

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

## WEATHER

Max: 33.8°C  
Min: 24.9°C  
RH: 58%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Rain likely. Max/Min  
temp. 33/24 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+90,890)	(+990)
42,00,366	71,663

covid19india.org

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,574)	(+9)
TS: 1,40,969	886
(+10,794)	(+70)
AP: 4,98,125	4,417

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,72,15,198
DEATHS
8,85,932

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES

worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula  
Panchami till 8.38 pm  
Star: Bharani full day

Varjyan: 4.11 pm to 5.59 pm

Durmuhuram: 12.38 pm to

1.27 pm; 3.05 pm to 3.54 pm

RahuKalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Muhamarr 18, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.02 am

Zohar: 12.24 pm

Asar: 4.35 pm

Magrib: 6.30 pm

Isha: 7.39 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.24 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.03 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 9.46 PM

MOONRISE TODAY 9.57 AM

## COUNTER POINT



We will supply everything... junior artistes, technicians, costumes, drugs...

## IN BRIEF

## Full refund for lockdown tickets

New Delhi: Full refund shall be provided by airlines immediately for tickets booked during the Covid-19 lockdown for domestic or international travel within the lockdown period, civil aviation regulator DGCA has proposed in the Supreme Court. For all other cases, the airlines shall make all endeavors to refund the collected amount within 15 days, the Director General of Civil Aviation said in an affidavit. The DGCA said that after various rounds of deliberations between the stakeholders including the airlines, they have arrived at a proposed workable solution.

Only the elderly woman tested positive, the others were cleared. Doctors suggested that she be placed in home quarantine, and provided the family with a home isolation kit.

However, fearing the virus would spread to the

## STATUTE CHECK

## Judgment gave permanence to Indian Constitution

## Seer behind defining verdict dead



Kesavananda Bharati  
had challenged Kerala Land Reform laws nearly four decades ago set the principle that the Supreme

Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the verdict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court.

While the seer did not get the relief he wanted, the case became significant for its landmark judgment which clipped the widest power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and simultaneously gave judiciary the authority to review any amendment.

Former Judge of Madras High Court Justice K

Chandru said: "The Kesavananda Bharati case is significant for its ruling that the Constitution can be amended but not the basic structure."

Senior Advocate Arvind P. Datar said when some parcels of land of the Edaneer Mutt were acquired under the land reform laws of Kerala, Bharati moved the Kerala High Court against it and partially succeeded.

Page 5: SC said Parliament can't emasculate Constitution



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Harris won't trust Don word on Covid vaccine



SPORTS | 11  
Chennai to take on Mumbai in IPL opener



TABLOID  
Bollywood-drug-debauchery

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## Guarding skies



An IAF fighter jet flies over Ladakh amid the prolonged India-China stand off in the region on Sunday. Indian and Chinese militaries held another round of talks on Sunday to calm tensions as the situation remained "delicate" with both sides rushing additional troops and weapons after last week's confrontations. — PTI

## India on alert along LoC as China uses proxy Pak

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Following specific intelligence inputs that China could use Pakistan to trigger large-scale violations along the border, the Border Security Force and the Army have been put on high alert along the international border and the Line of Control (LoC).

"We have specific inputs that Pakistan could try and foment trouble along the borders and have taken adequate precautions

A SENIOR BSF official said they had specific inputs that Pakistan could try and foment trouble along the borders and have taken adequate precautions

istry had increased the presence of forces along some parts of the Indo-China border, particularly in Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Close to 100 companies or 10,000 personnel of para-military forces have been rushed to border areas. Most of the additional security companies that were deployed along Chinese borders are those that were pulled out of Jammu and Kashmir a couple of weeks back. Both ITBP and SSB have beefed up security in the Doklam region in Sikkim and Kalapani region in Uttarakhand following increased Chinese activity.

Given the tense situation along the Indo-China border, there are intelligence inputs that in an attempt to divert the focus and attention of Indian security forces, China could use Pakistan to start an armed offensive along the border and LoC by violating ceasefire.

Earlier, the home min-

Two armies flared up again last week after India, in a preemptive move, occupied around two dozen peaks on the southern banks of Pangong Tso and Spanggur Gap.

Given the tense situation along the Indo-China border, there are intelligence inputs that in an attempt to divert the focus and attention of Indian security forces, China could use Pakistan to start an armed offensive along the border and LoC by violating ceasefire.

With their colleges not paying them at all, or paying just a part of the salary, some engineering teachers have taken up part-time jobs in the evening to eke

## India overtakes Brazil in Covid as Unlock 4 starts

30% of new virus cases reported worldwide from India

S. UMAMAHESHWAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

India on Sunday surpassed Brazil's Coronavirus tally and is now behind only the United States as far as Covid-19 cases are concerned. The country has reported 90,890 new cases on Sunday, taking its aggregate case count to 42,00,366, compared to Brazil's 41,23 lakh cases.

With the Unlock 4 guidelines coming into effect from Monday, there could be a further spurt in cases as they allow large-scale public transport systems like Metro Rail to resume and also let more people participate in social events.

Though India had tentatively crossed Brazil's figure on Saturday, the Latin American country re-established its unenviable lead on India later on as it came out with its fresh numbers.

However, with the difference between India and Brazil widening to 77,000, India went out of reach for Brazil, which has been

INDIA NOW has 15 per cent of the total global Coronavirus patients.

THE COUNTRY has risen up the ladder for Coronavirus infections in spite of testing six times fewer people compared to the US and Brazil.

IF IT matched the testing metric of the US and Brazil, India could have long been the world's number one in infections.

reporting a daily case addition of around 45,000 as against India's 85,000.

According to health economist Rijo M. John, India now contributes about 30 per cent of daily cases reported across the world.

India now has 15 per cent of the total global Coronavirus patients. The country has risen up the ladder for Coronavirus infections in spite of testing six times fewer people compared to the US and Brazil.

If India were to match the

According to official Union health ministry data, India's recovery rate, at the same time, has picked up.

For the second successive day, India clocked a record recovery of more than 70,000 patients in a single day. The total numbers of recoveries have reached nearly 32 lakh, taking the country's recovery rate to 77.32 per cent.

According to economist Prof Shamika Ravi, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been two of the largest Covid-19 India hotspot states since the beginning.

"Tamil Nadu is showing stabilisation at 6,000 cases daily, while Maharashtra is still on exponential growth — reporting higher daily cases — now at 17,500 daily," she said.

For several days now, Andhra Pradesh has been reporting over 10,000 cases a day and stands just behind Maharashtra in the daily caseload. On Sunday Maharashtra reported 23,350 cases and AP 10,794.

## Engg lecturers work at petrol bunks

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

Look carefully the next time you stop at a supermarket or fill fuel in your vehicle at a petrol bunk. The assistant helping you could well be an engineering lecturer.

With their colleges not paying them at all, or paying just a part of the salary, some engineering teachers have taken up part-time jobs in the evening to eke

lege in Komppally is working in a transport company. There are cases where a few lecturers have taken up daily wage labour work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

If they find that this work pays more during the crisis, they cannot take leave from the colleges which have implemented the 'no work-no pay' rule.

Siddhartha Institute of Technology and Sciences in

Narapally has invented an innovative method to not pay the staff. The management deposits the full salary into the teachers' account and ask them to return 75 per cent of the money to a separate bank account. College officials evaded questions regarding non-payment of teaching staff and disconnected the call.

Page 5: 139 engg colleges booked for not paying staff



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# Bad roads, mosquito menace are a nightmare

## On the street

BSNL does not act on online, written complaints

**M**y landline Phone No. 040-24033459 became faulty in July. I am fed up with lodging complaints online. I went to BSNL office, Kothapet and handed over my complaint in writing. But my complaint has not been resolved so far and I am facing great inconvenience for want of landline phone. I request the BSNL officers at their Kothapet division to take immediate steps and rectify my phone.

S.V.R.K. MOHAN  
Alakapuri, RK Puram

Date of expiry on products should be in big letters

I had purchased a product recently and found it difficult to find the date of expiry. This problem exists with several products sold in the market. Health is compromised as one could be using them after the expiry date. I request that there should be directions to ensure that the date of expiry is written in big and bold letters on the front side. I request FSSAI to direct all manufacturers to abide by this principle.

B. Ramarao  
Nimboliadda, Kacheguda

Greenery and a library please at Pension Pura

**T**here is a lot of open space beside the street in front of our houses at Pension Pura, Langar Houz. This can be used to plant trees. The area also needs amenities like roads, a park, library and an area dispensary. The locals have been waiting for such healthy development works for a long time now.

Dastagir Nawaaz  
Pension Pura, Lunger Houz

Passport office sitting on my police clearance

**T**his is regarding my police clearance certificate for which I applied in the passport office at Ameerpet on June 1. Since three months the status is showing that it was printed on June 3 and would be dispatched soon, I have not received any updates not the certificate. I have been calling the RPO Hyderabad but nobody is picking the calls. When I visited the RPO office at Secunderabad, it was closed. Till date there no proper response from the office.

Nadia Naser Khan  
File no HY2086603804520

No state barbers at Yadadri temple, devotees fleeced

**T**he government has taken up renovation of the Yadadri temple but the construction is going on at a rather slow pace. Devotees visiting for darshan of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy are facing lot of troubles because neither the government nor the temple authorities have made alternative arrangements for proper accommodation, drinking water and bathing. In the absence of temple barbers, private barbers are looting the public by charging ₹100 for tonsuring, and that too in unhygienic conditions. They also are without sanitizers and masks. Cold and hot water are sold for ₹20 and ₹30 respectively. These all I faced when our family went for darshan on August 30. I request the Chief Minister and endowment minister to make alternative arrangements for devotees during Covid-19 crisis.

Vikram Raj Om Vishal  
Raj Om  
Kacheguda

**Dear Readers,** We at Deccan Chronicle request you to kindly send all your complaints, issues, grievances, feedback and suggestions to our government and all its departments by writing to Speak Out, the voice of the people, to our email ID DCSpeakOut@gmail.com

— Editor

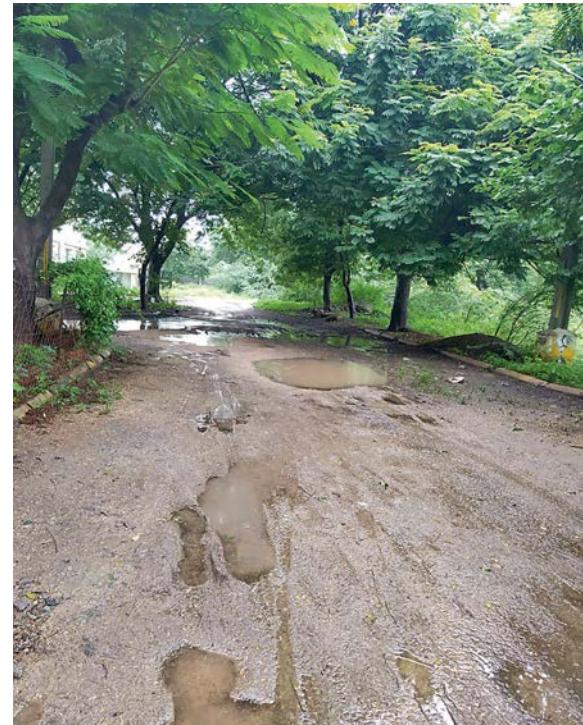
## Paradise Metro Station presents an ugly sight



The footpath in Secunderabad near Paradise Metro station is soiled on the eve of the Metro Rail resuming its operations in Unlock 4. With no one around these footpaths are being used by the homeless.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Bad roads heighten mosquito menace



### Barricades at BHEL cause traffic snarls

I have been writing to the authorities for a few months regarding the placement of barricades on NH65 in BHEL-Patancheru stretch. The numbers of barricades are increasing. These barricades cause long traffic jams, which result in delays. These also result in minor accidents. If the purpose of these barricades are to slow down vehicles, GHMC can make speed breakers which will slow down the traffic but not create a bottleneck.

Ankit Chincholkar  
Hyderabad

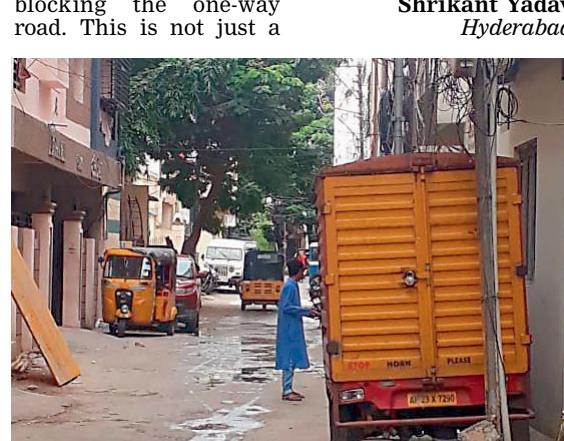


**A**lready facing the brunt of damaged roads, residents of Registration Colony in Yaprak have to reckon with waterlogging at almost every stretch because of continuous rains. Unfortunately, this situation has been prevailing for the past several years, and worsens after every downpour. Mosquitoes breed in the stagnant water and this is causing health hazard. In spite of repeated complaints and pleas, the authorities concerned have not taken any action while the people rue in silence. There is an urgent need to repair the roads after which there will neither be any waterlogging nor mosquito menace. We request the civic authorities to take immediate action.

R. Bellard  
Registration Colony,  
Yaprak

## Haphazard parking at Red Hills

**T**hese days at Red Hills, necessary parking is being provided for vehicles where the roads are narrow and parking space is limited to the people who live there. But cars and auto-trolley drivers are parking their vehicles on the road and blocking the one-way road. This is not just a



Shrikant Yadav  
Hyderabad

### Madhapur road in a bad condition

**T**his horrible road stretch in Madhapur, which leads to Nectar Gardens Apartments, is in a terrible shape. Two-wheeler drivers are frequently skidding on the stretch. They are causing injuries and also hampering movement of traffic. GHMC or TSHC authorities should repair the road and help save lives.

Philip Joshua  
Bible House



## Motorist carry rods, pose danger

**A**long metal frame posing a danger to commuters and to himself, on the Rail Nilayam Road, Secunderabad. Such practices should be checked by the traffic police regularly to stop them.

Shahbaz Husain  
Road No 5, Banjara  
Hills



## Hygiene issues

### Garbage clogs drain on St. No. 18, Himayatnagar Centenary School



Ramamohanrao K.  
Ph 9908452537

### Builder flouts construction rules at Yaprak tank

**A**n under-construction building near Yaprak water tank, which is coming up in utter disregard for guidelines during the construction phase is wreaking havoc in the neighbourhood, where we also reside.

People are falling sick and viral fever cases have become an everyday nightmare.

My husband, who was

treated for a week at a hospital, had to shell out ₹1.5 lakh.

My mother-in-law, two sons and myself suffered from dengue. All these are attributed to non-compliance of Covid-19 guidelines by the builder near Yaprak water tank. Some of the mandated aspects being ignored by the developer and creating health hazards are water

stagnation in stilt floor causing mosquito breeding; green net not being used to cover the building causing dust pollution and affecting asthmatic patients; floating guidelines for workers quarters. I request the authorities to take necessary action and bring respite to us.

Sangeetha Rao  
Ph 9394100003

### GHMC sweeper skipping work at Bagdad Colony

**I**am resident of Bagdad Colony in Langar Houz. The sweeper of the Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation is not reporting for work since several days and this causing health hazard.

ard. I hope this is resolved soon.

Yahiya  
Langar Houz

## Waterlogging heavy at Meerpur

**T**he road in front of our house is a lower compared to the other parts of the road, which is resulting waterlogging during rains or the water that comes from other houses when they wash their balconies. This contamination of water is a health hazard and has to be addressed by the munici-

pal authorities. We have been complaining about this for years but to no avail. Due to continuous blockage, the road has become slippery. Due to contamination, insects and mosquitoes are increasing.

Sudha Madhavi  
Seetha Homes Phase 2,  
Meerpur

**I**t was nine months back that sewer lines were replaced to end the overflowing problem. The excavated sludge has not been removed. Because of rains this has become a nala and very difficult to move. The authorities are requested to complete the leftover job at the back side of Chennai Mall till Gumbad Masjid in Mehdipatnam.

Wajid Siddiqui  
Mehdipatnam

## Road woes

### Speed breaker needed at govt police hospital in Malakpet

**I**wish to bring to the notice of relevant authorities about the regular accidents in front of the Government Police Hospital at Malakpet. The road from the Government Printing Press towards Nalgonda crossroads narrows down in front of Bethelham Church beside the hospi-

Basharat  
Malakpet

### Alhamra Colony needs new roads

**I**request the GHMC to re-carpet the damaged and broken roads behind DMart Alhamra Colony in Shaikhpeta. These roads were laid 10 years back.

Dr Kamran V.P.  
Alhamra Colony Welfare  
Association  
Shaikpet

### Remove blockage under Tarnaka flyover to make it easy for riders

**A**s the Tarnaka flyover is fully functional and Metro works have been completed, it is time the Tarnaka crossroad, which has been blocked by traffic police, is opened beneath the flyover. Vehicle users are put to a lot of hardship while taking a long U-turn. Fuel in

T. Kailash Ditya  
Barkatpura



### Road No. 10, Banjara Hills always has cars parked on either side

**T**he Road No. 10 Banjara Hills stretch at the Karvy office is horribly crowded also.

Syed Sajjad Ali  
Hyderabad

## Response

### Thanks to DC, Water Board responded

**T**hank you Deccan Chronicle for publishing 'Insufficient water supply at SPR Hills' (Speak Out, August 31). In an immediate response, authorities from Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) have assured they will resolve the water problem in SPR Hills at T. Anjaiah Nagar, Yousufguda. The SPR Hills HMWS&SB manager called up to promise us that he would ensure supply of sufficient water.

Farheen Begum  
Jubilee Hills

**T**he road in front of our house is a lower compared to the other parts of the road, which is resulting waterlogging during rains or the water that comes from other houses when they wash their balconies. This contamination of water is a health hazard and has to be addressed by the munici-

pal authorities. We have been complaining about this for years but to no avail. Due to continuous blockage, the road has become slippery. Due to contamination, insects and mosquitoes are increasing.

Sudha Madhavi  
Seetha Homes Phase 2,  
Meerpur

### Remove sludge at Gumbad Masjid

**I**t was nine months back that sewer lines were replaced to end the overflowing problem. The excavated sludge has not been removed. Because of rains this has become a nala and very difficult to move. The authorities are requested to complete the leftover job at the back side of Chennai Mall till Gumbad Masjid in Mehdipatnam.

Wajid Siddiqui  
Mehdipatnam

# SBI, Water Board woes multiply; power bills erratic

## Grievances

Pushcart vendors use loudspeakers, create nuisance

The pushcart vendors in the city are using loudspeakers to sell their products. This trend has come up recently. Early in the morning they come one after the other and compete with each other. The loud sound is causing disturbance to everyone. Schools have just started online classes. Children who are attending online classes are not able to hear their teachers, who are equally disturbed because while teaching the mic will be on and the vendors voice will echo into the students' computers. People who are working from home cannot work properly. The plight of people working in night shifts is equally bad as their sleep gets disturbed and this is causing health issues. Elders with heart problems are more vulnerable and are getting palpitation. I have noticed pushcart vendors in front of hospitals, dispensaries and schools. No doubt this is making their work easier but not at the cost of people's health. We are not against them but their ignorance is taking a toll of people. The loud noise is not only annoying but also contributing to noise pollution. I request the concerned authorities like municipal, police and Pollution Control Board to take strict measures against these errant vendors.

Parasa Rajeev  
Secunderabad



Signboards must also accommodate Urdu language

In spite of it being the second language, Urdu remains largely neglected in Telangana state. Most signboards do not have messages in Urdu. The Telangana Official Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed, as the State's Urdu-speaking population had increased to 12.69 per cent. I feel sad when I see such boards because my mother tongue is being neglected despite the substantial presence of the community. I request the authorities concerned to rectify the shortcoming by mandating signboard messages in Urdu, as well.

Mohd Fasiuddin  
Kanchanbagh

Annual school fee must be slashed by 40-50 per cent

The most adversely hit by Covid-19 has been the education sector. Although schools and colleges have been shut since the commencement of lockdown, some private institutions have started online classes a month back and the government has officially okayed online classes from September 1. We are all aware that lakhs of people have lost their jobs even as Covid cases are escalating by the day and it seems like reopening of schools and colleges are bleak till December. In this backdrop, conducting online classes will help the students save an academic year. As most families are suffering from loss of jobs or being subject to drastic cut in salaries, the Telangana government must direct the education department to release an official circular mentioning about waiver of annual fee by 40 to 50 per cent for the academic year 2020-21. These circulars should also be sent to every education institution in the state and make it binding on them. This will not only bring relief to the aggrieved parents but also solace to the students, as a whole.

Mohd Zaheer Ahmed  
Masab Tank



## Borewell construction destroys unfinished park

The development of a park adjacent to GK's Habitat Royale was partially completed in July and left unfinished by the authorities. Now, a borewell is being drilled

destroying the little good work that was done. The authorities should immediately look into this and clean the place.

Wg Cdr Satinder Singh (Retd)  
Secunderabad

## Power trouble

### TSSPDCL must fix a permanent date for reading of meters

Last month the electricity meter reading was taken on the eighth and this month on the second. This may lead to change of slabs of tariff. I would like to know why metre-

reading cannot be taken on a fixed date. This will help middle class families to plan their budget.

G.D. Bajaj  
Himayatnagar

### Erratic power bill after 42 days makes dept questionable

I received an electricity bill last month after 42 days. This time it has been delivered after a mere 19 days. I would like who will pay the higher slab tar-

iff for 42 days. This is deficiency of service, which only legal or consumer courts can resolve.

Shuja Khan  
Hyderabad

## Pathetic services at RGIA trouble passengers

We returned from Washington DC on August 27. We were about 20 passengers. Most of us are senior citizens and some of us are diabetic, cancer patients or underwent bypass surgery. We were directed to wait at the counter for the staff to move to maintain social distancing nor a space to move to maintain so. The place was congested

hotel. It was a small area where we were all asked to wait standing for an hour with our luggage. There were no chairs down. The silence of the staff created more panic for us. There were no makings for social distancing nor a space to move to maintain so. The place was congested

with the luggage, loaders, security and other staff moving around. The authorities are requested to ease the procedures and clear the passengers without making them to stand and wait in that congested area.

G. Murali Mohan Rao  
Umanagar, New Bowenpally

## Please clarify HMWS&SB notice on sewerage

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has served us a demand notice mentioning a payment of ₹1.86 lakh each in respect of two CAN, 063111668 and 063152223 being the sewerage charge dues until July. It is shocking that ever since the occupancy certificate dated 2014, no intimation or notice was

sent to us and the two connections which this house had earlier do not exist — one was surrendered and the other disconnected. After around six years, the HMWS&SB has served notice under sewerage charges. No details have been provided, and we do not know how they have arrived at that figure. Subsequently, a message was given that

under the one time settlement scheme, a rebate was given and we were advised to pay ₹1.12 lakh before September 15. Such notices without proper procedure is literally a death blow for us pensioners. The HMWS&SB should clarify.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao  
Hyderabad

## SBI problems

### SBI sitting silent on money I lost to online fraud

I work as the chief radiotherapy technologist in Apollo Cancer Institute (Emp: No. 1021153/101056) Jubilee Hills. I have a savings account in SBI, Film Nagar branch (00000020003292955). At midnight on April 27, there were 12 unauthorised fraudulent INB transactions from my account and all were internet-based transactions without my knowledge. Overall, there was a deduction of ₹37,698.94. As soon as the transactions started I have tried to block my account but failed and the message I on my mobile was 'we regret inability to block the access'. However, I tried to lodge a complaint in the CMS portal but in vain. I am in deep mental agony because this is my hard-earned money. I submitted a copy of the police complaint along with details of the fraud to the home branch SBI PBB Film Nagar. To my

shock and dismay, I was told that SBI head office has closed the issue and that my claim stood rejected. Everyone is aware that such transactions cannot happen during the countrywide lockdown. I appeal to the authorities to intervene and ensure that I get back the money I have lost because of the handiwork of fraudsters.

Shibu R Nair  
Jubilee Hills  
Ph: 98492-62022

### SBI, cyber cops are being irresponsible

I am having account at SBI and from my account ₹3,000 was debited from Ibrahimpatnam ATM, whereas I never visited Ibrahimpatnam in my life. I made a complaint to the branch manager of Aliabad but he refused to cooperate following which I lodged a complaint with Cybercrime PS Hyderabad (FIR No. 1332/2020). However, imagine my plight as neither the bank nor the police have taken any action in this regard. Recovering the amount is crucial as I have lost my job because of Corona lockdown.

Syed Zakir Hussain  
Vattepally  
Ph 9008944876

### Request SBI to end my credit card ordeal

I am a retired railway employee and I had a credit card when in service. After retiring in May 2014, I closed the same after paying the settlement amount ₹30,000 in August 2014. When I asked for the no objection certificate, I was told that it was computer-generated and would come to my residence address. After a year, I received a letter asking me to pay ₹2,500. A year later, I received a letter directing me to pay ₹4,500 for full and final settlement. When I contacted the field officer, he told me to pay the amount. He said he would bring the NOC. I deposited the amount and gave him the receipt. When I call now, his reply was that he would come the next day.

Shaik Tajuddin  
Hyderabad

Soaring vegetable prices add to existing Covid woes

The prices of vegetables are increasing drastically as many districts received excess rains that damaged crops. Beans, carrots and brinjals are being sold

for ₹70, ₹60 and ₹40 per kg respectively at Rythu Bazaars, while it is more in retail outlets. The government should look into this issue and take steps to control the

soaring prices as most families have been financially hit because of Covid-19.

Syed Shamsuddin  
Maghabhi  
Red Hills

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## SHORT TAKES

## 2 fishermen electrocuted

**Hyderabad:** A live electrical trap set up to capture fish claimed the lives of two fishermen at the Mogilipeta Mandal in Mallaram early on Sunday morning. Fishermen Jakkula Srinivas (32) and Gadadri Jeevan (27) came into contact with the trap in Peddacheruvu. Villagers who found the bodies of the fishermen in the lake told the police who retrieved the bodies. Some fishermen lay live electrical wires in water bodies. Fish which come in contact with the wires get electrocuted. — INN

## DOST PHASE-I ADMISSIONS TO END ON SEPT 8

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

The TS Council for Higher Education (TSCHE) said that out of 1,12,870 candidates who had applied for DOST in Phase 1 for admission to degree colleges, 29,344 or 26 per cent have to exercise web options for seat allotment on or before September 8.

The TSCHE said students who have exercised web options are advised to once again visit DOST website (<https://dost.cgg.gov.in/grievance.do>) via WhatsApp (7901002200), Twitter ([https://twitter.com/dost\\_telangana](https://twitter.com/dost_telangana)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dost.telangana>), or YouTube Channel ([https://www.youtube.com/c/dost\\_telangana](https://www.youtube.com/c/dost_telangana)).

## PAINTINGS OF CHERIYAL GET FLO LIFELINE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

The Ficci Ladies Organisation (FLO) has adopted Cheriyal village, famous for its scroll paintings, through its latest initiative 'Tirumani'. The Hyderabad chapter of FLO has launched this social outreach initiative to promote the 400-year-old craft form that is unique to the state.

With its declining popularity, there are only 16 artisans practicing it in the village in Warangal district.

The FLO Community Outreach, in addition to reviving the dying art form, will lend its organisational skills to the local artisan community, guide them in creating lifestyle-oriented product range, establishing marketing channels, and gain visibility and promotion that the craft deserves, according to a news release.

A special brochure on Tirumani, a catalogue, website and a social media campaign were launched on Sunday by FLO Hyderabad chairperson Usharani Manne. She was accompanied by FLO honorary secretary Priya Gazdar.

## WOMAN KILLS HUSBAND AFTER QUARREL

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

A drunken argument between husband and wife resulted in the death of the man, a former Army officer, on Saturday night here in the city.

According to the Rajendranagar police, both husband and wife were ex-Indian Army personnel and in an inebriated condition when an argument broke out between them. The police said it quickly escalated and the man, identified as Vishal Dhavan, 42, was allegedly stabbed with a knife by his wife.

The incident came to light when the commotion in their residence, part of the gated community of Mapel Town in Rajendranagar police limits, caught the attention of some neighbours who rushed to the house to find out what was happening. They soon informed the police, who, upon reaching the house, found Dhavan unconscious. He died while being shifted to hospital, the police said.

Dhavan's wife, identified by the police as Dr Sabina Roshan, was taken into custody by the police, who said the couple hailed from Uttarakhand. While Dhavan worked in a private security firm, his wife is a medical practitioner, the police said.

## KCR's move on shrines not enough to dull Oppn fire

Parties to highlight Covid-19 crisis, farmers' compensation, dam deals

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's announcement that the shrines that were brought down during the demolition of the Secretariat will be rebuilt by the government is expected to take away a significant part of the Opposition armoury in the Assembly that begins on Monday.

The Opposition, however, has made a long list of issues to raise in the Assembly, the main ones being the Covid-19 crisis, irrigation project contracts and the compensation to farmers whose crops were damaged by floods and rain.

The Opposition, particularly the Congress, was keen on cornering the TRS over the demolition of the shrines. It had hoped to not only embarrass the TRS but will also place its ally, the MIM, in an inconvenient position.

The Opposition has also decided to target the TRS on the fire mishap.

in the Srisailam Left Bank Power House which claimed nine lives, besides the mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic and crop losses due to recent rains and floods.

On the issue of the fire, the CM ensured that the TS Generation Corporation (TS Genco) paid additional ex gratia to the families of the victims, to dull the Opposition fire.

The Opposition is also expected to highlight unemployment and problems of teachers and government employees.

Congress Legislator Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the Congress will demand that the government discuss the shortage of facilities, equipment, doctors and paramedical staff in government hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients.

He told the media that the Congress will raise issues pertaining to agriculture, farmers, unemployed, teachers and state government staff.

He said that Congress MLAs will demand dis-

## ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS GST ROW, CENTRE'S FISCAL SHOW, AP DAMS

From Page 1

The House will adjourn on Monday after passing condolence motions to mourn the death of former President Pranab Mukherjee, TRS legislator Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy and nine others.

Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy has issued a bulletin dispensing with the Question Hour on Monday.

All arrangements are in place for the monsoon session. Wearing a mask has been made compulsory.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has

instructed ministers to ensure that all major issues are discussed.

The House is expected to witness a debate on the power sector; the new Revenue Act and the construction of irrigation projects by the AP government.

Discussion is likely on the injustice in the matter of GST compensation and the financial and economic losses due to the financial policies of the Centre.

Rao has called for the Cabinet meeting at 7.30 pm to discuss various Bills including the New Revenue Act.

cussion on the alleged irregularities in irrigation contracts and the burden caused to the poor and middle class with the Layout Regularisation Scheme. BJP MLA Raja Singh said that their party will raise 15 issues including

the Covid-19 spread, the Srisailam fire mishap, compensation for farmers who lost their crops due to the recent rains and floods and will demand that September 17 be celebrated officially as Hyderabad Liberation Day.



PCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with district Congress committee presidents, at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday. — P. ANIL KUMAR

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## CHRISTIANS THANK CM FOR CHURCH AT SECTT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

The Christian community has welcomed the government's decision to construct a church as part of the proposed new Secretariat complex. It may be recalled that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had announced that a church would be added to the construction of two mosques and a temple.

Welcoming the decision, Gonhe Solomon Raj of India Mission Co-ordination Committee in a statement on Sunday thanked the Chief Minister for the initiative on behalf of the CSI, Methodist, Baptist, Mennonite, Rock Church, Hebron, Pentecostal and independent churches, and Christian community elders and members.

Oncoseek Bio Pvt. Ltd, a start-up with the University of Hyderabad's ASPIRE-BioNEST on Sunday, received the US-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund. It was one of the 11 selected out of 520 proposals that were received and evaluated.

Oncoseek has proposed to create a therapeutic by developing neutralising novel antibodies directed against the receptor-binding domain and other epitopes of the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2.

Dr Suresh Poosala, the main applicant, said this collaboration will be helpful in doing vivo screening. The partners in the project include Oncosimine Biotech Pvt Ltd, Reagene Biosciences and IgY Pvt Ltd.

Oncoseek had earlier received a grant from the Centre's BIRAC to develop a platform to screen potential drug candidates for Covid-19 to develop in vitro and in vivo platforms for specific diseases for therapeutic screening.

Prof Appa Rao Podile, UoH Vice Chancellor, congratulated the team of Oncoseek and said that this development augurs well for the ASPIRE-BioNEST that is focussing on quality over quantity.

schedule exams at a short notice of 10 days when Covid-19 is at the peak and the syllabus has not been completed. These exams will be conducted without any break till September 26.

Shujah Ali said students and their parents are agitated over the decision. He demanded that the final year examinations be postponed to the next month.

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Uttam Kumar Reddy asked DCC presidents to identify important local issues in their respective districts and fight for doing justice to the common people. He

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## IN BRIEF

**Cops: Sons agreed to take her back**

**From Page 1**  
 "We spoke to them and informed them about the care needed to be given to the elderly woman. We also told them that it is safe to live with a Coronavirus patient while taking proper care. They were convinced and agreed to take care of their mother and took her home," the inspector said.

**PLANT TREES IN JUDICIAL ACADEMY: CJ**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

In what comes as a major fillip for greenery, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court Raghavendra Singh Chauhan has asked the state forest department to plant flowering trees in the Judicial Academy. He said this during a planting programme at the academy and also went to the Kandlakoya urban forest park. His request was to ensure that there are flowering blossoms in every season, to which the forest department officials said that they have initiated steps toward plantation in the state.

At the Kandlakoya park, he had spent about 90 minutes, where he appreciated the Yadadri model of plantation, canopy walk, aviary and sylvan surroundings.

**TEMPLE CHARIOT GUTTED IN AP, MAN DETAINED**

**VADREUVU SRINIVAS AND MD ILYAS I DC**  
 KAKINADA, VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 6

The chariot of the ancient Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in Sakhinipetipalli mandal of East Godavari district was gutted in a fire at about midnight of Saturday. It is said that the 40-feet teakwood chariot was made 62 years ago.

After the celestial marriage of the lord performed during the Telugu month of Magha Masa in February, the deities are carried in the chariot at the head of a procession.

According to sources, the fire in the chariot woke up people in the neighbourhood who immediately called the fire department. The fire personnel rushed to the spot but the chariot was gutted by then.

The state government and the police have initiated investigations to find out how the chariot was gutted, whether it was a deliberate act or by accident.

Later in the evening, a mentally disturbed person was picked up by police suspecting that he might have a role in setting fire to the chariot.

East Godavari superintendent of police Adnan Nayem Asmi told *Deccan Chronicle* that the man was moving under suspicious circumstances around the temple.

The police are said to have found a stick that might have touched a live wire while some prankster was trying to stir a beehive in a tree beside the chariot, causing short circuit and resultant burning of the chariot.

Earlier, the police deployed forensic and Clues teams to gather clues to investigate whether there was any foul play and pressed into service a dog squad to track any possible perpetrators of the act. Apart from a possible conspiracy, police is also examining whether there was any other reason for the fire, like a short circuit.

It was said that some beggars were moving in the vicinity of the temple and police is investigating whether any psychologically disoriented person could have set fire to it.

CCTV cameras were said to be not functioning at the spot, which led to religious organisations to suspect the role of some endowment department officials on the incident. Activists of some organisations like the RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal staged a protest against the incident.

**Danger ahead**

The road from AOC to Safiguda is completely damaged, with many accidents taking place on this stretch. Due to poor quality of repair work, the heavily-used road gets damaged quickly which poses a risk to the lives of commuters. — P. SURENDRA

**Chicken prices zoom as supply takes a hit****TS consumes 3 crore chickens and 1 crore eggs daily**

**MADDY DEEKSHITH**  
**1 DC**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

The price of chicken has increased from ₹180 to ₹280 within a week due to disruption in supply chain from the neighbouring states.

Now that lockdown restrictions have been lifted, demand for chicken has skyrocketed and so has its price in Hyderabad. The mortality rate of birds was on the higher side due to mixed infections, which was one of the key factors increasing the demand of livestock.

Telangana state consumes three crore chickens and one crore eggs daily. Of this, 60 per cent is met from the supplies within the state and the rest is fulfilled by neighbouring states, including Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

D. Sudhakar, from the Poultry Federation, said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's call to consume chicken to boost immunity had given a major boost to the industry. He said that it would take some time to get chicken and egg prices stable as supplies to the city had reduced.

"This is not the fault of the government. There are several factors that have caused the surge in the prices. The government is playing mute spectator in the control of prices, consumers pointed out.

loading and unloading the stock and drivers were reluctant to deliver stocks to the city," he said. Sudhakar said that the price rise would help the cause of the poultry industry which has been in doldrums for various reasons such as five per cent GST on oil cake diet. Since the consumption of chicken is high on Sundays, industry managements are exploiting the consumers with a sudden increase in prices. The government is playing mute spectator in the control of prices, consumers pointed out.

**DGP RETURNS AFTER 5-DAY MAOIST WATCH**

**PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS | DC**  
 KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, SEPT. 6

Director-General of Police M. Mahender Reddy completed his five-day visit to Kumarambheem Asifabad district and left for Hyderabad by road on Sunday evening.

The DGP's visit comes in the midst of the police trying to control Maoist activities. Reddy will submit his report to the state government which will come up with an action plan to wean Adivasi youth away from the Maoists and towards the development agenda with the creation of livelihood opportunities in Maoist-affected areas.

The government may take steps to further strengthen the informant network to control the movement of Maoists in the Agency areas. It is said that the prime aim of the DGP to visit Asifabad was to assess the ground-level situation as far as Maoist movement is concerned.

Apart from interacting with forest officials in the district on Sunday, Reddy discussed social issues with collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, and sought information from police officials in the Agency mandals about the socio-economic and geographical conditions of the Adivasis and livelihood opportunities for them in the district.

The DGP did not interact with the media. He took all precautions to keep the information confidential.

**139 engg colleges booked for not paying employees**

**From Page 1**

Then there are the lesser-known colleges such as Mallareddy Engineering and Management Science College at Kistapur in Medchal-Malkajgiri district, which has no connection whatsoever with minister Ch. Malla Reddy's group of institutions. MBA students working in the college also work as teaching staff. Officials of the Kistapur college could not be contacted as the phone number given on their official website mrem.ac.in does not work.

In the most serious case so far, a lecturer at a private engineering college in Ibrahimpatnam died by suicide in Sattipally of Khammam district last week. His college had paid him half the salary in April and May. His mother fell seriously ill and he couldn't pay her medical bills. His father was diagnosed with late stage cancer in June.

Prof. Balakrishna Reddy, president of the Telangana Technical Institutions Employees Association, said that they have sent representations to Governor T. Mamisai Soundara-

jan, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and three other universities regarding these practices but there was no response. He said that 139 engineering colleges had been booked for not paying staff but no action had been taken.

"I demand that the government implement GO 45 with immediate effect to rescue teaching staff. I demand that engineering colleges do not implement no work-no pay rule," Balakrishna Reddy told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Going by a warning issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), there should be thunderstorms across isolated places in the Telangana state till September 10. "There are going to be thunderstorms from Thursday onwards. Because there are a lot of clouds, there are very few chances for the heat on the surface of the earth to find a route to escape. That is why the temperature has risen over the city," Dr K. Nagaratna, director (in-charge), Indian Meteorological Department, Hyderabad, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Incidentally, the city had recorded a temperature of 33.2°C, which is 2°C above normal on Saturday. On Sunday, it had inched up to 33.8°C, 3°C higher than normal. Even the minimum temperature which was meant to be 21.9°C at this time of the year had shot up to 24.9°C on Sunday.

**UK acknowledges LGBT+ rights progress in India**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

India, like the United Kingdom, has seen significant progress on LGBT+ rights and the British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad is "proud to work with a number of Indian organizations com-

mitted to promoting and advancing LGBT+ rights," Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state, has said. Fleming, who was addressing an online open house session, 'Enhancing Employability and Job

Opportunities for the LGBT+ Community', here on Sunday, said the session was "another step in that direction."

Group, and Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, IT&C. The speakers shared their workplace policies like hiring, safe spaces, engaging with wider communities externally and government's support and welfare on both employment and wider policy framework.

**BANDI TOURS TS TO HIGHLIGHT MARTYRS' ROLE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

Telangana state BJP president Bandi Sanjay will go on a two-day tour from Tuesday to visit places where the people of the state were suppressed and faced atrocities.

This comes ahead of September 17 event when Hyderabad merged with the Indian Union. The state BJP president said the sacrifices of martyrs who gave their lives for Telangana are neglected.

On September 8, Sanjay will visit Kolanupaka and Renikunta villages in Yadadri Bhongir district and then visit Bhairanpally, Kutagallu, Aakunuru and Prakala Amaradhamam in Warangal district. He will then head to Godavarikhani for the night stay.

The second day, Sanjay will visit Jodeghat in Komaram bheem Asifabad district and Udalamarri in Nirmal district.

The MP will end the tour with a visit to the Khila (Dasashti Jail) in Nizamabad.

**PARLIAMENT CAN'T AMEND STATUTE'S BASIC FEATURES: SC**

**From Page 1**

However, when the 29th Constitution Amendment was adopted by Parliament giving protection to Kerala laws, the seer moved the Supreme Court challenging it.

The apex court ruled that the 29th Amendment is valid and held that the two Kerala land Acts that were included in the Ninth Schedule are entitled to the protection of Article 31B of the (validation of certain acts and regulations) Constitution.

The verdict had held that though Parliament has power to amend under Article 368 of the Constitution, it did not have the power to emasculate its basic features.

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the Supreme Court so far.

The hearing in the case commenced on October 31, 1972, and concluded on March 23, 1973 and it's the most referred to case name in Indian Constitutional law. — PTI

**RAINFALL LIKELY AFTER WARM, DRY SPELL: IMD**

**T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

After consecutive dry days, with temperatures soaring to 34°C Celsius, the city might experience a spell of rain that will quell the heat and humidity in the coming days, predict meteorologists.

Going by a warning issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), there should be thunderstorms across isolated places in the Telangana state till September 10.

"There are going to be thunderstorms from Thursday onwards. Because there are a lot of clouds, there are very few chances for the heat on the surface of the earth to find a route to escape. That is why the temperature has risen over the city," Dr K. Nagaratna, director (in-charge), Indian Meteorological Department, Hyderabad, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

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**BJP plans 'action' against media for favouring TS govt**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 6

The BJP in Telangana state on Sunday announced that it is drafting a plan of action to take on media companies and newspapers that have become mouthpieces of the TRS at the cost of the interests of the people.

TS BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, addressing a small meeting at Alwal here on Sunday evening, lit into what he described as a section of the media which, according to him, had intentionally been pushing any news related to the BJP into the inside pages.

"The BJPs fighting atrocities and corruption indulged in by the TRS. When other parties talk about something, their news makes it to the front pages. But when the BJP, a national party, says something, whether it is Bandi Sanjay or Ramachander Rao, it is pushed into the local supplements or to the third page. Should we not object to this and stop them (from doing so)," Sanjay asked.

In an apparent reference to television news networks, Sanjay said these give "breakings and shakings" when it comes to activities of non-BJP parties.

However, Sanjay made it clear that the BJP was not against news media as a whole. The problem, according to him, was limited to some media companies which had taken it upon themselves to carry the TRS on their shoulders, despite corruption by the ruling party running into crores of rupees earned through projects and development schemes. "We will publicise



Bandi Sanjay Kumar

our point of view through social media. We are not asking newspapers and media companies to tell only our side of the story. What we are asking for is that media question Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on his policies and practices and highlight the issues facing the people," Sanjay said.

Even as the state is wondering how media companies have sold themselves out to the TRS, and why newspapers have become like this, their managements appear oblivious to public sentiment, the state BJP president said.

"We have always told everyone to read such and such a newspaper, you will get the truth. But these very papers are now playing second fiddle to the TRS and carrying that party on their shoulders," he said. The BJP, Sanjay warned, will not relent or give in to being ignored and that it will oppose such attitudes. "We are preparing a plan on how to wage a battle against such media companies. Do not believe in the wrong publicity they are indulging in. You too should not indulge in such publicity against others," he told the party workers.

**NOTICE**  
 1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulation 2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from anticipated DDCO to 31-03-2024 for Petition-1: for a) 400KV Pugalur (HVDC Station) & Pugalur (Existing) Substation along with associated bays at Pugalur (HVDC Station) & Pugalur (Existing) Substation and b) 400KV Pugalur (HVDC Station) & Arasur (Quasi) DIC Transmission line along with associated bays at Pugalur (HVDC Station) & Arasur station.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) KPCL (b) APTRANSCO (c) KSEB (d) Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APSPDCL (h) TSPDCL (i) BESCOM (j) GESCOM (n) MESCOM (o) CESCOM (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TNB (r) APEPDCL (s) APNPDCL

3. Tariff details:

Name of the Asset	Petition-1
Approved Capital cost (₹ Lakhs) (FR)	₹ 40331.20 lakhs
Authority which has approved Capital Cost	Board of Directors of POWERGRID
Schedule DDCO (FR)	16.02.2020
DDCO (Anticipated)	31.08.2020
Estimated Completion Cost (₹ Lakhs)	₹ 57775.16 lakhs
Tariff for year 2019-24 (₹ in Lacs)	
2019-20	0.00
2020-21	4156.78
2021-22	7680.18
2022-23	7879.87
2023-24	7829.52

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergridindia.com](http://www.powergridindia.com).

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application will be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th floor, Chandrak Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

# DECCAN Chronicle

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

## No more slogans please, we need hard measures

The war on Coronavirus, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to win for us in 21 days, gets more hopeless by the day with the daily increase in caseload crossing 90,000, a figure higher than all other nations. India added the last million to the number of infected people in 13 days, a record of sorts in pandemic history the world over. With 41 lakh infections, India is set to become the nation with the second largest number of Covid-19 patients, overtaking Brazil soon.

The nature of the pandemic has also been shifting. Those states which fared better in early stages are now becoming increasingly vulnerable. The southern states of Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka see no let-up in new cases; even Kerala has started reporting cases upwards of 2,500 every day. Delhi is reported to be witnessing a relapse with the numbers increasing. Telangana state's finance minister is the latest high-profile person to contract the virus.

The saving grace till now has been the case fatality rate which has been quite low but experts fear that the situation could change as the pandemic moves towards the villages from cities and towns where the health infrastructure is in better shape. It is in this context that the criticism of Congress leader and former finance minister P. Chidambaram must be looked at. He has pointed out that India is the only country that has not benefited from the lockdown. When lockdown was declared, India had less than 500 cases but the number rose to 5.6 lakh when it ended on June 30. The economic cost is going to be humongous if the nation cannot arrest the spread of the pandemic.

**When lockdown was declared, India had less than 500 cases but the number rose to 5.6 lakh when it ended on June 30. The economic cost is going to be humongous if the nation cannot arrest the spread of the pandemic.**

think that the period was spent mostly in lockdown. This quarter, which started with half-a-million infections, will see the number multiplied several times when it ends. It is time the government explained to the people what its game plan was when it declared the lockdown and set a deadline to win the war, and how it all went awry. The lockdown had not only shut down the economy completely, it had also put people to untold miseries. Millions of guest workers were made to trek their way back home in villages from the towns and cities and several of them fell and died by the wayside. There was little help coming from the government; even the courts refused to see the unfolding human catastrophe in the earlier days.

It will be suicidal for the nation to return to lockdown; instead, it must launch a massive awareness campaign on the pandemic and educate the people on the need of social distancing. It must also ramp up the healthcare infrastructure in the interiors. Instead of advising the resource-starved states to borrow, the government must loose its pursestrings instead. The time for hollow slogans and meaningless gestures has passed long ago.

## Kesavananda's lessons

At a time when socialism has emerged as a saviour to the suffering in a Coronavirus-hit world, the Supreme Court's landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment holds a few lessons. It was this judgment that led to the formulation of the basic structure doctrine for the Constitution, one that has been cited over and over again to settle multitudes of lawsuits having far-reaching impact on our society and governance.

Led by then chief justice of India S.M. Sikri, the 13-judge Constitution bench's 7-6 verdict in the apex court's longest trial at 68 days put much-needed curbs on a government's unbridled majoritarianism, holding the Constitution of India above it, ruling that even Parliament cannot tamper with the basic structure of the document, in particular Part Three concerning fundamental rights. The seminal verdict included the concept of the welfare state in the ambit of that basic structure.

Today a tribalist, populist government is invoking *force majeure* to escape accountability after single-handedly decimating the economy. Its stooges have filed a petition in court to remove the words "socialist" and "secular" from the Preamble.

Few are aware that *Kesavananda* (1973) validated the Constitution amendments enacted by the then Indira Gandhi government to uphold the nationalisation of banks and abolition of privy purses. The judgment also defined the extent to which Parliament could limit property rights, in order to redistribute large land holdings to cultivators.

*Kesavananda Bharati*, pontiff of Kasaragod's Edneer Mutt, who, at 29, contested in court the Kerala government's move, under two state land reform acts, to take partial control of his temple property, is no more. But the eponymous judgment that bears his name is a legacy critical to India's functioning as a parliamentary democracy.

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G. Kishan Reddy

## NEP presents Telangana with opportunity to course-correct

A lot has been deliberated on the transformative potential of the recently issued National Education Policy (NEP). The policy that has stood out for introducing sweeping changes in school and higher education is a boon for Telangana where it will improve learning outcomes, especially for socially and economically vulnerable students.

It is important to understand the performance of Telangana in education. The performance grading index used by the ministry of education ranks Telangana at 17 out of the 37 states and Union territories in 2018-19. The broad-based metrics included learning outcomes and quality, access, equity, infrastructure and facilities, and governance processes. Telangana was ranked 30th in infrastructure and facilities and 20th in access. It also performed below-par in two other parameters – learning outcomes and quality, and access to education.

The National Achievement Survey, conducted by NCERT, too, revealed that the performance of Telangana students from classes five to eight as

poorer in comparison to students from other southern states. Even the Comptroller and Auditor General in its audit report in 2018 pulled up Telangana, where 14.26 per cent of primary school students and 21.47 per cent of upper primary school students scored less than 40 per cent between 2014 and 2017.

It is thus imperative for Telangana, which is financially well endowed, to implement the NEP.

The NEP understands the critical importance of good quality childhood care and education (ECCE). Experts believe that over 85 per cent of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of six. By bringing ECCE to the centre of education with an explicit focus on building foundational and numerical skills for every child by end of Grade 3, a quantum improvement in learning outcomes is expected. The NEP also aims for a holistic, comprehensive education as it breaks down prevailing insularity by introducing the 5+3+4+4 system of school education.

The NEP further strikes the right chord in terms of equity and access.

Schools are often regarded as the second home in a child's life and this will thus, in turn, build an inclusive and empathetic society. In both domains of school and higher education, the NEP has opted for restructuring of the system in terms of curriculum, pedagogy and recreational opportunities to prevent any form of exclusion or isolation of disadvantaged communities. The NEP aims to provide food and nutrition in terms of breakfast and midday meals in government schools. This will encourage parents of children, who often have to make their child work for their next meal, to send them to school.

Another striking example to improve equity is the attempt to include the mother tongue as the medium of both educational and vocational education. By including regional languages, in this case Telugu, as a medium of instruction, NEP 2020 strives to focus the child's energies on learning concepts rather than a new language. The NEP also acknowledges special mechanisms required to ensure that children belonging to tribal communities receive the benefits of these interventions. The decision to promote tribal languages will contribute to their educational empowerment. Telangana has at least 10 districts with scheduled areas and children belonging to Lambada, Koya, Gond, Yerukala, Chenchu and other communities will stand to benefit.

One of the reasons for poor infrastructure and facilities of schools is lack of funds with states. The NEP stipulates the Centre and states work together to increase public investment in the education sector to six per cent of GDP. The Telangana state government's budget allocations to education for the 2020-21 fiscal saw a reduction from previous allocations. This is of major concern given that data recorded by the 2011 census shows Telangana's literacy rate as 66.4 per cent, much below the national average of 74.4 per cent.

Lastly, the NEP has proposed sea changes in higher education that will better align with the needs of a changing employment market. Telangana has a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 36.2 per cent. The NEP issues a bold call for enhancing GER in higher education including vocational education to 50 per cent by 2035. It also aims to enhance access by establishing more high-quality higher education institutes (HEI) in aspirational districts and special education zones containing larger numbers of social and economically disadvantaged groups. By 2030, the NEP aims to have at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in near every district. Aspirational districts in Telangana such as Jayashankar Bhopalganj, Kumarambaheem Asifabad and Khamman will benefit.

Education is a concurrent subject and this stipulates the collaboration of both the Centre and the state to enact proposed reforms. State governments will also now need to act in a manner in which we can truly usher in the vision of India as a "knowledge powerhouse" as envisaged by the Prime Minister. This is an opportunity that the state of Telangana cannot afford to miss at any cost.

The writer is Union minister of state for home affairs and represents Secunderabad in the Lok Sabha

Subhani



## A controversial judge with a tumultuous legacy



Faizan Mustafa &amp; Pranav Verma



the chief executive upon an ordinary citizen's perception of the top court are axiomatic.

A strained relationship with the Bar: Justice Mishra

one of the reasons that forced the judges to go public. Justice Mishra in Bhushan's sentence order said that it must be the first and the last occasion that judges had gone to press' (Para 44).

Justice Mishra was part of 540 benches and delivered as many as 132 judgments, which means he really worked very hard. Several matters with significant stakes for the central government came to be heard by benches which were led by Justice Mishra — these include, the Rajasthan disqualified MLAs case; the dispute over the control of Delhi government over services; the Karnataka disqualified MLAs case; the CBI director Case; the AGR dues case; Sahara papers; a total of eight cases pertaining to the Adani group. The last being Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd (2020) delivered last Monday benefiting the Adani Group with Rs 5,000 crore. He delivered a controversial judgment in *Haren Pandya* (2019) convicting the accused who were acquitted by the Gujarat high court. Justice Mishra has also held in *Davinder Singh* (2020) that sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes is permissible. His judgment in *Chebrolu Leela Prasad Rao* (2020) quashing 100 per cent ST reservation of primary teachers in ST areas was also seen as diluting the reservation scheme. The final order was eviction of 48,000 slum clusters. In many cases, Justice Mishra overlooked the earlier precedents. But Justice Mishra's judgment in *Vineeta Sharma* (2020) upholding coparcenary rights of Hindu daughters is widely appreciated.

Justice Mishra's tenure at the Supreme Court would be located in the context of the court's overtly deferential approach towards the executive, a strained relationship with the Bar, and a continuing lack of clarity in allocation of sensitive cases, all of which seem to have contributed to the tumultuous legacy that he leaves behind.

The ghost of the judges' press conference: The year 2018 marked a watershed moment for the Indian Supreme Court when four of its senior-most judges took to the media and alleged through an open press conference, that sensitive cases were being allotted to a select few judges. The then future CJI Ranjan Gogoi, during the press conference, indicated that the assignment of Justice Loya's case to Justice Arun Mishra was

multiple pleas seeking his removal on the ground of non-confidence in the ruling party".

It appears that the clock seems to have started to run backwards for the Supreme Court, unlearning the lessons on the need for an independent judiciary acting as a check over the untrammeled powers of the executive. Justice Ranjan Gogoi's nomination to the Rajya Sabha and his justification of acting as "bridge between Parliament and judiciary" rather than a watchdog over the legislature and government gave further credence to the allegation of an executive court.

That the judiciary is independent from the executive is equally a matter of perception as it is of fact — i.e. it must not only be independent, but in order to inspire confidence, it must also appear to be so. The government is the biggest litigant — ie in 80 per cent cases — before the courts, and the implications of such praises of

## LETTERS

### COVID CRISIS

India is set to cross 1 lakh cases per day and the government is shamelessly unlocking under the guise of saving the economy, despite 70,000 daily deaths. Government has violated Article 5 — the right to live — of the Constitution. The Centre must save the lives of people. Financial constraints can be overcome by recovering black money, a poll promise of the ruling party.

Ramadev B.R.  
Hyderabad

### EASE OF DOING BIZ

AP and UP are leading in terms of ease of doing business when compared to TS. The government should find out the reason for this. Only then can they face the challenge and solve the problem.

Chandra Kantha Awasthi  
Hyderabad

### VILE MUGHALS

Nice article by Krishna Shastri Devulapalli (*Blame it all on those vile Mughals*, DC, Sept. 6). Nowadays everyone, even the educated, are more concerned about what happened 1,000 years ago and not about growth. Proper education can change some mindsets.

Zeenath  
Hyderabad

### PRIVATE TEACHERS

It was sad to know that private teachers observed 'black day' on the eve of Teachers' Day. Every private educational institution should be made to pay salaries to teachers based on their strength and fees they collect from students. The government should make rules accordingly and save the lives of teachers.

C.K. Vinaya Chandra  
Hyderabad

### PRINCES TO BE DE-RECOGNISED

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6  
Rulers of former Indian States are being "derecognised" forthwith. This will imply the abolition of privy purses.

The President is expected to issue an order under Article 366 (2) of the Constitution. The sen-

tation a decision was taken by the Union Cabinet last night after being in session for 75 minutes at the PM's residence. Mrs Indira Gandhi summoned a meeting of her colleagues soon after the Rajya Sabha rendered infructuous the Government's move for the abolition of privy purses and privileges.

Faizan Mustafa is a constitutional law expert. Pranav Verma is an LL.M student at Cambridge University. The views are personal.

## SHORT TAKES

## AMBULANCE DRIVER HELD FOR RAPE OF PATIENT

Pathanamthitta, Sept. 6: A 19-year-old woman Covid-19 patient was allegedly raped by an ambulance driver while shifting her to a first line treatment centre near here, police said on Sunday.

Taking note of it, the state women's commission registered a case on its own into the incident, which drew wide condemnation from the Opposition Congress and BJP, even as health minister K.K. Shailaja said strict instructions had been given to take strong action against the culprit.

"This is an unfortunate incident. We have given strict directions to take strong action against the culprit," she said in Thiruvananthapuram.

The ambulance driver Noulaf (29) was taken into custody on Sunday based on a complaint by the victim's mother to the hospital authorities and the police.

## UJJAIN TEMPLE TO OFFER 'PURE MILK' TO STATUE

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY I DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 6

The ancient shrine of Mahakaleswar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh is planning to raise cows to meet the demand for milk in the wake of the recent directive by the Supreme Court to offer only pure milk to the jyotirlinga in the temple.

The temple administration is working out a plan to procure 150 Gir cows and to raise them in the shrine to make their milk available to the devotees to offer to the jyotirlinga, worshipped in the sanctum sanctorum of the eighteenth-century shrine.

"The temple administration is mulling over procuring Gir cows, a famous breed in India, to raise them in the gaushala or cowshed of the temple to meet the demand for pure milk in the shrine," temple administrator S.S. Rawat, told this newspaper on Sunday.

According to him, around 1,000 litres of milk is being offered to the jyotirlinga by devotees every day.

The temple can build its captive reserve of pure milk to make it available to the devotees by raising the cattle breed, a senior temple administrator said.

## GANJA SMUGGLERS THRASH HOME GUARD TO DEATH

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO I DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 6

A home guard died after allegedly being thrashed by a group of ganja smugglers near Chaulimendi under Balimela police limits in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Sunday.

According to reports, more than 100 persons disguised as kanwariyas were carrying the contraband using slings.

Acting on a tip-off, the police on Saturday night intercepted them near Chaulimendi for search.

The accused attacked the cops, during which home guard Banabasi Maharanai was grievously injured. The accused fled the spot after assaulting the cops.

The victim was rescued and rushed to the Mathili Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning while undergoing treatment.

## SHEIKH HASINA PAYS TRIBUTE TO MUKHERJEE

Dhaka, Sept. 6: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday paid rich tributes to India's former president Pranab Mukherjee and said he was a true friend of Bangladesh, as the country's Parliament adopted a condolence motion over his death.

He was a true friend of Bangladesh since our 1971 Liberation War, Hasina told the maiden session of Parliament called for the second time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The country's Parliament adopted a condolence motion to mourn the demise of Mukherjee and several distinguished Bangladeshis who died recently.

Mukherjee, 84, died on Monday in New Delhi following a 21-day battle with multiple ailments.

The former president was cremated with full state honours on Tuesday.

## TA battalions deployed along LAC

TA units are in addition to 2 Mountain Divisions from Bareilly, HP-Ladakh Scouts, SFF

VIKRAM SHARMA I DC HYDERABAD SEPT. 6

With situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh hotting up leading to massive deployment of forces — especially those well-versed with the art of survival in inhospitable terrains and harsh weather and fight the enemy — Territorial Army (TA) battalions, comprising people from Ladakh are the latest addition in the troop deployment at strategic points to thwart any designs of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. The TA had played a key role alongside the Army in the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars.

The TA units, sent recently to the strategic heights to assist the Army, are in addition to the deployment of two Mountain Divisions from Bareilly and Himachal Pradesh — Ladakh Scouts, Special Frontier Force besides the existing three divisions of 14 Corps apart from the Indian Air Force — making it the first of its kind deployment at the LAC, post the 1962 Sino-

India war.

Each division has between 17,000 and 20,000 soldiers. Recently, the Army has put on hold the premature retirement of thousands of JCOs and jawans, who have been asked to be ready for deployment at short notice.

The TA shot to prominence after cricket stars like Kapil Dev, M.S. Dhoni, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and some from the South Indian film industry joined the force and underwent training.

Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the "home and hearth" units of the TA, which was raised on the concept of the "son of the soil," is coming in handy at this crucial time. The soldiers in this force are locals who are well-versed with the terrain and geography of the area

and have the required survival skills. During peace time, these units, though well-trained, are used for mundane tasks within Army establishments.

While the TA has been supporting the Army in carrying out anti-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir; this would be the first time that they have been given bigger operational roles in the ongoing stand-off with the PLA. Known as the 'citizen's Army' wherein any citizen can volunteer to join the TA and serve the Army when required, the TA units form the second line of defence.

"Since the unit comprises Ladakhis, who are tough, intelligent and know the region like the back of their hand, it was decided to deploy them at various heights," sources said.

Raised in October 1949, the size and task of TA has increased manifold over the years. It now has a strength of about 45,000 and sources said there are major plans in the pipeline to further make the TA strong and give bigger roles.

● TERRITORIAL ARMY is a unique concept wherein any citizen can join the force while continuing with their main profession and serve the Army when required.

MANOJ ANAND I DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 6

Amid escalating border tension with China, the Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the border management along the international border with China by launching schemes aimed at improving the standard of living of people in those areas where they can become important stakeholders in border management.

The secretary of the border management wing of the ministry of home affairs Sanjeeva Kumar visited Ladakh to monitor the implementation of the border area development scheme along the border with China. Authoritative security sources in the ministry of home affairs told this newspaper that the ministry has asked

respective state governments and union territories to prepare the schemes in consultation with the border guarding forces and submit it to the border management wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Pointing out that improving road connectivity is the key component of the scheme, security sources said that the ministry has already started massive exercise to improve the connectivity along the international border with China.

Stressing the need for augmenting connectivity along the China border under the present circumstances security sources said that several road projects are at various stages of implementation. Creation of border outposts is another key component of the scheme. Infrastructure develop-

ment from zero to ten kilometres from the international border is given priority under the border areas development scheme, security sources said adding that adequate funds are being pumped in for speedy implementation of the schemes submitted by the state governments.

The caller rang up twice around 10.30 pm on Saturday following which the police beefed up security at Thackeray's bungalow located in Kalanagar Colony, the official said.

"Someone called up on 'Matoshree' phone number two times on Saturday night and said Dawood Ibrahim wanted to talk to the CM. However, the telephone operator did not transfer the call to the CM," the official said.

"The caller did not reveal his identity, but only said that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of Dawood Ibrahim. Both the calls were received around 10.30 pm," he added. — PTI

## THACKERAY GETS THREATENING CALL, SECURITY BEEFED UP

Mumbai, Sept. 6: An unidentified man allegedly called up Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's personal residence 'Matoshree' in Bandra here, saying that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, a police official said on Sunday.

The caller rang up twice around 10.30 pm on Saturday following which the police beefed up security at Thackeray's bungalow located in Kalanagar Colony, the official said.

"Someone called up on 'Matoshree' phone number two times on Saturday night and said Dawood Ibrahim wanted to talk to the CM. However, the telephone operator did not transfer the call to the CM," the official said.

"The caller did not reveal his identity, but only said that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of Dawood Ibrahim. Both the calls were received around 10.30 pm," he added. — PTI

## NCB grills Rhea in Sushant case

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 6

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday grilled actor Rhea Chakraborty from noon to evening in connection with the drugs case pertaining to Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide. The central agency summoned her early in the day adhering to which she appeared at the agency's office in Ballard Estate, South Mumbai. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), who is probing the suicide to ascertain the motive behind the actor's extreme step, meanwhile grilled the late actor's sister Neetu at the DRDO guesthouse on Sunday, where the visiting team has set up their base.

The NCB officials grilled Rhea on the lines of the disclosures made by her brother Showik, Rajput's former house manager Samuel Miranda and arrested drug peddler Abdul Basit Parihar. While the probe has revealed that Parihar supplied drugs and Showik facilitated its procurement, the latter has claimed to have done that at the behest of his sister Rhea, a claim made by househelp Dipesh Sawant too in his statement.

The agency was also provided with the chats and text messages exchanged between Rhea and other suspects in which they discussed the procurement of narcotics, by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the alleged money laundering involved in the suicide. The NCB used these premises to summon Rhea to question her on the procurement, consumption and peddling of narcotics.

Rhea kept denying the charges despite being put up with relevant material supporting it. She may be confronted with other arrested accused as a part of the investigation," said an officer privy to the

## NCB RAIDS B'LURU CORPORATOR'S HOUSE FOR SON

VINAY MADHAV I DC BENGALURU, SEPT. 6

While the Bengaluru police are busy with the Sandalwood drug link case, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raided the house of a Bengaluru corporator in connection with drug racket involving suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The NCB raided the house of Mahalakshmi pura ward corporator Keshavamurthy, who belongs to the Congress, in search of son Yashas, who is said to be involved in drug supply to Mumbai celebrities.

According to NCB regional officers, they had issued a notice to Yashas on September 2, to appear before NCB officials in Mumbai. His name cropped up when the NCB was investigating the drug angle in Bollywood. One of the accused, Mohammed, mentioned Yashas' name.

Yashas was in contact with Mohammed and was organising parties in Goa and Mumbai. He has close contacts with Hindi film actors. The NCB had asked Yashas to appear before them before September 7.

investigation.

Sawant was produced before the holiday court on Sunday that remanded him to the NCB custody for further investigation. The officials said that he has also stated that he saw Rajput smoking up while he worked there.

The CBI's confrontation was on the lines of her and other family members knowing of the dead actor's psychological condition and allegedly suggesting medication without prescription.

## AHEAD OF POLLS, BJP RELEASES POSTER SEEKING JUSTICE FOR SSR

NAYEER AZAD I DC PATNA, SEPT. 6

never used it for political reasons. It's tragic to see BJP doing politics over someone's dead body."

Dismissing the opposition's allegations, BJP leaders in Patna said that the posters were released by the art and culture wing of the party and has nothing to do with politics.

Opposition parties are of the view that posters and pamphlets have been released to influence voters ahead of the assembly elections scheduled in October-November this year.

Talking to reporters in Patna, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) spokesperson, Mrityunjay Tiwari, said, "Tejaswi Yadav was the first to demand a CBI probe into the case but

## Offering prayers



Devotees offer prayers at the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah after it reopened in New Delhi on Sunday, during Unlock 4.0. Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was among the people who paid obeisance to Sufi saint at Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia. — PTI

## Rahul slams govt for 'faulty GST'

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 6

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lashed out at the centre over the contraction of the economy and linked it with a 'faulty GST'. Another big reason for record GDP contraction is Modi government's Gabbar Singh Tax (GST). Many have been badly affected by this — lakhs of poor families, crores lost their jobs, states' economy was affected (sic)," he said in a post on Twitter.

In a video, which he shared with the post, the former Congress president is heard saying: "GST is not just a failure, it's an attack on poor." In the last

was the second biggest attack on the unorganised sector. GST was UPA's idea — one tax, intended to simplify the system.

NDA's GST was different — four different types of tax slabs, up to 28 per cent tax, it has become complicated. Small enterprises cannot pay this amount. These four slabs are only meant to help the privileged, the country's most powerful businessmen in the country."

He added: "NDA's GST has left states at receiving end. Centre is not able to pay the states. The GST is not just a failure, it's an attack on poor."

In a video, which he shared with the post, the former Congress president is heard saying: "GST is not just a failure, it's an attack on poor." In the last

couple of days, the Congress leader has been doing a series of videos attacking the government over its policies.

In his third video of the four-part series, he also accused the government of allowing 15-20 businessmen of having the reach to manipulate the tax payment and farmers, labourers and small businesses of not having similar leverage.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday hit back saying "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" and asked when will the Congress leader stop lying.

Reminding the former Congress president that he had to once "apologise" to the Supreme Court for one of his lies, the ruling party claimed that the Congress leader wants to have a tax regime where airplane and slippers are taxed same and essential commodities and services which have no tax are brought under the tax regime.

The BJP has claimed that the contraction in the GDP was from April to June when the country was under complete lockdown and barring essential services there was no economic activity.

The BJP has claimed that the contraction in the GDP was from April to June when the country was under complete lockdown and barring essential services there was no economic activity.

MARITAL DISPUTE

## Varsha reportedly stayed with her husband only 18 months

## Mohanty filed divorce petition: Lawyer

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO I DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 6

The controversy surrounding BJD MP, Anubhav Mohanty, allegedly harassing his actress wife Varsha Priyadarshini, took a new twist on Sunday after the lawmaker's legal counsel informed the media that his client has filed a divorce petition in the court of principal judge, Family Court, Patiala House, New Delhi, seeking a divorce. "My client has filed a

divorce petition under Section 13 (i)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 on the grounds that the marriage between the two has never been consummated and as such no child was born. Though the couple got married on February 8, 2014, Varsha stayed with her husband only for 18 months. The married life was full of cruelty, tyranny and suffering for Anubhav and his family members," Ashwini Dubey, the legal counsel of the lawmaker, told a local television channel here

over the telephone from Delhi.

In his divorce petition, a copy of which is with this newspaper, the respondent (Priyadarshini) fears a physical relationship on their first night after marriage and clearly told the petitioner that she is going to take three-four months to get comfortable and would allow physical relations only then. The petitioner appreciated the feelings of the respondent and gave her time to become comfortable. Varsha has demanded a monthly maintenance and an indemnity of ₹15 crore from her actor-turned-lawmaker husband.

him the pleasure of being married, reads the petition.

The petition says that the respondent did not allow the petitioner to establish a physical relationship on their first night after marriage and clearly told the petitioner that she is going to take three-four months to get comfortable and would allow physical relations only then. The petitioner appreciated the feelings of the respondent and gave her time to become comfortable.

Varsha has demanded a monthly maintenance and an indemnity of ₹15 crore from her actor-turned-lawmaker husband.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**BERLUSCONI**  
**RESPONDING TO**  
**VIRUS DRUGS**

Rome, Sept. 6: Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi is responding "optimally" to Covid-19 treatment but is the most vulnerable type of patient and is in "the most delicate phase" of the virus, his personal doctor said on Sunday.

Dr Alberto Zangrillo repeated Sunday that he nevertheless remained "cautiously optimistic" about Berlusconi's recovery. The three-time premier turns 84 in a few weeks and has had a history of heart problems that required being fitted with a pacemaker several years ago.

Zangrillo suggested Berlusconi wouldn't be released anytime soon, recalling that the virus "requires adequate treatment and takes its time."

**SPEAKING ILL OF  
PEOPLE WORSE  
THAN VIRUS: POPE**

Vatican City, Sept. 6: Speaking ill of other people and spreading gossip is worse than Covid-19 and Satan is the worst offender of all, Pope Francis said on Sunday.

When people see someone making a mistake, "the first thing we usually do is go and tell someone else about it. Gossip like this closes off the community," the pope said in comments on a passage in the Bible where Jesus talks about what must be done to welcome back into the community those who have committed errors.

"The great gossip is Satan who always says bad things about people," Francis said.

Satan "is a liar who seeks to divide the Church, to drive our brothers apart, so that they are no longer a community," he added.

**MOM KILLS 5  
KIDS, GERMAN  
CITY MOURNS**

Berlin, Sept. 6: More than 800 people came together for a memorial for the five children who were allegedly killed by their mother at their home in the western city of Solingen, the German news agency dpa reported on Sunday.

Neighbours, friends and others mourning the deaths of the five young children lit candles Saturday night in front of the building where they had lived. They brought flowers, toys and balloons with the names of the dead children them: Melina, Leonie, Sophie, Timo and Luca, dpa reported.

"It's hard to mourn on your own, to express your sadness," Hans-Peter Harbecke, a neighbourhood organiser, told public broadcaster WDR. "It's easier when you're together; it's more intensive as a community." Prosecutors have charged the 27-year-old mother of the five children, who were found dead at their home on Thursday, with murder.

The killings have caused widespread shock in Germany. Investigators have said that postmortem examinations on the children, who were between 1 to 8 years old, showed signs of sedation and suffocation, but it was still unclear how exactly they died.

**HEZBOLLAH,  
HAMAS CHIEFS  
MEET OVER TIES**

Beirut, Sept. 6: Leaders of Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas movement, both enemies of Israel, have met to discuss diplomatic normalisation between the Jewish state and Arab countries, a report said on Sunday.

They stressed the "stability" of the "axis of resistance" against Israel, the Hezbollah-run Al-Manar TV channel reported, without saying where or when the meeting took place.

Hassan Nasrallah, head of the Iran-backed Shiite Hezbollah movement, was pictured meeting Ismail Haniyeh, who heads the political bureau of Hamas, the Islamist movement that controls the Gaza Strip.

They discussed "political and military developments in Palestine, Lebanon and the region" and "the dangers to the Palestinian cause" including "Arab plans for normalisation" with Israel, Al-Manar said.

The meeting comes after an August 13 announcement that the Jewish state and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to normalise ties.

While the US-backed diplomatic drive aims to boost a regional alliance against Iran, Palestinians have condemned it as a "stab in the back" as they remain under occupation and don't have their own state.

# 1 killed, 7 hurt in late-night stabbings in Birmingham

**Victims were drinking, dining at outdoor tables, UK cops launch manhunt**

London, Sept. 6: UK police said a murder inquiry has been launched on Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in multiple stabbings overnight in the city of Birmingham.

According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related. While a man and a woman are battling serious injuries, the injuries of five others are not thought to be life-threatening, the force said.

A hunt has been initiated for a male suspect, who is believed to have gone on a stabbing spree, starting at Constitution Hill in Birmingham. "The events during the early hours of this morning are tragic, shocking and understandably frightening," said Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, responsible for policing in Birmingham.

"Please be assured that we are doing absolutely everything we can to find whoever was responsible and try to understand what exactly happened. We have well-rehearsed plans for dealing with major incidents," he said, calling on the public to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

The force is also calling for anyone with CCTV or mobile footage to contact the police. The police believe the incidents, which took place between 12.30 am and 2.20 am local time, are linked and are following a number of lines of enquiry.



Police forensics officers gather evidence inside a cordon on Hurst Street, following a major stabbing incident in the centre of Birmingham, central England, on Sunday. — AFP

An increased uniformed and armed response has been put in place across the city. The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said:

"Last night's events are truly terrible and have shocked the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and the country." My first thoughts are with the victims and their families at this time. I have every faith in West Midlands Police who are

working extremely quickly on this investigation."

Earlier, the police had declared a "major incident" as cordons were put up and an investigation was launched following reports of one stabbing just after midnight in the city centre.

A major incident describes any situation involving serious harm or a security risk to the public and covers special arrangements for all of the emergency services to work together.

West Midlands Police

said they are uncertain as to the motive behind the stabbings and are working to establish the details after they were called to reports of one stabbing just after midnight in the city centre.

Officers have set up a cordon at the junction of Hurst Street, a popular nightlife area in the city centre referred to as the Gay Village, and Bromsgrove Street. Emergency services attended and some of the

injured people were rushed to local hospitals. A heavy police presence remains in the area as officers urged people to remain calm and stay away from the area as cordons remain in place.

Many people had been seated at outdoor tables eating and drinking on Saturday evening just before the incident. The streets in the area had already been closed to traffic due to Coronavirus restrictions. — PTI

## Belarus braces for new silent mass protest over Lukashenko

**Police declare Portland stir a 'riot', open fire, tear gas**

Minsk, Sept. 6: Thousands of Belarusians staged a peaceful new march on Sunday, keeping the pressure on strongman Alexander Lukashenko who has refused to quit after his disputed re-election and turned to Russia for help to stay in power.

Holding red-and-white flags and placards, protesters including many students took to the streets of the capital Minsk despite authorities mounting a massive show of force and detaining some demonstrators.

Troops, water cannon, armoured personnel carriers and armoured reconnaissance vehicles were deployed to the city centre ahead of the march and metro stations in Minsk's centre were closed.

Unprecedented protests broke out after Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet state for 26 years, claimed re-election with 80 percent of the vote on August 9.

Opposition rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya says she won the vote but Lukashenko's security forces have detained thousands of protesters, many of whom accused police of beatings and torture. Several people have died in the crackdown.

Tikhanovskaya left Belarus under pressure from authorities and took shelter in EU member Lithuania.

Belarusians have been demonstrating across the country for nearly a month even though the

of protesters in an ensuing game of cat-and-mouse through a residential district of east Portland.

"It was Day 100 for Black Lives Matter protests in Portland since George Floyd's murder and they wanted to prevent us from marching," said 20-year-old protester Jay, her eyes red from the tear gas.

"It's our constitutional right to be here and to express ourselves." Police said people were "engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct thereby intentionally or recklessly creating a grave risk of causing public alarm." — AFP

## Cops swoop down on Hong Kong protesters

Hong Kong, Sept. 6: Nearly 300 people were arrested by Hong Kong police on Sunday as riot officers swooped on democracy protesters opposed to the postponement of local elections.

Sunday was meant to be voting day for the city's partially elected legislature, one of the few instances where Hong Kongers get to cast ballots.

But the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam sus-

pended the polls for a year — citing the Coronavirus — angering the pro-democracy opposition who had been hoping to capitalise on seething anti-government sentiment.

Throughout the afternoon officers were heckled by people shouting slogans such as "Give me back my vote!" and "Corrupt cops!" as officers conducted multiple stop and searches and ordered crowds to disperse. — AFP

## Spacecraft was launched on board a Long March-2F carrier rocket on Friday

**China's reusable spacecraft lands successfully**

Beijing, Sept. 6: China's reusable experimental spacecraft, which was launched into orbit two days ago, successfully returned to its predetermined landing site on Sunday, according to the official state media.

The spacecraft was launched on board a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Friday. The successful return marks an important breakthrough in China's

research on reusable spacecraft technology, which will provide a more convenient and economical way for the peaceful use of space, state-run CGTN TV reported.

Chinese military officials, who were tight-lipped about the launch earlier, said there were many firsts in this launch. "The spacecraft is new, the launch method is also different," they said.

An official, quoted by the Hong Kong-based South

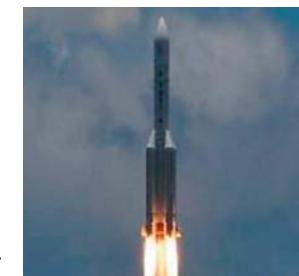
mission but suggested "maybe you can take a look at the US X-37B."

The X-37B is an unmanned space plane that operates like a smaller version of the space shuttle, which is launched by a rocket and cruises back to Earth for a runway landing.

It has flown four classified missions to date, carrying secret payloads on long-duration flights in Earth orbit, the Post report said. Friday's launch comes weeks after

China launched Tianwen-1, the country's first Mars mission, from Hainan in late July.

The China National Space Administration said its spacecraft, including an orbiter, lander and rover, was performing well on its way to Mars. A month before that, China completed the network of satellites for its BeiDou navigation network, a competitor to the Global Positioning System (GPS) system of the US. — PTI



China's reusable spacecraft aboard a Long March-2F carrier rocket. — AFP

## Wouldn't trust Trump's word on vaccine: Harris

### EX-FBI AGENT LABELS U.S. PREZ AS 'CRUEL'

Washington, Sept. 6: Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris said in comments released on Saturday that if a Coronavirus vaccine is available before November's election, she would not take President Donald Trump's word on its safety and efficacy.

Trump faces intense pressure to curb the contagion that has clouded his re-election prospects, sparking worries his administration could rush vaccine research to fit a political timetable.

"I would not trust Donald Trump and it would have to be a credible source of information that talks about the efficacy and the reliability of (a vaccine)," Harris said.

"I will not take his word for it." A shot against the virus that has killed over 188,000 in the US and hobbled the world's largest economy has become another flashpoint ahead of the November 3 vote.

This week news broke that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked states to sweep away red tape that could prevent a network of vaccine distribution centers being "fully operational" by Nov 1, 2020. The US Food and Drug Administration has also raised the possibility that a vaccine might be given emergency authorization before the end of trials.

Trump dangled the possibility in front of supporters last week at the Republican National Convention saying the US "will produce a vaccine before the end of the year, or maybe even sooner."

However, Anthony Fauci, the country's leading infectious disease expert, said on Thursday that the initial results of vaccine trials could come in "November or December."

Fauci said that being ready in October, before the election, is "unlikely, not impossible." White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany denied any pressure to get the vaccine out before vot-

ers head to the polls. "No one is pressuring the FDA to do anything," she said Thursday. "The priority here is saving lives." — AFP

## Navalny case curbs likely on Russia

Berlin, Sept. 6: Germany, the current head of the European Union, will discuss possible sanctions against Russia over the poisoning of Alexei Navalny if the Kremlin does not provide an explanation soon, its foreign minister said on Sunday.

Russian opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner Navalny fell ill on a flight last month and was treated in a Siberian hospital before being evacuated to Berlin.

Germany said last week there was "unequivocal evidence" that President Vladimir Putin's top foe had been poisoned using Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

"We have high expectations of the Russian government to solve this serious crime," Heiko Maas told German daily Bild. "If the government has nothing to do with the attack, then it is in its own interest to back this up with facts."

If Russia does not help clarify what happened "in the coming days," Germany will be compelled to "discuss a

process of investigation for which it's calling. On purpose?" she said on Facebook. — AFP



**SHORT TAKES**  
**UN CHIEF WARNS OF FAMINE RISK IN 4 COUNTRIES**

United Nations, Sept. 6: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that there is a risk of famine and widespread food insecurity in four countries affected by conflict — Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan — and the lives of millions of people are in danger.

In a note to Security Council members obtained by The Associated Press on Friday, the UN chief said the four countries rank "among the largest food crises in the world", according to the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises and recent food security analyses. But funding to help is very low, he said.

"Action is needed now," Guterres said. "Having endured years of armed conflict and related violence, the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan are again facing the specter of heightened food insecurity and potentially famine." The UN chief said key indicators "are similarly deteriorating" in a number of other conflict-hit countries including Somalia, Burkina Faso and Afghanistan.

**POWERFUL QUAKE SHAKES NORTH CHILE**

Santiago, Sept. 6: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 shook northern Chile on Saturday night, the second powerful tremor to hit the country this week, though there were no reports of casualties or property damage.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was 45 kilometers (29 miles) northwest of Ovalle in the northwest of the country, and about 400 kilometers (249 miles) north of Chile's capital, Santiago.

The quake struck at a depth of 30.7 kilometers (19 miles), it said. Chile's National Emergency Office said there had been no reports of injuries or damage. The Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean navy said the characteristics of the earthquake did pose a tsunami threat for the coast.

A magnitude 6.8 quake struck in the Pacific off the coast of northern Chile early Tuesday. No injuries or damage were reported. Chile lies along the Pacific basin's "Ring of Fire," and is frequently hit by tremors with magnitudes exceeding 6.0.

The last major earthquake was in the early morning of February 27, 2010, a magnitude 8.8 jolt that affected several Chilean regions and caused a tsunami, killing 526 people and leaving dozens missing.

**TROPICAL STORM JULIO FORMS IN EAST PACIFIC**

Mexico City, Sept. 6: A cluster of showers and thunderstorms off the southwestern coast of Mexico strengthened into Tropical Storm Julio on Saturday afternoon with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (64 km/h). The tropical storm is moving west-northwest at 17 mph (27 km/h).

As of Saturday night, Julio was located 165 miles (265 km) south of Manzanillo, Mexico. A path toward the west-northwest roughly parallel to the coast of Mexico is expected through early week.

The tropical storm formed with traces of the leftover circulation of former Hurricane Nana, which developed in the Caribbean Sea and made landfall in Belize last week, could likely dissipate by Tuesday.

It's much more common for storms to cross from the Atlantic into the East Pacific than the other way around due to prevailing steering winds out of the east and thus weaker wind shear over the region," AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Alex Sosnowski said. "However, earlier this season, Cristobal became one rare crossover storm when it developed from what was left of the former Tropical Storm Amanda, the first named system of the 2020 East Pacific season."

"The tropical storm is expected to remain over warm water; however, Julio is experiencing strong easterly vertical wind shear causing the storm to be tilted to the west," AccuWeather Hurricane Expert Dan Kottlowski said. "As a result of this tilted structure, the tropical storm will have a hard time intensifying further."

"Julio is on a path that will take it parallel then away from the southwest coast of Mexico," Kottlowski said.

# UK charges 26 for climate protest at printing units

London, Sept. 6: Twenty-six people have been charged with aggravated trespass after a climate protest at a printing works in northwest England disrupted the delivery of several newspapers, police said on Sunday.

Merseyside Police said the men and women, aged between 19 and 60, were released on bail and

ordered to appear in court in Liverpool and St Helens between January 8 and 13 next year.

Fifty other people were in custody after a similar protest at another print site at Waltham Cross, north of London, Hertfordshire Police said.

The protests were part

of 10 days of action by the group Extinction

Rebellion and caused delays to deliveries of newspapers including The Times and its tabloid stablemate The Sun.

Activists blocked roads outside the sites using vehicles and attached themselves to obstacles to expose what they said was the "failure of these corporations to accurately report on the climate and ecological

● THE PROTESTS were part of 10 days of action by the group Extinction Rebellion and caused delays to deliveries of newspapers including The Times and its tabloid stablemate The Sun.

emergency".

The Times and The Sun are owned by News Corp,

which is controlled by media magnate Rupert Murdoch, who has been accused of denying climate change.

Extinction Rebellion accused News Corp and right-wing publications such as the Daily Mail and the London Evening Standard of pushing "personal and political agendas".

Prime Minister Boris

Johnson, who is a former

newspaper reporter and columnist, led condemnation of the action, calling it an attempt to stifle freedom of speech.

A free press is vital in holding the government and other powerful institutions to account on issues critical for the future of our country, including the fight against climate change,"

he said.

Britain's domestic Press Association news agency quoted unnamed government sources as saying interior minister Priti Patel wanted to review how Extinction Rebellion was classified.

The review could see it treated as an organised crime group given the disruption caused by its activities.

— AFP

# Powerful storm crashes into Japan with winds, heavy rain

Japanese authorities issued evacuation orders for 1.8 million people



Waves crash on the coast as Typhoon Haishen approaches in Makurazaki, Kagoshima prefecture on Sunday. Typhoon Haishen headed toward southern Japan, with officials warning of record rainfall and winds strong enough to snap power poles and flip vehicles.

— AFP

live in high-risk areas for flooding rivers or high tides, to stay informed and take action immediately to ensure their safety."

At 10 pm (1300 GMT), Haishen was located about 90 kilometres (56 miles) west of Makurazaki city, packing gusts up to 216 km/h (135 miles) -- strong enough to overturn vehicles and snap wooden power poles.

The storm was forecast to move north and travel off the western coast of Kyushu before reaching the Korean peninsula

Monday morning, according to the weather agency.

It comes as North Korea reels from severe damage left by a recent typhoon.

Leader Kim Jong Un appeared in state media over the weekend to inspect the damage and ordered 12,000 elite members of his ruling party to help with recovery efforts.

Japanese authorities issued evacuation orders for 1.8 million people in the affected area, with 5.6 million people issued lower-level advisories, national broadcaster

NHK said.

Evacuation orders in Japan are not compulsory, though authorities strongly urge people to follow them.

Local officials asked individuals to avoid crowded shelters where possible, to reduce the risk of coronavirus infections, and some centres were forced to turn people away in order to have enough space to maintain social distancing.

In some places, residents were checking into nearby hotels to comply with

evacuations advisories.

Hotel Polaris in Shibusaki city, Kagoshima, said all 73 of its rooms were sold out for the weekend.

"This is a large building for our area. I think our guests have chosen to stay with us to feel safe," front desk employee Takayuki Shimamura said, adding that it was unusual for all of the hotel's rooms to be occupied during typhoons.

Those who sought hotel rooms said the pandemic and discomfort of public shelters were weighing on them.

— AFP

# Helicopters rescue dozens trapped by California wildfire

● MILITARY HELICOPTERS have so far rescued 63 people from the Mammoth Pool Reservoir in the Sierra National Forest, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) northeast of Fresno, the Fresno Fire Department said on Twitter.

said, tweeting a picture taken from the cockpit of a helicopter showing it surrounded by blazing trees.

He said dozens rescued had been brought to California National Guard facilities and were met by military medics and civilian first responders.

Madera County Sheriff's Office said around 150 were trapped at the popular reservoir.

"Emergency crews from multiple agencies need to focus on the critical task at hand — rescue of the approximately 150 people sheltering-in-place at Mammoth Pool Boat Launch," the sheriff's office said on Facebook, warning people to avoid the area.

California National Guard was using Chinooks in the rescue operation, National Guard Bureau chief General Daniel Hokanson

— AFP

California has been baking with record-breaking temperatures expected over the Labor Day weekend, bringing dangerous fire weather conditions.

The Creek Fire, which started on Friday in steep and rugged terrain, has so far spread to 36,000 acres and was zero percent contained, CalFire said.

California has been baking with record-breaking temperatures expected over the Labor Day weekend, bringing dangerous fire weather conditions.

The high temperatures come as the state is recovering from another heatwave in mid-August and devastating wildfires that have burned some 1.5 million acres in the last three weeks.

— AFP

# Paddlewheels found from Lake Champlain

Montpelier, Sept. 6: The Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum announced the discovery of two paddlewheels, likely fragments of the Steamboat Phoenix, which caught fire and sank exactly 201 years ago today on September 4, 1819 on Lake Champlain.

Last weekend, avocational diver Gary Lefebvre of Colchester identified some unusual wreckage off Colchester Shoal in Lake Champlain using a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

Lefebvre brought footage of the discovery to the attention of Chris Sabick, director of research and archaeology at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, who identified the wreckage as the remains of one of two paddlewheels from an early steamboat.

Based on the location, the style of construction and the presence of extensive charring on the timbers verifying that it came from the same vessel.

"Gary's amazing discoveries bring one of the most tragic maritime accidents in Lake Champlain's history into sharp focus in an entirely new and dramatic way," said Sabick. "They also demonstrate that Lake Champlain still has many stories to tell and archaeological mysteries we can unravel."

On the dark night of September 4, 1819, the Steamboat Phoenix was floating dead in the water north of Colchester Shoal and burning furiously.

Passengers who were unable to board the lifeboats jumped into the water and clung to debris or swam for their lives.

As the center of the vessel burned, the structures that support the guards and paddlewheels on either side of the steamboat began to fail.

— Agencies



The activists chanted 'HS2 is ecocide' and 'HS2 has blood on their hands' as police attempted to remove them.

# Researchers track nutrient transport in Gulf of Mexico

Florida, Sept. 6: A team of researchers at Florida International University is providing new insight into nutrient transport in the Gulf of Mexico.

While it is known that the Gulf of Mexico receives high levels of nutrient runoff, it has not been clear whether these nutrients travel out of the Gulf and affect the chemical composition of surrounding waters in the Atlantic Ocean.

"The Gulf of Mexico is an economically important body of water, as the surrounding areas rely on it for tourism, fisheries and oil production, and it also has significant ecological diversity," said study lead author Samantha Howe.

"It is important to track

the nutrient input from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River System to the Gulf as those nutrients contribute to harmful algal blooms on the Northern Gulf Shelf."

The northern shelf waters of the Gulf receive particularly high inputs of nutrients, mainly from the Mississippi River, and this high nutrient load impacts ecosystems and makes the region more susceptible to algae growth.

Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus enter rivers and tributaries through fertilizer runoff, soil erosion, animal waste, and sewage. But what happens to the nutrients after they reach the Gulf?

"In order to assess and

manage ecological challenges in the Gulf, it is critical to understand whether the nutrients are processed and retained nearshore or whether they are transported to the North Atlantic," said Howe. "This finding is valuable to know, as these ecosystems must harbor the nutrient burden."

To investigate,

the researchers collected

and analysed water samples

taken during four different research expeditions to the Gulf and the Florida Straits from 2011 to 2018.

The study produced no

evidence that nitrate from the Mississippi River is mixing across the Northern Gulf shelf into the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

— Agencies

# Environmentalists say West Asian country water plan is risky

# World Bank cancels loan for Lebanon dam

Washington, Sept. 6: The World Bank said on Friday it was cancelling a loan to fund a dam in Lebanon that environmentalists claimed could

destroy a valley rich in biodiversity.

The Bisri Dam was partially suspended in June after the Washington-based development lender said it raised concerns about the project's implementation, and given the government the loan is \$244 million and the

cancellation is effective

immediately," the bank said.

Located in a valley 30

kilometres (20 miles)

south of the capital, the

dam aims to supply

drinking

water as well as irrigation

for 1.6 million resi-

dents.

Environmentalists and

some farmers had dis-

puted

assurances from the

government and the

World Bank that the

dam, to be built on a seismic

fault line, does not

increase the risk of earth-

quakes.

Roland Nassour, an

activist who has cam-

paignled against the

project, said he was delighted

the loan had been can-

celled.

"Today one of the

corruption

deals in the coun-

## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	38,357.18	-1.63
Nifty 50	11,333.85	-1.68
S&P 500*	3,426.96	-0.81
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.48
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.22	0.46
Euro (₹)	86.62	0.27
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,770.56	0.10
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.66	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.930	0.034
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.721	0.00

\* As of Friday/Saturday

### Faceless vetting of all imports by December 31

The Customs Department will roll out pan-India faceless assessment for all imported goods by October 31, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has said. While faceless assessment for import of certain goods was already rolled out in Bengaluru and Chennai ports on June 8, it was extended to Delhi and Mumbai Customs on August 3. This will now be extended in phases to all ports across the country by December 31.

### Thriveni Earth bags ₹31,428 cr NTPC contract



Thriveni Earthmovers has bagged a contract worth Rs 31,428 crore from NTPC to develop and operate Talaipalli coal mine in Chhattisgarh. "Thriveni Earthmovers... a Coimbatore-based mining company, has bagged another mine development and operation contract from NTPC on August 26, with a contract value of Rs 31,428 crore," an official said. NTPC had terminated the contracts awarded to BGR Mining & Infra.

### EV charging kiosks at 69,000 pumps mulled

The Centre is mulling setting up at least one electric vehicle (EV) charging kiosk each at nearly 69,000 petrol pumps across the country to induce people to go for electric mobility. The government is also thinking of making it compulsory to install EV charging kiosks at all company-owned, company-operated petrol pumps of state refiners. Power minister R. K. Singh suggested oil ministry officials to issue an order in this regard.

### Airtel launches 'unlimited' net plans at ₹499

Bharti Airtel launched 'unlimited' category broadband plans starting at Rs 499 per month, which will come bundled with subscription to video entertainment apps and high definition set-top box (STB) against refundable deposit. The move comes within a week of Reliance Jio revising broadband plans with unlimited data usage and bundling subscription fee of video entertainment apps in them.

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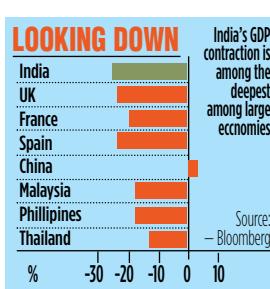
## Rangarajan says half the economy may do well Chances of positive growth this fiscal

New Delhi, Sept 6: A small positive economic growth in 2020-21 may not be ruled out as sectors like agriculture and essential goods and services were fully operational in the first quarter despite coronavirus-induced lockdown, according to a paper co-authored by former RBI governor C. Rangarajan.

Although many international and national agencies have projected a sharp contraction in the GDP in 2020-21—ranging from World Bank's projection of 3.2 per cent to SBI's 6.8 per cent—there are reasons to believe that the outcome may be better than these strong contractionary prospects, the paper said.

"We may note that some key sectors like agriculture and related sectors, public administration, defence services and other services may perform normally or better than normal given the demand for health services," said the paper authored by Rangarajan and India EY India chief policy advisor D. K. Srivastava.

However, the paper titled 'India's Growth Prospects and Policy Options: Emerging from the Pandemic's Shadow' also stated that the story of the Indian economy as it unfolds under the impact of Covid-19 is disquieting. The report said half the economy could support positive growth. It pointed out that goods and services categorised as essential



### TATA STEEL PRODUCTION BACK AT 100% CAPACITY, SAYS NARENDRA N

New Delhi, Sept 6: Tata Steel's production level has now recovered to 100 per cent as the company sees a revival in domestic demand in the current quarter led by a good monsoon and rural economy, its CEO and MD T. V. Narendran has said.

The company is now less dependent on exports compared to the first quarter, he added.

Due to the lockdown,

steel makers like Tata Steel were forced to cut down their operations by up to 50 per cent in April. The players also had to turn to exports to find markets for their produce. However, with the relaxation of lockdown norms, the company ramped up its production in a phased manner.

"Production is running at 100 per cent," Narendran told PTI.

goods and services in other sectors, technically called 'permitted goods and services' together with agriculture and public administration, defence and other services, may have a weight in the range of 40-50 per cent of total output. "These were fully operational even in the first quarter of 2020-21. Thus, nearly half of the economy may perform normally or better than normal over the full 2020-21," it said.

Also, given the current geopolitical situation, the government at the central and state levels have become more active in attracting investment from abroad. "Thus, a small positive growth may not be ruled out," the paper said.

India's economy has suffered its worst slump on record in April-June quarter of 2020-21, with the GDP contracting by 23.9 per cent.

— PTI

### New customers nearly double for online grocery sites

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 6

The pandemic has given a reason for several first-time online shoppers to buy groceries. Online grocery sites are seeing almost double the number of first-time users compared to pre-Covid times.

BigBasket has seen the number of new customers increasing by 84 per cent compared to pre-Covid levels. Their retention rate is also higher by 50 per cent. The number of visits too has gone up by 55 per cent compared to pre-Covid times.

"There has been a significant change in consumer behaviour since March 2020...we have experienced an 84 per cent increase in new customers accompanied by excellent retention rates and basket sizes," said Seshu Kumar Tirumala, national category head of BigBasket.

Similarly, Grofers has seen 64 per cent more first-time online grocery shoppers and 15 per cent more first-time online shoppers. The current situation has led to a natural demand for online grocery, and more people are gradually moving from offline shopping to online, finds Grofers.

Grofers too has seen a higher customer retention rate. Almost 62 per cent of the customers who came in the first month of the pandemic are still shopping with the platform, it claimed.

Increased customer base is not a metro phenomenon. Grofers has seen a spurt in demand from non-metro markets as well. It has witnessed an increase of 54 per cent in orders in smaller cities like Indore, Agra and Panipat.

These customers are driving demand for predominantly immunity-boosting foods. According to BigBasket, fruit with higher vitamin C content and those increasing immunity and general health saw 2x the household penetration growth when compared to regular fruit and vegetables like onions, tomatoes and potatoes.



received just \$84 million and had a minimal share of 1.1 per cent in the venture capital funding.

Emergence of newer companies to tap the opportunity in online education combined with maturing of some of the larger companies has led to the increase in the funding. However, the pandemic was a game-changer. The new education policy of the government too enhances the role of online in continuous learning.

"In this pandemic situation where every other sector is struggling to survive, ed-tech is one and only sector that has seen maximum traction from VC/PEs, and the ed-tech industry has seen a gradual rise of investments and share in the past five years, 2020 saw a quantum jump. In 2015, ed-tech companies had

## Over ₹10 L cr loans may come up for restructuring: Bankers

New Delhi, Sept. 6: Banks may restructure loans of more than Rs 10 lakh crore, largely attributed to five-to-six critical sectors, including aviation, commercial real estate and hospitality, according to bankers.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week asked banks and NBFCs to roll out one-time loan restructuring scheme for Covid-19 related stress by September 15.

According to a top official of a public sector bank, it is win-win for both lenders and borrowers.

Explaining the rationale, the banker said, companies will try to save their

business from turning non-performing asset (NPA) and buy crucial time for getting cash flow back for servicing the debt.

Secondly, banks have to make only 10 per cent provision against restructured account as compared to 15 per cent if the same account turns into NPA, the official said, adding that the lure of 5 per cent conservation of capital will also push banks for recast.

Given the benefit, the official said, it is estimated that 12-15 per cent of total loan book would avail of one-time restructuring.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are already covered under the ongoing restructuring scheme which was tweaked recently to cover those impacted by Covid-19 crisis.

A total Rs 100 lakh crore worth of loan is outstanding in the banking system.

Another banking official said nearly half of the 30 per cent of the total loan book which sought moratorium that ended on August 31 may opt for restructuring.

Companies in about half-a-dozen vulnerable sectors—hospitality, aviation, entertainment, commercial real estate and travel

& tourism—whose businesses have been impacted severely due to the Covid-19 crisis will make a bee-line for the scheme.

The K. V. Kamath committee report is expected to give financial parameters like hair cut, debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans for over half a dozen vulnerable sectors, the official added.

Last month, Punjab National Bank managing director S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao said about 5-6 per cent of loan book would go for restructuring as per RBI guidelines.

— PTI

## SBI mulls VRS for 30K staff

New Delhi, Sept. 6: In a bid to optimise its costs, the State Bank of India (SBI) has planned a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS). About 30,190 employees are eligible to opt for the scheme.

The country's largest lender has a total employee strength of 2.49 lakh, at the end of March 2020, down from 2.57 lakh in the previous year.

According to sources, a draft scheme for VRS has been prepared and the board approval is awaited.

The proposed scheme—Second Innings Tap VRS-2020—is aimed at optimising human resources and costs of the bank. Besides, the draft scheme, seen by

PTI, said it will provide an option and a respectable exit route to employees who have reached a level of saturation in their career, may not be at the peak of their performance, have some personal issue or want to pursue their professional or personal life outside the bank.

The scheme will be opened to all permanent officers and staff who have put in 25 years of service or completed 55 years of age on the cut-off date.

The scheme will open on December 1 and remain open till the end of February.

As per the proposed eligibility criteria, a total of 11,565 officers and 18,625

staff members will be eligible for the scheme. The total net savings for the bank would be Rs 1,662.36 crore if 30 per cent of eligible employees opt for retirement under the scheme based on July 2020 salary.

The staff member whose request for retirement under VRS is accepted will be paid an ex-gratia amounting 50 per cent of salary for the residual period of service (up to the date of superannuation), subject to a maximum of 18 months' last drawn salary," the draft report said.

The scheme will open on December 1 and remain open till the end of February.

As per the proposed VRS criteria, a total of 11,565 officers and 18,625

A person retired under the scheme will be eligible for engagement or re-employment in the bank after a gap of two years.

Ahead of amalgamation of SBI's five associates with it in 2017, the merging subsidiaries had announced VRS for their employees. In 2001 also the bank had announced VRS to optimise human resources.

However, the scheme is not finding favour with bank unions. Such a move at a time when the country is in the grip of a pandemic reflects the anti-worker attitude of management, Ashwani Rana, vice-president, National Organisation of Bank Workers, said.

— PTI

## Equity mutual funds see redemptions in August

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 6

Retail mutual fund investors booked profit in equity mutual funds in August too, just like in July, encouraged by gains in the broader market and need to protect their savings in times of job losses and salary cut.

Equity mutual funds have seen almost daily redemptions last month, barring a few days of net buying, as per August month data now available with Securities and Exchange Board of India. Data released by custodians to Sebi shows August saw redemptions worth Rs 8,358.68 crore from equity mutual funds, a tad lower than Rs 9,195.04 crore reported in July 2020.

In August, equity mutual funds saw redemptions on all but four trading days during the month. Only on August 31, when the equity market fell sharply due to Indo-China border stand off and extremely negative first quarter GDP data fears, equity mutual funds turned net buyers by a sizable amount of Rs 891.58 crore, being the highest single day investment.

Among the larger deals, Byju's received \$300 million from Tiger Global in January, \$200 mn from General Atlantic in February and \$122 mn from DST Global in Aug-19. Unacademy got \$150 mn from SoftBank and others, and \$110 mn from Steadview Capital and others.

ment in the month.

The redemption trend remained similar to those seen in the month of July and the first day of September also saw redemption worth Rs 263.68 crore.

Monthly data to be released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India later during the week, will throw more light on equity mutual fund trends in August.

At the same time fixed income/debt mutual funds have seen investments worth Rs 24,293.21 crore in August as against Rs 31,897.85 crore in July, indicating investors are moving away from equity mutual funds but getting back to debt investment.

Debt mutual fund investments had turned negative in April (Rs 9,797.50 crore) after Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund had closed six funds abruptly on April 23, 2020.

Advisers think they can fool the women and get away with selling them advice with sub-par results," study co-author Utpal Bhattacharya of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology said, suggesting that's because they perceive women to be less financially literate than men.

"This is what we call statistical discrimination."

The motivation, the researchers suggest, is the financial planners saw an opportunity for commissions. The logic goes that women were less likely to be able to spot bad advice and more likely to buy products if the recommendation chimed with what they wanted to do anyway.

It's an attitude that could cost not only clients but backfire on the advisers themselves. A separate gender-bias survey from Bank of America Corp recently found wealthy female investors who have negative experiences with their financial advisers are in fact more likely than men to fire them. —Bloomberg



### Vaccine-makers plan to resist Trump pressure

ROBERT LANGRETH  
SEPT. 6

Drugmakers are planning a public pledge to not send any Covid-19 vaccine to the FDA for review without extensive safety and efficacy data, according to people familiar with the effort.

The joint stance is

## SHORT TAKES

## Shuttlers back at training today

**New Delhi:** Top singles players such as Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth will finally resume training from Monday as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) gave its go-ahead to the national badminton camp at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

The camp, to continue till September 27, is being organised to help 26 players prepare for the Thomas and Uber Cup tournaments, beginning in Aarhus, Denmark, from October 3. The players who will be part of the camp include Nehwal, Sai Praneeth, P. Kashyap, Srikanth, Lakshya Sen (all singles), women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa, along with seven coaches, four support staff and three sparring partners.

Keeping the current situation of the ongoing pandemic in mind, all players, coaches and support staff would have to undergo mandatory RT-PCR test for Covid-19 before they travel to Hyderabad. — PTI

## Tvesa finishes 4th in Swiss golf

**Plumserberg, Switzerland:** Indian golfer Tvesa Malik finished an impressive tied-fourth at the Plumserberg Ladies Open at Gams-Werdenberg Golf Club here, to record her career-best result in an international pro event.

The 24-year-old Tvesa, whose previous best was tied-sixth at the Hero Women's Indian Open in 2019, shot a final round of two-under 70 in her first-ever Ladies European Tour Access Tour, the second rung circuit on the Ladies European Tour.

Tvesa totalled eight-under as Finland's Sanna Nuutinen claimed her third career LETAS win in a thrilling sudden-death playoff against overnight leader Stina Resen, after the pair were tied at 12-under-par. The other Indian in the event, Diksha Dagar shot 77 in the final round to finish tied-47th. — PTI

## Punia discharged, in home isolation

**New Delhi:** World champion silver-medalist wrestler Deepak Punia, who tested positive for Covid-19 upon his arrival at the national camp, has been discharged from hospital and advised home isolation.

Besides the Olympic-bound Punia (86kg), the other two wrestlers who tested positive for the virus were Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg). All three are part of a national camp at the SAI Centre in Sonipat ahead of which the wrestlers are in quarantine. "Wrestler Deepak Punia tested Covid positive during the test given by SAI upon arrival at the National Camp in Sonipat, and was in hospital. Now he's been advised home quarantine by doctors as he's stable & asymptomatic. His home stay is approved by District Covid Nodal Officer," the Sports Authority of India tweeted. — PTI

## Nuggets numb Clippers in playoff

**Miami:** The Denver Nuggets bounced back with a vengeance on Saturday, powering to a 110-101 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers to even their NBA playoff series 1-1. It was all-square between the Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics, too, after the Raptors notched a second straight win, 100-93, to knot their Eastern Conference semi-final series 2-2 in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida. The Nuggets, routed 120-97 in game one of the Western Conference series on Thursday, turned the tables with a blistering first half in which they led by as many as 23 points.

"Game one, we were tired. I hate to admit it, but we were tired," said guard Jamal Murray, who led Denver with 27 points. "We came out sloppy, came out exhausted, fatigued. We didn't make any shots, we didn't get back on defense." — APF

## Live on TV

## US OPEN TENNIS

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, 2, HD

## UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs Poland from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Six, HD; Netherlands vs Italy from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## WWE RAW

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

## ROYAL OPENING

IPL schedule out, MI to face CSK in first match

**Dubai, Sept. 6:** Ending days of anxious wait, the BCCI on Sunday released the schedule for the upcoming IPL, and in keeping with tradition, defending champions Mumbai Indians will take on runners-up Chennai Super Kings in the opener in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

Moved out of India due to a surge in Covid-19 cases, the upcoming edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be held in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE.

After the tournament-opener in the capital city, Dubai will host its first game the next day when Delhi Capitals take on Kings XI Punjab followed by the third match on Monday between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The action will then shift to Sharjah on September 22 when Rajasthan Royals will host Chennai Super Kings.

There will be 10 double headers, with the first match starting at 3:30pm IST and the second 7:30pm, according to a BCCI release.

In all, 24 matches will be held in Dubai, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in Sharjah.

Venues for the playoffs and the IPL 2020 final will be announced later. The final is slated for November 10.

The upcoming 53-day edition is by far the longest in the history of the league.

The schedule was expected to be out in the last week of August but the announcement was delayed after 13 personnel of the Chennai Super Kings camp tested positive for the dreaded virus.

Also, due to different quarantine rules in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, IPL's operations team took time to finalise the schedule. As per IPL rules, the defending champions and the last year's runner-up face off in the tournament opener. The same is going to happen this year after concerns over Chennai Super Kings' readiness were erased with their first practice session in Dubai on Friday.

This year's IPL was originally scheduled to be held from March 29 to May 24 but was postponed barely two weeks before the start of the tournament due to the virus outbreak. — PTI



Mumbai Indians players Rohit Sharma (left) and Japrit Bumrah at a practice session in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

## Chahar 'touch and go' for opener

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 6

ing to go. "A great leader on and off the field, Dhoni has navigated the team through a difficult phase. All members are in good shape and in a positive frame of mind. We have had three training sessions so far (including Sunday) and our preparation is on track. We have no worries in playing the opener," said Viswanathan.

Along with a couple of net bowlers, the team's throwdown specialist and Rituraj Gaikwad, considered Raina's replacement, will complete their 14-day quarantine on September 11.

They will undergo two Covid-19 PCR tests, 24 hours apart. Their return to the bubble is subject to those test results. They must also undergo a car-

diac screening before resuming training.

Viswanathan also said the team management hasn't decided on replacements for Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh.

## CPL PLAYERS TO LAND ON SEPTEMBER 12

Players who are currently part of the Caribbean Premier League are expected to land in the UAE on September 12. The CPL final is scheduled to be held on September 10. They have to undergo a six-day quarantine upon arrival.

## THE RESULTS

**Men's singles third round:** Matteo Berrettini (ITA x6) bt Casper Ruud (NOR x30) 6-4, 6-2; Andrey Rublev (RUS x10) bt Salvatore Caruso (ITA) 6-0, 6-4, 6-0; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) bt Jeffrey Wolf (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Vasek Pospisil (CAN) bt Roberto Bautista (ESP x8) 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Alex De Minaur (AUS x21) bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x11) 6-4, 0-6, 4-6, 6-1; Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) bt Corentin Moutet (FRA) 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; Dominic Thiem (AUT x2) bt Marin Cilic (CRO x31) 6-2, 6-2, 3-6.

**Women's singles third round:** Alize Cornet (FRA) bt Madison Keys (USA x7) 7-6 (7/4), 3-2 retired; Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Donna Vekic (CRO x18) 6-4, 6-1; Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) bt Amanda Anisimova (USA x22) 6-3, 6-1; Serena Williams (USA x3) bt Sloane Stephens (USA x26) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; Victoria Azarenka (BLR) bt Iga Swiatek (POL) 6-4, 6-2; Karolina Muchova (CZE x20) bt Sorana Cirstea (ROU) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (9/7); Elise Mertens (BEL x16) bt Caty McNally (USA) 7-5, 6-1.

## Serena survives Sloane scare

## ROHAN IN DOUBLES QUARTERS

New York, Sept. 6:

India veteran Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies in a hard-fought three-setter to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Open men's doubles event here.

The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair on Saturday overcame a set deficit to beat the German duo 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a second round encounter that lasted one hour and 47 minutes.

Bopanna and Shapovalov will take on Dutch-Romanian combination of Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau in the quarterfinals. — PTI

Alex de Minaur upset 11th-seeded Russian Karen Khachanov.

In the women's draw, unranked Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova, playing her first tournament in three years, knocked out 18th seed Donna Vekic.

Second seed Sofia Kenin defeated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 7-6 (7/4), 6-3. — AFP



Sofia Kenin of the United States returns to Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in their US Open third round match in New York on Saturday. Kenin won 7-6 (7/4), 6-3. — AFP

New York, Sept. 6:

The US Open was plunged into controversy on Saturday after New York health officials ordered the women's top doubles pairing be withdrawn from the tournament due to possible exposure to coronavirus.

Number one seeds Kristina Mladenovic and Timea Babos were yanked from the competition after Mladenovic was instructed to quarantine for coming in contact with Benoit Paire, who tested positive for

Covid-19 last weekend.

"All persons who were identified as having prolonged close contact with the infected player will quarantine in their rooms for the remainder of their quarantine period," the United States Tennis Association said.

"Kristina Mladenovic is one of these individuals, and as the women's doubles competition has begun, the women's doubles team of Mladenovic and Babos has been withdrawn from the

US Open," it added.

The USTA said that local public health issues had issued the quarantine notices, which prevented the players commuting from their hotel to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

The shock intervention came a day after health officials tried to prevent Adrian Mannarino, who had also been in contact with Paire, from playing his last-32 match. — AFP

## IPL FIXTURES

M	Date	Time	Teams	Venue
1	19-Sept	7.30 pm	MI vs CSK	Abu Dhabi
2	20-Sept	7.30 pm	DC vs KXIP	Dubai
3	21-Sept	7.30 pm	SRH vs RCB	Dubai
4	22-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs CSK	Sharjah
5	23-Sept	7.30 pm	KKR vs MI	Abu Dhabi
6	24-Sept	7.30 pm	KXIP vs RCB	Dubai
7	25-Sept	7.30 pm	CSK vs DC	Dubai
8	26-Sept	7.30 pm	KKR vs SRH	Abu Dhabi
9	27-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs KXIP	Sharjah
10	28-Sept	7.30 pm	RCB vs MI	Dubai
11	29-Sept	7.30 pm	DC vs SRH	Abu Dhabi
12	30-Sept	7.30 pm	RR vs KKR	Dubai
13	1-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs MI	Abu Dhabi
14	2-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs SRH	Dubai
15	3-Oct	3.30 pm	RCB vs RR	Abu Dhabi
16	3-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs KKR	Sharjah
17	4-Oct	3.30 pm	MI vs SRH	Sharjah
18	4-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs CSK	Dubai
19	5-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs DC	Dubai
20	6-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs RR	Abu Dhabi
21	7-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs CSK	Abu Dhabi
22	8-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs KXIP	Dubai
23	9-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs DC	Sharjah
24	10-Oct	3.30 pm	KXIP vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
25	10-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs RCB	Dubai
26	11-Oct	3.30 pm	SRH vs RR	Dubai
27	11-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs DC	Abu Dhabi
28	12-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs KKR	Sharjah
29	13-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs CSK	Dubai
30	14-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs RR	Dubai
31	15-Oct	7.30 pm	RCB vs KXIP	Sharjah
32	16-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
33	17-Oct	3.30 pm	RR vs RCB	Dubai
34	17-Oct	7.30 pm	DC vs CSK	Sharjah
35	18-Oct	3.30 pm	SRH vs KKR	Abu Dhabi
36	18-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs KXIP	Dubai
37	19-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs RR	Abu Dhabi
38	20-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs DC	Dubai
39	21-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs RCB	Abu Dhabi
40	22-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs SRH	Dubai
41	23-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs MI	Sharjah
42	24-Oct	3.30 pm	KKR vs DC	Abu Dhabi
43	24-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs SRH	Dubai
44	25-Oct	3.30 pm	RCB vs CSK	Dubai
45	25-Oct	7.30 pm	RR vs MI	Abu Dhabi
46	26-Oct	7.30 pm	KKR vs KXIP	Sharjah
47	27-Oct	7.30 pm	SRH vs DC	Dubai
48	28-Oct	7.30 pm	MI vs RCB	Abu Dhabi
49	29-Oct	7.30 pm	CSK vs KKR	Dubai
50	30-Oct	7.30 pm	KXIP vs RR</	

## SHORT TAKES

Football champ  
Veeru no more

**Visakhapatnam:** Former international footballer V. Veeru Babu died at a hospital where he was undergoing treatment here on Saturday. He was 63 and is survived by his wife and three sons. Called the "Little Goal-getter" by fellow players, the Visakhapatnam-born Babu played for Railways for several years. He also played for Bengal Nagpur Railways (BNR Club). Babu was the vice-captain of the India Railways team during 1981 World Railways Football Championship in Nigeria, and was appreciated with \$200 cash prize by the Nigerian Railways for his performance.

Kosaraju Gopal Krishna, President of APFA and DFA, said it was a big loss to the football community. — PTI

Jamshedpur FC  
rope in Hartley

**New Delhi:** Jamshedpur FC continued their string of recruitment under Owen Coyle and on Sunday announced the signing of defender Peter Hartley from England for the upcoming Indian Super League.

The robust defender comes at the back of a highly successful season with Motherwell FC in the Scottish Premiership. He captained the team to third place in the league, only behind Scottish legacy teams — Celtic and Rangers, thus qualifying Motherwell for the UEFA Europa League 2020-21.

Hartley has played 418 matches in his stellar career since his senior team debut in 2007, keeping 122 clean sheets and scoring 37 goals. Delighted at joining Jamshedpur, Hartley said, "I'm honoured to be given an opportunity to sign for Jamshedpur, a club with ambition to win. I promise to give 110 per cent every single day in order to bring success." — PTI

Wolves splurge big  
bucks to sign Silva

**London:** Wolves signed Portuguese forward Fabio Silva from Porto for a club record fee of 40 million euros (\$47 million, 36 million), both clubs confirmed on Saturday.

Silva, 18, has scored just three goals in 24 appearances for Porto's first team.

"Wolves are delighted to have secured the signing of highly-rated Portuguese youth international striker Fabio Silva from Porto, for a club record fee," the Premier League side said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Brazil midfielder Allan reunited with Carlo Ancelotti on Saturday after moving from Napoli to Everton for a reported fee of 21 million pounds (\$28 million). — AFP

## STERLING SHOW

## Raheem's heroics power England past Iceland

**Paris, Sept. 6:** European heavyweights England, world champions France, holders Portugal and Belgium all enjoyed winning starts to their UEFA Nations League campaigns on Saturday even if there were signs of international rust following the Coronavirus shutdown.

England needed a stoppage-time penalty to beat Iceland 1-0 while France saw off Sweden by the same scoreline.

Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo to thrash Croatia 4-1 with top-ranked Belgium coming away from Denmark with a 2-0 win.

In Reykjavik, Raheem Sterling's last minute penalty salvaged England from another embarrassing result against Iceland.

Gareth Southgate's men also survived going down to 10 men and seeing Birkir Bjarnason miss a late spot-kick for the hosts.

Four years on from one of English football's most embarrassing nights in losing 2-1 to Iceland at Euro 2016, England were far from the free-scoring force that romped through Euro 2020 qualifying in their first match for 10 months.

Harry Kane had an early goal wrongly ruled out for offside before Kyle Walker was sent-off for two bookable offences 20 minutes from time.

All of Iceland's good defensive work was undone in the 89th minute when Sverrir Ingason was also harshly dismissed for a second booking when he blocked Sterling's shot with his arm.

With Kane having been replaced by Mason Greenwood, Sterling took responsibility from spot, but the drama did not end there.

Straight from kick-off, Joe Gomez was adjudged to have bundled over Holmberg Fridjonsson inside the area, but Bjarnason blazed the resulting penalty over.

"The sending off is a key moment because it is very difficult to win games of football when you go down to 10 men. It was an unnecessary red card," said Southgate of Walker's dismissal.

Kylian Mbappe scored with France's only shot on goal in Solna to give the world champions a 1-0 victory over Sweden.

Mbappe picked up the



England's Raheem Sterling (left) in action during the UEFA Nations League football match against Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland, on Saturday. England won 1-0. — AP

## THE RESULTS

Iceland England	0 1	Cyprus Montenegro	0 1
(Sterling 90+2-pen)		(Jovetic 61, 74)	
Denmark Belgium	0 2	Azerbaijan (Sheydaev 43)	1
(Denayer 9, Mertens 77)		Luxembourg (Krivosyuk 48-og	
Sweden France	0 1	Rodrigues 72-pen)	2
(Mbappe 41)		North Macedonia (Alioski 6-pen,	2
Portugal	4	Nestrovski 39-pen)	1
(Joao Cancelo 41, Diogo Jota 58, Joao Felix 70, Silva 90+5)		Armenia (Barseghyan 90+5)	1
Croatia	1	Estonia (Petkovic 90+1)	0
(Petkovic 90+1)		Georgia (Katcharava 33)	1

ball wide of the goal in the 41st minute, squeezed past two defenders, waited for goalkeeper Robin Olsen to go down and then clipped the ball just inside the post from the narrowest of angles.

"It was a committed match, not a great match," said France manager Didier Deschamps.

In Porto, Cristiano Ronaldo was missing with an infected toe — caused by a bee sting according to

Italian media — but Portugal were still too good for a disappointing Croatia. Joao Cancelo, Diogo Jota, with his first international goal, Joao Felix and Andre Silva were all on target for Portugal who also hit the woodwork three times.

"It has been a long time since we all got together and some players came straight from their vacation, but the team responded well," said Felix.

Croatia were without Luca Modric and Ivan Rakitic who boast a total of 233 caps between them.

Bruno Petkovic grabbed a stoppage-time consolation for the visitors.

Belgium defeated Denmark 2-0 in Copenhagen, handing the Danes a first home loss in four years and an opening defeat for new coach Kasper Hjulmand. — AFP

BARCA MIGHT  
LOSE GOODWILL  
OVER TWISTING  
MESSI'S ARM

**Madrid, Sept. 6:** An unexpected winner in 2015 and Barcelona's bad guy in 2020, the club's president Josep Maria Bartomeu might feel some satisfaction after winning his showdown with Lionel Messi.

The last year has been chaotic for Barca, even more so for their president, and not just because they lost La Liga to Real Madrid before being humiliated by Bayern Munich in the Champions League. Since January, Bartomeu has borne the brunt of the criticism, the Catalan businessman and a shareholder of Barcelona since he was 11 years old never far from controversy.

His appointment of Quique Setien as coach in January was a disappointment, with fans awaiting the return of their legendary former midfielder Xavi Hernandez to replace the clumsily dismissed Ernesto Valverde.

Then in February, the club had to deny it was at the root of a social media campaign to criticise those sceptical of the board, including key players, in order to improve the image of the president. An audit report from PricewaterhouseCoopers concluded "no corrupt behaviour" took place but a judicial investigation is ongoing, with the total amount paid allegedly six times higher than the market price.

And then in March, at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and with the club in serious financial difficulty, six members of the board resigned in protest at the way the club was being run.

They included two vice-presidents, Enrique Tombras and Emili Rousaud, the latter the one Bartomeu had in mind to be his successor.

Messi claimed on Friday that Bartomeu "did not keep his word" over an agreement to let him leave for free at the end of the season. — AFP



Alfa Romeo driver Pierre Gasly celebrates on the podium after winning the Formula One Grand Prix at the Monza racetrack in Monza, Italy, on Sunday. — AP

## Costly Hami error gives Gasly F1 win

pole position but he was given the stop-go penalty for entering the pit lane when closed.

The Mercedes driver finished seventh, 17.245 behind Gasly.

Ferrari's abysmal weekend continued as Sebastian Vettel had a brake failure on Lap 7 and he limped into the pits with his right-rear brake disc in flames. It was the four-time champion's first DNF at Monza in his 14th start.

His teammate Charles Leclerc had made it into fourth but lost the rear of the car under acceleration on Lap 25 and crashed into the barriers, causing the race to be red flagged. — AP

SCHUMACHER Jr GRABS  
F2 VICTORY AT MONZA

**Monza (Italy), Sept. 6:** Mick Schumacher, son of legendary Formula One driver Michael, won for the first time this season in the European Formula 2 Championship on Saturday at Monza in Italy.

The 21-year-old German finished 3.185 seconds ahead of Italian Luca Ghiotto with Dane Christian Lundgaard in third. Schumacher's fourth consecutive podium finish, and seventh this season, lifted him to third in the driver standings on 131 points.

Schumacher is a member of the Ferrari young driver team and has been linked with a move to either Haas or Alfa Romeo, two Formula 1 teams equipped with Ferrari engines, as early as next year. — AFP

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