

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 30.2°C
Min: 23.0°C
RH: 78%
Rainfall: 0.6 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 30/23 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+93,730)	(+1,158)
46,53,455	77,462
covid19india.org	
(+2,426)	(+13)
TS: 1,52,602	940
(+9,999)	(+77)
AP: 5,47,686	4,779

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

CASES AROUND THE WORLD	DEATHS
2,85,18,579	
9,16,777	
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES	213
worldometers.info/coronavirus	

ASTROGUIDE
Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrabada Bahula Dasami till 4.12 am (Sunday)
Star: Ardra till 4.18 pm
Variyam: 4.22 am to 5.58 am (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.07 am to 7.44 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 23, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.03 am
Zohar: 12.22 pm
Asar: 4.33 pm
Magrib: 6.26 pm
Isha: 7.35 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.20 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.03 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 2.17 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 12.44 PM

COUNTER POINT



There will be a heated debate... their temperature is more than 100 degrees!

IN BRIEF

Swami Agnivesh passes away
New Delhi: Social activist Swami Agnivesh, who was suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time, died of multi-organ failure at a Delhi hospital on Friday, doctors said. He was 80. His last rites will be performed on Saturday at Agnileok Ashram in Behelpa, Gurgaon at 4 pm. Before that, his body will be kept at his office in 7, Jantar Mantar Road. He was admitted to an ICU of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

■ Report on Page 7

DIGITAL DEADLINE

BJP ministers, CMs, MPs, local leaders busy to meet 'target'

1 million Happy Birthday selfies for PM

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Across the BJP echelons, Union ministers, chief ministers, parliamentarians and local leaders are in a digital scramble to achieve a humongous target: Reaching out to people to shoot and share, "voluntarily", at least one million 'happy birthday' selfie videos for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With just one week to go for September 17, the BJP IT cell is frantically coordinating the digital drive, ensuring that the birthday



WORLD | 8

Russian, Chinese hackers target US polls: Microsoft



SPORTS | 9

It's Osaka vs Azarenka in US Open final

TABLOID

Kangana mocks Sonam's sympathy



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India objects to China hiking troop presence

China sees ties at 'crossroads' after 5-point joint statement

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 11

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar conveyed India's "strong concerns" to Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi on the "massing of Chinese troops" and their "provocative behaviour" along the Line of Actual Control that had "created flash-points" and also emphasised that "the immediate task is to ensure a comprehensive disengagement of troops in all the friction areas", government sources said.

The two countries finally agreed publicly in a joint statement on "five points" — including that the current situation in border areas is "not in the interest of either side" and that the border troops of both sides should "continue their dialogue, quickly disengage, maintain proper distance and ease tensions and avoid any action that could escalate matters".

The big question that remains is whether this five-point consensus will actually translate into de-



External affairs minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi after a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Moscow on Thursday. — PTI

escalation on the ground. At the "frank and constructive" bilateral meeting between the ministers in Moscow late on Thursday night that lasted for two and a half hours, Mr Jaishankar also told the Chinese minister India "would not countenance any attempt to change the status quo unilaterally" and that China "had not provided

any credible explanation" for its unilateral massing of troops that violated existing bilateral agreements, the sources added. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow.

It was also conveyed by New Delhi that "an urgent resolution of the

current situation was in the interest of both nations". The five points mentioned in the Sino-Indian joint statement after the meeting also included working on "new confidence-building measures", continuing talks and following the "consensus" reached by the political leadership of the two countries earlier of "not allowing differences to become disputes".

According to Chinese diplomatic sources, Mr Wang said bilateral ties are at a "crossroads", but "the Chinese side is willing to support enhanced dialogue between the frontier troops on both sides to resolve specific issues".

Meanwhile, the five-point Sino-Indian joint statement said: "The two sides agreed to continue to have dialogue and communication through the special representative mechanism on the India-China boundary question. ... The ministers agreed that as the situation eases, the two sides should expedite work to conclude new confidence-building measures...".

UP TO 130 CASES ARE MISSED FOR EVERY +VE TEST

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Forty per cent of the Indian population is already exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus but there are 80 to 130 missed cases for every confirmed case of Covid-19 in India. In contrast, the daily count places the caseload at 46,53,455 on Friday.

These missing cases are mixture of asymptomatic, mild, severe and deaths. The US is estimated to have 10 missed cases for every one confirmed case.

The missed cases have been evaluated by the Indian Council of Medical Research in its sero survey findings from May-June. Missed cases are also due to the fact that only those who had symptoms of severe and acute respiratory infection were tested.

There was also a large variation in testing methodology across the states. Tests were carried out only for those who showed symptoms and their contacts but community testing was not carried out which would give the exact idea of the spread.

Green zones will be notified and maintained in towns and cities after the survey, he said. All forest land will be placed under the auto-lock till the completion of the survey.

The Chief Minister was speaking during a debate after the introduction of a slew of land reform legislation — Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Bill

Land survey best solution to end disputes, says CM

CM: LAST CHANCE FOR POOR TO REGULARISE LAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday said that a comprehensive land survey is the best solution to end land disputes. Once the exercise is complete and each survey number tagged with geographical coordinates, all land issues will become clear.

After the survey, land will categorised as agriculture and non-agriculture. A maroon colour property card will be issued to non-agriculture land owners to carry out transactions and enlist family members. Green colour pattadar passbooks have already been issued to farmers and the names of their family members can be incorporated in two months.

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ENDOWMENT, WAKF LANDS NOT TO BE REGISTERED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday said the government was giving one last chance to slum dwellers and the poor to regularise their houses by extending an earlier scheme. He was responding to requests from MIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi and TRS member Danam Nagender for regularisation of encroachments on government and notarised land.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao said this while replying to a debate on the New Revenue Bill in the House. The government will issue orders to this effect by Saturday.

■ Full report on Page 2

and the Telangana Abolition of the Posts of Village Revenue Officers Bill, Telangana Municipal Laws Amendment Bill and the Telangana Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill 2020.

Clearing apprehensions over hiring a private agency to survey land, Rao said it would be supervised by the government. The 'Dharani'

portal, the repository of all data, will be under the government and will have safeguards.

Rao said that through Rythu Bandhu scheme,

the government had found that there were no disputes over 1,45,58,000 acres agricultural land with 57.9 lakh farmers.

■ Page 2: After survey, land data to be uploaded

CONGRESS DROPS DISSENTERS

New Delhi, Sept. 11: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday dropped Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ambika Soni,

as AICC general secretaries, but retained them in the crucial CWC. ■ Full report on Page 7

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DIGITAL DEADLINE

BJP ministers, CMs, MPs, local leaders busy to meet 'target'

1 million Happy Birthday selfies for PM

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

wishes pour in like an avalanche, with the hashtag #HappyBirthdayModiji where not only will citizens greet him but also reflect on how his leadership has changed India, how it has helped them and how hopeful they are about the future — the country's as well as their own.

The million videos will have to showcase unity in diversity — people across the demographic stretch and divides of religion, caste, region, location, social and educational range, age, gender, language — and the IT cell

expects people to send their messages in different languages but with the same message: Everyone loves Modi ji.</p

SHORT TAKES

HC QUESTIONS GHMC ON USE OF PLASTIC, FLEXIS

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

The Telangana High Court asked the GHMC how it is permitting the erection of flexis and vinyl banners made with plastic, which is prohibited. The court was responding to a PIL which complained of inaction of the civic body in controlling the use of plastic in flexis.

The High Court expressed its anger and directed the GHMC to submit an action-taken report on what it had done to stop the manufacture and usage of plastic and flexis. The petitioner alleged that plastic hoardings, flexies and banners were found in public places including roads, streetlight poles, flyovers, bus shelters and government offices.

32-YR-OLD MAN UNDERGOES DOUBLE LUNG TRANSPLANT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

A double lung transplant was carried out at the KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad, on a 32-year-old man from Chandigarh who had recovered from Covid-19. His lung condition before contracting SARS-CoV-2 was bad and contracted the infection while waiting time for a lung.

A double lung transplant was the only permanent cure for him. Dr Sandeep Attawar, thoracic organ transplantation surgeon at the KIMS Heart and Lung Transplant Institute, said, "Fortunately a match was found in a brain dead patient in Kolkata whose lungs were harvested and airlifted to Hyderabad. The operation is tedious as the patient was very sick, under-nourished and bedridden before transplant. Post discharge, he will require close monitoring for six weeks."

AFTER SURVEY, LAND DATA TO BE UPLOADED

From Page 1

The data from Rythu Bandhu scheme could be straightaway uploaded on the Dharani portal.

Another 89.47 lakh properties in local bodies had been digitised. This data would go on to the portal. Data on the remaining land would be uploaded after completion of the survey.

The Chief Minister said the data of farmers having Recognition of Forest Rights would be on the portal. Regarding Podu lands, he said that the government was considering issuing rights to the farmers for one time and then prohibiting Podu cultivation.

He asked the ministers for SC and ST welfare to hold meetings with Dalit MLAs of all parties and list recommendations for protection of rights of Dalit farmers having assigned lands.

He rejected the request of CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for continuation of the 'enjoyer' column in the revenue records, saying it was incorporated to protect tenant farmers from jagirdars and zamindars.

He said there were 87 revenue Acts in the state and the government had repealed only two. There is no scope for the Zama Bandi system now.

The tribunals which will replace the revenue courts will be headed by retired and in-service IAS officers. They will be abolished after resolving the 16,000-odd land disputes.

After the reply of the Chief Minister, the House passed the Bills which introduced by the Chief Minister, industries minister K.T. Rama Rao and panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao.

Well done sir

TRS MLAs and ministers congratulate Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao after the new Land Revenue Bill was passed in the Assembly on Friday.

Cong favours land record digitisation**CM asked to protect people in 'enjoyer' column**

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday said that the party supported the state government for digitalisation of revenue records.

He requested Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to protect the people whose names were in the 'enjoyer' column for the protection of their rights. With the deletion of the column under the new law, farmers cultivating lands adjacent to rivers seasonally and tenant farmers would be deprived of compensation in the event of crop loss, and also face difficulty in getting crop loans.

Participating in the debate on the new Revenue Bill, Mallu Bhatti stressed the need for continuation of the annual joint inspection of village revenue records by revenue and irrigation officials and the 'Zama Bandi' carried by the RDO.

He said that there was a lot of variation with regard to the actual extent of land and what was shown in the records. Expressing concern at the possibility of the Dharani portal being hacked, he suggested the physical records be maintained.

Referring to the difficulties of farmers tilling assigned land, the CLP alleged that the government was snatching away their land. A number of farmers in Khammam district as well as in other parts of state were worried about their rights as their lands were shown as non-agriculture lands and they were not being issued pattadar passbooks.

At this stage the Chief Minister intervened and took exception to the allegation of snatching away of assigned lands. Rao said assigned lands are taken only when required for pub-

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

AKBAR ASKS GOVT TO PROTECT WAKF LAND

Expressing serious concern over the increasing illegal encroachments of Wakf, endowments and temple trust lands, MIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi on Friday demanded that the state government take steps to protect the properties and also take stringent action against those who encroached upon the land.

Participating in the debate on the new Revenue Bill, Mallu Bhatti stressed the need for continuation of the annual joint inspection of village revenue records by revenue and irrigation officials and the 'Zama Bandi' carried by the RDO.

He urged the Chief Minister to consider their cases sympathetically and give them a chance for regularisation by collecting nominal fees in view of lack of income post-Covid-19.

He suggested creation of green zones in Greater Hyderabad, which was spreading at a fast pace. He sought the government to incorporate provisions under the New Act, which can enable for rectification of wrong entries of land records in the proposed Dharani web portal.

He suggested that the Chief Minister put an end to the registration of Wakf and temple lands by bringing new Acts.

Stating that out of 22 lakh houses in the limits of

lic purposes, after paying suitable compensation.

The CLP leader asked the state government to clarify to the people the date of commencement of land survey, the method and duration. He said the government should continue with the VRO system till the completion of the survey.

He asked the government whether it will conduct

grama sabhas to educate farmers about the survey whether time would be given to them to raise objections before the details are uploaded on Dharani.

Congress MLA D. Sridhar Babu, TRS MLAs G. Balraj, Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy, D. Nagender and BJP MLA Raja Singh participated in the debate.

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lic purposes, after paying suitable compensation.

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In case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website www.pspcl.in and https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

Dy.CESS (Design), PSPCL, Patiala.

Email ID: se-ss-design@pspcl.in

C-295/2020 RO: U75787

This notification is issued for payment of compensation to land owners under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013). As per G.O. No.35, Dated: 30-06-2017, Irrigation and CAD Deptt has exempted this project from the social impact assessment (public opinion) and tool security section 10A.

Therefore it is notified for the above said project in Rajgopalpet Village in Nangnor Mandal, Siddipet District land measuring Ac. 4.02 gts. whose detailed description is as follows under acquisition.

SCHEDULE

Village : Rajgopalpet Mandal : Nangnor District : Siddipet

Survey No. Type of Land Patta Area under Survey No. Name of the Possessor/ concerned person of the land address

E W N S Boundaries

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1 407 Dry Patta 0.08 Poosa Kanakai S/o Pochala

2 407 Dry Patta 0.12 Poosa Ravinder S/o Pochala

3 407 Dry Patta 0.08 Poosa Srinivas S/o Malaiyah

4 407 Dry Patta 0.11 Poosa Kanakai S/o Pochala

5 408 Dry Patta 0.05 Poosa Malaiyah S/o Bondaiah

6 408 Dry Patta 0.04 Poosa Aagaiah S/o Pochala

7 406 Dry Patta 0.03 Poosa Srinivas S/o Malaiyah

8 408 Dry Patta 0.04 Poosa Rajah S/o Aagaiah

9 409 Dry Patta 0.10 Farooq Hussain Farooq Hussain

10 316 Dry Patta 0.02 1. Perant Ramulu S/o Narsala 2. Perant Mallesham S/o Narsala 3. Perant S/o Narsala 4. Perant Yadagiri S/o Narsala 5. Perant Anjaneyulu S/o Narsala

11 368 Dry Patta 0.07 1. Nethi Srinivas S/o Malaiyah 2. Md. Ajem S/o

12 314 Dry Patta 0.12 1. Nethi Srinivas S/o Malaiyah 2. Md. Ajem S/o

13 315 Dry Patta 0.19 1. Nethi Srinivas S/o Malaiyah 2. Md. Ajem S/o

14 313 Dry Patta 0.25 1. Nethi Srinivas S/o Malaiyah 2. Md. Ajem S/o

15 321 Dry Patta 0.13 Pathi Gangaram S/o Pochala

16 321 Dry Patta 0.08 Kasturipali Bhoomanah S/o Rajah

17 282 Dry Patta 0.11 1. Kallepali Babu Raj S/o Rajah 2. Kallepali Ramulu S/o Rajah 3. Kallepali Srinu S/o Rajah

Total 4.02

This notification is issued for payment of compensation to land owners under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013).

A plan of the land may be inspected by all the concerned in the office of the Collector, Siddipet and Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-3, Siddipet on any working day during the office hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector, Siddipet is pleased to authorize Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-1, Siddipet and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil; do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector, Siddipet.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer.

Sd/- Talsildar, Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-1, Nangnor, Collector, L.A. Unit-1, Manda, Kaleshwaram Project

Dy.CESS (Design), PSPCL, Patiala.

Email ID: se-ss-design@pspcl.in

DIPR RO. No.587/LA/PP/2020-21

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IN BRIEF
Cops arrest man for murder

Hyderabad: The Central Zone Task Force on Friday arrested one Md Aslam Khan, 27, for the murder of a man in Khairatabad on Monday. Both the accused and the victim, Hasan, used to seek alms. They were handed over to the Saifabad police. Saifabad police said Aslam and Hasan used to beg on the streets and use their earnings to drink liquor and gamble. It was stated that Aslam killed Hasan over a dispute while gambling.

UoH, IIT-H SIGN MoU FOR TECH, RESEARCH

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) on Friday entered into a memorandum of understanding for collaborative teaching and research.

The aim of this MoU is to stimulate and facilitate the development of collaborative teaching and mutually beneficial research activities which serve for technical upliftment of both the institutions.

The objective of the MoU, they said, will be to undertake collaborative R&D and projects, to have joint publications arising out of collaborative work, and facilitating combined project investigators or co-investigators for national and international projects, among others.

The MoU was signed by Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT-H and P. Sardar Singh, Registrar, UoH, in the presence of Appa Rao Podile, UoH Vice Chancellor, and officials from both the institutions.

APPEAL TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON MACCA MASJID

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Moulana Rizwan Qureshi, the imam and khateeb of Macca Masjid, has clarified that the Juma prayer held with restrictions on the number of worshippers does not meet the standards of Sharia. Those who performed Juma prayer in the Macca Masjid should say the Zuhra salah (afternoon prayer) as precautionary atonement.

As per the Sharia, Muslims say the Juma prayer in place of the Zuhra prayer. Moulana Qureshi clarified that the Juma performed at the Macca Masjid did not fulfil the condition of Sharia because there should not any hindrance for any Muslim to attend the prayers.

One of the conditions of Juma prayers is Izn Aam (general permission for people to attend) as per Hanafi Fiqh (jurisprudence). It is not permissible to perform Juma until general permission for all to enter is given.

He said he had observed that the government had allowed only 50 worshippers for the Juma prayer and the gates were locked during the prayer in the masjid. It is his primary duty to guide his followers about the Fiqh rulings, Moulana Qureshi said.

He appealed to the authorities to relax certain restrictions and allow the worshippers to attend the prayers. He clarified in case restrictions continued then the worshippers who offer Juma prayers have to perform Zuhra prayers as well.

FLO PROJECT TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

The FICCI FLO, or the FICCI Ladies Organisation, Hyderabad Chapter on Friday, partnered with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at IIT-H to establish the FLOIncubator@CIE, IIT-H in an effort to empower women entrepreneurs and women-led start-ups.

The FLO Incubator will assist FLO members and women-led start-ups at early stages through talks and roundtables on emerging business models, strategies for scaling up, workshops and case studies and one-on-one mentoring and guidance sessions with expert mentors.

The FLO Incubator@CIE aims at facilitating 20+ women entrepreneurs with each cohort structured to run for one month, they said. The team built for the incubator comprises members from both FICCI FLO Hyderabad and CIE, IIT-H Hyderabad.

Sewage overflows



Sewage overflows on the main road since the past two days at AC Guards in Hyderabad troubling people on Friday.

— R. PAVAN

TS ECET 2020 results declared

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad declared the TS ECET results on Friday. Students can visit the official website of the TSCHE, ecet.tsche.ac.in, to check their result online and download their rank card.

A total of 25,448 candidates appeared for the exams from the 28,041 registered candidates. The total qualified percentage stands at 97.58. Women candidates outperformed men with 98.29 per cent of them qualifying as compared to

● **TO CHECK** their results, candidates must go to ecet.tsche.ac.in, click on the link 'TS ECET Result 2020', enter the hall ticket number, date of birth and other details as sought and submit.

97.30 per cent for males. To check their results, candidates must go to ecet.tsche.ac.in, click on the link 'TS ECET Result 2020', enter the hall ticket number, date of birth and other details as sought and submit. Students can download the scorecard and rank card and take prints.

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1. A postgraduate degree from a reputed college
2. 5 years' or more experience as a personnel secretary to a CEO, preferably in a corporate hospital
3. Proficiency in spoken & written English and spoken Telugu & Urdu/Hindi
4. Outstanding communication & negotiation abilities
5. Proficiency in Microsoft Office & 'back-office' software (e.g., ERP)
6. In-depth knowledge of office management & basic accounting procedures
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8. Strong people skills
9. Integrity & confidentiality

Qualified candidates may send their resume by: Friday, September 25, 2020 to: dralifoundation@icloud.com

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TeleFax: 0129-22/272142

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2. Junior Accounts Officer (Group B) - Level-6
3. Junior Accountant (Group 'C') Level-4

The last date of receipt of applications is 17th November, 2020. For details of the number of posts, qualifications/ experience etc. and the format of application, please refer website of NPTI: www.npti.gov.in

davp34107/11/0003/2021

4 JNTU-H students test positive for Covid-19

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

At a time when there is strident opposition to the conduct of exams and concerns over reopening of schools and colleges during the pandemic, at least four students of the JNTU-H affiliated CMR College of Engineering and Technology (Autonomous), testing Covid-19 positive on Friday have heightened fears further.

A source told *Deccan Chronicle* that students who had appeared for the exams physically at the college from September 3 to 5, had stated on the college WhatsApp group that they had tested positive and that anyone who had come in contact should get themselves tested too.

CMR Engineering College Principal Major

Dr V.A. Narayana (retd), who is part of the group, told the students to "Stop sending the messages on testing positive (on group). The students who tested positive may directly call your friends and inform." He changed the group's settings to allow only admins to send messages.

He further added, "I came to know that few students have kept this as status stating that five CMR students tested positive. Please stop and also request if someone has kept it as status, then tell them to remove it immediately (sic)." Students who are a part of the group expressed shock over the communication.

A student said, "It is the responsibility of those who tested positive to inform others who they may have come

KTR: 18 strategic road projects in city completed

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development minister, on Friday said that work to the tune of ₹6.00 crore had been completed under the Strategic Road Development Project (SRDP) in the city. Responding to questions related to the SRDP in the Assembly, Rama Rao said the size of the SRDP was about ₹30,000 crore. About 18 project works were completed and were being used by the people.

Since the GHMC is spread across four districts — Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri, administered by the respective collectors — the minister said, "For better coordination on land acquisition, the government has introduced a reform wherein the GHMC commissioner is designated as the special collector for land acquisition."

Rama Rao said that the government is promoting public transport in the city to resolve the traffic gridlock.

● **THE MINISTER** also said that the civic body had saved about ₹568 crore by implementing the transfer of development rights (TDR) scheme for the first time in the country. TDRs had helped speed up the acquisition of land for road-widening.

Responding to a question by MIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, Rama Rao said that SRDP works are underway in the Old City too.

He said ₹713 crore was spent on road widening in the Old City.

Of this, ₹477 crore was allocated for general roads, ₹228 crore for SRDP, and ₹8 crore to develop link roads. Rama Rao also said that the GHMC had saved about ₹568 crore by implementing the transfer of development rights (TDR) scheme for the first time in the country.

TDRs had helped speed up the acquisition of land for road-widening.

Topper TS falls nine places in start-up ranking

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Telangana state, which topped the list and was acknowledged as having a robust ecosystem for start-ups in 2018, has slid down nine slots and was ranked 10th in the State Startup Rankings for 2019 given by department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) of the Union ministry of commerce and industries.

Twenty-two states and three Union territories participated in the exercise.

Along with rankings, the Union ministry also released a report on how states can further work on improving their innovation strategies. The states were awarded points according to performance across seven categories — institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation

in public procurement norms, incubation support, seed funding support, venture funding support, and awareness and outreach.

Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as best performers among states and UTs respectively in the second edition of the ranking.

Karnataka and Kerala were "top performers". Among emerging start-up ecosystems were Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Happiness Kit comprises food items that provide essential nutrients for daily consumption. Pulses, spices, peanuts, jaggery, biscuits among others. The kit also includes a soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste and sanitary pads to promote hygiene in children. To exercise their cognitive abilities, activity-based learning workbooks are also included in respective regional languages.

● **THE HAPPINESS** Kit

comprises food items that provide essential nutrients for daily consumption.

There is no change in the Centre Cities of the candidates; only Centres have been changed. The concerned candidates have already been informed by NTA through SMS and email. They are also being informed telephonically. Such candidates are advised to download their latest admit card available on NEET website (<https://ntanet.nic.in>) and report as per the details given in latest Admit Card at the new Examination Centre for NEET (UG) - 2020 Examination on 13 September, 2020. Candidates are also advised to acquaint themselves with the location of the new Examination Centre allotted now, so that they do not face any difficulty in reaching the new examination centre.

Dated: 10.09.2020

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Office for Communication: First Floor, NSIC-MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020, Website: www.nta.ac.in

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF EXAMINATION CENTRE FOR NEET (UG) - 2020

The National Testing Agency (NTA) hereby informs that the Examination Centers of NEET (UG) - 2020 Examination scheduled on 13 September, 2020 from 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM for some of the candidates have been changed due to implementation of COVID-19 measures, as per the following details:

OLD EXAM CENTRE DETAILS

CENTRE NO.	ROLL NO. FROM	ROLL NO. TO	CENTRE NAME & ADDRESS	CENTRE NO.	ROLL NO. FROM	ROLL NO. TO	CENTRE NAME & ADDRESS
4201101	4201101001	4201101960	Vignana Jyothi Pub School, Madhuranager, Hyderabad, TL, Vignana Jyothi Public School, 16/A, Madhuranager, Hyderabad, Telangana, Near Ratnadeep Super Market, Yousufguda Basti, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500038.	4201237	4201237001	4201237300	Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Golconda, Kondapalli Vidyalaya No. 1, Golconda, Opposite to Langer House Police Station, Hyderabad, Telangana-500008.
4201206	42012						

SHORT TAKES

HC TO CONTINUE VIRTUAL HEARINGS FOR TWO WEEKS

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

As advocates hesitated to attend physical hearings in view of the Covid-19 situation, the Full Court of the Telangana High Court on Friday decided to continue virtual hearings for two more weeks.

The physical hearings which started on September 7 will continue on the same lines by the five benches — the division bench headed by the Chief Justice and other four single judge benches.

Most advocates whose cases were listed for physical hearing requested the court to adjourn their cases or to hear them online as they could attend physical hearings in light of the pandemic.

The judges who participated in the Full Court meeting opined that all the benches should start physical hearings from September 28. A decision will be taking during another meeting of the Full Court.

Taking into consideration the plight of the litigants and advocates in towns and rural areas, the Full Court asked some of the district courts, where the effect of the pandemic is less, to resume physical hearings. It asked the unit heads of the districts courts in Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Adilabad and others to restart physical hearings from next week. The Full Court told them to not insist that advocates attend the physical courts.

RICH TRIBUTES PAID ON FOREST MARTYRS DAY

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Forest Martyrs Day was observed at Nehru Zoological Park on Friday, with homage being paid to the forest staff who laid down their lives in the line of duty in the state.

Forest minister A. Indrakaran Reddy recalled the sacrifices made by the forest martyrs. Since 1984, 21 officers sacrificed their lives for the protection of forests and wildlife. "Through this pandemic, officers and staff are bravely performing their duties. While discharging their duties, some tested positive and others lost their lives," he said.

During the year 2019-20, forest staff booked 6,721 cases saving ₹5.64 crore worth of timber and collected compounding fees to the tune of ₹10.61 crore, apart from seizing 1,564 vehicles. This is in addition to the 2,585 undetected cases that have been registered involving timber worth ₹3.42 crore transported to government timber depots. 668 encroachment cases were also filed.

At the outset of the day's celebration, the Telangana United Foresters' Federation (TUFF) drafted a representation to the forest minister in which they said that nothing concrete had been done to protect the frontline staff. They demanded an ex gratia amount of ₹25 lakh to be given to the family of deceased forest officials. They also asked for the family of the deceased to get full salary till the time the person would have worked in the department. They also asked for the PM's scholarship to be given to the children of the foresters akin to the one being extended to the children of deceased soldiers.

The foresters federation asked for the constitution of the President's gallantry medal for the officers, improvement of their working conditions and also armament under the relevant sections of IPC and CrPC.

Top BJP leaders put under house arrest ahead of stir

Party was demanding official celebrations of Liberation Day



Cops arrest BJP activists in Lakdikapul on Friday while participating in the 'Chalo Assembly' protest demanding the government to mark the Telangana Liberation Day on September 17. — R. PAVAN

to the Bolarum police station as a preventive measure. Mild tension prevailed at the Assembly premises when the police stopped midway and took into custody, BJP cadre from districts like Jagtial, Mancherlai, Siddipet and Warangal who intended to join the Chalo Assembly protests.

Reacting to the police placing him under house arrest, Sanjay said that the BJP will continue its agitation till the government celebrates Telangana Liberation Day as its official function.

Police stopped midway and took into custody, BJP cadre from districts like Jagtial, Mancherlai, Siddipet and Warangal who intended to join the Chalo Assembly protests. The state BJP president himself is a BC leader.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Eroded flood bank in East Godavari puts life in danger

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 11



Flood bank in Polavaram mandal in East Godavari after erosion on Friday.

SOURCES SAID it is becoming a practice for the department to accord administrative sanction and keep tenders on hold due to paucity of funds. "What to do? The finance department rejects every proposal citing lack of funds," lamented a senior official.

nath Das, special CS, irrigation, recently directed the engineer-in-chief, irrigation, and chief engineer, Godavari delta system, not to float tenders for the work "protecting the most vulnerable, eroded or slipped river margins by providing pitching and revetments near Ramalayam-pet between 9 km and 11 km of the flood bank."

Sources said it is becoming a practice for the department to accord administrative sanction and keep tenders on hold due to paucity of funds. "What to do? The finance

department rejects every proposal citing lack of funds," lamented a senior official.

The top brass' decision in the present case comes even after the government admitted that the flood waters have been hitting the marginal lands and flood bank directly and, coupled with tidal waves, the erosion on both the Gowthami Right Flood Bank and PIP flood bank is so high that the repair works have to be taken up at the earliest.

Local farmers too are frightened because breach of the flood bank at one place will have a cascading effect and lead to breaches at many places as the 41-km flood bank is in circular shape. "Making the situation worse, the drains — North and South Addala Kalva and Perumallara-japuram — are also in spate and overflowing into the river, damaging the flood banks," a farmer pointed out.

NELLORE GETS WATER BUT FARMERS HIT

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNool, SEPT. 11

The Kundu river continues to be pumped with water from the Krishna as the Srisailam dam is at its full capacity of 885 feet.

Despite requests from farmers to reduce the flow to the Kundu at Banakacherla escape channel as it has submerged fields, officials are still letting out more than 20,000 cusecs. The Kundu has virtually become a carrying canal to Nellore to fill up the Somasila and Kandaleru reservoirs.

None of the earlier agreements and treaties speak about taking Krishna water to Nellore, said a retired engineer. Water resources minister Anil Kumar Yadav, who is also district in-charge, is overseeing the water discharge.

Nandyal MP Pochu Bramhanand Reddy speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* said, "It is true that fields have been submerged due to overflows in the Kundu river. Someone has to make sacrifices. Nellore is also a part of Andhra Pradesh. We are persuading farmers to bear the crop losses." When asked whether Nellore and Prakasam were part of Rayalaseema, he evaded the question and said "Nothing could be done about it."

AP RECORDS 9,999 NEW COVID CASES, 77 DEATHS

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 11

Andhra Pradesh has registered 9,999 new Covid-19 cases, raising the tally to 5,47,686, apart from 77 deaths, taking the death toll to 4,779 in the last 24 hours.

State health authorities released the Coronavirus bulletin here on Friday reporting that out of 71,137 samples tested, 9,999 individuals have been tested Covid-19 positive.

Out of total 44,52,128 samples tested so far, 4,46,716 patients have been discharged from various hospitals after recovery from the infection, while 96,191 patients affected by the virus are still undergoing treatment.

OUT OF TOTAL 44,52,128 samples tested so far, 4,46,716 patients have been discharged from various hospitals after recovery from the infection.

1st Anniversary

In Loving Memory



Mrunalini Polishetty
D.O.B: 12/09/1999

Your journey was full of life & you touched countless facets of other lives leaving behind precious memories & experiences for us to cherish in remembrance.

Loved and sadly missed by Jag Jeevan, Aditya & Abhijit Polishetty.
Members of the Polishetty & Cheyyur family.

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R.KUPPU RAO, I.A.S.(Retd)
Former Sp.I. Chief Secretary Andhra Pradesh

"Forever in our memories"
Fondly Remembered by

Wife: Premi Kuppu Rao
Son: Siriram Sandeep & Richa
Daughters: Radhika & Sanjeev
Vaishnavi & Anandithirun
Veeva & Dr. K.G. Srikanth

and Grand Children: Byshmi, Neil, Akshita,

Sameer, Arnoy, Anya & Yukti.
Ph: 7680806975/9047042010

10th ANNIVERSARY

Sri T.R. HRISHIKESH
(Excelsior Press)

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T.H. Saraswati Bai (Wife)
T.H. Muralidhar - Subhashini
T.H. Shamsunder - Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi

T.H. Sathyaprakash - Maha Lakshmi
Grand, Great Grand Children

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- No linen, blankets and curtains shall be provided inside the train.
- All passengers must wear face covers/masks from entry to exit at Railway stations and during travel.
- It is recommended that passengers download Aarogya Setu app, and strictly adhere to social distancing norms during travel.
- No catering charges shall be included in the fare.
- Passengers are encouraged to travel light and carry their own food and drinking water.
- On arrival at their destination, the travelling passengers will have to adhere to such health protocols as are prescribed by the destination State/UT.

Train No.	From	Depart.	To	Arrival	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability	Train No.	From	Depart.	To	Arrival	Train Name	Frequency	Earliest Date of Ticket Availability
02401	Kota	17:55	Dehradun	05:40	Nanda Devi Express	Daily	13 September	02275	Prayagraj	22:20	New Delhi	06:15	Humsafar Express	Daily	12 September
02402	Dehradun	22:50	Kota	10:35	Nanda Devi Express	Daily	12 September	02276	New Delhi	22:15	Prayagraj	06:20	Humsafar Express	Daily	13 September
02281	Jabalpur	21:00	Ajmer	14:20	Dayodaya Express	Daily	12 September	09051	Valsad	20:15	Muzaffarpur	07:15	Shramik Express	Saturday	12 September
02282	Ajmer	15:25	Jabalpur	08:35	Dayodaya Express	Daily	13 September	09052	Muzaffarpur	19:40	Valsad	05:05	Shramik Express	Monday	26 October
02403	Prayagraj	23:00	Jaipur	12:40	Express	Daily	12 September	02669	Chennai	17:40	Chhapra	11:45	Express	Mon, Sat	12 September
02404	Jaipur	15:20	Prayagraj	05:25	Express	Daily	13 September	02670	Chhapra	21:00	Chennai	14:25	Express	Mon, Wed	05 October
01107	Gwalior	20:55	Manduadih	11:05	Bundelkhand Express	Daily	12 September	02663	Howrah	16:10	Tiruchirappalli	03:05	Express	Thu, Sat	11 October
01108	Manduadih	16:30	Gwalior	08:40	Bundelkhand Express	Daily	13 September	02664	Tiruchirappalli	16:20	Howrah	03:10	Express	Tue, Fri	15 September
01841	Khajuraho	18:35	Kurukshetra	12:40	Express	Daily	12 September	08517	Korba	16:10	Visakhapatnam	07:00	Express	Daily	13 September
01842	Kurukshetra	14:55	Khajuraho	08:00	Express	Daily	13 September	08518	Visakhapatnam	20:05	Korba	11:00	Express	Daily	12 September
06539	Bengaluru	10:30	Mysuru	13:30	Express	Daily	12 September	02911	Indore	23:30	Howrah	06:50	Express	Tues, Thu, Sat	12 September
06540	Mysuru	14:30	Bengaluru	17:10	Express	Daily	12 September	02912	Howrah	17:45	Indore	01:35	Express	Mon, Thu, Sat	21 September
07007	Secunderabad	22:15	Darbhanga	13:40	Express	Tue, Sat	22 September	04723	Kanpur	17:25	Bhiwani	09:25	Express	Daily	13 September
07008	Darbhanga	07:00	Secunderabad	22:10	Express	Tue, Fri	23 October	04724	Bhiwani	18:35	Kanpur	11:35	Express	Daily	12 September
02509	Bengaluru Cantt	23:40	Guwahati	06:00	Express	Wed, Thu, Fri	24 September	02109	Mumbai CSTM	18:15	Manmad	22:50	Express	Daily	12 September
02510	Guwahati	06:20	Bengaluru Cantt	11:40	Express	Mon, Tue, Sun	26 October	02110	Manmad	06:00	Mumbai CSTM	10:45	Express	Daily	12 September
05933	Dibrugarh	07:00	Amritsar	21:05	Express	Tue	20 October	08405	Bhubaneswar	19:40	Ahmedabad	07:25	Express	Wed	14 October
05934	Amritsar	15:45	Dibrugarh	04:55	Express	Friday	02 October	08406	Ahmedabad	18:40	Bhubaneswar	06:25	Express	Fri	18 September
02481	Jodhpur	18:45	Delhi	05:20	Express	Daily	12 September	02435	Varanasi	15:00	New Delhi	23:00	Vande Bharat Express	Except Mon, Thu	13 September
02482	Delhi	23:15	Jodhpur	10:15	Express	Daily	13 September	02436	New Delhi	06:00	Varanasi	14:00	Vande Bharat Express	Except Mon, Thu	12 September
02571	Gorakhpur	18:45	Delhi	08:50	Humsafar Express	Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	16 September	05909	Dibrugarh	09:55	Lalgash	05:45	Express	Daily	16 September
02572	Delhi	20:00	Gorakhpur	09:35	Humsafar Express	Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun	13 September	05910	Lalgash	19:50	Dibrugarh	15:55	Express	Daily	16 September
02367	Bhagalpur	11:15	Delhi	08:10	Vikramshila Express	Daily	02 October	02429	Lucknow	23:30	New Delhi	07:30	Express	Daily	12 September
02368	Delhi	14:40	Bhagalpur	12:25	Vikramshila Express	Daily	17 September	02430	New Delhi	23:25	Lucknow	07:25	Express	Daily	13 September
06587	Yesvantpur	05:00	Bikaner	06:50	Express	Fri, Sun	13 September	02561	Jaynagar	14:00	New Delhi	12:30	Express	Daily	26 September
06588	Bikaner	22:15	Yesvantpur	03:15	Express	Tue, Sun	29 September	02562	New Delhi	20:40	Jaynagar	19:25	Express	Daily	13 September
02976	Jaipur	19:35	Mysuru	15:30	Express	Mon, Wed	14 September	03307	Dhanbad	21:50	Firozpur	10:45	Express	Daily	17 September
02975	Mysuru	10:40	Jaipur	06:15	Express	Thu, Sat	17 September	03308	Firozpur	16:10	Dhanbad	04:55	Express	Daily	15 September
02415	Indore	16:35	New Delhi	06:10	Express	Daily	13 September	06527	Bengaluru	19:00	New Delhi	10:30	Express	Daily	12 September
02416	New Delhi	22:00	Indore	11:40	Express	Daily	12 September	06528	New Delhi	21:35	Bengaluru	14:00	Express	Daily	14 September
05626	Agartala	22:25	Deoghar	13:00	Express	Sunday	12 September	02615	Chennai	19:15	New Delhi	06:30	Express	Daily	12 September
05625	Deoghar	18:45	Agartala	07:45	Express	Monday	21 September	02616	New Delhi	18:40	Chennai	06:20	Express	Daily	14 September
02465	Madhupur	12:00	Delhi	06:15	Express	Thursday	08 October	02003	Lucknow Jn.	15:35	New Delhi	22:15	Shatabdi Express	Daily	12 September
02466	Delhi	12:45	Madhupur	05:45	Express	Wednesday	19 September	02004	New Delhi	06:10	Lucknow Jn.	12:45	Shatabdi Express	Daily	12 September
06535	Mysuru	15:45	Solapur	12:40	Golgumbaz Express	Daily	12 September	07563	Hyderabad	22:45	Parbhani	06:30	Express	Daily	12 September
06536	Solapur	14:10	Mysuru	11:00	Golgumbaz Express	Daily	13 September	07564	Parbhani	22:30	Hyderabad	06:45	Express	Daily	12 September
05003	Kanpur Anwar Ganj	16:40	Gorakhpur	06:55	Chauri Chaura Express	Daily	13 September	08426	Durg	16:10	Bhubaneswar	07:35	Express	Daily	13 September
05004	Gorakhpur	22:45	Kanpur Anwar Ganj	13:20	Chauri Chaura Express	Daily	12 September	08425	Bhubaneswar	19:55	Durg	11:55	Express	Daily	12 September
05007	Varanasi City	17:00	Lucknow Junction	05:45	Krishak Express	Daily	13 September	02843	Khurda Road	18:40	Ahmedabad	07:25	Express	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat	08 October
05008	Lucknow Junction	23:10	Varanasi City	12:35	Krishak Express	Daily	12 September	02844	Ahmedabad	18:40	Khurda Road	07:45	Express	Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun	14 September
02591	Gorakhpur	06:35	Yesvantpur	04:45	Express	Sat, Mon	17 September	02973	Gandhidham	23:00	Khurda Road	17:35	Express	Wed	16 September
02592	Yesvantpur	17:20	Gorakhpur	15:05	Express	Mon, Thu	14 September	02974	Khurda Road	11:40	Gandhidham	06:40	Express	Sat	24 October
02593								08401	Khurda Road	10:40	Okha	13:50	Express	Sun	04 October
02594								08402	Okha	08:30	Khurda Road	08:55	Express	Sat	16 September

Composition and Timings will be as per regular trains *Ticket Availability Position as on 11th Sept. 2020

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DECCAN Chronicle

12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Vaccine: Forget the hype, invest in policy

The Covid-19 vaccine race has heated up, but one of its main participants — out of 141 in total — has taken a pit stop. After a participant developed transverse myelitis, AstraZeneca paused trials for its Coronavirus vaccine candidate, Covishield, also known as the Oxford University vaccine.

After a rap from the Drug Controller General of India for proceeding regardless, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India, too, paused its own adenovirus trials.

Other frontrunners must have forged ahead, and they include Russia, China, the United States and Canada, although a majority of scientists see Sputnik V, allegedly put together with the help of research pilfered by Russian cyber-intelligence agents, as a rush job. The spotlight is now back on Moderna Therapeutics which has a year-end launch tentatively lined up for its messenger RNA jab.

But the hype — surrounding T cells and spike protein and neutralising antibodies — can be a bit misleading. At a time when the world is increasingly politically polarised, with epidemiologists and economists switching roles, as has been frequently complained of, this mad dash for the vaccine is actually being taken with a pinch of salt, and not only by evolution-deniers and anti-vaxxers. The common man interested in protecting his home and hearth, for instance, without being led astray by red herrings, is also asking the valid question — did this race not begin as a profit ploy by Big Pharma?

Pertinently, the industry may well have been in cahoots with the government — as the discovery of a vaccine before November 3 might well boost US President Donald Trump's chances in the election. Closer home in India, there did emerge a parallel deadline — a controversy erupted over Bharat Biotech's Covaxin after the ICMR was reported to have been pushing for an August 15 launch.

Phase 2 trials of Covaxin are expected to start this week. In addition to Bharat Biotech, and Zydus Cadila, other Indian companies involved in the battle are Biological E, based in Hyderabad, and Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, also in Pune. Biological E is licensing the recombinant protein Covid-19 vaccine being developed at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, USA, while Gennova is developing an mRNA vaccine in collaboration with HDT Bio of the United States.

There is no data yet for the efficacy of any vaccine for the Coronavirus. How long they will work is also uncertain. The US Food and Drug Administration and the WHO have both put out a point estimate of 50 per cent as the answer to the first query. However, even a 40-50 per cent successful vaccine taken in the form of seasonal shots will go a long way in preventing disease in a population as large as India's, now clocking close to one lakh daily infections. But then there appears the question of the vaccine's accessibility. If made by multinational manufacturers, the cost of these shots could be in several hundreds of dollars. Luckily, this falls in an area that is our forte and our indigenous pharmaceutical companies do have the technology and wherewithal to mass-produce the vaccine.

India has a fairly robust vaccine delivery system, as part of the universal immunisation programmes for polio and tuberculosis. It is the duty of the Centre to stop wasting more time and swiftly put in place a standard operating protocol, ensuring parity of access to all, so that once it is time for state health administrations to take over, the cure reaches the last citizen quickly and inexpensively.

Media on trial

The reprimand of the media by two High Courts on Thursday asking it to restrain itself while doing its job is a wake-up call for the practitioners of the profession. While the Delhi court has asked the media to respect the sanctity of the law enforcement investigation, the Bombay court wondered why the electronic media comes under no government control.

The Delhi High Court's directive to Republic TV came in a plaint by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor alleging that the channel was portraying him as murderer in a case which the investigating agency has concluded to be a suicide. The court was unequivocal in its stand that there cannot be a media trial parallel to the process as established by the law. "The press cannot convict anyone or insinuate that he/she is guilty or make any other unsubstantiated claims," the court ruled. It rightly rubbished the channel's claim that it had evidence with it and said "statements from here and there" do not make evidence." The Bombay High Court was incensed at the way the media was chasing the suicide of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput as it heard a PIL, which said the reportage sought to malign the Mumbai police.

The courts cannot be suspected of attempting to gag the media. The Delhi High Court insisted that it was not interested in gagging the media and only directed the editor and the channel "to be bound by the statement made on their behalf by their counsel". The Bombay High Court gave the News Broadcasting Standards Authority time to act on the petitions even while mentioning that it "has no teeth". Democracy sustains fair journalism. If the latter tries to exceed its brief, then the instruments of democracy, however weak they are, would try and resist it. It's time the media realised it.

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Subhani



On Sino-Indian border: Skirmish, war or peace?



Syed Ata Hasnain

As you enter the hallowed precincts of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington, Tamil Nadu, one of India's most prestigious military institutions, the credo "Yuddham Pragya" greets you everywhere. Before it got translated to its Sanskrit version, it existed as "Tam Marte Quam Minerva", or "To War With Wisdom". It essentially denotes two things to future senior leaders of the armed forces. First, you need to be wise enough to understand the enormity of war; and second, war should be resorted to if only you have the wisdom to understand and prosecute it. As the ongoing four-month standoff continues at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, with some dramatic changes in the last few days, people are increasingly worrying about the possibility of war. While jingoism will rule the airwaves under such conditions and every Indian becomes an analyst, the term "war" adopts a romantic hue rather than a pragmatic one. It is the wisdom and not the romanticism which must prevail, as per the DSSC credo.

After suffering a perceived ignominy of surprise by PLA troops, under training in depth areas, who transgressed an appreciable distance and refused to vacate the Finger complex of northern Pangong Tso, the ongoing dynamics of buffer zones and uncertainty about transgressions in other areas like Depsang, the Indian Army smartly turned the tables on the PLA. It opened an unexpected front and proactively beat the PLA to the occupation of dominating features on the

Kailash Range, south of Pangong Tso, to secure a couple of advantages. First, this gives depth to the Chushul Bowl, currently the nerve centre of eastern Ladakh. Second, it gives clear and uninterrupted domination over the Spanggur Gap, Spanggur Lake and the PLA's Moldo garrison; the locations from which all PLA forces against Chushul will need to spring. Third, it forces the PLA to focus on our current strength, with no immediate flanks for riposte. Reading this, the natural question a non-military mind should ask is why this action couldn't have been executed in late May or June. The decision not to do so probably had a basic military rationale. Since the LAC is perceptual, the Kailash Range features have remained unoccupied by both sides; a sudden occupation at that stage in a critical area like Chushul could have led to a response from the PLA while we were still imbalanced; remembering that in terms of mobilisation of additional troops the PLA had a fair head-start over us. We are more balanced now and in position for a protracted fight should the PLA's response be violent. In terms of a military response, it's not just the first order of action by the adversary that needs to be assessed; that assessment has to go well beyond with imponderables increasing at every level and every order. Judging by the emotive and passionate response from China in the political and military domains this time, the temptation to go overboard and attempt eviction to evacuate the Indian occupation would even then have been extremely high. In May-June 2020 if it would have triggered a situation of much higher

intensity to which we would have had to respond yet from a position of weakness without adequate troops to maintain the necessary balance all along the front. The operation of August 29-30 has been smart thinking, probably a result of some war gaming, but has also been risky as Chushul remained vulnerable. It is equally important to assess why the PLA did not grab the opportunity to place troops at Rechin La or Helmet Top and dig in, in May or even June. My reasoning only leads me to imagine that it was contempt and a PLA superiority complex which gave it the perception that the Indian side would never have the proactivity to occupy features at a location where it had felt deterred to do so all these years; opening another front by India probably made no sense to the PLA leadership. Chushul is such a sensitive location on our side, it is surprising that the PLA probably got lulled. It attempted to do something on the basis of a late appreciation once Indian forces (including a lot of mechanised elements) were visible in the Chushul Bowl and its vicinity. We beat them to it with good early warning.

Prominent media persons are asking whether India is now in a position of advantage and whether counterattacks should be expected on the Kailash Range heights as appreciated by a former senior Indian Army commander. Whatever be the surmise we arrive at, the belief that counterattacks should be expected is sound; this could happen without application of any reasoning; a PLA lower-level knee-jerk response could be expected to retrieve a

Tactically, the heights once secured and in this case reinforced will make it difficult to evict our troops without the use of force multipliers

situation usually associated with commanders in desperation. Tactically, the heights once secured and in this case reinforced with mechanised elements (some of these heights are rolling "downs"), it will make it extremely difficult to evict our troops without the use of force multipliers, that means artillery, air, rockets and missiles. All this means war, because India too has a lot of those ready for action. Does China wish to pursue this option? At present neither is its narrative carrying weight in the international community nor is there any guarantee that the PLA has the capability to worst the Indian Army in a short, sharp border war. It's a risk, and a serious one at that. Inability to achieve its objectives means a virtual loss for China and Xi Jinping cannot afford that, especially with the fifth plenary of the 19th Central Committee and Politburo due in October 2020. Conventional wisdom from the past points to October-November being the period for a war-like situation, the winter setting in thereafter. As such there is a month or more available, for war avoidance by negotiators on both sides. The positive in all this is that engagement at the political, diplomatic and military levels has not broken down. Sharp words from the Chinese state-controlled media as part of its psychological and information warfare should not influence us. To my mind, the stumbling block to "status quo ante" just got a little more complex with southern Pangong Tso getting added to the list. Skirmishes could therefore well be on the cards though war is only a remote possibility, with elongation of the standoff a certainty. If and when that remote possibility happens at all, let our wisdom prevail in pursuing it.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

LETTERS EXAM CENTRES

Exam centres are prone to disease outbreak (*Eamcet centres continue to violate distancing rules, DC, Sept. 10*). Exam halls are equally vulnerable as the distance between the candidates is not adequate. Students who are under pressure before exams, are now in constant fear of getting infected. If this situation prevails during NEET, most students will face both physical and mental illness. Education is to strengthen them, not to weaken them.

J. Joice
Hyderabad

DEFENCE DEAL

The defence deal between India and Japan comes as a great relief. I urge the Quad countries to realise the threat to peace and humanity that China has become and to come together and sign a military pact to avert the possibility of a war.

K. Srinivasa Charyulu
Hyderabad

FADING DREAMS

It is fact that youth failed to get a job or a better life (*57-yr-old guard sets self ablaze, DC, Sept. 11*). The guard's attempt to take his own life was tragic. There is no doubt KCR is a dynamic leader. Addressing common people's issues are dream-like situations.

S. Laxmirajam
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

60 hijacked passengers released

BEIRUT, Sept. 11

Sixty passengers released from airliners hijacked to North Jordan are scheduled to leave Amman for Cyprus today, diplomatic sources reported.

The departing passengers were among those released from the hijacked airliners last Monday. They have been billeted at the Jordan intercontinental hotel since.

An Indian passenger of the hijacked VC-10 aircraft of the BOAC has been freed by the Arab Commandos.

Saeed Naqvi



Wide Angle

How Congress fell between two stools and I lost Lucknow

The film, *Agraharath Kazhutai*, or *Donkey in a Brahmin Village*, was a surprise gift from a friend in Kerala to keep away the corona blues. The film is listed as one of the masterly satires by the late John Abraham though on an embarrassing shoe string budget. A baby donkey strays onto the doorstep of a tall, lanky Professor of Philosophy in a local college. The donkey in the bachelor professor's house leads to amusement, gossip, graffiti until the principal, a stern looking Pastor, informs the Professor that his hospitality towards the donkey was affecting the college's reputation.

The Professor carts the donkey by bus and bullock cart to the Agraharam or the Brahmin village where his parents live. A deaf and mute maid-servant looks after the donkey. The maid has an affair with the village washerman, delivers a stillborn male child which is left outside the temple. The Chief Priest declares it the most dreadful omen, unanimously attributed by the elders to the donkey's presence in the village. The animal is beaten to death. A series of unfortunate events follow, which the Agraharam, on second thoughts, blames on the fact that the donkey was killed in haste. A monument to the beast is planned. A

wild fire dance burns much of the village leaving the Professor and the maid contemplating the scene for its deeper significance.

The reason for my focus on the film is not "cinema", but the fact that someone with a name like John Abraham could satirise the Brahmin Agraharam with such outrageous audacity. I once prided my hometown of Lucknow as the world centre for satire, wit and an elegant inter-communal irreverence. Over the years I bade goodbye to those values in my hometown. But I rejoice that they thrive in places like Kerala indeed the South and the East. A day's visit to the Agraharam in Palatty was memorable. The neighbourhood was stately in its austerity. I saw no car on the street nor, in the middle of the day, was there any movement outside, dogs, cats, cattle, nothing. There is a lovely view of river Kalpathy below, like the Agraharam's private pond for a holy dip.

Away from the road, on the stone seat were occasional bare bodied men, sporting the fattest jenyeus I have seen. The visitor's room in a house I have a mural size painting of Palghat Mani Iyer, the great mridangam player and a local icon. The wall space in the main hall is covered with gods and goddesses. The master of the house, a retired

civil servant, man of wit and music, had worn a shirt to appear hospitable. With amusement in his eyes, he showed us where he slept: on a narrow bed in the passage. And his wife? "On the floor right below me." He puts his head back and guffaws. But it is not quite so unequal. "She qualifies for the bed when she is unwell."

I found it quaint, as an uncritical bird of passage would. But the Agraharam, like Peyton Place, would expose its darker side to a son of the soil, a few mohallas removed, like Abraham. His Christian name did not matter. That is what Lucknow once was.

The film is refreshingly, informal across faiths. The other Kerala movie in this corona season was equally cerebral. The most popular political prisoner in Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *The Wall* is Basheer, pining for Narayani on the other side of the wall and whom he has not seen. Adoor is quite unselfconscious about the fact that the protagonists belong to different faiths. Both these films took me to my earliest romance with "God's own country". It goes back to the late 70s-80s when I was editor of *The Indian Express* in the south. But my attitude to Kerala has changed: earlier I admired Kerala, indeed much of the South and Bengal (on which more later). Now I have

begun to envy places beyond my bleak environment.

India was always one's country, but the basic affiliation was with Awadh or centre. Mir Taqi Mir talked of Delhi's destruction:

"Dill jo ek shaher tha alam mein intekhab
rehte thay muntakhib hi jahan rozgar ke
Usko falak ne loot ke barbaad
Hum rehne waley haen usi ujre dayar ke."

(Delhi which was once the world's pride, where only those with good manners lived.)

Fortune turned upon the city, destroyed and looted it.

Replace Delhi with Awadh/Lucknow and you have an idea of where I am coming from.

Lucknow, indeed Awadh, was generosity personified. Ram Advani from Sindh was embraced as Lucknow's very own. His bookshop was an incomparable cultural landmark. The Lucknavi was the exact opposite of parochial. The intellectual life of Lucknow University was dominated for long stretches by Radha Kumud and Radha Kamal Mukherjee. Little won-

der, when Satyajit Ray, soaked in Bengaliess, ventured out of Bengal, it was towards Lucknow he deviated with his superb *Shatranj ke Khiladi*.

Lucknow was in decline for years but my romance began to fade 30 years ago when the BJP and the Congress began to compete for the Hindu vote. The Congress read the 1984 landslide not as an emotional vote following Indira Gandhi's assassination, but as Hindu consolidation against minority communism, in this case the Sikh agitation.

It says something of the Congress mind, that Sikh communalism, in its perception, seamlessly became Muslim communalism.

Congress chose to play both sides of the street. Once, V.P. Singh tossed the Mandal Commission into the simmering cauldron, the Hindutva brigade ran away with the platform of brazen anti-Muslim Hind

SHORT TAKES
MAHA ORDERS PROBE AGAINST KANGANA

Mumbai, Sept. 11: The Maharashtra government on Friday asked the Mumbai police to conduct an inquiry into the allegation that Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut used banned substances and narcotics drugs, a senior police official said.

The city police received a communication from the state home department in this connection, he said, adding that the crime branch will look into the matter.

Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh had said on Tuesday that the Mumbai police will probe allegations by actor Adhyayan Suman that Ranaut took drugs.

Adhyayan, the son of actor Shekhar Suman, was once in a relationship with Ranaut and had made the allegation in an interview, Deshmukh had said.

Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik had submitted a letter to the Home Department referring to the allegation in Adhyayan's interview. Taking cognisance of the letter, the department asked the police to conduct an inquiry, the official said.

MP GOVT SPENT ₹43K ON EACH COVID PATIENT

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 11

The ongoing battle to contain the Coronavirus pandemic in Madhya Pradesh has cost the state government around ₹350 crore so far.

The government spending includes medical bills of the patients treated in various Covid-19 designated hospitals in the state, purchase of testing and PPE kits, surgical face masks, medicines, medical equipment and sanitisers, according to official records available with this newspaper.

Sources said the spending by the government to tackle the pandemic may touch ₹450 crore by end of October, since it is feared that the number of Coronavirus positive cases in the state may double to reach around 1.6 lakh by the period.

In the last 12 days alone, the confirmed cases in the state have increased by 12,793, leading to jump in rate of infection from 8.7 per cent to 9.2 per cent.

According to additional chief secretary (health) of state government Mohammad Suleman, a provision of ₹150 crore has been made by the government keeping in view the situation (by end of October).

Arrangement would be made for additional funds, if needed.

Of the ₹350 crore spent to deal with the pandemic in MP, the Centre's share was ₹185 crore, while the rest has been borne by the state government. The expenditure on each Covid-19 patient by the state government comes to ₹43,000-₹45,000.

RHEA, SHOWIK'S BAIL APPLICATION REJECTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, SEPT. 11

The special NDPS court on Friday rejected bail applications filed by actress Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and four others in connection with a drugs-related case pertaining to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

After the court passed the order rejecting bail pleas, advocate Satish Manshinde, who is representing the Chakraborty family, shared in a statement that they are likely to approach the High Court. "Once we get a copy of the NDPS Spl Court order, we will decide next week on the course of action about approaching the High Court," stated the lawyer.

Special judge G.B. Gurao on Friday informed the applicants' lawyers that all six bail pleas filed by accused in the case have been rejected. A copy of the detailed order will be given to concerned lawyers in due course, the judge said.

Special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande, appearing for the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), welcomed the decision and said the court, while rejecting the bail pleas, has accepted the contentions of the prosecution that the investigation is at a crucial stage.

In her bail plea, Rhea had claimed that she was falsely implicated in the case. Rhea had also retracted the confessional statement recorded by the NCB when she was questioned for three days.

Morale of PLA soldiers hits rock bottom

Chinese side focusing on more battle drills, which are normally done to challenge the soldiers

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 11

Watching their enemy snatch the strategic positions they once dominated can hit the psyche of soldiers of any army. Unable to recapture the positions despite being one of the most powerful armies can make them feel miserable.

To make matters worse, when a strategy devised to carry out a limited action and inflict casualties to hit the otherwise high morale of their enemy too fails, it shatters them. Being under the constant watch of their adversary all this while is just devastating.

For all its massive fire power, state-of-the-art military technologies and being strong numerically, the morale of the People's Liberation Army of China soldiers has hit rock bottom. The fact that they have been caged by aggressive Indian troops in eastern Ladakh — a first since the 1962 war — has hit them where it hurts the most. After all, a soldier's morale is the core element of military capability.

Sources privy to the multiple assessments of PLA's



An IAF aircraft flies in the Ladakh region amid the India-China stand off on Friday. - PTI

possible strategies — as analysed by the top brass of the Indian Army — point to one key aspect: The depleting morale of the PLA ever since Indian troops captured and started dominating the key heights at Spanggur Tso, Rechin La, Rezang La besides the hilltops at Kalatop, Camelback and

Helmet. Most of these ridges and mountains used to be dominated by the PLA. This is precisely the reason the frustrated Chinese Army is baying for the blood of Indian soldiers. The attempt at having Galwan valley-type of clashes at the Mukhpara peak is one such example. In order to keep their morale

high, such exercises are taken up by armies to prepare themselves physically and mentally but the sudden increase in such drills especially after suffering losses point to only one aspect — depleting morale of the enemy.

The PLA soldiers are believed to be worried over "lack of hard decisions"

PLA HAS OVER 2 MN TROOPS

- The PLA is one of the world's biggest army with an estimated 2 million troops.
- China is the second largest spender on defence after the US.
- China is estimated to spend \$237 billion on its armed forces in 2020, which is expected to increase manifold due to tensions with India.
- One of the key focus areas of the armies world over is to have high morale.

RAJNATH SINGH MEETS CDS

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 11

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday held a two-hour long meeting with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat and chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force to discuss the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. NSA Ajit Doval is also reported to have attended the meeting.

It discussed in detail the outcome of the meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow. On the ground by their seniors which has resulted in Indian troops consolidating their positions on the strategic heights. Lack of communication with the troops about the future course of action, no concrete strategy on how to recapture the areas is further taking a toll on their psyche. "Even if they

launch an attack, the fear that they might face a defeat as we are naturally at an advantageous position due to the heights is lurking in their minds, which impacts their fighting capabilities. When the morale is down, the soldiers lose the motivation level to fight effectively," sources explained.

While pounding the Indian positions with air strikes is the only option apart from sending in their infantry to recapture the heights — something that the PLA would like to desist from — the assessment suggests that the PLA is pinning their hopes on the diplomatic talks, which they feel might give them a "graceful exit". Post the Galwan valley clashes, which ended up in heavy casualties on both sides, the Chinese troops suffered a blow as they did not expect brutal retaliation from the Indian forces, who went berserk after losing 20 men. "Psychologically it hit them hard and they are still looking to avenge it. Due to our tactical deployment, they are unable to come closer," they said.

Kerala education mantri questioned by ED

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 11

Kerala higher education minister K.T. Jaleel was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday in connection with allegations regarding import of Quran boxes from the UAE using the diplomatic baggage route and seeking aid from UAE consulate for flood relief.

The minister was questioned at the Kochi ED office on Friday morning. The Central agency is examining whether the diplomatic baggage was used only for importing Quran boxes or was it misused for any other purpose. The minister's questioning gains significance in the wake of demands from Opposition parties to examine his alleged links with the accused in the gold smuggling case. The gold smuggling case is currently being investigated by the NIA, the ED and the Customs.

Mr Jaleel, when contact-

ed by media persons, denied that he was questioned by the ED. Later, he wrote a Facebook post which read: "The truth will win. Only the truth. If the whole world opposes, nothing else will happen."

Jaleel's questioning by the ED sparked protests by Congress and BJP workers in Thiruvananthapuram. The agitators led a march to the Kerala secretariat in the evening and raised slogans against Jaleel demanding his resignation. The police used mild force and water cannon to disperse the agitators.

The Congress and the BJP leaders have announced statewide agitation from Saturday to demand the minister's resignation. The opposition leader in Kerala Assembly Mr Ramesh Chennithala said Jaleel has no right to continue in office in the wake of questioning by the ED.

The agency is probing serious charges against the minister and he should quit on moral grounds, he told media

persons on Friday.

However, CPM central leadership said there was no need for the minister to resign just on the basis of questioning by an agency.

The agency might have called him for getting or corroborating certain information. The LDF state leadership said the minister is not an accused in any case and there are no grounds that warrant his resignation.

It may be recalled that Mr Jaleel is also facing allegations in connection with receiving aid from the UAE consulate. During the course of investigations into the gold smuggling case, investigating agency had found that he was in touch with key accused Swapna Sabu regarding distribution of flood relief kits worth ₹5 lakh. The kits were sponsored by the UAE consulate during Ramzan in 2019.

The ED is also examining whether the minister had violated the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 by accepting foreign aid without Centre's permission.

Chennai, Sept. 11: The Madras High Court on Friday issued notice to music composer A.R. Rahman on a petition filed by the Income Tax department alleging that he used a foundation in which he is the managing trustee as a conduit to evade tax and routed ₹3 crore plus income to it.

The I-T Department moved the HC challenging the ruling of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal here that set aside the order of the Principal Commissioner of I-T in Chennai.

A division bench of justices T.S. Sivagnanam and V. Bhavani Subbarao recorded the submissions made by the I-T department and issued notice to the music composer.

According to senior standing counsel for the Income Tax department T.R. Senthil Kumar, in the assessment year 2011-12, Rahman received income to the tune of ₹3.47 crore in connection with an agreement made with the UK-based Libra Mobiles. The contract was to compose exclusive ringtones for the company.

As per the contract, Rahman instructed the company to pay his remuneration directly to the foundation managed by him, the department said.

"The taxable income must be received by Rahman and after due deduction of tax, it can be transferred to the trust. But the same cannot be routed through the trust as income to the charitable trust is exempted under the Income Tax Act," the counsel said. — PTI

The counsel was to be present in the press conference on Friday. However, he was said to be unwell.

Earlier, the Aasau and the Asom Jatiyabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad had formed a 16-member 'Assam Advisory Committee'.

The Assam Advisory Committee who is said to be the chief architect of the new political outfit has already made it clear that they are strictly against the Congress and AIUDF as well as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress is equally guilty for the foreigners' prob-

Cong rejigs team, only a few dissenters get crucial posts

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 11

The Congress on Friday went in for a major overhaul of the party's organisation structure. Many old timers retained their prominent positions in the working committee while General Secretaries of the party were shuffled around with new comers outnumbering the incumbents. Senior leaders Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ambika Soni were dropped as General Secretaries but found a place in the working committee.

While the other writers of the letter like Kapil Sibal, Prithviraj Chauhan, Shashi Tharoor, Milind Deora, Veerappa Moily and Bhupinder Singh Hooda have been left out. Even Deependra Hooda has been dropped from the working committee.

The reshuffle bears an imprint of Mr. Rahul Gandhi.

Leaders like Randeep Surjewala, Rajeev Satav, K.C. Venugopal, Vivek Bansal, Manickam Tagore have been given prominent states or a place in the working committee.

The biggest gainer in this reshuffle include Randeep Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal, Dinesh Gundurao.

Surjewala is a General Secretary, Communications Incharge, In-charge of state, Working committee member and

member of the special committee.

New members of the Congress Working Committee are Digvijay Singh, Rajiv Shukla, Manickam Tagore, Pramod Tiwari, Jairam Ramesh, H.K. Patil, Salman Khurshid, Pawan Bansal, Dinesh Gundurao, Manish Chaturvedi and Kuljit Nagra.

Apart from Azad, Ambika Soni, Motilal Vora and Mallikarjun Kharge have also been removed from their posts of general secretaries.

However, Soni has been included in the special committee formed to assist Sonia Gandhi in organisational matters.

The special committee members include A.K. Antony, Ahmed Patel, K.C. Venugopal and Mukul Wasnik, apart from Ambika Soni and Randeep Surjewala.

The reshuffle comes a month after a group of 23 party leaders wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi calling for an overhaul of the party, internal elections and a "full-time, visible leadership".

Maoists kill forest officer in Bastar

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, SEPT. 11

THIS WAS the first killing of a govt officer by Naxals in Leftwing insurgency-hit Bastar division.

"He was attacked with sharp weapons reportedly by Maoists when he was distributing wages to labourers in the village of Kandoli under Bhairamgarh police station", Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraj told this newspaper.

The slain officer, Rathram Patel (56), was posted as forest ranger in Indravati tiger reserve in the district in January this year.

He died on the spot. According to the Bastar police, a local militia group of outlawed CPI (Maoists) was involved in the killing.

Agnivesh was critical and admitted to an ICU of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, and was on ventilatory support since Tuesday, the doctors said.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot were among those who condoled his demise.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the demise of social activist & champion of women's rights Swami Agnivesh Ji. My condolences to his admirers & followers. RIP," Puri tweeted.

"Grieved at the passing of Swami Agnivesh, who gave up a career as a professor in Kolkata to fight for many causes," Banerjee posted on Twitter. — PTI

Faith matters



A devotee blows a conch during Krishna Navami Durga Puja during the complete bi-weekly lockdown in Kolkata on Friday. — PTI

ASSAM | FIRST

The name of the new regional party will be announced by September 15

Aasu-AJYCP to contest 80-100 seats in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 11

The two leading frontline students organisations of Assam — All Assam Student's Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) here on Friday announced the formation of a new regional political outfit which will be contesting 80-100 seats in the Assembly polls next year.

Announcing the slogan of party — Assam first-always and forever, AASU general secretary said, "The people of Assam expect a change.

Lurinjyoti Gogoi told reporters that Basanta Deka and Krishna Gopal Bhattacharya have been appointed as the convenors of the party's Assam Advisory Committee which will be taking all the decisions on behalf of the party.

The name of the party will be announced on or before September 15.

Pointing out that the new party will maintain distance from communal and nationalist parties, the AASU general secretary said, "The people of Assam want a solution to the problem of illegal immigrants in the state."

If insiders in the students organisation are to be believed, there is a section of leaders in the AASU who were opposed to the idea of floating the political party. The chief adviser and most prominent face of the AASU Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya was

not present in the press conference on Friday. However, he was said to be unwell.

Earlier, the AASU and the Asom Jatiyabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad had formed a 16-member 'Assam Advisory Committee'.

The AASU general secretary who is said to be the chief architect of the new political outfit has already made it clear that they are strictly against the Congress and AIUDF as well as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress is equally guilty for the foreigners' prob-

lem.

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SHORT TAKES

POMPEO, AFGHAN LANDS IN QATAR FOR PEACE TALKS

Doha, Sept. 11: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Afghan government negotiators converged on Doha on Friday ahead of what promise to be lengthy and difficult peace talks with the Taliban after 19 years of war.

Afghan negotiations set to begin Saturday were originally slated to start in March but were repeatedly pushed back amid disputes over a prisoner exchange that included the release of hundreds of battle-hardened Taliban fighters.

"After continuous efforts of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to start direct talks with the Taliban, the peace negotiating team of the IRA left Kabul for Doha," Nader Naderi, a member of the negotiating team, said on Twitter.

RIO TINTO CEO OUT AS 46,000-YR-OLD ABORIGINAL SITE HIT

Sydney, Sept. 11: Rio Tinto announced the resignation of its CEO and two other top officers on Friday over the mining giant's destruction of a 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site to expand an iron ore mine in Australia.

The Anglo-Australian firm was facing a growing investor revolt over the destruction of the sacred site in the Juukan Gorge in Western Australia's remote Pilbara region — one of the earliest known locations occupied by Australia's indigenous people.

Following a board investigation into the May 24 incident, Rio Tinto said CEO Jean-Sebastien Jacques was stepping down "by mutual agreement" along with the chief of the company's core iron ore division, Chris Salisbury, and corporate relations head Simone Niven.

"What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of a heritage site of such exceptional archaeological and cultural significance never occurs again at a Rio Tinto operation," chairman Simon Thompson said.

Dragon temple



An aerial view taken on Friday shows the Buddhist temple Wat Samphran (Dragon Temple) in Nakhon Pathom, some 40km west of Bangkok. Wat Samphran is a popular tourist destination with visitors coming to see the huge dragon figure curling around a pink cylindrical building next to the Buddha statues and places of worship of the traditional Buddhist temple complex. — AFP

Microsoft blocks US vote hack bid

China, Russia, Iran target Prez campaigns

Washington, Sept. 11: Microsoft said on Thursday it thwarted recent cyberattacks from China, Russia and Iran targeting both Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns, as technology giants scrambled to protect election security less than two months ahead of the US vote.

The announcement came as Twitter said it would implement a policy next week to remove "false or misleading information intended to undermine public confidence in an election," including unverified claims of victory; and Google said it would take steps to ensure its "autocomplete" search feature doesn't make such misguided suggestions.

Microsoft said that attackers have been targeting staff from the cam-

paigns of President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden.

"In recent weeks, Microsoft has detected cyberattacks targeting people and organisations involved in the upcoming presidential election," said corporate vice-president Tom Burt.

It was clear that "foreign activity groups have stepped up their efforts targeting the 2020 election as had been anticipated," according to Burt. The attackers have targeted political operatives, think tanks, consultants and political parties in Europe as well, Microsoft said.

It identified a Russia-based group called Strontium which Burt said "has attacked more than 200 organisations," and China-based Zirconium, which he said "has attacked high-profile individuals associated with the election, including people associated with the Joe Biden for President campaign and prominent leaders in the international affairs community." An Iran-based group dubbed Phosphorus has been targeting personal accounts of people associated with the Trump campaign, Microsoft said.

The majority of those attacks were stopped by Microsoft security tools, and those targeted or compromised were alerted, according to Burt.

Russia is trying to undermine voters' faith in the US electoral system and especially in voting by mail ahead of the November 3 election, according to a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) analysis. — AFP

California battles largest fire ever

Teen 'learns' to drive while escaping wildfire

Clovis, Sept. 11: Firefighters were battling unprecedented wildfires up and down the U.S. West Coast on Friday that killed 15 people and forced more than half a million others to flee their homes, with officials warning of more deaths to come in the days ahead.

The true scale of destruction was impossible to count across wide stretches of California, Oregon and Washington cut off from the world by an apocalyptic wall of flames, fuelled by record heatwaves and intense, dry winds.

The August Complex Fire became the biggest recorded blaze in Californian history on Thursday, after multiple fires in the state's northwest combined under high temperatures and winds to rip through 74,600 acres of dry vegetation. More than 2.6 million acres have been burned across the whole

Clovis, Sept. 11: Fourteen-year-old Ruben Navarrete learned how to drive the hard way — heading down a steep narrow road at night with giant flames leaping behind him.

No room for mistakes. Just focus, ignore the blaze and the steep cliff on the side of the road.

Ruben lives with his uncle Joshua Smith and his uncle's wife Jamie in the Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, a Native American reserve threatened by the Creek Fire.

As of late Thursday the

Creek Fire had razed 176,000 acres in the hills of the Sierra National Forest in central California, according to Cal Fire officials. Ruben's family had two days to prepare for a possible evacuation, and in that brief time his aunt and uncle managed to show him some basics of driving. "It's like a video game, Ruben," the teenager recalled his uncle Josh telling him.

The fateful call came Monday at midnight. The flames were approaching — evacuate immediately. — AFP

FIRE DESTROYS MIGRANT CAMP, PROTESTS ERUPT

Mitylene, Sept. 11: Thousands of protesting refugees and migrants left homeless on the Greek island of Lesbos after fires destroyed the notoriously overcrowded Moria camp gathered on a road leading to the island's main town Friday demanding to be allowed to leave.

Clapping and chanting songs, the protesters, most of whom appeared to be from African countries and from Afghanistan, were boisterous but peaceful.

Some held up signs pleading for help from Germany, a favored destination for many migrants and refugees who arrive in Greece from the nearby Turkish coast. — AP

Trump, Biden make rival appearances on 9/11 anniv

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ON THURSDAY DENIED LYING TO AMERICANS ABOUT THE SEVERITY OF THE CORONAVIRUS AFTER A BOMBHELL NEW BOOK BY JOURNALIST BOB WOODWARD REVEALED THAT HE DELIBERATELY DOWNPLAYED THE CRISIS.

London, Sept. 11: Britain on Friday announced its first major post-Brexit trade agreement — a deal with Japan — as its negotiations with the European Union become increasingly fractious.

The Department for International Trade said the accord, which largely replicates the current EU-Japan deal, will be worth £15.2 billion.

The UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was agreed in principle by International Trade Secretary Liz Truss and Japan Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during a video call on Friday. — AP

ceremony in his native New York instead sending Mike Pence as a White House representative. Biden and the vice president tapped elbows and chatted briefly.

Neither would give official remarks, as the Ground Zero ceremony's

speeches — pre-recorded this year due to Coronavirus measures — are generally reserved for family members of victims.

But Biden's mere presence attracted attention at an event broadcast live on main US television networks and punctuated by minutes of silence, the first one at 8:46 am (1246 GMT), the time the first plane hit one of the Twin Towers.

The Republican president meanwhile travelled to Shanksville, Pennsylvania some 300 miles (480 kilometers) to the west of New York, where an airliner crashed after the passengers tried to wrest control from the Al-Qaeda hijackers. — AFP

LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	38,854.55 0.04
Nifty 50	11,464.45 0.13
S&P 500*	3,324.81 -0.43
Dollar (₹)	73.53 -0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.32 1.30
Euro (₹)	87.06 0.17
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,452 ▲191 0.36
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.01 -0.05
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.041 -0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.674 -0.010

Economy to contract 11.5% in FY21: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth projection for the current fiscal to (-) 11.5 per cent, from (-) 4 per cent estimated earlier, saying the economic contraction would be more pronounced due to the lockdown and rise in coronavirus cases. The agency also projected India's debt burden to peak at around 90 per cent of GDP in this fiscal and the Centre's fiscal deficit to be close to 7.5 per cent of GDP.

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Rise attributed to low base, pent-up demand Passenger vehicle sales up 14% YoY

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, SEPT. 11

After a prolonged negative growth across automobile segments, there is finally some good news to cheer the automobile industry, the third largest employer in the country.

Passenger vehicle sales in India, Asia's third biggest economy, rose 14.16 per cent in August, showing some signs of economic recovery as industries restart operations months after a coronavirus-induced lockdown disrupted a sector already hit by poor demand.

In a sign of improved consumer sentiment, a total of 215,916 cars, utility vehicles and vans were bought in August, compared with 189,129 a year earlier, snapping nine months of declining trend in sales, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, or Siam, said in a statement.

"We are beginning to observe growth, which is instilling confidence back into the industry," Siam president Kenichi Ayukawa, also the MD at Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, said in a statement.

Clearly, it was a good monsoon that drove up demand for two-wheelers, including motorcycles from the rural clusters. Sales of two-wheelers, widely seen as an indicator of the health of the rural economy, also jumped 3 per cent to 15,39,665 units, as compared to 15,14,196 units in the previous year.

Motorcycle sales were also up 10.13 per cent to 10,32,476 units, up from 9,37,486 units sold in August 2019 aided by a good rural and semi-urban demand.

However, scooter sales were down 12.3 per cent to

Vehicle sales in India
May 2019 Aug 2020

Vehicles	%
Passenger cars	14.16 1,09,277
	12,4715
Two-wheelers	3.0 15,14,196
	15,59,665
Three-wheelers	-75.29 58,88
	14,534
Total passenger vehicles*	14.13 1,89,129
	2,15,916

*BMW, Mercedes, Tata Motors & Volvo Aug. data is not available Source: Siam

Industrial growth



Figures in per cent | Quick Estimates | Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation/KBK Infographics

IIP CLIMBS UP IN CONTRACTION ZONE

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 11

With lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sector, industrial production saw a contraction of 10.4 per cent in July compared to a 16.6 per cent contraction in June, according to the government data released on Friday. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) showed that industrial activity is slowly picking up.

"The index for the month of July 2020 stands at 118.1 as compared to 108.9 in June, 89.5 in May and 54 in April," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

general at Siam, said, "After a period of lull... August has witnessed improvement in the sales figures of two-wheelers and passenger vehicles. However, three-wheeler segment continues to post a de-growth of more than (-) 75 per cent compared to August 2019."

The industry is positive that the coming festive season, which culminates in Diwali and sees a majority of buyers making big ticket purchases, would help with a faster revival in demand, he pointed out.

Rajesh Menon, director

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, SEPT. 11

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued asset modification guidelines for floating multi-cap funds, making it mandatory for the funds to invest minimum 25 per cent assets in mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

Mutual funds have to ensure compliance by the first week of February 2021, Sebi said.

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) will publish the next list of stocks according to market capitalisation criteria in early January, ensuring compliance within one month by the multi-cap funds..

"All the existing Multi Cap Funds shall ensure compliance with the above provisions within one month from the date of publishing the next list of stocks by Amfi, i.e.

Covid cover tenure to be extended

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 11

The insurance regulator may provide options to policyholders of corona-specific health covers to either renew their covers or port to other health plans to ensure that they remain covered.

T.L. Alamelu, member-non-life at the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), while speaking at the Assocham e-summit, said, "Actually we have been debating in the last 10 days on mainstreaming corona specific plans. I think when we launched them, we were

optimistic in thinking that the pandemic would end soon but now that is not going to happen we are thinking of ways and means. And sooner rather than later, we would be issuing instructions on how the Corona Kavach or Corona Rakshak plans can be mainstreamed or the plans be renewed or they be allowed to port or migrate to other plans so that the policyholders to whom the insurance companies have sold these plans continue to get a good cover not only for covid but for the entire health spectrum."

In July, the insurance regulator had mandated

SHORT TAKES

Teen rugby player dies of head injury

Newcastle, Australia: Nineteen-year-old rugby league player Joel Dark has died in hospital five days after collapsing following a head injury in his senior debut for a club in Newcastle, north of Sydney. Dark, the cousin of Australian international forward Boyd Cordner, had been in a critical condition in Newcastle's John Hunter hospital, where he underwent surgery after the Sunday injury.

All senior games in Newcastle have postponed this weekend out of respect for Dark and his family.

The Newcastle Knights and Cordner's club, the Sydney Roosters, are reported to be discussing an on-field tribute to Dark at their National Rugby League match because of his links to both clubs. — AP

Bottas revs up in Tuscan practice

Mugello, Italy: Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas posted the fastest time in first practice for the Tuscan Grand Prix on Friday.

Bottas was .048 quicker than Red Bull's Max Verstappen in warm and sunny conditions. Fans were present for the first time at the ninth Formula One race this season amid the coronavirus pandemic. The 3,000 spectators were split into three stands.

Charles Leclerc was third for Ferrari, which is celebrating its 1,000th F1 race. Championship leader Lewis Hamilton was only fourth and 0.53 seconds slower than teammate Bottas.

Pierre Gasly, who won his first race last weekend at the Italian GP in Monza, was fifth.

Second practice takes place later Friday. — AP

Bouchard beats top seed in Turkey

Istanbul, Turkey: Former Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard stretched her winning streak to four matches for the first time in two years by beating top-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-6 (3), 6-7 (5), 6-2 in the second round of the Istanbul Tennis Championship. Ranked 272nd and playing as a qualifier, Bouchard had three match points at 5-4 in the second set before Kuznetsova forced a deciding set. The Russian was one of four seeded players knocked out in Thursday's second-round matches.

Bouchard, who reached the Wimbledon final in 2014 but lost to Petra Kvitova, will next face Danka Kovinic in the quarterfinals. Kovinic eliminated sixth-seeded Alison van Uytvanck 6-3, 6-4. — AP

Sharma flatters to deceive in Spain

Vilamoura, Spain: A rare albatross on the penultimate hole of the opening round brought Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma to par in one swoop but the double bogey on the last one spoilt the effort at the 2020 Portugal Masters.

Sharma experienced ecstasy and agony on successive holes as he closed with two-over 73 to lie at Tied-93 on Thursday. Sharma, who is going through a lean patch, opened the round late in the afternoon with a bogey on Par-4 first.

He got his first birdie on the fourth, but a double bogey on the seventh saw him turn in 2-over 37. On the back nine a bogey on 11th pushed him further down to 3-over. But he finished with his second double bogey of the day on 18th for a 74. — PTI

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Arsenal vs Fulham from 5 pm; Crystal Palace vs Southampton from 7.30 pm; Liverpool vs Leeds United from 10 pm. All matches on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Spanish League: Eibar vs Celta Vigo from 7.30 pm; Granada vs Athletic Bilbao from 10 pm; Cadiz vs Osasuna from 12.30 am (Sunday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

FORMULA ONE

Italian Grand Prix: Practice-3 from 3.25 pm; Qualifying from 4.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2

TENNIS

US Open: Women's singles final from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1, 2, HD

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Main Card: Thiago Santos vs Glover Teixeira and other bouts from 5.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Osaka unstoppable

Azarenka upsets Serena; Naomi makes final

New York, Sept. 11: Victoria Azarenka came from a set down to stun record-chasing Serena Williams on Thursday and set up a US Open final against Japan's Naomi Osaka.

Azarenka recovered from a 6-1 hammering in the first set to win the next two 6-3, 6-3 and schedule her first Grand Slam final appearance in seven years.

The former world number one is enjoying a remarkable renaissance in New York that the Belarusian credits to finding humility, following several years disrupted by injury and a custody battle over her son.

"I think when you're coming up from kind of nothing, then you become a number one player in the world, sometimes you can start to think you're invincible and that you're better than everybody, and it's not true," Azarenka said.

After a first set plagued by double faults and unforced errors, Azarenka turned the tide in the second, upping her service game and getting more returns in play as she began to dictate lengthy rallies.

Two-time Grand Slam winner had never beaten Williams before in a Grand Slam.

Her last appearance in a Grand Slam final came in the US Open in 2013 when Williams beat her.

Azarenka also suffered a heartbreaking loss to Williams in the 2012 US Open final, when she served for the match at 5-3 in the third set only to lose 7-5.

Azarenka, who had a son in December 2016, will bid to become only the fourth woman to win a singles Grand Slam in the Open era after having children.

She faces a formidable opponent in two-time Grand Slam winner and fourth seed Naomi Osaka, who defeated 28th seed Jennifer Brady 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 6-3. — AFP



Naomi Osaka of Japan returns the ball during her women's singles semifinal match against Jennifer Brady of the United States at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in the Queens borough of New York City on Thursday. Osaka won 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 6-3. — AFP

Jolted Serena braces for France

WORLD NO.2 NADAL EYES ROMAN CLAY TO TUNE-UP

Rome, Sept. 11: Rafael Nadal, absent from the US Open, is preparing for his return to competition after a six-month break at the Foro Italico in Rome, the organisers of the Italian Open tweeted on Thursday.

Nadal posted a photo of the clay with the statues in the background on his Instagram account with the caption "Here we are!"

The Spaniard has won the Roman clay court tournament, normally played in May, a record nine times. This year's event begins on Monday.

"It will be my first tournament after a very long period without playing," Nadal said. — AFP

at the 2017 Australian Open — when she was already pregnant with daughter Olympia.

Williams' presence at

the rescheduled French Open, which starts on September 21, had been in doubt after she said earlier this week that she was

undecided about whether to play.

Williams, who has a history of serious lung problems, said she wanted to talk to organisers about safety protocols after they said that some spectators would be in attendance.

After the French Open tournament director announced that all players will be housed in two designated hotels "without exception," Williams further added that she had hoped she would be able to stay in her Paris apartment.

When asked Thursday night whether she would compete for a third title at Roland Garros, she answered: "Yeah, I mean, I'm definitely going to be going to Paris." — AFP



Gael Kakuta (left) of Racing Club de Lens (RCS) fights for the ball with Paris Saint-Germain's midfielder Marco Verratti during the French league football match at the Felix Bollaert-Delteil stadium in Lens, northern France, on Thursday. Lens carved out a 1-0 victory. — AFP

CSK Chahar ready to play IPL opener

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 11

Mitchell Santner will land in the UAE on September 12.

Chennai Super Kings pacer Deepak Chahar has inched closer towards playing the IPL-13 opener after clearing BCCI's medical tests on Friday.

Returning from a 14-day quarantine, Chahar had to undergo a cardiac screening before resuming training on Friday.

K. S. Viswanathan, chief executive officer of CSK, expects Chahar to be available for the opener against Mumbai Indians on September 19.

"He is fit and ready. It's a big relief for us, but the support staff will continue to assess his progress in the nets. I think he will be fit for the first match. That's what we are expecting," said Viswanathan.

"Players' health is of paramount importance to us. We will not fast-track or force anyone into playing. Captain Dhoni will never do that," added Viswanathan.

SIX-DAY QUARANTINE FOR CPL PLAYERS

Meanwhile, West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, South African leg-spinner Imran Tahir and New Zealand left-arm spinner

In just a week's time, the 13th edition of the tournament begins in Abu Dhabi, but CSK haven't announced replacements for Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh who pulled out of the league.

Returning from a 14-day quarantine, Chahar had to undergo a cardiac screening before resuming training on Friday.

K. S. Viswanathan, chief executive officer of CSK, expects Chahar to be available for the opener against Mumbai Indians on September 19.

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"Players' health is of paramount importance to us. We will not fast-track or force anyone into playing. Captain Dhoni will never do that," added Viswanathan.

This season, IPL franchises can loan players — capped or uncapped — between teams at the halfway point.

But Viswanathan ruled out the possibility of a midseason transfer.

"We are not looking at that possibility," he further said.

LAKERS DIFFUSE ROCKETS

Orlando, Sept. 11: Anthony Davis had 29 points and 12 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers dominated the Houston Rockets 110-100 to take a commanding 3-1 lead in their NBA Western Conference series on Thursday.

The Rockets were no match for the Lakers' intensity and skill as Los Angeles outscored them. — AFP

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Invincible Knights clinch CPL title

BCCI PUTS OFF GENERAL MEETING AMID PANDEMIC

New Delhi: The BCCI has indefinitely postponed its Annual General Meeting, supposed to be held by September 30, due to the Covid-19 pandemic as the meeting cannot be held online.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah has informed the state units about the postponement. The Indian cricket board is registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 and is required to hold an AGM before September 30 each year. Owing to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the Registration Department, Tamil Nadu Government have extended the period for a registered society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, to conduct an Annual General Meeting by three months, from September 2020 to December 2020," Shah wrote.

Chasing a target of 155 on Thursday, TKR finished it with 11 balls to spare as Simmons (84 off 49 balls) and Bravo (58 off 47 balls) added 138 runs for the unbroken third wicket stand. Such was TKR's dominance that they became first team in the history of CPL to win an eight-wicket victory over St Lucia Zouks in the final.

After taking a legal opinion on the subject, BCCI decided to postpone the AGM to a later date. — PTI

KKR mentor banks on Kuldeep's craft

Kolkata, Sept. 11: Kuldeep Yadav's overwhelming show let Kolkata Knight Riders down in last year's IPL, but the team's chief mentor David Hussey believes that the Indian left-arm wrist spinner is at the "top of his game" this season and will be a consistent performer.

"I personally believe after the last eight-nine days of training camp, he's at the top of his game. He's fielding well, he is running well. And his bowling has a nice rhythm," Hussey said of Kuldeep.

— PTI

Olympic body raps SA board

Johannesburg, Sept. 11: South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) has asked Cricket South Africa's board to step aside as it investigates "many instances of maladministration and malpractice" in the crisis-ridden organisation.

ESPNcricinfo reported that SASCOC took the decision unanimously at a board meeting on Tuesday alleging "many instances of maladministration and malpractice" in the crisis-ridden organisation.

SASCOC's action, which means that there is no one

malpractice at CSA which "has brought cricket into disrepute".

CSA's former CEO Thabang Monroe was fired last month following the findings of a forensic report that revealed "acts of serious misconduct".

Acting CEO Jacques Paul and president Chris Nenzani resigned last month with Kugandrie

Govender replacing Paul.

Country's elite players have also criticised CSA for postponing its AGM scheduled for September 5.

CSA also faces action from the International Cricket Council as SASCOC's action could also be seen as government interference. — PTI

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