





## IN BRIEF

**Telemedicine facility at AIIMS**

**Hyderabad:** In view of the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bibinagar, would be launching a new telemedicine facility. This would make it the first hospital in the state to start video consultation through eSanjeevani out-patient department. Details are available on [www.aiimsbibinagar.edu.in](http://www.aiimsbibinagar.edu.in).

**TRS LEADER FAILED TO PAY RELIEF MONEY**

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The incident took place when Naik went to the village as part of Badi Bata, a programme to get encourage children to join school.

The incident was the fallout of the death of one Anand Tejawat, a worker from Kaikondaigudem, at Vamsikrishna Function Hall owned by Naik on August 18 while working there. Naik promised to pay some amount to his family and failed to do so. Tejawat's mother Vijaya approached Naik on Tuesday to ask him about the compensation. She said, "The corporator kicked me in the chest and I fell on my daughter. Both of us sustained injuries."

Locals and Vijaya's relatives rushed to the spot. Heated arguments followed between Naik and the locals. The locals questioned Naik on his hitting a woman. At one stage, the mob irked by the words used by Naik surrounded him.

The police rushed to the spot and rescued Naik and another person from the spot. The enraged mob burnt Naik's car. Vijaya lodged a complaint against Naik in the police station.

Naik convened a press meet and alleged that some TRS leaders were trying to malign his image. He had no connection with the death of Anand Tejawat who fell unconscious while working. "I tried to save his life by placing iron keys in his hand. I am being framed," said Naik, conveniently skirting the issue of his being violent with a woman.

**JBS-MGBS ROUTE REPAIR NOT YET COMPLETE**

From Page 1

The protocols will be decided in a day or two by the urban affairs ministry with the approval of the home ministry.

With a less than week left for Metro Rail operations, the HMRL is yet to complete repairs on the JBS-MGBS corridor.

The authorities after allowing time to slip away during the lockdown have now begun repair works. Metro Rail stations including Musheerabad wore a shoddy look and the authorities have damaged pavements in the name of plantations.

PTI reported from New Delhi that urban affairs secretary Mishra said: "We heard suggestions of metro managing directors, which will be considered. A draft of standard operating procedures has been prepared and it will be discussed with the Union home ministry on Wednesday. In consultation with the home ministry, the SOPs will be finalised."

Officials said that wearing a mask and physical distancing norms will be strictly followed once Metro Rail trains start operating. Passengers will be encouraged to follow anti-Covid-19 measures, they said, adding fines will be imposed on those violating the guidelines.

There are 17 Metro Rail corporations in the country. Once the detailed SOPs are issued by the urban affairs ministry, they can issue their details keeping in mind local requirements, the officials said.

The Union home ministry had issued the Unlock 4 guidelines on Saturday under which Metro Rail trains would be allowed to resume services from September 7.

Last week, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had said that it would resume services for the public from September 7 in a calibrated manner.

● **OFFICIALS SAID** that wearing a mask and physical distancing norms will be strictly followed once Metro Rail trains start operating. Passengers will be encouraged to follow anti-Covid-19 measures, they said, adding fines will be imposed on those violating the guidelines.



Devotees in huge numbers take part in a procession from Charminar to Tank Bund on Tuesday to immerse the idol of Lord Ganesh. — P. SURENDRA

# Immersion ends with fewer idols, crowding

## Around 30,000 idols immersed within the city limits

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

The 11-day-long Ganesh Chaturthi culminated on Tuesday with immersion of idols belonging to the elephant-headed God at various designated spots in the twin cities. Around 30,000 idols were immersed within the core city an equal number on the city outskirts.

Tuesday was the 41st time that idols were immersed through a centralised procession in the twin cities. The event had begun in 1980 with just 1,500 idols installed in various parts of the city.

Despite the threat of Covid-19 infection, thousands of devotees joined the Khairatabad Ganesh procession, which began

at 11.45 am. The idol was immersed in the Tank Bund Lake around 5 pm. The Balapur Ganesh procession began early at 12.0 pm under police escort. As the size of idols had decreased this year, the statues were mostly carried in autos and trucks. This ensured timely immersion of idols.

Several devotees restricted themselves to their homes due to Covid-19 outbreak. The number of notified idols came down from 1.30 lakh last year to about 50,000 in the core city. Lack of coordination between Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, police and pandal organisers, however, led to bumpy ride for Ganesh. Many roads were either dug up or severely

damaged. For instance, the part of the road at Moazzam Jahi Market had been dug, which resulted in traffic jams there.

Unlike like in the past, the state government did not declare a holiday on Tuesday. Still, enthusiastic commuters thronged to see the Khairatabad and other Ganeshas in the procession. Thousands had assembled along Telephone Bhavan-Secretariat-NTR Marg to watch the idols being taken out in the procession. Although GHMC notified 32 lakes for immersion, cranes were deployed only at three locations — Hussainsagar, Sarooranagar and IDL Lake in Kukatpally. After a long time, authorities did not barricade areas around the Hussainsagar. As a

result, enthusiastic citizens leaned dangerously over the bund to click selfies. Lack of barricading also helped several hawkers who came to sell eatables. Many of them were not wearing masks.

Office-bearers of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi (BGUS) were disappointed with the arrangements made for immersion. BGUS secretary Ravinuthala Shashidhar said there were several lacunae in the arrangements. It was only due to God's grace that the immersion ended on a peaceful note. Following the convention, idols of the south zone were immersed first followed by those of other areas, with immersion going on till late in the night.

# Rally remains peaceful in Old City

ATHER MOIN I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

The Ganesh idol processions passed peacefully through the Old City with no untoward incident. Normal life was not affected as there was no cen-

tralised procession due to Covid protocols, unlike previous years.

Vehicular movement was normal and business establishments were open. Though the festivity was a low-key affair, police made elaborate security

arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of immersion ceremony. Police pickets were deployed near masjids and sensitive places.

People carried the idols in caparisoned trolleys and vehicles.

The devotees did not follow Covid-19 health precautions. The shobha yatra of the Balapur Ganesh idol passed through the Old City in the afternoon. There was no auction this year of the laddu.

# 2,734 NEW COVID CASES, 9 MORE DEATHS IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

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

The fresh positive cases registered an increase from Monday's 1,873 cases reflecting yet again that the state's ability to discover Covid-19 positive persons is directly related to the number of disease determination tests performed each day.

Between Saturday and Sunday evening, 37,791 tests were conducted while 58,264 tests were conducted between Sunday and Monday resulting in the 2,734 new cases.

The daily Covid-19 bulletin issued on Tuesday by the health department said that 31,699 persons were considered as active cases of whom 24,598 were either in home or institutional isolation.

The highest number of daily cases yet again came from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area with 347, followed by 212 in Ranga Reddy, 191 in Nalgonda, 161 in Khammam, 121 in Medchal-Malkajigiri, 117 in Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem, 114 in Nizamabad, 112 in Warangal Urban, 109 in Siddipet, 107 in Suryapet, and 106 in Karimnagar districts.

# Kin of health workers who died of Covid to get ₹25L

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

The state government has agreed to provide ₹25 lakh as ex gratia to all health-care employees' families in the event of the loss of life of the medical worker, the joint action committee of doctors and health care workers said on Tuesday.

The JAC leaders met with health minister Etala Rajendar and discussed their long-pending demand of ex-gratia to health workers serving Covid-19 patients.

The doctors and other medical workers have been asking for ex gratia

on the lines being paid in other states.

The JAC leaders said after the meeting that the health minister assured that all employees working in Covid-19 control and treatment, will have

their families receive ₹25 lakh in the event of their death.

The minister also agreed to allot 50 beds to medical employees (regular, contract, outsourced etc.) including family members of such medical employees, to treat any Covid-19 infection related absence as being on duty.

The JAC leaders, Dr Bongu Ramesh, Dr Lalu Prasad Yadav, Dr Puttala Srinivas, Bondugula Venkateswar Reddy, Jupalli Rajender, Dr B Narahari, Dr Rachu Rachha, and Dr Rauf were among those who discussed these issues with the health minister.

# States have no major tax to levy: CM

From Page 1

He questioned the Centre about the justification in asking states to borrow now that there is a deficit.

The CM said after the introduction of GST, states have been left with no major buoyant taxes of their own, while the Centre still has buoyant sources like income tax, corporation tax and customs duties. In addition, the Centre has access to non-tax revenues, such as dividends from the RBI, central public sector undertakings and so on. Thus, the Centre is endowed with more resources to help the states, he pointed out.

Maintaining that due to lockdown on account of



K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Covid-19 pandemic, Telangana state had suffered a revenue loss of 83 per cent while the expenditure related to Covid-19 pandemic had gone up, the CM said, "We are faced with the difficult task of meeting the expenditure through front-loading of market borrowings and taking resort to ways and

means advances and overdrafts".

Rao pointed out that with the broad fiscal policy being controlled by the Centre, states are made to depend on it even for market borrowings. He said the 3.5 per cent fiscal deficit prescribed for the Centre while states are restricted to 3 per cent is against the federal spirit of the Constitution.

The Chief Minister said argument put forth that additional borrowings by the Centre influences yields on Central government securities and has other macro-economic repercussions is not very convincing. He pointed out that borrowings by the Centre as well as states are from the same finan-



Devotees during the Balapur Ganesh procession on Tuesday. The traditional Balapur laddu which used to be auctioned every year before taking out the procession was not organised this year due to the pandemic. The Balapur Ganesh Utsav Committee decided to present the laddu to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao without auctioning it. — DC



Foreigners with Ganesh idol also participated in the immersion procession. — DC

# No untoward incident in Hyd

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

The immersion of idols of Lord Ganesh in the city was peaceful as the festivities concluded on the 11th day after Vinayaka Chaturthi. The police are expecting that the immersion of idols may continue till the early hours of Wednesday, as some people do not want to immerse the idols on Tuesday.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar along with senior police officials inspected the security arrangements and the idol immersion process in the Hussainsagar. The commissioner said that the idol immersion process marking the conclusion of festivities passed off peacefully with the public

cooperation. The commissioner along with his officers went in a boat in the lake to oversee immersion procedure. The police commissioner drove the boat himself.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Anjani Kumar said, "The immersion process is being held peacefully." About 4,900 idols of different sizes were immersed in Hussainsagar on Tuesday, and a total of about 15,000 were immersed till date since the day of festival. "No untoward incident took place during the processions and people of the city are extending their cooperation in conducting the event," said the commissioner.

In Hyderabad, about 250 five-foot idols were immersed in various tanks and lakes and in Rachakonda, it was around 600.

# WORK TO END MALNUTRITION, SAYS GOVERNOR

Hyderabad, Sept. 1: Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Tuesday called for increased awareness on nutrition and urged the people to join the mass movement to end malnutrition. She said that malnutrition is one of the major reasons for maternal mortality and infant mortality.

The Governor was delivering the inaugural address at the National Nutrition Month-2020 through a video-conference from the Raj Bhavan, here. The Governor stated that traditional foods are rich immune boosters.

—INN

# Allow only 50% school, college staff, says BJP

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

BJP MLC N. Ramchander Rao urged the state government to strictly follow guidelines of Unlock 4.0 while reopening schools and help in preventing spread of the Covid among the teaching community, who are safe till now.

In a statement, he said that the TRS government had taken a decision to call teachers and non-teaching staff of colleges and schools, contrary to the Union government's decision to permit attendance of only 50 per cent staff at a time including teachers.

The MLC said the state government should reconsider its decision. Calling all the staff to schools and colleges may increase the risk of spreading Covid-19 who are till now taking measures to protect themselves from this dreaded disease, he said.

He said the government should accept constructive suggestions of Opposition parties instead of taking it as an allegation. He requested the TRS government to strictly implement Union government's Unlock 4.0 guidelines issued keeping in view of public health as cases in the state are increasing day by day.

# Expert: Eat food with antioxidants

From Page 1

Dr Mahalingam, director of a wellness centre, explained, "Foods containing antioxidants have to be taken in these times to boost immunity to help the body ward off infections. Everyone needs them now especially those who are immune-compromised."

Immunity-boosting foods are going to be a part of the diet till the threat of the Coronavirus lessens. With an undernourished

and malnourished population even in urban areas, the consumption of these foods has exploded.

Nutritionists argue that people fail in making their children cultivate a taste for whole grains, legumes and vegetables. Instead, they have been giving them different sauces, soft foods and highly processed foods.

Making a switch during the pandemic to traditional foods had been difficult for many but that is a cheap booster to immunity.



## IN BRIEF

### 63-yr-old drowns in Munner

**Khammam:** Sixtythree-year-old Gangadhari Tirumala Rao drowned in Munner at Chinamandava under Mudigonda mandal on Tuesday. Tirumala Rao, who went to the river to graze his cattle, stepped into the water, to go to other bank. However, he was carried away by the drifting water. His body was recovered from a distant place.

## 443 Covid cases in Khammam

**Khammam:** Over 443 Covid-19 cases were reported in Khammam district on Tuesday. The medical teams conducted tests on 2,015 people at various PHCs in Khammam district and the government hospital at the headquarters. The officials discharged 174 people from Covid-19 centres after they recovered from the infection.

## Ganesh idol immersion

**Nizamabad:** Ganesh idols immersion begin on Tuesday in undivided Nizamabad district. Hundreds of idols carried in vehicles for immersion in River Godavari and other water bodies in Kamareddy and Nizamabad districts. Traditional Shobha yatra was conducted in Nizamabad under the aegis of Sarvajani Ganesh mandali, an umbrella organization of Ganesh celebrations. Nizamabad urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta flagged off the Ratha yatra at Dubba. The yatra passed through Gurbabadi road, railway gate, Gandhi chowk, Nehru Park and other areas. Police forces heavily deployed en route of Ratha yatra in the town. Meanwhile, other Ganesh pandals took idols for immersion in river Godavari.

## 3 auto drivers held for gang rape

**Hyderabad:** Three autorickshaw drivers from LB Nagar, who kidnapped and allegedly raped a minor girl, were arrested by the police on Tuesday. According to LB Nagar police, the incident occurred on August 25. The accused were identified by the police as A. Ramesh, 21, G. Pawan, 22, and R. Santhosh, 19, all residents of LB Nagar. The victim who was going to her grandmother's house on foot was kidnapped by Ramesh and Pawan in the former's autorickshaw. While taking her to Hayathnagar, they called Santhosh and asked him to join them. After allegedly sexually assaulting her, Pawan and Santhosh left in an autorickshaw while Ramesh made the girl sleep with him in the autorickshaw and dropped her near her grandmother's house the next morning, said the police. The girl's family members lodged a complaint and the accused were traced and nabbed based on the technical clues, the police added.

## TARFC FIXES BED ADMISSION FEE FOR 2020-21

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

The Telangana State Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee (TAFRC) on Tuesday fixed the admission fee for Bachelor of Education (BED) courses for the block period 2019-20 to 2021-22.

As per the government order, the recommended annual fees for 209 BED colleges range from ₹16,500 to ₹36,000. The order said that the institutions shall not charge any capitation fee or any amount unauthorised or illegally under any other head or guise (e.g., donation etc.), either directly or indirectly, other than the fee fixed by the committee.

Collection of any such unauthorised amount would amount to charging of capitation fee. The surplus (profit) that is generated from the collection of fee must be for the benefit of the institution, and cannot be diverted for other purposes or personal gain, the committee said.

It also directed institutions to collect the annual tuition fee every year in advance only for that particular year either in a lumpsum or in instalments, if it so opts.

The order added that fixation of the fee structure by the committee will not by itself enable or permit the managements to run the relevant courses in their institutions, if they are otherwise not duly recognised and permitted by the government or the National Council of Teacher Education or the university concerned at any relevant time.

# Shadi Mubarak, Kalyana Laxmi cheques issued

## ₹15 crore to be distributed among 1,058 beneficiaries

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 1

The state government has come to the rescue of some parents who had performed the marriages of their daughters and are stuck in debts by issuing cheques of Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Laxmi during the pandemic time.

Many parents had taken loans from private money lenders or from their near and dear and performed the marriages of their daughters with a hope that the government would issue Kalyana Laxmi and Shaadi Mubarak money. It has been a long wait for the cheques.

The delay in issuing of cheques had been a worry for the parents as the interest on loans was mounting.



Many parents who had applied for Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Laxmi have been anxiously waiting for the promised 'financial help' from the government and had been inquiring the officials about the same.

According to official sources, the state government has released ₹15 crore recently towards Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana

Laxmi beneficiaries in Adilabad district.

The amount would be disbursed among 1,058 beneficiaries of Kalyana Laxmi and 401 beneficiaries Shaadi Mubarak. Many applications submitted for the schemes have been pending with the officials for more than a year now.

The state government is giving ₹1,00,116 to each eligible prospective bride

under Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Laxmi. Now, the elected public representatives of TRS are busy distributing the funds to the beneficiaries in the mandal headquarters.

Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna said the state government was giving the top priority to the welfare schemes even when it was facing financial crisis in the wake of the Corona pandemic.

He said the state government released funds towards Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Laxmi sensing the trouble being faced by the poor parents during the epidemic. Many parents who had borrowed to perform their daughters' marriages with a hope that they would get the financial help from the state government are happy over getting the money during a crisis.

# Pangolin smuggling racket busted, 10 poachers arrested

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KUMARAMBHEEM  
ASIFABAD, SEPT. 1

Forest officials of old Adilabad district on Tuesday seized a live Indian Pangolin after busting a racket involved in smuggling the endangered species.

The 10-member gang was involved in poaching, smuggling the animal and cheating the people making them believe that the animal's scales have medicinal value. The gang thrived on superstitions people held with regard to the animal which had been listed under Schedule-1 of the Wild Life Protection Act.

It is said the accused hunted the pangolin at Rallyghadpur area in Mancherial and the racket thrived in Bellampalli area.

Forest officials arrested all the 10 members of the gang and sent them to

remand. The accused were booked under Wild Life Protection Act.

Addressing the media in Kagaznagar, Conservator of Forests, Adilabad Circle, C.P Vinod Kumar said on a tip off, they have formed special teams with the forest officials of three districts and conducted an investigation into the racket for the last one month and busted it.

He said the pangolin eats insects and ants but will not cause any damage to the crops and human beings and made it clear that the animal has no medicinal value.

Vinod Kumar said some gangs were involved in the pangolin business trying to make money due to the superstitions people hold with regard to the medicinal value of the animal's scales.

Vinod Kumar said they have identified 20 people involved in the racket.

He also warned that pan-

golins carry viruses that can easily spread to human beings and asked people to be away from the animal. He also said that those involved in hunting the animal would be booked under the PD Act in the future.

The forest department has formed committees with 19 members, including Asifabad DFO Prabhakar, Shivani Dongra, DFO of Mancherial, B. Lavanya, FDO of Bellampalli, Vijay Kumar, FDO of Kagaznagar S. Venugopal, FRO, Penchikalpet, G. Appalakonda, FRO of Asifabad, to bust the racket.

It may be recalled here that the forest officials of Khammam also busted a pangolin racket and arrested the accused last month.

Before that, Khammam forest officials had seized pangolin scales and arrested some accused in three incidents this year.

# State govt announces LRS scheme again

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

The state government on Tuesday announced the layout regularisation scheme (LRS) and released a government order dated August 31, prior to the civic polls.

According to the order, unauthorised layouts which have come up and been registered through sale deed prior to the August 26 are eligible for regularisation on payment of penalty.

It said that the order will be implemented following Telangana Regularisation of Unapproved and Illegal Layout Rules, 2020 in all the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) areas, other urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats.

The government will receive LRS applications from September 4 till October 15. For individual plots the registration

BASIC REGULARISATION CHARGES	
PLOT AREA IN SQ.MT	BASIC REGULARISATION CHARGES ₹ PER SQ.MT
Less than 100	200
101 to 300	400
301 to 500	600
Above 500	750
Slums	5
(IRRESPECTIVE OF PLOT AREA AND LAND VALUE)	

REGULARISATION CHARGES WITH REFERENCE TO THE LAND VALUE	
Market value of the land as on 26.08.2020 (Sub Register value) in ₹ per Square Yard	Regularisation charges (% of basic regularisation charges as mentioned in above table)
Up to 3000	25%
3001 to 5000	50%
5001 to 10000	75%
Above 10,001	100%

fee will be ₹1,000 and ₹10,000 for layouts. Multiple plot owners' subdivision of plots can also be made by a socie-

ty/association/colony developer representing the plot owners in an unapproved layout.

The applicants can file

● **THE GOVERNMENT** will receive LRS applications from September 4 till October 15. For individual plots the registration fee will be ₹1,000 and ₹10,000 for layouts.

● **THE GOVERNMENT** said landowners, private developers, firms, companies and property developers can regularise plots in unauthorised layouts if at least 10 per cent of the plots are sold through registered deed on or before August 26.

online applications through a common web portal, Mee Seva centre or Citizen Service Centre located in a local body and the smartphone-based mobile app has been developed for this purpose.

Basic regularisation charges will be ₹200 per sqm for less than 100 sqm plot, ₹400 per sqm for a plot area between 101 sqm and 300 sqm. ₹600 per sqm for plot area between 301

sqm and 500 sqm and ₹750 per sqm for plots above 500 sqm plot area. Irrespective of land value and plot area, ₹5 per sqm will be charged in slums.

The government said landowners, private developers, firms, companies and property developers can regularise plots in unauthorised layouts if at least 10 per cent of the plots are sold through registered deed on or before August 26.

The order said no registration of plots should be done henceforth in all such unauthorised and unapproved layouts and no building permissions will be granted under the relevant provisions in such layouts. Regularisation of plots or layouts is a precondition for registration or sale of such plots and obtaining building approval for construction, the order stated.

The GO said that no layout or development activity in the beds or full tank levels of water bodies will be regularised.

## OWAISI TRYING TO SABOTAGE AIMPLD STIR

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY**  
DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

Former minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir has alleged that MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi was trying to sabotage the movement launched by the Congress and other organisations seeking reconstruction of two mosques at the same place in the Secretariat.

Shabbir Ali, in a media statement on Tuesday, said that Owaisi had been issuing misleading statements to prevent the All India Muslim Personal Board (AIMPLB) from launching an agitation against the demolition of the mosques. He said the AIMPLB held its meeting in Hyderabad on August 16 and gave a two-week deadline to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to take a favourable decision on reconstruction of the mosques at the same place.

# First woman IPS officer to take charge in Kashmir

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 1

As gunshots continue to shatter the peace, the Centre, for the first time, has posted a woman IPS officer to take on militants operating in the Kashmir Valley, which remains tense a year after abrogation of Article 370.

Charu Sinha, a 1996 batch IPS officer from the Telangana cadre, has been posted as inspector general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Srinagar sector.

Though Kiran Bedi, India's first woman IPS officer and present Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, was posted to the Srinagar sector in the early 1990s, when militancy was at its peak, she did not take up the assignment, reportedly due to personal reasons. A delighted Charu Sinha told *Deccan Chronicle* over the phone, "I would be taking charge



Charu Sinha

in the next one week or 10 days." Asked for a comment on the challenges she would be facing in the post-Article 370 scenario, she chose not to comment. "Once I take charge, I will be in a better position to speak," she said.

Known to be a no-nonsense officer, Charu Sinha has previously worked in Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, when faction feuds were at an all-time high. A graduate in English literature, history

and political science, the IPS officer also worked as officer on special duty (OSD) in Medak district where she was incharge of anti-extremist operations and as SP of Nizamabad and Chittoor districts. She also served as DIG, Anantapur range, besides working as SP in the Intelligence Security Wing (ISW).

As Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), she was abruptly transferred by the K. Chandrashekar Rao-led TRS government, which raised many an eyebrow in the IPS fraternity.

It was later learnt that the upright police officer had ruffled quite a few feathers within the TRS as she went about cracking the whip on corrupt officials even as there were speculations that her transfer was in connection with the cash-for-votes scam involving TD supreme N. Chandrababu Naidu.

## COLLEGES | LURE

**PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC**  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 1

Several private degree colleges are adopting illegal methods and flouting the norms to admit students into their colleges.

In Karimnagar district, there is no transparency being followed in the admission process which is prescribed to be done through DOST (Degree Online Services Telangana).

There are around 91 private degree colleges affiliated to the Satavahana University in Karimnagar district with 36,410 seats

available in various courses. There is a tough competition among the colleges to get more number of admissions and to win the race, the colleges are adopting several illegal methods and luring the students by announcing various kinds of offers.

The colleges are deploying special PROs and setting targets to the faculty members with regard to admissions. The managements are also exerting pressure on them to achieve the targets by some or the other way. They are even threatening the faculty members that they could

■ **Students should enquire their seniors who had passed out from the same college about the standard of education being taught, lab and hostel facilities on the premises**

even be removed from jobs if they failed to achieve the targets set with regard to filling of seats.

Representatives of several student organisations brought such kinds of illegal practices to the notice of the officials of the educational department, but in vain. The officials did not take any action against

such private degree colleges till date.

The members of the Telugu Nadu Student Federation (TNSF) staged a dharna in front of the administrative building at Satavahana University in Karimnagar district on Saturday and demanded the government to take immediate action against the erring private degree colleges.

TNSF state general secretary P. Ravinder alleged that instead of keeping the seats empty, some of the colleges are trying to benefit by getting admissions by offering scholarships to stu-

dents and are just asking them to submit their income certificates.

They are even issuing bus passes, offering money, mobiles and tabs to students to get more students into the colleges.

Once the student gets admission in the college, then the colleges are using various strategies to get their money back in the name of tuition fees, extra study materials, fees for issuing hall tickets, internal examination fees and even for college funds and are looting the students, he added.

The educationists appealed to the students not

to join such private colleges which lure the students by offering various kinds of gifts. Before joining any college, the students and their parents must enquire about the standard of that particular college and faculty members teaching the subjects. They must consult seniors who had already passed out from that college about the faculty members and the facilities being provided in the college, he suggested.

Many colleges which do not have proper facilities, good teachers and not maintaining the required standards are resorting to

illegal means to get more admissions and fill the seats.

As many as 11 helping centres were established at several places in erstwhile Karimnagar district for the convenience of the students to take admissions into various courses through DOST (Degree Online Services Telangana), an android mobile application app.

The students can access details of notification, schedule, fee structure, courses available in various colleges using their login ID and password and can register for their admission into the colleges.



SHORT TAKES

19 KG OF TUSKS SEIZED IN KEONJHAR

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 1

The allegation by animal lovers that Odisha is a happy hunting ground for elephant poachers has once again received credence as the state forest department officials on Monday night seized around 19 kg of elephant tusks from a car near Bayapita village in Keonjhar district.

Three persons, all ivory traders, were arrested in this connection.

According to reports, the officials, acting on a tip off about the smuggling of the tusks in the car, chased the vehicle and intercepted it near Bayapita village.

On searching the car, the tusks were recovered. The accused were being questioned to ascertain the possible involvement of others in the offence.

According to Dr Biswajit Mohanty, an eminent wildlife activist, poachers are indulging in mindless killing of tuskers in the state to extract their teeth.

“Despite Odisha being criticised for the rising number of elephant deaths, the state forest department has not been able to crack down the poachers and traders. Unless the state government wakes up to nail the poachers, the elephant population here will cease to exist,” said Dr Mohanty.

SENA WELCOMES AMBEDKAR’S TEMPLE DEMAND

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 1

A day after VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar visited Lord Vitthal temple in Pandharpur as part of a protest seeking its reopening, the Shiv Sena on Tuesday cryptically said his procession must be “welcomed” if it is heading in the direction of Hindutva. Ambedkar on Monday led the protest of scores of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) workers at Pandharpur in Solapur district, seeking reopening of the temple which has been shut due to Covid-19 restrictions.

During his visit to the temple, he had applied *bukka* (a fragrant black powder) and sandalwood powder on his forehead, as Warkaris (devotees of Lord Vitthal) do.

Latching onto it, the Shiv Sena in an editorial in party mouthpiece ‘Saamana’ said, “In a way, he took the saffron pataka (flag) on his shoulder. The new procession of Advocate Ambedkar and his VBA must be welcomed if they are heading in the direction of Hindutva.”

The ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra noted that the BJP last week staged a protest, demanding reopening of temples in the state, while Ambedkar did so on Monday. It is pure coincidence that the two demonstrations are being linked.

JEE MAINS HELD AMID STRINGENT PRECAUTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

ARMY HITS UPON ‘HUGE’ ARMS CACHE ALONG LoC

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAHUL, PRIYANKA HIT OUT AT CENTRE FOR HUGE SLUMP IN GROWTH

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT 1

Attacking the Centre over the slump in GDP, the Congress on Tuesday said that the economy was ruined from the day demonetisation was announced and it continued after the Modi government introduced one erroneous policy after another.

“GDP — 23.9. The ruining of the country’s economy began with demonetisation. Since then, the government introduced one erroneous policy after another,” former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted on Tuesday.

Congress leader and general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, too accused the government of being responsible for the slump in the economy.

NEW | LAW

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

J&K issues over 12.5L domicile certificates

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 1

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

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

“The new domicile cer-



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

- PTI

HC quashes Kafeel Khan’s illegal detention under NSA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- PTI

SC: ONLY PURE MILK TO BE USED FOR JYOTIRLINGA

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 1

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

Taking suo moto cognizance of the matter, the bench of Justice Arun Mishra listed out measures to be undertaken by the temple for preservation of the Jyotirlingam.

“The Supreme Court ordered to take measures to protect the Jyotirlingam. The court has made 4-5 recommendations for the purpose. We are waiting for the hard copy of the judgment”, Ujjain district collector Ashish Singh, who is chairman of the management committee of the shrine, said.

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

Besides, the court ordered to shun the practice of treating the Jyotirlingam with ‘panchamruta’, made of milk, ghee, liquid jiggery and honey.

The court observed that only pure milk should be allowed to pour over the Jyotirlingam as offerings.

POWERFUL NAGALAND GB FEDERATION WRITES TO PM

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 1

A massive polarisation has started in Nagaland where almost all the tribal bodies in tune with sentiments of civil society have started mounting pressure for an early Naga peace accord - either with or without NSCN (IM).

This was more visible on Tuesday when one of the most powerful, the Nagaland GB (Gaan Burahs) Federation wrote a hard-hitting letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi pleading for a political solution for Nagaland at earliest.

The letter of Nagaland GB Federation has come close on the heels of a mega political initiative of opposition Nagaland Peoples Front (NPF) led by former chief minister T.R. Zeliang who had a consultative meeting with NSCN (IM) led by its chairman Q. Tuccu on Monday and urged NSCN (IM) to be more accommodative with other Naga political groups, while assuring the NSCN (IM) of continuing to play the role of an active facilitator in the ongoing political dialogue for reaching a final settlement on the Naga political issues.

The NPF which has formed Political Affairs Mission (PAM) to act as facilitator in Naga peace talks has not only raised serious question over the role of Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio, known for his proximity with NSCN (IM) leader Th Muivah but the opposition has also decided to rope in the working committee of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) for consultation to conclude the Naga peace-process at the earliest.

The Nagaland GB federation which is considered as to be the custodians of the Naga customary laws, traditions and practices in its letter to Prime Minister said, “The solution of Naga political issue has to incorporate the aspirations of the people rather than the dictated lines of leadership or their ulterior motive for a dictatorial reign.”





## IN BRIEF

## 10 guards hostage in Guatemalan jail

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

## Earthquake hits northern Chile

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

## Japan typhoon heads to Korea

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

## TALIBAN HIT MILITARY BASE, KILL 3

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

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

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

Security forces killed both attackers in a gunbattle lasting almost 10 minutes and the area is now under control, he added.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the group claimed responsibility for the attack in Gardes.

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

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

## Israeli knee on Palestinian neck



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

## Outrage as cops shoot, kill another PoC in LA

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

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

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

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

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

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

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

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

## HOUSE TO SUBPOENA POSTMASTER GENERAL OVER MAIL DISRUPTIONS

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

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., the committee chair, sent a memo Monday saying DeJoy blew past last week’s deadline to

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

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

Stephanie Winston Wolkoff was an unpaid White House adviser to the first lady until February 2018, when her contract was te-

minated as questions about inaugural spending arose. “When it really counted, Melania wasn’t there for me,” Wolkoff writes in “Melania and Me: The Rise and Fall of My Friendship with the First Lady,” to be published Tuesday. “She wasn’t really my friend. In fact, I wish I had never met her,” Wolkoff said. Wolkoff, a New York-based event planner, said the pair first met in 2003 in the hallways of *Vogue* magazine.

him paralysed from the waist down.

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

fully respond to the committee’s request for more information. He has not provided any new materials, she said. “It is clear that a subpoena has become necessary to further the Committee’s investigation and help inform potential legislative actions,” she said.

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

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## Tug leaving wreck sinks, 3 sailors die

## It was responding to Mauritius oil spill

**Johannesburg, Sept. 1:** The oil spill disaster off Mauritius turned deadly this week when a tugboat leaving the shipwreck collided with a barge and sank, killing at least three sailors, police said Tuesday. The tug was towing the empty barge from the stranded hull of the Japanese ship, the MV Wakashio, on Monday night when heavy seas rammed the barge into the tug. It sank off the northeast coast of the Indian Ocean island nation, near a village called Poudre D’or.

Four sailors were rescued and one is missing, said Mauritius police constable Jordan Jason Sunasy. “It is a terrible twist in this disaster,” environmental consultant Sunil Dowarkasing said.

“The consequences of the shipwreck has now taken human lives. The cost of the oil spill keeps mounting.” The tugboat sank in deep water outside a coral reef and so far no oil has been seen on the coast, Dowarkasing said.

The environmental disaster began on July 25

● **THE ENVIRONMENTAL** disaster began on July 25 when the Japanese bulk carrier MV Wakashio strayed miles off course and struck a coral reef a mile offshore.

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After being pounded by heavy surf for nearly two weeks, the ship’s hull cracked and on August 6 it began leaking fuel into the Mahebourg Lagoon, polluting a protected wetlands area and a small island that was a bird and wildlife sanctuary.

More than 1,000 tonnes of fuel spilled into the coastal waters. About 3,000 tonnes remained on the boat and was pumped into barges before the Wakashio broke in two several days later. Thousands of civilian volunteers created makeshift oil barriers by stuffing fabric tubes with sugar cane leaves and using empty plastic bottles to

keep them afloat.

Environmental workers carefully ferried dozens of baby tortoises and rare plants to shore, plucking some trapped seabirds out of the goo. Dead dolphins began washing up on the coast last week. So far 47 dolphins and three whales have been found, Dowarkasing said.

An initial autopsy by a government laboratory said oil was not the cause of the deaths, but few Mauritians believe that, Dowarkasing said. The government of Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth is under pressure to explain why immediate action was not taken when the ship first ran aground.

He has blamed bad weather for the government’s apparent inaction. Tens of thousands of people marched in the capital on Saturday in protest, calling on top officials to step down. The ship’s captain and first officer have been arrested and charged with “endangering safe navigation”, and several investigations are underway. — AP

## Mass testing for virus in HK amid public doubts

**Hong Kong, Sept. 1:** Hong Kong tested thousands of people for Coronavirus on Tuesday at the start of a mass-testing effort that’s become another political flash point in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Volunteers stood in lines at some of the more than 100 testing centres, though many residents are distrustful over the resources and staff being provided by China’s central government and some have expressed fear DNA could be collected.

The Hong Kong government has dismissed such concerns, and leader Carrie Lam urged the public to see the programme in a fair and objective light.

**Children in Wuhan return to school**

**Beijing, Sept. 1:** Children returned to school Tuesday in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the Coronavirus epidemic that underwent months of lockdown but which has not seen new cases of

local transmission for weeks.

**It’s class time again across Europe**

**Paris, Sept. 1:** Tugging on their masks or dashing to hug long-unseen friends, millions of children returned to school across Europe and beyond Tuesday in a mass experiment aimed at bridging inequalities and resuscitating economies despite the persistent pandemic. — AP

## Graft charges: Saudi Arabia sacks 2 royals

**Riyadh, Sept. 1:** A top Saudi military commander and his son were sacked on Monday over graft allegations, state media said, in the government’s latest anti-corruption purge.

Joint forces commander Prince Fahad bin Turki — a senior royal family member — and Abdulaziz bin Fahad, the deputy emir of northern Al-Jouf region, were fired and placed under investigation for corruption, according to the report.

Several other officers and civilian employees of the defence ministry were also being probed for corruption, it added, citing a royal decree from King Salman. Prince Fahad served as the commander of the Saudi-led military coalition fighting Iran-linked Huthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen.

He was replaced by Mutaq bin Salim, the deputy chief of staff, on the recommendation of the kingdom’s de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed

bin Salman, state media said. The government decision to sack the commander was a “very public signal against corruption in the military”, said Saudi author and analyst Ali Shihabi.

The announcement marks the latest government crackdown on what officials describe as endemic corruption in the kingdom. Senior Saudi security commanders were among a string of officials sacked last month over graft allegations at tourism projects.

In March, Human Rights Watch voiced alarm over the arrest of 298 Saudi officials over corruption allegations, warning of possible “unfair legal proceedings” in an opaque judicial system.

Military and judicial officials were among those arrested over allegations of bribery and embezzlement amounting to a total of 379 million riyals (\$101 million), according to the state anti-corruption watchdog. — AP

## SURRENDER BY SEPT. 10: COURT TELLS NAWAZ

**SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 1**

Pakistan’s Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday ordered former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to surrender before till September 10, in appeals pertaining to Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield property references. The bench remarked that the court wanted to give an opportunity to the former prime minister to surrender and appear, before being declared absconder.

Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that the court would initiate the process to declare Nawaz Sharif as absconder if he failed to present himself before court till next date. A division bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani conducted hearing on a case seeking exemption from hearing for Nawaz Sharif on medical grounds in appeals pertaining to graft references.

Haris pleaded that his client could still challenge the Punjab government’s decision for rejecting extension of Nawaz’s bail despite the summons of this court. To this Justice Farooq said that the court was not depriving the accused from his legal rights.

## PAK COURT TO INDICT ZARDARI ON SEPT. 9

**Islamabad, Sept. 1:** A Pakistani accountability court on Tuesday fixed date for indictments of former president Asif Ali Zardari, his sister Faryal Talpur and Omni Group’s Abdul Ghani Majeed in the mega money laundering case. The AC Judge Muhammad Azam Khan conducted hearing of the case and summoned the suspects on September 9 for indictments.





# DECCAN Chronicle

2 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Only long-term measures can resuscitate economy

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

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

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

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

## Bhushan's choice

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

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

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

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA  
Editor

K. SUBHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilalpally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BNTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552

**Coinbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coinbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

**Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthura Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

**Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018

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Subhani



## Delimitation next stop in govt's Kashmir project

Riyaz Wani

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LETTERS

#### GDP SHOCK

The steepest fall of 23.9 per cent in GDP growth in April-June 2020, is because of poor knowledge of economics, failure to handle Covid-19 and related lockdown by the Modi government (*GDP shrinks by record 23.9%, DC, Sept. 1*). More damage to the economy was done by the government than by the Coronavirus due to the government's dictatorial attitude in not interacting with financial experts and taking their valuable advice..

**P.V. Tirumala Rao**  
*Hyderabad*

The drastic reduction in the GDP is the result of the Covid-19 impact on the manufacturing and services sectors. The MSMEs and trading were badly affected as the activities were completely paralysed due to a series of lockdowns. The government announced Atmanirbar Bharat but the funding is yet to reach the entrepreneur.

**Dr T. Malkaiah**  
*Hyderabad*

#### WAKF BOARD

The Waqf Board and the minorities welfare department of Telangana state are run by “Allah Ke Bharose” 9-to-5 employees who make their presence felt by signing the muster and pass their time in gossiping or taking sides of their bosses. The TRS government knows pretty well the affairs in these offices but choses to ignore them or audit the performance of the employees. One Muslim MP and eight MLAs along with the government are equally responsible for the sad state of affairs in these two departments.

**S.M. Tanvir**  
*Hyderabad*

#### Opening of Vivekananda rock memorial today

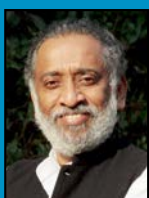
KANYAKUMARI, September 1 SEVENTY-SEVEN years ago, this day Swami Vivekananda delivered his historic speech in the Parliament of Religions at Chicago. Synchronising with this day, President V. V. Giri will inaugurate Vivekananda Rock Memorial here at 9.30 am. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi will preside.

In a press statement, Mr. Ranade,

informs that Shrimat Swami Vireswarananda, president of the Ramakrishna Mission and Math, Belur, will participate in the inaugural function and give his benediction.

A few hours before the function, he will perform the consecration ceremony of the Vivekananda Mandapam.

Dilip Cherian



Dilli Ka Babu

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

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

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

Rajiv Kumar has more than 30 years experience in public policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### SOME BABUS DO RETIRE BUT NOT FOR LONG

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

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

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

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



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,900.80	0.71
Nifty 50	11,470.25	0.73
S&P 500*	3,510.25	0.28
Dollar (₹)	72.87	1.00
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.88	0.05
Euro (₹)	87.30	0.22
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,963.418	0.82
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	45.91	0.63
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.943	-0.135
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.718	0.025

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

### ONGC profit dips 92% on oil, gas price slump

ONGC reported 92 per cent slump in its June quarter net profit after oil prices halved and gas rates fell to a decade low. Standalone net profit of Rs 496 crore in April-June was 91.7 per cent lower than Rs 5,980 crore net profit a year back. Revenues dipped 51 per cent to Rs 13,011 crore. The surprise profit came after the public sector company delayed payment of cess on crude oil it produces.

### Infosys to hire 12K US workers in two years



Infosys said it plans to hire 12,000 American workers over the next two years, taking its hiring commitment in the country to 25,000 over five years. In 2017, Infosys had committed to hiring 10,000 American workers over two years, and has created 13,000 jobs in the US to date. "Through this expanded commitment, Infosys will hire an additional 12,000 workers by 2022 across a variety of roles," it said.

### Adani is world's largest solar asset owner

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said Mercom Capital has ranked it as the world's largest solar power generation asset owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects. AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GW, while its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW. Adani's renewable energy portfolio exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.

### Honda launches new variants of City in India

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) launched two petrol variants of the fourth generation of its popular sedan Honda City with price starting at Rs 9.29 lakh, ex-showroom Delhi. The company, which recently launched an all-new 5th generation version of the Honda City sedan, said it will continue selling the 4th generation car in two variants SV and V grade with BS-VI compliant 1.5-litre petrol engine in manual transmission.



## ■ Mfg PMI bounces, but GST, diesel, e-way bills lag August signals possible recovery in September

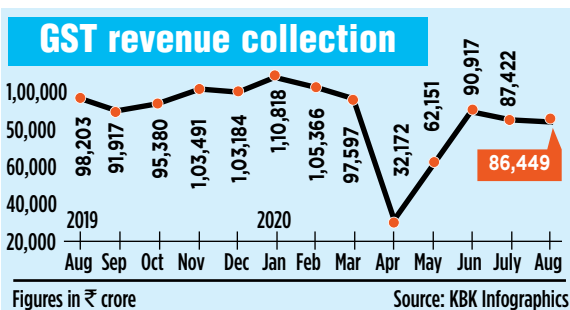
SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEP. 1

The industrial activity has rebounded in August as has been evident from the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). However, some of the other key indicators of industrial recovery, including diesel consumption, GST collections and e-way bills, were still moving sideways, indicating a possible recovery in September.

Manufacturing PMI released by IHS Markit in August has come in at 52, compared to 46 in July, signalling growth for the first time in five months since March. Production growth was largely driven by greater client demand for domestic goods following the resumption of business operations. However, the decline in exports weighed slightly on overall new orders, as firms cited subdued demand conditions from abroad. Further, job shedding continues in August at a strong rate.

Supply chains were disrupted in August, with firms citing transportation restrictions and supplier delays. These supply chain issues and movement restrictions were reflecting in the fuel consumption patterns as well. Monthly diesel consumption continued to decline for the second month in August.

Diesel consumption accounts for 40 per cent of overall refined fuel sales and is one of the key parameters linked to over-



### MARKET HEAVES A SIGH OF RELIEF

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 1

Market bounced back after sharp fall on Monday encouraged by positive auto sales number, softer AGR verdict for telecom companies, stable GST collection in August and five-month high manufacturing data.

The Sensex gained 272.51 points to close at 38,900 after rising 598 points intra-day. The Nifty-50 closed at 11,470

up 82.75 points.

Globally stocks surged higher on encouraging PMI (purchasing managers index) data across the globe. PMI number for August came in at - Euro (51.7 vs 51.8 for July), UK (55.2 vs 53.3 in July), Caixin China (53.1 - highest since 2011 vs 52.8 in July), India (52 vs 46 in July), said HDFC Securities.

FPIs were net buyers of equities worth Rs 486.09 crore.

all economic growth.

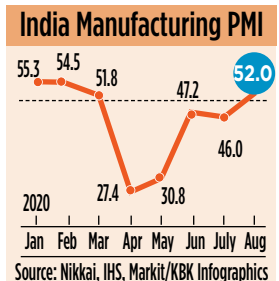
PSU refiners sold 4.26 million tonnes of diesel in August, down 13 per cent from July and 22.3 per cent from a year earlier, data compiled by IOC showed.

The e-way bills of August also show a marginal decline over July, reflecting the slower intra-state and inter-state traffic.

"If we look at the PMI and diesel data, we find that there has been an uptake in the purchase of inputs by

industries, while the restrictions in transportation and the flooding in several parts of the country has affected the traffic of goods. Hopefully, we should see some recovery from September as the unlock process will support economic activity," said Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist, Barclays.

"But we will have to see the pace of recovery, which could be much slower to take the economy to nor-



malcy," he added.

The GST collections data for August also saw a recovery of 88 per cent of the year-ago period. In July, the collections were 86 per cent of the same month last year. The gross GST revenue collected in August 2020 is Rs 86,449 crore against Rs 98,202 crore in August 2019.

Of the gross GST revenue collected, CGST was Rs 15,906 crore, SGST Rs 21,064 crore, IGST was Rs 42,264 crore (including Rs 19,179 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was Rs 7,215 crore.

The GST mopup in August was marginally down from the previous month. "We do not have to read too much into the marginal decline sequentially, as domestic collections have attained 92 per cent YoY for operations in July is a sign of economic recovery post-lifting of lockdown," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY.

"A significant part of the dip is attributable to imports, which has witnessed a decline," he added.

(With inputs from Madhusudan Sahoo)

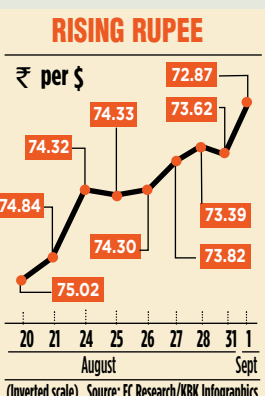
## Rupee surges 75p, bonds prices up

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, SEP. 1

The rupee on Tuesday posted its biggest single intraday gain in nearly two years, appreciating by 75 paise, or 1.02 per cent, against the US dollar while bond yields fell to their lowest level in over two weeks following the Reserve Bank of India's measures to maintain financial system stability and encouraging manufacturing PMI data.

Global dollar weakness and sustained foreign fund inflows too supported the rupee. Traders said that they expect the RBI to now allow the rupee to appreciate as it could help in combating inflation.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee finished at 72.87, up 75 paise from its previous close of 73.62. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a



basket of six currencies extended its flight below the 92 levels.

Encouraging macro data uplifted the domestic risk sentiment. The benchmark 10-year bond yield closed 18 basis points lower at 5.94 per cent as the RBI introduced several measures to soothe sentiment in the bond market.

Darshit Purohit at IFA Global said, "The central bank has stepped off the gas in accumulating the foreign exchange reserves and might intervene only to curb sharp volatility. Rupee is now down by only 2 per cent for the calendar year 2020. It marked an all-time low on April 22, 2020 at 76.91 (losing 7.73 per cent). Global dollar weakness, sustained FII inflows (\$6.82 billion in August), strengthening Asian currencies and RBI stepping aside from dollar buying intervention are the key factors behind the recent recovery in the Rupee."

"The immediate support is 72.40 to 72.50 levels," added Purohit.

The Reserve Bank on Monday announced a host of steps, including term repo operations totalling Rs 1 lakh crore in mid-September to ease pressure on liquidity.

## Inventory stocking helps car numbers

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, SEP. 1

After six months of slowdown, the struggling Indian automobile manufacturers are seeing signs of a turnaround from the lockdown woes, with sales picture improving amidst positive signs of recovery.

Automobile wholesales from factory gates to showrooms rose in August as supply constraints caused by the pandemic eased and companies pushed stocks to dealers, anticipating an improvement in demand ahead of the festive season.

However, the long-term demand trends still remain in question.

India's biggest car maker Maruti Suzuki, with 50 per cent market share, on Tuesday registered 17 per cent growth in overall sales led by a 20 per cent jump at 113,033 units in domestic sales in August.

Hyundai Motor, India's second largest car maker, reported a 20 per cent uptick in August with sales of 45,809 units.

Hyundai's performance along with Maruti Suzuki India hints towards a visible recovery trend in the market, which is coming on the back of pent-up demand, as well as the enhanced need for personal mobility post Covid-19 crisis.

Tata Motors, India's biggest automaker by revenues, sold 18,583 units last month, a rise of 154 per cent, up from 7,316 units it sold last year, reliable sources said. The firm reports only quarterly sales.

Sales at Mahindra and Mahindra grew 1 per cent year-on-year at 13,651 units.

Kia Motors posted 74 per cent year-on-year growth with 10,845 unit sales last month.

Sales at MG Motor India jumped 41 per cent year-on-year at 2,851 units. However, sales at Honda Cars India fell 9 per cent year-on-year at 7,509 units.

## Textile industry wants skewed dumping duty on VSF to go

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEP. 1

Anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre (VSF) has hurt the textile industry badly while it benefited monopoly players. The industry now wants the government to end the dumping duty, which is forcing textile units to import spun yarn. It is estimated that the powerloom sector lost the opportunity to utilise production capacity worth Rs 1,000 crore and provide 8,000 jobs in FY20 due to higher imports.

Viscose yarn producers and the downstream sectors are troubled by the discriminatory pricing of the dominant domestic staple fibre producer on the back of the anti-dumping duty on imported fibre. This has resulted in India's viscose-based handmade textile products lose their competitiveness in the overseas market.

For the past 10 years, VSF has been enjoying "undue protection" by way of anti-dumping duty. VSF attracts anti-dumping duty of \$0.103 to \$0.512 per kg of import. This has made the fibre costlier for the domestic yarn producers compared with international prices.

On the other hand,



Grasim, which produces VSF in India, has been following a "discriminatory pricing" and MSME spinners have been bearing the brunt of it, says the Southern India Mills Association (Sima).

The current capacity of the domestic producer is not enough to meet the growing demands of the industry and hence the indigenous producer is adopting import parity pricing while selling the fibre to domestic spinners at a premium of Rs 20/kg, taking advantage of the anti-dumping duty. At the same time, Grasim is exporting the fibre to competing countries like Bangladesh, Turkey, Nepal, and Sri Lanka at international prices.

Further, the manufacturer has been adopting a complicated domestic pricing policy. It promises discounts to the tune of 40 per cent while withholding over one-third of it till

the year-end, leading to the blockage of working capital. It links the discount to the incremental fibre consumption with a one-sided penalty clause and prevent sourcing from other suppliers with an annual contract, said Sima.

"Competition Commission of India in its order dated March 18, 2020, levied Grasim Industries a penalty of Rs 301.61 crore for abuse of dominant position in the market for supply of VSF to spinners in India," said Ashwin Chandran, chairman, Sima. When contacted by *Financial Chronicle*, Grasim spokesperson did not respond to the allegations by the power looms.

Due to the higher pricing of the fibre, the powerloom sector has been increasingly importing yarn from overseas markets. The import of viscose spun yarn grew 27 times from 2,022 tonnes in 2016-17 to 56,262 tonnes in 2019-20.

Removing the anti-dumping duty on VSF will make the entire Indian VSF textile value chain globally competitive, said the Northern India Textiles Mills Association.

Both the associations want the duty to be removed on VSF.

## Robot to track bogus algo trades on cards in Korea

HEEJIN KIM  
SEOUL, SEP. 1

South Korean regulators are turning to artificial intelligence to help detect illegal use of algorithmic trading in financial markets.

The Korea Exchange has temporarily hired outside experts to develop a model to monitor algo trades, according to Lee Jong-pil, an official at the bourse. They are expected to complete studying the model by October, and the exchange will then test and decide whether to use it, he added.

"We intend to crack down on bogus orders or stock manipulation with this new model," Lee said



by phone on Tuesday. "With algorithmic trading widely used in markets, unfair trades using algos are allegedly pervasive." Authorities aim to stamp out specific trading patterns, such as market-making, spoofing or layering with the help of the model, according to state-

ment on KRX's website in April. Spoofing is a practice where traders enter orders they don't intend to execute to mislead others in the market as to the demand to buy or sell. One type of spoofing is called layering, where orders are stacked at various prices on one side of the market.

South Korea's stock exchange in July 2019 fined Bank of America Corp's brokerage arm 175 million won (\$148,000) for violating market rules. The US firm disrupted fair market orders through algorithmic trading, helping a hedge fund client earn 220 billion won of profit by repeatedly submitting and cancelling quotes for hundreds of

VRISHTI BENIWAL  
SEP. 1

India has been struggling with an unemployment problem and the coronavirus pandemic is making it even more difficult for its youngest workers to earn a decent living, shows an analysis by the London School of Economics.

Workers in cities in the age group of 18 to 25 years were already much less likely to be in formal jobs and more likely to be employed informally and paid less, wrote Shania Bhalotia, Swati Dhingra and Fjolla Kondrilli, the authors of the report 'City of dreams no more: The impact of Covid-19 on urban workers in India.'

"The youngest workers were much more likely to want a job guarantee, primarily for the livelihood security that they provide in these hard times," they wrote.

The government imposed one of the world's most restrictive lockdowns from March 25, leading to a loss of about 122 million jobs. The impact was felt more severely in urban centres where most workers didn't have a social security net, while businesses remained shut for weeks.



The result: India's economy posted its worst contraction last quarter - the biggest among major economies.

While India already runs the world's biggest jobs programme, under which workers can earn a guaranteed minimum daily wage for at least 100 days a year, the programme is limited to those living in the hinterland.

In urban areas, the survey shows that 31 per cent of individuals have a guaranteed number of days of work. But among those who do not, an overwhelming 70 per cent reported needing a guarantee of a minimum 100 days of work, according to the report by LSE's Centre for Economic Performance.

Central and state governments recognise the

livelihood crisis, but for the most part, their recovery packages fall far short of outlays to overcome it, the authors wrote.

"It may finally be time to revive old ideas, such as a universal job guarantee, to protect the livelihoods of many informal workers who are at risk of falling into urban poverty," said Dhingra. "Their aspirations of a prosperous life have already been shattered by the pandemic."

Some of the findings of the survey are: About 52 per cent of urban workers in India didn't have work and income for at least a month during the lockdown; and financial assistance from the government or employers was available to just a quarter of the workforce.

— Bloomberg

## Small is new big for hotels in Covid times: Oyo chief

AXEL THRELFALL &  
JOSHUA FRANKLIN  
LONDON/NEW YORK, SEP. 1

The Covid-19 pandemic will mean holiday-goers will shy away from larger hotels for the foreseeable future in favour of boutiques and home rentals, the CEO of India-based hospitality startup Oyo Hotels and Homes said.

"The comments by Ritesh Agarwal underscore the anticipation within the hospitality industry that the coronavirus outbreak will fundamentally change the nature of travel.

"The hospitality industry will never be the same again, that is absolutely

clear," Agarwal said. "Small hotels are going to be in vogue. In my view, small is going to be the new big, wherein people will rethink a lot about going back to that 1,000-room hotel versus going to a 40-room niche hotel."

Oyo has seen some green shoots of recovery. "The last four, five months the company has seen some incremental recovery, especially in geographies such as Europe and the United States," Agarwal said.

In the US, where Oyo customers are primarily truckers, medical reps and essential workers, its revenue has nearly bounced back.

— Reuters



## SHORT TAKES

## Barca still unclear about Messi's stay

**Madrid:** With or without Lionel Messi, Barcelona already know they will start their season at home against Villarreal at the end of September.

The Spanish league announced its calendar on Monday, and the first round is scheduled for the second weekend of September. But Barcelona and other teams, who played later into this past season will have some of their games postponed so they have time to prepare.

All matches will continue to be played in empty stadiums. Messi, who last week told Barcelona he wants to leave, skipped the team's first day of training on Monday. He had already been a no-show on Sunday as the squad underwent coronavirus testing at the club's training center. He wants to leave on a clause that allows him to leave for free at the end of the season, but Barcelona said that clause has expired. It wants the Argentine great to stay at least until the end of his contract in June 2021. — *AP*

## Uruguay's Pearol fire coach Forlan

**Montevideo, Uruguay:** Diego Forlan says he has been fired as coach of Uruguayan club Pearol.

The former Atletico Madrid and Manchester United player took the job in February but leaves amid a poor campaign in the local championship. His last match with Pearol was Sunday's 2-0 loss to league leader Montevideo Wanderers. Forlan, who retired from professional soccer in 2018, had his first coaching job at his boyhood club Pearol. He guided the team to four wins from 11 games. The team is in the middle of the Uruguayan championship standings with only six rounds remaining.

I have to leave Pearol, but beforehand I want to write a few words of gratitude, Forlan said in his social media channels.

I have no reproaches, this is soccer. — *AP*

## Nat'l online fitness event set to start

**Mumbai:** Fitness platform Xtraviving in association with the Directorate of Sports and Youth Services of Maharashtra will host the National Level Online Athletic Fitness Championship to keep athletes going amidst the pandemic. Competitors will be shown a workout video on September 10 by the team of professionals. They will have to submit a video performing the same workout by September 20 with the results scheduled to be announced on October 2. The first three positions stand to win ₹75,000, ₹50,000 and ₹25,000 respectively. Registrations are free on [www.itstralliving.com](http://www.itstralliving.com).

## Roglic wins stage, Julian keeps lead

**Orcieres-Merlette, France:** Hotly-tipped Tour de France contender Primoz Roglic won Tuesday's Stage Four on the race's first summit finish but failed to drop any of his key rivals in the process, including overall leader Julian Alaphilippe.

On a perfect day for racing the Vuelta a Espana champion edged home his Slovenian compatriot Tadej Pogacar in second, while Guillaume Martin was third after 160.5km rolling run to the 1850m altitude finish line.

The Alpine summit stage was billed as the moment the true form of the various contenders would be revealed on the 7.1km climb to the ski resort of Orcieres-Merlette at a 6.7% average incline.

It was here in 1971 the great Spanish climber Luis Ocana beat Eddy Merckx by nine minutes, but there was nothing resembling that this year despite the desperate jostling and posturing over the final kilometre. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Trinbago Knight Riders vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots from 7.30 pm; St Lucia Zouks vs Guyana Amazon Warriors from 3 am (Thursday) on Star Sports 1, 2, HD

## US OPEN

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

## TOUR DE FRANCE

Stage Five from 4.45 pm on Eurosport, HD

## NOLE NAILS IT

## Djokovic rolls into 2nd round with Zverev, Tsitsipas

**New York, Sept. 1:** Pre-tournament favourite Novak Djokovic marched into round two of the US Open Monday as he launched his bid for a 18th Grand Slam with a straight-sets win.

The world number one dispatched unheralded Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia-Herzegovina 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 under floodlights at an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

The Serbian superstar took just 23 minutes to win the first set before laboring to a narrow victory in an hour-long second set.

With Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer absent, Djokovic is looking to close the gap on them in the race for the all-time men's singles Grand Slam record. Djokovic currently has 17, behind Nadal on 19 and Federer on 20.

Earlier, fifth seed Alexander Zverev was made to work hard as he progressed into round two of the US Open Monday following a three-hour-long tussle with 2017 finalist Kevan Anderson.

The German, seeking his first Grand Slam title, took the first set on a tie-break 7-6 (7/2) before losing the second 7-5 in an eerily empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Ultimately, the 23-year-old proved too much for the South African veteran, winning the third set 6-3 and the fourth 7-5.

Afterwards he shared a moment on a big

screen with his tennis-playing brother Mischa Zverev who was beamed into the stadium from his sofa at home.

Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas eased into the second round of the Flushing Meadows tournament, which is being played without fans due to coronavirus, with a straight-sets win over Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

## 'TWO DOGS'

The Greek player needed just one hour and 38 minutes to dispose of the world number 41, 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

The 22-year-old Tsitsipas, sixth on the ATP rankings, will play American wildcard Maxime Cressy after he defeated Slovakian Jozef Kovalik, ranked 123 in the world, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Britain's Cameron Norrie enjoyed one of the day's most impressive wins, charging back from two sets down to sink Argentine ninth seen Diego Schwartzman 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 7-5.

"It shows that it was just two dogs out there battling with no serves really," said the 76th-ranked Norrie, will face another Argentine, Federico Coria, for a place in the third round.

Elsewhere in the men's draw on day one, 12th seed Canadian Denis Shapovalov required four sets to overcome US wildcard Sebastian Korda.

— *AFP*

Japan's Naomi Osaka wears a mask in honour of Breonna Taylor as she celebrates after defeating countrymate Misaki Doi 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 in their US Open first round match in New York on Monday.

— *AP*

## Osaka using US Open as platform for activism

**New York, Sept. 1:** Naomi Osaka arrived on court for her opening US Open game on Monday wearing a face mask bearing the name of Breonna Taylor, the African-American nurse shot dead by police who raided her apartment in Kentucky in March.

By the time the US Open fortnight is over, Osaka says she hopes to have honoured the memory of six other victims of racial injustice.

"For me, I just want to spread awareness," Osaka said after her 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 win over Japanese compatriot Misaki Doi.

**I'm aware that tennis is watched all over the world, and maybe there is someone that doesn't know Breonna Taylor's story. Maybe they'll Google it or something. For me, just spreading awareness.**

— **NAOMI OSAKA**  
tennis player

"I'm aware that tennis is watched all over the world, and maybe there is someone that doesn't know Breonna Taylor's story. "Maybe they'll Google it or something. For me, just spreading awareness. I feel

like the more people know the story, then the more interesting or interested they'll become in it."

Osaka, of Haitian and Japanese heritage, said she has six other masks bearing the names of black people killed by police that she hoped to wear throughout the Grand Slam.

"I have seven and it's quite sad that seven is not enough for the amount of names. Hopefully I'll get to the finals and you'll see all of them," Osaka said.

Osaka said she is increasingly comfortable in her role as athlete activist.

— *AFP*

Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts after winning a set against Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their first round match.

— *AP*

## CSK likely to start training soon

**C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

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

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

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

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

Viswanathan said Super Kings will definitely play warm-up games if the organisers can arrange

## MY UNCLE SLAUGHTERED TO DEATH, SAYS RAINA

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 1

In an effort to put to rest intense speculations over his surprise IPL pullout, Suresh Raina on Tuesday took to Twitter to say he was grieving his relatives who were murdered in a midnight robbery.

The recently-retired cricketer didn't, however, specify that was the exact reason for his leaving the Chennai Super Kings' camp.

Ever since he took a red-eye to reach India last weekend, various reports have claimed there was 'a serious bubble breach', 'team rift' and a 'hotel room issue' that led to Raina's return.

A day after CSK boss N. Srinivasan issued a denial saying his comments on Raina were wrongly attributed, the cricketer said his uncle was murdered in a "horrible" incident in Pathankot (Punjab). The incident hap-

pened two days before Raina landed in the UAE.

"What happened to my uncle was Punjab was beyond horrible. My uncle was slaughtered to death, my bua & both my cousins had severe injuries. Unfortunately, my cousin also passed away last night after battling for life for days. My bua is still very very critical and is on life support (sic)," Raina tweeted.

Raina also requested the Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh to look into the matter.

"Till date, we don't know what exactly had happened that night & who did this. I request @PunjabPoliceInd to look into this matter. We at least deserve to know who did this heinous act to them. Those criminals should not be spared to commit more crimes. @capt\_amarinder @CMOPb (sic)," Raina said in another tweet.

has returned to India.

**BHAJJJI'S ARRIVAL**  
**DELAYED**

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh who was expected to join the CSK camp on Tuesday

● **While their rivals have already begun their preparations for the upcoming IPL season, Chennai Super Kings are in an extended room quarantine.**

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

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

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

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

**I WILL BE IN ACTION SOON: CHAHAR**

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

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

## HERE TO PLAY CRICKET, NOT FOR FUN: KOHLI

**Dubai, Sept. 1:** Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli understands "the privilege" of being able to play cricket in the middle of a raging pandemic and he wants all IPL participants to respect the tournament's bio-secure bubble.

Speaking on RCB's Youtube show, the 31-year-old said he didn't exactly miss the game during the Covid-forced lockdown, which brought sporting action to a halt.

"Maybe because I was going on day and night for the last 10 years...It was a revelation for me in the sense that my focus was not solely on missing the game all the time," Kohli said.

Now that he is gearing up to be back in action with the IPL, Kohli said the BCCI's Standard Operating Procedure and the bio-bubble restrictions should be non-negotiable for all participants.

"We are all here to play cricket...The bio-bubble needs to be respected at all times for the tournament to happen eventually. We are not here to have fun and roam around and you know say that 'I want to hang out in Dubai'," Kohli asserted.

"That is not the time we are living in. Accept the phase that we are going through and understand the privilege that we have, just to be a part of the IPL." — *PTI*

## NBA | PLAYOFF SERIES

## Top seeds Bucks face the Heat

**Los Angeles, Sept. 1:** Jimmy Butler seized control down the stretch, scoring a career-playoff high 40 points as the Miami Heat beat the Milwaukee Bucks in the opening game of their second round NBA playoff series on Monday.

Butler was a one-man wrecking crew, scoring 13 of Miami's final 16 points in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida. He scored 27 of his 40 points in the second half.

Butler warned his teammates not to expect any passes with the game on the line.

"I told my teammates I probably wasn't going to pass the ball. I made a couple of shots and they said, 'That's fine with me,'" Butler said.

In the Western Conference, Chris Paul scored 28 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder forced a decisive seventh game in their first round series with a 104-100 win over the mistake-prone Houston Rockets.

Butler is just the third player in Heat history with a 40-point game in the playoffs, joining LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

"I took it up a level in the fourth. If that's what needs to happen every game, I have got to do it," he said.

Game two of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference series is Wednesday in Orlando.

Goran Dragic added 27 points as he helped the Heat clamp down defensively which set the stage

● **Butler was a one-man wrecking crew, scoring 13 of Miami's final 16 points in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida. He scored 27 of his 40 points in the second half.**

for Butler's offensive heroics.

With 52 seconds left, Dragic made a clutch defensive play by stealing the ball from Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo to preserve Miami's seven-point lead, 111-104.

Bam Adebayo had 12 points and 17 rebounds and rookie Tyler Herro tallied 11 points for the Heat, who swept the Indiana Pacers in the previous round.

Fifth seeded Miami found a way to contain reigning NBA most valuable player Antetokounmpo, who was limited to just 18 points.

It was the Greek superstar's fewest points in a playoff game since he was held to 12 by the Toronto Raptors in game three of the NBA semi-finals last season. He also missed eight of 12 free throws against the Heat.

Khrist Middleton scored 28 points and Brook Lopez had 24 for the Bucks, who also lost the opening game of their first round series before winning four straight to beat the Orlando Magic in five games.

— *AFP*

Marvin Williams (left) of the Milwaukee Bucks defends as Jimmy Butler of Miami Heat takes a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball conference semifinal playoff game in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Monday.

— *AP*

## Referee Srinath bats for bowlers

**New Delhi, Sept. 1:** If a batsman at the non-striker's end is leaving the crease before the bowler has released the ball, he is not following the spirit of the game and should not seek empathy if he is run out, reckons ICC match referee and former India pacer Javagal Srinath.

R. Ashwin courted controversy when he ran out Jos Buttler during last year's IPL as the England batsman backed up too far. The act triggered the age-old debate on the bowler's conduct in such dismissals. Srinath does not feel that the bowler is wrong if he runs out a batsman in this fashion.

"The bowler is focusing on the batsman. For the batsman (at the non-stri-

er's end) to stick to his crease till the ball is released is no big deal, because he's not batting, nor is he thinking of anything else," Srinath told Ashwin on his *Youtube* show 'DRS With Ash'.

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels that the bowler violates the spirit of the game by this dismissal and he would not allow Ashwin to do it. Ashwin will play for Delhi Capitals in this year's IPL. "So the batsman shouldn't leave the crease and the bowler should focus on just bowling and the batsman he's going to bowl to. If the batsman is taking undue advantage, and if he's involved in a run out, I am perfectly okay with that," Srinath said.

— *PTI*

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