nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

NELLORE | SUNDAY | 20 SEPTEMBER 2020



Min: 24.0°C RH: 87% Rainfall: 0.7mm Forecast: clear. Max/Min

temp. 28/24ºC



DEATHS (+1,078)(+87,279)

53,92,666 86,699 covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+2,123)(+9)TS: 1,69,169 1,025 (+58)(+8,218)AP: 6,17,776 5,302

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers.info/ coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana **Tithi:** Adhika-Ashvina Suddha Chaturthi till 2.28 am (Monday) Star: Swathi till 10.54 pm Variyam: 6.22 am to 7.49 am; 4.01 am to 5.29 am (Monday) Durmuhurtam: 4.34 pm to Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

Safar ul Muzaffar 2, 1442 AH PRAYERS(SHAHI **MASJID**

Fajar: 4.48 am

Zohar: 12.04 pm Asar: 4.26 pm Maghrib: 6.10 pm **Isha:** 7.20 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.07 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.40 AM** MOONSET TODAY 9.31 PM





Finally, they are staving at home!

External debt up

N BRIFF

3% to \$558 billion

New Delhi: India's total external debt increased by 2.8 per cent to \$558.5 billion at the end of March mainly on account of a rise in commercial borrowings, according to a report released by the finance ministry. It stood at \$543 billion at end-March 2019. The ratio of foreign currency reserves to external debt stood at 85.5 per cent as at end-March 2020, as compared to 76.0 per cent a year ago, the report said. External debt as a ratio to GDP rose marginally to

20.6 per cent as at end-March 2020 from 19.8 per cent a year ago, 'India's External Debt: A Status Report: 2019-2020' showed.

No decision taken

on ₹2,000 note

New Delhi: The finance ministry on Saturday informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to discontinue the printing of ₹2,000 denomination currency notes. In a written reply, minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur said printing of bank notes of particular denomination is decided by the government in consultation with the RBI to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public. During the year 2019-20 and 2020-21, no indent was placed with the presses for printing of ₹2.000 notes. "There is no decision to discontinue its

printing," he said.

NATION 5

RS nod for changes to insolvency law



WORLD 7

US liberal icon Ruth Ginsburg dies

SPORTS 8

Simona sails into **Italian Open semis**

Vol. 18 No. 75 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Rayudu rules



Ambati Rayudu of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in action during the first IPL match of season 13 against Mumbai Indians (MI) at the Sheikh Zayed Stadiumin Abu Dhabi on Saturday. Rayudu scored 71 runs of 48 balls to help CSK beat MI by five wickets.

• Report on Page 8

Heavy rains lash Kadapa district

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA I DC KADAPA, SEPT. 19

Kadapa district has been receiving heavy rains, an average rainfall of 74.9 mm, since Friday evening with the highest of 180.2 mm recorded in Valluru mandal.

Fifteen mandals in the district received more than 10 cm of rainfall from 9 pm on Friday to 6

am on Saturday. Houzz house Chennur resembled an island having been surrounded by rain water. This is ringing alarm bells as a Covid care centre has been set up in the house and there are 70 patients undergoing treatment there. All the lowlying areas of Kadapa city like Co-operative Colony, Apsara Circle. NGO Chinnachowk, Colony, Mrityunjayakunta, Beedi Colony, Lohianagar and other areas are completely inundated.

Fire department officials rescued passengers trolley-auto

DC CORRESPONDENT

Three people trapped in

swollen waters of Penna

River in two incidents

were rescued by fire and

tourism personnel on

In the first instance,

Darabattina Rambabu had

gone for some work walk-

ing through the Penna

River when the water

level was low on Friday.

Around that time, there were heavy discharges

Saturday.

trapped in KC Canal water near Fatima Degree College Saturday morning. Everywhere the canals are overflowing with rain water.

The bridge near Goll-

apalli village was damaged and traffic was stopped on the Kadapa — Tadipatri road and diverted to safer alternative routes. This was caused by a large two-metre hole that was formed on the bridge. One of the main sources here. Buggav-anka reservoir, is overflowing with rain water, the first time in years. Water resource department officials opened all its four gates early morning and released the water to Buggavanka canal. TD leaders Hariprasad and Govardhan Reddy visited all the areas Saturday morning and demanded the government to provide 25 kg of rice and other provision to families in inundated areas.

> ■ Page 4: Cops told to alert people

Youths stuck in Penna rescued

from Somasila reservoir.

Initially, Rambabu remained stuck on the

sand bank of the river but

soon got washed away. He managed to catch hold of a

pillar of a bridge on the

river and remained there

till Saturday morning for

Some people walking along the bridge noticed

Rambabu holding onto the

pillar and alerted the fire

department. One of the

firemen went down the

bridge with the help of a

almost 13 hours.

Rambabu

VILLAGERS STOP CAR FROM BEING WASHED AWAY

D. SIVA RAMI **KURNOOL SEPT. 19**

Rains continue to lash the district as Bana-ganapalle received 11.9 cm of rain on Saturday. Normal life has been thrown out of gear as swirling waters omi-nously course through rivers, canals and causeways overflowing on to bridges in several parts of the district.

Kolimigundla is cut off from Jammalamadugu and Tadipatri.

A car was stuck at Alugu vagu near Banagana Palle. 50 villagers rescued the car from being washed away Saturday's morning report says that while the district has received 36.10 mm average rainfall, the Banaganapalle mandal registered the highest rainfall at 119.00

The lowest rainfall was recorded in Holagunda mandal at 4.20 mm.

rope and saved Rambabu.

In the other incident,

two aged fishermen Yakasiri Lakshmaiah and

Gandavarapu Seenaiah of

South Amaluru village in

Nellore rural mandal went fishing into Penna River

on Saturday. But they got

struck on a sand dune as

water level rose all around

them. Some people alerted

officials after noticing the

duo. Tourism wing per-

sonnel rushed to the spot

with a rubber boat and rescued the two.

■ Page 4: Residential areas get inundated

KCR tells MPs to oppose farm Bills CM says Bills will be big injustice to farmers

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT 19

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chand-rashekar Rao on Saturday asked party MPs to vote against the farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha, saying the legislations would cause great injustice to farmers.

The TRS has seven members in the Upper House, including D. Srinivas who is miffed with the party. The Bills are expected to come up for voting in the Paiva Schle post week Rajya Sabha next week.

Talking with TRS Parlia mentary Party leader Dr K. Keshava Rao over phone on Saturday, the Chief Minister said the Bills would severely harm the farming community and were meant to benefit the

corporates.
The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill were passed by Lok Sabha on Thursday, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill on Tuesday.
The controversial legisla-

tions have sparked protests

• THE CM asked how it was possible for farmers who produce in small quantities to hire lorries to transport their yield to faraway places at high expense to earn profits

HE SAID the Bills are nothing but sugar-coated pills and asked TRS MPs to oppose them at all costs. He found fault with the Centre's decision to reduce the import tax from 50 to 15 % while allowing maize import.

in Punjab and Haryana and has seen Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal resign.

"For public consumption, it was stated in the Bills that farmers could sell their produce anywhere in the country. But, in reality, farmers seldom go to faraway places. The traders and corporate companies travel around in the country to buy or sell their goods," the CM said. "The Bills will throw open the flood gates for corporate companies and private traders to expand their operations across the coun-

The Chief Minister asked: "How is it possible for farmers who produce in small quantities to hire lorries to transport their yield to faraway places at high expense in their attempt to earn profits." He said the Bills are nothing but sugarcoated pills and asked TRS MPs to oppose them at all

He found fault with the Centre's decision to reduce the import tax from 50 to 15 per cent while allowing the import of one crore tonnes of maize. "What will happen to our farmers and their produce if the Centre opens doors for imports, Chandrashekar Rao asked.

Stating that the Centre had procured 70-75 lakh tonnes of maize, he pointed out: "Whom does the Centre want to benefit at a time when the nation is facing an economic slow-down? We have plenty of maize produced in the

country. The Chief Minister instructed the MPs to oppose and vote against the Bills in the Rajya Sabha since they would cause huge losses to the agriculture sector and were against the interests of

LOK SABHA MAY CURTAIL SESSION FEARING COVID

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

Faced with a surge in Covid-19 cases and more than two dozen MPs testing positive, the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament might be cur-tailed most likely by middle of next week.

The session in Lok Sabha is likely to wrap up by Wednesday next week. Rajya Sabha, the upper House of parliament, is expected to follow suit. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha called by Speaker Om Birla on Saturday where floor leaders of most parties backed the

move, sources said. The session started on September 14 and was scheduled to conclude on October 1. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, however, would take a final call. More than two dozen MPs have tested positive for Covid-19 since the time the session began and daily tests were carried out in Parliament premises. Seventeen members of

the Lok Sabha and eight from the Rajya Sabha had tested positive for the Coronavirus before the monsoon session of

Vasupalli Ganesh

TD VIZAG SOUTH **MLA QUITS TO SUPPORT YSRC**

MD ILYAS I DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Desam's Visakhapatnam South MLA Vasupalli Ganesh left the party and extended support to YSRC.
Ganesh met Chief
Minister Y.S. Jagan Mo-

han Reddy at Tadepalli on Saturday and enr-olled his sons Saketh and Surya in the ruling party. He is the fourth MLA after Vallabhaneni Vamsi, Maddali Gir-idhar and Karanam Balaram to leave the party. The TD strength is now decreased to 19. However, the TD rebel MLAs did not join YSRC but maintained distance and were allotted special seats in the Assembly.

■ Page 4: Exodus to help YSRC in Vizag

Covid RAT kits turn biz venture for unscrupulous ing kits. So, we have no

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC

Anxiety among people to get tested for Covid-19 is being exploited by unscrupulous private hospitals and diagnostic labs to make a quick buck in Andhra Pradesh. Easy availability of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits in grey market is coming in handy for them to overcharge patients while carrying out these tests in the state.

Sources privy to the development say that there is a huge demand for test kits made by South Korea-based firm SB Biosensor, as they are of good quality compared to others.

A private pathologist running a lab said, "The invoice price of each test kit is ₹600 and it takes 10-15 days to get the consignment from the day of However, they are available at short notice in grey market at just ₹330, as the dealer does not pay 12 percent GST and other

Taking advantage of the situation, some private hospitals and labs are

 A HEALTH official said for every 100 Rapid Antigen Test kits entering AP officially, 1,000 of them are being sold through the grey market.

IF A private establishment fails in conducting RAT test for Covid-19 properly and gives a wrong report stating that the patient is negative, that person will go on to infect others.

procuring the RAT kits and carrying out Covid-19 tests on people by charging them from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000 and above. Though the state government has fixed the price for Covid-19 test with RAT kit at ₹750, these establishments are taking patients for a ride and collecting more money. A patient K. Anil Kumar

of Rajahmundry said, "If we go for Covid-19 test to a government hospital, we hardly get a chance, unless we have recommendation from a politician or some government official. We were turned away from a government hospital several times say-ing they were short of test-

Sambhar, spotted

deer numbers rise

choice but go to private Surprisingly, a majority

of private hospitals and labs conducting Covid-19 tests do not share their data with ICMR, even though it is mandatory. They also do not give any official report on Covid-19 test to patients if they turn negative, except informing them unofficial-

At Eluru in West God-avari district, district health authorities had recently seized a private lab for conducting Covid-19 test without authorisa-When contacted. West

Godavari district medical and health officer Dr. K. M. Sunanda said, "We are getting several complaints from people about Covid-19 tests being conducted illegally and of being overcharged by some private hospitals and labs. When we ask them for a written complaint to initiate action, nobody is coming forward. This makes it difficult for us to take action against such erring establishments.

Page 3: Health officials, DCA start blame game

NO LACCESS Rare herb was smuggled through Nepal in huge quantities

Chinese miss Himalayan viagra

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 19

This year, the Chinese been deprived of a rare herb — *Cordyceps* sinensis — also known as Himalayan Viagra, which cures ailments including impotency and fatigue. Found in Uttarakhand between May and September, Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing tension between India and China, made smuggling the herb through Nepal to Chi-nese markets impossible.

Studies show that about

45 per cent of Chinese men

over 40 have erectile dys-

function. A concern for

called a contagion.

Though the Chinese are a

leading consumer of Viagra, they still rely on traditional medicine which is now a billion-dollar industry.
"They look at long-term

cures instead of quick fixes. Studies have shown an increasing number of Chin-ese suffer from impotence," an Uttarakhandbased researcher said.

In the international market, 1 kg of Cordyceps sinensis (called Keeda Jadi locally) fetches more than ₹20 lakh. China is the biggest buyer, with business of

₹150-200 crore. Singapore

decades, it was at one point and Hong Kong are among other buyers. As the snow starts melt-

in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Bageshwar in May, groups flock the mountains to hunt for the herb. This year was no different. "We picked the herbs but could not deliver due to the pandemic and the tension. This led to a shortage in China where demand is huge," said Anup (name changed) of Dharchula. Like thousands in the region, he has been in the trade for a decade. The arduous trek in search of the herb has even led to deaths due to freezing temperatures and treacherous and India, and is used in routes. The best-known route for smuggling the herb is through Nepal, where there now is height-

ened vigil. Uttarakhand tries its best to regulate the trade, but unsuccessfully. A mafia pays locals to supply the herb, as well as its transportation and sale in the black market. Officially, sale is banned in India. "As per some estimates, Uttarakhand supplies over 400 kg of *Cordyceps sinensis* in the global black market," administration officials said, adding that it also goes to pharmaceutical companies in China

cancer treatment.

The yellow-brown mummified Cordyceps sinensis is a parasitic fungus that penetrates the caterpillar of the Swift moth and bursts from it. Though it grows in Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal, it has been on the decline lately due to the changing weather condithough Chinese tions demand keeps increasing. Less seasonal snow higher temperatures and receding glaciers has made it difficult for the fungus to

grow in China. Of late, this

is being witnessed in Uttarakhand as well," offi-

cials explained

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 19

Sambar and spotted deer population are increasing in number in the Visakhapatnam forest

areas after the disappearance of leopards, decline of wild dogs and other predators. With the increase in the

number of sambar and spotted deer, the animals are entering human habitations and coming out on to the roads. After losing employment, youth are poaching the hapless animals.

Earlier, Visakhapatnam forest region was said to

be one of the most favourable regions for leopards and other predators. Leopards and wild dogs were not only in the dense forest but also in the Simhachalam hills and other habitations. They survived by hunting the spotted deer and sam-

However, during the past decade, the leopards have completely disappeared from the region. There is a big decline in the wild dog population and jackals are spotted rarely in the forest areas

■ Page 4: Jobless youth rush into restricted areas In AP, some babus ignore Covid threat

Senior officials in the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Office have been get ting infected with the Coronavirus one after the other. It started with CM's secretary Solmon Arokhyaraj followed by principal secretary Praveen Prakash and now it's the turn of additional secretary K. Dhanunjay Reddy. Arokhyaraj behaved in a highly responsible manner and opted for self-quarantine, he also informed other offi-

cials with whom he had interacted a few days before he tested positive about his infection. He suggested that the officials get themselves tested. Dhanunjay Reddy is the most trusted confidant of the Chief Minister and handles several important subjects. Aware that the Coronavirus is highly contagious, Dhanunjay Reddy decided to skip official duties and informed all department heads about his health status. He did not think that he is indispensable nor did he try to project that he is committed to work by coming to office, putting not only his life but that of others at risk. Is someone hearing this?

In rankings race, one bureaucrat moves ahead

ften, we see rival political parties compete with each other to take credit for the state's progress, and its rankings at the national and international levels. In Andhra Pradesh, the story is different. It all happened after Andhra Pradesh was ranked first in the Ease of Doing Business recently Two senior bureaucrats, Karikal Vallevan and Rajat Bhargay, claimed credit for the ranking. Bhargay worked as principal secretary in the industries department for more than six months in the YSRC government before Vallevan replaced him. As Bhargav had served for most of the time during the period which was taken into consideration for the rankings, he showed up during the celebrations. He met Chief

Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and presented him a bouquet before joining industries minister Goutham Reddy and Vallevan at a media briefing. Doubtlessly Bhargav stole the attention, leaving his colleague red-faced. Sources close to the minister said they can perceive the disinterested attitude of the incumbent head of industries at recent meetings. Does it mean the

return of Bhargav to the



Cong outsmarted by fleet-footed TRS
Ongress members of the Telangana state Legislative Assembly appear to have failed to understand the strategy of the TRS while conducting

to have failed to understand the strategy of the TRS while of the monsoon session of the Assembly. The government had indicated on August 17 that it would hold the session from September 7. Later the government indicated that all major issues including Covid-19, the fire mishap at the Srisailam hydel project, achievements of the government in the power sector, the New Revenue Act, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) devolutions and the illegal construction of projects by the AP government would be taken up for debate. The Business Advisory Committee of debate. The Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly decided to hold the session for 18 working days. The ruling party took up all the issues listed, except the one on water disputes between the two Telugu states in the first eight days. The House was then adjourned sine die, citing the threat of Covid-19. Congress leaders alleged that the government had run away, afraid of facing the Opposition in the House, instead realising that the ruling party had clearly ambushed them.

KCR scores goal against Naidu

hief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao once again proved that he will not lose any opportunity to target TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, even if the Telugu Desam has all but the fettigu Desam has an but vanished in the state. This time, KCR adroitly dribbled past a question by CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the Assembly over the safety of digital land records to score the safety of CLP leader said the goal. The CLP leader said the Dharani portal of land records could be hacked. KCR rose and said Hyderabad has become a safe destination and has its own geographical advantages. In KCR's words, some experts told then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi about the advantages of placing servers in Hyderabad to store ultra-secret and crucial data in Hyderabad. The city is in a non-seismic zone and faces little threat of natural calamity. That, KCR said, is the reason IT companies looked to IT companies looked to Hyderabad. It was due to Rajiv Gandhi that Hyderabad became an IT destination, but "somebody" claims that he made Hyderabad an IT hub, KCR said. Whether or not this answered Mallu Bhatti's question is another most but tion is another matter, but "somebody" may still be looking for a quick riposte.

LEISURE

BRIDGE | Susanna Gross

NS vulnerable **Dealer South** ♠ 10 6 5 643 ♦ Q7 4 2 ♣K74 ♠ KJ 9 7 4 ♠ A 3 N ♥ J 7 V109 5 2 W ◆ J 9 7 6 5 103 ♣108 6 5 3 ♠ Q82 ♥AKQ8 AK 8 ♣QJ2 West South North East 2NT All Pass Pass 3NT

y friend Ollie Burgess has just made the bold move of quitting his job in lacktriangle lacktriangle Manchester, and moving to London to manage the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Ollie is a fantastic player, as well as being popular and dynamic — exactly what's needed. The YC is much loved by its members, but its numbers have been dwindling in recent years. It would be a huge shame if it ever closed, not just because it attracts such a high standard of player, but also because it has a long and rich history. It first opened its doors in 1968, and for decades enjoyed a reputation as the best and most exciting club in the country. The stars of the game would flock there, and stay long into the night. I still remember the time Bill Gates, visiting London, rang and asked whether the club might find him a partner (he ended up playing with its chairman, Ian Payn).

If anyone can restore the club's fortunes, it's Ollie. Already, the Monday and Friday evening online duplicates are buzzing, and he's introduced online teaching, too. I've been lucky enough to partner Ollie many times. Here he

is in action at the last Spring Fours. West led the ♣5. East won, and returned the ♠J. Ollie did well to duck. When East continued the suit, he played low again, and West won with the ♠A. West switched back to clubs. Ollie won with the ♣Q and played ♦AK and a third diamond to dummy's ◆Q. East showed out. Instead of pinning his hopes on a 3-3 heart break, Olly rectified the count for a possible major-suit squeeze against East: he played a fourth diamond, discarding his AQ. West won, and played another club to dummy's .K. East, down to ♠K ♥10952, was squeezed: nine tricks were in the bag.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 952

1 Former Kiwi wicket keeper Adam ___ (6) 4 Baby beds (5) 7 Proposals or bids (6)

15 Ideal, utopian or 16 Hit out at cricket (4)

17 Marking fluid (3) 18 __ up : consumed or finished the whole guantity? (4) 21 Evacuating, abdi-

cating or pulling out (8) 23 Contri-bution to a

cause (8) 27 Retired Indian off-29 A son or a daughter; even a lamb or a colt? (9)
31 Expressed with

frankness (9) 32 Minute trace (9) 33 Compet-itions (8) 37 Fire-raiser (8) 42 Engrave (4) 43 Pair (3)

44 Run with a long 44 Rull With a long stride (4) 47 Messenger (7) 48 Of one's ___: belonging to one-self? (3)

49 Used to be alive (7) 50 In vogue or fashion 51 Acute anxiety (5) 52 Represen-tatives

DOWN:

1 What bees collect?

(6)
2 Went upward (4)
3 Royal emblems? (7)
5 Depending, banking
on, trusting (7)
6 Stopped ball with
bat? (7)
8 Impassio-ned,
romantic or sensual

romantic or sensual (7) 9 "Been" anagram for

Swiss watch manufacturers? (4)
10 Easy catch (6)
11 Mahara-shtra city

12 Economic improvement (6) 19 Depiction or story

20 Advocate of com-

munity participation (9) 22 Closest at hand (7) 24 Policeman (7) 25 Chuck (5) 26 Irish alphabet (5) 28 Comforter or quilt

(3) 30 Cavity or hole (3) 34 Tasty morsels (7) 35 Round body (6) 36 Write on paper (3,4) 37 Quantities or measures? (7) 38 Spite said to be vented? (6) 39 Taking a light sleep

40 Liquid measure used in homeopathy etc. (6) 41 Moves smoothly (6)

SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD - 950

NOTICED GASS

STRIKE OUT

WIN A PRIZE

Heres your chance to win a cash neres your chance to win a cash prize of ₹200 each.

All you need to do is rush in your completed crossword entry to us by Wednesday with your full name and address. Mark the envelope to:

Sunday Crossword-952 Sunday Magazine, 36, S.D. Road, Secbad-03

WINNERS OF CROSSWORD 950 2. Jaikanth Dubey

PHANTOM











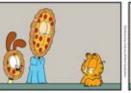














BLONDIE























EXPANSE $S \mid O \mid B \mid E \mid R$ A|T|L|A|SO|C|A|R|I|N|ATUPOLEV $I \mid R \mid A \mid Q \mid I$ SNIFFY G|O|D|S|O|N|R|A|D|I|O| $X \mid I \mid J \mid I \mid A \mid N \mid G$ R O ABREAST COTTA|D|E|A|L|TC|H|O|P|P|E|R

AP records 8,218

new Covid cases

Medical staff collects

woman for Covid-19

Visakhapatnam on

in Guntur, 34,607 in Kadapa, 29,379 in Srikakulam, 29,282 in Prakasam, 22,700 in

Vizianagaram, 20,248 in

Krishna, 2,461 from

other states and 434

With regard to deaths during the last 24 hours, Chittoor regis-

tered the highest num-

ber of nine fatalities,

followed by seven in Krishna, five each in Anantapur, Guntur,

Kadapa and West Godavari, four each in

Nellore, Prakasam and

Visakhapatnam, and three each in East

Godavari, Kurnool and

Srikakulam, and one in

cumulative

death due to Covid-19, Chittoor tops

439

420

384

vizianagaram district

the state recording 580

deaths, followed by 492

in Guntur, 481 in East

Nellore, 414 in West Godavari, 412 in

Visakhapatnam, 381 in

Krishna, 340 in Kadapa,

308 in Srikakulam and

AP has carried out

Covid-19 tests on 94,264

patients, registering a

Covid-19 positive rate of

45,583 samples with a

positive rate of 20.51

and Telangana tested

60,559 with a positive

Maharashtra

tested

211 in Vizianagaram.

Among

Godavari,

Anantapur,

Prakasam,

hours.

Kurnool,

from other countries.

the swab from \boldsymbol{a}

testing at in

Saturday.

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Andhra Pradesh has

registered 8,218 new Covid-19 cases, raising

the overall tally to

6,17,776, apart from 58

deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 5,302.

State health authori-

ties released their Coronavirus bulletin here on Saturday reporting that out of 74,595 samples tested, 8,218 individuals

turned out to be Covid-

19 positive. Out of

50,33,676 samples tested so far in the state, 5,30,711 patients have

been discharged after

recovery, while 81,763

patients are undergo-

ing treatment for Coronavirus in various

Among the new confirmed Covid infections, East Godavari

district continues to

top the state with the highest number of

1,395 cases, followed by

1,071 in West Godavari,

736 in Chittoor, 693 in

Srikakulam, 477 in Anantapur, 471 in Guntur, 468 in Krishna, 462 in Vizianagaram,

451 in Visakhapatnam

Godavari

recorded the highest

number of cumulative

Coronavirus positive

patients, followed by

in

Anantapur, 48,864 in Guntur, 47,283 in

Visakhapatnam, 40,826

in Prakasam, 39,264 in

Kadapa, 35,468 in Srikakulam, 30,978 in

Vizianagaram, 23,591 in

Krishna, 2,461 from

other states and 434

The rate of recovery among Covid-19 infect-

ed patients has been

good in East Godavari

with 72,474 getting dis-

charged from hospitals

after recovery, followed by 49,858 recoveries in

Kurnool, 48,801 in

Anantapur, 47,705 in

West Godavari, 45,919 in Chittoor, 43,563 in

Nellore, 41,714 in Visakhapatnam, 41,566

from other countries.

53,754

52,298

46,508

with

Godavari, 54,059

and 319 in Kurnool.

Prakasam, 520

670

485

in

nas

in

hospitals.

Nellore,

Kadapa,

East

Chittoor,

Kurnool.

Nellore,

individuals

SHORT TAKES

HEALTH OFFICIALS, DCA START BLAME GAME

FROM PAGE 1

Incidentally, even RAT kits belonging to the government are finding their way into the black market and reaching private establishments in parts of

District health authorities and Drugs Control Administration blame each other for such illegal goings

on.
While district officials wants evidence to take any action, DCA says Andhra Pradesh government is yet to designate a Medical Device Officer to take action against the illegal practice, even though the centre has declared Rapid Antigen Test kits as a medical device under Medical Device

MINISTER DEFENDS CESS ON FUEL

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Transport and I&PR minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) defended levy of ₹1 road development cess on every litre of petrol and diesel.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, the minister said that the state was facing revenue deficit ever since lockdown was imposed due to Covid-19 and the government was finding it difficult to spare funds for infrastructure development. The previous Chandrababu Naidu government collected ₹2 per liter as Amaravati cess for capital development, that never happened though it had imposed huge financial burden on the public, he said. The minister affirmed that the money col-lected through road develop-ment cess would be used only for the development of roads.

Accusing Mr Naidu of corrupting all the systems, he asked the Central government and Supreme Court to address the concerns raised by the YSRC in Lok Sabha on the functioning of judiciary functioning of judiciary. Suspecting Mr Naidu conspiracy behind a series of temple incidents in the state, Mr Nani vowed to conduct a thorough probe and bring the truth to

GOVT TO CALL FRESH TENDERS FOR R&B PROJECTS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

The government has decided to cancel the tenders called for execution of roads and builddepartment projects being undertaken with aid from New Development Bank. Chief secretary of R&B department M.T. Krishna Babu, addressing a press meet here on Saturday, quoted Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as saying, "We should be transparent and we should also appear to be transparent. Hence the tenders filed by 14

companies were cancelled. Mr Krishna Babu said that the state government decided to develop roads with the assistance from NDB and called for tenders in accordance with the norms of the World Bank. He said that NDB also expressed satisfaction over the tender process

Krishna Babu said that the state government decided to develop roads with the assistance from NDB and called for tenders in accordance with the norms of the World Bank.

Dwajarohanam heralds beginning of Brahmotsavams



Saptha Rushis, Saptha Maruttas, Pancha Bhutas and entire humanity to participate in the Brahmotsavams. Garuda is said to be omnipresent and is the favourite vehicle of Sri No one should die

Goutham sore over Covid deaths in GGH

due to negligence

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, SEPT. 19

The industries and IT minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy has expressed his displeasure over the treatment and number of deaths because Covid-19 in the ernment General Government General Hospital (GGH) in Nellore

on Saturday.

During a review with the medical officers and senior officials of GGH, he said that everyone should be accountable for the deaths while pointing to scores of reports over Reddy asserted lamenting negligence in the treat-

Stressing that most of those who succumbed to Covid-19 are poor, pointing to the treatment often given to VIPs.

Given the complaints on delay in providing oxygen to the patients costing their lives, he demanded to know the reasons for the absence of adequate alternative ments.

"No one should die because of our negligence," MrGoutham

over the plight of poor patients.

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC

The celestial annual Srivari Brahmots-avams commenced in the auspicious

Meena lagnam, between 6.03pm and 6.30 pm, on

The archakas hoisted the

Garuda flag on the Dwaja Sthambham amidst man-

gala vaidyams and in the holy presence of utsava

Malayappaswamy and His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. Sri

Govindacharyulu conducted the ceremony as

Legends say that the Garudalwar (Garuda flag) on the Dwaja Sthabam was a

celestial invitation to galaxy of Gods, Astha Dikpalakas,

Kankanabhattar.

Earlier, the minister said that they would con-struct a godown in Sangam to enable the farmers to store the harvested paddy and avoid

panic selling.

During a surprise visit to the paddy procurement centre in Sangam, the minister elicited information on Minimum Support Price, quality of paddy and volume of procurement from the officials



Collector Gandham Chandrudu and other officials inspect Kisan train on Saturday.

2nd Kisan train leaves for Delhi

HOSKOTE NAGABHUSHANAM | DC ANANTAPUR, SEPT.19

Kisan train on Saturday took its second trip from Anantapur to Delĥi, carrying 300 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables in 10 wagons.

State health authori-Gandham Collector ties have discharged Chandrudu, joint collec-10,820 patients from tor Nishanth Kumar and various hospitals in the horticulture state after recovery during the last 24 inspected the wagons

CIVIC BODY TO

TO DEFAULTERS

DC CORRESPONDENT

NELLORE, SEPT. 19

deadline.

erty tax.

ISSUE RED NOTICES

The Tirupati Municipal

Corporation is all set to issue red notices to those who have

not paid property tax in

Tirupati despite reminders to clear the dues within the

next 15 days. The civic body

intends to suspend the facili-

ties being provided to their

homes if they fail to meet the

The Commissioner of the

Corporation, Girisha, gave

the directions during a

review with the revenue offi-

cials of the civic body in

Tirupati on Saturday. He

made it clear that they have

to achieve a 100 per cent tar-

get in the collection of prop-

The officials told the

Commissioner that they had

collected ₹30 crore out of the

₹50 crore while assuring to

collect the balance and other

Mr Girisha told them that

he would cut their salaries if

they fail to achieve the tar-

get. He instructed them to

impose a tax even on vacant

sites. He advised that the res-

idents of the city ensure the

payment of property tax.

dues by March 2021.

fruits. Farmers and traders from various parts of the district brought horticulture pro-

train, India's first and second in the country, runs between Anantapur and New Delhi's Azadpur market to provide transport and marketing facilidrought-hit district.

55 YEAR- OLD **KILLED IN ROW OVER ILLICIT RELATIONSHIP**

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, SEPT. 19

A 55-year-old man in B Kottakota mandal of Chittoor district was killed in an attack by his son's rivals on Friday night. The deceased Venkata Ramaiah of Aletivaripalle son involved in an illicit relationship with a married woman in the village. The relatives of the woman attacked the vouth and his men. Both groups lodged comagainst each other at the police station in the evening.

However, the two groups resumed their fight late in the night, and the father of the youth suffered grievous injuries. The doctors at the government hospital in Madanapalle declared him brought dead. Rural CI Ashok Kumar booked a case and commenced an investigation.

Chennur police rescues Covid patients from Haj house on

Covid-19 patients rescued by cops

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, SEPT. 19

Following the orders of the superintendent of police, K.K. N. Anburajan and DSP, Suryanarayana, the Chennur police rescued 54 Covid-19 patients from the Haj house Covid-19 quarantine centre which was about

to be submerged.

Chennur police sub inspector, Naga Tulasi Prasad, and his staff came forward to rescue the patients on Saturday evening. The nearby rivulet swelled with rain water and threatened to submerge the centre. There were 54 Covid-19 patients under treatment at this centre.

When the information reached Chennur station, Prasad, head constables Jagan Naik and Zakir Hussain, Nagaraju, D.V. Bhargava, Narasimhulu, Rajiv Kumara, Chandrasekhar and Subrahmanyam reached Haj house immedi-

They used a rope and rescued all the 54 patients.

Anburajan announced cash rewards to all the police staff involved in the

Left parties seek help to rain-affected

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA I DC KADAPA, SEPT. 19

CPI district secretary Gujjula Eshwaraya and AP farmers' union district general secretary Gali Chandra demanded that the government immediately provide relief to farmers affected by the Buggavanka and Kundu floods due to heavy rains in the district. Those who inspected the crop fields that were submerged in the Buggavanka floods near Palempalle on Saturday said that all the inland areas were included. areas were inundated due to the incessant rains in the district for days last week. With the raising of the four gates of the Buggavanka Dam, large-scale floods in Rallavanka have entirely submerged the paddy fields in the Buggawanka catchment villages of Gudur, and submerged agricultural canals due to lack of proper

pump sets. The drums and clothes stored by rajakas in Palempalle Dhobi Ghat were washed away in the floods, he said, urging the government to support them. They said that 10,000 hectares of paddy, groundnut, turmeric, onion, chilli, black gram, flower gardens and mango orchards in the district was completely damaged due to the incessant rains.

They demanded that the authorities immediately collect details of damaged crops and take similar steps to compensate farmers for crop insurance investment subsidy. Several colonies in Kadapa city were inundated due to heavy rains since last night. A CPM delegation visited rain-hit low-level areas in Kadapa. The CPI district executive committee member A. Rammohan said that the corporation Old Kadapa had arbitrarily encroached and Mundla Palle villages on the layouts drainage

Floods threaten **Nellore City**

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, SEPT. 19

An overflowing Penna River is threatening to flood low-lying areas of Nellore City following heavy discharge of water from the Somasila reservoir on Saturday evening. In fact, the reservoir had reached full capacity of 77.234 tmc ft on Saturday morning itself.

Incidentally, this is only the second time that the reservoir has become full during the entire history of the project. Significantly, during the last rainy season too, it reached its full reservoir level.

According to Somasila superintending engineer N. Krishna Rao, Somasila is receiving 1,54,583 cusecs of water from upstream areas but releasing 1,70,240 cusecs into downstream Penna River, including 11,000 cusecs to Kandaleru dam.

Revenue and police authorities have asked people living close to banks of the river to move to safer plac-

Meanwhile, water resources minister Anilkumar Yadav, after a visit of Jayalalitaa Nagar area in the city, advised officials to shift people living in lowlying areas to safer places.

VENKAIAH NAIDU HAPPY OVER HEAVY INFLOWS INTO SOMASILA

DC CORRESPONDENT

NELLORE, SEPT. 19

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has expressed happiness over heavy inflows into the Somasila project while recalling his contribution to speed up the completion of the project in the past.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, the Vice President said the project was

He said he spoke to the ministries concerned and also wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of AP YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to speed up the construction of Somasila high level canal to address the irrigation and

drinking water needs of

Udayagiri constituency.

designed to store 78 tmc.ft

and irrigate 5,84,500 acres of

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM DIM . Number of Works Rs.857.34 Lakhs Value of Works (ECV) 03. Down Loading Starting @ 18-09-2020 @ 3.00 PM @ 4.00 PM @ 5.00 PM 04. Down Loading Ending Date Last date of bid submis 05-10-2020 6. Date of PQ Opening 07. Date of Commercial 08-10-2020 @ 1.30 PM 12-10-2020 @ 5.00 PM 08. Date of TQ opening lote: For any other details required in respect of above tender ntact EE-I(WS) before applying for tender schedules and visit vsp @

Ministers fault judicial overreach

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Civil supplies minister Kodali Venkateswara Rao (Nani) said that going by the recent developments, there appeared to be an overreach of independent institutions and reiterated that insider trading took place in Amaravati lands.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, he said Chandrababu Naidu and his men who sought an inquiry into Amaravati deals, and now, they were trying to stall it. "All the bravado of TD weakened once the investigation process was set in motion and its leaders pleaded for stalling it." While asserting that the government held judiciary in high esteem, the minister did not mince words that "some institutions" in the state seemed to be arrogant. "These investigations are not about individuals or political parties but it is about the wealth of the state that was plundered by the previous government. and hence, we are answerable to the poor people of

the state." At a separate press conference, agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu stressed the need for a national debate on functions and overreach of the four pillars of

DASARA FETE AT **DURGA TEMPLE** FROM OCT 17

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Minister for endowments Velampalli Srinivas said that the government was making foolproof arrangements for Dasara festivities at Kanaka Durga temple.

The Dasara festival coordination committee meeting was held here on Saturday. The minister appealed to devotees not to bring children below 10 years of age and elderly people above 60 years to the temple during Dasara festival to be held from 17 to 25 October.

 The minister appealed to devotees not to bring children below 10 years of age and elderly people

SRI CITY HOME FOR OVER 25 PRESTIGIOUS BRANDS OF JAPAN addressing the partici-

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, SEPT. 19

During an online event held on Saturday, Mr Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder Managing Director, Sri City said, "Sri City, which boasts of a Japanese enclave and considered as a second home for Japanese businesses, will continue to work to add value to the industry and further the Indo-Japanese bilateral linkage.

"We host over 25 pres-tigious brands from Japan, and because of its industrial friendly ecosystem, we are confident that it would attract more and more Japanese companies," he added.

Reddy

pants in the online event organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers Commerce Industry (FICCI) for launching the FICCIreport titled 'India-Japan: Time to Seize Opportunities"

Saturday. He said, "Towards the goal of Atmanirbhan Bharat, in line with Make in India for world policy, Sri City emerges as a highly recommended investment destination, boosting manufacturing which, in turn, gives a fillip to creation of jobs and gets the economy of the state and region

RTC PASSENGERS INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, SEPT. 19

Ten passengers of an RTC bus were injured hit it on Saturday at the ADB Road under the

Peddapuram police station limits. The bus was coming towards Kakinada with 26 passengers. The injured were admitted to the Peddapuram.

IN BRIEF

Jayaram involved

in ESI scam: TD

Vijayawada: Telugu Desam general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh has claimed there is evidence of involve-ment of labour minister Gummanuru Jayaram in the ESI scam. He demanded on Saturday an explanation from the government as to why 'innocent' Atchannaidu was arrested, while the min-ister was let off. Asserting that a Benz car gifted to the minister's son by one of the accused in the scam was sufficient proof of his taint, Lokesh demanded immediate arrest of Jayaram.

YOUTH RUSH INTO RESTRICTED AREAS

From Page 1

Normally, the sambars and spotted deer are on the hillocks and in the forest areas. Now they are seen in downhill areas and on the

Youth have catching the wild animals and selling the flesh. After losing the employment due to Covid-19, many youth are now rushing into the restricted areas for poaching. "We have no information

about the poaching of wildlife. The department has registered two sambar deaths in the past two months. However, both cases were accidents. The bod-ies have been recovered, disforest Visakhapatnam territorial, Ananth Shankar, told *Deccan Chronicle*. The department has noticed that the sambars have coming into the human habitations and intensified the checks to conserve wildlife, Shankar added.

EXODUS TO HELP YSRC IN

From Page 1

Incidentally, the changeover of Ganesh will help YSRC as it had failed to win a single seat in Visakhapatnam from the four that were at stake. The entry of Ganesh is likely to boost the prospects of the ruling party in the ensuing Visakhapatnam municipal corporation elec-

Ganesh said that he would go all out and ensure YSRC sweep in the municipal corporation elections, have its own Mayor, which would be his gift to YSRC

Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomea Saketn and Surya into YSRC in the presence of YSRC MP V. Vijayasai Reddy and TD rebel MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi. Ganesh praised the Chief

Minister for his guts in declar-Visakhapatnam Executive Capital of Andhra Pradesh. He predicted that there were no chances of TD

returning to power.
Welcoming the two youngsters into the party fold, Vijayasai Reddy said that TD leaders were attracted by the developmental activities and vision of Jagan Mohan Reddy and hence were embracing YSRC. He said that TD would disappear from Visakhapatnam in the coming days. Echoing similar sentiments, Vamsi said that other legislators are ready to leave TD and N Chandrababu Naidu will lose the Leader of the Opposition post.

AMID PANDEMIC BETTING FOR IPL COMMENCES

V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 19

After a long gap, cricket lovers are enjoying the large scale of arrangements to witness the Indian Premier League IPL 2020 season. With no entertainment since March 23, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, cricket lovers are engaging in betting on the IPL matches.

After observing the seriousness of CovidD-19 in the country, the IPL 2020 season is being held in the UAE. IPL is being held outside India for the first time. Even as the inaugural match between the Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) is yet to begin, the betting has started

Visakhapatnam. According to the reports from the sources, MI is a hot favourite among betters, even though the most dependable captain of CSK M.S. Dhoni is playing after he retired from Indian cricket. Along with the engaged punters, the youth have also started betting on the individual performance of the bowlers and batsmen. In the hot race, there is a big betting on M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma.

New alliance



Vizag south TD MLA Vasupalli Ganesh along with his sons Saketh, Surya joins YSR Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the camp office on Saturday.

TTD cannot do away with faith declaration: Naidu

Temple traditions should not change with every govt in the state, says TD chief

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 19

Opposition Telugu Desam is against any move to do away with mandatory faith declaration to be sub-mitted by non-Hindus visiting Tirumala, stating that they have faith in the

Lord Venkateswara.

Former chief minister and TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu said here on Saturday that the TTD traditions should not change every time there was a change in the government in the state. "Any change in such long-established traditions would only hurt the sentiments of the devotees. Sanathana Dharma means something that is ancient, permanent and is followed without change down centuries," he maintained.

Stressing the need to protect the sanctity of the Tirumala temple, he asserted that the long-held

 STRESSING THE need to protect the sanctity of the Tirumala temple, he asserted that the longheld TTD traditions should not be changed for the sake of a nonbeliever.

NAIDU SAID that all these traditions were part of the 'Sanathana Dharma' that came down from previous generations and therefore should not be compromised for the sake of one single non-believer.

traditions were part of the 'Sanathana Dharma' that came down from previous generations and therefore should not be compromised for the sake of one single non-believer.
Former TTD board member and TD leader A.V.

Ramana said any move to end the practice of taking TTD traditions should not be changed for the sake of a non-believer.

Naidu said that all these

TTD: Taking faith info from every pilgrim not possible

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, SEPT. 19

TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Saturday said that he had never suggested or indicated for withdrawal of the declaration by non-Hindus seeking Srivari darshan about their faith and belief Lord

Venkateshwara.

Reiterating that he was against any political dialogue on the holy shrine of Tirumala but had heeded to the request of media friends to respond to the charges made by the opposition leader.

"I told the press persons that Tirumala witnesses thousands of pilgrims from across the world, who faith

belief in Sri Venkateshwara.

During normal days over 80 thousand to one lakh pilgrims visit Tirumala for Srivari darshan. Among them, people of other faiths also pay a visit to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. And it is humanly impossible to seek a declaration of faith and belief from all the

pilgrims.

He said he only stated that neither Smt Sonia Gandhi nor late Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy had ever given such a declaration during their visit to Tirumala.

According to the memo issued by government in 2014, if anyone is identified openly as non-Hindu (based on his or her name like Esaiah, Sardar Singh, Ahamad etc.), then the TTD authorities shall ask them for declaration.

"Several non-Hindu political personalities came to Tirumala and had darshan without signing the declaration form. Hence, I just told, AP CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy need not have to sign a declaration to prove his faith in Lord Venkateswara," he added.
As soon as his pada yatra

was successfully completed he reached Tirumala on foot and had darshan of Lord again. When he won the elections with a thumping majority, he made a thanksgiving visit to Tirumala and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara before swearing-in as Chief Minister of Andhra

Kona waterfalls in Anantapur attracts tourists

NAGABHUSHANAM | DC ANANTAPUR, SEPT. 19

Seasonal waterfalls have been attracting tourists in drought-hit Anantapur district. Alooru Kona in Tadipathri mandal, Kona in Yadiki mandal and Batrepalli in Talupula mandal have turned pic-nic spots during this rainy season.

Aloor Kona is located about 15 km from Tadipathri town, where the waterfall flows peren-nially. During the rainy season, the flow is heavy and scenic. These falls are located close to the historic Alru Sriranganatha Swamy temple that was built atop a hill in the year 1334 by Yerramraju, a chieftain at the Bukkaraya court of Vijayanggara Empire Vijayanagara Empire. Yerramraju also donated lands to the temple to meet temple expenses.

Next to the temple is a natural spring whose water flows down through the rocks for the whole year. At the top, there is a sculpture of reclining Vishnu on Sesha Nag, which adds to the attraction of the temple. Nagendra, a tourist visit-ing from Madhugiri in

 THE YADIKI Kona has been the biggest waterfall in the region, which flows heavily during the rainy season and attracts many tourists. Two persons had got stuck when the ventured deeper in the waterfall area. They had to be brought back to safety by rescue

Karnataka, said the natural waterfall is amazing and they are happy that they have visited the

temple.
The Yadiki Kona has been the biggest waterfall in the region, which flows heavily during the rainy season and attracts many tourists. Two persons had got stuck when the ventured deeper in the waterfall area. They had to be brought back to safety by rescue teams.

Batrepalli is another waterfall in Talupula mandal near Kadiri town. It has been attracting tourists from various parts of Anantapur, Kadapa and nearby Karnataka areas. Raja, former municipal counsellor from Kadiri, said the waterfall remains a major picnic spot at least for two months in a year.



Kona waterfall in Yadiki mandal in Anantapur district which has started witnessing a lot of footfall lately.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS GET INUNDATED

From Page 1

With the incessant rain, residential areas in various villages and towns across the district, particularly Nandyal, Banaganapalle. Atmakur, Nandikotkur. Rudrayama, Chagalamarri and Allagadda mandals were totally inundated.

Several families in these areas were stuck in flood water. Rescue teams, including police and fire staff, rescued two persons at Banaganapalle while they were struck in their car in flood water near Alugu vagu. A motor cyclist was also rescued by police at Bukkapuram village from being was-hed away into flood water while crossing the bridge. Apart from this, with overflowing flood water onto roads,

bridges and causeways, passersby, motorists and other vehicles are facing lots of problems. Agricultural crops, cultivated in thousands of hectares, were inundated

with many agricultural water tanks and streams overflowing. The district administration has been continuing rescue and relief operations at needed places in the district. District collector, G. Veera Pandian, has ordered revenue, fire, police, agriculture, irrigation, roads and buildings, panchayat raj, horticulture, electricity, fisheries and health officials to be alert and monitor the flood situation.

AGRICULTURAL **CROPS**, cultivated in thousands of hectares, were inundated with many agricultural water tanks and streams overflowing.



result of heavy rainfall, on Saturday,

Cops ordered to alert people

From Page 1

District police personnel were ordered to alert people living near rivers and hinterland. District SP Karunapathi Nagendra Kumar Anburajan said all sub-merged roads should be Nagendra secured and closed. Penna and Kundu, the main rivers of the district, along with other streams and canals are Kadapa 139.4; Vallur 180.2; Pendlimarri 174.4; Chennur 139.8; Khajipet also overflowing. Police officials are providing security at rivers, streams and bridges across the district while Revenue officials are taking steps to set up rehabilitation cen-Rainfall recorded at

140.4; Kamalapurm 177; Yerraguntla Siddavatam Jammalamadugu 145.2; Mylavaram 130.8: 102.8; Muddanaur Proddutur 144; Chapadu 120; Thondur 144.8 and

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL, SEPT. 19 Controversy is raging over a proposal to construct a temple dedicated to Lord Kumaraswamy, at Srisailam. The allotment of 20 acres of land at Elephant Pond in Srisaila Keshtram,

to M/s Vision Brindavan Technologies, a private trust, is seen as an affront to the pristine purity of most ancient Jyotirlingas. Religious leaders of several sects in Srisailam are upset and seek the intervention of the government

be the chairman of the Kumar Swami Trust. Taking a serious objection to proposed temple,

to stop the trust's move.

Principal advisor to CM,

Ajeya Kallam is believed to

 WHEN CONTACTED. an official of Srisailam temple said that it's true that Vision Brindavan Technologies was allotted land by the previous Chandra Babu Naidu government.

Kumaraswamy temple

at Srisailam sparks row

Sri Chenna Siddha Rama Panditaradhya Sivacharya Mahaswamiji said that the trust had nothing to do with Srisaila Kshetram and it's 100% violation of the shrine. "It is imperative that all the devotees of Srisaila Mallikarjuna Swamy oppose proposal to construct Kumaraswamy temple. He said, 'Šrisaila dev-

asthanam Shiva Kshetram and Veerasaivas perform puja to Sri Malikarjuna Šwami accorand Smarta Brahmins per-form archanas to Sri Bhramarambika Smarta according to Brahmina Agamas.'

When contacted, an official of Srisailam temple said that it's true that Vision Brindavan Technologies was allotted land by the previous Chandra Babu Naidu government. They were allotted only two acres, not 20 acres as is claimed by peethadipathis.

"The promoters of the trust has grand plan to build a Kumara Swamy temple in Srisailam. They have constructed a small structure. They are developing a sprawling land scape," he

He added that any temple dwarfing the Srisaila Mallikarjuna Swami temple is bound to hurt the

Agnikula Kshatriyas say it's unfair they were not considered for making chariot

Community claims right to build chariot

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC

KAKINADA, SEPT. 19 Even as the controversy over the destruction of the chariot at Antarvedi Srilakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in fire, it refuses die down, the endowments department's decision to entrust the work of making a new one to Hyderabadbased Ganapathi Acharyulu has upset Agnikula

Kshatriyas, who claim to be very skilled in the field. They said their ancestors built chariots as well as temples, but they were sidelined in the selection

Koppanathi Krishnamma built a temple in 1823 besides donating nearly 1800 acres of land to the temple. Our community people have been participating in every seva, especially chariot seva without fail. It's unfair we were not considered for making a new chariot," said Pallava State president Kollati Babu Rao. He said that nearly 200 families from Narasapuram in West Godavari and Antarvedi go to states like Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, etc., to build temples and chariots.

Claiming a traditional right and skill to make chariots for Antarvedi temple, Babu Rao said that endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas Rao told him that it's too late as the work was entrusted to somebody else. The minister, according to Mr Babu Rao, was of the view that Agnikula Kshatriyas should have come forward at the time of discussion on chariot issue. Mr Babu Rao said that the government or endowment officials or the minister did not discuss the chariot issue either with Antarvedi people or his community members.

Retired chief priest of Antarvedi temple Sri Vadapalli Buchi Venkata Kali Seshacharyulu said that as per an inscription Koppanathi Krishnamma built the temple during Shalivahana Sakha in 1745 (1823 as per English calander) and Agnikula Kshatriyas were more attached to the temple pro-

Babu Rao further said that Agnikula Kshatriya community members were invited every year to Rudra Vanniyar Yaga' in Tamil Nadu. But in Andhra Pradesh, they were deprived of any honour.

ENDOWMENT OFFICIALS PERFORM 'POOJA' FOR BASTER TEAK WOOD

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Endowment Officials started the wood processing work, meant for the building of New Chariot to Lord Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple Antarvedi where the chariot had been gutted recently. The officials identified the 'Baster Teak wood' in a sawmill in Ravulapalem for the New Chariot. The **Endowment Department**

K. Ramachandra Mohan, Regional Commissioner for Endowments D. Bramaramba, and other officials of the temple reached the sawmill by 10 am on Saturday and performed Poojas to the 'wood' and started the woodworks in the sawmill. Ramachandra Mohan said that the wood had been identified in the mill, after observing different varieties in four districts.

Additional Commissioner

IN BRIEF

WEAPONS SENT BY DRONE FOR Let MILITANTS

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 19

Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday claimed arresting three Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) militants from frontier district of Rajouri and said that the weapons and cash recovered from them were sent from across the border and dropped by a drone in an area close to

the Line of Control (LoC).

DG police, Dilbag Singh, who
was on a visit to Rajouri, told reporters that the arrested LeT cadres were residents of Kashmir Valley who had travelled all the way to the frontier region to receive a weapon and cash consignment from across

"Yesterday (Friday), the trio was chased by the jawans of J&K police and the Army's 38 Rashtriya Rifles unit, after which one of them hurled a grenade at the forces which luckily didn't explode. They

were subsequently caught alive", he said.

He added, "All the three are affiliated with the Lashkar outfit and were in touch with their handlers from across and

had received weapons and cash through drones."

The weapons seized from the accused identified as Rahil Bashir, Amir Jaan and Younis Wani include two AK 56 rifles, two pistols, four grenades and Rs. 1,00,000 cash, the police

The police chief reiterated that charge that Pakistan "is trying hard to keep the pot of militancy boiling in Rajouri

and Poonch districts". He said "Also, this weapon consignment and cash were aimed at fuelling militancy in Kashmir Valley.

He further said that this was the first attempt of aerial weapon drop on the LoC and second in the recent past as earlier one drone was shot along with weapons by the BSF on the International Border in Samba district. "We are aware of the challenge and will evolve a counter strategy to foil these bids," he said in reply to a question.

IGP (Jammu range) Mukesh Singh said that a huge consignment of heroine weighing 7 kilograms and worth ₹7 crore was seized by the police on September 14.

"The arrest of one person from Kulgam (district in Kashmir Valley) in this connection led to the arrest of three more from Poonch district (bordering LoC) on whose integration 4 more kilograms of heroin worth ₹4 crore was recovered besides IED making material and a pen drive," he

He added that in the pen drive "there were indications and training sessions as to

how an IED can be prepared. Meanwhile, the police here said that two "terrorist associates" were arrested by it from Awantipora and Khrew areas of southern Pulwama district. "Incriminating material of proscribed terrorist outfits . Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Al-Badr has been recovered from the arrested terror associates," the police said in a statement here.

41 ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL DIED OF COVID-19

New Delhi, Sept. 19: The coronavirus pandemic has killed 41 and infected 22,353 armed forces personnel, according to details provide by the government in Rajya

Sabha on Saturday. Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said a series of measures have been put in place to check the spread of the coronavirus infection in the armed forces which included a campaign on preventive

"The total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases amongst serving armed forces personnel is 22,353," he said, adding 41 personnel died of the infec-

tion till date.
"In line with the international and national treatment protocols for Covid-19, armed forces hospitals have a wide array of anti-viral drugs (Favipiravir and Remdesivir)," he said.

The minister said two hospitals in the armed forces are using plasma therapy for treat-

ment of severely ill patients. To a separate question, Naik said the strength of women officers serving in the Indian

Air Force is 1,875. "Of these, 10 women officers are fighter pilots and 18 women officers are navigahe said.Naik said women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements within the laid down policy.

SINGLE-DAY RECOVERIES EXCEED FRESH COVID CASES

New Delhi, Sept. 19: "In a landmark global achievement", India has overtaken the US and become the top country in terms of Covid-19 recoveries, the health

ministry said.

The country has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 patients having recovered from the disease so far, pushing the national recovery rate to nearly 80 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.61 per cent, the ministry said.

India's single-day recovery outstripped the number of new infections as nearly 96,000 people recuperated from the coronavirus, even as the total caseload went past 53 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

End of an era



Decommissioned aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, INS Viraat during its last journey from Naval Dockyard to Alang in Gujarat, where it will be dismantled, in Mumbai on Saturday. For Navy veterans who watched the huge vessel being towed away by a tug boat, it was an emotional moment as they stood near the Gateway of India, waving at the once 'floating town', aboard which they spent the best years of their career. The aircraft carrier served the Indian Navy for 29 years before being decommissioned in March 2017. It had served in the UK's Royal Navy as HMS Hermes and was named INS Viraat after being inducted in the Indian Navy in 1987. Alang-based Shree Ram group bought it for ₹38.54 crore at an auction. Viraat will be dismantled at the Alang ship breaking yard. The ship will be scrapped in 9 to 12 months.

NIA arrests 9 Al-Qaeda terrorists from WB, Kerala

Among those arrested are computer science student and guest workers

RAJIB CHOWDHURI & PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC KOLKATA/BERHAMPORE.

In a major crackdown on Investigation Agency (NIA) busted a 'Pakistan sponsored module' of Al Qaeda and arrested its Investigation nine members from West Bengal and Kerala early Saturday for allegedly planning terror attacks in New Delhi and other parts of the country.

Among them, accused including two college students and two migrant workers were caught during a marathon raid at their homes in various parts of Murshidabad which earlier came under the NIA's scanner during its probe in the Burdwan blast which blew the lid off Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh network active in West Bengal six years ago around this

The arrested have been identified Naimus Sakib (20), Abu Sufiyan (44), Mainul Mondal (30), Leu Yean Ahmed (32), Al Mamun Kamal (30) and Atitur Rehman (20).

This was also the first time when such a large number of accused of terror were picked up simultaneously in the state.

Najmus is a second-year student of computer science at Basantapur Engineering College in Domkol of the district while Atitur is a first year BA student of Karimpur Pannadevi

Mainul, a guest worker, had returned home at Jalangi in the district from Kerala three months ago. Like him Mamun also worked as a mason in Bengaluru earlier. But he returned home two years ago. The NIA said that it ini-

31/2020/NIA/DLI on September 11 after learning "about an inter-state module of Al-Qaeda operatives at various locations in India including West-Bengal and Kerala." It said, "The group was

planning to undertake terrorist attacks at vital installations in India with an aim to kill people and strike terror in their minds. Large quantity of incriminating materials including digital devices, documents, jihadi literature, sharp weapons, country-made firearms, a locally fabricated body armour, articles and liter-ature used for making home-made explosive devices have been seized from their possession." The NIA added, "As per

preliminary investiga-tion, these individuals radicalised by Pakistan-based Al-Qaeda terrorists on social media and were motivated to undertake attacks at multiple places including the National Capital Region. For this purpose, the moaule indulging in fund raising and a few members of gang were planning to travel to New Delhi to procure arms and ammuhave pre-empted possible

ous parts of the country.' six accused, brought from Murshidabad, were produced at the NIA court in Kolkata which remanded them in police custody.

terrorist attacks in vari-

The arrests have come as a shot in the arm for the BJP to turn it into a major political issue and the ruling Congress attack Trinamul ahead of the Assembly elections.

From state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh to central leaders like Rahul Sinha, all tore into chief minister Mamata Banerjee's rule.

Ghosh, the

Presence of Qaeda operatives among workers causes concern

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

The arrest of three Al Qaeda operatives in Ernakulam district has set alarm bells ringing for the state Intelligence

and police.
In a pre-dawn opera-National tion, the Investigation Agency (NIA) nabbed Murshid Hassan, Iyakub Biswas and Mosaraf Hossen, all hailing from West Bengal.

What has alarmed the state police is their presence among the guest workers in Perambayoor which has the highest concentration of guest workers in Kerala.

The Al Qaeda operators were staying in Perumbavoor town and Kalamassery in Ernakulam district. While Murshid Hassan

was arrested from a labour camp at Pathalam near Kalamassery where he was staying along with five others, while Iyakub Biswas and

Midnapore MP, alleged, "This proves that the anti-national activities are taking place mostly in Bengal and Kerala. The present government here does not give importance to national security. The TMC is allowing Islamic fundamentalism for its votebank politics to stay in power. As a result the country's security is at stake." Mr Sinha, BJP national secretary, said, "Bengal has become a safe heaven for the terrorists because of lack of actions of the present state government which

should shun appease-

session. NIA questioned many people living in the labour camp from where the Al-Qaeda operatives were held to get more information about the

LAPTOP, MOBILE

phone, pamphlets were

recovered from their pos-

Mosaraf Hossen were arrested Perumbayoor. Murshid Hassan had

taken a house on rent from one Nasser about two months ago and started living there. Though the NIA had reportedly alerted the state police on a possible action just in case local force was warranted at any stage, the central agency did not specify about the case that it was following up. The local police was informed only after the arrest of the three operatives. Mursihid was taken into custody at around 2 am. Parallel raids were carried out Perambavoor to arrest

ment politics." Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar also did not miss the opportunity.

Describing his role of 'In service of WB' he tweeted, "NIA busts Al-Qaeda module Murshidabad, WB. DGP on this alarming affairs @MamataOfficial to me "West Bengal police firmly adheres to the path laid down by law. There is no discrimination for or against anyone in an extra legal sense."

He added, "State has become home to illegal bomb making that has potential to unsettle

Perambavoor and was living there with his family for the past seven-eight years. Iyakub Biswas had arrived in Perambavoor about two months ago and was working at a tea

Iyakub and Mosaraf. According to locals, Mosaraf was working in

textile shop in

stall.

Laptop, mobile phone, pamphlets were recovered from their possession. NIA questioned many people living in the labour comp from where labour camp from where the Al-Qaeda operatives were held to get more information about the

Since the case pertains to Delhi NIA, after completion of arrest formali ties. the accused would be handed over to the Deini unit of NIA

Pinarayi Vijayan said it was natural for the security agencies to carry out such operations and arrest people who arrest people indulge in terror activi-

decline

RS nod for changes

to insolvency law

democracy. @MamataOfficial busy in carrying out political errands and taking on opposition. Those at helm @WBPolice escape their accountabilifor this alarming in law and

Rejecting the BJP's allegations, senior TMC MP Sougata Roy, however, pointed fingers on the Border Security Force. He questioned its lack of vigil at the Indo-Bangla border which, he blamed, allowed the terrorists into the state from neigh-

Subsequently, the KYC of the consignee were verified and the team reached

Scribe was passing info to China: Cops

New Delhi, Sept. 19: Delhi Police on Saturday said arrested freelance journal-ist Rajeev Sharma was allegedly passing sensitive information about India's border strategy and Army deployment to Chinese intelligence.

At a press conference, Special Cell DCP Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Sharma was writing on defencerelated issues for some Indian media organisations, as well as China's Global

He was allegedly contacted by Chinese Intelligence agents in 2016. Sharma was also in contact with some

the police officer claimed, adding the freelance jour-nalist got "₹40 lakh in one-and-a-half years and he was getting USD 1,000 for each information".

Sharma was arrested September 14 based on inputs from central intelligence. Police have seized classified defence documents from him, the DCP

He said that a Chinese woman and her Nepalese associate have also been arrested for allegedly paying Sharma large amounts of money routed through shell companies. — PTI

NCB busts narco ring, seizes drugs sourced from Ethiopia

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) busted a drugs racket seizing 670 gram cocaine from Delhi was sourced from Addis Ababa and arrested accused persons from Mumbai. The officials said that the drugs, concealed inside a thread roll, were making way to high profile users in Mumbai and the buyers are also under the scanner.

The NCB had earlier seized a parcel at the Import Custom Examination Area in Delhi, which had originated from Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The said parcel was declared as tailoring material samples and on examination, 670 gm of cocaine was found concealed in the same. To unearth the drug syndi-

cate, the NCB officials replaced the contraband with a dummy as per the provisions and clearances from the NCB chief.

"The controlled delivery mechanism empowered NCB to keep the parcel delivery alive, even after seizing the contraband and replacing the same with the dummy parcel.

Mumbai. The operation was successfully executed and the consignee was appre-hended from Vasai," said an NCB official.

The accused was identified as S. Ghangale, who was found to have close association with few highprofile drug traffickers in Mumbai. The network of these peddlers operate under the guise of property dealers, construction contractors while dealing in

It has been found that the group also involves DJs and other party organizers, who are connected to the party circuit in Mumbai. The NCB is in the process of getting a transit remand of Ghangale from a Delhi Court.

Earlier the NCB conducted pan India raids and seized around three kilos of cannabis. The officials said that the operations on the Andhra Pradesh – Orissa border, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Assam and arrested 17 persons. The agency said that several teams began 'intensive operation' at the three locations from where 2,795 kilos of cannabis were seized. The officials apprehended the operatives of the narcotics substances which includes source, receivers and traffickers, NCB officials said.

J&K Govt announces ₹1,350 cr package

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 19

The J&K government on Saturday announced a ₹1,350 crore package for revival of businesses in the Union Territory. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, while unveiling the package at a press conference here said it would help the J&K's business sector "to tide over the problems.

The UT's business community welcomed the package but said it was "too little" given the magnitude of losses it has suffered particularly since August 5 last year,

yet a "good beginning." According to Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and

Industry, the Valley's economy alone suffered losses to the tune of over 342,000crore in the past over 13

months.

"This is just a good beginning, may not all that's needed to salvage J&K's economy which fell off a cliff due to the post-August 5, 2019 lockdown and then lockdown within lockdown' left it in a complete shambles. It is for the first time in about 14 months that something good is being done. Let us appreciate it and hope that the Centre will also come up with a good package to bail out J&K's economy," said Sheikh Ashiq, the outgoing president of KCCI.

Villagers on Nepal border demand basic amenities

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 19

Even as Nepal is making constant efforts to lure people of three villages Dharchula

Pithoragarh Uttarakhand district so as to stake claim over them, the residents on Saturday informed the local administration that they stood firmly with India and would not allow the nefarious designs of the neighbour to succeed.

They, however, wanted the Centre and state government to come to their rescue and provide employment and other basic facilities in the

border villages. Deccan Chronicle had carried reports high-lighting how the K.P.

Sharma Oli government in Nepal was offering huge money and land to the locals of Gunji, Kuti and Nabhi villages, located close to the trijunction of India, China and Nepal. A group of residents led by Virendra Singh Nabiyal, president of Dharchula

Bachao Abhiyan, submitted a petition to the sub-divisional magistrate of Dharchula. "Nepal is offering more than ₹2 crore to each family and wants the people of these three vilflags. We will not allow it to happen," the locals said. In the petition, also signed by other resi-

dents, they highlighted

the problems being faced

by the people living in

border villages, particu-

unemployment. They demanded that with increasing deployment of forces, the locals be used as porters or for doing other jobs and assist the Army and ITBP instead of bringing outsiders to do the job. They pointed out that

many people from Nepal had been regularly visit-

ing the Indian side

unchecked, valid passes. "There are no hospitals in the villages. With no proper police outpost, there is no check of people coming in and going out. Keeping in view the tensions between India and China, there is an urgent need to develop infrastructure," Dinesh Gunjyal, vice-president of Bharat-Cheen Vyapar

Sangh, said.

New Delhi, Sept. 19: proceedings for at least Rajya Sabha on Saturday six months. The sixpassed amendments to the insolvency law for suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings for at least six months starting

March 25 amid the coronavirus pandemic, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying a decision on extending the suspension of relevant provisions will be taken next week.

In the wake of the Covid-19 situation, the government decided to suspend the provisions starting from March 25 for six months by promulgating an ordinance in June. Default on repayments from March 25, the day when the nationwide lockdown began to curb coronavirus infections, would not be considered for initiating insolvency

month period is ending next week.

The Insolvency and Rankruptcy Code Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to replace the ordinance issued in June, was passed by a voice vote after a brief discussion. Replying to the debate, Sitharaman said the suspension of provisions will end next

"At the moment, amendment to the Code gives me a provision to only extend till one year. If at all, because it is coming to an end on September 25, September 24 itself we to make an uncement about have announcement about what is going to happen. But even if I do, it means by March it should be ending," she said.



Chronicle

20 SEPTEMBER 2020



Beauty no antidote to Beirut's legacy of loss

have developed a strange habit of late. An hour before I sleep, I tune into either BBC or CNN. Having caught up on the day's news, I wait for the foreign voices of TV anchors to first turn into a drone, then into lullaby. I often wake up in the middle of the night to fresh updates of Donald Trump's dangerous shenanigans, but on most days, I do not mind these rude interruptions. Even though my subconscious mind isn't well put together, it is, I tell myself, well informed. On occasion, however,

A little over a month ago, on August 4, I couldn't fall asleep, no matter how hard I tried. Both the BBC and CNN had begun to flash breaking news, pictures of Beirut's historic port exploding. The television didn't make the blast any less deafening or scary. Hours before the Lebanese government could wrap its head around the cause of the explosion — a large, volatile consignment of ammonium nitrate — reports of devastation had begun trickling in. Houses, storefronts and bystanders had been blown to pieces. The CNN bureau had been destroyed. I was anguished.

Beirut is my favourite city in the world. In 2006, when Israel began pounding Lebanon with bombs, my editor called me and said, "You're going to Beirut." I was only 22, but my boss was one of those rare men who did not see inexperience when he looked at youth, he saw hunger. He was also one of those rare editors who believed

that one could only make sense of affairs at home when one understood the world. A war, even if being fought between Israel and a terrorist Hezbollah, had ramifications for us all. To show that vio-lence is futile, he believed, it needed to be widely reported. As I was parachuted into Lebanon, I knew he was right.

For my first few days in Beirut, I embedded myself with the Red Cross. I was asked to shadow Sana'a, a volunteer not much older than me. She translated the Arabic I heard and read. She spoke English with a delectable accent. She was the most beautiful woman I had seen. Even when she took me to meet Fadiya Al Ahmar, I spent more time looking at her than a nearly nine-months pregnant Fadiya, who had been caught in Israeli-Hezbollah crossfire just a



Hope was never easy to find in Beirut, but the destruction of its port might make it extinct altogether

few days ago. "I am taking pills to calm myself, knowing they could be dangerous in my present state. I am so frightened my milk will be poison for my baby," the 30-year-old told us. After my interview, Fadiya hugged me tight and cried inconsolably.

Driving into Dahieh, a predominantly Shia suburb in Beirut, the wind-shield of my car would sometimes be hit by pamphlets that Israeli aircraft would drop from the skies. "Get out or get killed," the flimsy papers would read. Lebanon's youth had begun to take this message seriously. Mohammad, a man I met in Dahieh, a Hezbollah stronghold, said he didn't want take sides in the war: "I like sitting on the fence, it takes less place." Checking into a hotel with his family, Mohammad confided he wanted to move to Europe. Bilaal, a 14-year-old, watched Macaulay Culkin's *Home Alone* once every month. All he wanted was a life in the US. Even in 2006, Lebanon was, sadly, a country you survived or escaped. Fourteen years ago, Beirut still had wounds that hadn't healed. A 15-year

long (1975-1990) civil war had left its people scarred and distrustful. Rafic Hariri, one of Lebanon's beloved prime ministers, had been assassinated in 2005. Israel and Hezbollah were only compounding Lebanese trauma. All of 1,191 civilians are believed to have died in the 2006 Lebanon War, number of people who left the country as a to be much, much higher. In recent years, a financial crisis has brought Lebanon to its knees. With inflation above 50 per cent, the life savings of several Lebanese people have now been erased. A banking scandal has made it difficult for many to access funds or take loans.

The nostalgia of tourists and travellers is inevitably myopic. It misrepresents both the past and present. When I think of Beirut, I remember the Raouche Rocks that I could see from the city's exquisite beach. I long to return to the Roman Baths in downtown Beirut and walk past the Parisian cafes that surround Nejmeh Square. When I was 22, I believed that beauty and disaster could coexist, but watching the Port of Beirut being blown to smithereens, I knew that beauty is only a ruse. Rather than help us ease another's pain, it only tries to make us forget their suffering altogether. Sana'a had told me, "I don't care how bad it gets. Beirut is my home. I'll do all that I can to protect it." I imagine her fighting alone.

Shreevatsa Nevatia is a Kolkata-based journalist and the author of How to Travel Light: My Memories of Madness and Melancholia



How a 'friendly' media hurts govt's credibility



Pavan K. Varma **Chanakya's View**

aiat Sharma, who runs India TV, once told a story about Behari Vajpayee. The story deserves to be known more widely, so I hope that Rajat, who is a friend, will not mind if I share it. India TV has a very popular show called "Aap Ki Adalat", which Rajat anchors. A prominent personality from any walk of life is invited to the show and literally to the show, and literally put in the dock to be interrogated. Once, Atalji, as Prime Minister,

agreed to be in the dock. The interaction went off very well, or so Rajat thought. But as Atalji was leaving, he said, "Main aapse naraaz hoon: I am not very happy with you. Come and see me at my residence." Rajat was appre-hensive that he had per-haps been too aggressive in his questioning, or said something that the PM did not like. In any case, at the first opportunity, he took an appointment, and was promptly given one. When they met, Atalji was gracious as ever, but told Rajat bluntly the reason for his "Aapne mujhe bohat aasani se chhod diya. You did not ask me the tough questions, and let me off lightly. That

was not good of you."
There is a moral in this story, both for our current ruling party, and for some parts of our media. I don't think that leaders who welcome a more open interaction with the media, including sometimes unscripted — even hostile — questioning, lose their believability.

In fact, they enhance it. Similarly, if the media stops being blindly supportive of the ruling party's agenda, it does not lose its credibility. It only increases it.

I often wonder why the BJP's media managers don't understand this

simple truth. It is said apocryphally perhaps — that the BBC has a maxim: You must admit your minor truths if you want your major lies to be believed. With so many "pliant" channels openly toeing the ruling party's line, the BJP is soon going to ensure that no one anymore fully believes what these channels are saying. Intelligent media man-agement requires the ability to propagate your point of view in the midst of a counter-viewpoint, not flat footedly have that viewpoint muted or shouted over. People from one generation before would remember when nobody believed what Doordarshan said. To get the "real" news they would tune in to BBC. But, Doordarshan was a government run broadcaster. What else could it do? That certainour non-governmental

When open bias crosses a certain threshold it endangers its own outreach. We saw this happening in the ongoing case of Sudarshan TV's 'Bindas Bol'. The channel was rightly hauled up by the Supreme Court.

Nothing is worse for media management than to have a situation where even your truths are discounted or dismissed because of the lack of credibility of those disseminating it.

media. In fact, the PM would do well to be a little more accessible to the public through interactions with the indepen-dent media, interactions that are not a one-way monologue. When open bias crosses a certain threshold it

endangers its own out-reach. We saw this hap-pening in the ongoing case of Sudarshan TV's "Bindas Bol" programme which alleged a "jihadi" conspiracy in the sup-posed increase of Muslim candidates qualifying for the civil services. The channel was rightly hauled up by the Supreme Court for its hateful, hurtful and dubious findings. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud "While we respect freedom of media, let this message go to the media as well that any community shouldn't become a target. Ultimately we all exist as a nation, which must be cohesive and not against any community.' The SC imposed an injunction on the broad-

cast of the programme, and called for a more robust mechanism for self-regulation in the media. Referring to several provisions under the law that are against hate speech and incitement of religious hatred, the Court specifically asked the regulatory powers of the News Broadcasters Association to strengthened. At present, it felt, the NBA is "toothless", with several channels not its member and,

jurisdiction. Freedom of speech is a

sacrosanct right guaran-teed under the Constitution. But this freedom is neither limitless, nor is it one-sided. In a democracy, there must be space for those who wish to dissent, disagree or interrogate the viewpoint of the government. The media is a vital instrument in ensuring that such a lib-eral milieu of free debate and questioning exists. The BJP's proclivity to encourage and patronise only those "friendly" media outlets that unreservedly espouse its point of view, is counterproductive. I have been the official englesparence. the official spokesperson of the ministry of exter-nal affairs, the Press secretary to the President of India, and the national spokesperson of the JD(U). Nothing is worse for media management than to have a situation where even your truths are discounted or dismissed because of the lack of credibility of

those disseminating it. Atal Behari Vajpayee was, I am sure, not averse to good media coverage of his government. All leaders, and all governments, want that. But, was intelligent enough to understand that "good" coverage means very little if it lacks credibility. If the perception is that certain media outlets just blindly more and more people will devalue what they say. Such outlets may be watched, but may not be believed. That is why he told Rajat Sharma that he should have been a little tougher in his questioning. It is something that the BJP would do well to ponder about.

> The writer, an author and former diplomat, is in politics. The views expressed are personal.

LETTERS

FARM REFORMS

The three Bills, replacing ordinances passed by Lok Sabha promising to strengthen agricultural sector are seemingly good on paper. However, they could not win the confidence of a large section of farmers and the Opposition. The sale of agricultural produce is made hassle free but the guarantee for a reasonable price is not there. He can sell his produce wherever he wants, but the price will be decided by the market forces. The market will have an unopposed power over the

Dr D.V.G. Sankararao

Vizianagaram

The farmers suspect these Bills will shatter their lives and that if they are translated into laws, the farming activity will get into the hands of private people or corporates. They also have to forget their schemes like Rythu Bandu (TS)or Rythu Bharosa (AP)or PM Kisan Yojana (Central) and MSP. **Pratapa Reddy Yaramala** *Tiruvuru, Krishna district*

CARE FOR DOCTORS

All of us know how doctors are relentlessly working to treat Covid patients by putting their lives at risk (14 docs die in Covid care, no relief given, DC, Sept. 19). If they are not taken care by the government, it means they are hardly bothered either about Covid patients or virus spreading.

Panchakarla.Govardhana Rao Krishna district

PUN-FILLED RHETORIC

Shobhaa De's anguish is showing in her pun-filled rhetoric (A reign of obstinacy and self-centredness, DC, Sept. 19). The new edifice is now a fait accompli after the contract is awarded to Tatas to be completed in 21 months, a tall order indeed but for all the good reasons. No use cribbing now Shobhaaji. Let's enjoy the spectacle of Hindu Monolith with bated breath along with the upcoming grandiose Ram Temple at Ayodhya by July 2022. **K. Nehru Patnaik** *Visakhapatnam*

COSTLY CHEERS

It is going to be a very costly 'cheers' for all those trying to enjoy a drink or two in AP as bars open after 6 months. Understandably the state government is pursuing its declared policy of introducing prohibition in a phased manner. Just as the cost of cigarette was hiked every year to discourage smoking, the price of alcohol in AP was increased manifold resulting in alcoholics being 'forced' to spend more money for their 'addiction'.

Govardhana Myneedu

VOICE OF GIRLS

Malala from Pakistan had won the Nobel Peace prize at 17 for her untiring efforts for girls education. Now, on the climate change front, a Swedish teen Greta Thunberg, 16, emerged as a beacon of hope. They are young but well versed with what they do and what is to be done. Ignoring their warnings will be detrimental to our existence.

Parthasarathy Mandadi

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

Kangana's vitriol corrodes Bollywood reputation

Avenging angel

The Kangana Ranaut saga has upset and demoralised Bollywood. Already badly hurt by the Covid-19 pandemic that is depriving lakhs of their livelihood, the "drugs society" charge is hurting the entertainment industry further. Some former stars wonder why Kangana, an accomplished actress, is speaking with vengeance and making it look as if the drug menace is confined to film industry wallahs. Does it have to do with an ugly episode from Kangana's own life when a superstar and other A-listers had cornered her badly?

Desperately seeking 'Suzy'

Others acknowledge that Bollywood cliques have occasionally concocted their own narcotic for personal consumption. These concoctions are given informal names. One mild drug was reportedly called "Suzy". Who is Suzy? Is she some style trendsetter who habitually hangs out with other A-listers? Nobody

Rajnath comes second

Kangana Ranaut's Mumbai visit was followed by her war of words with co-actress-

es such as Urmila Mantondkar. The media frenzy was so extraordinary that it even rat-tled BJP communication personnel who struggled to make space on TV news for defence minister Rajnath Singh's important statement on China. Even some anchors and channels considered sympathetic to the ruling establishment were reluctant to run political news in place of the saucy Jaya Bachchan-Kangana-

They still love Sidhu

Shiromani Akali Dal minister Harsimat Kaur Badal's resignation from the Narendra Modi government over the new farming bill is sought to be underplayed. But informed sources say there is much more happening as part of the run-up to the early-2022 Punjab Assembly polls. While both the Akalis and the BJP have gone on record to say that all is well and that the SAD would continue in the NDA, in private conversation some BJP leaders say the SAD has become a political liability for the BJP in Congress-ruled Punjab. They recall that even in 2016, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah had contemplated breaking ties and going at it alone in the 2017 Assembly polls but Arun Jaitley had argued in favour of the SAD. Interestingly, some BJP leaders view Navjyot Singh Sidhu — who had left the BJP



By WAQYANAWIS

and is currently a disgruntled MLA in the Captain Amrinder Singh-led Congress in Punjab — as an asset for 2022. You heard this

No more corridor scoops

 $F^{
m or}$ journalists covering the Parliament session, Covid-19 is posing problems.

Incredible as it may sound, they and officials have to get their nose drilled for RT-PCR and antigen tests on a daily basis, or each time they enter Parliament. At the functional level there are many handicaps. Senior scribes cannot meet (or run into in Parliament's corridors) leaders who used to provide valuable information, leads or just

Waiting for Sonia

During the UPA era, Gurdeep Singh Sappal was everywhere. A political aide of former vice-president Hamid Ansari and heading Rajya Sabha TV, Sappal had wide access. Today, his independent TV venture, Swaraj Express, has conked without a trace. Sappal has not given up hope. He, like many others, is anxiously waiting for Sonia Gandhi to return and looking for a meaty role in the AICC media department or party's Room" at 15, Gurudwara Rakabgunj Marg. Some Congress leaders feel that if failure and insignificance act in Sappal's favour then he may bounce back.

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on

in backrooms of power

Cease-fire ordered in Jordan NEW DELHI, Sept. 19.

Cairo Radio has announced that King Hussein of Jordan has asked his forces to cease-fire, Radio BBC reports. Baghdad Radio announced

that Palestinian Commandos have rejected the cease fire, the Radio report added. A.P. adds from Beirut: The order to cease fire, from 2130 IST, came from Field Marshal Majali and was addressed to all army, police and



cast Radio Amman. Marshal Majali

ordered his men to stop firing "except in dealing with sources of fire hindering your humani-tarian duties." The Palestinian resistance central committee announced it would never accept a ceasefire "until we have liquidated all the murderers and all the traitors," Baghdad Radio said. Meanwhile, defections were reported to have taken place in the Palestinian guerrillas and Jordanian Government troops fighting in Amman.

Editor: Aditya Sinha, Printer & Publisher: K. Sudhakar, 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: 0866-2555287; 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: 0883-2417208 **Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 0854-276903; Fax: 0854-276904 **Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433 **Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580 **Chemnai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325 Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-22960552. Commbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255 Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER. Kaloor-Kadavanthara 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 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

SHORT TAKES **THOUSANDS JOIN DEMOCRACY RALLY IN THAI**

Bangkon, Sept. 19: Tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters massed close to Thailand's royal palace on Saturday, in a huge rally calling for PM Prayut Chan-O-Cha to step down and demanding reforms to the monarchy.

The kingdom has seen near-daily gatherings of youth-led groups since mid-July calling for the resignation of Prayut, the former army chief behind the 2014 coup, and a complete overhaul of his administra-tion. Some are also demanding reforms to Thailand's ultrawealthy and powerful monarchy — a once-taboo topic in the country due to its tough royal defamation laws.

The burgeoning movement, partly inspired by Hong Kong's pro-democracy prote remains largely leaderless.

But the weekend's demonstration is organised by students of Bangkok's Thammasat University — a group that has been among the most vocal about the royal family's role in

2 KILLED, 14 HURT **IN SHOOTING AT U.S. PARTY**

Washington, Sept.19: Two wounded early on Saturday in a shooting at a backyard party in Rochester, New York state, police said.

Officers responding to reports of gunfire in the area found a "chaotic scene" with about 100 people running in various directions, interim police chief Mark Simmons told reporters.

"In total we have 16 confirmed victims of shooting. And I'm sad to announce that two of the 16 received a fatal wound," he said.

Those killed — one man, one woman — were both between 18 and 22 years of age, and had not been formally identified,

The 14 wounded had been taken to hospital and were not in a life-threatening condition, he said. No arrests have been made so far and police could not say if more than one shooter was involved. "For our community to have to deal with this tragedy ... is unfortunate and shameful," Simmons said.

FIREFIGHTER DIES BATTLING

Juniper Hills (US), Sept. 19: I'ne death of a firefighter on the lines of a wildfire east of Los Angeles was under investigation on Friday as another blaze to the north burned homes in a small community on the edge of the Mojave Desert.

The death occurred Thursday in San Bernardino National Forest as crews battled the El Dorado Fire about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of LA, the US Forest Service said in a state-

The fire erupted earlier this month from a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple to reveal their baby's gender, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said. The name of the firefighter was being withheld until family members are notified. 'Our deepest sympathies are with the family, friends and fellow firefighters during this time," Forest Service spokesperson Zach Behrens said in the statement.

TORRENTIAL RAIN HITS SOUTHERN FRANCE

Marseille, Sept. 19: One person was reported missing on Saturday and dozens faced evacuation from their homes after torrential rain hit southern France, authorities said.

The Gard region, where firefighters reported the missing person, was on red alert after as much as 350 millimetres (13.5 inches) of rain fell in parts of the Cevennes mountain range on the edge of the

Massif Central. Helicopters carried out two rescue missions and some 300 firefighters were mobilised for three further operations as some 200 people were led to safety in two villages.

The mayor of one commune, Anduze, some 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Montpellier, told AFP around 100 houses on low ground would have to be

evacuated. The adjacent region of Languedoc was also hit by severe storms as meteorological authorities warned of more downpours to come come across much of the deep south.

US Liberal icon Ginsburg dies at 87

Flags fly at half-mast as crucial vacancy expected to set off pitched political battle during Prez polls

Supreme Court Justice and liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg died Friday, opening a crucial vacancy on the high court expected to set off a pitched political battle at the peak of the presidential campaign.
Affectionately known as

the Notorious RBG, the 87year-old Ginsburg was the oldest of nine Supreme

Court justices.

She died after a fight with pancreatic cancer, the court announced, saying she passed away "sur-rounded by her family at her home in Washington, DC."Coming just 46 days before an election in which President Donald Trump lags his Democratic rival Joe Biden in the polls, the vacancy offers the Republican a chance to

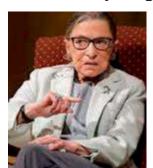
Washington, Sept. 19: US lock in a conservative majority at the court for

decades to come.

Trump issued a statement praising Ginsburg as a "titan of the law," but gave no indication whether he intended to press ahead with a nomination. Accolades flowed in for the pioneering Jewish justice.

"Our Nation has lost a jurist of historic stature,' said Chief Justice John

predecessor Trump's Barack Obama said in a that Ginsburg "fought to the end, through her cancer, with unwavering faith in our and democracy ideals."Biden said she was "an American hero, a giant of legal doctrine, and a relentless voice in the pursuit of that highest American ideal: Equal



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Justice Under Law." In Washington, hundreds of tearful mourners laid flowers in front of the Supreme Court, where the diminutive Ginsburg sat for 27 years — even taking arguments and issuing opinions from her hospital bed after repeated bouts of illness over the past two US flags flew at half-mast on each side of the court building. People lit can-dles on the steps of the court while others held rainbow flags.

Among the notably young crowd was Erin Drumm, a student at the Catholic University of

I came here because I think RBG represents everything that America should stand for," the 19-year-old said. "She represents the freedom to choose and respect for science and other people regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity or religion.'

Taylor Gutierrez, 26, said he wanted to celebrate Ginsburg's achievements, "especially as a gay man knowing that she helped create a more equitable society for us." -AFP

McConnell vows Sen. will hold vote on Ginsburg replacement

Washington, Sept. 19: pick Ginsburg's successor. US Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell "President Trump's nominee will receive a vote on vowed on Friday to hold a vote on a nominee that President Donald Trump names to replace late Supreme Court Justice Ruther Bader Ginsburg, despite the looming November election.

Her death sets up a mammoth battle for the seat she left behind, with Trump potentially moving to nominate a a new justice just weeks before the November 3 vote, and challenger Joe Biden demanding the election be held first, and the winner to

the floor of the United States Senate," McConnell, a chief ally of the president in Congress, said in a statement shortly after Ginsburg's death was announced by the court.

direct opposition to Ginsburg's reported dying wish that she not be replaced "until a new pres-ident is installed" in January, 2021.

The move would be in

Such a step would be unprecedented in modern times — and is certain to infuriate Democrats who

have already called for McConnell to wait to bring a nomination to the floor until at least January, when control of the White House and Senate could change. "The voters should pick the president, and the president should pick the justice for the Senate to consider," Biden told reporters after learn-

ing of Ginsburg's death.
"This was the position the Republican Senate took in 2016 when there were almost 10 months to go before the election. That's the position the United States Senate must

UK FOREIGN MIN'S BODYGUARD AXED AFTER LEAVING GUN ON PLANE

London, Sept. 19: A eling with Britain's foreign secretary has been suspended from duties after he reportedly left a loaded gun on a plane.

British media reported on Saturday that the police protection officer traveling with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on a visit to the United States left the pistol on a plane at London's Heathrow Airport on Friday. A cleaner found the weapon, media reports said.

London's Metropolitan Police said the force was aware of "the incident on a flight into the UK on Friday" and "taking this matter extremely seriously.

'The officer involved has since been removed from operational duties whilst an internal investigation into the circumstances is taking place," the police department said on Saturday in a statement. Raab visited Washington this week to speak with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other officials about Brexit.

PAK'S FORMER-PM NAWAZ SHARIF MULLING POLITICAL COMEBACK

Islamabad, Sept. 19: Pakistan's deposed pre-mier Nawaz Sharif is set to make a comeback in active politics following a year-long absence after PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led multiparty conference aimed at launching a protest movement against the Imran Khan-led govern-

ment on Sunday. Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treat-

Water area festival



A flyboarder performs in Moscow River Channel during a SUP (Stand Up Paddle), Water area festival in Moscow,

US envoy wraps up Taiwan visit as China sends more warpalnes

Taipei, Sept. 19: A top US diplomat attended the funeral for former Taiwan president Lee Teng-hui Saturday which featured a eulogy by Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama before wrapping up a visit overshadowed by Chinese military exercises.

China sent more warplanes toward Taiwan for the second day on

Keith Krach, undersecretary of state for economic growth, energy and the environment, was the highest-ranking State Department official to visit Taiwan since 1979 Washington switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing.

The trip, the second high-ranking US visit in as many months, sparked an immediate rebuke from China, which baulks at recognition of Taiwan and has mounted a decades-long policy of marginalising the demo-

US Secretary of State

China protests US ban on tech giants, warns of counteraction

Shanghai, Sept. 19: China said on Saturday it had the entry of personnel or equipment into the country. launched a mechanism enabling it to restrict foreign entities, a much-anticipated move seen as retaliation to US penalties against Chinese companies such as telecom giant Huawei.

An announcement by the Ministry of Commerce did not mention any specific foreign entities, but broadly spelled out the factors that could trigger punitive measures, which may include fines, restrictions on import-export business or investment in China, and

> Mike Pompeo accused China of "military blustering" as Beijing condubors cross cted military exercises on Friday near the Taiwan

It covers "foreign enterprises, other organisations and individuals", it said. The launch of the "unreliable entities list" ups the ante in the escalating commercial fight with the

administration, Trump which has used its own "entity list" to bar Huawei from the US market on national security grounds.

The announcement also came a day after the US ordered a ban on downloads of popular video app TikTok and effectively

Chinese fighters and bombers crossed the socalled median line dividing the Strait and entered

Chinese super-app WeChat on similar grounds, which prompted a threat by China to strike back. Beijing would consider

blocked the use of the

sanctions on entities whose national sovereignty, security, and development interests" or violate "internationally accepted economic and trade rules".

That language tracks wording that Beijing has used to repeatedly denounce US actions denounce US actions against Chinese compaactions

identification defence zone (ADIZ) for a second straight day on Saturday, Taiwan's defence ministry said as it scrambled fight-

Iran vows 'hit' on all involved in US killing

Tehran, Sept. 19: The beginning of the year chief of Iran's paramili- "We took out the world's tary Revolutionary Guard threatened on Saturday to go after everyone who had a role in a top general's January killing during a US drone strike in Iraq.

The guard's website quoted Gen. Hossein Salami as saying, "Mr. Trump! Our revenge for martyrdom of our great general is obvious, serious and real." US President Donald Tr-

ump warned this week that Washington would harshly respond to any Iranian attempts to take revenge for the death of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, tweeting that "if they hit us in any way, any form, written instructions already done we're going to hit them 1000 times harder.'

The president's warning came in response to a report that Iran was plotting to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa in retaliation for

'We took out the world's number one terrorist and the mass murderer of many, many troops and many people all over the world," Trump said. "Qasem Soleimani is

dead. He's dead. Bad guy. Bad guy. Very bad guy. Salami rejected the report of an Iranian plot to assassinate Ambassador Lana Marks, but made clear that Iran intends to avenge the general's death.

"Do you think we hit a female ambassador in return to our martyred brother?" the general said. "We will hit those who had direct and indirect roles. You should know that everybody who had role in the event will be hit, and this is a serious message. We do prove everything in practice.' In January, Iran launched a ballistic missile attack targeting US soldiers in Soleimani's killing at Iraq in response to the Baghdad's airport at the fatal drone strike. -AP

Don releases \$13 bn aid for Puerto Rico

Washington, Sept. 19 (AP) President Donald Trump announced the release Friday of \$13 billion in assistance to repair yearsold hurricane damage in Puerto Rico and pledged to restore its economy, setting aside his past bitter treatment of the island and its leaders as he courts Puerto Rican voters in the US, particularly in the crucial swing state

Trump has spent much of his administration blasting Puerto Rican officials as corrupt and inept, and he has opposed spending to rebuild a power grid and other infrastructure that was wiped out by the Hurricane Maria in September 2017. He's now portraying himself as the territory's best friend.

Rico," he said at a White House press conference, "no one even close." Residents of Puerto Rico, a US territory of more than 3 million people, cannot vote in the general election. But there are more people of Puerto Rican

ever happened to Puerto

descent on the mainland than on the island, and they could play a key role in the November 3 vote. Former Vice President Joe Biden has also sought support from Puerto Ricans, recently releasing a recovery plan for the territory and visiting central

The region has one of the largest concentrations of people from the island on the US mainland, including many who fled erritory's best friend. the devastation of "I'm the best thing that Hurricane Maria. -AP

rambling history classes

become engaging, fun. He tells the others, and

on Nikolaj's suggestion

and pretence of taking notes for research, they all

FILM IFESTIVAL Lindon's French love story, Spring Blossom captures the shine and bounce that love brings

What is life? It's that youthful first love, a funeral and a party

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 19

'What is youth? A dream. What is love? The content Raphaël (Arnaud Valois). of the dream." These unforgettable lines, by Soren age don't interest Suzanne. Kierkegaard,

appear at the beginning of dir-ector Thomas ector Thomas Vinterberg's Da-nish film, *Ano*ther Round, which is playing at

the Toronto International know that he too is bored. Film Festival (Tiff). But it's almost as if they were another film that's playing at Tiff — 20-year-old Suzanne Lindon's French love story, *Spring Blossom*. Lindon is the star of her

Paris who, on her way to

and from school, lingers a bit in a cobbled, cafe-lined square, her eyes peeled for a 35-year-old dashing actor, Boys and girls her own She wants to be

Raphael's parked red scooter is an indicator that he's inside the small theatre rehearsing a play. She doesn't She doesn't know that sometimes he is asked to

seen, by him.

Spring Blossom follows Suzanne everywhere — when she's with her friends, at home with her parents, or out with Raphael. film. She plays Suzanne, a bored 16-year-old girl in Lindon wrote when she was 15, celebrates the



A still from the movie Another Round.

concoction uncontrollable joy, chuckles and tingles in a young mind and body while negotiating first love. It captures the shine and bounce that love brings, as well as the overwhelming confusion before that first breakfast date, and the shy, awkward moments at that date with the sort of lyrical swaying that the young in love are prone to.

As Raphael too begins to fall in love with Suzanne, they are locked in a moment. And just as she likes to linger in that linger in that moment too, sipping grenadine and

lemonade Usually, love stories have trauma, drama, villains, loss. There is no turmoil, loss in Spring Blossom. Just the fear of losing that



A still from the movie Spring Blossom.

moment, that love. Vinterberg's Another Round is about having lived those moments and then lost them to a job, a family, a house.

The film tells the story of four high school teachers of whom Martin (Mads Mikkelsen) is most obviously struck by a sadness that's taken hold of his

"Am I boring?" Martin

begin taking a few swigs before and during work. It helps initially, to smile, to take more interest, to reconnect with themselves, and to connect with asks his wife, and breaks others. But there's temptadown at a dinner with his friends. That's when Nikolaj (Magnus Millan), a psychology teacher, talks

of Norwegian psychiatrist Finn Skårderud's claim that humans are born short of 0.05% Blood Alcohol Content, and to function at our best — physically, intellectually and emotionally — we must drink. Martin tests this theory

tion to drink more, and soon some relationships, lives begin to capsize. Another Round is funny,

sad, real, bizarre, scary, warm. And it's message is simple — life is both, a funeral and a party. That's why it ends on a glorious note, with a dance sequence by Mads Mikkelsen that will add two years to your lifespan.

WEST BROM

London, Sept. 19: Dominic Calvert-Lewin hit a hat-trick and James

Rodriguez bagged his

first Premier League goal

as Everton crushed 10-man West Bromwich

Albion 5-2 to extend their perfect start to the season

Carlo Ancelotti's side

fell behind to Grady Diangana's early goal at Goodison Park. But Calvert-Lewin

equalised and James put

them ahead before West

Kieran Gibbs was dis-

missed for pushing James in the face in first half

Then Albion boss Slaven

Bilic was sent to the

stands after storming onto the pitch for a furi-ous rant at referee Mike

equalised for Albion after

the interval, but Michael

Keane restored Everton's lead and Calvert-Lewin

sealed the points with his

Ar 23, Calvert-Lewin is

the youngest Englishman to score a Premier League

THE RESULT

(Calvert-Lewin 31, 62, 66, James 45, Keane 54)

(Diangana 10, Pereira 47)

hat-trick for Everton.

second and third goals.

on Saturday.

Brom imploded.

stoppage-time.

Matheus

Everton

West Brom

SHORT TAKES

Hari stuns Carlsen

before four losses

Chennai: Indian Grandmaster P. Harikrishna pulled off a stunning win over world champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway but suffered four losses later in the day to slip to overall sixth place in the St Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament. Harikrishna defeated world number one Carlsen in round three of Blitz 1 in 63 moves with white pieces. He also beat lower-rated American Jeffrey Xiong but save for the two wins, he had a forgettable day as he suffered four defeats.

apart from three draws. Harikrishna shares the sixth place with Armenian GM Levon Aronian with 3.5 points after the nine rounds of Blitz 1. Carlsen, who had dropped to second place behind So at the end of the Rapid event, leapt to the top spot in the standings with 18.5 points. - PT

Tvesa lies T-2nd

at French Open

Bordeaux, France: Indian golfer Tvesa Malik put herself in contention with a solid three-under 68 to lie tied second after round two of the 2020 Lacoste Ladies Open De France. As Tvesa carded 68 to get to four-under 138, Sweden's Julia

Engstrom had a memorable day with a hole-in-one en route to a second round 64 (-7) which put her on top the leaderboard heading into the third and final

Things were, however, rather disappointing for another Indian Diksha Dagar, who after 89 in the first round, carded 85 and missed the cut by a big

Tvesa shares the second place with local French golfer and the 2015 champion Celine Herbin at four-under and they are four behind Julia Engstrom. — PTI

Djoker loses cool again during win

Rome: Less than two weeks after getting defaulted from the U.S. Open, Novak Djokovic lost his cool again midway through a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win over German qualifier Dominik Koepfer in the Italian Open quarterfinals Saturday.

When Djokovic was broken at love to even the second set at 3-3, he slammed his racket to the red clay in anger. With the frame broken and the strings all mangled. Diokovic was forced to get a new racket and received a warning from

the chair umpire. Djokovic had already appeared frustrated the previous game. when he glared toward the umpire following a couple of overrules and a point that was ordered to be replayed.

Lakers dominate

Nuggets in Game 1

Miami: Anthony Davis scored 37 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers dominated the Denve Nuggets 126-114 on Friday in game one of the NBA Western Conference finals.

LeBron James added 15 points with 12 assists and six rebounds for the Lakers, who shot out of the gate after dropping their opener in each of their previous two playoff series in the NBA's coronavirus quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

After a close first quarter ended with the Nuggets up by two, the Lakers seized control in the second quarter, out-scoring Denver 34-21 to take a 70-59 lead into halftime. "It took a quarter for us to kind of figure it out," James said.

Live on

CRICKET IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League:

Southampton vs Tottenham Hotspur from 4.30 pm; Newcastle vs Brighton from 6.30 pm; Chelsea vs Liverpool from 9 pm; Leicester City vs Burnley from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

from 7.30 pm; Granada vs Deportivo Alaves from 10 pm; Real Betis vs Real Valladolid from 10 pm; Real Sociedad vs Real Madrid from 12.30 am (Monday) on LaLiga page on Facebook

Italian League: Parma vs Napoli from 4 pm; Genoa vs Crotone from 6.30 pm; Sassuolo vs Cagliari from 9.30 pm Juventus vs Sampdoria from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2. HD

pm on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS Rome Masters: Semifinals in two sessions from 5.30 pm and 9.30

Spanish League: Huesca vs Cadiz hension

suspense, appre-

this time is that this high-

action. way or another

at least for the first half of the tournament, and the character of pitches which is unknown. None of this, however,

can subdue the excitement the tournament being played. The IPL is a platform where talent can be showcased and careers made or consolidated. The creme de la creme of the world's players (barring from Pakistan) will be in

No player's worth can be undermined, but this season my attention will be on five Indian players, at different stages in their careers, for whom this IPL could be decisive in one

Dhoni: Recently retired from international cricket, he still remains

40, how fit is he for the demanding schedule of the league? Does he still have the form to win matches off his own bat? Most important in Dhoni's case is captaincy. He commands loyalty, of that there is no doubt. But with seasoned pros Raina and Harbhajan

mine whether Dhoni will wear the yellow jersey next season.

season in the leadership role. The best RCB have achieved under him was runner up in 2016. Since then, RCB's results have been poor: bottom placed in 2017 and 2019, 6th in 2018, raising queries about Kohli's captaincy in this format. Harsh considering his captaincy record in the same format in internationals. But Kohli has cer-

tainly something to prove. R. Ashwin: Picked for international cricket on formances, became a certainty in all three formats, before losing his place in ODIs as well as T20s. A productive IPL season could bring Ashwin back in the reckoning for India taincy as Delhi Capitals have suffered under the have preferred to retain Shreyas Iyer in the top position. Crafty and strong-minded, how well and swiftly he strikes rapport with Iyer and coach Ponting could define DC's fortunes as well as his own future.

K. L. Rahul: Made cap-

pressure. But this is also an opportunity which can take Rahul higher in Indian cricket. Hardik Pandya: Broke down during the ODI World Cup in 2019,

see why Hardik is so coveted by Mumbai Indians, as well as the Indian team. Whether his career graph resumes its upward trajectory, stagnates or slumps depends on his form and fitness in this tournament

DAZZLING DUET

Century stand between Rayudu, Du Plessis help CSK pull off incredible win

smashed a 48-ball 71 to guide Chennai Super Kings to a comprehensive five-wicket win over defending champions Mumbai Indians in the opening match of the 13th IPL here on

Saturday. Chasing 163 to win, Rayudu blasted six fours and three sixes in his blitering innings, while Faf du Plessis cracked 58 off 44 balls as CSK romped home with four balls to

Earlier, Mumbai Indians posted a challenging 162/9 after lenging 162/9 after Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and elected to bowl.

The highlight of Mumbai's innings was Saurabh Tiwary's 42 balls and Quinton de Kock's 20-

ball 33 at the top. For CSK, Lungi Ngidi (3/38) was the most successful bowler successful while Ravindra Jadeja (2/42) and Deepak Chahar (2/32) captured two wickets apiece and Sam Curran (1/28) and Piyush Chawla (4/21)

picked one each. The shrewd Dhoni introduced Chawla into the attack and he right away dismissed Rohit Sharma (12) who always have had a problem with wrist spinners. It was a straight delivery that Rohit was trying to hit

HEAD TO HEAD

Delhi Capitals won:

MEETING IN 2019

Kings XI Punjab

Capitals by 14 runs in

Delhi Capitals beat

FOR THE RECORD

Shikhar Dhawan.

who scored 4579 runs

at an average of 33.42

Dubai, Sept. 19: Kings XI Punjab skipper K.L. Rahul on Saturday said

the side is motivated to

making this IPL season a

memorable one by playing a good brand of crick-

The Rahul-led side will

open their campaign against Delhi Capitals at

the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

tastic, we've been getting

along great and are look-

ing forward to playing a

good brand of cricket and

making this season a memorable one," Rahul

"We're confident, we're

motivated and we are

really excited to be a part

of this edition of the

The team has been fan-

in 158 innings of 159

matches for Deccan

Kings XI Punjab by 5

wickets in Delhi

defeated Delhi

OVERALL:

Matches: 24 Kings XI Punjab

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 19: inside out but couldn't get past Curran at the mid-off circle. -PTI

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Robit Sharma c Sam Curran b Chawla 12. Quinton de Kock c Watson b Sam Curran 33, Suryakumar Yadav c Sam Curran b D. Chahar Saurabh Tiwary c du Plessis b Ravindra Jadeja 42, Hardik Pandya c du Plessis b Ravindra Jadeia 14, Kieron Pollard c Dhoni b Lungi Ngidi 18, Krunal Pandya c Dhoni b Lungi Ngidi 3, James Pattinson c du Plessis b Lungi Ngidi 11, Rahul Chahar (not out) 2, Trent Boult b D. Chahar O, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5. Extras: (w-4, lb-1) 5. Total: (for 9 wkts, in 20 Over) 162. FoW: 46-1, 48-2, 92-3, 121-4, 124-5, 136-6, 151-7,

156-8. 156-9. Bowler: Deepak Chahar 4-0-32-2, Sam Curran 4-0-28-1, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-38-3, Piyush Chawla 4-0-21-1, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-

Chennai Super Kings Innings: Murali Vijay Ibw b James Pattinson Watson Ibw Boult 4, Faf du Plessis (not out) 58, Ambati Rayudu c and b Rahul Chahar 71, Ravindra Jadeja Ibw b Krunal Pandya 10, Sam Curran c James Pattinson b Bumrah 18, M.S. Dhoni (not out) O. Extras: (w-3, nb-1) 4. Total (for 5 wkts, in 19.2 overs) 166.

FoW: 5-1, 6-2, 121-3, 134-4, 153-5
Bowler: Trent Boult 3.2-0-23-1, James Pattinson Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-43-1, Krunal Pandya 4-0-37-1, Rahul Chahar 4-

Chargers, Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers

Hyderabad and Delhi

Capitals is the fourth

highest scorer in IPL

matches) and Suresh

Raina (5,368 runs in

Rohit Sharma (4,898

runs in 188 matches).

Chris Gayle is the

only batsman to hit

over 300 sixes in IPL.

He smashed 326 sixes

in 124 innings of 125

matches for Kings XI

Riders and Royal

Punjab, Kolkata Knight

Challengers Bangalore

K.L. Rahul

Indian Premier League,"

Rahul, who has been

handed the Kings XI

Punjab captaincy after

two stellar seasons with

the bat at the top of the

order, said it will be a

he added.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

193 matches) and

behind Virat Kohli

(5,412 runs in 177

NUMBERS GAME — KXIP vs DC



Chennai Super Kings players celebrates the wicket of Rohit Sharma of Mumbai Indians during match 1 of season 13 of the Indian Premier League held at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday. - BCCI

DC, KXIP in battle of power-hitters

Dubai, Sept. 19: Two greats will pit their wits against each other in the background as their captains, with an ability to achieve greatness, lead their power-hitters out for an IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab here on Sunday.

Ricky Ponting and Anil Kumble are arguably two of the biggest names in cricket and the dazzling array of talent in both the teams would seek to draw inspiration from their respective heavyweight coaches in

their tournament opener. Man-to-man, Capitals seem to have a slight edge, more so in the spin department, with the trio of R. Ashwin, Amit Mishra and Axar Patel streets anead of their coun terparts from the Mohali-

Spin is expected to play a big role on the UAE pitches.

Rahul vows to make it memorable



Delhi Capitals' captain Shreyas Iyer (left) and coach Ricky Ponting at a training session in Dubai on Saturday.

The match, at the Dubai International Stadium, will also be a faceoff between skippers K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, both seen as future India captaincy material.

fans who continue to sup-

port us," Rahul said. KXIP, who have never

won the IPL, are aiming

to go all the way this time

with a strong squad at their disposal with the

likes of Mayank Agarwal,

Mohammad Shami and

overseas recruits Chris

Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Sheldon Cottrell, Jimmy

Neesham, the in-form

'The team looks great

and we have a top-notch line up this season. The

boys have been working

really hard and we have a

nice balance of youth and

head Coach Anil Kumble

experience in our squad,"

Pooran and

Nicholas

Mujeeb Zadran.

ne Dubai On the batting front, the Cricket Capitals have one of the best assortments of India internationals, comprising Prithvi Shaw, Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Shikhar Dhawan,

West

Dubai, Sept. 19: Captain

Steve Smith along with

star players Jofra Archer

and Jos Buttler have

cleared the mandatory

Covid-19 test on arrival

and are available to play

Rajasthan Royals' IPL

opener against Chennai

Super Kings at the Sharjah Cricket ground

The trio were part of the

21-strong contingent of

Australia and England

players, who arrived in

the UAE from UK by a

special chartered flight

"Smith, Buttler and

Archer underwent Covid-19 tests on Friday and team.

on September 22.

on September 17.

Indian

SMITH, ARCHER, BUTTLER

CLEAR COVID-19 TESTS

Shimron Hetmyer. In this scenario, Ajinkya Rahane (strike-rate below 120), who was bought from Rajathan Royals, may be left out. The KXIP also boast of

some of the finest clean hitters in the form of Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell and Rahul himself.

confidence Maxwell's must be sky high after his ODI series-winning century (108) against England. He also had a memorable run the last time the IPL was held in UAE, albeit partially, in 2014 when he hammered 552 runs in 16 games.

The KXIP have a dangerous opening pairing in Gavle and Rahul with Mayank Agarwal to follow. But it remains to be seen wnetner Gayle will continue to be a regular feature at the top of the order this time around.

results are negative. So

they are available for

selection with quarantine duration being reduced to

36 hours," an IPL source said on conditions of

Former Australia skip-

per Smith has had con-

cussion problems and missed all three ODIs

against England and his

participation in the open-

ing game is subject to

clearance from both fran-

Cricket

chise and Cricket Australia's medical team.

If Smith misses the first

game, Buttler could lead

the side as he is one of the

senior most players in the

anonymity.

BAYERN RUN RIOT IN OPENER

Munich (Germany), Sept. 19: Leroy Sane said all-conquering Munich crave even more silverware after the Germany winger scored on his debut in Friday's historic 8-0 thrashing of Schalke in the opening game of the Bundesliga season.

'We're still hungry, even though we won the treble last season. Winning our first game at home 8-0 is obviously super," said Sane after creating two goals for Serge Gnabry, who claimed a hat-trick in the goalfest

The jaw-dropping result is the highest win in an opening game of a new Bundesliga season — five weeks to the day after Bayern's 8-2 thrashing of Barcelona in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

THE RESULT

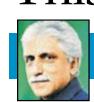
Bayern Munich (Gnabry 4, 47, 59, Goretzka 19, Lewandowski 31-pen, Mueller 69, Sane 71, Musiala 81) Schalke

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings
Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.

RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha

This IPL could be decisive for 5 Indian star players



Ayaz Memon

Over The Top

fter months of anticipation, the IPL is finally underway. The circumstances are unusual. The tournament has been played overseas earlier too, so that it not such a severe setback, though it could impact the teams in sundry ways since players were chosen, retained or dumped based on the tournament being What's starkly different

octane tournament will be without spectators, and with a stringent protocol in place to counter the looming threat of Covid19. players's mood and mind.

It remains to be seen what impact this has on the Barring players from West Indies, England and Australia, others are also shorn of match practice since the lockdown began in March. How rusty will they be? Other factors that could have a bearing on team and individual performances are the heat

and humidity in the UAE,

challenging experience

playing in the UAE with-out the fans but the team

"It is going to be a dif-

ferent experience this

year, but we as a team are up to the challenge and

is ready for it.

perhaps the biggest draw-card in the IPL. Pushing missing, how he deploys his resources will be key. And how CSK fares this season could well deter-

Virat Kohli: India's most successful captain in inter-national cricket has been floundering to win the IPL title, though he's been spectacular with bat and is league's highest rungetter. This is his 10th

the strength of IPL perin limited overs cricket. Move from Kings XI

Punjab cost him the cap-

tain of Kings XI after Ashwin's departure, faces multiple challenges as the team seeks its first IPL title. Rahul's batting ability is hardly doubted. He's mauled the best bowlers with his rich and powerful strokeplay. Under scrutiny now to see how he tackles burden of captaincy. individuals Managing with different skillsets and temperaments can be demanding. hugely Several fine players who

Pandya's comeback to Indian cricket — in all formats — depends on how well he survives this IPL season. His all-round skills and aggressive instincts make him a matchwinner: with bat or bowling fast medium with clever variations. Add to that brilliant fielding, and it is easy to