

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 27 SEPTEMBER 2020



**NATION | 5**

**China asks ISI to step up violence in J&K**



**WORLD | 7**

**Trump to name judge for US Supreme Court**

**SPORTS | 8**

**16th straight pole vault win for Duplantis**



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**WEATHER**  
Max: 31.8°C  
Min: 23.8°C  
RH: 75%  
Rain: 10.2mm

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 32/23 9C

**COVID-19 CUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+84,762)	(+1,093)
59,81,306	94,450

covid19india.org

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+2,239)	(+11)
TS: 1,83,866	1,091
(+7,293)	(+57)
AP: 6,61,458	5,663

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

3,29,42,258
<b>DEATHS</b>
9,96,262

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

**213**

worldometers.info/coronavirus

**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari; Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha Ekadasi till 7.49 pm  
Star: Shravanam till 8.51 pm  
Varjyam: 1.09 am to 2.52 am (Monday)  
Durmuhurtam: 4.30 pm to 5.17 pm  
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HILARI CALENDAR**  
Safar ul Muzaffar 9, 1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
Fajar: 5.06 am  
Zohar: 12.17 pm  
Asar: 4.26 pm  
Maghrib: 6.14 pm  
Isha: 7.21 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.07 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 3.29 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.06 PM**

**COUNTER POINT**

The middleman says we will get maximum retail price if we cultivate opium!

**BRIEF**

**₹80,000 cr needed to give out vaccine**

**Pune:** Adar Poonawalla, Chief Executive Officer of Serum Institute of India (SII) which is producing the potential coronavirus vaccine developed by Oxford University, asked on Saturday if the government will have ₹80,000 crore available to buy and distribute the vaccine. "Quick question; will the government of India have 80,000 crore available, over the next one year? Because that's what @MoHFW\_INDIAneeds, to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India," he tweeted, This is the next "challenge" we need to tackle, he said, also tagging the Prime Minister's office.

**FinMin defends GST retention**

**New Delhi:** Finance ministry sources have countered CAG audit finding of central government wrongly retaining ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess meant for states, saying temporary retention cannot be termed as diversion. Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General flagged that the Centre in first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained GST compensation cess, ministry sources said compensation due for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 was fully paid to states.

## Kids biggest victims of lockdown

**Girls working at home drop out more, says child forum study**

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26**

While there is a lack of government data on various aspects of education and child rights post-lockdown, a child rights body through its groundwork has been able to identify the issues and setbacks that must be looked into and have urged the government to take appropriate action.

A report prepared by the Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF), and authored by its Telangana wing adviser, Varsha Bhargavi, titled 'Protecting

children's rights to education during the pandemic in Telangana', and based on what they have witnessed during and post-lockdown, says that there is a rampant increase in child marriages, child labour, child sexual abuse, possible cases of child trafficking and a host of violations, largely underreported.

According to the report by the CRPF that brings to fore the conditions and analyses them based on available data from previous years, mental health issues, the digital divide on basis of social standing

as well as gender gaps have peaked.

Bhargavi told *Deccan Chronicle*, "Our attempt through this report is to bring to the fore the issues that our volunteers have witnessed in the field in a new-found world. We don't have official data yet and nor does the government. The reason for this is that the government did not take serious note of the social conditions in the state and recklessly announced the commencement of online classes."

On the ground, more girls are doing household work and helping their

parents instead of taking classes, resulting in an increase in dropout rates among girl students.

The report cited the data provided by the internet and mobile association of India's newly released India Internet 2019 report, which said that the internet has reached only 31 per cent of the population in Telangana state. The same report factors in the gender divide in internet access which stands at a mere 33 per cent of women amongst internet users.

■ **Page 2: Gender divide puts girls at disadvantage**



Overflowing water from Saroornagar lake floods Kodandaramanagar on Saturday following two days of heavy rains in Hyderabad. The adjoining colonies were also inundated. — P. SURENDRA

## Incessant rains inundate Hyd

**MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26**

Heavy incessant rains led to overflowing nalas inundating several colonies, and threw life out of gear in the city on Saturday.

According to the TS Development Planning Society, South Hasthinapuram in LB Nagar received 133.8 mm of rainfall followed by 99 mm at Kandikal gate and 90.5 mm at Lingojiguda, 72.5 mm in Pashamylaram in Patancheru, 66 mm in Madhapur, 46.8 mm in KPHB and 43.8 mm in Gachibowli.

Across Telangana, districts like Ranga Reddy, Sircilla, Karimnagar and Suryapet received very heavy rainfall of 124-194 mm in the last 24 hours.

Residents near Bowenpally were pushed to untold hardships as the Ramannakunta lake breached leading to flood and sewerage water entering their houses

### HIMAYATSAGAR GATES TO OPEN AFTER A DECADE

● After a decade, water from the Himayatsagar reservoir will be released by opening the gates on Saturday night, following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas.

forcing people to drain out water.

They complained that the non-completion of drainage pipe-line works led to such flooding, which happened due to a breach in the tank. It is alleged that the tussle between local and defence authorities has had affected the work.

■ **Page 2: Several colonies inundated**

### HONOUR KILLING OVER CASTE, SAYS REMAND REPORT

**BALU PULIPAKA I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26**

A 10-page remand report on the 18 accused involved in the murder of 28-year-old Ch Yoga Hemant Kumar, submitted by the Gachibowli police to the XII Metropolitan Magistrate at Kukatpally on Saturday, makes it clear that caste equations played a key role in planning Hemant's murder.

Among the accused are D. Laxma and Archana, the parents of Hemant's wife D. Avanti, as well as her maternal uncle Guduru Yugender. They face the prospect of death penalty or life imprisonment. Hemant was murdered in cold blood on Thursday by killers hired Yugender and to whom Laxma, agreed to pay ₹10 lakh that was eventually to find its way to the killers.

■ **Page 2: Plot to separate couple started in June**

**LAND | REGISTRATION**

**Officers told to upload all data before festival**

## Dharani portal by Dasara

**S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26**

The much-awaited Dharani Portal will be launched on Dasara, October 25, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said on Saturday. Registrations would also begin the same day.

No registration or any other related revenue activity would be allowed till then, the Chief Minister told a preparatory meeting with officials on the launch of the portal, at Pragathi Bhavan on Saturday.

The Chief Minister

● **OFFICERS WERE** asked to train tahsildars, deputy tahsildars and sub-registrars on the modalities of registration, immediate mutation of land following registration and updation of details on Dharani portal

● **DOCUMENT WRITERS** at sub-registrar offices to be trained so that they can prepaper papers

announced that all over the state, registration rates would be fixed survey number-wise.

Asking the officers to

upload the data of all properties to the portal before Dasara, he told them to continue to update the data and alterations on a regular basis.

The Chief Minister directed officers to train tahsildars, deputy tahsildars and sub-registrars on the modalities of registration, immediate updation of land following registration and updation of details on the Dharani portal and other procedures.

He asked them to complete the recruitment of a computer operator in the office of each sub-registrar and tahsildar across the

state. Document writers at sub-registrar offices are to be trained so that they could prepare papers in accordance with the new system.

He directed the officials to complete all the preparations including preparing software and hardware and securing internet bandwidth before launching the portal.

To enact the New Revenue Act to revamp the revenue system, the state government had on September 7 issued orders declaring a holiday for land registrations till further orders.

## Ram Madhav out, Surya in BJP team

**Dropped leaders set to enter Union Cabinet**

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT 26**

The long-awaited team of BJP president J.P. Nadda was finally announced on Saturday, with many prominent names from the previous team missing and many new faces being accommodated.

While Ram Madhav, Muralidhar Rao, Anil Jain and Saroj Pandey, who were in the previous team and were in-charge of prominent states were dropped, new names including former Union minister in the UPA government, D. Purandeswari, MLA from Karnataka C.T. Ravi, Tarun Chugh, Dilip Saikia (MP from Mangaldoi), and Rajya Sabha MP Dushyant Gautam have been brought in as the new general secretaries. Speculation is rife that some leaders who have been dropped in the rejigged Central team of the BJP could find a place in Mr Modi's Cabinet in the next expansion.

### DR K. LAXMAN PREZ OF BJP OBC MORCHA

■ **REPORT ON PAGE 5**

Mr Nadda had succeeded Union home minister Amit Shah as the BJP president in January and his new team maintains a balancing act as almost all prominent and poll-bound states have representation in Team Nadda.

Bhupendra Yadav, who is also in-charge of poll-bound Bihar, Kailash Vijayvargia, incharge of another poll-going state West Bengal, and Arun Singh, in-charge of Odisha, have been retained as general secretaries. The party also filled the post of national treasurer, which had been lying vacant since 2014 after Piyush Goyal was accommodated in the Union Council of Ministers, with Rajesh

Agarwal, a former minister from Uttar Pradesh.

Tejasvi Surya, Bangalore South MP has replaced Poonam Mahajan as the youth wing leader.

The party has also expanded its list of spokesperson to 23, with MP Anil Baluni being elevated as the chief spokesperson and continuing as the party's media head. Some of the new spokespersons include Rajeev Chandrasekhar, former Union minister Rajya-vardhan Rathore, former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura, MP from Odisha Aparajita Sarangi, MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista, MP from Nandurbar, Heena Gavit, Nupur Sharma and Tom Vadakkan. The new vice-presidents include former Union minister Radha Mohan Singh, former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das, Mukul Roy, Rekha Verma, Bharti Shiyal and former MP, A.P. Abdullahkutty, a politician from Kerala.

## Corporate hosp switches bodies of Covid victims

**NARENDER PULLOOR I DC NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 26**

A corporate hospital in Hyderabad exchanged bodies of Covid-19 patients on Saturday while handling them over to their families in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts.

The mistake was discovered just minutes before the family of one of the patients was cremating the body, and the process was halted.

A 58-year-old person was admitted to the hospital with Covid-19 symptoms on September 16. His condition worsened and he died on Thursday night. Of the ₹10.3 lakh bill, the family reportedly paid ₹4 lakh and the hospital

refused to hand over the body till the full payment was made.

The family arranged the money on Friday and took the body away in an ambulance on Saturday, believing it to be that of their loved one. Given that it was a Covid-19 death, the family members did not open the wrapping around the body and made arrangements for the last rites. Just as they were to light the funeral pyre, they received a phone call from the ambulance driver informing them that body was mistakenly exchanged.

Shocked over this, the bereaved family kept the body on the pyre and demanded that the body of their loved one be handed

over to them. After a three-hour delay, the body was brought to Gannaram village and the last rites were conducted.

The other body that was mistakenly handed over to the family in Bhiknoor mandal headquarters in Kamareddy district.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, the brother of the Covid-19 patient in Gannaram said that hospital management had behaved inhumanely by demanding full payment but not handing over the correct body. The government should conduct an inquiry and initiate stringent action, he said. The wife of the Covid-19 victim had died a few years ago and their son stays in Pune.

**NOZZLE | TRICK 20-30 ml less fuel being dispensed**

## Fuel dispensers under scanner for cheating

**SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26**

Legal metrology authorities have taken up the onerous task of the inspection of nearly 3,500 fuel-dispensing machines, with about 20,000 nozzles, to find out if they are being tampered with, leading to 20-30 ml less fuel being delivered per litre and to curb such illegal practice in Andhra Pradesh.

Following the recent exposure by the Telangana police of the tampering of calibration boxes and display boards of fuel-dispensing machines mainly belonging to Gilbarco Veeder-Root, Midco Limited, Tokheim and others, the Andhra Pradesh government has swung into action and directed legal metrology authorities to inspect all fuel stations to check machines to find any lapses.

Officials from the legal metrology department, along with representatives from oil companies like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL,

**WATCH OUT**

● According to the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, any fuel station found cheating on delivery of fuel will be penalised based on the number of nozzles and persons involved, ranging from ₹2.80 lakh and above.

● Most fuel-dispensing machines are manufactured by GVR.

original equipment manufacturers, officials from civil supplies and also from the vigilance wing, are visiting fuel stations to inspect fuel-dispensing machines and nozzles.

Initially, authorities have identified 300 fuel-dispensing machines most vulnerable to tampering as they are under the control of unauthorised leaseholders and not with the original owners, located along national highways and with relatively low revenue.

So far, the authorities have completed inspection of nearly 150 fuel-dispensing machines and booked cases in Guntur, Chilakaluripeta, Chittoor,

Anantapur and other areas in the state.

The Telangana police had zeroed in on a man identified as Basha, from Eluru in West Godavari of Andhra Pradesh, involved in tampering of machines in both AP and Telangana State for some time, with experience working in fuel stations for nearly 15 years.

His modus operandi was to tamper with the motherboard of the dispensing machine and the display board measuring the quantity of fuel dispensed and its price by breaking the seal of legal metrology department to ensure that the fraudulent practice goes undetected, said authorities.



## IN BRIEF

## RTC restarts Maha, K'taka services

**Hyderabad:** The state government on Saturday permitted the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation to restore services to Karnataka, except to Bengaluru, and Maharashtra from Monday. According to the TSRTC, Karnataka and Maharashtra will also resume their operations to Telangana state from Raichur, Bidar, Nanded, Mumbai, Pune, Gulbarga, Nagpur and Chandrapur.

## HC reopens courts in 3 districts

**Hyderabad:** The High Court directed the reopening of subordinate courts in Adilabad, Khammam and some in Medak for physical hearing on an experimental basis from September 28 while observing Covid-19 protocols. Courts in Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Warangal, Mahbubnagar and Nizamabad districts started physical hearing two weeks ago. In the High Court, the combination of virtual and physical hearings will continue till October 2.

## Trainee IPS posted to Greyhounds

**Hyderabad:** Eleven IPS probationary officers were posted as assault commanders in the Greyhounds of the state police by Director-General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy. The officers are Sneha Mehra, Nitika Pant, K. Kiran Prabhakar, Ch Rupesh, Akhil Mahajan, Yogesh Goutam, Harshavardhan, Ritiraj, Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, B. Balaswamy and Birudaraju Rohit Raju. They will begin their stint after completion of their training at the National Police Academy.

## NOTICES ON DEMOLITION OF SECTT ISSUED

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

A petitioner has urged the High Court to direct penal action against the state Cabinet for Resolution 173/2020 of June 30, which the petitioner said was issued to demolish two mosques and a temple at the Secretariat. The petitioner, Tehreek Muslim Shabban, represented by its president Musthaq Malik, said the Cabinet ought to be punished under Section 3 of the Place of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, which prohibits conversion of any place of worship of any religion into that of a different denomination.

Petitioner's counsel Nissar Ahmed Ezami said the Cabinet had passed a resolution to construct the new Secretariat without mentioning the position of the places of worship which were subsequently dismantled. They have apologised and promised reconstruction of the places of worship after protests, but cannot escape penal proceedings for violation of the law, counsel said.

He said the police had failed to register a case.

The court issued notices seeking reply in two weeks from the Union ministry of minority affairs, Central Wakf Council, TS Chief Secretary, TS minority welfare department, Minority Welfare Commission, Wakf Board, endowment department, Hyderabad collector, Hyderabad police commissioner, Saifabad station house officer. The hearing was adjourned to October 15.

● **THE** petitioner, Tehreek Muslim Shabban, represented by its president Musthaq Malik, said the Cabinet ought to be punished under Section 3 of the Place of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991.

## CONG DEMANDS FILLING UP OF 1.5L VACANCIES

**Hyderabad:** AICC secretary Challa Vamshi Chand Reddy on Saturday demanded that the state government fill the 1.5 lakh vacant posts that are already existing and as well as the 1.5 vacancies created by retirement of personnel.

Addressing the media, he said the government had remained silent for years on the Pay Revision Commission, Interim Relief and DA, transfers and promotions of government employees and had imposed cuts in their salaries and pensions during lockdown.

## Lung spaces open up



After the government on Friday allowed many parks to reopen after a six-month closure, walkers make their way to the KBR Park at Jubilee Hills, in Hyderabad, on Saturday. Many walkers turned up despite the early morning drizzle.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## BJP picks Laxman to head OBC Morcha

**Aruna, aspirant for TS BJP chief, made vice-president**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Dr K. Laxman, former president of the Telangana state BJP unit, has been appointed president of the BJP's OBC Morcha, in the national executive body formed by party president J.P. Nadda on Saturday. Dr Laxman was waiting for a post in the national executive for a long time.

Nadda also appointed D.K. Aruna, former minister, as vice-president. She had joined the BJP



Dr K. Laxman

from the Congress prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

At one stage it was expected that Aruna would be made BJP state chief, but the party chose Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Karimnagar MP, who hails from the Backward Class community.

From Andhra Pradesh, Nadda appointed Daggubati Purandeswari, also a former Congress minister, as general secretary. Satya Kumar, also from AP, was appointed secretary.

Those hailing from the Telugu states who have been dropped include

general secretaries Ram Madhav and P. Muralidhar Rao.

Ram Madhav was taking care of the party's affairs in J&K, Ladakh and the northeast and Muralidhar Rao was in charge of party affairs of the southern states.

There are speculations that they would be inducted in the Narendra Modi Cabinet in coming days.

G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, Rajya Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh, lost his position as spokesperson of the BJP.



State Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore, TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior leaders including V. Hanumantha Rao and K. Jana Reddy at the party's core committee meeting in Hyderabad.

— P. ANIL KUMAR

## Unite, TS Cong's new incharge urges party

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Chanting the unity mantra, the new All India Congress committee (AICC) in-charge, Manickam Tagore, exhorted party leaders to work as a team if they want to win the 2023 Assembly polls.

After his appointment as TS Congress in-charge, Tagore arrived in Hyderabad on Saturday and held a TPCC core committee meeting at Indira Bhavan here in the city. Tagore stressed at the meeting the importance of unity and discipline among Congress leaders. He told the leaders that he will hold a core committee meeting once in two months.

He asked leaders to highlight the sacrifices made by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the party in giving a separate state.

The committee discussed the programme given by the AICC to hold protests against the farm Bills and also the byelection to the Dubbaka Assembly constituency, the ensuing polls in Hyderabad, Warangal

● **TAGORE STRESSED** at the meeting the importance of unity and discipline among Congress leaders. He told the leaders that he will hold a core committee meeting once in two months.

Khammam municipal corporations and two MLC graduate seats.

He said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was acting very cleverly with regard to the farm Bills and asked why the TRS was opposing the legislations when it had supported all Bills of the Modi government in the past.

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, while introducing Tagore to the leaders, stressed the need for ground-level agitations against the farm Bills.

According to sources, CLP leader, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, suggested that serious ground work should begin rightaway to win the Dubbaka byelection and wanted the candidate to be named in advance.

K. Jana Reddy felt that the Congress leadership has to look to strengthening the party

in states where regional parties are in power besides implementing its national ideology.

V. Hanumantha Rao demanded social justice and suggested giving priority to SC, ST, BC and minorities who are 85 per cent of the population.

Ponnala Lakshmaiah and Sampath Kumar said that the party has to take up agitations against the failures of TRS government besides against the BJP government at the centre on farmers and agricultural issues.

MPs Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, A. Revanth Reddy, AICC secretaries, N.S. Bose Raju, Srinivasan Krishnan and Vamshi Chand Reddy, working presidents, Ponnamp Prabhakar and J. Kusum Kumar, former ministers Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Damodar Raja Narasimha, MLAs, D. Anasuya, D. Sridhar Babu, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy and other core committee members were present at the meeting.

Earlier, Congress leaders welcomed Tagore at the Rajiv Gandhi international airport in Shamshabad.

## Dharani updates will be free: KTR

**MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development minister, said on Saturday that the government was focusing on addressing issues related to land and asset ownership rights without imposing a financial burden on the owners. The government does not have any intention to collect any fee from the people and the idea is to facilitate and address all ownership rights.

Rama Rao, accompanied by city minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, was speaking at a videoconference to address revenue-related matters in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

Rama Rao said it is estimated that there are around 24.5 lakh properties in Hyderabad. A few of them are entangled in ownership and other disputes.

The MA&UD minister stressed that all registrations will take place through the Dharani portal. He asked city ministers to actively participate in the exercise to upload details of asset and property ownership during the next 15 days.

He appealed to property owners not to approach agents for uploading the

● **THE** MA&UD minister stressed that all registrations will take place through the Dharani portal. He asked city ministers to actively participate in the exercise to upload details of asset and property ownership during the next 15 days.

details of their assets and properties. He said the exercise will be done for free.

After discussing several property disputes in the videoconference, Rama Rao assured that if there is any need, the government is prepared to take more decisions in the Cabinet to sort out issues. He said that in the near future there will not be any issues over land and asset transactions. He said efforts were on to provide a permanent solution.

He said the the majority of ownership issues in the rural areas had been resolved. The government will be issuing passbooks in different colours to agricultural and non-agricultural land holders.

Mayor Bonthu Rammohan, MA&UD principal secretary Arvind Kumar, and the collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts participated in the video conference.

## Heavy rains submerge low-lying areas in Hyd

From page 1

Sharing his experience, K. Ajay, a resident of Hasmathpet, said that the overflowing sewage water from all surrounding areas accumulates at the low-lying basti. "The MLA had visited two days ago. We do not even have power in the area for most of the days, which makes it more difficult to dry up the water in our houses", he said. People living in Hasmathpet near Old Bowenpally next to Bon Cheruvu woke up to two feet deep sewerage water flooding into their houses.

Naga Lakshmi, a resident of New Bowenpally, said, "The rainwater entered our shop and a few rice bags became wet by the time we opened the shop. It took more than an hour to clean the shop."

It was a flood-like situation in Shamshabad following incessant rainfall in the area. Water entered houses in Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki, Chikoti Garden in Begumpet and Kodandaramnagar in LB Nagar division.

Several colonies, including Mohammad Guda, Prakashnagar, Abids, Hayatnagar, Banjara Hills, Panjagutta, Madhapur, Mehdiapatnam, Ameerpet, Malakpet, Begumpet, Alwal and Bowenpally were affected by inundation.

Reports said colonies in



A family tries to save their belongings as rain water enters their house at Nadeem Colony on Saturday following continuous rains for last couple of days. — S. SURENDER REDDY

● **IT WAS** a flood-like situation in Shamshabad following incessant rainfall in the area. Water entered houses in Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki, Chikoti Garden in Begumpet and Kodandaramnagar in LB Nagar division.

● **THE** GHMC's Disaster Response Force and the traffic police from Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda were on field to pump out water from waterlogged roads to allow vehicular movement.

Ganganagar, Barkatpura, Hastinapuram, Shalivahana Nagar, Moosarambagh, Babu Jagjivan Ram Nagar, Srinagar Colony, Ashoknagar, Kavadiiguda, Lower Tank Bund, Shivam Road, Raj Bhavan Road and others were inundated.

The GHMC's Disaster Response Force and the traffic police from Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda were on the field to pump

out water from waterlogged roads to allow vehicular movement.

A tree collapsed near the Medchal RTD office, slowing traffic. It was cleared at 11.30 am. A fallen street light at Road No. 1, Banjara Hills was removed by the Panjagutta police. Waterlogging under the Hitec City rail bridge slowed traffic from Cyber Towers.

## Bars, pubs resume after 6 months in Hyderabad

**SANJAY SAMUEL**  
**PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Bar owners in the city are looking forward to their businesses getting back in stride, if not immediately at least in a steady manner.

With the government allowing bars and other liquor serving outlets to resume business, bar owners say that they have put in place all the mandated Covid-19 safety norms and precautions to ensure safety of staff and customers.

"The maintenance of the premises and staff alone works out to around ₹6 lakh a month. Ever since the bars were shut down in March, business has suffered tremendous losses. But it is doubtful if people will start rushing in to have a drink and everyone is still wary of the Coronavirus," Venkat Goud, a bar owner in Dilsukhnagar, said.

"Right now, maintaining physical distance between customers should not be a problem as we do not expect rapid footfalls. But we are ensuring that everyone who steps in wears a mask and is provided with hand sanitizer to clean their hands," he said. Among the measures the government recommend-

ed are deep-cleansing of the bar premises twice a day, cleaning of seats and tables after a customer leaves and before another takes the place, mandatory physical distancing between customers and provision of hand sanitisers.

Some bars, eager to open their doors to customers and make it attractive for them to come and have a drink, have begun announcing live telecasts of the ongoing IPL matches on big screens.

Shruthi Restaurant and Bar in Alwal is one such watering hole that was quick to say that it would live stream the games for their customers starting with Saturday night's game between Sun Risers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders.

However, safety is a huge concern right now in all bars and pubs. Akanksha Choudhary, director (marketing for India) for Hard Rock Café, the upmarket chain, said "We will follow every safety protocol."

Srinivas Goud, proprietor of Savera Bar and Restaurant and Reliance Bar and Restaurant, said that all his staff will also get a visor in addition to wearing masks and every table will be provided with a sanitiser bottle.

## CHILD ROWNS AS RAINS LASH RAYALASEEMA

**DC CORRESPONDENTS**  
NELLORE, ANANTAPUR,  
GUNTUR, SEPT. 26

An eleven-year-old boy, Pallapu Sravankumar, of Ambadipudi in Nellore district, drowned in the floodwaters though locals managed to save another boy, Gunji Vishal, 14. The two boys had ventured into the floodwaters near the habitation on Saturday.

At Ravipadu village, a tractor was washed away in the floodwaters of Gundlakamma stream. There were seven people in the tractor and a search is to trace them.

Several roads were under a sheet of water in Chirala, Kanigiri, Addanki and Giddalur mandals because of floods.

In Guntur, road connectivity from the temple town of Amaravati to the Amaravati capital region, Mangalagiri and Vijayawada was cut as the Kondaveeti Vagu overflowed at Peda Maddur. Traffic was stalled between Piduguralla and Sattenapalli on the Guntur-Hyderabad highway.

## GENDER DIVIDE PUTS GIRLS AT DISADVANTAGE

From Page 1

This gender divide in accessing the internet may pose a serious risk, pushing a girl child away from exercising her right to education.

Another aspect that the activists and volunteers of CRPF across TS have reported is that many children from government schools are showing signs of forgetfulness and are unable to recognise the alphabet owing to the long closure of schools, for they are disconnected from the education system.

Owing to these challenges, CRPF has recommended that the government conduct a comprehensive survey of children, including a health survey to check immunity levels. They suggest that it is imperative to have the data pertaining to children in hand which can be collected at the gram panchayat level. The village-level child protection committees under the ministry of women development and child welfare, line departments like panchayat raj and education can join in ensuring all kid's details are recorded.



## SHORT TAKES LEADERS PAY RICH TRIBUTES TO CHAKALI ILAMMA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 26

Political leaders and various caste organisations paid rich tributes to Chakali Ilamma on her 125th birth anniversary in old Adilabad district on Saturday. Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna garlanded her statue at the RIMS, Adilabad, and said Chakali Ilamma inspired the down trodden to protect their rights. Washerman community welfare District Association president Chikkala Dattu and others were present.

## 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 26

Chakali Ilamma fought against the atrocities committed by the Nizam and zamindar Ramachandra Reddy also known as Visnoor Deshmukh. She inspired many to rebel and join the freedom movement, said minister for panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Saturday.

The minister paid homage to a bronze statue of Chakali Ilamma at Rajeev junction in her native village, Palakurthy, in Jangaon district, on the occasion of her 125th birth anniversary.

"The revolution which was begun by people like Chakali Ilamma, ignited the fight for a separate Telangana state. While fighting the Razakar army, she also fed the fellow fighters," the minister said.

Mr Dayakar Rao reminded that Ilamma fought for her land and inspired by her, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao introduced the new revenue act. The new revenue act gives the farmer who tills the land the rights.

"The farmers across the state are happy with the new revenue act but the Central government is trying to hand over the agriculture sector to the corporate companies with its new farm bills. The Central government must rethink its move on the new bills," he said.

● **CHAKALI ILAMMA** fought against the atrocities committed by the Nizam and zamindar Ramachandra Reddy also known as Visnoor Deshmukh.

● **SHE INSPIRED** many to rebel and join the freedom movement, said minister for panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Saturday.

● **THE MINISTER** paid homage to a bronze statue of Chakali Ilamma at Rajeev junction in her native village, Palakurthy, in Jangaon district, on her 125th birth anniversary.

## Urban forest parks to open

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS I DC  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 26

The state government is opening up all urban forest parks that remained closed for the last six months in view of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Adilabad forest officials are taking steps to open the famous 'Haritha Vanam' located on the city's outskirts and the same is the case in Nirmal and Mancherla towns.

The forest department has issued instructions to district forest officials to open all urban parks, including the famous KBR park in Hyderabad, for visitors from September 27 in the state.

It said that the Nehru

zoological park will also be opened for visitors from 'Zoo Day,' October 6, in Hyderabad.

Adilabad district forest officials are making necessary arrangements to open urban parks following Covid-19 protocols.

Adilabad DFO, B. Prabhakar, said that they were opening 'Haritha Vanam' but visitors must follow Covid-19 norms while visiting the park.

Minister for forests, Allola Indrakaran Reddy, said that he made a request to the Central government in the forest minister's meeting in the past to open all urban forest parks so that the public could breathe fresh air and improve their health. Forest officials should

take steps to avoid gatherings of the visitors coming to urban forest parks, ensure physical distancing and all the norms prescribed by the Central government, said Reddy.

There was a lot of pressure on the forest department from nature lovers to open the parks. People who remained indoors all these days want to enjoy the open air with their family members and kids.

The forest department has sought clarification from the state government on GO 120 for opening urban forest parks. The state government has clarified that parks belonging to local bodies are not covered under the published prohibited list in the para 4(II) of the GO.

## Five held for running online gambling racket

PULI SHARATH  
KUMAR I DC  
PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 26

The Ramagundam Task Force police along with the NTPC police officials arrested five persons for playing the rummy game online in Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district on Saturday. The accused through various apps faked their location as online gaming is banned in Telangana state.

They were using the Rummy Culture portal to play online.

The accused are Utturi Srikanth, 26, Thota Sai Teja, 21, Mohammad Hazrath, 18, and Gollapalli Anji, 19, residents of Malkapur and Andhuguri Sandeep, 27, resident of Jangalapalli village. A case is registered against the five and cops seized four cell phones, one QR code scanner board, high-speed wifi router and multi charter board from their possession.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Admin), Ravinder

said that the accused Utturi Srikanth is wanted in several cases under the Karimnagar and Warangal police commissionerate limits.

A bind over case was lodged against him under CRPC section 107 in 2018. He also has a history sheet against him at the NTPC police station.

Srikanth with his four accomplice hired a guest house and installed CCTV cameras surrounding the guest house. He enticed youth and trained them to play by paying them ₹2,000, and the extra winning earning would be collected by him. He would collect their details by taking their Aadhaar card, pan card and bank account numbers.

In a 30 minute game, Srikanth would earn between ₹10,000 to ₹15,000. Those players who would come at night to play, he would provide them alcohol and biryani packets.

During investigations, the police came to know that Srikanth was to launch a

new app where one could play all online games; under the name of RGSC online games and Technology Private limited and registered it in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Ravinder said, "Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, people had to stay indoors. Bored with nothing to do, many youths indulged in online gaming apps. Some even died by suicide as they were addicted to these games and had lost large sums of money. The minimum responsibility of parents is to supervise their children, especially during the night." The DCP appealed to the youth not to get addicted to online games, instead to focus on their education.

He appreciated the CCS Circle Inspector Venkateshwarlu, SI Kiran, Task Force CI M.Raj Kumar, SI Shaikh Mastan, NTPC SI Swarup Raj, police personnel Chandrasekar, Mallesh, Mahendar, Srinivas and Ramesh for cracking the online rummy gambling.

## TOURIST | SPOT

## Forest department yet to decide on whether to allow swimming in the pool

# Bogatha waterfalls to open for tourists from Oct. 1

ANUDEEP  
CEREMILLA I DC  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 26

Telangana's Niagara, the Bogatha waterfall in Vajedu of Mulugu district will open to nature lovers on October 1. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the falls were closed for tourists.

District forest officer S.V. Pradeep Kumar Shetty told the Deccan Chronicle that they would allow visits from October 1 after due safety measures are put in place.

He said that tourist will

be allowed to enter after screening at the main gate. The logistics for screening in the queue lines at the ticket counter are being prepared.

"Even though we are yet to decide whether or not to allow swimming in the pool, a decision would be taken soon. However, I do feel it is safe not to allow swimming in the pool. In case we allow swimming, the tourists will be screened first," he said.

When asked if the restaurant, garden and children's play area including the zip line



Bogatha waterfall in Vajedu of Mulugu district.

would be open to tourists, Mr Pradeep said, "We will try to provide full-fledged facilities to the tourists

but with precautions." Surrounded by dense forests and hills, the Bogatha waterfall receives

● **IN THE** peak season during the monsoon, the waterfall has a foot fall of 2,000 people on week days and 5,000 on weekends.

inflows only during the monsoon season.

The Cheekupally stream begins somewhere in the dense forest near the foot of the hillocks along the border of Telangana and Chhattisgarh. It passes through a semi-circular rock formation where the water drops 50 meters in many small gushing water

streams to form a large pool at the bottom. The stream flows on to merge with the Godavari River at Peddagollagudem.

The forest department took up the development of the waterfall to provide facilities for tourists.

Central solar lighting systems, solar pump-sets, watchtowers and toilets were made available. A restaurant was also set up recently. In the peak season during the monsoon, the waterfall has a foot fall of about 2,000 people on week days and 5,000 on weekends.

## DEGREE RESULTS OF CHAITANYA VARSITY OUT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 26

The Degree final year examinations of the Chaitanya (Deemed to be University) were released by the chancellor Ch V. Purushottam Reddy on Saturday.

Owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, the practical and theory tests were conducted online at home, following the SOP through the unique at-home-exams devised by the University.

The chancellor said to ensure that students do not resort to any malpractices measures were put in place. He said only two universities so far completed the exams.

The Chaitanya (Deemed to be University) is the first university in the country to conduct all the UG exams and also release the results to ensure the students do not lose their academic year.

As many as 237 students from the university who have already got placement received their result on time.

Controller of examinations Prof M. Jagadeeshwar said out of the 743 students who appeared for the exam, 614 passed which makes a pass percentage of 82.63.

"While 249 got a distinction, 187 got first-class result, 156 got second-class, 22 got through in pass division. Vice-Chancellor G. Damodar congratulated the students and the faculty.

● **OUT OF** the 743 students who appeared for the exam, 614 passed which makes a pass percentage of 82.63.

## Six hospitals win Kayakalp awards

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SIRCILLA/PEDDAPALLI/  
JAGTIAL, SEPT. 26

As many as six hospitals, three in Peddapalli, two in Jagtial and one in Rajanna Sircilla district have won the state-level Kayakalp awards announced by the Government of India for the year 2019-20 in old Karimnagar district.

The hospitals that won the Kayakalp awards are - District headquarters hospital in Peddapalli, Civil hospital in Sulthanabad, Area hospital in Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district, district headquarters hospital in Jagtial, Civil hospital in Dharmapuri of Jagtial district and the District headquarter hospital in Rajanna Sircilla district.

The hospitals won the awards on the parameters of hospital upkeep, maintenance of sanitation and hygiene promotion, waste management, infection control and services rendered to the patients visiting the hospitals.

The hospitals in Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla districts won first prize in DH category (hospitals situation in District Headquarter) and will receive a cash reward of ₹16.66 lakh each. The

District headquarter hospital in Jagtial won commendation award and will receive a cash reward of ₹3 lakh.

The Civil Hospital in Sulthanabad won first prize in the Community Health Hospitals category and will receive a cash reward of ₹7.5 lakh. The hospital in Dharmapuri won the commendation award and will receive a cash award of ₹1 lakh. The Area hospitals in Godavarikhani won the commendation award in the Area hospitals category and will receive a cash reward of ₹1 lakh.

The superintendent of the district hospital of Rajanna Sircilla district, Dr Muralidhar Rao said that the motivation and support extended by the IT and municipal minister K.T.Rama Rao and collector D. Krishna Bhaskar. The win has boosted the morale of the hospital staff to provide better services to the people visiting the hospital, he added.

Meanwhile, the district collectors of Peddapalli Bharati Holiker, Jagtial G. Ravi and Rajanna Sircilla D. Krishna Bhaskar congratulated the health officials and hospital staff of the respective hospitals winning the Kayakalp awards.

# 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. Chandrashekar Rao**  
Chief Minister, Government of Telangana

**If not regularized under LRS scheme, the unauthorized Plot will not get the following approvals/facilities:**

- \* No Registration
- \* No Building Permission
- \* No Water Connection
- \* No Electricity

**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.



**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

**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

**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](mailto:support-lrs@telangana.gov.in)**

**Download LRS 2020 Mobile App from**

GET IT ON Google Play

[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)

**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**



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

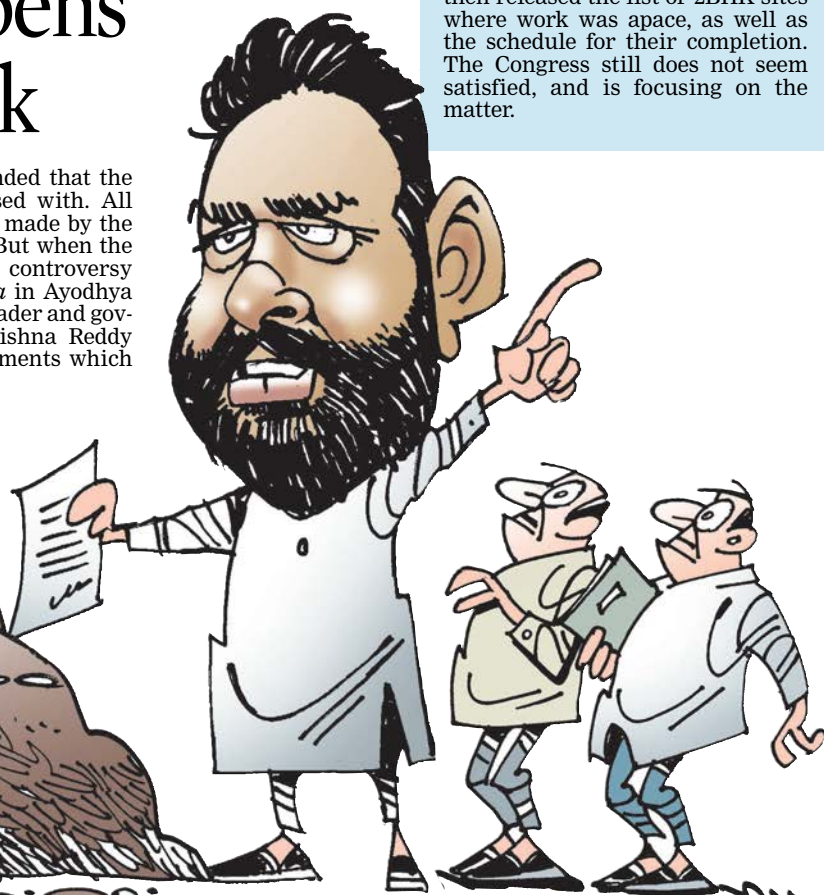
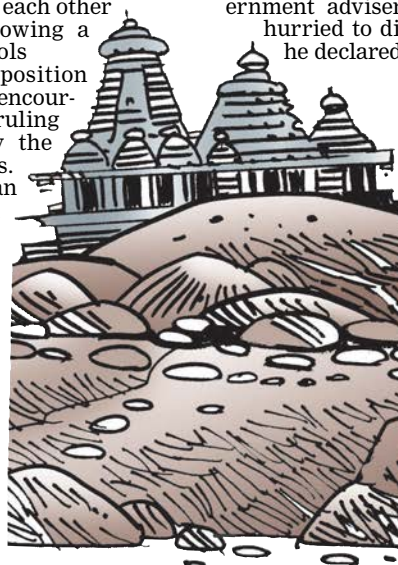


**I**t appears that almost all leaders in the Telangana state Congress are convinced that the construction of double bedroom houses is the only issue for them to corner the TRS in the elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. For the past two months, one leader after another has been raking up the issue. First, TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy dared the TRS to prove that it has given double bedroom houses to at least 1 per cent of the applicants in the GHMC. If the TRS could prove it, he said, the Congress would not contest the elections. There was a padayatra by an MP on the matter amid almost daily statements. Then CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka accepted the challenge of the ruling party and accompanied minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav to some 2BHK house sites, but left the tour midway and accused the TRS of hoodwinking the people. Talasani then released the list of 2BHK sites where work was apace, as well as the schedule for their completion. The Congress still does not seem satisfied, and is focusing on the matter.

party to beat the BJP with. Telangana state farmers have been dependent on borewell-based agriculture for decades, though the new irrigation projects of the TRS government have changed the situation somewhat. The state provides unmetered 24x7 free power to

# Every time Kodali Nani opens his mouth, he drops a brick

turned controversial, Nani demanded that the system of declaration be dispensed with. All through, not a single attempt was made by the party leadership to rein in Nani. But when the minister dragged Modi into the controversy and asked the PM to perform *puja* in Ayodhya afresh along with his wife, party leader and government adviser Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy hurried to disown Nani's comments which he declared as unwarranted.



But this is where Plan B took over; South stopped for a moment, took stock and checked his resources. A recount of his tricks showed he now had 11 winners. With the ♥ King with West and the long Diamonds with East, there was no need to finesse Clubs again; Declarer simply cashed his red winners and the last trump. With two cards left, West was clutching the ♥ King and East the last Diamond. No one could therefore hold more than one Club, so a Club to the Ace guaranteed success.

A Great Plan B.

**BLONDIE**  
BY EVAN SWEATZ AND JOHN MARSHALL

**HONK!** I KNOW! I'M ON MY WAY!

DEAD! YOUR CARPOOL IS GETTING RESTLESS!

MADE IT WITH SECONDS TO SPARE!

WHAT'S I DON'T HAVE MY LUCKY PEN

**HONK!** I BET I LEFT IT IN THE DRESSER!

NOT HERE!! I CAN'T GO TO WORK WITHOUT MY LUCKY PEN!!

**HONK!** DID YOU FIND YOUR LUCKY PEN, DEAR?

NO! I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR IT WHEN I GET BACK HOME!

**HONK!** GOOD LUCK TODAY, HONEY!

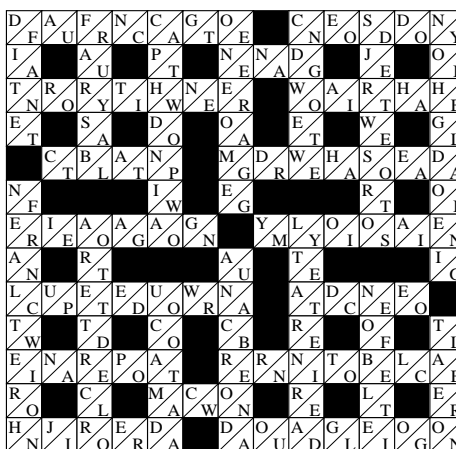
YOU KNOW YOU MADE IT WITH ONLY TWO SECONDS TO SPARE THIS TIME!!

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M WEARING MY LUCKY PEN!

Here the crossword puzzle is broken up into fragments which may or may not be shuffled. Your task is to reconstruct the complete puzzle from the fragments. We have retained the black squares in the grid to help you out.



This crossword has no clues and the answers are there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it! In each square you have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you chose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.





IN BRIEF

CONG LAUNCHES ‘SPEAK UP FOR FARMERS’ DRIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI SEPT. 26

After the farm Bills were passed in the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament, the Congress plans to mobilise public support against these Bills. The party has already written to the President not to give assent to these Bills.

The Congress on Saturday launched a ‘Speak up for farmers’ campaign on social media protesting the farm Bills, with Rahul Gandhi urging people to raise their voice against what he described was the Narendra Modi government’s ‘exploitation’ of farmers.”

“Let us raise our voices together against the atrocities and exploitation of farmers by the Modi government,” Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

“Join the Speak Up For Farmers campaign through your video,” he said, tagging a video in which the party called for the withdrawal of the Bills.

The Congress has already launched its nearly two-month-long “mass movement” against the government for passing “anti-farmer and anti-poor” Bills during the monsoon session of Parliament. The party will also collect two crore signatures from protesting farmers against the proposed laws.

NCB GRILLS DEEPIKA, SARA AND SHRADDHA

SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

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

Deepika arrived at the guest-house located at Colaba’s Radio Club area at around 9.50am and was allowed to leave around 3.50pm. The officials stated that while she accepted the chats on narcotics, many of her answers were unsatisfactory. The investigators stated that she may be summoned again for questioning if need be.

The investigators will now dig deeper into the details shared by Deepika, whose chats with her manager Karishma Prakash asking for hash were found by the investigators.

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

Separate teams simultaneously questioned Sara and Shraddha at the zonal office after the duo reached there at 1 pm and noon respectively. The officials said Sara was allowed to leave at around 5.30 pm and Shraddha followed around 5.55 pm.

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

The officials arrested Kshitij formerly associated with Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions after the NCB allegedly recovered marijuana from his Versova residence.

FSSAI mulls mandatory fortification of edible oil with vitamins A and D

New Delhi, Sept. 26: Food regulator FSSAI is considering making it mandatory for edible oil manufacturers to fortify cooking oil with vitamins A and D, which help in boosting immunity.

“FSSAI is considering to make it mandatory to fortify edible oil with vitamins A and D so that people of India can enjoy better immunity with good health,” FSSAI CEO Arun Singhal said.

He was addressing a national webinar on edible oil fortification, organised

● **VITAMINS A AND D** strengthen the immune system, which is critical in times of Covid-19 pandemic.

by the Food Fortification Resource Centre under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in association with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, a statement said on Saturday. Fortification of edible oil will ensure that people belonging to different socio-economic strata have easy access to forti-

fied edible oil across the country, Singhal said.

“India has a very high burden of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies. A huge population in our country suffer from deficiency of vitamins A and D. Lack of these vitamins in our body can have adverse impact on morbidity, mortality, productivity and economic growth,” the statement said.

Vitamins A and D strengthen the immune system, which is critical in times of Covid-19 pandemic, it added. To facilitate the

industry, Singhal said FFRC will also provide the necessary technical support required to enable fortification of edible oil.

At present, 69 per cent (7.94 million tonnes/ annum edible oil) of packaged edible oil sold across pan-India is fortified, the statement said.

Citing the example of Rajasthan, where fortification of edible oil is being done since 2011, Vij said there is a substantial reduction in vitamin A deficiency among children (10-19 years) in the state. — PTI

China asks ISI to up violence in Valley

China wants focus to be shifted from stand-off along LAC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

NIA detains another terror suspect

With three top security officials — chiefs of Army, Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force — visiting Jammu and Kashmir in the last 10 days, security grid in the newly created Union Territory is on maximum alert amid specific Intelligence reports that China had asked Pakistan ISI to further intensify violence in the Valley.

Intelligence agencies have already given specific inputs to the BSF, the CRPF and the Army as to how China wants Pakistan-based ISI to foment further trouble in the Valley to shift focus from the ongoing standoff in the Ladakh sector.

Army chief M.M. Naravane, BSF DG Rakesh Asthana and CRPF chief A.P. Maheshwari during their visit to J&K in the last few days held exhaustive security review sessions to further strengthen the anti-infiltration grid along the International Border and the Line of Control.

Intelligence reports also point towards a possibility that major attempts could be made by terror launch pads close to the border to push in both militants and large-scale weapons before the onset of winters in the Valley.

Sources in the security establishment claim that following the increased deployment and vigilance along the Indo-Pak border, terror organisations have not been very successful so far.

Officials claimed there was a clear nexus between the Pak backed terrorists and Chinese security forces evident after the

**PRANMOY BRAH-MACHARI & RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
**BERHAMPUR/KOLKATA**  
**SEPT. 26**

A week after arresting nine alleged Al Qaeda members, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has detained one of their aides for his questioning, again from Murshidabad.

The suspect, Shamim Ansari (25), was picked by the NIA with the help of the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans during a raid at his home at Nawdapara village in Jalangi late on Friday night.

He is a close associate of Al Mamun Kamal, one of the nine arrested last week.

NIA sources claimed that Kamal’s confession of Shamim’s links with him led to the raid and detention.

A villager of Nawdapara Shahajahan Mondal said that Shamim was close to Kamal and he was very religious like the latter. Both often used to collect money from the

villagers, he added.

The NIA has learnt Shamim had also helped Kamal set up his Madrasa privately in the village with a plan to radicalize young minds.

It is now grilling Shamim for his association with Kamal. Shamim earlier worked in Kerala as a mason’s helper. He, however, returned home last year and started working as a labourer in a local jute storage, said his mother Magfara Bewa.

“A team of BSF jawans and cops in plain clothes whisked away my son from our home in just ten minutes. They did not tell us anything when I asked them why they were forcibly taking away my son,” she said.

The team also seized several booklets from Shamim’s room but did not reveal what they were about, said his wife Chandtara Bibi.

BSF DIG (Murshidabad) Kunal Majumdar said, “The BSF neither arrested nor detained anyone. Our force was deployed and provided security only during the raid.”

recovery of some Chinese made weapons in the Valley like Norinco/EMEI Type 97 NSR rifle and Norinco QBZ 95 rifle. These weapons are often used by the Pakistani security forces which clearly reveals a direct link between Chinese forces and Pak based subversive groups.

“All possible arrange-

ments have been made both along the border and within the Valley during the visit of these three senior officials. We are confident that a foolproof security environment will continue in J&K in the coming months and we will deal successfully with this Pakistan-China nexus,” a senior security official added.

MILITANT AIDE LINKED TO LeT ARRESTED

Srinagar, Sept. 26: Security forces nabbed a militant associate linked to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in Jammu and Kashmir’s Kupwara district and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession on Saturday.

Based on a specific input, a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the orchards of village Mandigam Kralgund in the north Kashmir district’s Handwara, a police spokesperson said.

During the searches, a militant associate identified as Akeel Ahmad Parray, a resident of Mandigam Kralgund, was arrested, he said.

Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from his possession, he added.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Parray is an active militant associate linked to proscribed terror outfit LeT, the spokesperson said.

A case has been registered and investigation has been initiated, he said.

On Friday, two militant commanders of LeT were killed in an overnight encounter with security forces in Anantnag district. — PTI

● **Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the arrested militant associate’s possession.**

Mammoth loss



Villagers sprinkle lime and salt powder on the carcass of a wild elephant which was buried by the forest department officials after it died due to electrocution at a village in Rani Reserve Forest on the outskirts of Guwahati on Saturday.

— PTI

In Nadda’s reshuffled team, Raman’s adversaries dropped

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC**  
**BHOPAL, SEPT. 26**

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has retained former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh as one of his 12 deputies in his newly constituted team.

Significantly, two senior BJP leaders of Chhattisgarh, Saroj Pandey and Ram Vichar Netam were dropped from their respective posts of national general secretary and president of Scheduled Tribe wing of the party, done on Saturday.

Both the leaders are considered Mr Singh’s adversaries.

“The reconstitution of the national party in which Mr Singh’s two key adversaries have been phased out, has indicated that Mr Singh may be asked to lead the party in Chhattisgarh in the 2023 assembly elections,” a senior BJP leader told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted.

PM: India wants to be part of decision making at UN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for urgent reforms in the United Nations saying the world and its dynamics has changed today completely as compared to 1945.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through virtual mode, the PM said that India wants to be part of the decision making team on the high table of UN and there is a rising concern if the reform-process of UN will ever reach its logical conclusion.

“Reform in the responses, in the processes, in the character of the United Nations is the need of the hour. It is a fact that the faith and respect that the United Nations enjoys in India are unparalleled. But it is also true that the people of India have been waiting for a long time for the completion of the reforms of the United Nations. Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion. For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?” PM said.

He added that India has

● **THE WHOLE** world is fighting the global pandemic of Corona for the last 8-9 months. Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response?

**NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister**

worked its way up to be self-reliant and an active member of the UN.

“In the changed circumstances of the post-pandemic era, we are moving forward with the vision of a self-reliant India. A self-reliant India will also be a force multiplier for the global economy...When we were strong, we did not trouble the world; when we were weak, we did not become a burden on the world. How long would a country have to wait particularly when the changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world,” the PM said.

Mr Modi said that the international community today is faced with a question whether the character of the UN, constituted in the prevailing circumstances of 1945, is relevant even today?

“If we assess the last 75 years of the United

Nations, we see several achievements. But at the same time, there are also several instances that point to a serious need for introspection for the United Nations. One could say that we have successfully avoided a third world war, but we cannot deny that there have been several wars and many civil wars. Several terrorist attacks shook the world and there have been bloodsheds... Were the efforts of the United Nations sufficient during those times or are these efforts adequate even today? The whole world is fighting the global pandemic of Corona for the last 8-9 months. Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response,” the PM said.

Mr Modi underlined that India has always thought about the interests of the whole humankind and glimpses of this philosophy can be seen in its Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy and in India’s approach towards the Indo Pacific region.

Talking about the pandemic, he said that India’s vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help humanity in fighting the crisis.

KERALA CROSSES 7,000-MARK IN DAILY COVID CASES; ACTIVE CASES 52,678

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 26

Kerala on Saturday recorded the highest single day spike in Covid-19 cases with 7,006 cases even as 3,100 persons recovered from the infection.

Of the new cases 6,004 contracted the infection through contact, source of infection among 664 per-

sons is not known yet, 68 infected persons came from abroad, 177 from other states and 93 health workers also got infected.

The state has so far reported 1,67,939 cases of which 1,14,530 persons have recovered and 52,678 are under treatment at various hospitals across the state.

Kerala’s figure of 50,000 plus active cases is the fifth highest in the country.

POST-CBI PROBE, CPM PLANS CAMPAIGN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 26

A day after CBI registered an FIR and began probe into irregularities connected with Wadakkancherry Life Mission Project, the ruling CPM has decided to launch a massive state-wide counter campaign from September 27 to oppose what it calls the BJP-RSS plan to use central agencies for destabilizing the LDF Government in Kerala.

CPM state secretary Mr Kodiyeri Bala-Krishnan told mediapersons that after coming to power at the Centre, the BJP had used central agencies to topple elected governments of opposition parties.

The CBI probe into Life Mission alleged irregularities smacks of a similar intervention in Kerala.





## DECCAN Chronicle

27 SEPTEMBER 2020



Sheebani Sethi

Off the beaten track

## No country for young women

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here's an example of how feminism works:

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

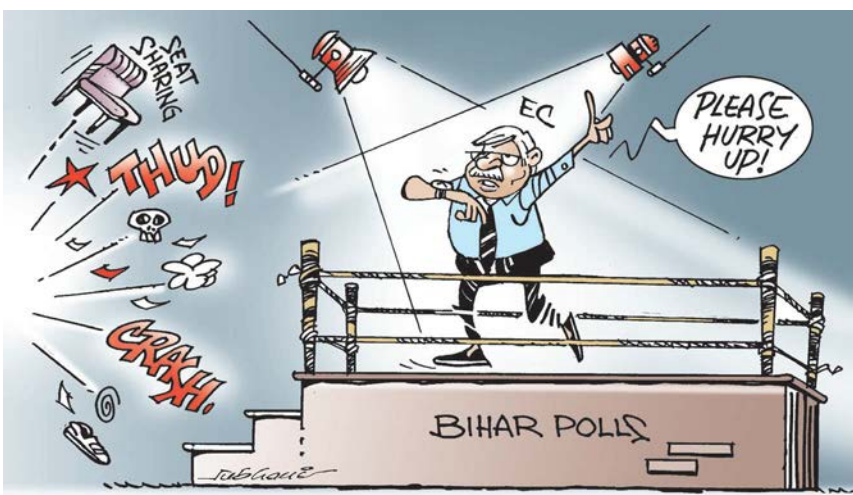
As a feminist, I say that every such charge should be investigated, and both sides heard equally. Also, if a charge is found to be trivial and baseless, there should be legal consequences for the accuser. Misusing and trivializing legal protections given to women (like dowry, domestic violence and sexual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

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

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

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

Subhani



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



K.C. Singh

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

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

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

dead, 40 million jobs

and an economic slow-down

nearing recession. The \$2.2 trillion stimulus may leave behind rolling deficits. Mr Trump sought accountability from those who "unleashed the plague". While China, he alleged, locked down domestic travel, it kept international flights open, and delayed sharing sharing that the disease was communicable person-to-person and by asymptomatic individuals.

Woodward recounts Mr Trump's discussion with advisers whether China, realising the likely damage to its economy, allowed international travel and thus the pandemic's spread, to level the playing field with the developed world. Mr Trump then fielded the usual claims about US economic and military growth under his watch and a swipe at the UN that it must focus on "real problems" to be effective. The US, he claimed, led in protecting human rights, which sits poorly with his handling of the Black Lives Matter protests. When Woodward pushed with: "I'm asking whether you can understand the plight, struggle, pain of people?" The reply, more dodge than revelation, was: "I'm somebody that likes to get things done rather than talk." Mr Trump cited his "America First" invocation, encouraging others to the same. It summed up his anti-multilateralism at the citadel of global governance.

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

to enable global recovery. He then waxed eloquent about helping the developing world, especially Africa, which for China is a crucial market and source of raw materials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS

### SPB'S DEATH

The news that SPB is no more is just sinking in. He was so full of life that it is as if the spirit of life itself is extinguished and has left us. He was an embodiment of versatility with a wide range of skills. His remarkable success is, in my view, due to the fact that he treated his technicians and the orchestra artistes with utmost respect. I am an ardent admirer of his wonderful qualities and the singer in him. His songs have always given great pleasure. There will be hardly a Shiva temple that does not play the *Lingaash-takam* daily. We are going to miss him very badly.

**Phani Marur**  
Hyderabad

It is sad that none of the previous governments, including the one led by the BJP, thought it fit to confer the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award on S.P. Balasubrahmanyam. With elections due in Tamil Nadu, we can hope the BJP government would come forward to demand the award for SPB. May his soul rest in peace.

**N. Nagarajan**  
Hyderabad

Music has the power to change the pedigree of human mind and body in an hypnotic way. Even aged people are enthralled by the melodious voice of a singer. The last wizard of golden age of musical entertainment S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, who had recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages, has left behind his immortal voice.

**S. Seetharam Basaani**  
Hanamkonda

### DRUG PROBE

It is unfortunate that the CBI investigation into the cause of Sushant Singh Rajput's death has been sidelined with the focus falling on the drug angle. They seem to be completely going on a different track. Bollywood celebrities are earning and paying a good amount of money to the government in taxes. Let us stop criminalising their personal liberties.

**Khaizar Hussain**  
Hyderabad

### Jordan King forms new Govt.

AMMAN, Sept. 26  
Jordan's King Hussein, under heavy verbal fire from fellow Arab leaders and continued demands for his overthrow from the Palestinian guerrillas, today announced a new Government to try to end the "black troubles" in his embattled country.

The 13-man Cabinet is headed by a Palestinian civilian politician, Mr. Ahmed Toukan, and contains at least five Palestinians and six army men.

It replaces the military Government, the King set up on September 16, the day before the King's army launched its assault on the guerrillas. Its head, Brigadier Mohammed Da'oud, also a Palestinian, resigned on Thursday.

The King's mandate to Mr. Toukan charged him to try to return life in the country to normal and end hostility between Palestinians and Jordanians.

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

## WhatsApp smarts

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

## Priyanka's karmabhoomi

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

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

## Post for Dr Kafeel

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

## Azad reconciled

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



By WAQYANAWIS

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

## Best woman in the job

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

Many are eyeing the singular woman's slot. Ironic as it may sound, some leading lights of the BJP women parliamentarians reportedly draw comfort from the poor state of economy in the context of parliamentary board vacancy.

In their wisdom, prospects of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman making the cut have receded due to the minister's inability to accelerate the economy.

## Hairy superstition

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

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



## IN BRIEF

## Pair charged for WH attack plot

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

## S. Korea tells North to probe shooting

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

## Lebanese PM designate resigns

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

## Astronaut to cast vote from space

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

## PARK AFTER POC WHO RESISTED SLAVERY

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

## 2 mn Covid deaths possible, WHO warns

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Trump may announce Amy Barrett for court

## Appeals court hears fight over Don tax returns again

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

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

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

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

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

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

being sought.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HEBDO STABBING: SEVEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

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

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

## Ukraine crash: Toll climbs to 26

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

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

## VICTORIA HEALTH CHIEF QUILTS IN QUARANTINE PROBE

**Melbourne, Sept. 26:** The health minister in Australia's Victoria state has resigned in the fallout from an inquiry into why security guards were used instead of police or the military at quarantine hotels.

Lapses in security at the hotels were given as the major reason for a second wave of Covid-19 cases. Victoria reported just one more Coronavirus death as Melbourne's new case average continued to fall. The death took the state toll to 782 and the national figure to 870. There were 12 new cases, while Melbourne's 14-day average fell again on Saturday to 23.6. Melburnians, who have been in lockdown for more than a month, are waiting for the easing of restrictions on Monday. It's expected to include a staged return to school for some students and outdoor gatherings of five people from two households.

Health Minister Jenny Mikakos on Saturday issued a statement confirming her resignation, just a day after Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews gave evidence to the inquiry. — *AP*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Youth: Act to halt catastrophic climate change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



## SHORT TAKES

## Djokovic braces for unhappy Nadal

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

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

## Bruno penalty hands Man U win

Brighton: Bruno Fernandes scored a penalty, awarded on a VAR review after the final whistle had blown, as Manchester United rode their luck to register their first Premier League points of the season with a thrilling 3-2 win at Brighton on Saturday. The Seagulls hit the woodwork five times and thought they had earned a deserved point when Solly March headed home to equalise in the 95th minute. However, Neal Maupay's handball was penalised by referee Chris Kavanagh after he had blown for full-time and Fernandes converted from the spot in the 100th minute. Pre-season hopes that United could mount a title challenge to their biggest rivals Liverpool and Manchester City dissipated after a dire display in losing 3-1 to Crystal Palace last weekend. — *AFP*

## Hamilton takes Russian GP pole

Sochi, Russia: Runaway Formula One series leader Lewis Hamilton emerged from a "horrible" red-flagged qualifying session at Sochi on Saturday with a stunning pole position for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix. The Mercedes six-time champion clocked a best lap in one minute and 31.304 seconds to outpace Max Verstappen of Red Bull by half a second. His Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas was third-quickest with Sergio Perez of Racing Point sharing the second row. Hamilton is bidding to claim his fifth win at the Sochi track where Mercedes have dominated winning all six races since 2014. If he translate pole into victory, he will equal Michael Schumacher's career record of 91 Grand Prix wins. — *AFP*

## Celtics rally to beat Miami Heat

Miami: The Boston Celtics roared back in the second half to beat the Miami Heat 121-108 on Friday to stay alive in the NBA playoffs. Jayson Tatum scored 31 points and Jaylen Brown added 28 as six Celtics players scored in double figures and Boston cut the deficit in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals to three games to two. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 23 points, who are trying to reach the NBA finals for the first time since 2014. With their season hanging in the balance, the Celtics exploded for 41 points in the third quarter. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1

## TENNIS

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

## FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Manchester City vs Leicester from 9 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Spanish Premier League: Atletico Madrid vs Granada from 7.30 pm; Barcelona vs Villarreal from 12.30 am (Monday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

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

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## SUPER SHUBMAN

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

## SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** David Warner c and b Chakravarthy 36, Jonny Bairstow c Cummins 5, Manish Pandey c and b Russell 51, Wriddhiman Saha run out 30, Mohammad Nabi (not out) 11, Abhishek Sharma (not out) 2. Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-3) 7. Total: (for 4 wickets, in 20 overs) 142. **FOW:** 1-24, 2-59, 3-121, 4-138. **Bowling:** S.P. Narine 4-0-31-0, P.J. Cummins 4-0-19-1, Shivam Mavi 2-0-15-0, Kuldeep Yadav 2-0-15-0, C.V. Varun 4-0-25-1, K.L. Nagarkoti 2-0-

17-0, A.D. Russell 2-0-16-1. **Kolkata Knight Riders:** Shubman Gill (not out) 70, S. Narine c Warner b Ahmed 0, N. Rana c 'Saha b Natarajan 26, K.D. Karthik (c) 'lbw b Rashid Khan 0, E. Morgan (not out) 42. Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-4) 7. Total: (for 3 wickets, in 18 overs) 145. **FOW:** 1-6, 2-43, 3-53. **Bowling:** B. Kumar 3-0-29-0, K.K. Ahmed 3-0-28-1, T. Natarajan 3-0-27-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-23-0, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-11-0.

short against Mumbai Indians, the IPL's most-expensive overseas buy returned tidy figures of 1/19, while spinner Varun Chakravarthy (1/25) outfoxed the

dangerous David Warner to derail SRH early on.

Pandey returned to form at No. 3 with a 38-ball 51 and along with Wriddhiman Saha (30 off 31

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

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

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

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



Jos Buttler

## Buttler boost for Rajasthan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

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

## MEETING IN 2019

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

## FOR THE RECORD

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

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

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

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

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

## Dhoni asks team to up the ante

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

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

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

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

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

## CSK COACH RUES MISSING KEY PLAYERS

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

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

lacking a bit of steam in the batting and that hurts. The run rate keeps on mounting after such slow starts and adds pressure, we need to figure that out," Dhoni said after the match against Capitals on Friday night. "We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team bal-

ance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game." Rayudu, who struck a brilliant 48-ball 71 in CSK's five-wicket win over MI in the tournament-opener, missed the next two games due to a hamstring injury.

The CSK captain expressed hope that Rayudu will be available in their next game. "That will give us the room to experiment with an extra bowler perhaps. There are quite a few things we can think about. We are one batter extra to start off, so the players need to step up."

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

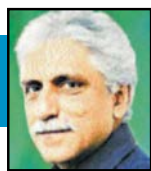
## SHAW 'STICKS TO PLAN' TO DELIVER WINNING KNOCK

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

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

Shaw shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan. "CSK has some good pace bowlers. I was able to time the ball and get some gaps. As the spinners came on, even if we are 40/0, it doesn't matter, I knew me and Dhawan could pace our innings after the powerplay," he said. — *PTI*

## Stuttering starts put Dhoni, Kohli under huge pressure



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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