

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 2 | SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 11.2mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvri: Aavani 17
Tithi: Prathamai
Star: Sathayam
Rahukalam:
12 noon to 1.30 pm
Yamagandam:
9 am to 10.30 am

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.46 am
Zohar: 12.15 pm
Asar: 3.21 pm
Maghrib: 6.21 pm
Isha: 7.33 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.19 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 6.41 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 7.29 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES

(+75,569)
37,63,509

DEATHS

(+1,015)
66,448

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,928)

TN: 4,33,969 7,418

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES



2,57,77,253

DEATHS



8,57,483

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

215

worldometers.info

Ex-Prez Mukherjee cremated in Delhi

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee was cremated with full state honours at New Delhi's Lodhi Road electric crematorium on Tuesday afternoon. His son Abhijit Mukherjee performed his last rites. Mukherjee's family and relatives paid their last respects clad in PPE kits and conforming to Covid-19 safeguards.

US cops shoot down another black man

Los Angeles: US police has shot dead another black man, who they said had a handgun but had dropped it during a violent altercation in Los Angeles, triggering fresh outrage as tensions soar over racism and police brutality. The man, named in local media as 29-year-old Dijon Kizzee, was riding his bicycle. ■ *Report on Page 7*

COUNTER

POINT



We always have our eyes on their land except when we have breakfast, lunch and dinner!

No panchamrutha offering for Jyotirlingam: SC

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 1:

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the authorities of famed Mahakaleswar temple in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to take measures to preserve the Jyotirlingam, the symbol of the presiding deity of the 18th century shrine, from erosion and decay.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, a bench headed Justice Arun

Mishra listed out the measures to be undertaken by the temple for preservation of the Jyotirlingam.

Use of pure milk while performing the ritualistic offerings to the Jyotirlingam was one of the key points made in the order by the apex court for its preservation, an official of temple administration said.

It also ordered to shun the practice of treating 'panchamruta', made of milk, ghee, liquid jiggery and honey, with the



Jyotirlingam. "We have already initiat-

ed measures for the protection and preservation of the Jyotirlingam as per the recommendations by an expert committee comprising officials of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) for the preservation of the lingam," administrator of the Mahakaleswar temple S.S. Rawat told this newspaper.

According to him, the expert committee has recommended use of offerings for the Jyotirlingam, such as water and milk, which

should be of normal PH level. "We have permitted use of RO or filter water and pure milk only as offerings for the Jyotirlingam," he added.

"The Jyotirlingam faced the prospect of erosion and decay due to use of impure milk as offering for the Jyotirlingam earlier. Besides, chemicals contained in colours used for decorating the Jyotirlingam also threaten to cause harm to it," retired archaeologist of ASI Narayan Vas said.



The arterial GST road bustling with traffic on Tuesday as bus services resumed after five months. — DC

One fifth of Chennai population infected, immune: Sero survey

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT 1:

A sero survey for the transmission of Covid-19 in Greater Chennai Corporation areas has revealed that one-fifth of the population has been exposed to the infection. "Overall, one-fifth of the population in Chennai was exposed to SARS-CoV-2 infection," the

Chennai corporation said in its preliminary finding.

"The inference is 21.5 per cent of Chennai's population reached the immunity levels by July-end," GCC commissioner G. Prakash said.

The survey was conducted among a sample size of around 12,000 people. Of the individuals tested, 2,673 individuals

had evidence of past SARS-CoV-2. "Now, the (immunity) levels will be more and it would also mean a lower transmission rate," he said adding the scientific study would be useful to alter strategies to tackle the pandemic.

Around 80 per cent of the population is still susceptible to SARS-CoV-2, he said.

Troops foil second PLA bid on Pangong peaks

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1:

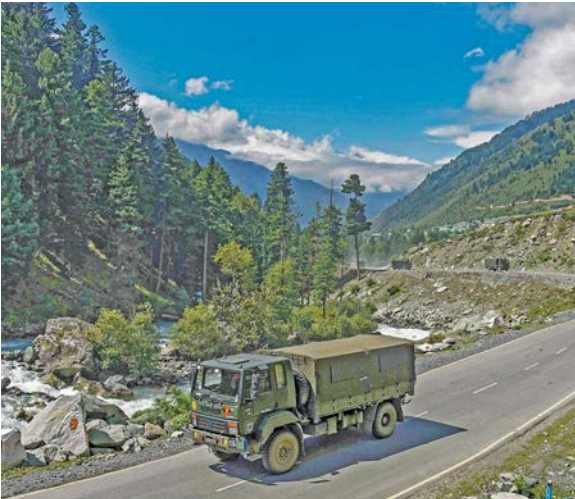
Chinese troops made a second failed attempt on Monday to capture the peaks on the southern banks of Pangong Tso that has emerged as the latest flash point between the two armies.

"Yesterday on 31st August, even as the ground commanders of the two sides were in discussions to de-escalate the situation, the Chinese troops again engaged in provocative action. Due to the timely defensive action, the Indian side was able to prevent these attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said on Tuesday.

Through diplomatic and military channels, India has urged China "to discipline and control their frontline troops from undertaking such provocative actions."

On Saturday night, Indian troops had preempted the PLA soldiers and occupied many peaks on the southern banks of the Pangong Tso to dominate the area.

According to sources, Chinese army on Monday night was trying to close-in on the area but were spotted by Indian troops.



Army convoy moves on Srinagar- Ladakh highway at Gagangeer, in Ganderbal district of Central Kashmir, Tuesday. — PTI

"PLA troops were suitably warned and they dissuaded from coming closer," said sources.

Since May, the Chinese Army's strategy has been to grab unoccupied land at the LAC in Ladakh sector. However, on the southern banks of Pangong Tso, as soon as they saw a large number of Chinese troops moving in, Indian troops on Saturday night moved fast to occupy many peaks in a "pre-emptive move". Control of the peaks gives the Indian Army an advantage to dominate the

area as it can monitor the movements of Chinese troops.

The Brigade level talks between Indian and Chinese army was again held on Tuesday to de-escalate the situation but it failed to achieve any breakthrough.

The military stand-off between India and China in Ladakh will complete four months this week. The two armies are involved in stand-off in Pangong Tso, Hot Springs area and Despang-DBO sector in Ladakh.

India tries to change LAC, alleges China

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1

Contradicting India's stand that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) had carried out provocative military movements in an attempt to change the status quo at the Southern Bank of Pangong Tso Lake in the Ladakh sector both on Saturday night and on Monday, China on Tuesday lodged a protest and accused India of "grossly violating China's territorial sovereignty, seriously violating relevant agreements, protocols... and severely damaging peace and tranquillity" in the border areas on Monday, adding that it has "made solemn representations to the Indian side, urged the Indian side to strictly control and restrain its frontline troops, earnestly honour its commitments". ■ **P4**

Telecos get 10 yrs to pay AGR dues

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1

Giving major relief to telecom service providers (TSPs) facing financial stress, the Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted them to make staggered payment of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues over a period of 10 years. The Union government had earlier suggested giving TSPs 20 years' to make the payments.

Permitting the TSPs -- including Airtel and Vodafone-Idea - to clear all their outstanding AGR dues in 10 years, ending on March 31, 2031, a bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, S. Abdul Nazeer and M.R. Shah, however, said that to start with the TSPs would make payment of 10 per cent of their total AGR dues as demanded by the department of telecommunications by March 31, 2021.

Shutting the door on further litigation by TSPs seeking reassessment of their AGR dues, Justice Mishra, pronouncing the judgment, said: "That for the demands raised by the department of telecom in respect of AGR dues based on the judgment of this court, there shall not be any dispute raised by any of the telecom operators and that there shall not be any reassessment."

SC OFFERS BIG RELIEF

► TSPs to clear all their outstanding AGR dues by March 31, 2031

► To pay 10 per cent of the dues by March 31, 2021.

► To pay every year; compliance report by Every April 7

► To raise no more dispute

► Insolvency proceedings to be decided by NCLT

► Default to attract interest, contempt of court.

► CEOs to give undertaking on payments

Issuing a slew of directions, Justice Mishra said the fate of the spectrum held by the companies facing insolvency proceedings -- RCom, Aircel and Videocon - and the various questions associated with it will be decided by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), a suggestion that was made to the court by senior counsel Harish Salve in the course of the hearing, which Justice Mishra said has been accepted.

Loan moratorium can be extended by 2 yrs: Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1:

The Union government on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the six month moratorium on the payment of EMIs on the loans that was given as part of relief package in the wake of corona virus pandemic can be extended up to two years as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular of August 6, 2020.

However, the government sought more time to resolve the contentious issue of charging interest on interest for the moratorium period prompting the bench of Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R.Shah telling Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that they are hearing this for the last three hearings. "We are hearing this for the past three

Sept. 14: Assembly meet at Kalaivanar Arangam

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 1:

Governor Banwarilal Purohit has convened the next session of the State Assembly on Monday, September 14, 10 am, at the Kalaivanar Arangam on Wallajah Road.

The session would be held at the multi-purpose hall on the third floor of Kalaivanar Arangam situated inside the Omandurar Government

Estates, a notification from the Assembly secretary K. Seenivasan said on Tuesday.

The venue has been shifted in view of the prevailing pandemic condition and for maintaining social distancing effectively. The usual hall in Fort St George, where the Assembly meets, is too cramped and MLAs might not be able to keep physical distance from one another.

dates of hearing. The country is going through a problem, we will hear this issues on Wednesday at 10:30 am", the court said

apparently not pleased that the main issue of waiving interest on interest has not been addressed by the Centre so far.

Staff abuses PM, says min letter to FB chief

New Delhi, Sept. 1: Amid a political row over Facebook India executives' alleged bias towards BJP, Union information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday wrote to chief executive Mark Zuckerberg accusing the social media platform's employees of supporting people from a political predisposition that lost successive elections, and "abusing" the Prime Minister and senior cabinet ministers.

In a three-page letter to Mr Zuckerberg, Mr Prasad alleged "bias and inaction" by individuals in Facebook India team on complaints by people supportive of right-of-centre ideology.

The letter comes a before day the meeting of a parliamentary committee where opposition parties are likely to raise the issue of Facebook India's alleged bias towards the

BJP, and reports of its public policy head Ankhi Das supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and disparaging opposition in internal messages.

"I have been informed that in the run up to 2019 general elections in India, there was a concerted effort by Facebook India management to not just delete pages or substantially reduce their reach but also offer no recourse or right of appeal to affected people who are supportive of right-of-centre ideology," Mr Prasad wrote.

"It is problematic when Facebook employees are on record abusing the Prime Minister and senior cabinet ministers of India while still working in Facebook India and managing important positions. It is doubly problematic when the bias of individuals becomes an inherent bias of the platform," he wrote. **PTI**

Borrow and give us our due, KCR writes to Modi

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has strongly opposed the Central government's suggestion to states that they borrow to meet their financial requirements. He suggested to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Centre instead borrow the entire shortfall based on the strength of cess receipts.

In a strongly worded letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Rao pointed out that Telangana state has been deprived of ₹3,800 crore on account of revenue loss by CST. "It is clearly stipulated in GST Compensation Act that full compensation for loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST shall be paid on a bi-monthly basis," he said.

SHORT TAKES

VAO's assistant found murdered

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

A village assistant who went on a routine evening walk was found murdered in a school playground in Perungalathur near Tambaram on Tuesday evening.

The deceased has been identified as, Shankar Raj, 53 of Pallavaram. He worked as the assistant to the Perungalathur Village Administration Officer.

According to police, Shankar Raj had gone to a playground near his office in Perungalathur at around 4.30 pm for a walk. He reportedly did not return to the office for more than an hour and the efforts to contact him went in vain, the VAO said. Meanwhile, at around 6 pm, a few residents spotted his body lying in a pool of blood in the playground and informed the VAO and the police.

On being alerted, the Peerkankaranai inspected the spot and held inquiries. Police said his body bore cut injuries on his face, nose and neck. His wallet and mobile phone were missing police said. Police suspect that it was a case of murder for gain.

A case has been registered by the police and the body was moved to the Chengalpet government hospital for post-mortem.

12 more succumb to Covid-19 in Pondy, 363 cases reported

Puducherry, Sept 1: Puducherry on Tuesday registered 12 deaths, including two women, due to Covid-19, pushing up the toll in the union territory to 240.

Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that eight men and two women patients died of the viral infection in hospitals in Puducherry and Yanam regions.

With 363 new cases being reported at the end of examination of 1,323 samples, the overall coronavirus hit patients were 14,766 after transferring eight cases to Tamil Nadu, the Director said.

He said 341 patients recovered and were discharged during the last 24 hours.

Of the total 14,766, there were 4,851 active cases while 9,675 patients recovered and were discharged.

The Director said as many as 76,105 samples were tested so far and it was found that 60,051 tested negative and result of examination of remaining samples was awaited.

Kumar said the fatality rate and recovery rate were 1.63 percent and 65.52 percent respectively.

—PTI

Wayside encroachments bring back traffic snarls

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

With the state opened up for renewed economic activity on Tuesday after five months of lockdown, traffic congestion has returned haunting commuters in Ramapuram here as Thiruvalluvar Salai Road near Dr DC Kothari Nagar has witnessed rampant encroachments by wayside traders.

For the last few months, several temporary structures in permanent nature have appeared on either side of the road. Paul Dhas, president, Ramapuram Social Welfare Federation, says these structures have protruded even to the platform. “When the issue was taken up with the zonal officer, she said that it comes under the purview of the highways department. On the other hand, highways department officials say that they don’t have powers to issue planning permits,” he said.

He also asked why the revenue department of the corporation issued a licence when the structure is not approvable.

“It is an open secret that the traders display their products on the platforms and even on the roads. Loading and unloading vehicles, apart from vehicles of customers, are parked on either side of the road. The real sufferers are commuters. Though the authorities are aware of the matter, they remain silent on this issue. It is difficult to live with the problem. Authorities may be forcing the public to indulge in protest like road blockade. If it is done, authorities will file cases and arrest us,” he said.

Kishor, president, Royala Nagar Residents Welfare Association, alleged that illegal structures continue to appear on the platforms due to the unholy nexus between authorities and traders. “The police

ANNA NAGAR TOWER PARK



department is aware of the traffic issue. But they won’t act. When people complain, they will impose one or two small fines. It is nothing but eyewash. Many of these shops are given power supply by the Tangedco,” he said.

An official with the highways department, when contacted, said that the corporation and police authorities should jointly conduct a periodic drive to evict illegal encroachments. “We have cleared the boundaries of the highways on Thiruvalluvar Salai and warned the traders not to keep their things on the road platforms creating traffic congestion. But they would not abide by our instruction. We can’t take any action against them as they have got no objection certificate (NOC) from the corporation,” the official said.

But, the corporation authorities refuted the highways department’s claim by saying that they had no authority in evicting the illegal structures from the platform. A revenue official with the corporation said that they didn’t have authority to issue NOC as the road comes under the purview of the highways department, he claimed.

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY



PADI SIVAN TEMPLE



14-day institutional quarantine not must for intl flyers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

In a significant development amid lockdown relaxations, even as coronavirus cases continue to rise, international passengers travelling to Chennai via air will no longer have to undergo 14-day institutional quarantine.

Indians stranded abroad due to pandemic are coming back to the country in

repatriated flights arranged by the union government under the Vande Bharat Mission. As many as 73,116 Indian-Tamils stranded abroad were brought to the state by 254 repatriation flights under the Vande Bharat mission.

According to the new state government guideline order for Covid, home quarantine of individuals coming from other districts within Tamil Nadu

Indians stranded abroad due to pandemic are coming back to the country in repatriated flights arranged by the union government under the Vande Bharat Mission.

for 14 days has been done away with, while all passengers arriving in from other countries should have a negative RT-PCR test report the test must have been taken within 96

hours before the arrival. They should undergo 14 days of home quarantine. Unlike, earlier where they were put into institutional quarantine either free or paid. Testing will be done only for symptomatic persons from September. If they test positive, and they are symptomatic, they will be taken to hospital isolation. If they are positive and asymptomatic they will be taken to a Covid

care centre for management. If they test negative and they are asymptomatic, they will remain in home quarantine for 14 days.

If the individual tests negative but symptomatic, he or she will be taken to hospital isolation and not facility quarantine as was done earlier by the district administration. Thermal screening and auto-generated e-pass are mandatory.

6,090 buses operated in city

FROM P1

Roads, too, were filled with vehicles, particularly with buses started plying. Traffic signals started working like normal times, causing snarls at many places and police men were seen engaged in regulating the flow of vehicles.

Along with the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads, parking problems cropped up at many places. Too many vehicles were left on the sides of the roads at key points of commercial interest, at times causing traffic problems, too.

In all public places, wearing of facemasks was stressed upon and people without masks were not allowed into business establishments and offices. Body temperature was checked with infrared thermometer guns and people were also asked to clean their hands with the sanitizer kept at the entrance.

In most commercial establishments, staff were entrusted with the job of regulating the queues with a view to maintaining social distancing and ensuring mask wearing.

The Chennai bus terminuses that were converted into impromptu vegetable markets during the prolonged lockdown were cleaned up and buses were operated from there.

After inspecting Pallavan Illam, the headquarters of the city bus

corporation, and the facilities there, transport minister M.R. Vijaybaskar said that the government was operating only 6,090 of its 22,000-strong fleet on Tuesday. “We would increase the number of buses as and when the demand increases,” Mr Vijaybaskar told the media, adding that the city buses would be allowed to carry only 24 passengers and mofussil buses 32 at a time.

Some modifications had been done inside the buses to ensure that passengers did not crowd in the front of the bus and go near the driver’s seat. Both the conductor and driver have been provided with masks and gloves.

Passengers have to board the bus through the back entrance after using the sanitiser to clean their hands and then move towards the front. For disembarking they would have to use the front entrance.

Mr Vijaybaskar said the buses would go only up to the city or district border. Beyond that, passengers can walk a distance and catch other buses that would take them up to the next border. Buses would be operated till 9 pm, he said.

To a question on monthly passes for bus travel, he said those who had taken passes in March could use them till September 15. For travel from September 15, passes would be issued from Wednesday he added.

Life back to normal in central dts

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, SEPT. 1

The life of people limped back to normalcy from Tuesday in the central districts of Tiruchy, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Tiruvavur and Nagapattinam districts following resumption of bus services and opening of places of worship, after more than five months of lockdown due to coronavirus pandemic.

The Kumbakonam division of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC), comprising Tiruchy, Karur, Kumbakonam, Pudukkottai and Karaikudi regions, has commenced operation with 1,650 buses, about 50 percent of the total fleet strength.

However, there were less passengers in mofussil buses and good turnout in city buses. Since the TNSTC buses are operating within its

Following operation of TNSTC buses plying of two-wheelers reduced considerably. The private buses did not resume services stating operating within the district will not be profitable

respective districts, the people who want to go to the neighbouring districts travel up to the border of the district and from there shift to another bus to continue their journey to neighbouring districts.

Following operation of TNSTC buses plying of two-wheelers reduced considerably. The private buses did not resume services stating operating within the district will not be profitable.

The fitness of TNSTC buses were checked and fumigated. The crew members underwent temperature check-up and wore facial masks. The passengers are allowed in the

buses after sanitising their hands, wearing facial masks and sitting inside the bus maintaining social distance.

All the temples in the central districts including Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Sri. Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Sri Jembukeshawarar-Akilandeswari Temple at Thiruvanaikavil, Sri Thiagarajar Temple, Tiruvavur, Sri Singaravelan Temple, Sikkal, Ettukudi Murugan Temple, Ettukudi, Nelkandai Mariamman Temple, Sri Goddass Neelayathatchi Amman Temple, Nagapattinam were opened and allowed devotees inside by maintaining social distance, sources told DC.

The mosques and churches were reopened in the central districts. However, the famous Nagore Darga and Velankanni shrine did not open today and are expected to reopen tomorrow.

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, SEPT. 1

The Big Temple here, where consecration was held in February and mandala pujas followed but was closed for devotees in March end as a part of Covid-19 lockdown, was reopened on Tuesday.

Devotees were waiting before the temple from 6 am. Those with masks were allowed inside after testing with thermal scanner and washing their hands with sanitisers.

They were not allowed to sit or stand inside the temple but were moved out after darshan. Separate queues were maintained - one for entry and other for exit.

All temples in Thanjavur district - Veera Narasimha Perumal Temple on the

Big Temple, other shrines reopen in Thanjai

Devotees queue up at Tiruchendur temple

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHENDUR, SEPT. 1

Devotees queued up at Tiruchendur temple. Subramanyaswamy Temple in Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi district, for darshan since 4 am on Tuesday.

The temple, closed for devotees in March end due to Corona lockdown, attracted devotees even from neighbouring districts of Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari, who came in private vehicles as buses did not ply across district borders.

The devotees waiting in queue, keeping a social distance of six metres, underwent thermal screening and were issued tokens.

Made to sit at three spots in the temple premises, the devotees were allowed inside the temple in batch-

es, each comprising 25 devotees.

The devotees were permitted only to have darshan of the prime deity Lord Subramanyar and no offerings like coconut or garlands were accepted from the devotees, who were not given prasadam.

According to temple authorities only 2,000 devotees would be allowed every day from 6 am to 7.30 pm for precautionary measures.

Swamithanaswamy Temple at Swami Malai, Srinivasa Perumal Temple

at Nachiyarkoil and small temples like Egowriamman Temple at Vallam were opened for public darshan on Tuesday.

State corporation buses started plying in the district. According to Mr M. Govinda Rao, Thanjavur district collector, 250 buses were operated in the district.

Passengers with masks were permitted.

According to officials of state transport corporation, in Kumbakonam region, 50 per cent of the total fleet of 3,316 buses plied. The region consists of Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Tiruvavur, Tiruchy, Pudukkottai and Karur divisions.

“Buses were operated only within the respective districts” said officials.

BCTP appeals to CJ to permit advocates to have access to their chambers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has appealed to Chief Justice A.P.Sahi of the Madras high court to permit the advocates to access their respective Chambers, situated on the premises of the HC, to take their case papers, enabling them to conduct their cases in a full-fledged manner by following all safety measures immediately.

BCTP chairman P.S.Amalraj made this appeal in a letter addressed

In his letter, Amalraj said the BCTP wholeheartedly thanks the Chief Justice and other administrative committee judges for considering the request made by the BCTP on behalf of the entire legal fraternity to resume the physical hearing in the high court and the Madurai Bench of the Madras high court

to Chief Justice A.P. Sahi, dated September 1, 2020.

In his letter, Amalraj said the BCTP wholeheartedly thanks the Chief Justice and other administrative committee judges for considering the request made

by the BCTP on behalf of the entire legal fraternity to resume the physical hearing in the high court and the Madurai Bench of the Madras high court.

“We also welcome the decision taken by the administrative committee for physi-

cal hearing in the pre-lunch session and post-lunch session. We request the high court to adopt a similar method of conducting cases in all the subordinate courts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry also. We bring to the notice of the high court that the governments have considered the awareness about the Covid-19 pandemic situation among the public and decided to relax lock down conditions and allowed all establishments to function with full strength as per the SOPs to be released by the government in each and every sec-

tor. Even the government has allowed all public and private establishments to function with full strength and bus services are also resumed from September 1, 2020. Now, the general public is fully aware of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and they have been following all the precautionary measures. Advocates are also more vigilant about the current situation and they will follow all the safety measures as prescribed by the High Court in order to control the overcrowding in court”, he added.

Amalraj said it was

brought to the notice of BCTP that most of the advocates were keeping their case bundles in their chambers allotted to them and they were not able to conduct the cases properly due to the closure of chambers in all court complexes. Advocates who were not having any office were using the chambers only to deal with their cases and keeping their coat and gown in the chambers only. All such advocates were suffering every day.

Therefore, immediate opening of the chambers of the advocates were neces-

sary. Further, all the places should be sanitized before the opening of the courts and chambers. Subsequently, periodical sanitization may be done as per the norms of the Health department.

Thermal screening can be done to those who were entering into the chambers at the entry point itself. Hence, suitable direction may be issued to the public works department or Corporation of Chennai for providing necessary safety measures inside and outside the courts and chambers.

“The Bar Council assures that the advocates will follow all the precautionary measures and the guidelines issued by the World Health Organization, Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu like social distancing, wearing of masks and using sanitizers etc., Therefore, we request the High Court to allow the advocates to access their respective Chambers to take their case papers, enabling them to conduct the cases in a full-fledged manner by following all safety measures immediately”, he added.

SHORT TAKES

Two women electrocuted

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKOTTAI, SEPT. 1

A 65-year-old woman and her 31-year-old daughter-in-law were electrocuted when they contacted a snapped live wire during overnight rains in Azhapiranthan village near Arantangi here, in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Police said, Radhika who woke up early on Tuesday went to wash her face and touched the water tank in her house without knowing that a snapped live wire was inside the water, and she was electrocuted. A little later, her mother-in-law, Rajagokila, who came in search of her, touched her body and she was also electrocuted. Arantangi police are investigating.

SI impregnates FB friend, suspended

DC CORRESPONDENT
NAGAPATTINAM, SEPT. 1

A sub-inspector of police was suspended here on Tuesday by SP Selvanagarathinam, on charges of allegedly cheating a woman he had befriended on facebook, and making her pregnant.

Police said, the victim hailed from Villiyannallur village near Nagapattinam and was working in a private concern in Chennai. She was a facebook friend of Vivek Veeraraj, then sub-inspector of police, attached to Manalmedu police station.

When she came to her native here, the policeman had an intimate relationship with her, promising that he would marry her, and she became pregnant. Later, when she compelled him to marry her, Veeraraj and his family had asked her to abort the pregnancy, after which they could be married.

The woman even complied to their demands and aborted her pregnancy, but Veeraraj refused to marry her, and threatened with life consequences. Despite her repeated complaints to the collector, SP Nagapattinam, DIG Thanjavur range, CM's special cell, she did not get any remedy.

Finally, she approached the Madras High Court, where the court directed the all women police personnel, Mayiladuthurai, to take legal action against the policeman and his mother.

AWPS, Mayiladuthurai, registered a case against Vivek Veeraraj and his mother Rajathi, and are now searching for them who are said to be at large.

Meanwhile, SP Nagapattinam, Selvanagarathinam, placed Veeraraj under suspension, who is now attached with the Valivalam police station.

No problem in alliance with AIADMK, says TN BJP chief

Coimbatore, Sept. 1:

There was no problem in BJP's alliance with the ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, party's state unit president L Murugan said on Tuesday but wanted the Ministers to stop criticising the combine. Even if his party fought the elections alone, at least 60 MLAs will represent BJP in the assembly after the polls, he said. The BJP was gearing up for the polls and gaining strength in the state while steps were being taken to further strengthen the party, as youths have started supporting it, he told reporters here. "There is no confusion or problem in the alliance (with the AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu. However, the ministers should stop talking and criticising the alliance," Murugan said. His comments come amid a debate surrounding who would lead the alliance in the 2021 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu after state BJP vice-president V P Duraisamy had asserted his party has the right to lead the combine in the polls. AIADMK co-coordinator and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami had a few days ago asserted that his party will lead the alliance in "any polls" in the state and pointed out that the 2019 Lok Sabha elections were fought under its leadership. To a question on cases being registered against BJP leaders, including himself for violation of Covid-19 protocols, Murugan quipped that cases should be registered against ministers, MPs and MLAs. About Tamil film superstar Rajinikanth, he said being a nationalist and spiritualist, his entry into politics will give more importance in the elections. Queried about the seizure of properties belonging to V. K. Sasikala, aide of late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, Murugan said law was taking its own course, adding there was no political vendetta. Earlier, Murugan, along with party vice-president, Vanathi Srinivasan and general secretary G. K. Selvakumar paid floral tributes to the portrait of former President Pranab Mukherjee at the BJP's district office here.

—PTI



A scene from JEE centre at Kovilambakkam on Tuesday.

— DC

4 country bombs seized from house of rowdy

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

The police on Monday night seized four country bombs from the house of a history-sheeter in Kelmbakkam.

The raid was conducted at the house of Ashok Kumar. He was one of the men who sustained injuries in a country bomb blast in Tirupurur on Friday night.

According to police, Ashok Kumar, a resident of Chengalpet and his friend, Vignesh, another history-sheeter were travelling in a two-wheeler on Friday night, when the country bomb Ashok kept in his bike exploded. One of them lost all fingers on his right hand while the other lost his eyesight, police said.

Investigating the matter,

the police arrested a four-member gang involved in making country bombs.

During the investigation, police also found that they were travelling to Kelambakkam to kill some rowdies there before the accidental explosion spoiled their plans.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of police headed by the Mamallapuram ASP Sundaravadanan conducted a surprise raid at the house of Ashok in Kelambakkam.

During the raid, the team seized at least four country bombs. Based on the instructions from the court, the bombs will be defused at the Keerapakkam stone quarry, police said.

Further investigation is under way.

Student gets 'Yoganakshathira' award

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, SEPT. 1

A plus II student of Laurel CBSE School, Pattukottai, R Harihara Alagappan, recently performed 'Bujapeeda Aasanam' for 10 minutes 73 milli-seconds, and recorded a new achievement aimed to create a world record, as part of the 116th national sports day.

According to the yoga masters association, Harihara Alagappan, son of Rajannamalai and Alamelu of Srinivasan Nagar, Pattukottai, aimed to perform the aasana for 15 minutes and create a record in Asia and the world.

Georgia cargo vessel vice-captain back on feet

Chennai, Sept 1: A 46-year old vice-captain of a cargo ship from Georgia battled all odds and is now able to walk again after his right leg, badly crushed in freak accident onboard the vessel, has been resurrected by doctors at Apollo hospitals.

Malkhaz Surmanidze underwent a complicated emergency limb saving revascularisation procedure and then overcame a stormy post-operative period during which he suffered acute kidney injury and deadly infection among others, doctors said. —PTI



DMK general council meet on September 9

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

The much-delayed general council of the DMK to elect a new general secretary and treasurer has been at last called for September 9, more than five months after it was earlier scheduled and cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

The meeting would be held through video conference on Thursday, September 9, an announcement from party president M. K. Stalin said on Tuesday, putting to rest all resentments within the party over the extraordinary delay in convening the crucial general council.

Earlier, it was called for March 29 to elect the new general secretary to fill in the vacancy created by the demise of K. Anbazhagan



at the age of 97 on March 7. Anbazhagan had been the general secretary of the party for 43 years.

Since Durai Murugan, who is the treasurer of the party, aspired for the post of general secretary, the meeting was also scheduled to elect a new treasurer. To facilitate his election, Durai Murugan had resigned his treasurer post, which was also accepted by the party.

Just as the countdown for the meeting started, coronavirus broke out in the country, forcing the

DMK leadership to cancel all party meetings and programmes till March 31. After that, the meeting could not be held as the lockdown prohibited all gatherings, including political congregations. And the DMK announced that Durai Murugan would continue as treasurer.

In the meantime, though the DMK's other meetings were held through video conference with Stalin regularly interacting with his functionaries, the delay in holding the general council was causing some resentment within the party.

A Tamil newspaper even carried a story that Durai Murugan was disillusioned over not being elevated to the post of general secretary and was planning to defect, impelling Durai Murugan to issue a statement denying any

such plans.

Though Durai Murugan's elevation was envisaged to happen without a hitch, filling the treasurer post that would fall vacant because of that became an issue for the DMK as there were reportedly three aspirants for it. Senior leader T. R. Baalu, E. V. Velu and A. Raja are said to be the contenders for the post.

Party leadership is now said to be engaged in arriving at a compromise between the three and selecting one of them unanimously at the general council.

Perhaps with a view to sort that out, Stalin has called for a district secretaries meeting on Thursday, September 3 at 10.30 am, also through video conferencing.

After both the meetings, the party is said to gear up for the elections in 2021.

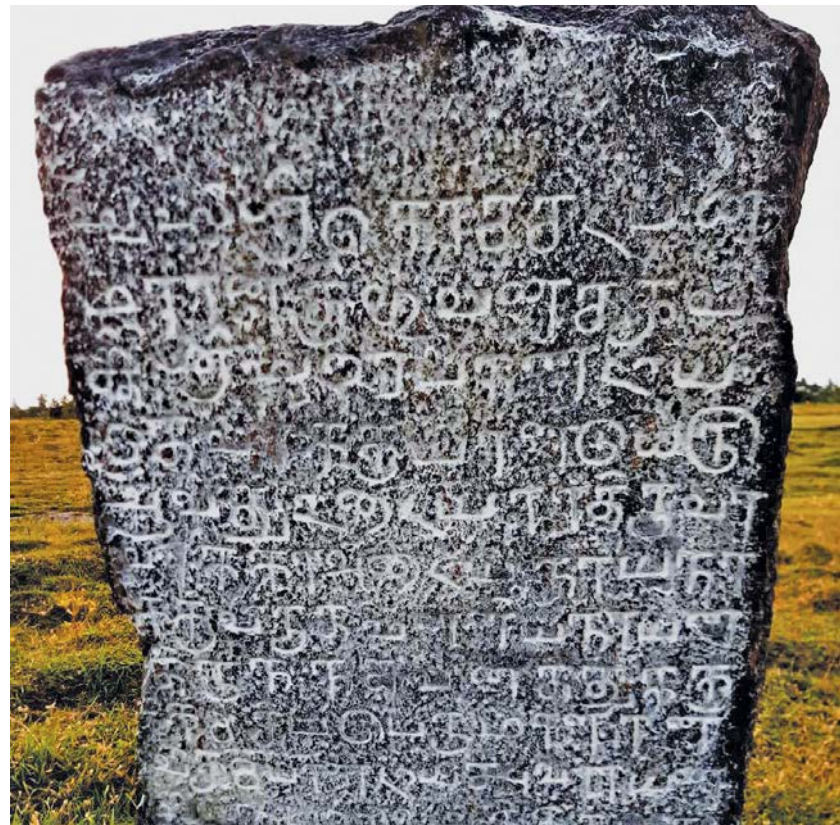
13th century stone tablet found

K. SENTHIL NATHAN
VELLORE, SEPT. 1

Vellore: Based on reports from two villagers Seenu and Gangan of Achammangalam village near Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai district that stone tablets and inscriptions were available in the village, a study team comprising secretary, district historians' circle, Tiruvannamalai, C Balamurugan, research officer, EB, Palani and Professors A Sudhakar and A. Venkatesan, held studies in the area. Speaking about the stone tablet found by the researchers, epigraphist Dr S Rajagopal said it belonged to the 13th century during the 15th year reign of King Sadayavarman Sundara Pandyan (1266 BC).

On one side is inscribed a village name 'Adhithamangalam' and a few lines on land management norms and tax payment related to the Tiruvaanaika Koil, and on the other side are pictures of an elephant, an Indian blackberry tree, a spider and a Tirusoolam. Stating it to be a rare find, since the inscriptions relate to two far flung ancient places - Achammangalam and Tiruvaanaika Koil - both located 250 km from each other, experts and villagers have urged the government to preserve the stone tablet.

On one side is inscribed a village named 'Adhithamangalam' and tax payment related to the Tiruvaanaika Koil, and on the other side are pictures of an elephant, an Indian blackberry tree, a spider



Covid-19 spread stabilises

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

Spread of Coronavirus has seemingly stabilized as only 5928 new cases were reported on Tuesday with 96 fatalities in the State.

Chennai had 1084 fresh infections with 22 deaths, while the western districts of Coimbatore 581 and Salem 335 were showing high numbers. Other districts with high rates of infection were Chengalpattu 384, Cuddalore 286, Kallakurichi 209, Thiruvallur 296.

Meanwhile, the controversial practice of blocking with asbestos sheets the doors of houses where people in quarantine lived would be done away with, Chennai Corporation Commissioner G Prakash

told the media.

Speaking after a discussion with Corporation officials and frontline Covid-19 warriors on the next step to be taken to prevent the spread of the virus now that the lockdown has been relaxed, Prakash said the CCorporation would next go to the places of work of people and do the testing.

While the fever camps and the door-to-door surveys would continue, people would be tested at malls, complexes and industries by the Corporation, he said, urging the people to be careful for another three months and continue to follow the norms like wearing of face masks, maintaining social distance and using sanitizers. Relaxations had been

brought to the lockdown after five months to save the economy but the Corporation would continue with its work. Testing of people, which helped manage the pandemic, would continue, he said, adding that so far 11 lakh RT PCR tests had been done.

People travelling from various parts of the State to Chennai would not have to undergo quarantine and those coming from other States and countries would be allowed to isolate themselves in their homes for 14 days if they had no symptoms.

The state's Covid-19 positivity had gone down to 9 per cent from the 36 per cent in June, he said and added that they aspired to achieve 5 per cent.

Pranab's ties with Nilgiris recalled

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, SEPT. 1

The three short visits made to the Nilgiris by Late President Pranab Mukherjee to address the army officers and the students in his last year of presidency, will be etched in the memories of the residents here. In all these three occasions, Mukherjee was in the hills for only a couple of hours.

On April 15, 2016, while delivering his convocation address at the graduation ceremony of the 71st staff course at the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington near here, Mukherjee said that the training curriculum at DSSC is institutionalized to empower jointness amongst the armed forces.

"The foremost example of excellent synergy and joint-



manship exhibited in military history was during the 1971 war. No strategic military victory has ever been so preceded by any armed forces in the world, such as the liberation of Bangladesh, which culminated in the birth of a nation on termination of war," he

pointed.

On September 9, 2016 he visited DSSC again to bestow the coveted President's Colours upon the DSSC. In his address then, Mukherjee said that the DSSC which came into being in Wellington in 1948, had emerged as a premier Tri-

Services institution in the country, and it epitomized 'Military Academic Excellence'.

His last visit to the Nilgiris was on May 5, 2017, when he drove to Lawrence School at Lovedale near here, to take part in the 159th founder's day celebrations of the school. In his address then, he said,

"My experience tells me that it is the youth of a nation, any nation, which can bring about a change in its fortunes. My generation and the generation that has followed have set the wheel of fortune spinning, and it is for you youngsters to take it to its logical conclusion, so that when the world speaks of India, it does not do so only in terms of a resplendent past, but as a present to reckon with and a future to look forward too."

Man buries dead dad inside house

DC CORRESPONDENT
PERAMBALUR, SEPT. 1

Tension prevailed for the last two days in the sleepy village Kalarampatti in the district, as a man buried the body of his father in a special room inside his house, on Monday.

Police said, 75-year-old Ramasamy of Kalarampatti village died of old age on Monday in the village. His second son, R Balakrishnan, attempted to lay his father's body to rest in an open place near his house, which was opposed by the villagers. Following this, Balakrishnan laid to rest his father's body inside a special room built inside his house itself.

On information, Perambalur police and revenue officials rushed to the spot and attempted to convince Balakrishnan in burying the body at a common burial ground in the village. But, Balakrishnan refused.

Following this, police forcibly removed Balakrishnan and his family from the house, and later cremated the body of Ramasamy, ending the tension in the area.

N. SAMPATH | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

While the elderly and those with comorbidities remain to be the high risk group to be affected with Covid-19, a 92-year-old male patient, Ganesh, has set a distinct example after recovering from Covid-19 at the government Stanley Medical College and Hospital here.

Ganesh was admitted to the Covid ward at the Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital on August 18. He has been hypertensive and a diabet-

ic for the past 35 years and appeared to be a risky case. He was also treated for Coronary artery disease and renal problems. After four days of admission, the patient's oxygen saturation deteriorated, and he was shifted to the Covid-19 intensive care unit.

Ganesh was monitored round-the-clock and treated by an expert team of doctors. He was administered high flow nasal oxygen and high-end antibiotics, along with supportive treatment. Three days later, his oxygenation improved, and was



Dr Balaji, Dean, Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital, greets 92-year-old patient Ganesh after he recovered from Covid.

weaned off from oxygen. As his general condition

improved and vital parameters turned normal, he

was shifted out of the ICU and kept in a step down ward, and observed for another three days. Later, he recovered successfully, as his repeat swab tests turned negative, and he was discharged from the hospital. The patient thanked all the doctors, nurses, paramedical workers and other hospital workers in the Covid block.

Similar is the case of a 97-year-old person, Soosai, who was treated and discharged from the Government Stanley Hospital. He is said to be the oldest man to have been cured of Cov-

id-19 infection in the state.

Soosai who stays at a shelter home in Perambur, says that he has successfully recovered as he has been physically active and takes healthy food. He said that youngsters these days get sick easily because of poor eating habits.

"Around 24,000 patients have been admitted to the Government Stanley Hospital till date, of which 3,900 patients are above the age of 60 years and around 291 patients are above 80 years of age," said Dr Balaji, dean, Government Stanley Hospital.

SHORT TAKES

MP KNEW OF TWIN MURDERS, ALLEGES MIN

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 1

A day after the murder of two DYFI workers in Venjaramoodu, about 15kms from state capital Thiruvananthapuram, the ruling CPM accused the Congress leaders including a Lok Sabha MP of plotting the killings.

Senior CPM leader and Kerala industry minister E.P. Jayarajan alleged that the murders took place with the knowledge of local Congress MP Adoor Prakash.

“After carrying out the killings, the assailants first called the MP to inform him about the incident. All the accused have close links with the Congress leaders. There is a high-level conspiracy which needs to be probed,” he told media persons.

However, Prakash said the minister was making baseless allegations.

DYFI activists Haque Muhammad, 24, and Mithilaj, 30 were murdered by a group of six members at Thembamodu near Venjaramoodu while they were returning home late Sunday night.

Four Congress workers have been taken into custody while six more including the first and second accused are absconding. The Congress leadership sought to distance itself from the gruesome murders.

INDIA TRIES TO CHANGE LAC, ALLEGES CHINA

From page 1

This came on a day when New Delhi said that even on Monday (August 31), “even as the ground commanders of the two sides were in discussions to de-escalate the situation, the Chinese troops again engaged in provocative action” (for the second time since Saturday late night).

In a statement, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said, “On August 31st, Indian troops violated the consensus reached in previous multi-level engagements and negotiations between China and India, illegally trespassed the LAC again at the southern bank of the Pangong Tso Lake and near the Regan Pass in the western sector of China-India border, and conducted flagrant provocations, which again stirred tension in the border areas.” Claiming that “what India has done runs counter to the efforts made by both sides for a period of time to ease and cool down the situation on the ground”, the Chinese Embassy statement also accused Indian troops of “violating the consensus reached in previous multi-level engagements and negotiations between China and India, illegally trespassing the Line of Actual Control (LAC) again at the southern bank of the Pangong Tso Lake and near the Regan Pass ... and conducting flagrant provocations”.

JEE MAINS HELD AMID STRINGENT PRECAUTIONS

New Delhi, Sept. 1: The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Mains for admission to engineering colleges began on Tuesday amid stringent precautions and social distancing measures in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Staggered entry and exit for candidates, sanitisers at the gate, distribution of masks and maintaining social distancing as candidates queued up, were among the scenes witnessed at the exam centres across the country.

The exam which has been postponed twice in view of Covid-19 pandemic is scheduled from September 1 to 6.

“Hand sanitisers are being made available at the entrance of the examination centre and inside the exam hall at all times. The usual process of checking the admit cards of candidates has been replaced with barcode readers, which have been made available to the examination centre authorities,” said an official of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

“While all the candidates are asked to go to the exam centres with masks and sanitisers, once they enter the centre, they have to use the masks provided by the examination authority. Each candidate will be offered a 3-ply mask at the time of entry and expected to wear the same during the examination in order to avoid any form of unfair means at the time of examination,” the official added.

ARMY HITS UPON ‘HUGE’ ARMS CACHE ALONG LoC

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 1

The Army on Tuesday claimed that its troops defending the Line of Control (LoC) hit upon ‘a huge cache of arms and ammunition’ left behind by a group of infiltrators in secreted locations in Rampur sector of Uri belt in north-western Baramulla district.

It said that, after being challenged by alert troops, the infiltrators moved back into Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Separately, the Border Security Force (BSF) and J&K police said that they during a joint operation carried out in Shiendara Top and Khanater Top villages in the hills of Poonch district of Jammu region, recovered two pistols with four magazines and 150 rounds of live ammunition, five AK-47 magazines and 250 bullets, two wireless sets, four grenades and a Binocular from a militant hideout.

Defence spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, said here that the Army troops detected movement of suspicious persons in a forward area in Rampur sector on August 30. “The movement was from a village close to the LoC and the suspects crossed into Indian territory. Due to terrain of thick foliage and weather conditions an alert of likely infiltration attempt was sounded,” he said.

He added, “The surveillance grid was beefed up all across the area and along the likely infiltration routes and ambushes were sited to thwart any attempt of infiltration. Surveillance continued throughout the night”.

The spokesman said that at first light on Monday, the troops carried a search of the area which continued for seven hours and that it was when two “concealed locations” in two “hideouts” were discovered.

“From these hideouts five AK series rifles along with six magazines and two sealed boxes of 1,254 rounds of AK ammunition, six pistols with nine magazines and six rounds, 21 grenades, 2 UBGL grenades and 2 Kenwood radio sets with one antenna were recovered,” he said.

The Army said that the area has villages ahead of the anti-infiltration fence and claimed that the suspected modus operandi is to drop war like stores in caches near the LoC.



Seven family members of late Pranab Mukherjee perform rituals during the funeral of the former president, at Lodhi Road cremation ground in New Delhi on Tuesday. Former President's son Abhijit, a parliamentarian, said he plans to convert one floor of their house in West Bengal's Jangipur into a museum-cum-library in the memory of the departed leader.

- PTI

HC quashes Kafeel Khan’s illegal detention under NSA

Court says Aligarh DM did a ‘selective reading’ of his speech at the AMU

Allahabad, Sept. 1: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed the detention of Dr Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act and ordered his immediate release, saying the Aligarh district magistrate did a “selective reading” of his speech at the AMU.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Govind Marhur and Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh allowed the writ petition filed by Khan’s mother Nuzhat Parveen and said the order for his detention passed by the district magistrate is illegal.

The petition argued that Khan was granted bail in February by a competent court and he was supposed to be released on bail. However, he was not released for four days and the National Security Act (NSA) was subsequently invoked against him. Hence, his detention was illegal.

Khan has been in jail since January after he delivered the allegedly provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in December last year. He is lodged in Mathura jail. Under the NSA, a person can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if

● **KHAN HAS** been in jail since January after he delivered the allegedly provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in December last year. He is lodged in Mathura jail.

● **UNDER THE NSA**, a person can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if authorities are satisfied that he or she is a threat to national security or law and order.

authorities are satisfied that he or she is a threat to national security or law and order.

Quashing Khan’s detention order, the court said, “A complete reading of the speech prima facie does not disclose any effort to promote hatred or violence. It also no where threatens peace and tranquility of the city of Aligarh. The address gives a call for national integrity and unity among the citizens. The speech also deprecates any kind of violence. It appears that the District Magistrate had selective reading and selective mention for few phrases from the speech ignoring its true intent.”

The court further said in the instant case, the “causal link is found to be missing or completely broken”.

“In absence of any material indicating that the detainee continued to act in a manner prejudicial to public order from December 12, 2019 up to

February 13, 2020 or that he committed any such other or further act as may have had that effect, the preventive detention order cannot be sustained,” it said.

“In fact, the grounds of detention are silent as to public order at Aligarh being at risk of any prejudice in February 2020 on account of the offending act attributed to the detainee on the date December 12, 2019,” the court said in its order.

“What remains is a mere apprehension expressed by the detaining authority without supporting material on which such apprehension may be founded,” it said.

The court said it had also tested the legality of the detention on the count of giving effective opportunity to the detainee to represent at earliest.

“The grounds for detention along with material were supplied to the detainee in light of clause (5) of Article 22 of the

Constitution of India enabling him to submit representation to the competent authorities at earliest,” it said.

“The material so given was a compact disk of the speech delivered by Dr. Kafeel Khan on 12th December, 2019 at Bab-e-Syed gate of Aligarh Muslim University,” it said.

“On asking, it is conveyed to us that no transcript of the speech was supplied to the detainee. The non-supply of transcript would have been of no consequence, if a device would have been supplied to the detainee to play the compact disk. It is the position admitted that no such device was made available to the detainee,” it added.

One more important aspect of the matter is that the orders of extension of detention were never served upon the detainee, the court said.

“The record shown to us and the pleadings of the petition also refer that only radiograms relating to decision of the State Government for extension of the term of detention were supplied to the detainee,” it said.

“The radiograms mention that the actual order shall be sent through speed post but in fact nothing except the radiograms

were given to the detainee. In light of the discussion above, we are having no hesitation in concluding that neither detention of Dr. Kafeel Khan under National Security Act, 1980 nor extension of the detention are sustainable in the eye of law,” it said.

In its order, the court said, “The writ petition for the reasons above is allowed. The order of detention dated 13th February, 2020 passed by District Magistrate, Aligarh and confirmed by the State of Uttar Pradesh is set aside. The extension of the period of detention of detainee Dr. Kafeel Khan is also declared illegal.”

“A writ in the nature of habeas corpus is hereby issued to release Dr. Kafeel Khan, the detainee, from State custody forthwith,” it said.

In August, the Uttar Pradesh government had extended Khan’s detention under the NSA by a period of three months.

In an order dated August 4, the Home Department said the NSA was invoked against Khan on February 13, 2020, on the orders of the Aligarh district magistrate. After this, the matter was sent to the advisory council, which, in its report, said there are “enough reasons” to keep Khan in jail.

HALF OF COVID CASES FROM FIVE STATES, SAYS CENTRE

New Delhi, Sept. 1: Five states — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh — have accounted for over half of the total Covid-19 cases and close to 60 per cent of the recoveries reported in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry said on Tuesday.

Cumulatively, these five states reported 536 deaths in a day which is over 65 per cent of the total fatalities registered in the country during the period.

India reported 69,921 new instances of coronavirus infection in 24 hours taking the country’s tally of cases to 36,91,166.

The death toll mounted to 65,288 with 819 more fatalities being reported during the same period, the official data updated on Tuesday 8 am showed.

Simultaneously, continuing the streak of posting over 60,000 recoveries daily for the past five days, India saw 65,081 people recuperating from coronavirus infection in 24 hours taking the total recoveries to 28,39,882.

The recovery rate has risen to 76.94 per cent, it said. In these 24 hours, Maharashtra reported 11,852 new coronavirus infections,

Andhra Pradesh 10,004, Karnataka 6,495, Tamil Nadu 5,956 and Uttar Pradesh 4,782.

Together, they account for 56 per cent of the cases added in a day, the official statistics revealed.

- PTI

KARNATAKA ALLOWS PUBS, RESTAURANTS, BARS TO OPEN

DC CORRESPONDENTS
SEPT. 1

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Tuesday reported a spike of 9,058 new Covid-19 cases and 135 related fatalities, taking the total number of infections to 3,51,481 and death toll to 5,837, the Health department said.

Meanwhile, the government has allowed bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants in the state to serve liquor from Tuesday with 50 per cent of their seating capacity. There were restrictions on serving liquor since March.

Telangana has 2,734 cases, 9 deaths

Hyderabad: Telangana state recorded 2,734 new Covid-19 cases on Monday, taking the total Coronavirus infections to 1,27,697. Nine more people were reported dead from the disease and the toll rose to 836.

The fresh cases registered an increase from Monday’s 1,873 cases reflecting that the number is directly related to the tests performed each day.

1,140 new cases in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Tuesday reported 1,140 new cases of Covid-19 even as 2111 people recovered from the infection. The total number of cases reported in Kerala so far has gone up to 76,525 of which 53,653 have recovered from the disease while 22,512 are under treatment in various hospitals.

Of the new cases reported on Tuesday, 1059 contracted the infection through contact.

AP reports 10,368 cases, 84 deaths

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh has registered 10,368 new Covid-19 cases, taking the overall tally to 4,45,139. The state also saw 84 deaths, taking the toll to 4,053 in the last 24 hours.

Chittoor has recorded the highest number of 14 deaths due to Covid-19 in a single day.

Riots: Pinjra Tod member gets bail

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 1

The Delhi high court on Tuesday granted bail to Pinjra Tod member Devangana Kalita in a Northeast Delhi violence case, saying the police failed to show that she had instigated women of a particular community or delivered a hate speech.

In his 21-page judgment, Justice Suresh Kumar Kait said that her presence is seen in a “peaceful agitation”, which is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. Kalita, a member of the women’s collective Pinjra Tod, was arrested in May.

The court noted that the agitation, held against the CAA, had been going on for a long time with print and electronic media present throughout, in addition to the cameras of the police department, but

there is no evidence which establishes that the alleged offence took place on Kalita’s action. The evidence produced constituted statements recorded much belatedly, under Section 164 of the CrPC, though the witnesses remained present at the spot throughout, the court observed.

“Chargesheet has already been filed against the petitioner on June 2. Moreover, I have gone through the inner case diary produced in a sealed cover along with pen drive and found that though her presence is seen in peaceful agitation, which is fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution, (the police, prosecution) had failed to produce any material to show Kalita had instigated women of a particular community or gave hatred speech due to which the life of a young man was sacrificed,” Justice Kait said.

NEW | LAW

Certificates are only for applying for jobs and do not confer right to own land

J&K issues over 12.5L domicile certificates

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 1

The Jammu and Kashmir authorities have issued as many as 12.5 lakh domicile certificates under a new law, the introduction of which earlier this year had raised fears of the beginning of demographic changes in predominantly Muslim (erstwhile) state.

However allaying these fears, a senior government official said here on Tuesday that the new domicile certificates were only for applying for jobs and do not confer rights to own land.

“The new domicile cer-

tificate is for applying for jobs in J&K. It does not confer right to buy land,” Principal Secretary Revenue, Pawan Kotwal, told reporters.

He also said that those holding domicile certificates would not be included in the voters’ list in the Union Territory either.

Earlier government spokesman Rohit Kansal sought to clarify that 99 percent of new domicile certificates were issued to those residents of Jammu and Kashmir who were already holding ‘state subject certificates’ under a 1927 law or (including) Kashmiri

Pandit migrants.

The old ‘state subject’ law was replaced by the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, enacted in April, eight months after the state was stripped of its special status.

Mr. Kansal who is J&K’s Principal Secretary, Power Development and Information Departments said that among the new beneficiaries who were not permanent residents of the state include 11,398 refugees from erstwhile West Pakistan, 415 members of Valmiki Samaj (sweepers) and 10 of those

belonging to Gorkha community besides 12,340 registered migrants.

Asserting the government has accelerated the issuance of domicile certificates, he said, “The process of issuance of domicile certificates is picking up rapidly and certificate issuance is being monitored regularly”.

He said, “About 12.5 lakh such certificates have been issued so far. Over 99 percent of those issued certificates include erstwhile Permanent Resident Certificates (PRCs) or including Kashmiri Pandit migrants. The

process of issuance will be further accelerated and the issuance will be monitored to ensure that pendency is brought down to the lowest.”

Mr. Kansal said that possessing domicile under the new law is the basic eligibility condition for appointment to any post under the UT of J&K following amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010.

He, however, reassured on behalf of the government that the rules provide a simple and time bound procedure for the

issuance of the domicile certificate “so that no one is put to any inconvenience, besides there are provisions for time bound issuance for certificates including an appellate authority whose orders will be binding as well as who has revisional powers”.

The spokesman further added that the rules have a provision that applications for grant of domicile certificate can be submitted either physically or electronically online and that the competent authority can also issue domicile certificate(s) electronically.

IN BRIEF

10 guards hostage in Guatemalan jail

Guatemala City: Imprisoned Guatemalan gang members took 10 guards hostage Monday after prison system authorities moved some gang leaders to another lockup. Interior Minister Olivero García Rodas dismissed gang demands that the Barrio 18 gang leaders be returned for the guards to be released at the prison known as “Little Hell”. He said authorities had control outside the prison. Early Monday, prison authorities had transferred some gang members who made up the inmate leadership. “It was an operation organised to break up the gangs,” García said. “If the use of force becomes necessary, force will have to be used.” In an audio recording sent to reporters, someone saying he was a guard held hostage said the gang members wanted a peaceful dialogue to make sure their leaders weren’t sent to two prisons.

Earthquake hits northern Chile

Santiago: A magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck near the coast of Northern Chile on Tuesday, the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences said, and some damage and minor landslides were reported in areas near the epicentre, according to local media. A number of people living near the coast were evacuated as a precaution, according to BNO News. There were no reports of casualties. GFZ reported aftershocks of around magnitudes 6.2 and 5.5. There was no tsunami threat from the earthquake, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. GFZ earlier showed the magnitude as 7, with the quake at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles). Chile is on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of fault lines circling the Pacific Basin which is prone to frequent earthquakes. In June, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake had struck Chile’s mineral-rich northern desert. Damage in that quake was minimal.

Japan typhoon heads to Korea

Tokyo: A powerful typhoon blew over Japan’s southernmost islands on Tuesday and was headed toward the country’s main southern island and the Korean Peninsula. More than 20,000 homes were left without electricity, according to Okinawa Electric Power Co. As of noon, Typhoon Maysak had already traveled past the area around Okinawa, home to US military bases, but warnings continued to be issued about strong gusts that could cause homes to collapse. Extremely high tides were a risk as well. The Japanese Meteorological Agency had said earlier that Maysak was expected to later make landfall on Kyushu, Japan’s main southern island, but its course appeared to be swerving away. Still, its passing close by could bring strong winds and rain. The storm is on course to hit South Korea by Thursday. A typhoon that hit the Korean Peninsula last week caused scattered minor damage in both Korea.

TALIBAN HIT MILITARY BASE, KILL 3

Kabul, Sept. 1: Taliban insurgents launched a complex attack on Tuesday morning against a military base in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least three public protection forces, an official said.

Five other forces were wounded in the attack, said Abdul Rahman Mangal, a spokesman for the governor in Pakhtia province of the country.

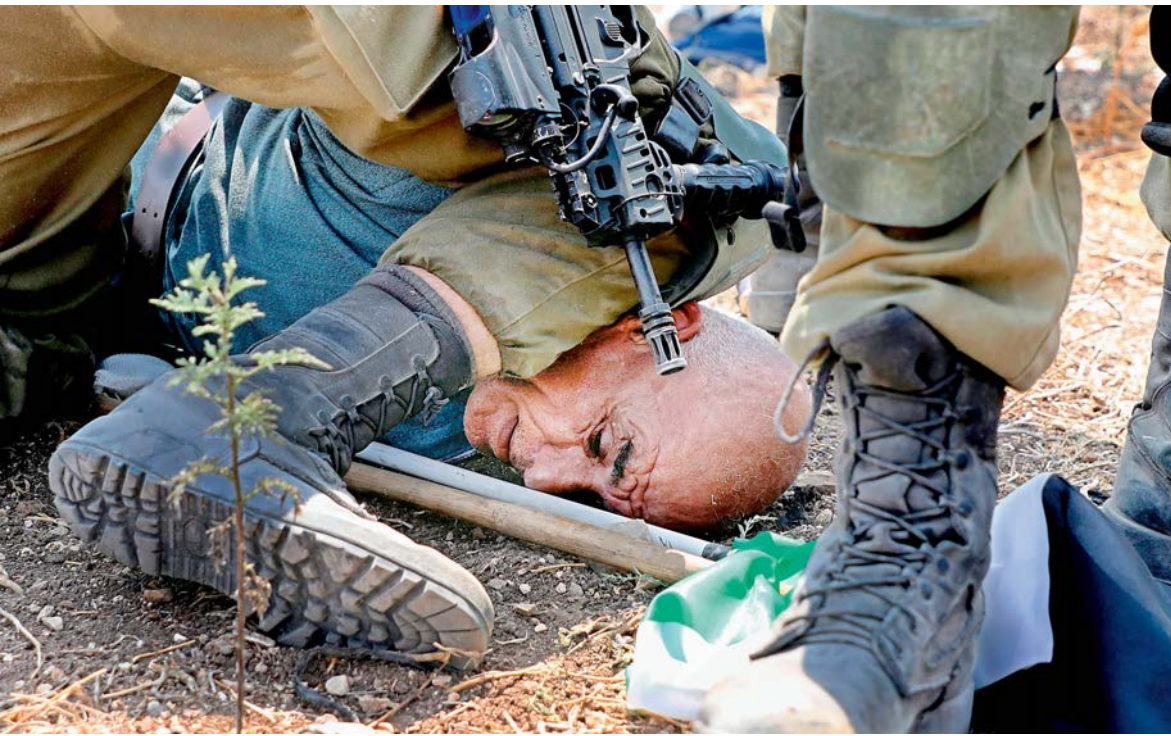
A suicide car bomber targeted the entrance gate of the base in the provincial capital Gardiz then two gunmen started shooting at the Afghan security forces, Mangal said.

Security forces killed both attackers in a gunbattle lasting almost 10 minutes and the area is now under control, he added. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the group claimed responsibility for the attack in Gardiz.

The attack comes after Afghanistan’s president appointed 46 members to a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.

The negotiations were envisaged under a US-Taliban peace agreement signed in February as intra-Afghan talks to decide the country’s future.

Israeli knee on Palestinian neck



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian protester during a demonstration against the Israeli settlement expansion in the village of Shufah, southeast of Tulkarm in the occupied West Bank, on Tuesday. — AFP

Outrage as cops shoot, kill another PoC in LA

Los Angeles, Sept. 1: US police shot dead another PoC, who they said had a handgun but dropped it during a violent altercation in Los Angeles, sparking further outrage as tensions soared around racism and police brutality.

The man, named in local media as Dijon Kizzee, 29, was riding his bike when Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies attempted to arrest him for an unspecified vehicle code violation Monday.

He fled on foot and, when officers caught up with him, he punched an assistant in the face, dropping clothes he was wearing, police said. “MPs noticed that inside the clothes he dropped was a black semi-automatic handgun, at that time a shootout involving a deputy took place,” Lt. Brandon Dean said.

It was not clear if the man was looking for the weapon when he was shot. Dean said officials have yet to interview MPs involved. “So he didn’t have the gun in his hand, it had already fallen to the ground, so when he was actually shot he wasn’t armed at the time?” asked a reporter during the televised press conference.

“I don’t know that,” Dean replied, later adding, “If this individual was looking for a semi-automatic handgun, I would suggest... that’s probably why lethal force was used.”

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Up to 100 people gathered at the scene to demand justice within hours of the shooting, according to local media.

“What good is the prison system if you want to kill

HOUSE TO SUBPOENA POSTMASTER GENERAL OVER MAIL DISRUPTIONS

Washington, Sept. 1: The House Oversight Committee intends to subpoena Postmaster General Louis DeJoy for documents about disruptions in mail delivery operations that are now central to questions over the ability to handle an onslaught of mail-in ballots expected for the November poll.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., the committee chair, sent a memo Monday saying DeJoy blew past last week’s deadline to fully respond to the committee’s request for more information. He has not provided any new materials, she said. “It is clear that a subpoena has become necessary to further the Committee’s investigation and help inform potential legislative actions,” she said.

Democrats are aggressively pursuing oversight of postal operations after President Donald Trump railed against mail-in ballots. — AP

WORKING FOR TRUMPS A ‘MISTAKE’, SAYS EX-ADVISER TO FIRST LADY

Washington, Sept. 1: A former friend and adviser of Melania Trump says it was “the worst mistake of my life” to work for President Donald Trump and his family, lashing out at the first lady for not defending her over questions about costs for the presidential inauguration she helped produce.

Stephanie Winston Wolkoff was an unpaid White House adviser to the first lady until February 2018, when her contract was terminated as questions about inaugural spending arose. “When it really counted, Melania wasn’t there for me,” Wolkoff writes in “Melania and Me: The Rise and Fall of My Friendship with the First Lady,” to be published Tuesday. “She wasn’t really my friend. In fact, I wish I had never met her,” Wolkoff said. Wolkoff, a New York-based event planner, said the pair first met in 2003 in the hallways of *Vogue* magazine. — AP

us all,” a woman told a *CBS News* reporter in tears. “Why are you all here?” Who are you protecting? The latest murder came as US President Donald Trump headed to Kenosha, Wisconsin on Tuesday, where police shot PoC father Jacob Blake seven times in the back on August 23, leaving

him paralysed from the waist down.

Blake’s shooting sparked further grief and protests three months after George Floyd suffocated below the knee of a white policeman in Minneapolis in May, paving the way for the most widespread civil unrest in the US since the 1960s. — Agencies

city centre on the fourth week of mass protests rocking the country. Belarusian media reported that at least 18 students were detained as police moved to break up the crowd. President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed the protesters as Western puppets and bristled at the demands for him to step down after 26 years in power or start a dialogue with the opposition.

After a ferocious crackdown on demonstrators in the first days after the August 9 vote that caused international outrage, his government has avoided large-scale violence against demonstrators and sought to end the protests with threats and the selective jailing of activists. Several organisers of strikes at top industrial plants have been detained.

On Tuesday, people started

gathering near several large plants in support of the striking workers. Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe against the opposition Coordination Council, accusing its members of undermining the country’s security. Last week, the country’s courts handed 10-day jail sentences to two union members and summoned several others for questioning. — AP

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DECCAN Chronicle

2 SEPTEMBER 2020

Only long-term measures can resuscitate economy

Little over four years ago, then International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde billed India as a bright spot in the gloomy global economy. Notwithstanding the fact that the Indian economy shone majorly because of cheaper crude oil, all of us felt euphoric. Hearts swelled with pride and a sense of reinvention. Within the next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched his googlies, demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax. Instead of launching the economy into a geostationary orbit of the global economy, the government's twin mistakes sent it into a free fall. The Covid-19 pandemic has finally taken the Indian economy to a journey of the netherworld. The government finally admitted that the economy had shrunk 23.4 per cent in the quarter ended on June 30 — the worst performing economy among the top 50 countries.

Does it mean an end to the economic growth story of India? Definitely not! The people of this country are smart enough to set right things. However, the journey of the Indian economy over the last four years — from being the bright spot in the global economy to the worst performer among 50 countries — gives a vivid commentary on the economic policy of the central government. The economic crisis during the UPA-2 government was attributed to policy paralysis. And if one were to pick one phrase to describe the economic failure under the current regime, it would be “impulsive policy”. Be it demonetisation or the rollout of the GST or lock-down, the government went after headline-grabbing policies without adequate preparedness to handle the consequences of those decisions. The result is a big mess-up.

The lockdown was not per se a wrong decision. Several countries have effectively implemented the lockdown to control the coronavirus pandemic. But implementing blindly what other foreign countries did without taking into consideration the uniqueness of India was wrong. Perhaps, top officials might not know that the majority of Indian families have hand-to-mouth existence. One wonders how the ministers, who grew up in middle-class backgrounds, could have forgotten this stark reality of India. How did the ministers expect that crores of such people remain locked in without money and food? Had the government transferred some cash to all families, the lockdown could have been successful. But the Narendra Modi government dithered in taking this step. With state elections on the horizon, the government did not stop guest workers from returning home. This fatal error helped the coronavirus spread to smaller towns and rural India, making containment of the pandemic much more difficult and potentially pushing lakhs of people into poverty.

With large swathes of the economy, involving businesses such as hospitality, events, weddings, tourism, entertainment, travel in a virtual coma, the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) or the size of the economy cannot be expected to reach pre-Covid levels immediately. There is nothing that the government can do in the short term to resuscitate the economy. Two things that the government could do are: Not deploying smokescreens to make everything look hunky-dory, and adopting a transparent and consultative approach in framing the economic policy.

Bhushan's choice

It is no precedent in terms of redefining the law, nor is it an example of judicial statesmanship — an exercise that the respondent in the Supreme Court's 2020 suo motu contempt of court petition had prayed for before the court. But the much-publicised sentence of a ₹1 fine in menacing conjunction with the nasty threat — of a three-month jail sentence and disbarment — that failed to conceal or disguise the intent of intimidation nor the old-style, passive-aggressive conservatism of its writers — coming as it did in 82 thick leaves pursuant to a 108-page judgment — during a lockdown when thousands of urgent petitions desperately awaited their audience — nonetheless spells hope. It holds the promise that the citizen's right to free speech may yet emerge morally victorious. Should their view carry genuine weight, its opponents will blink, and expose themselves.

This is despite the fact that Mr Bhushan is a privileged man. None other than the attorney general of India spoke for him. His name carries influence in the bar association circles. As it transpired, the conclusion to the case was plain for what it was — a crafty manoeuvre by the bench — of Justices Arun Mishra, B.R. Gavai, and Krishna Murari — to beat a hasty retreat after biting of more than it could chew. Perhaps Justice Mishra and his brother judges had made an error of judgement in taking suo motu cognisance of contempt in response to advocate Mahek Maheshwari's petition in the first place. It is widely believed that Mr Bhushan, in fact, did a service to the judiciary by calling attention to his misgivings. This newspaper opined that the bench was in contempt of justice by pronouncing him guilty. And the bench went on to prove it right!

In sentencing Mr Bhushan to the token fine, the bench had aimed for the high moral ground. It ended up making a mockery of itself. There was much mirth over photos of Mr Bhushan's advocate, Rajeev Dhawan, comically presenting him a one-rupee coin, post the announcement. Kudos to Mr Bhushan for displaying grace under pressure, not giving in to the impulse for drama — of being seen braving imprisonment and discredit — but paying the fine cheerfully as he had promised to. He reserved the right to file a review petition. His next move remains unpredictable.

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Subhani



Delimitation next stop in govt's Kashmir project

Riyaz Wani

Ever since Narendra Modi government stripped J&K of its semi-autonomous status in August last, the decision has invariably been explained as the outcome of the BJP's push to fulfil its longstanding ideological agenda and electoral promise. It was certainly about that but only in a rhetorical sense. In its implementation on the ground since then, the decision has come across as an elaborate and minutely-thought-through plan of action that seeks to fundamentally alter the facts on the ground to end the lingering conflict on this side of the Line of Control. And in that sense the withdrawal of the former state's special status and the actions undertaken over the past year form an ambitiously envisioned alternative settlement formula for Kashmir.

This formula is not about resolving the Kashmir issue as we know it: a dispute between India and Pakistan going back to Partition and the one arising from a decades-long separatist struggle in the region. There is no plan underway to talk to Pakistan or to the dissenting political and militant groups in J&K to arrive at a solution. On the contrary, the effort is to enforce a unilateral solution — a merger of J&K into India — without taking Kashmiris or Pakistanis on board.

And this solution, if we go by the constitutional and legal changes ushered in over the last year, operates along two axes: one, a demographic shift being brought about by throwing J&K open to settlement by outsiders and another by altering the nature of the political representation through the delimitation of the constituencies that has already been initiated.

According to new domicile law, issued on April 1, anyone who has

been a resident of Kashmir for 15 years will get the residency rights. The law applies retrospectively. For central government officials, the period is 10 years and for students it is only seven years. According to 2011 census there are 28 lakh migrant labourers in J&K other than lakhs of security personnel and thousands of central government employees, a significant number of whom have become eligible for residency rights should they wish to settle down in the former state.

As for the delimitation, the BJP has made no secret of its desire to enhance the number of Assembly seats to Jammu region. Before J&K's bifurcation into two Union territories — J&K and Ladakh — its Assembly had 87 seats of which predominantly Muslim majority Kashmir Valley had 47 seats, Hindu majority Jammu 37 and the now separated Ladakh with a slim Muslim majority four seats. Now according to the delimitation, that in normal course was due to be held in 2026, seven new seats are being added to the Assembly, most of which, if not all, are expected to go to Jammu.

This has the potential to shift the region's political centre away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu, turning in the words of J&K's former finance minister Haseeb Drabu “a demographic majority into a political minority”. Of the 13.6 million living in J&K, according to Census 2011, 68.3 per cent are

Delimitation has the potential to shift the region's political centre away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu, turning in the words of Haseeb Drabu 'a demographic majority into a political minority'

Other than the main aim of eradication of separatist struggle, the withdrawal of J&K autonomy and legislative changes introduced since have a larger objective: to reclaim Kashmir from Islam

Muslim and Hindus are 30 per cent. While Kashmir is 97 per cent Muslim, Jammu is 65 per cent Hindu and 31 per cent Muslim.

The simultaneously applied twin policies of the progressive dilution of the existing demographic composition and the shift in political representation away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu is geared to contain and eventually stamp out the separatism in Kashmir. First, a demographically altered J&K evenly split between Muslims and Hindus and slowly on way to becoming a Hindu majority is deemed to commensurately reduce the footprint of separatist resistance, marginalising it to a point of little more than a pinprick. Second, a J&K government where Hindu majority Jammu is an equal stakeholder and later probably a majority partner will be decisively aligned against separatism, unlike the existing Kashmir-dominated political structure that is largely perceived to be playing to separatist sentiment in the Valley and parts of Muslim dominated areas of Jammu.

Other than the main aim of eradication of separatist struggle, the withdrawal of J&K autonomy and the legislative changes introduced since then are understood to have a larger civilisational objective: to reclaim, what some observers in the Valley contend, Kashmir from Islam. In RSS imaginary, the seven centuries of Muslim history are an aberration and it is time the region returned to its civilisational motherhood.

These are ambitious aims and the BJP knows it. That is why it revoked the Article 370 within the first three months of its second

term so that it gets the sufficient time to implement the plan. Over the past year, Modi government has been in a tearing hurry to bring one after another legislative and administrative measure to cast Kashmir in a premeditated image, the PM Modi has called Naya Kashmir. In its way, however, will be the anticipated lingering resistance in the Valley, Pakistan's recurrent roadblocks and many a geopolitical complication. But after going the whole hog with erasing the former state's autonomy and bifurcating it into federally administered areas — J&K and Ladakh — there will possibly be no looking back for New Delhi under Modi. Its goal will be to lead its Kashmir project to its logical conclusion in the remaining period of its term. So, contrary to expectations among some sections of people in Kashmir, the statehood for J&K may not be restored anytime soon. The reason is this gives central government a direct control over the region and, in turn, freedom to make any administrative or legislative changes to accomplish its goal within the time-frame of its ongoing tenure.

Tailpiece: On July 20 last year, just a fortnight before the withdrawal of Article 370 that granted J&K its semi-autonomous within India, defence minister Rajnath Singh on his visit to Kargil War Memorial in Drass sector declared that the resolution of Kashmir issue was on the cards and that “no power on the earth can stop it”. At the time Mr Singh shared no details about this solution. But the situation since has made it amply clear what he meant. The BJP is out to execute its own extreme version of Kashmir solution in the teeth of Pakistan and resistance in Kashmir. And if its actions over the past year are anything to go by, it seems to have already covered a lot of ground.

The writer is a freelance journalist based out of Kashmir. He has received the Ramnath Goenka and Mumbai Press Club awards for his reportage.

LETTERS

ENDED IN A WHIMPER

Thanks to the Supreme Court imposing a fine of ₹1 on Prashant Bhushan for contempt, the tug-of-war has come to an end. The apex court deserves to be complimented for giving sufficient time (September 15) to the lawyer-activist to make arrangements for the ‘huge’ fine amount. Ideally, the court should have offered him the EMI option, considering the all-pervasive cash crunch.

P.G. Menon
Chennai

PRASHANT'S CONVICTION

There is no reason for Prashant Bhushan to feel elated and excited about the fine imposed on of him as the SC would have considered that ₹1 is just enough to match with his mental and intellectual worth and standard. However, the truth that he is an offender against the judiciary has become a part of history.

V. Rakesh Kaushik,
Chennai

GREAT CHESS TEAM

Kudos to the Indian Chess team for winning the Chess Olympiad on Sunday. More than 3 decades ago, the world Junior Chess Championship win had motivated Viswanathan Anand to scale greater heights. Likewise, this 2020 Olympiad triumph would be a big motivating factor for youngsters like Rameshbabu Pragganand and Nirmal Saran to go for good. As we all know, it was only after 1983 Cricket Word Cup win by our Kapil's Devils that youngsters started following cricket and they repeated the 1983 performance under Dhoni's leadership in 2011. Hope this Chess Olympiad win too would motivate more youngsters to play chess and scale heights.

N.V. Krishnan,
Chennai

THANK YOU, HC

DR KAFEEL KHAN, who paid for oxygen cylinders himself and saved many children in Gorakhpur hospital tragedy in 2017, was booked under the stringent National Security Act for alleged hate speech at the AMU over anti-CAA protests. The Allahabad high court on Tuesday revoked NSA charges and directed the state government to release him. This exposes the UP government's vindictive attitude towards a particular community.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

DON'T UNLOCK

INDIA IS the largest population cluster after China and a sitting duck for the coronavirus. With a time lag of two months on first incidence, the case count is peaking now. With poor history of expenditure outlay in health infra, we clearly could not leverage this vital lag for readying matching medical services.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Dilip Cherian



Dilli Ka Babu

Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been named the new election commissioner. He replaces Ashok Lavasa, who is leaving to join the Asian Development Bank as vice-president. While Sunil Arora is the chief election commissioner, the other election commissioner is Sushil Chandra.

The importance of this announcement lies in the fact that Rajiv Kumar will likely be CEC during the next general elections in 2024! The current CEC Sunil Arora's tenure will end in April next year, following which Sushil Chandra will replace him as the next CEC. Chandra's term will end in May 2022, paving the way for Rajiv Kumar.

Rajiv Kumar has more than 30 years experience in public policy

and administration in several sectors. He was appointed finance secretary in July last year and his stint ended earlier this year in February. He is known to have worked on many key aspects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan of financial inclusion through such flagship policies as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Mudra loan scheme, among others.

LATERAL ENTRY IN CAT SOUP It's hard to keep a whistleblower and internationally lauded babu down. The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has issued notices to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Uttarakhand government alleging that the scheme for lateral entry into bureaucracy is flawed and biased.

The notices follow an application by Indian Forest Service officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi seeking quashing of the 360-degree appraisal system and restraining the Centre from filling up joint secretary-level posts through the “contract system”.

Sources say that the case dates to 2017 when the Modi sarkar initiated the process for lateral entry into bureaucracy on a contract basis. Following this, the Centre appointed nine professionals, including actor Manoj Bajpai's brother Sujit Kumar Bajpai, from the private sector as joint secretaries in the central government in 2019.

Stating that the present system of recruitment of joint secretary level post through contract system is completely arbitrary and irrational, Mr Chaturvedi said that the

documents obtained under RTI Act, prima facie reveal certain serious irregularities, which needs to be investigated objectively by an appropriate agency.

SOME BABUS DO RETIRE BUT NOT FOR LONG

Retired senior babus rarely fade away into the sunset, they line up for other plum jobs in the government. In Himachal Pradesh, according to sources, several retired bureaucrats are among those who have applied for the post of chairman and member in the HP Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority. They include ex-IAS, IPS and IFS officers. These posts have fallen vacant following the completion of the tenure of K.K. Katoch as chairman and S.P. Katyal as member.

Further, now that the state government is setting up the state food commission, which will be notified soon, several retired bureaucrats are reportedly already lined up to get a posting here.

Similarly, many senior IAS and IPS officers, including retired chief secretaries and DGP-rank officers, have applied for the post of member in the Information Commission. Intense lobbying is reportedly underway, which underlines how the babu-neta nexus works in the country, whether at the Centre or in the states. Watch this space for updates.

*Share a babu experience!
Follow dilipthecherian
@Twitter.com. Let's
multiply the effect.*

Kumar, the new EC, is likely to run 2024 polls

SHORT TAKE

My uncle was murdered: Raina

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

In an effort to put to rest intense speculations over his surprise IPL pullout, Suresh Raina on Tuesday took to Twitter to say he was grieving his relatives who were murdered in a midnight robbery. The recently-retired cricketer didn't, however, specify that was the exact reason for his leaving the Chennai Super Kings' camp. Ever since he took a red-eye to reach India last weekend, various reports have claimed there was 'a serious bubble breach', 'team rift' and a 'hotel room issue' that led to Raina's return. A day after CSK boss N. Srinivasan issued a denial saying his comments on Raina were wrongly attributed, the cricketer said his uncle was murdered in a "horrible" incident in Pathankot (Punjab). The incident happened two days before Raina landed in the UAE. "What happened to my family is Punjab was beyond horrible. My uncle was slaughtered to death, my bua & both my cousins had severe injuries. Unfortunately, my cousin also passed away last night after battling for life for days. My bua is still very very critical and is on life support (sic)," Raina tweeted. Raina also requested the Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh to look into the matter. "Till date, we don't know what exactly had happened that night & who did this. I request @PunjabPoliceInd to look into this matter. We at least deserve to know who did this heinous act to them."

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ON NEW TURF

Chennaiyin coach Csaba wants to start and finish on a high

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

Newly appointed Chennaiyin FC coach Csaba Laszlo knows he has a lot of challenges on his first assignment in Asia. The 56-year-old Hungarian has travelled the world, coaching low-budget clubs and national teams, but the ISL presents a unique opportunity. "My biggest strength is the ability to adapt to new cultures. Adaptation means respecting the local football culture. If you don't, you can't achieve success. From Hungary to Uganda and back to Europe, I have seen different styles of football," said Csaba. Csaba said he will not try to make drastic changes in the way the team plays. "For example, instead of following a particular formation, I will try to find a formation that suits our players. I follow my head and instinct, but I never try to imitate others," added Csaba.

Excerpts:

You are Chennaiyin's third head coach in the last 12 months. The eventful phase has witnessed a few ups and downs and some key personnel have left the team. As the new head coach, what will be your biggest challenge?

It's important to stabilise the team. We need consistency in performance. We want to start high and finish high. Even though it's just six years since its inception, Chennaiyin have a rich history and fans expect the team to repeat their good performance. We also have to meet our own expectations. The club has a vision. Though a majority of the players have been retained, I have to accept that those who have left the team recently occupied important positions. But we are working on the rebuilding process and soon, the new faces will be revealed to the fans.

I think we are the only team in ISL working with a lot of Indian players. Getting the best out of this bunch of local players, helping lift their performance to the



My biggest strength is the ability to adapt to new cultures. Adaptation means respecting the local football culture. If you don't, you can't achieve success. From Hungary to Uganda and back to Europe, I have seen different styles of football. For example, instead of following a particular formation, I will try to find a formation that suits our players.

— Csaba Laszlo, new CFC coach

next level and identifying new talent will be my biggest challenges.

Your exhaustive CV suggests that you have worked with a lot of low budget teams and groomed a lot of youngsters. Can we expect the same here?

In my previous assignment in Romania, I unearthed two players who had never been noticed in the squad until then. Today, both have come up through the ranks. According to the transfer market,

those two are among the most expensive players in Romania. If I see someone with talent, I will definitely make full use of them. Even though I have won the best manager award in two of the leagues I have worked with, I would say identifying talent has been my biggest achievement.

What would you call your brand of coaching?

I am an organised person. I always have an idea of what to do and how to execute that. I am

enthusiastic and believe in discipline. I give players the liberty to show their creativity and innovation. At the same time, I expect players to be responsible.

During your stint with the Lithuania national team, you had worked with former Chennaiyin star striker Nerijus Valskis, last year's top-scorer. He has left the team...

I know Valskis very well. When I was coaching Lithuania, he was an upcoming player in a team of established names. He went out and played in Romania and Israel. To be the highest goalscorer in a league is a great achievement. But you need a good team to get those assists. I was happy when a Lithuanian won the golden boot last season. He has moved on to another team, following coach Owen Coyle. We have to find a good replacement. Also, our target is to find a player like Andre Schembri who can give assists. Another big challenge will be to find a centre-back who can be as lethal as Lucian Goian. It's like a puzzle. For a pretty picture, you need to get all those pieces in the right place. We are working on it.

Do you expect to play a role in future player signings? And would you like to see Goian retained, at least as a member of the support staff?

It's for the management to decide. I know Goian was a great leader at Chennaiyin. I don't know what Goian wants to do now, I haven't met him in Romania. My task is to find a replacement.

On Chennaiyin's tremendous fan following: Apart from Chennaiyin's on-field performance, the fact that the club is showcasing local talent is the reason for its growing popularity in the region. If you look at my coaching career, I have always remained popular even after leaving certain clubs. I value fans' emotions. As a professional coach, you develop emotions with the club/city if you are able to achieve success.

CSK set to start training on Sept. 4

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

After a series of setbacks, Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday moved a step closer to kicking off their IPL preparations. While the 13 Coronavirus-infected members, including two players, who are staying in a separate hotel in isolation will be tested only after the mandatory 14-day quarantine period, the rest of the team cleared another test on Tuesday.

Chennai Super Kings CEO K.S. Viswanathan said there will be one more test on Thursday. "Only after we get the test result on Friday can we confirm the training date. Hopefully, we will be able to hit the ground this weekend. Two players who are currently in isolation can join later if they clear the tests," Viswanathan told this newspaper.

While their rivals have already begun their preparations, CSK are in an extended room quarantine. Viswanathan said the support staff, led by coach Stephen Fleming and his deputy Michael Hussey, are engaging players in online sessions.

"Apart from that, our trainer and physio are giving instructions over Zoom calls on how to train indoors," said Viswanathan.

Viswanathan said Super Kings will definitely play warm-up games if the organisers can arrange them. "I think all the teams want to play some warm-up games," he added.

The CSK team management hasn't decided if they need a replacement for Suresh Raina, who has returned to India.

BHAJJJI'S ARRIVAL
DELAYED

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh who was expected to join the CSK camp on Tuesday has delayed his arrival. While



CSK bowler Deepak Chahar works out in his room.

speculation is rife that Harbhajan is in a dilemma over going to Dubai, Viswanathan said the bowler hadn't said no yet.

"He said he would let us know (arrival date) by tomorrow. We are expecting him by the end of this week," he said.

Meanwhile, South Africans Faf du Plessis and Lungi Ngidi joined the CSK bio-bubble on Tuesday.

Imran Tahir, Sam Curran, Josh Hazlewood, Dwayne Bravo and Mitchell Santner are expected to reach Dubai after the conclusion of the Caribbean Premier League and England-Australia ODI series.

I WILL BE IN ACTION
SOON: CHAHAR

Deepak Chahar, who is in quarantine after testing positive, said on Tuesday that he was recovering. "Hopefully, I will be back in action soon.

"I am better now and trying my best to keep myself fit. Thanks for your wishes," said Chahar in a video posted on his social media handle.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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