





## IN BRIEF

**Lok Adalat launched for BRPL consumers**

**New Delhi:** A permanent Lok Adalat for the redressal of electricity disputes was inaugurated by Justice Hima Kohli of the Delhi High Court in west Delhi's Vikaspuri on Saturday. The Lok Adalat, which was inaugurated virtually, specially caters to consumers of BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) in west Delhi, a BSES spokesperson said. Established by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA), this is the first permanent Lok Adalat exclusively for a discom in Delhi. The other two permanent Lok Adalats situated at ITO are common for all discoms in the national capital, he said. Apart from the traditional route, consumers can also avail services of the virtual permanent Lok Adalat at Vikaspuri. "It will have one chairperson and two members appointed by DSLISA as per provisions of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. Like the other two permanent Lok Adalats at ITO, the one at Vikaspuri will also function from Monday to Saturday, between 10 am to 5 pm," the spokesperson said. A large number of cases are settled the same day of filing them at Lok Adalat. Since 2017, the existing permanent Lok Adalats have disposed of around 40,000 cases from BSES areas and settled an amount of over ₹160 crore, he added. — *PTI*

**2 teenagers held for brandishing pistol**

**Noida:** Two teenagers were apprehended on Saturday and booked under the Arms Act for allegedly firing gunshots from a pistol in Greater Noida, police said. Both the accused are aged around 15 years and were held by officials from the Jewar police station area after a purported video of them using the firearm surfaced on social media, they said. "Two juveniles have been apprehended for keeping an illegal firearm, which has been recovered from them. A video had surfaced on social media showing them firing shots from the pistol. The police took cognisance of the video and identified the boys, who have been held now," according to a police statement. The accused boys have been booked under Section 25 of the Arms Act (illegal possession of a firearm) and an FIR lodged against them at Jewar police station, it said. — *PTI*

**Security guard killed in road accident**

**New Delhi:** A security guard was killed allegedly after a delivery van hit his cycle on the Lala Lajpat Rai Marg here, police said on Saturday. The deceased, identified as Ajay Kumar Singh, was in his early 40s and a resident of Sangam Vihar in south Delhi, they said. According to the police, the incident took place around 9 pm on Friday near Shamshan Ghat, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg. Singh, who was a security guard at a showroom in Connaught Place, was on the way to his workplace when the van rammed into the rear of his cycle, killing him on the spot. Deputy commissioner of police (Southeast) R.P. Meena said: "The accused driver was apprehended from the spot and a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 304 A (causing death by negligence)." The accused driver, Satender Singh, is a resident of Govindpuri in Southeast Delhi. He was arrested, the DCP said. Ajay Kumar Singh is survived by wife and three children.

**4kg cannabis seized in Noida, 2 arrested**

**Noida:** Two suspected drug peddlers were arrested in Noida after 4kg of cannabis was allegedly found in their possession, police said on Saturday. The accused were held on Friday night near Panchsheel underpass by officials from Expressway Police Station, they said. "Those held have been identified as Sagar Kumar, a native of Fatehpur district in UP, and Anand Kumar, who hails from Saharsa district in Bihar. Four kg cannabis has been seized from them," a police spokesperson said. An FIR under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been lodged against them and they have been sent to jail, the police said. — *PTI*

**Nepali cook who fled after drugging bizman and family arrested**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

A Nepalese national was arrested for allegedly stealing valuables, including a licensed revolver of a 78-year-old businessman after drugging him and other family members of his house, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in December last year at a house in Chattarpur Enclave in south Delhi, where the accused, identified as Dhirender Sahi, worked as cook, they said. After being hired as a cook, the accused drugged his employers and then robbed them, police said. Using similar modus operandi, the accused had stolen ₹1.5 crore from a businessman's house in Sabji Mandi this year, they said.

With his arrest, police claimed to have worked out two such cases. According to the police, a case was registered against Sahi after a complaint was received against him from his 78-year-old employer who stated that just two-three days after being hired as a cook, Sahi spiked his food and gave him sleeping pills. He also drugged his

other family members, driver and maid in order to put them to sleep and during the evening, when they lost their consciousness, he stole his licensed revolver, eight cartridges, jewellery and cash before fleeing to his native place in Nepal.

All of them were admitted in a hospital in an unconscious state and after recovering, the elderly man approached police.

Deputy commissioner of police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said: "On checking CCTV footage of cameras installed at the house and complex, it was revealed that Sahi along with an accomplice and two more associates had committed the theft. The accused had fled to Nepal after the incident but on the basis of technical surveillance, it was found that the accused was tagged by one of his friends in a photo on Facebook."

The accused was caught after nine months with the help of a "Facebook post". "We traced the location and found that he was in Punjab. A team went there and found him at a guesthouse in Mohali. He was working there as a caretaker," the DCP said.

**Anti-dengue campaign: CM seeks participation of RWAs**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

In the fourth week of the 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute Har Ravivar Dengue Par Vaar campaign, Delhi government seeks to engage Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) to make the city dengue-free. Last year, a similar support from all RWAs of Delhi played a huge role in reducing the impact of Dengue in the city.

Last week, CM Arvind Kejriwal said, "Right now, we are dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic, but it is also the season of Dengue when Dengue cases in Delhi significantly increase. We have relaunched the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute Har Ravivar Dengue Par Vaar' this season, and this is the third week of our anti-dengue campaign. Last year, the citizens of Delhi defeated Dengue due to their collective efforts, and I hope that the people must be checking their houses this year as well. We do not want people to suffer from Dengue and we have to be conscious about both



Arvind Kejriwal Dengue and Coronavirus." He also added, "Secondly, citizens must help in spreading awareness about measures to prevent Dengue. They must pick up the phone and call 10 of their friends/relatives and advise them on the good practices of preventing Dengue, such as draining stagnant water and replacing it. They must also advise their friends and relatives to take all measures to remain safe from Coronavirus."

This week the key focus of the Delhi government would be on the participation of the RWAs. Last year, through the participation of the RWAs and other organisations, only 2036 cases and two deaths as against 15867 cases and 60 deaths in 2015. The first edition of the anti-dengue

**■ 'Surge in Covid cases seems to have plateaued' 4th round sero survey in city may be delayed: Jain**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday said that the fourth round of sero-prevalence survey, slated to be conducted from October 1, is likely to be delayed as the report of the September survey is to be put before the Delhi High Court by this month-end.

Delhi recorded 3,372 fresh Covid-19 cases on Saturday. Of total 2,76,822 patients, 29,717 are active and 2,32,912 patients were recovered. With 46 deaths in last 24 hours, total death counts rose to 5,193. Positivity rate stand at 5.85 per cent and fatality rate is 1.94 per cent. Total 57,688 test conducted in last 24 hours.

The next round of sero-prevalence survey is slated to begin from October 1. The previous exercise was held in the first week of September and its results have not been shared by the Delhi government. "The results of the last sero-survey are to be put first before the High Court, so it seems there will be a delay in

**Sisodia's condition improves, likely to be shifted out of ICU**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

The condition of Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who is suffering from Covid-19 and dengue, has further improved, a day after he was administered convalescent plasma therapy, and he is likely to be shifted from the ICU to a normal ward, officials said.

He is currently undergoing treatment at Max hospital, Saket, where he was admitted on Thursday evening after a "falling" blood platelet count and low oxygen level.

Sources at the Max hospital also said Mr Sisodia is fine and doing better.

starting the next round, as it takes time to do preparations, so the October 1 starting date seems highly unlikely," said Mr Jain.

Interacting with journalists, Mr Jain said that the surge in Covid-19 cases recorded in September seems to have plateaued



An official from Mr Sisodia's office said: "His vitals are better now. His condition has improved, and he will be shifted from the ICU to a normal ward today."

The 48-year-old AAP leader had tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14 and was under home isolation. On Wednesday, he was admitted to the LNJP Hospital for treatment. He tested positive for dengue a day later and was shifted to the ICU of the private facility in south Delhi.

and should show a rapid fall. "The overall case fatality rate on Friday was 1.95 per cent, so less than 2 per cent. It used to be 3.5 per cent and above earlier. Also, cases which were coming in excess of over 4,000 per day have come down over the past few

days. So, the surge we saw in September seems to have plateaued, and it should see a rapid fall," he said.

Asked if the testing will now be scaled down, the Delhi health minister said: "No, it will remain the same. Even cases which were reported on Friday were from the over 59,000 tests done the previous day."

Asked if a mayor and a minister contracting Covid-19 sends out a signal that perhaps Covid-19 norms are not being followed properly, Mr Jain countered saying, "They are public representatives, and if they contract Covid-19, it does not mean that they violated norms." "Even healthcare workers who wear full PPE kits, contracted it. So this virus does not discriminate between a minister and the common man. Its behaviour is unpredictable," he added.

On chances of double infection of Covid-19 and dengue, he said, it is "too early" to comment on this matter. On supply of oxygen through equipment, he reiterated there is stock for 6-7 days.

**City to soon get clean tap water round the clock: Kejriwal**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Saturday, said his government would make water supply in Delhi as good as in developed countries and that it is hiring a consultant for this purpose. He also dismissed allegations that water supply in Delhi was being privatised.

Mr Kejriwal announced that after ensuring 24x7 electricity supply, the government is now making all efforts to ensure 24x7 water supply to every household in Delhi.

This will end the woes of Delhiites from installing water pumps to overhead water tanks to store water. The government has decided to hire a consultant who will suggest measures to achieve this goal.

"Some opposition leaders are saying water supply in Delhi is being privatised. It can never happen and I assure you this," the chief minister said.

"We are hiring a consultant to tell us how to improve water supply management and ensure that not even a drop of water is wasted," Mr Kejriwal said during a digital press conference.

He said that in the capital cities of developed nations, water is available round-the-clock with proper pressure and there is no need for a submersible pump.

"We will make it happen in Delhi. The city's water supply will be as good as in developed nations," Mr Kejriwal said, adding that accountability should be fixed for each drop of water and there should not be any wastage.



A dentist wearing a PPE kit attends to a patient inside a clinic at Jheel Khurenja in New Delhi on Saturday. — *PTI*

**Stubble burning: Kejri suggests scaling up IARI's low-cost tech**

**New Delhi, Sept. 26:** Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Saturday, wrote to Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, recommending scaling up the use of a low-cost technology developed by scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) here to deal with stubble burning.

IARI scientists have developed a chemical that decomposes stubble and turns it into manure. There is no need for farmers to burn stubble, Mr Kejriwal said.

Experts at the institute have developed what they call as "decomposer capsules." Just four capsules can be used to prepare 25 litres of solution — using some jaggery and chick-pea flour — enough to cover one hectare of land. "Scientists say stubble burning reduces soil fertility by killing good bacteria present in it. But if

▶ IARI scientists have developed a chemical that decomposes stubble and turns it into manure. Scientists say stubble burning reduces soil fertility by killing good bacteria present in it, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

the crop residue can be turned into manure, the use of fertilisers can be reduced," the letter read.

Mr Kejriwal said this method can be a good solution to the problem of stubble burning and the city government is going to use it on a large scale to ensure that there are "absolutely no farm fires" in the national capital.

He recommended that Delhi's neighbouring states should be encouraged to use it as much as possible.

"I understand that there is not much time left this

**AAP govt looks at converting temporary posts into permanent**

**New Delhi, Sept. 26:** The Delhi government has asked all its departments to provide details of temporary posts under their jurisdiction, which can be converted into permanent ones, taking into account the nature of work.

The AAP government's finance department has issued a circular to principal secretaries and secretaries, and asked them to submit a proposal of their departments concerned in this regard.

Details such as nomenclature and number of temporary posts, purpose of creation and number of temporary posts proposed for conversion to permanent ones have been sought by joint secretary (accounts) L.D. Joshi.

The services department of the Delhi government has also written to the head of departments on the issue of extending engagements of contractual staff. In a letter, the department said Lt Governor Anil Bajaj has directed that before extension of contractual engagements, the departments should also provide information on whether efforts were made to fill up the posts on regular basis. — *PTI*

**■ 'Tabassum's presence in court necessary in head constable's murder case'****Delhi violence: Accused woman's anticipatory bail rejected**

**New Delhi, Sept. 26:** A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of a woman accused in the northeast Delhi violence observing that her presence is necessary to unearth the conspiracy involved in planning, instigating and fanning the flames of the communal conflagration.

Additional session judge Vinod Yadav of Karkardooma court dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Tabassum, a resident of Chand Bagh Area of Delhi, in connection with a case related to the murder of head constable Rattan Lal during

northeast Delhi violence. "Applicant has been clearly and categorically named by independent eyewitnesses in their statements... The allegations against her are grave in nature.

The presence/appearance of the applicant is very much necessary to unearth the conspiracy involved in planning, instigating and fanning the flames of the communal conflagration. This court has already dismissed the regular as well as interim bail applications of several co-accused persons in the matter," the order said.

Special public prosecutor

▶ AN ANALYSIS of the call detail records (CDR) of the applicant revealed that the woman had been in regular touch with main conspirators/other co-accused persons in the matter, Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad argued

advocate Amit Prasad vehemently argued that it is an unfortunate case of brutal murder of head constable Rattan Lal during the recent communal riots, in which Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shahdara Amit Sharma, IPS Anuj Kumar,

ACP Gokalpuri and 51 other policemen had also suffered severe injuries at the hands of rioters.

Prasad argued that the applicant used to share a stage with other protestors and instigate the gathering against the Government of India, which ultimately led to the death of more than 50 innocent persons in northeast Delhi.

It was further argued that an analysis of the Call Detail Records (CDR) of the applicant revealed that she had been in regular touch with main conspirators/other co-accused persons in the matter as well as in touch with the

accused persons arrested in case, which is being investigated by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police.

He said that several efforts were made to make her join the investigation, but she deliberately evaded the same and now non-bailable warrants (NBWs) have been issued against her by the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), northeast Delhi. Advocate Dinesh Tiwari, representing the applicant, argued that she has been falsely implicated in the matter by the investigating agency and has nothing to do with the alleged incident. — *ANI*



## SHORT TAKES

### 'Those against Farm Bills are anti-farmer'

**Jaunpur/Deoria:** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said those opposing the Centre's agriculture-related Bills are "anti-farmer". Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to double the income of farmers and the Bills have been passed with this aim in mind, he said, addressing BJP workers at a school auditorium in Jaunpur. The chief minister said the legislations will free farmers from the grip of middlemen and provide them with an option to sell their produce as per their choice. The opposition is misleading people but they will not be allowed to succeed, he said, terming those opposing the Bills as "anti-farmer". Without taking names, the chief minister in Deoria said: "Those who exploited farmers and mocked migrants... those who don't know whether sugarcane is grown on land or trees are pretending to be warriors of farmers and labourers." Speaking about the work done by his government during the coronavirus pandemic, he said those who have been with the people in the most difficult times will be in power and claimed that in the last six months, the state government has distributed free foodgrain 12 times so that no one faces hunger. — PTI

### Gambling operator stabbed to death

**Nagpur:** An operator of a gambling den was stabbed to death by unidentified persons in broad daylight in Maharashtra's Nagpur city on Saturday, police said. The incident took place at around 4 pm, when five unidentified men attacked Kishore alias Balya Binekar with sharp weapons after his car stopped at a traffic signal, killing him on the spot, said Vanita Sahu, deputy commissioner of police zone 2. A resident of Shanti Nagar, the victim ran a gambling den and had been booked under the Arms Act earlier, she said. A case will be registered in this regard and further probe is underway, the official added. — PTI

### 2 officials suspended in ₹250cr bank fraud

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday suspended two senior officials pending an inquiry into their conduct in a case pertaining to ₹250-crore bank fraud, officials said. The administration suspended Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officer Mubij-ur-Rehman Ghassi, Special Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, and Ashiq Hussain, deputy registrar Cooperative Societies J-K, pending an inquiry against them, they said. The officials said two separate suspension orders were issued on Saturday against the officials by the General Administration Department (GAD). The officials said Ghassi will remain attached with the GAD during the period of his suspension, while Hussain shall remain attached in the office of the divisional commissioner, Kashmir. The names of both the officials were mentioned in a case, registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on August 25, related to ₹250 crore loan to a non-existent cooperative housing society two years ago. The ACB produced a charge-sheet against three persons, including a former chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Bank, for sanctioning a ₹250 crore loan to a non-existent cooperative housing society. — PTI

### Man held for betting on IPL matches

**Thane:** A 39-year-old man has been arrested from Navi Mumbai for allegedly betting on Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket matches, police said on Saturday. Police picked up the accused, Vijay Khairnar, from a flat in Koparkharine area on Friday, said senior police inspector NB Kolhatkar, central crime unit. Cash and accessories, including mobile phones, a TV set, worth ₹2,26,530, were seized from the flat, he said. Khairnar has been booked under various sections of the Anti-Gambling Act. Police are probing whether a larger racket was involved, he added. — PTI



Farmers shout slogans while blocking a railway track during their protest against the new farm bills at Devi Dass Pura village about 20 kilometers from Amritsar on Saturday. — PTI

■ Farmers had decided to block trains from Sept. 24 to 26

## Farmers continue 'rail roko' agitation in Punjab

### Speak up for farmers, says Cong, launches online campaign

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI 26 SEPT.

**Chandigarh, Sept. 26:** Farmers in Punjab continued their "rail roko" agitation at several places on Saturday in protest against the farm-related Bills passed by Parliament recently. The movement of trains in the state remained suspended in the wake of the "rail roko" agitation, which was extended by three days till September 29. Earlier, farmers had decided to block trains from September 24 to 26. In Amritsar, farmers squatted on the Amritsar-Delhi rail track and went shirtless in protest against the Bills. On Thursday, a near total "bandh" was observed in the state. Apart from Punjab, protests were witnessed in neighbouring Haryana with farmers hitting the streets and blocking roads. Demonstrations were also reported from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka as part of the "Bharat bandh" call given by several farmer unions. In Punjab, the call for the "rail roko" agitation was given by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee after which 20 trains were partially cancelled and five short terminated till September 26 by the Railways. Squatting on rails tracks, agitating farmers on Saturday shouted slogans against the BJP-

After the Farm Bills were passed in the recently-concluded monsoon session of Parliament, the Congress is gearing up to mobilise public support against these Bills. The party, which has already written to the President of India not to give assent to these Bills, on Saturday launched a "Speak-up for farmers" campaign on social media, with Rahul Gandhi urging people to raise their voice against what he described was the Narendra Modi government's "exploitation of farmers". "Let us raise our voices together against the atrocities and exploitation of farmers by the Modi government," Mr Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. "Join the 'Speak-Up For Farmers' campaign through your video," he said, tagging a video in which the party called for the withdrawal of the Bills. The Congress has already launched its nearly two-month-long "mass movement" against the government for passing "anti-farmer and anti-poor" Bills. The party will also collect two crore signatures from protesting farmers against the proposed laws. The decision by the Congress to hit the streets was taken at a meeting of general secretaries and in-charge of states at the party headquarters in Delhi on Monday. The six-member special committee formed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to help her in organisational and operational matters chaired the meeting in her absence.

"Farmers have taken off their 'kurtas' and shirts to make the government hear our voice," said Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher over the phone. Farmers under the ban-

ner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) blocked rail tracks in nine districts. BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokri Kalan said the rail tracks were blocked at Mansa, Barnala, Nabha (Patiala), Chhahjli (Sangrur), Rampura (Bathinda), Ajitwal (Moga), Kotkapura (Faridkot), Gidderbaha (Muktsar), Jalalabad (Fazilka). He said elders, women, youth and children also participated in protests. Farmers would force the government with a series of protests to withdraw the farm Bills, he said, adding that the legislations will only "benefit" big corporates. Farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre's farm reforms would pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates. Farmers said they will continue their fight till the three farm bills were withdrawn. Parliament had recently passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill; Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill; and Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill. — PTI

## Borrowed \$66m from mom, Anil denies lavish lifestyle

**Mumbai, Sept. 26:** Former billionaire Anil Ambani rejected a judge's comment that he lived a "lavish lifestyle" as he faced questions about his assets from lawyers acting for a trio of Chinese banks. Ambani was giving evidence via video link for the first time from Mumbai, in a English lawsuit over a dispute stemming from a defaulted loan. The tycoon, who has previously said his net worth is "zero," was questioned about his spending and his finances, including more than \$100 million in family loans. Three state-controlled Chinese banks have pursued Ambani for more than \$700 million in a London court, arguing that they provided funding to his

Reliance Communications Ltd. in 2012 with the condition that he personally guarantee the debt. After winning a ruling requiring Ambani to make the payments, the banks have yet to receive any funds. "He's fighting tooth and nail to prevent having to pay us a penny," the banks' attorney, Bankim Thanki, said of Ambani. Ambani, the younger brother of Asia's wealthiest man, said that a judge was wrong to say he'd lived a lavish lifestyle, insisting that he was a marathon runner who didn't drink, smoke or gamble. "I think I must put it respectfully in perspective," Ambani said. "My needs are not vast and my lifestyle is very disciplined."



Anil Ambani

"Any suggestion of a lavish lifestyle past, present and future is completely speculative," he said. Ambani was accused of putting his assets out of the reach of his creditors by putting the ownership in corporate entities. The family art collection was owned by his wife, he said. The luxury motor yacht, which was used family

► **THE ACCUSED** Ambani, the younger brother of Asia's wealthiest man, said that a judge was wrong to say he'd lived a lavish lifestyle, insisting that he was a marathon runner who didn't drink, smoke or gamble

members — but not Ambani himself, who said he suffered from seasickness — was also owned by a company, he said. Ambani had always said he never made a personal guarantee — something he'd dismissed as an "extraordinary potential personal liability." On Friday, Ambani was examined over credit-card

spending in luxury shops including Harrod's that he said was done by his mother on his cards. He was also questioned over a \$66 million loan provided by his mother, Kokilaben Ambani, and a \$41 million loan from his son. He said he couldn't recall the terms of the loans but insisted they weren't gifts. The former billionaire "has always been a simple man of simple tastes, contrary to exaggerated perceptions of his flamboyance and lavish lifestyle," a spokesman for Ambani said in a statement. "He is also a lifelong vegetarian, teetotaler and non-smoker who would much rather watch a movie at home with his kids than go out on the town." — Agencies

## BJP's new team: Raman Singh among 12 deputies

Ex-CM C'garh had led party to humiliating defeat

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, SEPT. 26

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has retained former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh as one of his 12 deputies in his newly constituted team. Significantly, two senior BJP leaders of Chhattisgarh, Saroj Pandey and Ramvihar Netam, were dropped from their respective posts of national general secretary and president of Scheduled Tribe wing of the party in the reconstitution of the party done on Saturday. Both the leaders are considered Mr Singh's adversaries. "The reconstitution of the national party in which Mr Singh's two key adversaries have been phased out, has indicated that Mr Singh may be asked to lead the party in Chhattisgarh in the 2023 Assembly elections," a Central BJP leader told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted. Former Union minis-



Raman Singh

ter Bishnudev Sai, considered close to Mr Singh, was appointed president of the Chhattisgarh unit of the party a couple of months ago. Incidentally, three-time chief minister of Chhattisgarh Mr Singh had led the party to a humiliating defeat in the 2018 Assembly elections. While BJP lost power in the state by securing just 14 seats in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly, Congress returned to power in the state after 15 years by winning 68 seats. Significantly, senior BJP leader of Chhattisgarh

► **SIGNIFICANTLY,** 2 senior BJP leaders of Chhattisgarh, Saroj Pandey and Ramvihar Netam, were dropped from their respective posts of national general secretary and president of Scheduled Tribe wing of the party in the reconstitution of the party done on Saturday

Saudan Singh, considered close to Mr Singh, has been appointed joint organisational secretary in the reconstituted party. Ms Pandey was once considered an alternative to Mr Singh in Chhattisgarh. She had held the important position of national general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra affairs earlier. She had lost the last Lok Sabha elections from Durg in Chhattisgarh and was later nominated to Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh. "Her omission in the reconstituted national party has surprised her followers in the party," sources said.

## Bengal: 1 suspected Al-Qaeda member detained by NIA

PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI AND RAJIB CHOWDHURI  
BENGALPORE/KOLKATA SEPT. 26

A week after arresting nine alleged Al Qaeda members, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has detained one of their aides for his questioning, again from Murshidabad in West Bengal. The suspect, Shamim Ansari (25), was picked by the NIA with the help of the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans during a raid at his home at Nawdapara village in Jalangi late on Friday night. He is a close associate of Al Mamun Kamal, one of the nine arrested. NIA sources claimed that Kamal's confession of Shamim's links with him led to the raid and detention. A villager of Nawdapara Shahjahan Mondal said that Shamim was close to Kamal and he was very religious like the latter. Both often used to collect money from the villagers, he added. The NIA has learnt Shamim had also helped Kamal for setting up his Madrasa privately in the village with a plan to radicalize young

► **THE ACCUSED** is a close associate of Al Mamun Kamal, one of the nine arrested. NIA sources claimed that Kamal's confession of Shamim's links with him led to the raid and detention

minds. It is now grilling Shamim for his association with Kamal. Shamim earlier worked in Kerala as a mason's helper. He, however, returned home last year and started working as a labourer in local jute storage, said his mother Magfera Bewa. She added, "A team BSF jawans and cops in plain-clothes whisked away my son from our home in just ten minutes. They did not tell us anything when I asked them why they were forcibly taking away my son." The team also seized several booklets from Shamim's room but did not reveal what they were about, said his wife Chandrata Bibi. BSF DIG (Murshidabad) Kunal Majumdar said, "The BSF neither arrested nor detained anyone."

## Will resign if corruption charges against my son proved: K'taka CM

**Bengaluru, Sept. 26:** Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Saturday said he would retire rpt retire from politics if there is any iota of truth in the corruption allegations levelled against his son B.Y. Vijayendra, who is also BJP state vice president. Mr Yediyurappa's outburst came against leader of opposition Siddaramaiah's allegation made during the no-confidence motion moved by the Congress veteran against the BJP government, that Vijayendra took bribe from a Bangalore development authority contractor. The charge was based on a sting operation by a

Kannada news channel alleging the contractor who bagged a ₹666 crore project had paid crores of rupees through RTGS to Vijayendra. "If there is an iota of truth that my family is involved, then I will retire rpt retire from politics. If it is wrong then you resign. You should be ashamed of making baseless allegations," Yediyurappa said. He challenged Siddaramaiah to prove the charge and lodge a complaint with the Lokayukta and the Anti-Corruption Bureau. The CM said Siddaramaiah was referring to an individual who was not a member of the House. — PTI

## Covid-19 vaccine: Can Centre spend ₹80K cr for distribution?

**Pune, Sept. 26:** The chief executive officer of Pune-based Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla, on Saturday asked the Centre government whether they have ₹80,000 crores available over the next one year for the distribution of Covid vaccines across India. The 39-year-old who reportedly runs the world's largest vaccine manufacturer company and is also producing the coronavirus vaccine developed by the Oxford University, took to Twitter and said, "Quick question; will the government of India have 80,000 crores

available, over the next one year? Because that's what Ministry of Health needs, to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning the challenge we need to tackle." Poonawalla also tagged the official Twitter accounts of the Union Health Ministry and the PMO. In his next tweet, he wrote, "I ask this question because we need to plan and guide, vaccinemanufacturers both in India and overseas to service the needs of our country in terms of procurement and distribution." — Agencies

## BJP reshuffle: Ram Madhav out, Surya promoted in Team Nadda

■ **Continued from Page 1** head. Some of the new spokespersons include Rajeev Chandrasekhar, former Union minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura, MP from Odisha Aparajita Sarangi, MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista, MP from Nandurbar, Heena Gavit, Nupur Sharma and Tom Vadakkan, who had quit the Congress ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and joined the BJP. The new vice-presidents of the party include former Union minister Radha Mohan Singh, former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das, Mukul Roy, Rekha Verma, Bharti Shiyal and former MP, A.P.

Abdullahkuttay, a prominent politician from Kerala who had joined the BJP last year. He was expelled from the CPI(M) after he had praised the then chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, and was expelled from the Congress when he had praised Prime Minister Modi. Amit Malviya will continue to head the party's IT cell. Pankaja Munde, daughter of late Gopinath Munde, and Vinod Tawde, prominent party leaders from Maharashtra, party's West Bengal co-in-charge Arvind Menon, Basti MP Harish Dwivedi, Anupam Hazra and former MLA Alka Gurjar are some of the new national secretaries.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Shaniya Parveen

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cbc@cbl.gov.nic.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/295/NE/2020

SHO  
P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi.  
Ph.: 011-22560191, 22560192,  
9136848502



## SHORT TAKES

## Highest single-day Covid spike in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala on Saturday recorded the highest single day spike in Covid-19 cases with 7006 cases even as 3100 persons recovered from the infection. Of the new cases 6004 contracted the infection through contact, source of infection among 664 persons is not known yet, 68 infected persons came from abroad, 177 from other states and 93 health workers also got infected. The state has so far reported 1,67, 939 cases of which 1,14,530 persons have recovered and 52678 are under treatment at various hospitals across the state. Kerala's figure of 50,000 plus active cases is the fifth highest in the country after Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Thiruvananthapuram district reported 1050 cases followed by Malappuram 826, Ernakulam 729, Kozhikode 684, Thrissur 594 and Kollam 589.

## College girl shot dead by her lover

**Jaipur:** A woman student was shot dead on Saturday by her lover near a college in Rajapark area of the city where she had gone to appear in graduation final year examination on Saturday, the police said. The accused identified as Vishnu Chaudhary first stabbed the girl and then opened fire at her on the road near the college. The girl was immediately rushed to SMS Government Hospital where she died, police said. "She had come from Jhunjhunu to write the exam, scheduled from 7 am to 10 am. The accused attacked her with a knife and then opened fire around 10. 30 am near the college," DCP Rahul Jain said.

— PTI

## 2 swept away by river current in Raj

**Kota:** A 25-year-old man was swept away in the swelling Parvati river, along with his cousin, after they fell off a motorcycle when going to a hospital where his wife delivered a baby in Rajasthan's Baran district, the police said. The body of 25-year-old Mahendra Kavet was fished out Saturday morning, while a search is on for his 18-year-old cousin Sonu. The police said the duo fell into the river late Friday night from a bridge between Ramgarh and Mangroli in Baran district. They are residents of Bisil village in the Kishanganj police station area. Kishanganj police station SHO Rajendra Meena said Mahendra's body has been handed over to his family after post-mortem. A search is being carried out jointly by the police and the state disaster response force for Sonu.

— PTI

## 1 killed, 6 injured in UP explosion

**Mathura:** A man was killed and six members of his family were injured in an explosion at their house in a Mathura village, police said on Saturday. The injured included three women and a child, police said, adding the incident took place at Surir Kalan village on Friday night. The Mathura chief fire officer has been asked to probe the incident and submit a report at the earliest, SSP Gaurav Grover said. Police said the double-storeyed house collapsed following the explosion on its first floor. All seven people were taken out of debris but not before Jogendra (25), son of house owner Babu Lal, breathed his last, the police said.

— PTI

## Leopard kills two, declared man-eater

**Pithoragarh:** A leopard, which killed two persons in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district within just a few days earlier this week, attacked and injured a man on Saturday, prompting the forest department to declare it a man-eater. Sayyad Hussain, a professional hunter from Meerut in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, has been hired by the forest department to kill the big cat, Pithoragarh DFO Vinay Bhargav said. The leopard, which had killed a 40-year-old man and an 11-year-old girl on September 22 and September 24 respectively, attacked a resident of Dhara Pani village this afternoon, he said.

— PTI

## 'Singing Moon' laid to rest with state honours



Tamil Nadu police personnel pay gun salute near the mortal remains of legendary singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam during his funeral ceremony at his farmhouse in Tamaraipakkam village of Thiruvallur district on Saturday. — PTI

## Ministers, leaders pay last respects

**Chennai, Sept. 26:** Versatile singer, actor and music composer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam hailed as "singing moon" by his millions of fans was laid to rest at his farm house near here on Saturday with a 24-gun salute by Tamil Nadu police.

After the singer's son S P Charan performed the funeral rites amid Vedic chants by priests, last post was played by a police band and 24 personnel in ceremonial attire gave a gun salute.

Later, the body with SPB's glasses on and

smear with 'Thiruneeru' (sacred ashes) on the forehead and draped in zari dhoti was lowered into a deep pit and buried as chants of "SPB Pugazh Onguga" (Live long SPB's fame) rent the air.

Flower petals were showered on the body and crystal salt strewn around inside the pit before its closure.

With policemen, their rifles tucked under their arms marching along, the body was brought on a traditional hay lined bier to the final resting place on the verdant premises from

a 'pandal' earmarked for people to pay homage and perform rituals.

The farm house at Tamaraipakkam in nearby Thiruvallur district teemed with his fans, well-wishers and celebrities for the funeral since early morning and 500 police personnel were deployed to regulate the crowd.

Tamil Nadu culture minister K. Pandiarajan, Andhra Pradesh irrigation minister Anil Kumar Yadav, top actor Vijay, film directors Bharathiraja, Ameer, music composer Devi Sri Prasad, singer Mano, actor Arjun and

comedian Mayilsami were among the celebrities who turned up to pay their last respects.

Though police had initially said only about 150 people would be allowed to pay homage, more and more men and women trooped to the singer's idyllic house to pay homage.

SPB's first song was in Telugu flick *Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna* (1967) and his debut song in Tamil *Athanodu Ippadi Irundhu* in a movie titled *Hotel Rambha* never saw the light of the day.

— PTI

## J&amp;K ENCOUNTER

## BJP seeks compensation for families of 2 slain men

**Jammu, Sept. 26:** The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Saturday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately provide compensation to the families of three men who were allegedly killed in a fake encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district in July.

The men, hailing from remote areas of Rajouri district, had gone to Shopian for work but they went missing on the day the Army claimed to have neutralized three "terrorists" in a gunfight. "The Army in its inquiry into the killings at Amshipora village, prima facie, found that the soldiers involved had exceeded their powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and that disciplinary action would be taken."

"Also recently, the DNA samples of the labourers have matched with those of their family members," BJP spokesperson Tahir Choudhary said in a statement here.

He said the families of the deceased are facing difficult times and therefore, the government must intervene.

"I urge the LG to give a hearing to their families and provide compensation to them at the earliest," the BJP leader said, thanking Sinha for his "efforts and for pushing authorities for a fair probe". Choudhary said he had also submitted a presentation to home minister Amit Shah.

— PTI

## India aid to renovate Buddhist monasteries

## Complete reconciliation process: PM to Rajapaksa

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called on the new government in Sri Lanka to complete the reconciliation process as envisaged in the 13th Constitution amendment for the benefit of the Tamil minority living in the island and pitched for devolution of powers to the provincial councils.

During his first virtual bilateral summit level talks with Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, PM Modi emphasised on the implementation of the 13th Amendment saying it is essential for carrying forward the process of peace and reconciliation and urged the new Lankan regime "to work towards realising the expectations of Tamils for equality, justice, peace and dignity."

The summit that lasted about one hour, saw the two leaders review bilateral matters and exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern. This was India's first such summit with a neighbour. During the talks, PM Modi announced a grant assistance of US\$15 million for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries. The grant will assist in deepening



**LANKA PM RAJAPAKSA** made a special mention of the Jaffna Cultural Centre, a project built with Indian assistance. The centre is almost ready and PM Rajapaksa extended an invitation to PM Modi to inaugurate it.

people-to-people linkages between the two countries in the sphere of Buddhism, and will be used in constructions and renovations of Buddhist monasteries, capacity development, cultural exchanges, archaeological cooperation, reciprocal exposition of Lord Buddha's relics, strengthening of Buddhist scholarship, and supporting the clergy, said Amit Narang, joint secretary dealing with Indian Ocean Region in Ministry of External Affairs.

PM Rajapaksa made a special mention of the Jaffna Cultural Centre, a project built with Indian assistance. The centre is almost ready and PM Rajapaksa extended an invitation to PM Modi to inaugurate it. The two leaders also discussed the ongoing development cooperation partnership.

## Top economist Isher Ahluwalia dies

**New Delhi, Sept. 26:** Eminent economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia, a recipient of India's third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan, passed away on Saturday. She was 74.

An associate who worked with Ahluwalia said that she passed away on Saturday.

Last month, she had stepped down as chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) due to her declining health.

"The ICRIER family is profoundly saddened at the passing away of



Isher Judge Ahluwalia

Chairperson Emeritus Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia this morning," the think tank said.

ICRIER director and chief executive Rajat Kathuria said, "I can say without an iota of doubt that ICRIER was in her DNA."

Ahluwalia was married to former deputy chairperson of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia and is survived by her husband and two sons.

She had completed her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an MA from the Delhi School of Economics, and a BA (Eco Hons) from Presidency College, Kolkata. Her research was focused on urban development, macro-economic reforms, industrial development, and social sector development issues in India.

## NCB questions Deepika, Sara Ali and Shraddha

SAURABH JOSHI  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

The NCB grilled actor Deepika Padukone for around five hours on Saturday in connection with the drugs angle involving Sushant Singh Rajput suicide probe. The agency also interrogated actors Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan who summoned at the NCB's zonal office in Ballard Pier. The officials have also placed Kshitij Ravi Prasad, former employee of Dharma Productions, under arrest after the officials found marijuana from his Versova residence.

Deepika arrived at the guesthouse located at Colaba's Radio Club area at around 9.50am and was allowed to leave around 3.50pm. The officials stated that while she accepted the chats on narcotics, many of her answers were unsatisfactory. The investigators stated that she may be summoned again for questioning if need be. The investigators will now deeper into the details shared by Deepika, whose chats with her manager Karishma Prakash asking for hash were found by the investigators. Karishma was also

## If Bihar has no poll issues, can ship some from Mumbai: Raut

BHAGWAN PARAB  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

Shiv Sena has taken a jibe at Bihar politicians for trying to make actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death an electoral issue. "Some issues can be shipped from Mumbai if they don't have real issues," quipped Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday. "Elections in Bihar should be fought on the issues of development, law and order and good governance, but if these issues are exhausted, then issues from Mumbai can be sent as a parcel," Mr Raut said.

The Sena leader's com-

ments have come on the backdrop of accusations of the BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JUD cashing in on the tragic death of the actor ahead of polls in Bihar. Congress has alleged that the BJP was 'politicising' the death of Rajput to deflect attention from the problems faced by the people in the state.

Mr Raut further said that the Covid-19 has not been eradicated from Bihar. "The preparedness for the elections must be informed to voters, how one will be able to cast his votes and how politicians will be able to do the rally," he added.

present for questioning and after they were interrogated individually, the officials also grilled them jointly on certain crucial questions.

Separate teams simultaneously questioned Sara and Shraddha at the zonal office after the duo reached there at 1 pm and noon respectively. The officials said Sara was

allowed to leave at around 5.30 pm and Shraddha followed around 5.55 pm.

While the agency came across chats of Sharadha asking for CBD oil (which is prescribed drug), whereas, eyewitness reports had claimed Sara having visited Rajput's farmhouse at Lonavala where liquor and alleged drug parties took place.

## ■ 'BJP-led govt is involved'

## Police paper leak bigger scam than Vyapam: Akhil

**Guwahati, Sept. 26:** Jailed activist Akhil Gogoi said on Saturday that the question paper leak of the Assam Police recruitment exam is a "scam" much bigger than the Vyapam scandal that rocked Madhya Pradesh a few years back, and alleged that the BJP-led state government was involved in it.

Mr Gogoi, the adviser of the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) who is lodged in jail in two NIA cases, is being treated at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for different ailments after recovering from Covid-19.

"This is a bigger scam than the Vyapam scandal. Not only some retired police officials or individual BJP leaders are involved, but also the entire BJP and the state government is behind this job scandal," he told reporters while being shifted from one building to another inside the GMCH complex. The Vyapam scam, unearthed in 2013, is related to irregularities in examinations conducted by the Madhya



Akhil Gogoi

Pradesh Professional Examination Board for admission in professional courses and state services, and nearly two dozen people linked to it mysteriously died. "By handing over the probe to the CID, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is trying to manipulate the investigation to save the actual culprits. This entire scandal happened as they were giving jobs to their own people who follow their ideologies," Gogoi alleged.

The firebrand leader also alleged that all examinations conducted by the BJP-led government so far are scandalous because only one particular agency of a "close person" has been entrusted to carry out all the recruitment processes.

— PTI

## Remain within mandate, Mamata tells Gov Dhankar

**Kolkata, Sept. 26:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday wrote to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and said he should remain within the mandate of the Constitution, expressing anguish over his letter to the state's police chief over the law and order situation. In a nine-page letter, Ms Banerjee said that the governor's aspersions sadly consist of uncorroborated judgments and insinuations against the police and the state government.

"I was extremely upset, anguished and disillusioned on reading your captioned letter and the note addressed to the Director General of Police which was placed before me, as well as to see your Twitter post regarding the same," she said. Dhankar had written to DGP Virendra earlier this month, expressing concern over the law and order situation in the state. After a two-line reply from the DGP, Dhankar asked the state police chief to meet him.

— PTI

## Manmohan deserves Bharat Ratna, says PC

**New Delhi, Sept. 26:** As former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh turned 88 on Saturday, greetings poured in from across the political spectrum with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying that India feels the absence of a PM with the "depth" of Singh. If anyone in public life alive today is deserving of the Bharat Ratna, it is "undoubtedly" Singh, said his party colleague P Chidambaram who served as finance minister and home minister under the UPA I and II governments



Dr Manmohan Singh

led by Manmohan Singh. Greeting his predecessor on his birthday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Singh a long and

healthy life. Several Union ministers and BJP leaders, including Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajnath Singh, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Vasundhara Raje Scindia, DMK chief M.K. Stalin and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also extended their greetings. Manmohan Singh headed the UPA coalition governments between 2004 and 2014 and earlier as a finance minister under the P V Narasimha Rao government supervised

the liberalisation of the Indian economy in the 1990s.

"Birthdays greetings to Dr Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray to Almighty that he is blessed with a long and healthy life," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi wished Singh, saying, "India feels the absence of a PM with the depth of Dr Manmohan Singh. His honesty, decency and dedication are a source of inspiration for us all."

— PTI



## THE ASIAN AGE

27 SEPTEMBER 2020



Sheebani Sethi

Off the beaten track

## No country for young women

**P**redictably, with the farmers' protests gaining momentum and the parliamentary process in shambles, new names have emerged in the so-called Bollywood drug mafia investigation, and some anchors who had jumped the gun now get to shrilly gloat on national TV.

Equally predictably, the named are young women. Some, conveniently, happen to be middlingly successful 'nepo kids'. One, a self-made superstar, made a five minute non-speaking cameo appearance at a den of anti-national urban naxals, aka one of the finest universities in India.

The only male public figure named so far is SSR, making one wonder if "Justice For Sushant" means tarnishing his memory and legacy. India hates its young women.

In a country which 'worships' women as goddesses, it is the young girl who invites rape by wearing jeans and eating chowmein, the young woman who invites a (dis)honour killing by daring to love a man of her choice, the young wife who invites domestic violence by not worshipping sufficiently abjectly at the altar of her husband and in-laws.

In a city named after Mumba Devi, a single woman who enters into a romantic relationship is called anything from a whore to a home-wrecker, whilst a man is the innocent victim of her wiles, even when he is married and knowingly cheats. The actor wife is blamed when a cricketer has a bad match. Women who dare to express contrarian opinions are subjected to disgusting trolling and rape threats.

A young woman who facilitated the procurement of a negligible amount of weed for her boyfriend is denied bail and continues in jail in horrific conditions on the filsiest of charges, whilst a middle-aged man-child who has admitted to taking pretty much every drug ever invented, is celebrated in a movie in which he is played by a younger man-child. [Out of curiosity, how does one drug a grown man with weed without his knowledge and consent? Sprinkle it on his *rajma-chaawal* instead of *kasoori methi*?]

The flipside of this narrative is that our god-like *raja betas* appear to have no noticeable degree of agency, choice, sense, responsibility or self-control. It is a mystery why Indian men don't find this insulting.

For millennia, Indian women have been designated as the 'honour-keepers' of patriarchy (i.e., keep your legs and mouths shut). Often it is women who normalise and enforce misogyny. Recently, some of these "princesses of patriarchy" are being styled as feminists. Ladies, you aren't.

Feminists are not victims. They believe that all genders are equal, and every individual has a right to their own choices and opinions, without inflicting them on others. They disagree with a person without insulting them. They don't judge or insult a woman because they don't agree with her. They understand the concept of consent. They don't use rape references except when discussing actual rape. They believe that a woman can be a home-maker or the CEO of a company, as long as it is HER choice. They don't hate men, or women. They don't have to be women.

So, no. You aren't feminists. Not when you play the victim card, selectively outrage on behalf of some women but slut shame others, are self-confessed addicts but derogatorily call others 'druggies', make accusations but withhold 'proof', complain (rightly) about the abuse you receive but abuse others with abandon, have different standards for different people depending on your whims. You are high-priestesses of hypocrisy.

Here's an example of how feminism works:

A prominent Bollywood male is the subject of recent #MeToo allegations. The timing of these is as suspect as the demolition of the illegal parts of an actor's office (the tasteless and tone-deaf rape analogy that followed notwithstanding).

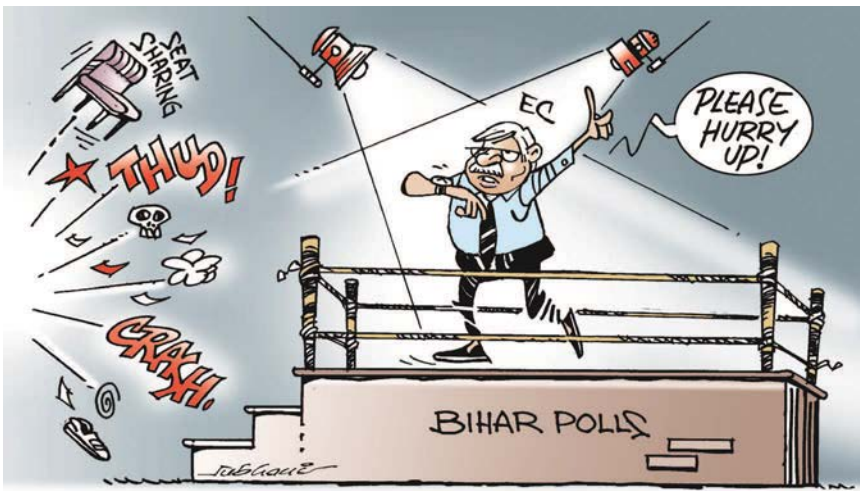
As a feminist, I say that every such charge should be investigated, and both sides heard equally. Also, if a charge is found to be trivial and baseless, there should be legal consequences for the accuser. Misusing and trivializing legal protections given to women (like dowry, domestic violence and sexual harassment laws) is an insult to the countless, voiceless women who truly need them, and to the women and men who have fought for centuries, often at huge personal risk, so that Indian women may enjoy a modicum of equality with their male counterparts.

True gender equality in India is still a long way away. So I urge the self-styled feminists to put their money where their mouths are, with objectivity, compassion, respect and non-partisanship, and help us achieve it. Otherwise India will continue to be no country for young women. And, given the recent, disgusting trolling of trail-blazing doyennes of Bollywood, no country for middle-aged or old women either.

The Indian ideal is Sati, not Kali. We forget that both, that all our deis, are avatars of the same supreme Goddess.

*Sheebani Sethi is a cat-parent, reader, Trekkie, feminist, humanist, lawyer.*

Subhani



## Covid shadow at UN-75: Some lessons for India



K.C. Singh

**C**ovid-19's shadow looms over the 75th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly this year. The high-level segment began September 22, with virtual speeches delivered to a near empty hall. Customarily, the first speaker was Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, followed by US President Donald Trump. The US presidential election is just days away, the outcome of which is critical for America and indeed the world.

For India, the anniversary has little cause for celebration as China, a UN Security Council permanent member, ignoring its Charter commitments, is attempting by force to alter the status quo at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the UNGA Saturday evening. The 2020 theme is: "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism". This sounds unrealistic, the world being caught between the pandemic and the rise of nationalist-populist leaders in almost all major powers, other than perhaps Germany. It's therefore important to study what they had to say.

President Trump, days from a tough November 3 election, was naturally more geared to a domestic than global audience. Incidentally, he spoke as Bob Woodward's book *Rage*, based on extensive interviews including with the President, reached bookshops. Pulling no punches, Mr Trump called the pandemic the "invisible enemy" and "China virus". He likened US mobilisation to that during World War II, having already cost over 200,000

dead, 40 million jobsless and an economic slowdown nearing recession. The \$2.2 trillion stimulus may leave behind rolling deficits. Mr Trump sought accountability from those who "unleashed the plague". While China, he alleged, locked down domestic travel, it kept international flights open, and delayed sharing sharing that the disease was communicable person-to-person and by asymptomatic individuals. Woodward recounts Mr Trump's discussion with advisers whether China, realising the likely damage to its economy, allowed international travel and thus the pandemic's spread, to level the playing field with the developed world. Mr Trump then fielded the usual claims about US economic and military growth under his watch and a swipe at the UN that it must focus on "real problems" to be effective. The US, he claimed, led in protecting human rights, which sits poorly with his handling of the Black Lives Matter protests. When Woodward pushed with: "I'm asking whether you can understand the plight, struggle, pain of people?". The reply, more dodge than revelation, was: "I'm somebody that likes to get things done rather than talk." Mr Trump cited his "America First" invocation, encouraging others to the same. It summed up his anti-multilateralism at the citadel of global governance.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was happy to fill that gap. He repeatedly referred to the pandemic, on the defensive after the US onslaught. He pledged the virus must be defeated, but must not be politicised, nor nations stigmatised. He sought "macro policy coordination" between major economies

to enable global recovery. He then waxed eloquent about helping the developing world, especially Africa, which for China is a crucial market and source of raw materials. Chinese companies control mines from Congo to Chile and Australia, cornering minerals needed for solar panels, electric vehicles, etc. The pandemic, Mr Xi argued, should teach there is no escaping inter-dependence and respect for each country's "independent choice of development path and model". He countered the crescendo for "decoupling" from China by seeking an open multilateral trading system with WTO as its cornerstone. On climate change, he promised carbon neutrality in China by 2060. Of course, he ignored that China's installed capacity for polluting thermal power is half the world's total. Even new Belt and Road Initiative projects have a mix of thermal and hydro power units. Reaffirming faith in global governance, he promised China will never seek hegemony. The speech will leave most of China's neighbours astounded at the gap between his words and China's actions.

Interestingly Russian President Vladimir Putin contested America's claim of stabilising West Asia and the Gulf by "peace deals". He said as the world changes so must the UN, but undermining it may collapse the "architecture of international organisations". In the Mideast, he sees foreign interference, not democracy and reform, with the vacuum filled by extremists, leading to an illicit trade in arms and oil. He undercut Mr Trump's sim-

**For India, the anniversary has little cause for celebration as China, a UNSC permanent member, ignoring its Charter commitments, is attempting by force to alter the status quo at the LAC in Ladakh**

plistic conclusion that splitting and realigning parts of the Islamic world with Israel and against Iran and its Shia national-allies would buy peace.

Amid this dissonance among major powers Pakistan's PM Imran Khan addressed the UNGA. He tried linking the UN's 75th anniversary as a time to recall fascism's defeat in Europe and focus on contemporary neo-fascism by the RSS and the BJP government in India. From that it was an easy path to claiming repression in Kashmir, and the breach of real and imaginary past UNSC resolutions. While he focused on the flow of illicit funds of Pakistan's politicians to developed nations, with his political rivals in mind, there was no mention of Pakistan's funding non-state actors and its travails with the Financial Action Task Force. His angst is understandable as the big powers aren't interested in Pakistan's Kashmir laments, except China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may take the high road and leave Indian diplomats to respond. He will no doubt seek UNSC reform, support equitable globalisation, as India needs investment to create employment, reiterate India's commitment to the Paris climate change accord and, like China, offer help to developing nations in fighting the pandemic. The post-pandemic world has conflated with the post-Trump world. Woodward's final words on Mr Trump are that his oversized personality and lack of trust in experts led to "the undermining or attempted undermining of so many American institutions. The failure of calming, healing voice. The unwillingness to acknowledge errors...". Facing a recalcitrant China, angry farmers up in arms and a swirling Covid, India's government should draw a lesson from this.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.*

## LETTERS

### MATHURA AGENDA

Amid a raging pandemic and crashing economy, with job losses numbering multiple crores, Vedic Sanatan Dharam followers have seen fit to file a lawsuit in a Mathura court seeking removal of Aurangzeb's Idgah from the Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura. It is an imposing structure in the complex, over 350 years old. The Hindutva followers have such a skewed notion of heritage. Without doubt, this is a new distraction from the exigencies, and a long-term strategy for votes on the part of the ruling party.

**Priyanka Mathur**  
*Kolkata*

### POINTLESS BODY

**WITH REFERENCE TO** "From MCI to NMC", the government may describe it as an initiative to wipe out corruption vis-a-vis the granting of approval to new medical colleges, but not much is going to happen as the new body (National Medical Commission) will have the presence of a number of those associated with the old Medical Council of India. There was no need to announce the new agency. Our legal system has a large number of loopholes and the culprit often manages to flee with the help of his colleagues. So, one can't take it with a guarantee that this new body will be able to close down the medical and allied colleges with dummy admissions and poor infrastructure.

**Navneet Seth**  
*Dhuri, Punjab*

### CENTRAL IMPUNITY

**THE REPORT OF** the Comptroller and Auditor General of India that the central government violated law and retained ₹47,272 crores of the GST compensation cess meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue during the financial year of 2017-18 and 2018-19 is shameful. The Centre used this money for "other purposes", which "led to overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year". The short-crediting was a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017. That it is now citing the same law as an excuse for denying states shows its impunity.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
*Mumbai*

### GOOD SHOW, ARJUN

**ACTOR ARJUN MATHUR** has made India proud by bagging an Emmy International nomination this year to represent the country at the international platform. Arjun has been nominated in the Best Performance By An Actor category for his role in *Made In Heaven*. The series reflects the lives of upscale modern India, narrated through the eyes of two wedding planners, set against the backdrop of quintessential Indian weddings. It is created by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti and directed by Akhtar, Nitya Mehra, Alankrita Shrivastava and Prashant Nair.

**Sankar Paul**  
*Chakdaha, West Bengal*

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: [asianage.letters@gmail.com](mailto:asianage.letters@gmail.com).

# Out overnight, eight safe from loneliness, C-virus and hunger pangs

## WhatsApp smarts

**T**he eight Opposition MPs who were suspended by the Chair in the Rajya Sabha for creating a ruckus over the Farm Bills and did a subsequent 24-hour sit in, formed a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with one another. The WhatsApp group's name: "eight and safe". The only one of the eight MPs who made friends with the rest was TMC MP Dola Sen, a trade unionist MP. Congress MP Rajeev Satav, whose birthday coincidentally was on the day of the dharna, also got to cut his cake once the cameras left. Congress leader Digvijaya Singh spent the longest time hanging around with the protesting MPs. He was the first to arrange for dhoklas and sandwiches for the eight. Food came in plenty, with many leaders across the Opposition parties pitching in. The eight remained safe, too.

## Priyanka's karmabhoomi

**R**ahul Gandhi skipped the monsoon session of Parliament and probably many within and outside the Congress did not

miss him either. In his absence, Priyanka Gandhi has been taking centrestage. There is buzz that Priyanka may go for a darshan at Pithambara Peeth at Datia in Madhya Pradesh, where crucial Assembly by-elections will be held. The Gwalior-Chambal and Bundelkhand region of the state shares boundary with Uttar Pradesh which has been Priyanka's "karmabhoomi" of sorts.

## Post for Dr Kafeel

**P**riyanka was photographed with Dr Kafeel who was acquitted by the high court recently after a prolonged period of harassment and imprisonment by the Yogi Adityanath regime. Priyanka reportedly wants Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot to accommodate Dr Kafeel as an assistant professor in Rajasthan. Gehlot is in a dilemma. He does not want to say no to Priyanka but at the same time he is wary of any kind of communal backlash in his state.

## Azad reconciled

**G**hulam Nabi Azad, who has virtually been singled out among the G-23 dis-



By WAQYANAWIS

senters within the Congress, is almost certain that he is not returning to the Rajya Sabha. So, a day before the monsoon session ended a week ahead of schedule, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister got a chance to speak. Instead of beginning with the topic Azad, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, opened his speech by saying that if the Covid pandemic continues and the winter session is postponed, this may be his last speech in the Rajya Sabha. Congress insiders say Azad's term is ending in February 2021 and he has no chance to return simply because there are no vacancies. However, Congress party leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is all set to continue in spite of becoming Bengal party chief. Apparently the party leadership wants him to go to West Bengal in a position of power and the floor leader's position gives him that political heft, they argue.

## Best woman in the job

**T**he BJP Parliamentary Board is set to be expanded in view of some vacancies.

Many are eyeing the singular woman's slot. Ironic as it may sound, some leading lights of the BJP women parliamentarians reportedly draw comfort from the poor state of economy in the context of parliamentary board vacancy. In their wisdom, prospects of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman making the cut have receded due to the minister's inability to accelerate the economy.

## Hairy superstition

**W**hy is Prime Minister Narendra Modi not trimming his beard? A personal choice seems to have become a subject matter of intense speculation and discussion. Some think it may have to do with a "man-nat" [a secret special prayer] where the seeker often stops trimming hair. Going by this view, the Prime Minister is seeking divine help and wishing for a coronavirus-free India at the earliest.

*The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power*



## IN BRIEF

## Pair charged for WH attack plot

**San Antonio:** Federal authorities have arrested two men on terror charges for allegedly plotting to bomb or shoot up sites including the White House and Trump Tower in New York City in attacks inspired by the Islamic State group. Jaylyn Christopher Molina, of Texas, and Kristopher Sean Matthews, of South Carolina, are both charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation. They were arrested in different states last week. The pair had discussed travelling to Syria to fight with the Islamic State group.

## S. Korea tells North to probe shooting

**Seoul:** South Korea said Saturday it will request North Korea to further investigate the killing of a South Korean government official who was shot by North Korean troops after being found adrift near the rivals' disputed sea boundary while apparently trying to defect. Seoul could also possibly call for a joint investigation into Tuesday's shooting, which sparked outrage in the South and drew a rare apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Kim was quoted as saying he was "very sorry" over what he described as an "unexpected, unfortunate incident" in a message sent by Pyongyang's United Front Department.

## Lebanese PM designate resigns

**Beirut:** Lebanon's prime minister-designate resigned Saturday amid a political impasse over government formation, dealing a blow to French President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to break a dangerous stalemate in the crisis-hit country. The announcement by Moustapha Adib nearly a month after he was appointed delays the prospect of getting the foreign economic assistance needed to rescue the country from collapse. Adib said he was stepping down after it became clear that the kind of Cabinet he wished to form was "bound to fail" The French leader has been pressing Lebanese politicians to form a Cabinet made up of non-partisan specialists.

## Astronaut to cast vote from space

**Atlanta:** Nasa astronaut Kate Rubins told *The Associated Press* on Friday that she plans to cast her next vote from space — more than 200 miles above Earth. Rubins is just outside Moscow in Star City, Russia, preparing with two cosmonauts for a mid-October launch and a six-month stay at the International Space Station. "I think it's really important for everybody to vote," Rubins said. "If we can do it from space, then I believe folks can do it from the ground, too." Most US astronauts live in Houston. Texas law allows them to vote from space using a secure electronic ballot.

## PARK AFTER POC WHO RESISTED SLAVERY

**Paris, Sept. 26:** The city of Paris inaugurated a public garden Saturday honouring a woman who fought for the liberation of slaves on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. Mayor Anne Hidalgo also announced plans to erect a statue to the woman, Solitude, at the site in northeastern Paris. It will be the city's first statue honouring a PoC woman. Amid global protests against monuments to white men linked to colonialism or the slave trade, French leaders have resisted taking down statues but pushed instead to design new monuments to more diverse, lesser-known historical figures. Solitude was born around 1772 to an African slave who was raped by a white sailor on the ship bringing her to the Antilles, according to newspaper *Le Monde*. She won her freedom after the French Revolution, but then Napoleon reinstated slavery in French colonies and Solitude joined Guadeloupe's resistance movement, according to city hall. Napoleon's forces arrested a then-pregnant Solitude, and sentenced her to death. She gave birth on Nov. 28, 1802, and was hanged the next day. France abolished slavery again in 1848. Guadeloupe remains part of France, and saw protests earlier this year against racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's death in the US.

## 2 mn Covid deaths possible, WHO warns

**Geneva, Sept. 26:** Coronavirus deaths could more than double to two million without collective action against the deadly pandemic, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned, as Australia's prime minister urged any nation that develops a vaccine to share it with the rest of the world.

The number of cases worldwide has soared past 32 million, with deaths approaching one million, the global economy devastated, and major cultural and sports events disrupted. But despite the pandemic showing no signs of slowing, Japan's new prime minister Yoshihide Suga struck a defiant note Friday, saying his country was determined to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"One million is a terrible number and we need to reflect on that before we start considering a second million," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters on Friday when asked how high the death toll could go. "Are we prepared collectively to do what it takes to avoid that number?"

"If we don't take those actions... yes, we will be looking at that number and sadly much higher." The pandemic has spurred worldwide efforts to develop a vaccine to help defeat



Protesters gather in Trafalgar Square in London on Saturday, at a "We Do Not Consent!" mass rally against vaccination and government curbs designed to fight the spread of the Coronavirus, including the wearing of masks and taking tests for the virus.

Covid-19, as well as efforts to try to ensure fair and widespread distribution. "Whoever finds the vac-

cine must share it... This is a global responsibility and it's a moral responsibility," Australian Prime

Minister Scott Morrison said Friday in a message to the United Nations General Assembly that

was held virtually. "Some might see short-term advantage or even profit, but I assure you...

humanity will have a very long memory and be a very, very severe judge." — AFP

## Trump may announce Amy Barrett for court

## Appeals court hears fight over Don tax returns again

**Washington, Sept. 26:** President Donald Trump is expected to announce Saturday that he is nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as he aims to put a historic conservative stamp on the high court just weeks before the election.

Trump said Friday he had made up his mind and it was "very exciting," without giving away the name, aiming to maintain some suspense around his personal announcement. But the White House indicated to congressional Republicans and outside allies that the pick was Barrett. "Well I haven't said it was her, but she's outstanding," Trump said of the Indiana federal judge. Conservative groups and congressional allies are laying the groundwork for a swift confirmation process for her, even before Trump makes the selection official in a Rose Garden ceremony Saturday evening.

They, like the president, are wasting little time moving to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, organising multi-million-dollar ad campaigns and marshalling supporters both to confirm the pick and to boost Trump to a second term. The likely shift in the court's makeup — from Ginsburg, a liberal icon, to an outspoken conservative — would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

Ever the showman, Trump remained coy about his choice Friday evening as he returned from a campaign swing. When asked whether lawmakers were being told it was Barrett, Trump responded with a nod on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, before replying, "Is that what they're telling you?" "You'll find out tomorrow," he went on to say, flashing a wide smile. "Look, they're all great. It could be any of one them."

**New York, Sept. 26:** A federal appeals court tested the waters on a potential compromise, but didn't immediately rule Friday after arguments in President Donald Trump's long-running fight to prevent a top New York prosecutor from getting his tax returns — a battle that seems destined to return to the Supreme Court.

A Trump lawyer argued that a subpoena for the records is overly broad but balked when an appellate judge suggested the court might be able to alleviate that concern by limiting the scope of documents

being sought.

Trump's lawyer, William Consovoy, signalled they will be satisfied only if Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. is barred from getting all of the requested records. Consovoy is seeking to have the case sent back to a lower court that last month rejected his attempt to quash the subpoena, arguing that judge erred in his ruling. If the three-judge panel refuses to put a hold on the enforcement of the subpoena, Trump's lawyers will be forced to ask the Supreme Court to prolong the legal fight.

The high court, which ruled 7-2 against the president in July, is down to eight justices after the death last week of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The matter may not be fully resolved before the November election. Trump's lawyers appealed to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals after a district court judge last month rejected their renewed efforts to invalidate a subpoena that the Vance's office issued to Trump's accounting firm as part of a grand jury investigation into his financial and business dealings. — AP

## PREZ: DOCUMENTS REVEAL RUSSIANS INTERFERED IN 2016 POLL FOR DEMS

**Washington, Sept. 26:** US President Donald Trump has alleged that a new set of documents have revealed that Russians interfered in the 2016 presidential elections on behalf of his then rival and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. The alleged Russian interference in US elections in 2016 was one of the major topics for the Opposition Democrats in the first three years of Trump's presidency and also became the basis of the failed impeachment proceedings against him.

"I've been tarred with this horrible witch hunt for four years. And I didn't do it. Think of it. What would my numbers be, if I didn't go through almost four years of a Russian witch hunt that turned out to be just the opposite. They were the ones involved with Russia," Trump said while addressing a Republican campaign rally in Newport, Virginia on

Friday. "A new trove of documents ...now prove that Russia interfered in 2016. Unfortunately, it was on behalf of Hillary Clinton, not Trump. They interfered with disinformation," he said.

Trump alleged the 2016 presidential elections were interfered by the Russians on behalf of rival Clinton's campaign. "The newly released text messages make 100 per cent clear. The FBI knew that Democrats purchased Russian disinformation targeting me, your favourite president, which then formed the basis for the witch hunt," he said as he praised several *Fox News* anchors for standing by him during those days. Trump also accused the Democrats and the Russians of spying on him and his campaign. "It was a whole big disinformation campaign," he said amidst cheers and applause from his audience. — PTI

## HEBDO STABBING: SEVEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

**Paris, Sept. 26:** Seven people were in custody Saturday after a stabbing outside the former Paris offices of satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, including the suspected assailant, authorities said.

Counterterrorism authorities are investigating what authorities called an Islamic extremist attack linked to *Charlie Hebdo*, which lost 12 employees in an al-Qaida attack in 2015. The weekly, which routinely mocks religious and prominent figures, recently republished caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that outraged Muslims. The suspected assailant in Friday's stabbing had been nabbed a month ago. — AP

## Ukraine crash: Toll climbs to 26

**Moscow, Sept. 26:** Searchers combing the area where a Ukrainian military aircraft crashed found two more bodies on Saturday, bringing the death toll to 26. One person survived.

The plane, a twin-turboprop Antonov-26 belonging to the Ukrainian air force, was carrying a crew of seven and 20 cadets of a military aviation school when it crashed and burst into flames Friday night while coming in for landing at the airport in Chuhuiv, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of the capital Kyiv. Two people initially survived the crash, but one later died in a hospital. No cause for the crash has been determined. Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared Saturday to be a day of mourning for the crash victims and ordered that flights of An-26 planes be halted pending investigation of the crash cause. Zelenskyy, who visited the crash area on Saturday, called for a full assessment of the condition of the country's military equipment and said he wanted an official report on the crash by October 25.

The An-26 is a transport plane used by both military and civilian operators. Nearly 1,400 of the planes were manufactured from 1969 to 1986, according to the company's website. The age of the plane that crashed Friday was not immediately reported. — AP

## US to restrict Chinese journos' stay to 90 days

**Washington, Sept. 26:** The Trump Administration is seeking to restrict the stay of journalists from China in the US to just 90 days with the provision of another extension for a similar duration, according to a federal notification.

The move came amidst worsening of bilateral ties over a range of issues like the Coronavirus pandemic, trade, Beijing's increasing grip on Hong Kong and alleged human rights abuses against minorities in the Xinjiang province.

The proposal of the Department of Homeland Security is part of the fixed time limit on visas of students, researchers and foreign journalists in the US. While the time limit for foreign journalists in general has been restricted to 240 days and another extension of a similar period, those for a journalist from China

would be issued a I visa by the United States just for 90 days, as per the federal notification issued on Friday. Stake holders have 30 days to respond to the federal notification before it can be enforced.

Foreign nationals travelling on a passport issued by China or Hong Kong would be issued I visa — which is the category for a foreign journalist — may be admitted until the "activities or assignments consistent with the I classification" are completed, not to exceed 90 days, the notification said. Passport holders from Macau Special Administrative Region have been given exception. The extension for Chinese journalists is also for 90 days only. Foreign journalists and their dependents would have to leave the country immediately on expiry of their I visa or denial of their extension application. — PTI

## TERROR, N-TRADE PAK GLORY FOR 70 YEARS: INDIA

**United Nations, Sept. 26:** The "only crowning glory" that Pakistan has to show to the world for the last seven decades is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade, India said in a scathing response on Friday, slamming Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's "incessant rant" and "venom" in the UN General Assembly. "This august forum witnessed a new low on its 75th anniversary. The leader of Pakistan today called for those who incite hate and violence to be outlawed. But as he went on, we were left wondering, was he referring to himself?"

First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Mijito Vinito said, making India's Right of Reply. The rebuttal came after Khan spoke about India's internal affairs, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Vinito walked out when Khan started his usual "diatribe" about India.

"This hall heard the incessant rant of someone who had nothing to show for himself, who had no achievements to speak of and no reasonable suggestion to offer to the world. Instead, we saw lies, misinformation, war mongering and malice spread through this Assembly," the Indian diplomat said.

Slamming Pakistan for its record as a nation, Vinito said, "The only crowning glory that this country has to show to the world for the last 70 years is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade." — PTI

## Youth: Act to halt catastrophic climate change

**Brussels, Sept. 26:** United under Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, young people rallied worldwide on Friday to demand urgent action to halt catastrophic climate change, in their first global protest since the Coronavirus crisis began. With wild weather wreaking havoc across the world - from fires ravaging the US West, to abnormal heatwaves in the Siberian Arctic and record floods in China — organisers said their aim was to remind politicians that, while the world focused on

Covid-19, the climate crisis was more acute than ever.

Demonstrations were planned in more than 3,100 locations, though with pandemic-related curbs limiting the size of gatherings, much of the action shifted online. In Stockholm, Thunberg and a handful of members of her group, "Fridays for Future", assembled outside parliament with signs bearing slogans including "Stop Denying the Climate Is Dying". "We need to treat the climate crisis as a crisis. It's just as simple as that."

● PARTICIPANTS WERE asked to post pictures on social media and join a 24-hour global Zoom call — though mass gatherings were held in countries, including Germany.

The climate crisis has never once been treated as a crisis and unless we treat it as a crisis we won't be able to, so-called, 'solve' it," she said.

Organisers said turnout was expected to be far smaller than the global climate

strikes held one year ago, which drew more than six million people. Participants were asked to post pictures on social media and join a 24-hour global Zoom call — though mass gatherings were held in countries. In Berlin, police said nearly 10,000 people took part in demonstrations. Protesters cycled in groups to the Brandenburg Gate, where they sat in face masks, observing social distancing and chanting: "Strikes in school, university and companies." — Reuters



People march in Buenos Aires to join the "Fridays for future" climate emergency movement, launched by Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg. — AFP



# TN Govt yet to keep promise given to manual scavenger

T. SUDHEESH  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

It has been seven years since the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013, came into force. But the government has failed to keep the promise given to Y. Manikandan, 37, a manual scavenger from K.M. Garden near Pulianthope slum in the city, who was offered a permanent job as a sanitation worker at the slum clearance board.

It was on September 4, 2017, the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment directed the state government to provide him a permanent job at the slum clearance board.

Based on the direction, on January 24 this year, K. Sridharan, Deputy Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, sent an official



The lackadaisical attitude of the authorities comes at a time when the Union Budget in February had allocated a whopping ₹10,103.57 crore as against ₹8,885 crore given previous year to eradicate manual scavenging and rehabilitate the workers. But manual scavenging continues to be an ugly reality in Tamil Nadu. This newspaper had reported last Wednesday that 16 manual scavengers were asphyxiated this year so far during lockdown while they were cleaning septic tanks. (Pic taken for illustrative purpose only)

letter to the Commissioner, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), asking to take immediate action with regard to the permanent job and one-time cash payment offered to Manikandan. The letter also said that a copy of the action taken report (ATR) should be sent to the government immediately.

Nine months on, Manikandan, father of four daughters aged between 7 and 19, continues to knock on the doors of authorities to get justice.

Manikandan says the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment offered the job after one of his pictures standing in the neck-deep muck courted controversy. "As the incident drew flak, the authorities stopped me from doing the job. Since then, my family including seven members has been living with the meagre income earned by my wife as a domestic help. My wife lost her job after the pandemic struck. My second daughter, a plus-2 student,

missed online classes due to lack of a smartphone. My elder daughter, studying nursing, quit the course a year ago as I was unable to pay the fee. Now with the pandemic and lockdown making life more miserable. I sent various reminders to the corporation authorities, but to no avail," he said.

Though DC sent a query citing the letter issued by the municipal administration and water supply department, GCC commissioner G. Prakash did not respond.



## Durga puja to go digital this year

N. SAMPATH  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

The nine-day Durga puja, a traditional festival of North India, is celebrated in Tamil Nadu too like the Navarathri festival in the recent past as lot of people from Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal have settled in the state. They celebrate puja with a statue of Goddess Durga with height ranging from two feet to six feet.

These statues are made using bio-degradable products like paper pulp. Several people buy statues of Lord Shiva and Lord Hanuman to use them as part of the daily morning and evening puja for which special pandals would be erected in their locality.

After successful completion of the nine-day festival the statues would be immersed in the sea. Cutting across age, elders along with youngsters will engage in the traditional Dandiya dance to celebrate the joyful occasion.

As the government has imposed the lockdown for Covid-19, devotees say the festival this time would be celebrated with less fanfare. Several festival organizers have urged the devotees not to come in large numbers to get the blessing of the goddess. The organisers have arranged online streaming of puja for the benefit of devotees across the world.

According to a craftsman, who makes Durga statues, in the past they made statues four months in advance, but this year due to the lockdown the work had just started affecting their livelihood in a larger way. "Very few people have placed their order with us so we don't know what to do as we have left with very few customers," the craftsman said.



## Darkness of drugs devastates families



Apsara Reddy

And the point is..

A sight outside my tailor's home recently was that of his son scratching his own face and inflicting bloody wounds on himself. Why? Because the father, who earns a meagre ₹ 200 to 400 a day, couldn't fund his cravings for cocaine. For the past decade, the family has sold all they had to control, comfort and cajole their son who is now a full-blown addict. At 33, he stays home and demands that his parents give him money to buy his "happiness".

While city cops continue to crack the whip on the underbelly of drug traffick-

ing, more and more drug users are peddling their wares even during the strictest of lockdown. Using young mules, a few seasoned drug peddlers are pushing serious substances to those as young as 15.

The authorities are seizing huge quantities of ganja but other psychotropic drugs and harmful substances like small quantities of thinner mixed with cough syrup are also being sold hidden in matchboxes and Marie biscuit packets at hot spots.

North Madras being a hotbed for sourcing drugs, highly placed sources

reveal that a very influential family orders drugs and supplies it to other high society folk. Drug-fuelled parties at a posh penthouse in the inner city boast of guests like top DJs, industrialists and even those related to cricket. An IT professional who was invited to one of these parties says, "The hosts are extremely influential and have a door delivery service to carry their drugs for them. They spend about ₹20,000 or more each weekend just sourcing these substances and entertain their friends."

Small packets of marijuana are sold to first time users for as little as ₹ 400. A parent of a victim says, "My son started with smoking weed. But later we realised that the peddler was lacing it with small quantities of cocaine. This made him completely addicted to cocaine and marijuana. No amount of therapy and counselling has helped him.

He is an emotional wreck suffering from so many health issues now."

The Narcotics Control Bureau has been doing a tremendous job in the State in stopping entry of narcotics through the borders and the police take these cases very seriously. This is the reason cough syrups, psychotropic tablets and thinners are being used to concoct heady substances and potions.

An expat, whose son was involved in a narcotics deal and supplying to high flyers on the ECR stretch, says, "My son who was 22 years old then was befriended by two older men in their 30s. They all started hanging out and doing drugs. Eventually my son started buying expensive phones and gadgets. I realised that he was starting to be a drug mule for those men who were using him to go deliver marijuana and cocaine to users in beach houses. My son would just cycle along ECR and deliver these packets packed neatly in small matchboxes."

It's known that there is drug usage across the globe. It's difficult to wipe it out completely but what we must ensure is that no underage individual is being initiated in the name of friendship and peer pressure.

The devastation for families is unimaginable. From self-inflicted injuries to unleashing violence and paranoia, an addict can crush a family and its finances. As a society we mustn't just report it but work with the authorities in putting an end to this menace. Legalising marijuana will not change a thing, it'll only create a market for drugs that can be laced into marijuana and sold.

## Are political parties going back in time?



G. Babu Jayakumar

Just spamming

The Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2021 could see some of the political parties turning the pages of their own history books and raking up issues that were thought to be passé. Pointers to the possibility of resurrection of old issues that had helped the parties gain popular support once emerged from some of their recent engagements. Those parties that showed such signs were PMK, DMK and BJP.

The BJP, as it has become evident now, no more talks about grandiose things like development, employment, economy and national security, at least not in Tamil Nadu. Here it is about protecting Hinduism and Lord Muruga. The present state president, L. Murugan, is planning a yatra to the various abodes of Lord Muruga in Tamil Nadu - from Thiruchendur to Tiruttani. The proposed yatra by

Murugan to the Lord Muruga temples is reminiscent of the 1990 Rath yatra of L K Advani, which catapulted the BJP to popularity and power at the national level. Ever since Murugan took over, the BJP in Tamil Nadu had been talking more about religious issues than serious politics, thus giving the indication that the promise on protecting Hinduism could be the key to its campaign in 2021.

Another party that dug up an old issue and gave it a new lease of life was the PMK, which now demands 20 per cent reservation for the Vanniyar community. Before the PMK was launched in 1989, the 20 per cent exclusive quota for the community was the demand of the Vanniyar Sangam, which organised a series of protests between 1980 and 1989 in the northern parts of the State.

In 1987, the Vanniyar

Sangam went for a prolonged agitation that saw the blocking of major highways with the trunks of massive roadside trees that were felled and laid across the roads, causing not just traffic disruptions but also paralysing normal life. It was the strike that gave rise to the community leader Dr S Ramadoss, who was earlier a humble people's doctor in Tindivanam and active functionary of the Vanniyar Sangam.

The agitation helped in making the government come around and Ramadoss won a major political victory when the 20 per cent reservation for Most Backward Communities (MBC) was carved out of the 50 per cent quota for Backward Classes (BC) with Vanniyars forming part of the MBC. That was 31 years ago and since then the community had been enjoying the benefits of the MBC quota.

Dr Ramadoss, on his part, became a successful politician, taking his party to places, striking alliances with various parties at the Central and State levels, ensuring that his candidates won elections, that they were given ministerial berths and so on. Though



his party never failed to remember the 21 persons who died in police action during the 1987 protests, the 20 per cent exclusive reservation for Vanniyars was never raked up all these years.

The creation of the MBC quota rendered the demand for 20 per cent reservation irrelevant. The PMK, too, had been talking about a plethora of other general issues that concerned the people, even projecting itself as an environment-friendly party. It dedicated itself to fight evils like tobacco and alcohol. The nation-wide ban on smoking was brought in when PMK's nominee Dr Anbumani Ramadoss was the Union Health Minister.

Then, at one point, it suddenly went back to the idea of protecting Vanniyars, particularly in safeguard-



ing the honour of families by preventing inter-caste marriages. But earlier this month, the General Council of the PMK passed 20 resolutions, the most striking among them being the one calling for reviving the demand of 20 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions for Vanniyars.

The resolution made it clear that the MBC quota created 31 years back had not helped the Vanniyar community get adequate representation in education and jobs. The resolution called it a 'betrayal of the then rulers' and said that Vanniyar representation in State government services was only eight per cent though the community formed 25 per cent of the population.

In Group I services they had only two to three per



cent representation, in Group Two six to eight per cent and Group Four seven to nine percent. Vanniyars had not benefitted from the reservation for MBCs, the resolution said, adding that if the trend continued the community would only go further backwards.

To rectify the backward slide, 20 percent exclusive reservation for them was the only answer, it said and called upon the government to bring in a special law to provide for the special quota. About 10 days after the resolution was passed, Dr Ramadoss pointed out that the government had not called the party for negotiations though the memorandum had been presented.

He was speaking at a meeting organised to release his book, 'Chukka... Milaga... Samuha Needi...', which



was about the way the community was cheated on the reservation issue, and asked for the formation of an equal opportunities commission. To put it otherwise, he again created a victim complex among his followers, urging them to fight for their rights.

This was reminiscent of the pre-PMK days when the Vanniyar Sangam leaders used the same language to mobilise the people. Perhaps, the idea behind the reviving of the age-old demand was to inform the modern youth that the PMK alone was concerned about their welfare and that it alone could fight for their uplift, thus ensuring that they voted for the party.

Another 'back to the olden days' music was played at the General Council meeting of the DMK, when the party's newly elected gener-

al secretary Durai Murugan, exhorted the youth wing secretary Udayanidhi Stalin to print out cards with two historic speeches, one of C N Annadurai and the other of Periyar E V Ramasamy that exemplified the basic tenet of the Dravidian movement itself.

'I belong to the Dravidian stock,' so begins the maiden speech of Annadurai in English at Parliament and the other is an avowal of Periyar who says that it was his duty to reform the Dravidian community. Durai Murugan wanted to reinforce the principles that guided the Dravidian movement by ensuring that the younger generation knew about it. So, he wanted the card printed with the two defining statements to be kept in the shirt pockets of the youth wing and student wing members for them to read them daily and feel rejuvenated.

So, there is a clear indications that political parties want to highlight their basic ideological positions to lure the modern generation of youth. By reversing a bit, political leaders feel, they could zoom forward into the fast track electoral highway with ease.



## SHORT TAKES

## Djokovic braces for unhappy Nadal

**Paris:** Novak Djokovic will renew his love-hate relationship with Roland Garros in the knowledge that it is himself rather than seemingly unsettled 12-time champion Rafael Nadal who could pose the greatest threat to winning a second Paris title and 18th Grand Slam crown. The only man to beat Djokovic in 2020 is Djokovic after the Serb's hair-trigger temper prompted a sensational disqualification from the US Open. Federer will miss the French Open as he rehabs his injured knee.

Former champion Simona Halep arrives as the player to beat in a women's draw missing title holder Ashleigh Barty and recent US Open winner Naomi Osaka, two of the world's top three. Serena Williams can never be discounted as she launches another bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles crown here. — *AFP*

## Bruno penalty hands Man U win

**Brighton:** Bruno Fernandes scored a penalty, awarded on a VAR review after the final whistle had blown, as Manchester United rode their luck to register their first Premier League points of the season with a thrilling 3-2 win at Brighton on Saturday.

The Seagulls hit the woodwork five times and thought they had earned a deserved point when Solly March headed home to equalise in the 95th minute. However, Neal Maupay's handball was penalised by referee Chris Kavanagh after he had blown for full-time and Fernandes converted from the spot in the 100th minute. Pre-season hopes that United could mount a title challenge to their biggest rivals Liverpool and Manchester City dissipated after a dire display in losing 3-1 to Crystal Palace last weekend. — *AFP*

## Hamilton takes Russian GP pole

**Sochi, Russia:** Runaway Formula One series leader Lewis Hamilton emerged from a "horrible" red-flagged qualifying session at Sochi on Saturday with a stunning pole position for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes six-time champion clocked a best lap in one minute and 31.304 seconds to outpace Max Verstappen of Red Bull by half a second. His Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas was third-quickest with Sergio Perez of Racing Point sharing the second row. Hamilton is bidding to claim his fifth win at the Sochi track where Mercedes have dominated winning all six races since 2014. If he translate pole into victory, he will equal Michael Schumacher's career record of 91 Grand Prix wins. — *AFP*

## Celtics rally to beat Miami Heat

**Miami:** The Boston Celtics roared back in the second half to beat the Miami Heat 121-108 on Friday to stay alive in the NBA playoffs. Jayson Tatum scored 31 points and Jaylen Brown added 28 as six Celtics players scored in double figures and Boston cut the deficit in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals to three games to two. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 23 points and Duncan Robinson added 20 for Miami, who are trying to reach the NBA finals for the first time since 2014. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports 2, 3, Select 2

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Manchester City vs Leicester from 9 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD  
**Spanish Premier League:** Atletico Madrid vs Granada from 7.30 pm; Barcelona vs Villarreal from 12.30 am (Monday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

**Italian League:** Napoli vs Genoa from 6.30 pm; Roma vs Juventus from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2

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## SUPER SHUBMAN

Gill's unbeaten 70 helps KKR beat SRH by 7 wickets

## SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** David Warner c and b Chakravarthy 36, Jonny Bairstow c Cummins 5, Manish Pandey c and b Russell 51, Wriddhiman Saha run out 30, Mohammad Nabi (not out) 11, Abhishek Sharma (not out) 2. **Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-3) 7. Total: (for 4 wickets, in 20 overs) 142.**  
**FOW:** 1-24, 2-59, 3-121, 4-138.

**Bowling:** S.P. Narine 4-0-31-0, P.J. Cummins 4-0-19-1, Shivam Mavi 2-0-15-0, Kuldeep Yadav 2-0-15-0, C.V. Varun 4-0-25-1, K.L. Nagarkoti 2-0-

17-0, A.D. Russell 2-0-16-1. **Kolkata Knight Riders:** Shubman Gill (not out) 70, S. Narine c Warner b Ahmed 0, N. Rana c 'Saha b Natarajan 26, K.D. Karthik (c) 'lbw b Rashid Khan 0, E. Morgan (not out) 42. **Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-4) 7. Total: (for 3 wickets, in 18 overs) 145.**  
**FOW:** 1-6, 2-43, 3-53.

**Bowling:** B. Kumar 3-0-29-0, K.K. Ahmed 3-0-28-1, T. Natarajan 3-0-27-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-23-0, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-11-0.

dangerous David Warner to derail SRH early on. Pandey returned to form at No. 3 with a 38-ball 51 and along with Wriddhiman Saha (30 off 31

balls), tried to repair the damage but the duo were dismissed at the death and SRH lacked the finishing touch to settle for a seemingly below-par total.

Unlike their last match against Mumbai Indians, KKR looked more intent and aggressive with their approach, having brought in Sunil Narine and Cummins up front with the new ball.

Cummins smartly altered his length and bowled Jonny Bairstow with an absolute ripper to give KKR the first breakthrough.

In his second-coming, architect-turned mystery spinner Chakravarthy dismissed a well-set Warner (36 off 30) in a soft manner for his maiden IPL wicket, giving KKR the big breakthrough. — *PTI*



Shubman Gill of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. — *BCCI*

## Dhoni asks team to up the ante

**Dubai, Sept. 26:** Two consecutive defeats have left Chennai Super Kings reeling and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is contemplating rejigging the combination, saying they are lacking steam and need to come back with a clearer picture for the next IPL games.

CSK, one of the most dominant teams in the history of IPL, have lost two of the three games they have played with the latest being a 44-run thrashing at the hands of Delhi Capitals.

"I don't think it was a good game for us. There was no dew, but the wicket did slow down. We are

**We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team balance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game.**

— **M.S. DHONI**  
Chennai super Kings captain after losing the match against Delhi

## CSK COACH RUES MISSING KEY PLAYERS

**Dubai, Sept. 26:** Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming has admitted that his side were "a little bit muddled" at the moment and they need a clearer strategy going ahead after suffering two losses in three matches in the Indian Premier League.

Fleming also rued the missing of some key players that he said has affected the team combination. "Well, we're a bit muddled at the moment. We're missing some key players, and we're trying to find a balance that

allows us to be competitive. We're looking to develop a personality based on the wickets that we're facing." Fleming said after CSK lost to Delhi Capitals by 44 runs on Friday.

"Each wicket has been completely different, and our batting is without Rayudu, (Suresh) Raina etc. We're trying to find a way or a combination and how to use players. We've learned a massive amount over three days."

Three-time champions CSK could not get going during the run chase

against DC, and when asked why Sam Curran or Ravindra Jadeja was not promoted up the batting order, Fleming said they had used the same tactic in the last couple of games.

"We have almost got too many batting options at the moment, so that's why I say we were a little bit muddled with what we're sending out, so we just need to be a little bit clearer with what we're doing, and perhaps what we're missing is a bigger contribution at the top," he said. — *PTI*

lacking a bit of steam in the batting and that hurts. The run rate keeps on mounting after such slow starts and adds pressure, we need to figure that out," Dhoni said after the match against Capitals on Friday night.

"We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team balance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game."

ance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game."

Rayudu, who struck a brilliant 48-ball 71 in CSK's five-wicket win over MI in the tournament-opener, missed the next two games due to a hamstring injury.

The CSK captain expressed hope that Rayudu will be available

in their next game.

"That will give us the room to experiment with an extra bowler perhaps. There are quite a few things we can think about. We are one batter extra to start off, so the players need to step up."

Dhoni also asked his bowlers to pull up their socks after two ordinary outings. — *PTI*

## SHAW 'STICKS TO PLAN' TO DELIVER WINNING KNOCK

**Dubai, Sept. 26:** Young opener Prithvi Shaw, who starred in Delhi Capitals' win over Chennai Super Kings, says his plan was to play along the ground and avoid "silly mistakes" after failing to make an impact in the first match.

Shaw was dismissed for five in DC's campaign opener against Kings XI Punjab but the 20-year-old made amends with a fluent 64 off 43 balls on Friday. "My plan was to play my natural game but play the shots along the ground, last game we saw there were some silly mistakes and it was not working for me or the team," Shaw said.

Shaw shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan.

"CSK has some good pace bowlers. I was able to time the ball and get some gaps. As the spinners came on, even if we are 40/0, it doesn't matter, I knew me and Dhawan could pace our innings after the powerplay," he said. — *PTI*



Jos Buttler

## Buttler boost for Rajasthan

**Sharjah, Sept. 26:** Sanju Samson will like to continue his dream form while the presence of Jos Buttler puts Rajasthan Royals on even keel with Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game which promises to be yet another six-hitting contest. Coming into the match after morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.

Buttler, who missed the first match due to quarantine rules as he reached the UAE separately with his family, is expected to open alongside Yashashvi Jaiswal while Steve Smith will take David Miller's position in the batting order. Tom Curran and Jofra Archer will again complete the four-player overseas quota.

"I am excited to play my first game, it was great to be back in training with the boys, there's a great vibe around the team so I'm really looking forward to taking the field," Buttler said on the eve of the match.

"The atmosphere and energy around the squad is fantastic, obviously lots of confidence after that first game. The training has been very energetic, guys are lively and enjoying

● **Coming into the match after morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.**

each other's company. So expecting a really tough match against Kings XI," Buttler said.

K.L. Rahul plundered a record 132 not out off just 69 balls to lead KXIP to a 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore. He did get reprieve twice when his opposite number Virat Kohli dropped a couple of sitters.

Rahul, one of the cleanest hitters of the ball, notched up the highest score by an Indian in IPL history and he would like to continue in the same vein on a ground which has short boundaries on all sides.

The young Samson, on the other hand, made a mincemeat of the Chennai Super Kings bowlers, hitting nine sixes in his 32-ball 74 before Jofra Archer joined the party with a four-six burst in the final over in the match played here on Tuesday. — *PTI*

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 18
- Rajasthan won: 10
- Punjab won: 8
- Tied: 1 (KXIP beat Rajasthan in Super over after match ended in a tie.)

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 14 runs at Jaipur.
- Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 12 runs at Mohali.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Jos Buttler, who scored 859 runs at an average of 47.72 and a strike rate of 153.94 in 21 innings of as many matches, has the second best strike rate behind Yusuf Pathan (161.24) for Rajasthan Royals in IPL.

- Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten 132 in the previous match was the highest score for Kings XI Punjab and fourth highest ever in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.100
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	0	2	-0.767
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	2	0	2	0	0	-0.730

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

## Stuttering starts put Dhoni, Kohli under huge pressure



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

A pall of gloom descended on the IPL — in fact the entire cricket world — with Dean Jones's passing away in Mumbai. He was part of the Star Sports experts commentators team, and by all accounts looked to be hale and hearty till the sudden cardiac arrest.

I got to know Jones a bit during his playing days — having covered the Tied Match at Madras in 1986 in which he scored a magnificent 210 — and a great deal more as commentator;

especially when we worked together during the Indian Cricket League in 2007-8.

The last time we had an extended conversation was in 2015-16 when I travelled to Adelaide for the first-ever day-night, pink ball Test, between Australia and New Zealand. We were staying in the same hotel and would invariably meet at breakfast.

One morning, I asked him to describe his cricketing journey. "I could play a bit, I can talk a lot, hopefully that leaves something

for posterity to remember me by," Jones replied. Who knew the end was so near? That he died in the saddle, pursuing his life's abiding passion, is perhaps some solace.

Meanwhile, the first week of the IPL has been completed. Going by early trends, this edition too promises to be a bumpy roller-coaster ride for all teams, with dramatic ups and downs.

There is too much cricket remaining in the tournament and detailed analyses at this juncture would be presumptuous. Instead, I'll spotlight some outstanding performances and some failures from the pool of Indian players in the IPL.

K.L. Rahul, Sanju Samson, Rohit Sharma and Prithvi Shaw have

been the outstanding batsmen so far. Rahul's blazing century helped Punjab wallop RCB, and was redemption for his team missing out on a win in the first match against Delhi.

Prithvi Shaw, so often the despair of his captain and fans because he throws his wicket away with the bowling is at his mercy, came up with a splendid, match-winning half century against Chennai.

Rohit, after a stutter against Chennai, came into his own against KKR as only he can, taking a heavy toll of all bowlers, including Pat Cummins, the world's no.1 Test bowler and the most expensive overseas player in the tournament at ₹15.5 crore. The T20 format can be brutally cruel to even the best.

My best innings so far, however, is Sanju Samson's bazooka 74 off 32 balls which devastated CSK.

Samson's potential has never been doubt, but his temperament was suspect, which contributed inconsistent performances and saw him in and out of the Indian team.

With this innings, he not only helped Rajasthan — without Stokes and Butler — stun Chennai, but made a statement that he is going to seriously compete with Rishabh Pant for M.S. Dhoni's place in India's T20 and ODI teams.

Among bowlers, Mohamed Shami has bowled at hot pace, getting swing and seam movement to harry batsman. He is at the peak of his prowess, and a potent weapon for

Punjab. India hopeful Navdeep Saini has looked sharp and penetrative for RCB.

Leg spinners are to the fore among spinners. Most successful has been Yuzvendra Chahal, befuddling batsmen with his shrewd mix of leg-breaks and googlies.

Rahul Tewatia has done the star turn for Rajasthan, but the most impressive has been Punjab's 20-year-old Ravi Bishnoi who has the redoubtable Anil Kumble as coach and mentor, a huge advantage.

Which brings me Virat Kohli and M.S. Dhoni, invariably always in the news, the latter even more after he announced his retirement from international cricket. Both started with victories, but after

that have been non-descript, as captains and batsmen and are under severe pressure.

Kohli has flopped in both matches RCB's played, which is unusual, but also troubling for his team. With other topnotchers Finch and de Villiers not striking big either, RCB are not getting the scores to support the excellent Chahal and Saini.

For Dhoni, the problem's bigger, and does not have to do with his batting position as is being widely debated. CSK's overall batting and bowling is floundering, there is a shortage of power hitters, few bowling options since Watson and Jadhav are not bowling.

In an ageing team, particularly these issues become even more detrimental.