler 77 n.o., D. Malan 42; Agar 2/27).