


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31°C

Min: 23.1°C

RH: 71%

Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky.

Thundershowers likely.

Max/Min temp. 32/23 °C

COVID-19

COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+81,515)	(+2,110)
56,39,088	90,006

*covid19india.org*

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,166)	(+10)
TS: 1,74,774	1,052
(+7,553)	(+51)
AP: 6,39,302	5,461

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,16,33,652
DEATHS
9,71,879

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

*worldometers.info/coronavirus*

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana

Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha Saptami till 8.02 pm

Star: Jyeshtha till 6.29 pm

Variyam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 11.44 am to 12.32 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 5, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.06 am

Zohar: 12.18 pm

Asar: 4.29 pm

Maghrib: 6.17 pm

Isha: 7.25 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.11 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM

MOONSET TODAY 11.18 PM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.55 AM

COUNTER POINT



No need to rush... all your party MPs have been suspended!

IN BRIEF

More than a crore workers walked

New Delhi: More than one crore guest workers returned to their home states on foot during March-June 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown, the government said on Tuesday.

"Covid-19 has resulted in migration of a large number of workers from destination states to the home states," minister of state for road transport and highways V.K. Singh told Lok Sabha.

However, he said that the ministry does not maintain a separate data on those who died. — PTI



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**Ambani plans ₹4,000 smartphone**



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**SRH allrounder Marsh hurt, could be out of IPL**

**TABLOID**  
**Deepika's fans are furious**



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## WFH pays, IT firms to extend it till March 31

**Survey finds production to be around 75 p.c. in small & medium companies, 90 p.c. in large ones**

**KANIZA GARARI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Very large and large information technology companies have informed their employees that they will work from home (WFH) till March 31, 2021. Medium-sized and small enterprises have said that their WFH period will extend till December.

This has been evaluated based on the performance of employees in the WFH set-up. A survey by the Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (Hysea) found that 95 per cent of the 300 companies in the survey stated that they are going to continue with the the WFH strategy till the Covid-19 cases come down or there is a vaccine for the disease.

In terms of productivity, small and medium companies have reported more than 75 per cent and large and very large companies at 90 per cent in the WFH mode. Large and very large companies are looking at 70 per cent WFH options and small and medium size companies 30 per cent once the number of Covid-19 cases reduce.

The survey found that 31 per cent employers wanted 70 to 89 per cent of their employees to work from



● **31 per cent employers wanted 70 to 89 per cent of their employees to work from home till March 2021.**

home till March 2021. The employers found that in the six months since from the lockdown in March, there was now a proper WFH strategy and many employees were settled in their respective profiles when compared to the risk factors of travel, asymptomatic carriers and the stress of getting exposed.

It is the large and very large companies that have seen a major benefit in the WFH mode as they expect to opt for 25 per cent less office space than pre-pandemic times, when people start returning to office.

Large and very large companies have hired freshers in the last six months and 50 per cent of the companies are looking at returning to campus hiring in 2021-22. Campus hiring will be of pre-pandemic levels, according to

the survey, which is a sign that the business is doing fine. Large and very large companies are involved in lateral hiring for the current financial year.

The downsides of WFH were power cuts, broadband disruptions and the working atmosphere at home having a lot of obstacles. Due to these reasons, morale was reported to be low by 34 per cent of the employers.

The negative effects of the pandemic were noted in the manufacturing and retail sector while IT industry, healthcare and education have noted a positive impact. Work from United States of America and Europe has also seen a major impact for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Bharani Kumar Aroll, HYSEA president and CEO of Infopeers Solutions, explained, "In the last six months, a higher percentage of large companies have their workforce at home compared to small and mid-sized companies. The driving factor to come back to office is only when cases reduce or there is an available vaccine. Till then, the industry will prefer to continue with the work-from-home mode."

## Update Dharani in 15 days: KCR

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has set a 15-day deadline for officials to upload details of houses, plots, flats and other non-agriculture properties, which have not been registered online so far across the state.

According to government officials, details of over 89.47 lakh properties in local bodies have been digitalised.

Data on the remaining properties will be brought on record, so that people could verify them online with a click.

The Chief Minister held a high-level meeting at Pragathi Bhavan on Tuesday with regard to designing of Dharani portal, which is part of implementing the new Revenue Act.

He instructed officials that all properties not yet uploaded, particularly non-agriculture ones, be digitised before the Dharani portal is made available to register transactions.

The Chief Minister

asked authorities to provide all required information to the people and help them in registering their properties online. He suggested that officers of all levels in panchayat raj and municipal departments get involved in registering all properties online.

Rao also told officials to exercise necessary caution while maintaining land records in a transparent manner through the Dharani portal. He said, "bringing cent per cent transparency in land transactions is the sole and precise aim of launching the Dharani portal."

He told officers officials must constitute flying squads to make surprise checks on how the Vaikunta Dhams are being constructed in the villages.

The Chief Minister asked flying squads to also check formation of dump yards, distribution of six saplings to each house under Haritha Haram programme, and purchasing of tractors by panchayats to transport garbage from houses.

## Oppn to boycott House till MPs' suspension is lifted

**Centre adamant, says suspended MPs must apologise first**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

A number of Opposition parties on Tuesday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha and decided to boycott proceedings of the House till the suspension of eight members is revoked, even as the government insisted on an apology from the "unruly" MPs.

Among the parties that boycotted the proceedings of the House included the Congress, which was among the first to walk out, followed by members of the CPM, CPI, Trinamul, NCP, SP, Shiv Sena, RJD, DMK, TRS and the AAP.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said they would boycott the proceedings till the suspension of members is revoked and also demanded that the government bring another Bill to ensure that no private player should buy food grains from farmers below the MSP fixed by the government.

Joining their colleagues in the Upper House, Opposition parties in the Lok Sabha also boycotted House proceedings later.

After Opposition parties boycotted proceedings, Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed seven Bills, including the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which is one of the three farm sector related Bills which Opposition parties and farmers' organisations have been protesting against, saying they are "anti-farmers" while the Modi government asserts that they are "revolutionary."

"We will consider withdrawal of suspension only after suspended members apologise for their behaviour in Rajya Sabha," the BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters outside Parliament.

■ **Page 2: 8 suspended MPs end sit-in protest**



Security personnel stop Congress workers from crossing a barricade during a protest against the Centre over farm bills, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. — PTI

## Harivansh goes on fast against attack

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

Invoking his humble origins in Bihar, a state which will soon be witnessing crucial Assembly polls, Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Harivansh on Tuesday penned an emotional letter to the President Ram Nath Kovind over the Sunday's incident that took place in the Upper House of Parliament, when House was taking up two farm sector related bills.

He announced his 24-hour fast, while mentioning his anguish over the Sunday's ruckus in the House. Eight Opposition parties members have been suspended for their "unruly behaviour" over the incident. Opposition parties had moved a no-confidence motion against Harivansh for the manner in which the bills were passed amid din but the

motion was rejected by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu.

He wrote that the sight of disrobing of democracy jolted his mind and heart and he could not sleep for the whole night.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Harivansh's letter, saying it "reaffirms faith in democracy," "is inspiring and praiseworthy," "contains truth and sensitivity" and urged citizens to read it. Modi also appreciated Harivansh's gesture to personally serve tea in the morning to eight suspended members of the Upper House, who had been protesting and camping since Monday in Parliament premises, he has been blessed with a humble mind and a big heart.

However, the members refused the deputy chairman's gesture, the Prime Minister added.

## PAWAR SLAMS HARIVANSH, GOES ON A DAY'S FAST

**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC**  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

NCP chief and former Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar on Tuesday criticised Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh for his conduct during the passage of two contentious farm bills on Sunday and said he is holding a day-long fast in solidarity with eight members of the House suspended for protesting against it. He said that the role of the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha is a big degradation of the House and its position.

The 79-year-old NCP patriarch said that two-three farm related bills of the country was expected to be tabled in Rajya Sabha but they did not know that the bills would be tabled so quickly.

■ **Page 2: Offering tea to MPs is no Gandhigiri: Pawar**

## Harish demands ₹2,641cr IGST dues

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Telangana state finance minister T. Harish Rao on Tuesday demanded that the Centre immediately release the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) dues of ₹2,641 crore to the state before the next meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on October 5.

Participating in the group of ministers (GoM) meeting presided over by Sushil Kumar Modi, GST Council convener and

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, through video-conference on the IGST settlement, Harish Rao said the money was needed to fight Covid-19. He said the release of funds from the Centre will come as a major relief to the states that are battling financial problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stressing the importance of recommendations being approved before the GST Council meeting, Harish Rao said "If that fails, we will have to wait for three months for the release of

IGST funds."

Responding to the argument, Sushil Modi assured Harish Rao that the group will meet again on October 1, in advance of the GST Council meeting.

Harish Rao said that Telangana state and 16 other states were supposed to receive IGST payments to the tune of ₹25,058 crore. He suggested that the ₹1,015 crore from the Consolidated Fund of India to be collected from the states can be adjusted against future payments. Harish Rao said the GST

Council had calculated that Telangana state should receive ₹2,638 crore in IGST payments but the figure should be ₹2,641 crore.

State officials will consult with Delhi regarding the missing ₹3 crore from the IGST payments. "We are not really worried about that small discrepancy, but the group of ministers must recommend full IGST payment to all states before the next GST Council meeting," the state finance minister said.

## Lifestyle changes add to cancers in women

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Lifestyle changes are increasing the burden of cancers of the cervix and breast, but they are diagnosed late due to the fear of testing, neglect and social taboo attached to the disease, doctors have observed in their evaluations of gynaecological cancers.

Late diagnosis in Stage 2 and Stage 3 is observed in women in both government and private sectors. Breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers account for more than 70 per cent of the cancers in India.

Cervical cancers are curable and the pre-cancerous stage lasts 8 to 10 years but due to fear of testing and social taboo many women do not go to doctors.

This is observed in urban areas too where, despite awareness, testing is the last option.

Dr Geeta Narsagee, surgical oncologist, said, "In urban areas too, we have found women coming late because they do not want to burden the family with their health problems. This is one of the most common reasons we hear.

■ **Report on Page 2**

**FLIGHT | FRIGHT**

**Airport officials say will take months for normalcy to return as flyers stay away**

## Hyd airport footfall increases by 5,000

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

The footfall of domestic passengers at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Shamshabad, went up by a mere 5,000 in the last one month, taking their total number — both arriving and departing Hyderabad — to 20,000 per day. Airport authorities anticipate that it would take several months for complete normalcy to be restored.

Airport sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that though the number of passengers is increasing at a

slow rate ever since services resumed on May 25, passengers are still skeptical about air travel amid fears that airports are among the Covid-19 hotspots. The current footfall is being described as a "positive sign."

Before the pandemic, about 60,000 passengers, a major chunk of them domestic flyers, used to fly in and out of Hyderabad every day.

"Newer destinations are being added as there is a demand from passengers. On Monday, Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh) was added and plans are afoot to connect Hyderabad with a few

more destinations. This would see an increase in the footfall in the days to come," sources said.

When flight services were resumed, the footfall was around 3,000 per day in the first few weeks which rose to around 13,000 at the end of July and 15,000 by mid-August.

"In the first two months, most flyers opted for road travel. Now, people are confident of the measures being taken at the airport and therefore the increase in numbers," they said adding that several months after the pandemic, people are themselves taking pre-

cautions to keep the Coronavirus at bay. Air traffic movement has also increased.

For a few weeks post-May 25, there were close to 40 air traffic movements which gradually went up to 150 per day.

It stands at about 200 now, which includes arrival and departures. All domestic flyers are being thermally screened. Those with fever (temperature above 98.7°F) are referred to the health officials stationed at the airport where they are subjected to further examination. Based on their assessment, pas-

sengers may or may not be allowed to board the flight though sources suggest that of late the authorities have become lenient and are allowing passengers who assure them of undergoing home quarantine.

In the case of arrivals, passengers with high temperature and symptoms are being referred to Gandhi or other government hospitals for swab tests.

There is no mechanism to ensure they visit those hospitals or make their own arrangements once they are outside the airport. "Not every passenger who

is running a temperature is Covid-19 positive," sources said.

The safety measures taken up by the airport authorities has done little to build confidence among the flyers.

"The airport is sanitised every day including deep cleaning and the airconditioning systems have been reconfigured to ensure better indoor air quality," they said adding that measures like contactless boarding, staggered seating arrangements and disinfectant tunnels for baggage have been put in place.



## SHORT TAKES

## HOLD FREE AND FAIR POLLS, BJP TELLS SEC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

The BJP leaders on Tuesday requested the State Election Commissioner K. Parthasarathy to ensure free and fair elections to the Greater Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam municipal corporations.

The delegation led by BJP state vice president and former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar met Parthasarathy and brought to his notice the alleged irregularities that had occurred during the preparations of final draft rolls in the last GHMC elections.

The delegation submitted certain papers purporting to show alleged deletion of names of genuine voters and irregularities in finalising polling station locations. The delegation alleged that certain areas and colonies were excluded and their polling stations placed in locations very far away.

## 8 SUSPENDED MPs END THEIR SIT-IN PROTEST

From Page 1

Congress leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said all Opposition parties are boycotting Parliament in solidarity with the Rajya Sabha members who were suspended on Monday. Along with Congress MPs, TMC, BSP and TRS members also walked out of the Lok Sabha.

Mr Chowdhury did not specify for how long the boycott would continue. For Lok Sabha, Monsoon Session likely to end on Wednesday.

With the Opposition deciding to boycott the Rajya Sabha, its eight suspended MPs on Tuesday ended their overnight sit-in inside the Parliament House complex and said they would take their fight against the farm Bills to the street.

"I demand that the government brings another Bill in the House which should ensure that no private player can buy food grains from farmers below the MSP. The government should also ensure that the MSP is fixed as per c2 formula under Swaminathan Committee and the should also ensure that all procurement done by central, state governments and FCI be not done below MSP. The colleagues who have been suspended for the rest of the session, their suspension be revoked. Till the government does these three things, we will boycott the session," Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad said in the House while walking out.

Mr Azad also said members should get more time to speak and time constraint has become a major issue of discontent among Opposition parties.

He said the sense of the House should not mean mere numbers, but by political parties as 18 political parties are on one side demanding more time. Maintaining that the voice of the Opposition and rights of members are not heard and Bills are not sent for scrutiny to the select or standing committees, Mr Azad said, "I think the day before yesterday was the last straw that broke the camel's back."

The Congress leader said the government now wants "one nation, one market" with which they have no problem. "The government earlier said 'one nation, one tax' and then 'one nation, one ration card', but for God's sake, don't go towards 'one nation, one party'."

Leaders of other Opposition parties in Rajya Sabha, including SP's Ramgopal Yadav, TRS' K. Keshava Rao, DMK's T. Shiva and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda requested revocation of suspension of eight members.

Replying to Mr Azad's remarks on division of votes, as sought by Opposition MPs over two farm Bills on Sunday, Rajya Sabha chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said records of House proceedings show that deputy chairman Hariwansh asked 13 times to members who were in the well of the House to go back to their seats and he will allow division, but they did not go. Mr Naidu asserted that the deputy chairman acted with utmost restraint and handled the situation in a very deft manner.

"If some people feel, my way or highway, that is not the way. You have the numbers. You should stay in your seat, ask for division. If deputy chairman has not allowed the division then I would... Democracy means debate, discussion and decision not disruption," said Mr Naidu.

## Celebration time



MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi is seen during the wedding of his daughter Dr Yasmeen with Dr Abid Ali Khan, son of Dr Mazharuddin Ali Khan, at their residence at Shastripuram, Rajendranagar, on Tuesday.

## Statehood lessons out of Inter syllabus

BIE reduces 30% lessons in humanities and languages

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Keeping in view the CBSE reducing the syllabus by 30 per cent and the loss of four months of classes due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the TS Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Tuesday, recommended a similar reduction in its humanities and languages syllabus.

The TSBIE informed that this reduction is for the academic year 2020-21, for the exam to be held in March next year and the Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examination in May.

The details of the new syllabus of all subjects are

available on the official website of the TSBIE at [tsbie.cgg.gov.in](http://tsbie.cgg.gov.in).

According to the Board, in History-I topics like early Vedic period, later Vedic period, and science and technology in Chapter-II (Indus Valley civilisation and Vedic culture) have been removed.

In History-II, topics including language and literature, art and architecture in Unit-II (age of Satavahanas), economy, society, religion, education, language and literature, and art and architecture in Unit-III (post Satavahana period), post Kakatiya period in Unit-IV (Age of Kakatiyas), and Mughal Interregnum (1687-1724 CE) in Unit-V

• **THE TSBIE** informed that this reduction is for the academic year 2020-21, for the exam to be held in March next year and the Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examination in May.

(Qutub Shahis), Quit India movement in Unit-IX (freedom movement in Hyderabad state), Telangana Praja Samithi, Eight Point Formula in Unit-X (separate Telangana state movement-early phase), non-cooperation movements in Unit-XI (separate Telangana State movement-later phase) and pop-

ular jataras in Unit-XII (Fairs and festivals of Telangana) have been deleted.

Other than this, topics like liberalism, individualism, communism have also been removed from the political science subject for Intermediate first year.

It was informed that the syllabus of Intermediate second year subjects of history, economics, political science (civics), geography, public administration, commerce and accountancy, and for Intermediate first year syllabus of Telugu (second language) has been revised separately, and the textbooks for the same are available.

## State records 2,000 fresh Covid-19 cases

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

The government has increased the number of state-run hospitals offering Covid-19 services, as well as the number of beds for patients, even as the state logged yet another day of more than 2,000 fresh Covid-19 cases.

As many as 2166 cases were found in the 24-hour period ending at 8 pm, on Monday while 10 more deaths were reported. This takes the total cases to 1,74,774 and the deaths to 1,052.

As on Sunday evening, the health department had listed 45 of government hospitals with a total bed strength of 8,093 as being available for

Covid-19 patients. This number, according to the department's Covid-19 bulletin issued on Tuesday, has been increased to 62 with the number of beds rising to 8,821. Meanwhile, 222 private hospitals with 10,484 beds between them, continue to provide services to Covid-19 patients.

Keeping with the trend of steady rise in cases in several districts, two more hospitals were added in Jayashankar-Bhupalpalli (130 cases in one week), one in Kumrambheem-Asifabad district (106), two in Medak (196), one in Medchal (895), two in Nalgonda (889), one in Nirmal (163), one in Nizamabad (530), one in Ranga Reddy (1166), one in

Warangal Rural (199), three in Sangareddy (425), and one hospital in Suryapet (406 cases in one week).

For the day ending on Monday evening, the GHMC area recorded 309 new Covid-19 cases, followed by 166 in Ranga Reddy, 147 in Medchal-Malkajigiri, 127 in Karimnagar, 113 in Nalgonda, 95 in Warangal Urban, 90 each in Mahbubabad and Nizamabad, 88 in Siddipet, and 87 in Khammam. The health department said the state had 29,749 active cases of whom 22,620 were in home or institutional isolation. The total number of people who have recovered from the disease so far is 1,44,073.

## Despite protest, UoH to hold entrance exams

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) will begin their nation-wide entrance exams for the integrated postgraduate courses, MPhil and PhD programmes despite opposition from the student body, from September 24 to 26.

The Students Union had demanded a postponement of the entrance exams citing a possible clash of dates with the ongoing undergraduate final semester exams as well as TS-Eamcet. Incidentally, the National Test Agency (NTA) has moved the date for the UGC-NET, an eligibility test for MPhil and PhD courses for many universities and for fellowships, to September 25, leaving some students to choose between the two tests.

University spokesperson Prof. Vinod Pavarala on Tuesday told *Deccan Chronicle* that there was

• **THE STUDENTS** Union had demanded a postponement of the entrance exams citing a possible clash of dates with the ongoing undergraduate final semester exams as well as TS-Eamcet.

no chance to change the schedule. "We had announced the dates for these entrance exams a month ago, keeping in mind all other exam dates, including UGC-NET. The Telangana state government decided much later on conducting the final semester exams and the date for NET was recently changed." He said all arrangements had been made across the country, and some applicants have even reached the centres. "Any change at this point is not possible," he said.

Suggesting that students appear for NET in the second spell of exams due in December, prof. Pavarala said that students should appear for the university

entrance exams since UoH does not give admission based on NET. He added that after deliberations with the TSCHE, it has been ensured that there will be no subject-wise clash between these and the final semester exams. If such a situation arises, students will be given a conditional admit.

In the cases of the entrance examination centres in Raipur, Chhattisgarh and Imphal, Manipur, that have been denied permission, students who have been assigned to these centres will be able to appear at any other centre with a day's notice to the controller of examination via email.

The authorities have ensured that if a student feels unwell or uncomfortable at the examination centre, s/he will be allowed to leave. Any students with a fever or any other symptom of illness, shall be given a separate room to write their entrance exam.

## Late diagnosis of cervix, breast cancer is risky

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Lifestyle changes are increasing the burden of cancers of the cervix and breast, but they are diagnosed late due to the fear of testing, neglect and social taboo attached to the disease, doctors have observed in their evaluations of gynaecological cancers.

Late diagnosis in Stage 2 and Stage 3 is observed in women in both government and private sectors. Breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers account for more than 70 per cent of the cancers in India.

Cervical cancers are curable and the pre-cancerous stage lasts 8 to 10 years but due to fear of testing and social taboo many women do not go to doctors. This is observed in urban areas too where, despite awareness, testing is the last option.

Dr Geeta Narsagee, surgical oncologist, said "In urban areas too, we have found women coming late because they do not want to burden the family with their health problems. This is one of the most common reasons we hear. Apart from that, the changing lifestyle has led to an increase in obesity, high blood pressure, smoking, alcohol consumption, late menopause and others are increasing the burden of the disease."

It has been noted that use of birth control pills, estrogen, hormone replacement therapy and family history of cancers are also the reasons. Those who have a family history have been recommended to opt for tests between the ages of 35 and 65.

• **CERVICAL CANCERS** are curable and the pre-cancerous stage lasts 8 to 10 years but due to fear of testing and social taboo many women do not go to doctors.

The Indian Council of Medical Research in its study has pointed out that lack of awareness along with fear of disease are some of the reasons for women to not come go to the doctor.

A study carried out by National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research found that the average age of a breast cancer patient in India is a decade lower than in the West. For this reason, those in the age group of 30-65 years are asked to be alert. Dr Priyamvada Reddy, senior consultant gynecologist and obstetrician at Apollo Cradle and Children Hospital, said, "We find women coming to us with issues in the reproductive system but when advised for a test they are not willing to take it. They consider it a taboo. There is a sense of shame attached to it and there are bizarre perceptions which makes it difficult for women to seek help and support for treatment. These perceptions are the biggest hurdle in treatment of cancer which are more than the disease."

This is one of the reasons for late diagnosis of the disease in India.

Gynaecologists are the first point of contact for reproductive health and they find that post child-birth issues are often treated with neglect and also a sense of wrongness rather than understanding and confronting the actual problem.

## TALASANI YADAV APOLOGISES FOR NALA DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday apologised for the deaths of people who got washed away in nalas in the city after the recent rains.

The animal husbandry and fisheries minister was speaking at the media point in the Legislative Assembly complex. "We apologise to the families of the individuals who lost their lives after falling in the nalas. Such incidents should not occur and it is wrong that they happened. We will stand by the affected families and support them," Srinivas Yadav said.

The apology comes a day after the parents of 12-year-old Sumedha Kapuria on Monday lodged a complaint with the Neredmet police against municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao, local MLA M. Hanumanth Rao, Mayor Bonthu Rammohan and GHMC officials, holding them responsible for the death of their daughter.

It was their negligence that resulted in the conditions that led to their daughter falling into a nala last Thursday, Sumedha's mother Sukanya Kapuria wrote in her complaint. She also said that representations were submitted in the past to the minister, the Mayor and the MLA on the need to repair the nala and make it safe for passers-by but to no avail. On Sunday, 45-year-old electrician N. Naveen Babu was washed away in a fast-flowing stream in Tapovan Colony and his body was discovered on Monday in the Saroornagar lake. In this case too, residents of Tapovan Colony charged the GHMC with negligence.

## Residents recall Janata Curfew for Covid warriors

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 22

Exactly six months ago, on March 22, the air was gripped with an atmosphere of festivity. The Coronavirus pandemic was just about gaining a foothold in the country and a long-drawn battle was looming. The country prepared for a Janata Curfew, a voluntary stay-at-home the whole day following a call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi asked everyone to express gratitude to all those working at hospitals, airports and keeping essential services going by staying home and at 5 pm that day, stand at the doorsteps, balconies or by the windows and by clapping or ringing bells.

"That day is clear as yesterday. We were all home, went to the terrace, clapped and then lit diyas. The family had a really

nice time," says Padma Gugalya Jain, an entrepreneur.

Families cutting across social strata joined in enthusiastically. Those who did not have a bell to ring, banged pots and pans with spoons and the like. It was in some ways, a choreographed cacophony that was enthusiastically joined in by households across the country.

Peppering the noise were slogans of 'Go Corona Go', first popularised by Union minister Ramdas Athavale.

For most, with a lockdown looming, the evening of March 22 was an occasion for a family gathering and irreverent fun, with a purpose. The celebratory mood took the edge off what was to come. The Telangana state government's lockdown began that evening and was followed by a nationwide lockdown the next day.

• **FAMILIES CUTTING** across social strata joined in enthusiastically. Those who did not have a bell to ring, banged pots and pans with spoons and the like. It was in some ways, a choreographed cacophony that was enthusiastically joined in by households across the country.

"These six months have been a roller-coaster ride that one can write about in his or her life's diary. The janata curfew was a signal to get prepared for a bigger war, something we had never faced. The government made people understand the adversity of the Coronavirus that entered our country. Since then, all of us have faced several hindrances but nothing is more worthy than protecting one's life," says Subbiha Chowdary, a manager with State Bank of India.



The past six months have seen all us in the family getting to know each other so much more. I feel it is each individual's responsibility to take care of his or her safety and not leave it to the government

— **PADMA GUGALYA JAIN**  
Entrepreneur



On janata curfew day, we all clapped for the health workers. It was a one-of-its-kind experience. The one complaint I have about the lockdown was that I missed my coaching for NEET.

— **Iqra Dar**, Student.

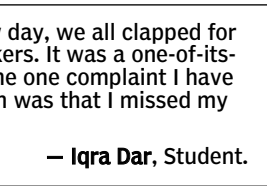


On March 22, my family, clapped for the frontline warriors. We did not expect that there would be so many surprises. There were several frustrations but I believe we have all conquered them

— **VINODINI PAUL**, Teacher

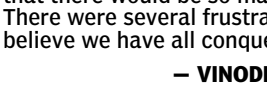
We all have different views about the lockdown. My opinion is that the universe is in a perfect balance, but if we disturb it, it knows how to set it right again. The period from the day of janata curfew through all lockdowns, what has been realised by all is that to survive everyone needs food, shelter and health

— **DR SREE NAGI RAO**, Medical practitioner



I was in Delhi on that day. I had gone for a shoot and got stuck there for two months. There was a lot of uncertainty about our shootings. When I look back, that was fun, joining with friends, clapping for the frontline warriors

— **HEMALATHA REDDY**, Actress



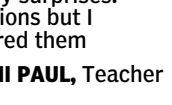
Along with my wife, we prayed for respect and solidarity for the frontline warriors. During the lockdown, we became active in charity work and helped those we could

— **GHAZI SHARIEF**, Retired official with the Sultanate of Oman



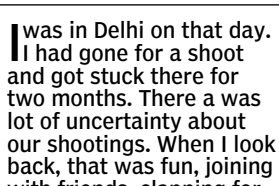
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## OTHER STORIES

## Sub-registrar suspended

**Khammam:** State government started inquiry into the irregularities in the TNGO Housing Society in Khammam. As part of it, the government suspended Khammam rural sub-registrar Gangavarapu Narendar on the allegation of doing registration of Society plots even though there were directions not to do so. Commissioner and Inspector General for Stamps and Registration ordered an inquiry into the issue and asked the officials to submit a report on it. It was found that the leaders of TNGO Housing Society sold the plots to the ineligible persons and made money. The government directed the registrar office not to register such plots.

## Cigarettes, gutka worth ₹6L seized

**Nizamabad:** Commissioner of police taskforce conducted raids at Barkatpura in Nizamabad on Tuesday and seized gutka and cigarette stocks. On credible information, taskforce inspector Shakir Ali and his team raided the house of Nissar and found the banned gutka and cigarette packets in largescale. The seized material is estimated around ₹6 lakh. Police arrested Nissar and his son Almas in the case. If town police registered a case and are investigating. The accused brought the material and prepared gutka in their hideout.

## Soyam Bapurao adopts Marlavai

**Kumarambheem Asifabad:** Adilabad BJP MP Soyam Bapurao has adopted the historical Marlavai village in Jainoor mandal along with four other villages under Sansad Adarsh Grama Yojana (SAGY) in the Adilabad Parliament Constituency. Five gram panchayats namely Marlavai in Jainoor, Indani in Wankidi in Kumarambheem Asifabad district and Andukur in Kuntala mandal in Nirmal district and Gudihathnoor and Ajjir Vajjar in Boath in Adilabad district have been selected under the SAGY.

## 'Call tenders for temple construction'

**Adilabad:** Former Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh of TRS on Tuesday appealed to endowment minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy to call for tenders for the construction of temples in the erstwhile Adilabad district. Mr Nagesh met the minister and submitted a memorandum on the issue in Hyderabad. Mr Nagesh said already funds were sanctioned for the development of the temples such as Nagoba in Keslapur, Mallikarajana Swamy in Sirichelma, Anjaneyaswamy in Jatharla, Venkateshwaraswamy in Kapparla and Saibaba temple in Bajharathnoor but tenders have not been called for the construction and development of the temples.

## Spread of Covid cases rampant in Khammam

No case of dengue reported due to various saintation steps taken

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, SEPT. 22

Coronavirus cases are spreading fast in Khammam district with 3,200 cases having been reported in the last week. People suspect that people suffering from Covid-19 are moving around freely without isolating themselves. That is the reason why the number of cases is increasing, particularly in villages.

N. Appa Rao, a farmer from Nagulavancha, said, "Earlier, government authorities were issuing detailed bulletins about patients who had contracted the virus. At present, there is no information available in this regard.

## KIN OF DEAD YOUTH STAGE STIR FOR SPEEDY PROBE

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, SEPT. 22

Tension prevailed at the Karepalli police station after people from the Greater Relakayalapalli village tried to lay siege it on Tuesday in protest against the delayed investigation on the murder case of Dharmasothu Sudarshan.

Father of deceased D. Rambabu and paternal uncle Kotesk poured diesel on themselves and tried to light a fire. Sudarshan's relatives from three villages reached the police station and raised slogans against the police. They said that the police officials did not change the FIR from suspected death to murder case even after 50 days of the incident. They said that there are clear signs on his body to show that it was a murder.

Sudarshan, 24, was reported missing on August 2, and his dead body was found the next day, near a farm well by hanging to a tree.

Sudarshan, who fell in love with a girl, found a photo of the girl with another man and went missing soon after. The family members noticed injuries on his dead body when they found the body by the well.

The family members filed a case against seven suspects, who they suspect might have killed and framed it as suicide. ACP Venkat Reddy reached the spot and assured that the investigation of the crime would be done transparently, later the agitators left.

● **AROUND 19,000** virus-positive cases have been reported and 10,500 patients have been discharged after recovery. The death toll is around 500.

● **ALL 22** primary health centres and three community health centres are witnessing Covid-19 cases every day.

Local people are a worried lot. We want authorities to issue a village-wise statement on Coronavirus cases."

So far, around 19,000 virus-positive cases have been reported and 10,500 patients have been discharged after recovery. The death toll is around 500.

It is, however, a matter of relief that though rains have started, seasonal dis-

eases, particularly dengue, have not surfaced. Not a single dengue case has been reported so far in the district. Medical and health officials attribute this to measures taken by the government, like anti-larvae spraying, fogging, sanitation programmes and spraying of hypo-chloride.

But when it comes to Covid-19, all 22 primary health centres and three

community health centres are witnessing Covid-19 cases every day. The RT-PCR tests and RAT tests are being carried out at every PHC on people who suspect they may have contracted the virus.

N. Rambabu, a pharmacist of Wyra, said, "Norms of physical distancing and wearing masks are missing in the town. People are moving around as if there is no Covid-19 virus in the country. Government will have to look at this issue seriously."

As per an estimate, at least one lakh people have contracted Covid-19 in Khammam district without even knowing about it and 99 per cent of them have recovered.

## TRS grabs all 5 co-option posts in Ramagundam

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 22

The TRS grabbed all the five municipal co-option posts in the elections on Tuesday to the Ramagundam Municipal Corporation (RMC).

The elections were held under the supervision of municipal commissioner P. Uday Kumar and mayor Dr. Bandi Anil Kumar at the municipal conference hall in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district.

The notification was issued on August 18. In view of the rapid spread of the Coronavirus, officials decided to conduct the elections through tele and video conference on September 1.

But corporator Mahankali Swamy and Simon Raju, who was contesting from the minority quota,

● **THE HIGH COURT** issued orders on September 16 to conduct the direct elections through lifting of hands.

approached the High Court seeking direct elections. The court issued orders on September 16 to conduct the direct elections through lifting of hands.

Following this, the election process was held as per the new Panchayat Raj Act. In the past, the RMC had four co-option posts which was increased to five this time: Two for minorities and three for the general categories. In both categories, one post was allotted for women.

In the RMC elections that were held for 50 divisions on January 24, the TRS had won 18 seats, Congress 11, BJP six, All

India Forward Bloc (AIFB) nine and independents six. The TRS grabbed the mayor seat with support from the AIFB and independents.

On Tuesday, the elections were held first for the three posts in the general category in which TRS candidates Vanga Srinivas Goud, Thani-parti Vijay Lakshmi and Cheruku Buchhi Reddy were elected unanimously. For the two posts in the minority category, Thasneema Banu was elected unanimously. For the other seat, Mohammad Rafi beat two other candidates, Simon Raju and Fazal Baig Mirza, by 35 votes.

Municipal commissioner Uday Kumar conducted the oath-taking ceremony in the presence of Mayor Anil Kumar and Ramagundam MLA Korakanti Chander Patel.



Police personnel arrest BJP leaders who were staging a protest against the state government in front of the Collectorate in Karimnagar on Tuesday.

— DC

## BJP protests, demands scrapping of new LRS

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 22

A tense situation prevailed when BJP leaders staged a protest in front of the collectorate in Karimnagar on Tuesday demanding suspension of LRS (land regularisation scheme) and sanction of double-bedroom houses to the poor.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP district unit president B. Satyanarayana alleged that the TRS made hollow promises to the people before elections and drove the state into debt.

In its manifesto, TRS promised to give three acres of land to each Dalit family, build double-bedroom houses for homeless poor, make a Dalit CM of the newly formed state and a job to every household, but betrayed the people after coming to power, alleged BJP leader.

After coming to power for the second time, the BJP government sanctioned some lakhs of crore rupees by introducing several welfare schemes for all sections of the people. Instead of

## BJP STAGE PROTEST AGAINST LRS IN FRONT OF NIZAMABAD COLLECTORATE

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 22

BJP leaders and workers staged a dharna in front of the collectorate in Nizamabad on Tuesday in protest against Layout Regularisation Scheme and delay in double-bedroom houses scheme.

Party leaders and activists took out rally in the town and reached the collectorate. They submitted a memorandum to the district collector C. Narayana Reddy.

BJP state vice-president Endala Laxminarayana, BJP district president Baswapuram Laxminarayana, BJP state executive committee member Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta and others were present.

BJP leaders criticised that TRS government cheated poor people on the pretext of double-bedroom houses. LRS is a purely money minting programme of the government and it would burden the people, they said.

implementing them perfectly in the state, the TRS government diverted the money and misused it, he criticised. He alleged that when crores of rupees were sanctioned under PM Awas Yojana scheme by the Central government, the government instead of utilising the money properly constructed double bedroom houses without standards. In the name of LRS scheme, the state govern-

ment is trying to loot money from the people and is also threatening the people by keeping deadlines announcing that without LRS, they cannot construct houses in the future. There is a lot of difference between the LRS scheme which was introduced in 2015 and the new scheme. The government must suspend the new LRS scheme and make it affordable to the common people, he demanded.

## TAX | EVASION

Roads in colonies are utterly damaged due to regular movement of heavy lorries

## Illegal sand stockyards pose threat to residents

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 22

Illegal sand dumps in residential areas in Nizamabad are creating trouble for the residents. By evading taxes to the state exchequer, a few people are dumping vast quantities of sand at Gangastan-II, Armour road, Kanteshwar and other areas. The police, mines and geology officials are unable to

trace the illegal sand dumps in Nizamabad.

A few people are carrying sand from Kaleshwaram (Chennur), Peddavaru, Manjeera and other areas to Nizamabad. There is a huge demand for sand in Nizamabad district headquarters and the nearby regions.

Taking it as an advantage, the smugglers have been carrying the sand in heavy vehicles during midnight. Reportedly, they



Heavy vehicles loaded with sand line up in Gangasthan-II residential area in Nizamabad.

— DC

have been bribing a few officials in the enforcement agencies. For instance, in Gangasthan-II areas,

huge sand dumps have been set up for the last few months. In front of Swamy Vivekananda Bhavan, the sand was dumped in large quantities. Residents of Gangasthan-II colony objected the plying of sand lorries in their locality. The roads are utterly damaged due to regular transport of sand. Numerous sand lorries are parked in residential areas, which are turning to be a threat to the lives of people.

Allegedly, on a single permit, a few people are transporting sand multiple times to evade taxes.

Reportedly, no cases were registered against the tax evaders as the concerned departments failed to seize the illegal material. The management of Swamy Vivekananda Bhavan had also raised objections for parking of lorries in front of their building, which adversely affected the visitors of the Bhavan.

## Drone cams help police to track Maoists' movement

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, SEPT. 22

Police have intensified combing operations by using for the first time drone cameras to track movements of Maoists in forest areas along the river Pranahitha in the erstwhile Adilabad district. Police have also intensified their hunt for Maoists who have managed to escape into Kadamba forests following an exchange of fire with police forces.

Police are on high alert in the wake of Maoists organising week-long celebrations of the 16th Formation Day of CPI (Maoists) from September 21-27.

Ramagundam police commissioner and in-charge SP of Kumarambheem Asifabad district V. Satyanarayana are personally monitoring the combing operations in Penchikalpet and Bejjur mandals. Special police parties and Greyhounds are participating in the combing operations along the river Pranahitha. Top police officials of erstwhile Adilabad are coordinat-

● **Police officials** say drone cameras with high resolution can be operated within a 5-km radius to get clear visuals of the place

ing with police of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to corner Maoists. Kumarambheem police are of the opinion that the escaped Maoists, led by the Mylarapu Adellu alias Bhaskar, may sneak into Gadchiroli forests of Maharashtra by crossing River Pranahitha or Godavari. Police officials say drone cameras with high resolution can be operated within a 5-km radius to get clear visuals of the place. If there is any movement of Maoists, forces can reorganise to surround them.

Police are also conducting vehicle checking and cordon and search operations in villages located on banks of River Penganga in Kumarambheem Asifabad district and also in villages of Kotapalli and Vemanaipalli in Mancherial district.

## DO YOU OWN A PLOT IN UNAUTHORIZED LAYOUT?

### LAST & FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO REGULARIZE

### GREAT CHANCE TO REGULARIZE ALL UNAPPROVED LAYOUTS

The Government of Telangana announces Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) in **Rural** and **Urban** areas for regularizing unauthorized Plots & Layouts.



**Sri K. Chandrashekhara Rao**  
Chief Minister, Government of Telangana

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**  
All existing unapproved sub-division of plots, existing unapproved layouts or ventures where

- \* The plots have been sold through a Registered Sale Deed
- \* Unauthorized layouts developed, provided at least 10% of plots are sold through Registered Deed
- \* Plots registered on or before 26.08.2020

**EASY TO APPLY:**  
Applicant should file an online application or at mee-seva center in the prescribed format for regularization of the Plot/Layout before the competent authority by 15-10-2020 for all such Plots / Layouts, which are unapproved unauthorized and not covered under the prohibitory category.

**Prohibitory Category:**  
Plots falling in Government lands / ULC surplus / Endowment / Waqf Lands and falling in FTL of tanks are not eligible for regularization.

**LAST DATE FOR REGULARIZATION:**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2020**

**APPLICATION FEES PAYABLE:**  
**FOR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS:**  
**RS.1,000/-**  
ALONG WITH APPLICATION  
**FOR LAYOUT DEVELOPERS:**  
**RS.10,000/-**  
IF APPLIED FOR THE ENTIRE LAYOUT  
ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS REGISTERED, THE ENTIRE REGULARIZATION CHARGES SHOULD BE PAID BY **31/01/2021**

**The applicants can file online application in a simple way through:**

- Common web portal
- Mee-Seva Center
- A smart phone based mobile app as developed for this purpose

**Details of the Scheme & Regularization Charges are available at:**  
**http://lrs.telangana.gov.in/**

**Helpline Numbers:**  
**For Clarifications call between 10 AM and 6 PM**  
**1. For Plots in HMDA: 1800 - 4258838**  
**2. For Plots in GHMC: 040 -2111 1111**  
**e-mail: support-lrs@telangana.gov.in**

**Utilize this last & final opportunity - Get your plot regularized**

Download **LRS 2020 Mobile App** from  
  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs\\_2020](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs_2020)



**Sri K T Rama Rao**  
Hon'ble Minister for MA & UD Industries & Commerce, IT & C



## SHORT TAKES

CENTRE SPENT  
₹393 CR ON BETI  
PADHAO SCHEME

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The Centre has spent ₹393 crore since 2014 for advertising the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme that aims to improve child sex ratio, the Ministry of Women and Child Development told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

According to data provided by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani in the Upper House in reply to a query, ₹96.71 lakh has been spent till September 17 in the financial year 2020-21 on advertisement or media advocacy of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

In 2019-20 fiscal, ₹23.67 crore has been spent for the purpose. The government spent ₹18.91 crore in 2014-15, ₹24.54 crore in 2015-16, ₹29.79 crore in 2016-17 and ₹135.71 crore in 2017-18 and ₹160 crore in 2018-19, according to the data.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme addresses issues relating to declining child sex ratio and aims to change the mindset of people to make them appreciate the value of girl child, Irani said.

It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Education, she added.

NIA TAKES OVER  
PROBE INTO  
B'LURU VIOLENCE

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe in the August violence in Bengaluru, which was triggered by a derogatory Facebook post on Prophet Muhammad allegedly by the nephew of a Congress MLA, officials said on Tuesday.

The central agency has re-registered two separate first information reports under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code sections related to arson, violence and destruction of public property. The case was earlier being probed by the Bengaluru Police, they said.

The Union Home Ministry has handed over the case to the NIA, the officials said.

The agency has dispatched a team under an inspector general-rank officer to probe the violence case and it is in Bengaluru.

An NIA spokesperson said, "A brief background of the incidents is that on August 11, 2020, around 8:00 pm, more than 1,000 people gathered in front of the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy (Pulakeshi Nagar constituency) at Kaval-byrasandra, Bengaluru city."

"The mob was protesting against the derogatory social media (Facebook) post about Prophet Muhammad made on August 11, 2020, around 4 pm by Naveen, the nephew of the MLA, allegedly insulting the religious sentiments of Muslims," the official said.

The spokesperson said it is alleged that the state secretary of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), Muzammil Pasha, had earlier called a meeting and directed members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) and the SDPI to instigate the mob and incite violence.

INS VIRAAT  
ARRIVES AT ALANG  
FOR DISMANTLING

Ahmedabad, Sept. 22: INS Viraat, the world's longest serving warship that was decommissioned by the Indian Navy three years ago, has arrived off the Alang coast in Gujarat for dismantling, an official said on Tuesday.

The aircraft carrier began its final journey from the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Saturday and reached the waters at Alang in Bhavnagar district on Monday evening.

It will be dismantled at the ship breaking yard in Alang and then sold as scrap.

The warship, which was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987, was purchased by Shree Ram Group for a sum of ₹38.54 crore at an auction in July this year. Government officials are on board the ship to carry out formalities as per the ship breaking code, Shree Ram Group Chairman Mukesh Patel said.

"After all the formalities are completed, subject to weather conditions and tide, we are scheduling its beaching at our yard for dismantling during high tide at 1 pm on September 28," he said. INS Viraat holds the record for being the world's longest serving warship.



Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh offers tea to suspended MPs at the premises of Parliament, as they stage a protest over their suspension from the remaining Monsoon Session of Parliament over the ruckus created in Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— PTI

Govt loves us, says Pawar  
after getting I-T notice

The I-T notice is in reference to the affidavit submitted in 2020

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The Income Tax Department has issued a notice to NCP chief Sharad Pawar seeking clarification on his poll affidavits submitted to the Election Commission. He took a dig at the Centre saying the notice was sent to him because the government "loves us".

The veteran Maharashtra leader on Tuesday confirmed that he has received a notice from the Centre asking for 'clarification and explanation' on his election affidavits. "I got the notice yesterday. We are happy that they (the Centre) have a special love for us (Pawar family) among all the members. The notice was served by Income Tax after the Election Commission asked (it) to...We will reply to the notice," he said.

The notice was in reference to the affidavit submitted in 2020 and 2014 and 2009-10. They are asking for some information and clarification and similarly they have asked this to Supriya also for the last three elections, Mr Pawar said.

The NCP chief's daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son and state environment minister Aaditya Thackeray have also received similar notices from the IT department.

The Election Commission is learnt to have reminded the Central Board of Direct Taxes of its request to probe allegations of false affidavits filed by Uddhav, Aaditya and Supriya.

Mr Pawar has also refuted the possibility of imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra saying that Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA coalition government has a clear majority in Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha. "Is there any reason for (imposing the Presidents rule)? Is the President's rule some joke?" he said.

Union minister of state for social justice Ramdas Athawale has demanded that the President's Rule should be imposed in Maharashtra alleging that the MVA government has failed to handle the law and order situation in the state. Saying that the coronavirus pandemic in Maharashtra has gone out of control, independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana has also asked for President's Rule in the state.

Dhankhar asks Didi not  
to shed 'crocodile tears'

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, SEPT. 22

West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday compared chief minister Mamata Banerjee's cry against the two key Bills, passed in the Parliament, on the farmers with "crocodile tears" after the Trinamul Congress supremo called all other Opposition parties for a united fight against the BJP at the Centre.

"Why deny @MamataOfficial benefit Rs 8,400 crores to 70 lac WB farmers by failure to participation in PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi! So far every farmer has lost Rs. 12,000/- that would have come to his bank account. Urge CM -Crocodile Tears will not relieve pain of farmers," he tweeted, posting a copy of his fresh

letter to her. (sic)

Mr Dhankhar wrote, "If timely and due steps had been taken by the State Government, over 70 lakh farmers in the state of West Bengal would have been benefited so far over Rs 8,400 crores. Each of the over 70 lakh farmers would have so far got Rs. 12,000/- direct in the bank account, without any intermediary." (sic)

The Governor argued, "There is no rationale to deny this benefit to our farmers as there is 100% contribution from the Govt of India. State Government does not incur any financial burden or liability. State Government has only to impart details, which it has unfortunately not done, with no explicable premise or rational approach. All over the Country, except state of

West Bengal, farmers have enormously benefited from PM-Kisan scheme and so far more than Rs. 92,000 crores have been defrayed to them."

Mr Dhankhar added, "In this ongoing scheme — PM-Kisan, all over the country, each farmer, except the ones in our state, has so far got Rs. 12,000. Due to inaction of the State Government, our farmers are also deprived from reaping the benefit of the package of Rs. 3.5 lakh crore unfolded by the Central Government during the COVID pandemic. There would have been accrual of benefit to our farmers by over Rs.30,000 crores if the State Government had taken affirmative stance as regards PM-Kisan. Confrontational stance at the cost of farmers' suffering is indeed worrisome."

Five new IIITs accorded  
national importance tag

New Delhi, Sept. 22: Parliament on Tuesday passed a legislation to declare the five new IIITs in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala and Raichur as institutes of national importance, enabling them to award degrees.

The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was introduced in Rajya Sabha by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Monday. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha in March.

Nishank said there are 25 IIITs in the country, of which five are run by the Union government and 15 operate under the public-private partnership model. "We have brought the proposal before this House to bring five new operational institutes, which are located and have started operations in Surat (Gujarat), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Agartala (Tripura) and Raichur (Karnataka), under this legislation," Nishank said.

Bringing the five new IIITs under this law will

● THE BILL will also enable the institutes to attract enough students to develop a strong research base in the field of information technology. The five IIITs can now use the nomenclature B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD.

make them institutes of national importance and they will have the legal right to grant diplomas, degrees, and PhDs, he said. The institutes were hitherto registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and did not have the power to award degrees or diplomas.

The Bill will also enable the institutes to attract enough students to develop a strong research base in the field of information technology. The five IIITs, set up on the PPP model, can now use the nomenclature B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD. During a debate on the bill in Rajya Sabha, BJP lawmaker Kamakhya Prasad Tasa thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Education Minister Nishank for including the institute in Agartala in the Bill.

RS PASSES 7 KEY  
BILLS IN THREE  
AND HALF HOURS

New Delhi, Sept. 22: In one of the most productive days in its history, Rajya Sabha on Tuesday in a matter of three and half hours passed seven key Bills including one that removes cereals, pulses and onion from the essential commodities list and another that abolishes penalty for certain offences by companies.

This after most of the Opposition including the Congress, Left parties, the TMC, the Samajwadi Party and the NCP decided to boycott House proceedings in protest against the suspension of eight MPs for the remainder of the session for unruly behaviour.

Only members from the ruling BJP and its ally JD-U and those of parties such as AIADMK, BJD, YSR-Congress and TDP, which have been extending support to the Modi government on various issues, participated in the debates on the Bills.

The Upper House took up government legislative business after nearly an hour of discussion over the conduct of opposition MPs during the passage of two agriculture reform Bills on Sunday.

First, it passed a Bill to declare five newly-established Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) as institutions of national importance.

The crucial Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, which removes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities and removes stockholding limits on them, was passed next.

Rajya Sabha also passed amendments to the Bank Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI in a bid to protect the interest of depositors. Thereafter the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which removes the penalty for certain offences, was passed.

The National Forensic Sciences University Bill, 2020 and the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill were passed in quick succession. Thereafter the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment) of Certain Provisions Bill, 2020 to relax time limit on compliance with tax laws, GST payment and filing in view of the pandemic. — PTI

India, China not  
to send more  
troops to frontline

PAWAN BALLI | DC  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

India and China in a joint statement on Tuesday said that during the sixth round of Corps Commanders meeting, both sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation.

"They agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen communication on the ground, avoid misunderstandings," said the joint statement.

It said that the two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on stabilizing the situation along the LAC in the India — China border areas.

"The two sides also agreed to hold the 7th round of Military Commanders' Level Meeting as soon as possible, take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border area," said the statement.

The sixth round of Corps Commanders meeting was held after the foreign affairs ministers from two countries met in Moscow and agreed on a

five-point agenda.

However, sources said that during the sixth round of the Corps Commander meeting between India and China, no breakthrough could be achieved on the disengagement.

This means despite the joint statement 30,000-40,000 additional troops which India rushed to Ladakh after Chinese transgression in early May will remain at forward posts during winters when subzero temperatures and bone-chilling winds at such extreme heights make survival difficult and maintaining the logistic supply to these points is a nightmare.

The Corps Commanders meeting which started around 9:30 am at Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) went on till 11 pm.

Indian delegation was headed by 14 Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh. Lt Gen P.G.K. Menon, who is likely to replace Lt Gen Singh next month, was also present during the meeting. For the first time the representative from the ministry of external affairs joint secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava took part in the Corps Commanders meeting. The Indian officials who attended the meeting debriefed their senior officials.

Nepal puts on  
hold textbook  
with new map

Kathmandu, Sept. 22: Nepal has stopped the distribution of a new textbook that includes the country's revised political map showing three strategically-important Indian areas as part of its territory, saying there were a number of factual errors in it, according to a media report on Tuesday.

India has already termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belongs to it.

A Cabinet meeting on Tuesday instructed the Ministry of Education not to distribute and print any more copies of the text book meant for class IXth to XIIth as there were some reservations from the Ministry of Land Management and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *The Kathmandu Post* reported.

The Ministry of Education does not have the authority to change Nepal's geographical area and there are faults in the book, said spokesperson for the Ministry of Land Reform and Cooperatives Janak Raj Joshi.

There are errors in the book prepared by the Ministry of Education on a subject it has no expertise, he said, adding that the higher authorities have been asked to take corrective measures.

The body concerned of the Nepal government is yet to officially declare the revised geographical area of the country.

The Department of Survey, which is the official agency that declares the total area of the country, however, hasn't made any decision on the area, Joshi said. Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel on September 15 released the 110-page book titled, *Self Study Material on Nepal's Territory and Border* which dwells around historical facts about the country's territory and its border dispute mainly with India.

The book states Nepal's new area to be 147,641.28 square kilometers including the 460.28 sq km area

● INDIA HAS ALREADY termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belongs to it.

of the Kalapani area which was included in Nepal's political map on May 20 by the Cabinet.

Minister for Education Pokharel has written a six-page preface for the book in which he has mentioned about Nepal's border disputes and other related issues.

He said that he had launched a campaign to protect the Nepalese territory, including the areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.

However, Pokharel told *The Kathmandu Post* that the distribution of the book has been halted for now.

After Nepal's Parliament approved the revised political map comprising Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura areas, the Cabinet had endorsed the new map and decided to use it in government offices and print school text books with the new map.

Nepal in May released the revised political and administrative map of the country laying claim over the three strategically important areas in Uttarakhand, more than six months after India published a new map in November 2019.

Following the endorsement of the new map by the Nepal Cabinet, then government spokesperson and Finance Minister Yuvaraj Khatriwada told the media that the government had decided to update the schedule of the Constitution and school curriculum incorporating the new political map. India in its response said that it had already made its position clear on it.

"This artificial enlargement of claims is not based on historical fact or evidence and is not tenable. It is also violative of our current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues," the MEA said.



## IN BRIEF

**John Lennon killer says sorry**

**New York:** Mark Chapman, the man who killed John Lennon, has apologised to the late Beatle's widow, Yoko Ono, 40 years after his death. Chapman shot Lennon four times outside his New York Manhattan apartment as Ono looked on, in 1980. He was denied parole for the eleventh time following a hearing last month. During the hearing, Chapman said he killed the 40-year-old rock star for "glory" and that he deserved the death penalty. He added that he thinks about the "despicable act" all the time, and accepts he may spend the rest of his life in prison. "I just want to reiterate that I'm sorry for my crime," Chapman told the parole board at the Wende Correctional Facility in New York.

**Finland bans neo-Nazi group**

**Helsinki:** Finland's Supreme Court on Tuesday banned a neo-Nazi group on the grounds that its activities are "significantly contrary to law." Finland's national police had sought to dissolve the right-wing Nordic Resistance Movement, known for being violent and openly racist, and two lower courts of law confirmed the ruling. Finland's highest court ruled that the group's activities "did not enjoy freedom of expression or freedom of association, as the association's activities by their nature entailed an abuse of these rights." National Police Chief Inspector Heikki Lausmaa told Finnish broadcaster YLE that the Supreme Court ruling is "a clear statement that an organisation that is violent and uses speech deemed racist or otherwise violating human dignity should not have a place in Finnish society."

**Nasa moon return to cost \$28b**

**Washington:** Nasa on Monday revealed its latest plan to return astronauts to the Moon in 2024, and estimated the cost of meeting that deadline at \$28 billion, \$16 billion of which would be spent on the lunar landing module. Congress, which faces elections on November 3, will have to sign off on the financing for a project that has been set by President Donald Trump as a top priority. The \$28 billion would cover the budgetary years of 2021-25. In a phone briefing with journalists on Monday on the Artemis mission to return human beings to the Moon, Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine noted that "political risks" were often the biggest threat to Nasa's work, especially before such a crucial election. Barack Obama cancelled plans for a manned Mars mission, after his predecessor spent billions of dollars on the project.

**MET ARMY CHIEF BEFORE APC: SHEHBAZ**

SHAFQAT ALI | DC  
ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 22

Pakistan Muslim League (Nazaw) President Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday confirmed meeting Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa ahead of All Parties Conference (APC) on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), the PML-N leader said discussion on Gilgit Baltistan matters was held during the meeting with the army chief. All the parliamentary leaders were also present, he added.

Shehbaz, the Opposition Leader in National Assembly, said the incumbent government led by the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) was trying to oppress PML-N. The decisions taken during APC will be implemented at any cost, he said.

On September 20, 2020, the 11-party opposition's APC hosted by Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had demanded resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The 26-point resolution passed by the APC stated that the opposition had decided to form a national alliance in the name of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).

The APC had also decided to hold a long march against the government in January 2021.

The government, it said, had ruined the common man's life with rising inflation, unemployment, and taxes, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said in joint news conference after the APC.

The "selected" government was responsible for the fall of Kashmir, the APC members stated.

**Spanish medics stage protest**

Medical Residents protest against their working conditions on the second day of a strike called by the collective in Barcelona, on September Tuesday, amid a Covid surge in the country. Spain is struggling to contain a second wave of the virus, which has infected over 670,000 people and claimed over 30,000 lives, one of Europe's highest. — AFP

**Sikh taxi driver assaulted, called 'Taliban' in Britain**

**London, Sept. 22:** An India-born Sikh taxi driver was subjected to verbal and physical abuse by passengers he drove from a casino in the city of Reading in south-east England, prompting a United Kingdom police force to launch an investigation.

Vaneet Singh, 41, said that a group of four men slapped and shoved him, and asked "are you Taliban" after he received them from the Grosvenor Casino in Reading, Berkshire, in the early hours of Sunday.

One of the four also tried to remove his turban. "It was horrible, really frightening, I will never work the nightshift again. I'm

still very scared," he said. Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses as they investigate the report of an assault.

Singh, who worked as a music teacher at a school in Slough, Berkshire, turned to taxi driving after his teaching job was stalled during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The musician, who lives in Tilehurst with his wife and three children, said he has been left shaken up by the assault and will be avoiding night shifts. "It's very bad experience. It's my religion so I respect my turban," he said. One of the four passengers, all described as white, pulled at his turban as he was driving and

slapped him on the head, while others kicked and punched the back of the driver's seat.

He says he tried to explain the religious significance of the turban to them and asked them not to touch it.

He recalled the passengers being well behaved at the start of the journey but "totally changed" as it went on. Singh, who is suffering from aches and pains since the incident, is convinced the attack was of a racist nature and believes he was a victim of hate crime.

Thames Valley Police are yet to confirm their line of inquiry in the assault case. — PTI

**STOP PLAYING BREXIT 'GAMES', EU TELLS UK**

**Brussels, Sept. 22:** The European Union is pleading with Britain to stop playing "games" as time is running out to clinch a free trade deal over the next month.

The sides committed to a new meeting to discuss Britain's plans to disregard part of the withdrawal agreement it had signed with the 27-nation EU amid acrimony that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson would even contemplate to break an agreement he himself signed.

EU countries' ministers for European affairs met in Brussels on Tuesday and German chairman Michael Roth said the British plan was "extremely" worrisome since it "violates the guiding principle of the withdrawal agreement," which officially allowed the United Kingdom to leave the bloc last Jan. 31.

A transition period now runs until Dec 31, during which time both sides are negotiating a trade agreement to replace the open and unfettered economic relations that are currently in place.

The EU has repeatedly expressed its exasperation at what it sees as British stubbornness and refusal to compromise on some key points. Without a deal on future trade relations, chaos is expected at the borders on Jan. 1. — AP

**Charlie Hebdo HR manager moved from home in the wake of threats**

**Paris, Sept. 22:** Police have moved the head of human resources at French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* from her home following death threats received last week, she told a French magazine.

Marika Bret, who has been living under police protection for nearly five years in the aftermath of the deadly assault on Charlie Hebdo in January 2015, said the threats were "sufficiently concrete to be taken seriously".

Bret said she would not

**Taiwan: China must back off**

**Taipei, Sept. 22:** Taiwan on Tuesday demanded that China "back off" and accused it of threatening peace, after a Beijing official rejected a largely respected marine boundary following recent incursions.

Foreign minister Joseph Wu urged Beijing to "return to the civilised international standards" after a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said there was no so-called median line in the Taiwan Strait "as Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory".

Wu told reporters: "The median line has been a symbol of preventing military conflicts and maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait for many years. The Chinese foreign ministry's comment is equivalent of destroying the status quo." "I call on the international community to condemn the CCP for its dangerous and provocative words and deeds threatening peace... China must back off," he added in a tweet.

China considers Taiwan part of its territory, to be absorbed into the mainland, by force if necessary, even though it has been self-ruled for more than seven decades.

Beijing has ratcheted up pressure on the democratic island since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who rejects its view that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Last year, Taiwan accused China of violating a long-held tacit agreement after its fighter jets — for the first time in years — crossed the median line of the waters that separate the two sides.

Washington's increased

**Spying allegations against NYC cop fiction, says Beijing**

**Beijing, Sept. 22:** China on Tuesday said allegations against a New York City police officer charged with being an "intelligence asset" for the Chinese government are a "pure fabrication" and part of a US plot to smear Chinese diplomats in the United States.

Baimadajie Angwang, a naturalised US citizen from Tibet, allegedly agreed to spy on US supporters of the Tibetan independence movement since 2018 as an agent for China in its effort to suppress the movement, according to a criminal complaint filed in Brooklyn federal court.

It says he secretly worked for unnamed handlers from the Chinese Consulate in New York. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Tuesday said the indictment against Angwang was full of hedging terms such as "seems" and "possibly" giving the appearance that prosecutors were straining to make their case.

"The relevant accusations made by the US side

**JINPING CRITIC GETS 18 YEARS IN GRAFT CASE**

**Beijing, Sept. 22:** The former chairman of a Chinese state-owned real estate company who publicly criticised President Xi Jinping's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday in a corruption case, the government announced. Ren Zhigang, who had become known for speaking up about censorship and other sensitive topics, disappeared from public view in March after publishing an essay online that accused Xi of mishandling the outbreak. — AP

are pure fabrication," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

"The US plot to discredit the Chinese Consulate and personnel in the United States will not succeed." — AP

outreach to Taiwan under President Donald Trump has become yet another flashpoint with Beijing, as the United States and China clash over a range of trade and security issues, as well as the

Coronavirus pandemic.

In recent months Taiwan has reported a sharp rise in incursions by Chinese warplanes into its air defence identification zone (ADIZ). — AFP

**If Biden wins, China wins: Don**

**Washington, Sept. 22:**

Former US vice president Joe Biden has enormously harmed the US economy in his five decades as a politician, President Donald Trump has said, adding that if the Democratic leader wins the November 3 polls it would be a win for China. Biden, 77, and his running mate Kamala Harris are challenging incumbents President Trump, 74, and Vice President Mike Pence in the presidential election.

"Joe Biden spent the last 47 years shipping your jobs to China and foreign countries. You know that. I've spent the last four years bringing the jobs back to our country and back to Ohio," Trump said at a rally in Dayton, Ohio

on Monday.

The Republican leader described the November 3 polls as the most important in recent memory. "On November 3rd, Americans will decide whether we lift our nation to soaring new heights of prosperity or whether we will allow Joe Biden — Sleepy Joe — to shut down our economy, impose a \$4 trillion tax hike, abolish Ohio clean coal, oil, natural gas, and ship your jobs in factories overseas to China and countries that you never even heard of," he said.

The democratic tax plans for the 2020 election lists a gradual increase in proposed taxes by \$4 trillion in the next decade, placing a greater burden

on the super-rich category. "Put simply: If Biden wins, China wins. If we win, Ohio wins and most importantly, in all fairness, America wins. Because you finally have the president who puts America first, and I do put America first," Trump said to applause from the audience. Trump has held election rallies in the last two weeks, notwithstanding the risks posed by the coronavirus. Thousands attend the events without masks and breaking social-distancing norms.

Trump has called the rallies "protest against stupidity". "You know this is really not a rally. This has to do with workers, programmes, all the things we love," he said. — PTI

**Police release footage after officers shoot 13-year-old boy**

**Salt Lake City, Sept. 22:** A 13-year-old Utah boy with autism was shot by police after his mother asked for help getting him hospital mental-health treatment and officers agreed to talk with him, police footage released Monday showed.

The videos show Salt Lake City officers chasing him down an alley after they arrive at his home, then yelling at him to get on the ground. The boy collapses after a series of shots ring out, moaning, "I don't feel good. I don't feel good."

He survived but suffered broken bones and pierced organs, the family's attorney has said. His mother, Golda Barton, had warned police that her son said earlier that day, September 4, that he had a gun and had threatened to shoot her male coworker and break windows in the house, the video showed. But she told officers she thought it was a BB gun or pellet gun.

There were no indications he was armed. She wanted him to be hospitalised for help with his mental health issues. Officers said they would have to proceed as though the boy did have access to a real gun, the videos show.

Barton told officers the boy was "triggered" by se-

**Kansas shooting: Child killed, 2 hurt**

**Kansas City, Sept. 22:** A boy under the age of 5 died and two adults were injured when someone opened fire on their vehicle Monday afternoon, Kansas City police said.

After the shooting that was reported just before 3 pm, the driver of the car pulled up to a local fire station to ask for help, according to authorities. Fire and EMS personnel tended to the unidentified man, woman and child, police said, adding that they were taken to a hospital where the boy later died.

The preliminary investigation shows that the vehicle was stopped in front of a home when someone fired numerous shots into the vehicle from outside, striking three people,

according to authorities.

A police spokesman on the scene said there was another adult in car who was not struck by gunfire.

In a tweet, the city's police department said they were "stunned at this callousness and violence" and that they would not rest until finding out who was responsible for the shooting.

The child's death is the 148th homicide this year in Kansas City. At this time last year, 114 homicides had been recorded. "My heart breaks again," said Mayor Quinton Lucas, who was also present at the scene. Both the mayor and police officials asked for anyone with any information on the shooting to contact detectives. — AP

eing police.

"He sees the badge and he automatically thinks you are going to kill him or he has to defend himself in some way," she said. "He freaks out."

The video was made public under a Salt Lake City ordinance requiring the

release of video from police shootings within 10 business days. The shooting has raised new questions about how police deal with people with mental health issues amid nationwide calls for police reform. — AP

## SEA OF JOY

**Filipino primary school teacher happy to give it back after social media alerts the owner****Surfboard drifts 8,000 km from Hawaii to Philippines**

**Manila, Sept. 22:** When big wave surfer Doug Falter lost his board in a wipeout in Hawaii, his best hope was for a local fisherman to pick it up. He never imagined it would be found more than 8,000 kilometres (5,000 miles) away in the southern Philippines.

More than two years after watching his pale blue custom-shaped board disappear in the huge swell of Waimea Bay, Falter was alerted via social media that it had been found near the remote island of Sarangani. And the new owner — local primary school teacher and

aspiring surfer Giovanne Branzuela — was happy to give it back to him.

"When I saw the picture of it, I couldn't believe it, I thought it was a joke almost," Falter, 35, said via Zoom. "I was certain that the board would never be found again." Branzuela, who bought the badly weathered surfboard from his neighbour a couple of months ago for 2,000 pesos (\$40), said fishermen had found it floating in the sea in August 2018 — six months after Falter lost sight of it.

They thought it may have

fallen off a passing yacht and sold it to Branzuela's neighbour for a few dollars. Despite months drifting across the Pacific Ocean, the name of the board's shaper, Hawaii-based Lyle Carlson, was still visible on the now-yellowish surface.

Curious, Branzuela looked him up on Facebook and sent him a photo of the board. Carlson shared the picture on Instagram, tagging Falter. "It turned out it's a surfboard from Hawaii. I couldn't believe it myself," Branzuela, 38, said via telephone. "It's been my dream to learn to surf and ride the

big waves here," he added. "For now I can use his surfboard. I told him I will take good care of it."

The pair have been chatting on Facebook and Falter plans to visit the small island to retrieve his board after Coronavirus travel restrictions are lifted.

"That board meant so much to me because of my accomplishments on it," said Falter, a commercial photographer who took up surfing about 15 years ago in Florida before moving to Hawaii.

"It was my first big wave surfboard custom shaped

for myself. I surfed it on the biggest days I've ever surfed in my life", he said, including the 2016 Eddie Aikau big wave surf contest in Waimea Bay when the swell was 20 metres (60 feet) high.

Falter said he wants to give Branzuela a beginners surfboard in exchange for his and show him how to catch waves around Sarangani and neighbouring Balut island.

In the meantime, Falter shares short YouTube videos on surfing basics and is raising money to send supplies to Branzuela's school. — AFP



This undated handout photo shows Filipino teacher Giovanne Branzuela (L) posing with his surfboard, once owned by big wave surfer Doug Falter who lost it while surfing in Hawaii, along with his village mates on Sarangani island in the Philippines. — AFP



## DECCAN Chronicle

23 SEPTEMBER 2020

### As India reopens, we need more tests, infra

As coronavirus figures skyrocket in India amid reports of a second wave sweeping much of mainland Europe, comes renewed confirmation of bad news that SARS-CoV-2 reinfections are real. The official caseload, meanwhile, has surpassed the 5.5 million mark. A vaccine, while it is only going to be seasonal, is still several months away and, by all estimates, will take longer to reach every ordinary citizen.

But the economy, which has taken the worst hit in recorded history, must now be opened at all costs. It will take a minimum of two months to restore it to its pre-Covid health, a report by a committee headed by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor C. Rangarajan, advising the Tamil Nadu government on medium-term measures, has suggested, and the Centre is certainly seen implementing what it has somewhat cheekily dubbed Unlock 4.0 with older students returning to school in parts of the country, international flights beginning to operate in air bubble arrangements and Taj Mahal accepting visitors.

The ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, however, has been unfortunately curtailed by several days, jeopardising important legislative decisions.

Autumn's lower temperatures plus the reopening will undoubtedly bring on the second wave of coronavirus in India. The crisis seems to be unfolding here in a worse manner than we could have imagined, with the virus having reached the rural heartlands.

Experts suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic will peak at different rates in different regions of the country. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh currently have the most infections; of these the last three states experienced late surges. Hence, a renewed urgency for health infrastructure, doctors, drugs, ventilators and a prompter and more localised administrative response coordinated by state governments and effectively bolstered by central funds and support is the absolute need of the hour. Of these, drug manufacture is our area of strength and we have done some good work on the count of expanding laboratory and testing infrastructure.

The Delhi high court on Tuesday stayed the Delhi government's September 13 order making it mandatory for 33 private hospitals in the city to reserve 80 per cent of their Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds as prima facie violative of fundamental rights. It is a welcome ruling. Most coronavirus patients improve with administration of palliatives and home isolation is sufficient to contain the disease. That is indeed a silver lining. India has topped the world both in the daily infection rate as well as number of recoveries. Health workers have put their shoulder to the wheel and are working heroically against odds.

If only these odds were fewer in number. The governments — state and Centre — have no choice but to perform or face electoral ire.

### Regulate, don't strangle NGOs

There are certain hallmarks for most of the doings of the Narendra Modi government: a popular, presentable reason that can be easily sold to the public to achieve certain motives outside and a half-boiled, unworkable plan that will put a lot of people to inconvenience inside. Demonetisation, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the bills to rework the functioning of Indian farming are the classic examples. The latest to join the league is the amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, that Parliament has passed now.

The government is sure the piece of legislation is a must to control the waywardness of non-governmental organisations, including the religious ones. The main feature of the new bill is that it makes it mandatory for all the key people of the organisations to present their Aadhaar numbers to the authorities for getting the registration. The government, which got the Aadhaar Act passed in Parliament as money bill, had assured the Supreme Court that Aadhaar numbers will be made mandatory only when a person receives government largesse. It will be interesting to note how the government will defend this provision in the bill, should it be challenged in court. It defies logic when the government mandates the recipient organisation to open an account at a particular bank in the national capital at a time when banking has become a mobile application and the regulators get real time information on any transaction of agencies on their watch if they wanted. The bill empowers the government to make the organisations use the fund after a summary inquiry, whereas the existing law allows such an action only if the organisation concerned is found guilty of violating the law. The bill has many such crippling provisions. Regulating a sector is part of governance, but strangulating it is not. The government must realise it.

#### DECCAN CHRONICLE

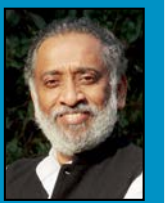
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Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



### Restructuring of Railways: Most officers are unhappy

Modi sarkar is pushing ahead with restructuring of the Indian Railways board and services. The Cabinet recently green-lit the revamping of the powerful railway board that governs the railways. The board will now have five members. The present chairman of the board, V.K. Yadav, will be the first CEO of the Board.

The board will also have independent members in non-executive roles. The Cabinet also decided to merge all central railway service cadres into a single Indian Railways Management Service (IRMS).

While Mr Yadav is now chairman and CEO, Pradeep Kumar has been appointed member, infrastructure, P.C. Sharma has been appointed member, traction and rolling stock, P.S. Mishra has been made member, operations and business development. Manjula Rangarajan has been appointed member, finance. In the

new structure, the chairman shall be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a director general level officer. Three apex level posts shall be surrendered from railway board, and all the remaining posts of the railway board shall be open to all officers regardless of the service to which they belonged.

The government says that the reform will end "inter-departmental rivalries" that, many say, have been hampering growth and efficiency of the railways for decades. But not all railway babus are pleased with the decision. Their first objection is to the proposed merger of cadres, which they claim is "unscientific and against established norms" since the government is proposing to merge "fundamentally dissimilar" entities.

Instead, they argue for two distinct services instead of one - separating the civil services and the engineering wings.

#### NEW HEFT TO PMO

The appointment of three IAS officers to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will add heft to the already most powerful PMO ever. The officers are Raghuraj Rajendran of the Madhya Pradesh cadre as director, Amrapali Kata of the Andhra Pradesh cadre as deputy secretary and Mangesh Ghildiyal of the Uttarakhand cadre as under-secretary.

Mr Rajendran was earlier serving as private secretary to the minister for steel and petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan. Amrapali Kata is an officer of the 2010 batch was deputy secretary in the cabinet secretariat (intelligence).

Mr Ghildiyal was working with the Uttarakhand government.

The appointments make these three officers seem like "high-fliers" in babudom. They have clearly been chosen for their track record. In the presidential-style Modi PMO they are now expected to be team players who must focus

on tough decisions and showing results.

#### UP'S DUBIOUS CRACKDOWN

Though public perception belies it, the Uttar Pradesh government claims it has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. And it backs it up with data. According to sources, since coming to power three years ago, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has cracked the whip on around 800 state government officials. Just recently the state government suspended two IPS officers, Abhishek Dikshit, SSP of Prayagraj, and Manilal Patidar, SP of Mahoba, for their involvement in corrupt practices and "lax policing".

The state data claims that it has acted against more than 775 officials so far, including some retired officials who were found complicit in malpractices. The government has forcibly retired 325 officials and suspended and demoted over 450 babus.

But, sources say, despite the Yogi government's crackdown on

corrupt babus, some suspended officers seem to have wiggled back into the administration on plum postings. J.B. Singh, the Gonda DM, was suspended in June 2018, along with Kumar Prashant, the DM of Fatehpur, and faced disciplinary action over irregularities in the procurement of wheat. But Mr Singh's bureaucratic wilderness was short-lived. In 2019 he was appointed the DM of Etawah. Kumar Prashant, too, found himself back in favour. Last year he became the DM of Badaun, a more important district than Fatehpur. There are other instances, say sources, where after a brief period of lying low, suspended officials find themselves back in the saddle.

According to sources, murmurs of protest are rising, and railway unions are planning a series of protests against the move.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](mailto:dilipthecherian@Twitter.com). Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani



## To rule India, history of our geography vital tool



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Does geography have a history? Yes, it does. It's political geography: of maps and atlases, covering the globe. Political geography maps, accurately drawn in meticulous detail, depicts the world we live in. Naming and numbering all countries, islands, oceans, seas, mountains, the physical topography, and the rulers and the ruled in each of those pages, along with economic figures. It shows the evolution of geography through the ages. Hence, it's important for aspiring, or established, leaders to have fair idea of the history of the geography that they represent, rule or reign.

In the context of the vast demography of South Asia, the learning process is all the more important for potential leaders because India has always been volatile, susceptible to internal discord and violence, thereby resulting in frequent changes of political geography maps. So much so that it's a reality of the history of South Asian geography that the Indian ruling class traditionally proved utterly myopic, being unable to see beyond their noses, thus resulting in their chronic failure to unite the vast, diverse elements of the countryside.

The history of Indian geography thus, as seen from the changed / changing maps, stands as a mute, yet profound, testimony to this sordid scenario. The ruling class has always liked to fight among its own spectrum and colour.

Little wonder that this collective band of the disparate ruling class inevitably ended up facing, and invariably fading, before foreign invaders. The tradition

goes on, as can be found from the 21st century aggression by the Communist Party of China (CPC), on whom some Indians still seem to have abiding trust, faith and confidence to mutually turn the "Line of Actual Control" into a "border area" resolution, from foreign soil, as was catastrophically done, at the behest of a third party arbiter, in 1966 at the high table of Tashkent.

One would like to suggest that the reader go through the 376 pages of "A Historical Atlas of South Asia", published in 1978!

To understand better; as to how fragile and fractious has been the map or geography of India, through the vicissitudes of history. Should it not, therefore, be obligatory for each and every aspiring Indian ruler, from all corners of the country, irrespective of his or her political colour, to learn a lesson or two, and study the atlas of the history of India's geography along with the Constitution of India? Today, for example, Delhi's geography is at the crossroads. Isn't the ominous signature on the horizon visible?

Indeed, five critical geographical areas, which this writer perceives as the "red zones" of India, are fast emerging under the Chinese Communist Party's active short to mid-term action plan. All indications point to its deep thought, firm belief and definite action plan. From the Belt and Road Initiative, to the CPEC, through Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The CPC think tanks are focused on breaking/destroying India through the creation of a new geography of "Greater" countries, cutting through India's topography.

To reiterate what I

have written earlier in these columns, I firmly believe that India's entire political class and its diplomats cannot match the cunning, deception and deceit of the Han Chinese in the international arena. Hence, the Chinese have managed to go rogue globally, undoubtedly helped by the lack of ideology of the post-Mao People's Republic. Given the congenital blunders made by New Delhi and its failure to tackle the Dragon for the past 70-plus years; there is nothing to indicate that the contemporary mandarins of Lutyens' Delhi will be able to out-match or reverse the evil designs of the Dragon any better than their predecessors or anytime soon. I sincerely hope that I am proved wrong about this.

To start with, India needs to start preparing to face the worst, with an ultra-defensive mechanism: first identify the areas which the CPC is targeting, and study and analyse its past record of action. As they say, to be "forewarned is fore-armed".

There are five "Greater" geographical zones where the Chinese are planning to target India - and the action on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh is just the start. The five emerging areas are: Greater Pakistan; Greater Nepal; Greater Burma; Greater Bangladesh and "Greater China": with Beijing hoping to turn Bhutan into another Xinjiang owing to its tiny size and dearth of demography! These five might become reality mainly through indirect, invisible and divisive CPC machinations. Not necessarily through the visible CPC-controlled PLA militia, but through unethical operations undertaken, at times reluctantly or under duress, by some of India's neighbours.

The tell-tale signs are already visible. Can't most of India see the Dragon-inspired defiance by Nepal, making bizarre claim over India's territory? Has anyone gone through some of the claims being

articulated by mass-circulating Nepalese media, with Dehradun and Nainital being openly claimed by some elements in Kathmandu. The "Greater Nepal" campaign is already on. What will be claimed next - from Himachal Pradesh to Sikkim?

Nepal is neither a Muslim-majority nor a Christian-majority country. It's an overwhelmingly Hindu nation, which earlier used to be the world's only Hindu kingdom, before the monarchy was abolished. Now Beijing has managed to turn this landlocked nation against Hindu-majority India.

Look at India's West Bengal state. The Communist influence there was once all-pervasive, with China's Chairman Mao an icon to many.

The first salvo was fired on May 24, 1967 across three police stations - Naxalbari, Kharibari, Phansideoa? It took an Indira Gandhi to tackle the CPC's "malevolence and perfidy", douse the Naxalite fire and save India. The CPC learnt its lesson, and didn't mess around with India's iron lady, more so after her triumph in the 1971 Bangladesh war.

"Greater" Pakistan has taken shape, with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir already in place, and "Greater" Bangladesh and "Greater" Myanmar will automatically follow if the "Greater" Nepal movement turns into a hydra-headed monster that will impact Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Geography will automatically navigate the foreign demography to cut down India's topography. Make no mistake, most of India's Northeast will be targeted by a "Greater" China, with some adjacent irredentist areas marked for Dhaka and Rangoon. Will India wake up in time to see through the Dragon's designs?

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. Views expressed are personal.

#### LETTERS

#### DRAINAGE DEATHS

Unfortunately, GOs and laws are formed with a prejudiced stand taken after some avoidable incidents (*Govt to permit capping drains, DC, Sept. 22*). If the GHMC and the SCB are not strictly warned to clean up covered drainages periodically, the lanes and roads will be flooded much more than now. Truth is that drains covered by illegal constructions and passing through different colonies are not cleared.

Nareesh Sohanraji  
Secunderabad

#### A REGULAR FEATURE

The incidents of Sumedha and Naveen Babu are a regular feature in Hyderabad every rainy season (*Body of motorist washed away found after 16 hours, DC, Sept. 22*). Many families are losing their breadwinners. Officials must prepare a master plan to streamline the drainage system which at places have not been replaced since the Nizam days.

Dr Malkaiah  
Hyderabad

#### KTR MUST ACT

Falling into open nalas/drains, getting washed away, government making statements of announcing hefty amounts for closing drains etc., have become a common feature (*₹300 cr for GHMC to cover open drains, DC, Sept. 22*). It is high time that municipal minister K.T. Rama Rao and his colleagues identify all such spots and personally getting them closed on a war footing.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao  
Hyderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Delhi-Moscow direct Telex opened

NEW DELHI, Sept. 22. New Delhi-Moscow direct Telex service was inaugurated here today by formal exchange of greetings between Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Communication Satya Narayan Sinha and the Soviet Minister of Posts and Telecommunications N. Psurzev. The new facility will assist the India and the Soviet Union to exchange messages with minimum delay and without any constraint on available time for use.

In his message, Mr. Sinha noted that President V.V. Giri would be reaching Moscow within a few hours and hoped the direct link would further promote mutual interests.



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	37,734.08	-0.79
Nifty 50	11,153.70	-0.86
S&P 500*	3,275.25	-0.18
Dollar (₹)	73.58	-0.25
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.33	0.06
Euro (₹)	86.39	0.39
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,570▲99	0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.65	0.21
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.010	-0.005
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.666	-0.005

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

Amazon to come in four southern languages

In a major move to break the language barrier for online shopping and expand e-commerce access to the next 30 crore customers, ahead of the festive season, Amazon is launching amazon.in in shopping experience in four new Indian languages - Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. With this, Amazon.in customers can now discover great deals and discounts, and read detailed product information.

Ducati launches new Scrambler 1100 Pro in India



Italian superbike maker Ducati on Tuesday said it has launched all-new Scrambler 1100 Pro and the 1100 Sport Pro in India, priced at ₹11.95 lakh and ₹13.74 lakh, respectively (ex-showroom). The bikes come with an 1100-cc engine mated to a six speed gearbox. "The new Scrambler 1100 Pro range takes those qualities a notch higher, said Ducati India Managing Director Bipul Chandra.

Global cues pull down gold price further in India

Gold prices tumbled ₹672 to ₹51,328 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a weak global trend. The yellow metal had closed at ₹52,000 per 10 gram in the previous trading session. Silver also witnessed massive selloff with prices tanking ₹5,781 to ₹61,606 per kg from ₹67,387 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi plunged ₹672, reflecting selloff in international prices despite rupee fall.

Bayer gets DCGI nod for injection to treat DME

New Delhi: Bayer in India on Tuesday said it has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India for its intravitreal injection Aflibercept, for the treatment of a new indication Diabetic Macular Edema (DME). The approval of Aflibercept injection for intravitreal use presents a new and alternative treatment option to currently available therapies, for patients with DME, Bayer said.



Ambani plans ₹4K phone

Jio asked local handset makers to ramp up their capacities

BOOST TO MAKE IN INDIA

- Reliance's target of selling 15 crore to 20 crore phones over two years would represent a massive boost for local factories.
- India assembled an estimated 16.5 crore smartphones in the year ended March, and about an equal number of basic feature phones.



much like he did in wireless services, where his aggressive prices and simple plans quickly made him the dominant force. The billionaire is also aligning himself with India's plans to build more domestic manufacturing, a possible boost for local assemblers like Dixon Technologies India, Lava International and Karbonn Mobiles. "We are of course trying

to build our domestic companies. We have a sweet spot in entry level phones," said Pankaj Mohindroo, chairman of the India Cellular & Electronic Association, during an interview on Bloomberg Television. "The world has realised that India is a great place to do business and a great place to do manufacturing also." Representatives for

Reliance declined to comment.

Reliance's target of selling 15 crore to 20 crore phones over two years would represent a massive boost for local factories. India assembled an estimated 16.5 crore smartphones in the year ended March, and about an equal number of basic feature phones, according to Mohindroo's association. About a fifth of the smartphones cost less than ₹7,000, or about \$100.

Reliance rival Bharti Airtel is also in talks with assemblers to build its own 4G device, local media has reported.

Reliance in July struck a broad alliance with Google, in which the Alphabet Inc. unit would invest \$4.5 billion and cooperate on technology initiatives. The partnership is still under regulatory review so Reliance is proceeding with the mobile phone initiative on its own for now.

— Bloomberg

LIC plans Covid policy, awaits IRDA's approval

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22

With the rising numbers of deaths in India due to Covid-19 disease, the country's life insurance behemoth, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), is all set to come out with a Covid-specific cover. The new Covid product is under consideration and awaiting a 'green signal' from the insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai). "We have already filed a Covid-specific product with IRDA and are waiting for its approval. However, the forthcoming new product will be of a short-term duration for the customers," Mukesh Gupta, managing director of LIC, told Financial Chronicle.

Covid-19 related deaths in the country have already reached 88,935, while the Coronavirus case tally has crossed over 55 lakh mark. However, the insurer feels that the idea behind launching a Covid-specific product is

We have already filed a Covid-specific product with IRDA and are waiting for its approval. However, the new product will be of a short-term duration

MUKESH GUPTA, MD, LIC

to bring more and more people under the life insurance cover during the pandemic.

While refusing to divulge more details about benefits and premium of the new product, Gupta said, "It is still in the works. After the approval from the regulator, we will make it public."

Though the insurer has also been providing the life cover for all its 28.92 crore LIC policyholders against the pandemic, the new cover is expected to charge a different premium as well as offer different benefits for its customers.

Gupta, however, feels

that the number of death claims for the corporation is still low. LIC has so far, he said, settled a total Covid claims worth ₹42.48 crore against 956 policies, covering 430 lives.

"In case of the death of any policyholder due to Covid-19, we are paying the death claim immediately after getting the required documents. We have even relaxed our norms for receiving the required documents physically and accepting the online submission via Whatsapp," he said.

"LIC has settled more claims than all other insurance companies if put together. Due to the killer pandemic, more people are buying insurance and I hope the trend would continue with people buying adequate life coverage for themselves and their families as well. LIC is currently running its month-long awareness drive for the revival of existing policies to increase its renewal premium by 5-6 per cent," he said.

RBI SAYS NO PLAN TO REVIVE PMC BANK YET

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday said that it is yet to come up with a workable plan to revive fraud hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, and appointed a new administrator for the bank as the present administrator is stepping down.

While it has been exploring various options for resolution of PMC Bank along with the administrator, the RBI said several factors such as huge losses incurred by the bank resulting in its entire net worth getting wiped out, steep erosion in deposits, among others continue to pose serious challenges in finding a workable plan for revival of the bank.

"The bank has also been making efforts for recovery of NPAs although the progress has been constrained because of the pandemic and legal complexities. Nevertheless, in the interest of the depositors, PMC Bank and RBI are continuing to engage with the stakeholders to explore the possibility of finding a viable and workable solution for the resolution of the bank," said RBI in a statement.

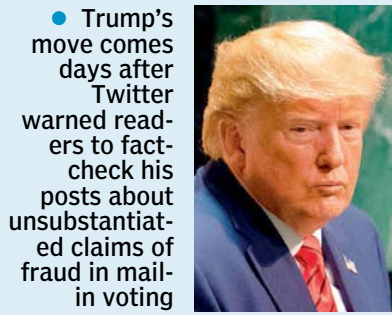
The RBI appointed former Union Bank of India executive A K Dixit as the new administrator of PMC Bank.

Trump seeks to end social media shield

To consult state attorneys to make social media companies liable for user content

LETHAL ATTACK

- US President Donald Trump plans to revise a key law that shields social media companies from liability for content posted by their users, but gives them right to remove objectionable posts



● Trump's move comes days after Twitter warned readers to fact-check his posts about unsubstantiated claims of fraud in mail-in voting

● A group representing major internet companies urged US communication body FCC to reject Trump's petition to limit protections

or weaken the law, Section 230.

He directed the commerce department to file the petition asking the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to limit protections under Section 230 after Twitter Inc warned readers in May to fact-check his posts about unsubstantiated claims of fraud in mail-in voting.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai opened the petition to a 45-day public comment.

Earlier this month, the Republican state attorneys general of Texas, Louisiana, Indiana and

Missouri backed Trump's push, arguing social media platforms cannot be truly free "unless the participants understand the rules of the forum, and competition is able to provide alternatives when speech restrictions go too far."

A group representing major internet companies including Facebook Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google urged the FCC to reject the petition, calling it "misguided, lacks grounding in law, and poses serious public policy concerns." — Reuters

Mistry family may exit Tata group

Mumbai, Sept. 22: The billionaire Mistry family, the largest minority shareholder of the Tata Group, said that it needs to separate its interests after India's biggest conglomerate took steps to block the family's attempt to borrow money against Tata shares.

Tata Sons informed the Supreme Court Tuesday that it's open to buying out the 18 per cent stake owned by the Mistry family's cash-strapped Shapoorji Pallonji Group

Today, it is with a heavy heart that the Mistry family believes that a separation of interests would best serve all stakeholder groups

SHAPOORJI PALLONJI GROUP STATEMENT

if the latter needed to raise money for paying maturing debt. The SP Group instead wanted to borrow funds using the shares as collateral, a

move that the Tata Group considers as potentially risky because the securities may end up falling in the hands of unfriendly investors.

"The action by Tata Sons to block this crucial fund raise, without any heed for the collateral consequences, is the latest demonstration of their vindictive mind-set," the SP Group said in a statement late Tuesday.

"The SP-Tata relationship spanning over 70 years, was forged on

mutual trust, good faith, and friendship. Today, it is with a heavy heart that the Mistry family believes that a separation of interests would best serve all stakeholder groups."

It didn't specify what any separation would entail. A representative for Tata Sons declined to comment. Feud between the Tata Group and the Mistry family began after Cyrus Mistry was dismissed from the post of Tata Sons chairman a few years back. — Bloomberg

Kerala all set to get medical devices park

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 22

Kerala will get one among the four medical device parks proposed by the Central government. The park will provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry, including research and development support, testing, and evaluation.

MedSpark to be located at Life Science Park, Thiruvananthapuram, is a joint initiative of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the department of sci-

ence and technology (DST) and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC).

This medical device park will produce medical implants and extracorporeal devices. It will benefit small and medium-sized medical devices industries, which dominate the medical devices sector.

The Centre had earlier announced plans to set up four medical devices parks in India as part of becoming self-reliant in the sector. Other three parks are expected to come up in Tamil Nadu, AP and Telangana.

INVESTORS FIND PUBLIC ISSUES A LOT ATTRACTIVE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

Action appears to have shifted to the primary market with Computer Age Management Services' ₹2,242-crore IPO getting fully subscribed a day ahead of its closure on Wednesday.

The Sensex and the Nifty, however, fell for the fourth consecutive session as the secondary market faced selling pressure due to the second wave of Covid-19 in many parts of the world.

As per information available on the stock exchanges, the CAMS public issue has been subscribed 1.93 times on the second day of bidding. The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 2.91 times. Qualified Institutional Buyer and Non-Institutional Investor category were subscribed 0.83 and 1.22 times respectively.

Another IPO floated by Chemcon Speciality Chemicals for raising ₹318 crore has also been subscribed 12.62 times a day ahead of its closure on Wednesday. Angel Broking's ₹600-crore IPO received a good response on the first day and was subscribed 0.76 times.

NSE, SGX END ARBITRATION OVER NIFTY

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

NSE and Singapore Exchange (SGX) have decided to withdraw arbitration proceedings over the Indian bourse's decision to stop licensing its index Nifty to foreign bourses.

They have also agreed to cement terms for operationalising the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect to create a bigger liquidity pool for Nifty products at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).

COVID | IMPACT

Lay-offs in Gulf countries force migrant workers to send all money home before flying back

Spurt in remittance hints at workers' final return

Karachi/Manila, Sept. 22: Migrant workers from Asia's developing countries have managed to send home record amounts of money in recent months, defying pandemic expectations and propping up home economies at a critical time.

Remittance doomsayers see something else in the bigger-than-usual transfers: a coming crash, triggered by a bleak job market, particularly in the Middle East. As they see opportunity drying up along with demand for oil,

workers are sending money home in advance of their own return.

The Philippines government, for example, expects almost three lakh overseas Filipinos to come home this year, with potentially severe consequences: Remittances make up about 10 per cent of the economy and have pushed the peso to a three-year high against the dollar.

"People are returning home," said Thomas Isaac, the finance minister for Indian state of Kerala,

which accounts for the country's largest share of remittances. "Therefore, they bring back all their savings."

India is the world's top recipient of transfers and a leading supplier of labour to the Gulf; it took in \$83 billion last year, exceeding the \$51 billion it took in as foreign direct investment.

Overall, remittances to the Asia-Pacific region will drop 12 per cent in the second half of 2020 compared with the same period last year, Fitch Ratings

said this month. "That will drive a decline in remittances as the temporary supporting factors fade," said Jeremy Zook, a director at Fitch Ratings based in Hong Kong.

Unlike Latin American countries, which continue to benefit from a tentative US recovery, Asian countries are vulnerable to economic austerity in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East.

More than 60 per cent of remittances to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan come from Gulf

Cooperation Council countries, said Khurram Schehzad, chief executive officer at Karachi-based advisory Alpha Beta Core Solutions.

The region is also the top destination for workers from the Philippines, one of the world's largest suppliers of overseas labour.

Saudi Arabia has already raised taxes and import fees to make up for falling oil revenue. Job cuts in the kingdom appear to target foreigners first, with Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment esti-

mating more than a million foreign workers will leave the labour market this year.

After eight years of sending money to family in Karachi, Abdul Hanan Abro is one of the workers who will follow his money home. He was laid off from his accounting job in Dubai in May and hasn't found a new gig — and he's not the only one.

"No one is getting anything," said Abro. "Two to three of my friends have already moved back to Lahore. People are selling

their cars and stuff, doing their final settlements."

For Abro, coming home means starting over. He wants to use the savings he accumulated overseas to start a business. "It's high time to just focus on what I was planning for two to three years now," Abro said. "It's better than wasting more time in finding a job in this market."

In April, the World Bank predicted overseas workers would send home 20 per cent less this year, the biggest drop since at least 1980. — Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## Original 9 in line for Hall of Fame

**Newport:** Billie Jean King and the other members of the Original 9 who laid the groundwork for the women's professional tennis tour are the first group nominated together for the International Tennis Hall of Fame. They join Jonas Bjorkman, Sergi Bruguera, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Lleyton Hewitt, Lisa Raymond and the late Dennis Van der Meer on the ballot announced on Monday for the Hall's Class of 2021. Wednesday is the 50th anniversary of when King, elected to the Hall in 1987 for her accomplishments on the court, and eight other players Peaches Bartkowicz, Rosie Casals, Judy Dalton, Julie Heldman, Kerry Melville Reid, Kristy Pigeon, Nancy Richey and Valerie Ziegenfuss signed 1 contracts to participate in the first women-only tennis tournament, taking a stand against the disparity in prize money between men and women at the time.

— AP

## Ankita advances, Ramkumar out

**Paris:** India's Ankita Raina progressed to the second round of the French Open qualifiers with a hard-fought win over Jovana Jovic on Tuesday but Ramkumar Ramanathan's bid to qualify for his maiden Grand Slam singles main draw fell flat. In a marathon two-hour 47 minute contest, Ankita prevailed 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 against the Serbian. The 27-year-old Indian won 106 points to 100 of her rival. It was first meeting between the two players since 2014 when Ankita had lost to Jovic in Anning on clay courts. Ankita will next take on Japan's Kurumi Nara, seeded 22nd. In the men's singles, Ramkumar bowed out after a straight set defeat against French wild card Tristan Lamasine. The Indian Davis Cupper, ranked 198, lost 5-7 2-6 to lower-ranked Lamasine in one hour and 27 minutes. — PTI

## Suarez in Italian language test row

**Rome:** Authorities are investigating whether Barcelona striker Luis Suarez was illegally helped to pass an Italian language exam last week in order to receive a European passport that could help him transfer to a new club. While Suarez is not under investigation, the director and general director of the Perugia university where the Uruguay forward took the exam are being investigated for allegedly helping him pass the test, Italian reports said Tuesday. Su rez had been linked with a possible move to Italian champion Juventus. Suarez's test grade was allegedly fixed before he took the test. Suarez is from Uruguay but has Italian ancestors. If he can obtain Italian citizenship, he wouldn't have to occupy a non-EU spot with a new club. — AP

## Tour team under dope scanner

**Paris:** French judicial authorities have opened a preliminary investigation into suspected doping during the Tour de France targeting the Arkea-Samsic team, the French outfit confirmed. Following reports in the French press that two persons close to the squad led by Colombian rider Nairo Quintana a former Giro d'Italia and Spanish Vuelta champion were being held for questioning, cycling governing body the UCI later said it has been in touch with a special public health unit (OCLAESP) as part of the operation carried out by French authorities. — AP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Kolkata Knight Riders vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**England Women vs West Indies Women:** Second T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

**ATP Hamburg European Open:** Third day's action from 2 pm on Sony Six, HD

## WWE NXT

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

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## ROYAL HIGHNESS

## Both teams score 200 but Rajasthan beat Super Kings

**Sharjah, Sept. 22:** Rajasthan Royals beat Chennai Super Kings by 16 runs in an IPL game on Tuesday riding on brilliant performances from Sanju Samson (74 off 32 balls), Steve Smith (69 off 47 balls) and Jofra Archer (27 off 8 balls, 1/26).

Batting first Royals scored 216/7 with the help of 17 sixes hit by their batsmen and nine by Samson alone.

In reply, CSK could manage 200/6 with Faf du Plessis scoring 72 off 37 ball with the help of seven sixes. Mahendra Singh Dhoni scored 29 off 17 balls but it was Rahul Tewatia's leg breaks that caused a lot of damage to top order. Tewatia took 3/37 in his four overs while Archer bowled a brilliant 19th over to seal the match.

Sent into bat, Rajasthan lost young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) in the third over but then Samson joined hands with Smith as the duo played sensibly initially before the Kerala wicket-keeper batsman went hammer and tongs at opposition spinners.

Samson (74 off 32) looked in great nick, while Smith, returning to competitive cricket after recovering from concussion suffered before the ODI series against England, made 67 off 49 balls to lay the base for Rajasthan's total.

In the final over, Jofra Archer (27 off 8 balls) hit four sixes off Lungi Ngidi as Royals got 30 runs to take the score past 215.

In all, Royals hit 17 sixes with Samson accounting for nine of them and Smith and Archer having four each in their kitties.

While Smith played the second fiddle initially, Samson took the CSK spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla to task



Steve Smith of the Rajasthan Royals plays a shot on way to his half-century against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday. — BCCI

## SCORECARD

**Rajasthan Royals:** Yashasvi Jaiswal c & b Chahar 6, Steve Smith c Jadhav b Curran 69, Sanju Samson c Chahar b Ngidi 74, David Miller run out (Gaikwad/Jadhav) 0, Robin Uthappa c du Plessis b Chawla 5, Rahul Tewatia lbw b Curran 10, Riyan Parag c Dhoni b Curran 6, Tom Curran not out 10, Jofra Archer not out 27. **Extras: (b-1, nb-3, w-5) 9. Total: (for 7 wks, in 20 overs) 216.** **FoW:** 1-11, 2-132, 3-134, 4-149, 5-167, 6-173, 7-178

**Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-31-1, Sam Curran 4-0-33-3, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-56-1, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-40-0, Piyush Chawla 4-0-55-1.

**Chennai Super Kings:** Murali Vijay c Tom Curran b Shreyas Gopal 21, Shane Watson b Rahul Tewatia 33, Faf du Plessis c Sanju Samson b Jofra Archer 72, Sam Curran st Sanju Samson b Rahul Tewatia 17, Ruturaj Gaikwad st Sanju Samson b Rahul Tewatia 0, Kedar Jadhav c Sanju Samson b Curran 22, Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out 29, Ravindra Jadeja not out 1. **Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-3) 5. Total: (in 20 overs) 200/6.** **FoW:** 1-56, 2-58, 3-77, 4-77, 5-114, 6-179. **Bowling:** Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-44-0, Jofra Archer 4-0-26-1, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-38-1, Tom Curran 4-0-54-1, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-37-3.

## Kohli goes gaga over Chahal

**Dubai, Sept. 22:** Crediting Yuzvendra Chahal's three-wicket burst for his side's 10-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL opener, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli said the wrist spinner proved that he can get purchase on any wicket.

Chahal (3/18) removed in-form Englishman Jonny Bairstow (61) and Vijay Shankar in successive balls in the 16th over to tilt the game decisively in RCB's favour. He had earlier gotten rid of Manish Pandey (34) in the 12th over.

"It's amazing to be honest. Last year, we were on the other side of the result, 6-nil to start. It is nice to be 1-nil. We kept our composure tonight," Kohli said at the post-match presentation on Monday.

"Yuzi (Chahal) comes in and completely changed the game for us. Not many spinners got much out of the pitch, but tonight he showed that you can turn it if you have it in your wrists. He showed he can get purchase on any wicket. The

## PADIKKAL IMPRESSES ON DEBUT

**Dubai, Sept. 22:** Considered a future India star, Devdutt Padikkal made an impressive IPL debut with a scintillating fifty but the young Kerala batsman says he was nervous when his place in the playing XI was confirmed to him.

Displaying a range of shots and confidence in striking the ball hard and clean, the 20-year-old scored a 42-ball 56 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore post 163 for 5 against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"I was very nervous upon hearing the news of making my debut. But when I came to bat I settled down after playing a few balls," Padikkal told Chahal during an inter-

view. "I was very nervous upon hearing the news of making my debut. But when I came to bat I settled down after playing a few balls," Padikkal told Chahal during an inter-

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RCB's Devdutt Padikkal receives the Power Player of the Match award on Monday. — BCCI

action after the match. Padikkal said he has learnt a lot from RCB and India skipper Virat Kohli. "The last one month that we practiced, I learnt a lot from Virat

Finchy as well. AB batting in the last three overs helped us push it past 160."

Player of the match Chahal said, "When I bowled my first over, I realised I need to bowl

stump-to-stump line and backed myself.

"At one point they were batting well and I was trying to bowl loopy ones and wide of the reach which helped in building pressure." — PTI

## MARSH MAY BE RULED OUT OF IPL

**Dubai, Sept. 22:** Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is likely to be ruled out of the remainder of the IPL as the ankle injury he suffered during the game against RCB has turned out to be "serious", team sources said on Tuesday.

Playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad, Marsh was handed the ball by skipper David Warner to bowl the fifth over but he could bowl only four deliveries.

Marsh, whose career has been marred by a series of injuries, twisted his ankle in the second ball while trying to stop a drive by Aaron Finch in his follow through but managed to bowl two more balls before hobbling out.

He later, courageously, came out to bat at number 10 in SRH's chase but it was evident that he was finding it even difficult to stand. "It seems a serious injury. I am not sure if he be able to compete in any of the matches," a team source said. — PTI

## Mumbai look to bounce back

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 22:** Grace and strength will be on one side while poise and killer instinct on the other when a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders take on Mumbai Indians, who have once again faltered in the beginning of the IPL, on Wednesday.

Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings, who took control of the match during the last 10 overs of the first innings.

They will be keen to bounce back while KKR would look for a perfect beginning as it will be a battle between big hitters on both sides on a sluggish Abu Dhabi track.

It will be Shubman Gill's third IPL, the one where he would like to own the stage with his languid grace and effortless hitting, which he is so capable of. He can hit sixes over extra cover with grace and caress the ball through covers too.

These are exactly the traits that made Rohit Sharma, the great white ball exponent that he is. Seasoned Rohit versus young Shubman is one for the keeps and makes this battle enticing. But it's not just grace which makes T20 so appealing. The brute masculinity of power that sends the ball soaring into the orbit is what makes it so special.

Hardik Pandya, who is back with a chiselled body.

● **Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings, who took control of the match during the last 10 overs of the first innings.**

There is no doubt that he can unleash his firepower against Sunil Narine and Kuldeep Yadav as well as KKR's highest paid multi million dollar recruit Pat Cummins. The second pacer could be between Prasadh Krishana and Kamlesh Nagarkoti. But Hardik will find his match in Andre Russell, easily the most destructive hitter in current T20 cricket.

Russell had openly criticised the team management last year for sending him down the order. He had hit 52 sixes during one of KKR's worst editions. But this time, he has been promised a promotion to number three slot and this could spell doom for any opposition.

"If it benefits the team and helps us win games, why not. If that meant Russell comes in at three and bats 60 balls, he might actually make a double hundred. Anything can happen with Dre Russ," KKR mentor David Hussey had said recently. — PTI

## NUMBERS GAME — MI vs KKR

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 25
- Mumbai won: 19
- Kolkata won: 6

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders beat Mumbai Indians by 34 runs in Kolkata
- Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets in Mumbai

## FOR THE RECORD

- Andre Russell's strike

rate is the best in IPL. He made 1342 runs off 711 balls in 48 innings of 57 runs at a strike rate of 188.74.

● Kieron Pollard will become the 14th player to appear in 150 or more matches in IPL. The West Indian all rounder played all 149 matches for Mumbai Indians in IPL since 2010.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Royal Challengers Bangalore	1	1	0	0	2	+0.500
Delhi Capitals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.000
Chennai Super Kings	2	1	1	0	2	-0.145
Kings XI Punjab	1	0	1	0	0	+0.000
Kolkata Knight Riders	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000
Mumbai Indians	1	0	1	0	0	-0.486
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-0.500

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

## Wadia calls for better umpiring standards

**New Delhi, Sept. 22:** Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia wants the BCCI to ensure better umpiring standards and optimum use of technology in the IPL, following an umpiring howler which cost his team a match against Delhi Capitals.

Wadia expressed his views after KXIP appealed against on-field umpire Nitin Menon's controversial 'short run' call at a crunch time of the game held on Sunday in Dubai.

"It is exceedingly unfortunate that today with tremendous use of technology, we still do not use technology to ensure the total fairness and transparency in cricket game," Wadia said.

"I would request BCCI to ensure better umpiring and to ensure henceforth that technology is used to the maximum so as to ensure fairness and transparency in a game which is used across the best leagues in the world." — PTI

## Djoker gets his focus back

**Rome, Sept. 22:** For four or five days after being defaulted from the US Open, Novak Djokovic did some serious soul searching.

Then he got back on the tennis court — and since then it's been fairly straightforward, at least in terms of results.

Dropping only one set all week, Djokovic won his fifth Italian Open title on Monday after beating Diego Schwartzman 7-5, 6-3 in the final, and restored his confidence heading into Roland Garros, which starts in six days.

"I did experience mentally some kind of ups and downs in the first four-five days after that (US Open disqualification) happened. But I moved on... having a tournament a week after that helped a lot... just because I really wanted to get on the court and I think I had a really good week."

The only real issue for

**I did experience mentally some kind of ups and downs in the first four-five days after that (US Open disqualification) happened. But I moved on... having a tournament a week after that helped a lot... just because I really wanted to get on the court and I think I had a really good week.**

— NOVAK DJOKOVIC  
Italian Open champion

throat with a ball in a fit of anger. "But I moved on and, really, I never had an issue in my life to move on from something. Regardless how difficult it is I try to take the next day and hope for the best and move on. Having a tournament a week after that happened helped a lot... just because I really wanted to get on the court and just get whatever traces of that — if there's any — out, and I think I had a really good week," he added.

The only real issue for

Djokovic this past week was his behavior again. He received warnings from the chair umpire for smashing a racket in the quarterfinals and for foul language in the semifinals.

Still, Djokovic improved to 31-1 this year — with his only loss against Pablo Carreño Busta in the match where he was defaulted. He also passed childhood idol Pete Sampras for the second-most weeks at No.1 with 287 — and trails only Roger Federer's 310 weeks in the top spot.

The only player to take a set off Djokovic this week was German qualifier Dominik Koepfer in the quarterfinals.

"I don't think I played my best tennis, to be honest. I don't want to be arrogant here — of course I'm very, very satisfied and pleased to win a title — but I know that I still have a couple of gears," Djokovic said.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to raise that level for the French, because that's going to be necessary if I want to go deep in the tournament. This gives me even more confidence that is absolutely necessary for a Grand Slam," the Serb added.

With his 36th Masters 1000 title, Djokovic moved one ahead of Rafael Nadal atop the all-time list.

— AP



Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with his trophy after winning the Italian Open at Foro Italico in Rome on Monday. — AFP