

# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

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Vol. 83 No. 272 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

**A**  
APARNA  
Lead the future

**WEATHER**

Max: 31.0°C  
Min: 22.2°C  
RH: 74%  
Rain: 1.6 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Thundershower likely.  
Max/Min temp. 31/22°C

**COVID-19 COUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+81,272)	(+1,174)
62,19,224	97,450
covid19india.org	

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+2,072)	(+9)
TS: 1,89,283	1,116
(+6,190)	(+35)
AP: 6,87,351	5,780

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

3,36,81,525
DEATHS
10,08,501
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.27 am  
Star: Purvabhadra till 3.14 am (Thursday)  
Varjyanam: 7.51 am to 9.37 am  
Durmuhurtam: 11.42 am to 12.29 pm  
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
HJRI CALENDAR  
Safar ul Muzaffar 12, 1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
Fajr: 5.06 am  
Zohar: 12.16 pm  
Asar: 4.25 pm  
Maghrrib: 6.12 pm  
Isha: 7.19 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.05 PM**  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 4.43 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.27 PM

**COUNTER POINT**

I promise to get you the first dose of vaccine!

**IN BRIEF**

**Venkaiah tests Covid positive**

New Delhi: Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19. He is asymptomatic and in good health, the V-P Secretariat tweeted.

**TECH LEAP**

If approved, it would be first e-voting in India

## SEC plans e-voting in GHMC polls

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29**

The State Election Commission (SEC) proposes to use e-voting for senior citizens, disabled persons and polling personnel for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). If it comes through, it will be the first time that e-voting has been attempted in India.

State Election Commissi-

### DUBBAKA BYPOLL ON NOVEMBER 3

Hyderabad: The Election Commission said the bypoll for Dubbaka Assembly segment will be held on November 3.

Full report on Page 4

oner C. Parthasarathy said on Tuesday that since it is a

unique system, "we are planning to take it as a pilot project and limiting it to a select group of voters."

Explaining the process, Parthasarathy said that, if approved, the selected categories of voters will have to register for the e-voting option in advance with the returning officer concerned online. Each voter will be given an ID and a password.

On polling day, voter has to log in into the e-voting

site, upon which a ballot paper will appear on screen. The voter should click on the preferred symbol and the vote is registered.

The SEC said e-votes would be under the custody of the returning officer and opened on counting day in the presence of counting agents of the candidates.

Page 2: SEC seeks IT dept help on e-Voting

## India rejects China's LAC claim

MEA says India has never accepted China's unilateral definition of LAC

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29**

India has never accepted the so-called Chinese unilaterally-defined 1959 version of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and therefore the "insistence of the Chinese side now that there is only one LAC is against the solemn commitments made by China" in previous agreements, New Delhi told Beijing on Tuesday, in the latest round of diplomatic sparring between the two sides.

Students who wanted to register objections with the NTA to some questions in the NEET key, said they had been trying since the day before to make the payment, but the gateway kept blocking them.

Students said that at least 4-5 discrepancies were spotted in the answer key this year, with incorrect answers to some questions and multiple correct answers in others.

Page 2: More mistakes in answer key this year

## No war, no peace, IAF chief calls LAC situation uneasy

**PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29**

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Tuesday that the present security scenario along the country's northern frontiers is at an uneasy no-war, no-peace status. The Air Chief Marshal was referring to the five-month-old military stand-off between India and China in Eastern Ladakh.

"Airpower will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is, therefore, imperative that IAF obtains and maintains a technological edge over our adversaries," he said.

forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware," he said.

He pointed out that the Indian Air Force has responded to the situation rapidly and is fully resolved to counter any "misadventure" in the region.

Rafale jets have already flown sorties over the Ladakh sector and some other regions where they are expected to undertake operations.

process could not proceed further as the Chinese side did not show willingness to pursue it."

"Furthermore, under various bilateral agreements... both India and China have committed to clarification and confirmation of the LAC to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC. Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is contrary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements," the MEA said.

"As we have previously made clear, the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC. As the defence minister Rajnath Singh stated in Parliament recently, it is the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the western sector, has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo... We therefore expect that the Chinese side will sincerely abide by all agreements and understandings in their entirety and refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC."

The latest strong reaction from New Delhi followed reported remarks by the Chinese foreign ministry from Beijing on the LAC that was quoted in an Indian newspaper report.

Both nations have different perceptions of the LAC. According to reports, the

Chinese foreign ministry was cited as saying that China abides by the LAC proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to India's then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated November 7, 1959. The external affairs ministry said: "India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side... In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003, but this

Chinese foreign ministry was cited as saying that China abides by the LAC proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to India's then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated November 7, 1959.

The external affairs ministry said: "India has never

## Covid-19 eases, schools, theatres to reopen soon

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29**

State health authorities on Tuesday indicated that the day when cinema theatres, schools and colleges could reopen may not be far off in Telangana state.

"Ninety-eight per cent of facilities required for people to lead normal lives are already open. Educational institutions, cinema halls, and other public utility places may be reopened as part of Unlock 4 from October 1," Director of Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao, told reporters here.

The state's pursuit of early testing, early diagnosis and early treatment, Dr Srinivasa Rao

said, was the key to keeping Covid-19 fatalities low in the state. Against the all-India average of 1.57, the state's Covid-19 fatality rate stood at 0.59, he said.

Only 25.4 per cent of Covid-19 beds in government hospitals in the state were occupied while in private hospitals it was 34.56 per cent of the available beds, Dr Srinivasa Rao said.

The higher occupancy in private hospitals was on account of patients from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh coming to the state for Covid-19 treatment.

The state's pursuit of early testing, early diagnosis and early treatment, Dr Srinivasa Rao

Page 2: Every bed will have oxygen, says DME

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## SHORT TAKES

## NIA PLEA TO HC TO CANCEL TPF LEADER'S BAIL

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a petition before the Telangana High Court to cancel bail issued by the IV Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, the designated NIA court, Nampally, to Telangana Praja Front (TPF) vice-president Nalamasa Krishna.

Krishna had been arrested by the NIA for his alleged links with the Maoists in June. He was granted bail on August 21. The High Court issued notices to Krishna and adjourned the case to October 13.

Krishna had obtained bail in six different cases registered against him for supporting the activities of the banned Maoists.

**MORE MISTAKES IN ANSWER KEY THIS YEAR**

From Page 1

A student said that for one of the questions in Set F4 on unicellular algae, the answer mentioned was incorrect.

Students and coaching centres also claimed that two questions on restriction enzymes and cell cycle had more than one correct answer.

Santosh, academic director of Spark Academy, a NEET coaching centre in Hyderabad, said, "There are more than usual discrepancies in the answer key this year. The NTA in such a case ensures that this does not affect the final cut-off percentage for any candidate. Such questions are either declared redundant or marks are distributed equally for the particular question."

He said that this year there are more than usual objections. To understand the NTA's perspective, charging this amount is to ensure that only genuine objections are raised.

There has so far been no response from the NTA on this. However, in their official statement, NTA had mentioned that the processing fee will be refunded if the challenge is found correct.

The NEET result and cut-off scores are likely to be released on the official website ntaneet.nic.in on or before October 12. Candidates will be able to access the NEET 2020 result using their login credentials.

**SEC SEEKS I-T DEPT HELP ON EVOTING**

From Page 1

The total votes and the tally for each candidate will appear on the screen of the returning officer.

The commissioner said that the SEC in coordination with the state's IT&C (information technology and communication) department is trying out the possibilities to conduct e-voting.

"We have asked IT department principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan and Telangana State Technology Services managing director Venkateswara Rao to develop foolproof software in consultation with IT experts to avoid any controversy."

Earlier, Parthasarathy, addressing GHMC officials on the concluding day of training programme on Te-Poll software, said that the use of advanced technology in the forthcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections will enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, Parthasarathy said the technology will be used to the maximum permissible to help stakeholders to conduct elections.

Voters can download voter slip, constituency and polling station-wise voter list and find their polling station online, he added. He said that Te-Poll software will allow candidates and parties to view all the details online. It will also reduce working hours and ensure accuracy.

The SEC said that the face recognition software would be used to identify voters on a pilot basis in about 150 polling stations, or at least one polling station from each ward. "It is one of the advanced innovations to identify voters with the available data," Parthasarathy said. He said facial recognition systems had been tried out in 10 polling stations in previous elections to access accuracy.

## Stay away from large gatherings, advises govt

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Two days after thousands of people crammed onto the newly inaugurated cable-stayed bridge on Durgam Cheruvu in Madhapur following an open invitation from the state government to attend an open-air music concert on the bridge, state Director of Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao has advised people to stay away from mass gatherings to avoid contracting, or spreading, Covid-19.

Addressing a press conference along with Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy, Dr Srinivasa Rao appealed to the people to avoid large gatherings as the Coronavirus can again start spreading.

There is a downward trend in Covid-19 cases in the city and the state, especially this month, but this does not mean people should let their guard down, he said.

The officials, in a slide show that was part of the press conference, showed six images of crowds standing cheek-to-jowl on the cable-stayed bridge as an example of mass gatherings that everyone should avoid.

## Gov. pats Bharat Biotech experts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Encouraging scientists at Bharat Biotech for their endeavour to develop the Covaxin vaccine against Covid-19, Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan during her visit to Genome Valley stated that she was motivated by them.

With scientists working in the field of vaccine development for 25 years, there is hope to tackle Covid-19. With the world and India looking forward to the Covaxin vaccine Dr Soundararajan insisted that it must be affordable for all.

## STATE REPORTS 2,072 FRESH COVID POSITIVES, 283 IN GHMC AREA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation that has been recording the highest number of new Covid-19 cases every day, also has the most number of active cases. Of the 29,477 active cases in the state as on Tuesday, the GHMC area had 4,026, Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao told reporters on Tuesday.

The state registered 2,072 new cases of Covid-19 and nine more deaths, taking the total to 1,89,233 as on Monday evening and fatalities to 1,116. Greater Hyderabad registered the most cases for

the day with 283, followed by Ranga Reddy district with 161, Medchal-Malkajgiri 160, Nalgonda 139, Karimnagar 109, Khammam 92, Warangal Urban and Bhadur Kothagudem 85 each, and Siddipet with 78 new Covid-19 cases.

As many as 1,58,690 Covid-19 patients have recovered so far in the state, Dr Srinivasa Rao told reporters on Tuesday.

He also said that the Covid-19 positivity rate was at four per cent of the daily tests being conducted and as on Tuesday, Telangana state had conducted a total of 15,16,796 tests.

WELFARE | SCHEME

**Since 2017, TS govt has distributed four crore saris, produced 30 lakh metres of cloth**

## Bathukamma sari distribution at doorstep: KTR

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Handlooms minister K.T. Rama Rao has said that Bathukamma saris will be delivered to the beneficiaries at their doorstep to prevent congregations of people during the pandemic.

He said that the distribution of saris will start on October 9 for the Bathukamma festival celebrations on October 17.

He was addressing a press conference on Tuesday along with ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Satyavathi Rathod, after inspecting a display of saris that will be distributed to the people, at Haritha Plaza, Begumpet, on Tuesday.

Recalling the suicide of handloom weavers prior to the formation of Telangana state in Sircilla area, the minister said that such incidents do not occur now. The government has been working towards the welfare of the weavers. In the past six years, the government has introduced many welfare schemes for them.

Mentioning the

duced 30 lakh metres of cloth and spent about ₹1,033 crore on the project. "This year, the government has spent ₹317.81 crores on Bathukamma saris," he said.

Sari distribution will begin on October 9 under the supervision of district collectors and will take place through local women groups. "The saris have been produced with 287 designs. A total of 99 lakh sarees will be distributed this year," Rama Rao said.

Recalling the suicide of

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area, the minister said

that such incidents do not

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years, the government has

introduced many welfare

schemes for them.

Mentioning the

## Traffic blockers



Many vehicles parked in front of the Maternity Hospital in Koti in violation of traffic rules is causing traffic jams and hardship to the commuters, on Tuesday.

**TESTING MUST BE INCREASED, SAYS ETALA**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Health minister Etala Rajendar on Tuesday instructed his department officials not to let up their efforts to further control Covid-19 amidst the improved outlook for the state with the number of cases coming down slowly.

Rajendar also said that there should be no let-up in testing and the test numbers must be increased, and contact tracing must be continued with vigour.

The minister's instructions came at a meeting where he reviewed the Covid-19 situation.

Rajendar instructed officials to expand services in all hospitals, including Gandhi Hospital, the designated Covid-19 treatment excellence centre, and to begin treating patient with other conditions. This is required so that postgraduate medical students gain the required experience and can complete their education as required, he said.

**EVERY BED WILL HAVE OXYGEN, SAYS DME**

From Page 1

Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy said the state government was on its way to turning every bed in government hospitals into an oxygen bed. It is not just for Covid-19. All beds will be equipped with oxygen lines and can be used for better patient care and outcomes for health conditions such as asthma or other diseases.

The downward trend of Covid-19 in Telangana state shows that it is on the right track to containing the disease. The main reason is that the government took the required steps and people have also begun to take more care of their health, Dr Ramesh Reddy said.

It is confirmed that loss of smell and taste are the first two symptoms and when that occurs, it is very important to opt for testing. These are the indicators of the virus in present times and they must not be neglected.

## Covid-19 virus stays in body for 90 days

### Isolation period of Covid-19 patients being re-evaluated

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Covid-19 causing SARS CoV-2 stays for 90 days in the bodies of critically ill patients who have recovered, according to analysis of clinical data obtained from various hospitals.

- 15 minutes is the time for the infection to pass from one person to another.

- Home isolation is the best modality for treatment for mild and moderate cases.

- Mortality increases after 12 years of age.

- Masks and social distancing are the best universal prevention methods and must be strictly followed.

- Super spreaders are the ones who shed the most virus and for that reason public gatherings must be avoided.

tant to understand the isolation process. For healthcare workers, we are finding that RT-PCR is positive but they are asymptomatic. In this category of patients, the antibody levels are being checked every week. According to the antibody levels, it is decided whether they must re-join duty.

The infection status is important as across all sectors, it is important to get people back to work without fear and stigma. The Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) has derived protocols from various studies for doctors to follow in the region which will help them in understanding and also treating the disease better.

They state that the RT-PCR Ct(cycle threshold) is the gold standard for Covid-19 testing. Ct is important as it helps to know if the test is a false positive.

days. After 90 days, the onset of other diseases or infections in them are not Covid-19.

Those who are severely

immune-compromised and suffered critical illness are infectious for 90

days. After 90 days, the onset of other diseases or infections in them are not Covid-19.

Dr Mustafa Afzal, senior infectious disease specialist at Care Hospitals, said,

"The assessment is impor-

tant to understand the iso-

lation process. For health-

care workers, we are find-

ing that zinc is the min-

eral and Vitamin D the

vitamin that require sup-

plication during the time

of the disease. Day five is

the most crucial day in

Covid-19's phase from the

various analysis of criti-

cal patients."

He said Day three is

when pneumonia may

develop and it can turn

serious by the fifth day. If

til then, pneumonia is not

diagnosed it will become a

challenge. To reduce mor-

tality, it is important that

diagnosis must be right-

ly done and people must

approach hospitals on

time," Dr Agarwal said.

It is confirmed that loss

of smell and taste are the

first two symptoms and

when that occurs, it is

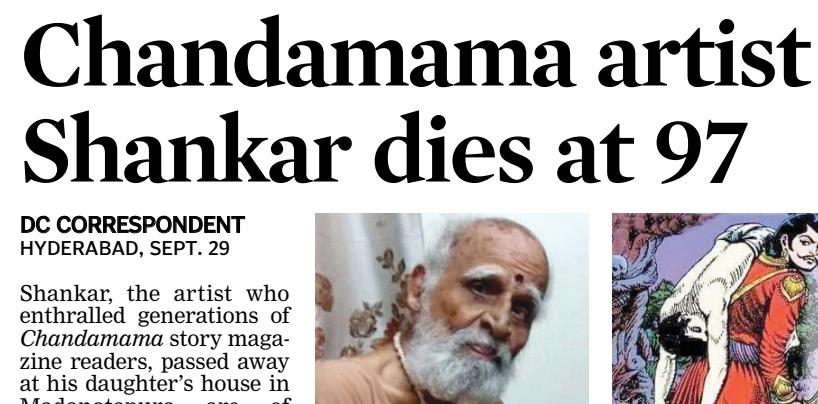
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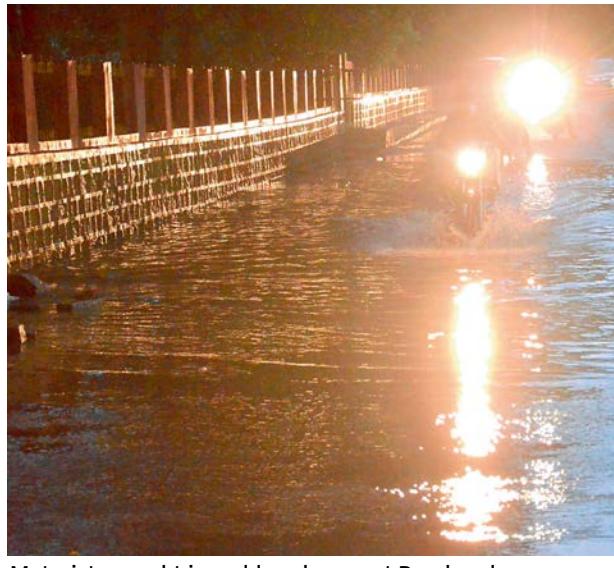
zine, was an iconic image, recognised by anyone who had ever read the magazine as a child or as an adult.

He provided illustrations to 700 of the Vikramarka and Betala stories for the magazine.

In addition, Shankar had illustrated the serialised Ramayana, Mahabharata, as well as thousands of other stories that made Chandamama a must read story magazine.

According to information reaching here, Shankar was depressed over the past few days and was constantly reminiscing about Chandamama and his association with it.

## An evening in monsoon



Motorists caught in sudden shower at Borabanda on Tuesday evening. — DC

# 16 districts in state get excess rain

**Monsoon withdrawal to begin from second week of October**

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

## SUDDEN SHOWER LASHES MANY PARTS OF CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon over the state will begin in the second week of October. The withdrawal began in the northwestern parts of the country on Monday.

As of September 29, there were 16 districts with a large excess in rainfall, 11 in excess, six normal, and no districts with any rain deficit.

The average temperature after the monsoon is expected to be normal.

"We can say that the monsoon this year has been a surplus. As far as withdrawal of the monsoon is concerned, it has already begun in the northern parts of the country. Also, the weather in the state is changing gradually. We can expect light rains or dry weather prevailing till the end of the second week of October," Dr K. Nagaratna, director, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

The drop in temperature, she said, would come into effect from the third week of October, which would mark the onset of winter.

# Cops solve kidnap case, arrest four

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

They claimed they were from the military intelligence and needed to arrest Nikhil's father's friend who they said was a terrorist.

They took blindfolded him, bundled him into a car and took him to an Ayurvedic medical store located at Hafeezpet where the members of the gang had donned military uniforms.

They wanted his father to come to there and call his friend.

Later, they took ₹26,000 from Nikhil saying they would procure station bail for him, and dropped him back at BHEL and took away his car (TS09 FF 0891). Nikhil later went to the police.

Police said that on September 5, the gang surrounded Nikhil who had gone to the BHEL area.

# HC rejects plea to raze public toilet

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA  
1 DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Telangana High Court has refused to order the dismantling of a public toilet at Begum Bazaar which has been at the spot for 60 years.

Mirza Sarfaraz Baig, Trilok Lal Yadav and two others from Old Feekhanna, Begum Bazaar, had approached the court to shift the toilet elsewhere, as it was located adjacent to

their premises. They said the toilet was in a dilapidated condition for long and was not being maintained. It was causing a foul smell in the area.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) counsel said the toilet was proposed to be renovated, and ₹1.6 lakh had been sanctioned but the work was delayed by the pandemic. The toilets were being used by traders and commuters for decades.

## DRIVER WHO FLED AFTER ROAD ACCIDENT ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

A driver who was accused of culpable homicide following a fatal road accident was sent to jail for 14 days. The accident occurred

on September 27 at about 7:30 pm on the service road of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) at Manchirevula under the Narsingi police limits in Cyberabad. The accused, Vankayalapati Srikanth,

31, was driving his car (TS10 EM 3069) from TS Police Academy to Gachibowli and the driver entered the opposite lane while trying to overtake a vehicle, and crashed into an oncoming scooter.

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## MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated in Bombay as a private limited company on February 26, 1934 as Mazagon Dock Private Limited with the Registrar of Companies, Bombay under the Indian Companies Act, 1931. For further details in connection with change in name and registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters-Brief history of our Company" and "History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the Registered Office" on pages 149 and 149 respectively, of the Red Herring Prospectus dated September 19, 2020 ("RHP").

Registered and Corporate Office: Dockyard Road, Mumbai - 400010, Maharashtra, India. Contact Person: Vijayalakshmi Kumar, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone: +91 22 2376 2000 E-mail: [investor@mazdock.com](mailto:investor@mazdock.com) Website: [https://mazgondock.in](http://mazgondock.in); Corporate Identity Number: U3510MH1934GOI002079

### OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 30,599,017 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹10 PER EQUITY SHARE (THE "OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING TO ₹30.599 MILLION (THE "OFFER"). 345,517 EQUITY SHARES HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (AS DEFINED IN THE RHP) (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS REFERRED TO AS THE NET OFFER. THE OFFER WILL COMprise OF A NET OFFER OF 30,253,500 EQUITY SHARES AND THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION OF 345,517 EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER WILL CONSTITUTE 15.17% AND 15.00% RESPECTIVELY OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

**QIB Portion:** Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | **Retail Portion:** Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | **Employee Reservation Portion:** Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | **Employee Reservation Portion:** 345,517 Equity Shares

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### UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors ("RIIs")\*\*.

Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.

UPI – Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Bidders applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

\*ASBA has to be availed by all the investors. UPI may be availed by RIIs.

For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and Abridged Prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 360 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of AIBL and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA Forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in).

\*\*List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in). For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in). ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018. For other related grievance investors may contact: YES Securities (India) Limited - Mr. Mukesh Garg/ Mr. Pratik Pednekar (+91 22 3012 6919) ([ig@ysil.in](mailto:ig@ysil.in)); Axis Capital Limited - Ms. Mayuri Arya/ Mr. Akash Aggarwal (+91 22 4232 2183) ([complaints@axiscap.in](mailto:complaints@axiscap.in)); Edelweiss Financial Services Limited - Ms. Nishita John (+91 22 4009 4400) ([customerservice.mnb@edelweissfin.com](mailto:customerservice.mnb@edelweissfin.com)); Edelweiss Securities Limited - Ms. Madhuri Tawde (+91 22 4063 5569) ([madhuri.tawde@edelweissfin.com](mailto:madhuri.tawde@edelweissfin.com)); DAM Capital Advisors Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Securities Limited) - Mr. Gaurav Mittal (+91 22 4202 2500) ([complaint@damcapital.in](mailto:complaint@damcapital.in)) or JM Financial Limited - Ms. Prachee Dhuri (+91 22 6630 3030) ([grievance.ibd@jmfi.com](mailto:grievance.ibd@jmfi.com)). For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and Mail Id: [ipo.upi@npci.org.in](mailto:ipo.upi@npci.org.in).

Risks to Investors:

- i. The five Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 23 public offers in the past three years, out of which 9 issues closed below the offer price on listing date.
- ii. Price/Earning ratio based on diluted EPS for Fiscal 2020 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is as high as 6.79.
- iii. Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholder in Offer is ₹ 16.47 per Equity Share and Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 145.
- iv. Weighted average return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2020, 2019 and 2018 is 16.21%.

**BID/OFFER PROGRAMME**

**BID/OFFER OPEN**

**BID/OFFER CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020**

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a public notice and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members.

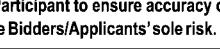
The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCR"), read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIB Portion"), 5% of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only. The remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, 345,517 Equity Shares have been offered for allocation and allotment on a proportionate basis to the Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, conditional upon valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders shall participate in the Offer mandatorily through the Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing the details of their respective bank accounts (including UPI ID, in case of RIIs) which will be blocked by the SCSBs or the bank accounts linked with the UPI ID, as applicable, to participate in the Offer. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 360 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and Client ID (as applicable) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active.

Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

### BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS



### AXIS CAPITAL LIMITED

Address: Axis House, 1st Floor, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025

Telephone: +91 22 4200 4400

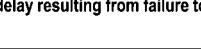
Email: [mdl.ipo@axiscap.in](mailto:mdl.ipo@axiscap.in)

Website: [www.axiscapital.co.in](http://www.axiscapital.co.in)

Investor Grievance ID: [complaints@axiscap.in](mailto:complaints@axiscap.in)

Contact Person: Kamal Arora/ Abhinav Sehgal

SEBI Registration Number: INM00001029



### EDELWEISS FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Address: 14th Floor, Edelweiss House, Off. C.S.T. Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098

## SHORT TAKES

## MANUU TO HOLD WEBINAR ON OCTOBER 1

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) will organise a national webinar and panel discussion on October 1 in connection with the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

The webinar, 'Mahatma Gandhi in contemporary times', will be organised by the School of Education and Training and NSS Cell of Manuu from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Prof. Mohan Kant Gautam, Unesco, the Netherlands will be the guest speaker. Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Manuu Vice Chancellor, will be the chief patron and Prof. Siddiqui Mohd. Mahmood, university registrar, will be the patron.

To mark Gandhi Jayanti, a panel discussion, titled 'The relevance of Gandhiji in modern times' will be organised on October 1 at 11.30 am. Prof. Mahmood will moderate the discussion and Prof. Afroz Alam, head of the political science department, and Captain Pandu Ranga Rao, renowned historian will be the panelists.

## DO NOT SPARE MOINABAD CASE ACCUSED: ALI

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

Home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Tuesday called on police officials not to spare any efforts to bring Bathuk Madhusudhan from Moinabad, accused in the case relating to the alleged rape and murder of a young woman, to book and ensure punishment as per law.

The police had first booked Madhusudhan, a local Telangana Rashtra Samiti leader, under much simpler provisions of the Indian Penal Code after the girl – claimed by the police to be 20-years-old but by her family as 17-years-old – was discovered dead in his house on September 25.

It was after much outcry by social activists and political parties, with the exception of the TRS, that the police were forced to book Madhusudhan under more stringent charges of rape and abetment to suicide under the Nirbhaya Act.

The girl's family, however, continued to insist that the deceased did not commit suicide but was killed by Madhusudhan who staged the scene to make it appear as if the girl killed herself because she was suffering from a stomach ache.

It was only on September 28 that the Cyberabad police changed the Indian Penal Code provisions under which Madhusudhan was charged afresh and announced his arrest.

The minister, who reviewed the investigations into the case with top Cyberabad police officials, said the state government has a zero-tolerance policy towards crimes against women and directed the officials to submit their investigation reports at the earlier.

**IT WAS** after much outcry by social activists and political parties, with the exception of the TRS, that the police were forced to book Madhusudhan under more stringent charges of rape and abetment to suicide under the Nirbhaya Act.

**IT WAS** only on September 28 that the Cyberabad police changed the Indian Penal Code provisions under which Madhusudhan was charged afresh and announced his arrest.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that Smt. G. P. Premalatha, W/o. Sri. G. Parmeshwar Rao, has offered the property bearing H. No. 12-13-522, 522A & 522B, Plot No. 20, admeasuring 350 Sq. Yds. Sy. No. 168, Nagarjuna Nagar, Lalaguda, Tarnaka, Secunderabad, as a security in favour of my client Axis Bank Ltd., in respect of proposed loan facilities. If any person/s or institution have any claim, right or interest whatsoever nature in the said property, they may submit their objections to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice with all relevant papers. If no objections are received, my client will proceed with the said mortgage and no objections will be entertained thereafter.

(VAMARAJU SRI KRISHNA) Advocate  
1-9-309/A, Achyut Reddy Marg,  
Vidya Nagar, Hyderabad.  
Phone No. 27632356

## BJP stages protest



BJP activists stage a protest demanding the withdrawal of the land regularisation scheme, and allocation of two bedroom houses, at the Secunderabad mandal revenue office.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

# Ahead of Dubbaka poll, TRS man may join Cong

## EC announces bypoll on Nov. 3, results Nov. 10

S.A. ISHAQI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

**THE CONGRESS** had earlier thought of fielding Padmini Reddy, wife of former deputy chief minister Damodar Rajanarayana but may now consider Srinivas Reddy, TRS leader, if he defects.

expecting that the TRS would field him, but the party has given indications that it will be nominate Ramalinga Reddy's wife Sujata for the bypoll.

The model code of conduct came into force with immediate effect in Siddipet district. The constituency fell vacant following the death of sitting MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy.

As political activity intensified, Srinivas Reddy, TRS leader and former minister Mutym Reddy's son, may shift to the Congress. He was

The Dubbaka constituency was created in place of Dommata in 2009 as part of the delimitation of Assembly constituencies in the then undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Mutyam Reddy and Ramalinga Reddy were elected four times each from Dubbaka and Dommata Assembly constituencies since 1989.

Mutyam Reddy joined the TRS after he was denied a ticket by the Congress in 2018. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had assured him of a post, as the nominations had been firm up by then.

Mutyam Reddy died in September last year at the age of 74 due to illness. Since then, his son Srinivas Reddy has been

active in the TRS.

Raghunandan Rao, the BJP leader who had lost in 2018 against Ramalinga Reddy, is expecting the ticket this time too.

The notification will be issued on October 9 inviting nominations.

The last date for filing nominations will be October 16, and they will be scrutinised on October 17. The last date for withdrawal is October 19. The election process will be completed before November 12.

The Election Commission had declared that the qualifying date for electoral rolls for the constituency will be January 1, 2020. Electronic voting machines and VVPATs have been kept ready for the byelection.

## MIM OFFERS A VIABLE OPTION IN BIHAR: OWAISI

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi claimed that the people of Bihar are "tired" of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and need a viable option which the United Democratic Secular Alliance (UDSA), a coalition of the MIM and the Samajwadi Janata Dal, can provide.

"This time the result will be very good in Bihar," Owaisi said, speaking to the media at the party's headquarters Darussalam. "We trust in democracy and want to strengthen it and get our rights by participating in the elections."

Owaisi criticised the Rashtriya Janata Dal for accusing the MIM of indirectly supporting the BJP by fielding its candidates. "Whenever we participate in the elections the parties which pose as being secular accuse us of being the B Team (of the BJP). Every data confirms that by fielding our candidates, the BJP does not benefit but the MIM gains," Owaisi said.

He refuted the allegation that he was raising the issue of Kashi and Mathura with an eye on the Bihar elections. He said he had indicated about the possibility of these issues being raised when the Supreme Court had delivered the verdict on the Ayodhya issue.

There is an agreement with the Idgah committee and the Shree Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan. They have raised the issue because they have got the back-up with the apex court's verdict. They think that the court has upheld a belief and could do so again."

On the farmers' protest against three controversial Acts, Owaisi said that Bills presented in Parliament by the Narendra Modi government were unconstitutional.

**THE SEC** had sought the opinions and views of political parties with respect to conducting the GHMC elections through EVMs or ballot papers.

the pros and cons of both the options, they had requested more information. The SEC had not responded, Shashidhar Reddy said.

The Congress has said it will give its opinion to the State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday. The MIM will also meet the SEC on Wednesday to inform its stand.

The SEC had sought the opinions and views of political parties with respect to conducting the GHMC elections through EVMs or ballot papers.

TPCC election commission coordination committee chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy said party representatives had met the SEC on September 25.

"Both options are not risk free," he said.

Since the SEC did not provide any note with

through ballot papers, the process of casting votes vide EVMs is faster and ensures minimum contact with unnecessary objects and persons.

The BJP pointed out that to vote through a ballot paper, a person would have to physically come in contact with an officer handling the ballot papers and take a ballot paper. The voter would also have to handle an object to affix his voting stamp. It said that the casting of votes with ballot papers will take time, there are chances of rigging and circulating of votes.

In contrast, a voter using an EVM will not have to handle any object and would only have to press a button to cast the vote.

The BJP pointed out that the Election Commission of India had announced that the Bihar Assembly elections will be conducted through EVMs since the process is much faster.

## No jobs, houses, huts of Adivasis demolished

RAVINDRA  
SESHU | DC  
KOTHAGODEM, SEPT. 29

ITDA officials ignored their promise.

Instead, revenue officials took the help of police who took into custody of all the elders including Adivasi leader Vasam Ramakrishna.

The police then demolished the huts. The children, who did not know the whereabouts of their parents, were frantic. They were shocked when earth-moving machines and JCBs demolishing their homes, with a posse of police personnel watching.

The Adivasis now do not have their huts, 2BHK houses nor jobs. The promise of 2BHK

houses was made by Chunchupalli mandal tahsildar Nagaraju.

The government said it had allocated land at Palle Pragathivanam.

Adivasi leader Ramakrishna said, "We are being meted out injustice for the last three and a half decades. No official had fulfilled his promise. In the present incident, the revenue officials did not follow any moral principles and demolished the homes by deceitful means. This is the state of affairs towards Adivasis who are called the original inhabitants."

## REPORT GIVEN

Hyderabad: Laxmi Rani and Murali Krishnam, parents of Yogi Hemant Kumar, who was kidnapped and murdered by his wife Avanti's family, were called by the Gachibowli police and handed over his post-mortem report. They were accompanied by Hemant's wife Avanti and brother Sumanth. Madhapur DCP Venkateswarlu handed over a copy of the report.

## 10th Anniversary Remembrance

"...the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance" Psalm.112:6  
**CHITHARI VIDYANANDAM**  
Gift of Life : 03-01-1952 Promoted to Glory : 30-09-2010  
"You Left us Beautiful Memories, Your Love is still our Guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side."  
Inserted by  
Wife - Vara Kumari (Munna), Sons, Daughter-in-Law Grand Children & All Family Members  
Ph : 798919567, 9849472722, 032703077  
(S/2021/D00656)

## SHRADANJALI

**Mrs. RAJINI GEORGE**  
w/o E. George Sunandam (Vikarabad)  
DOB: 17.03.1953 DOD: 26.09.2020  
We lovingly invite you all for a time of thanksgiving today (30th Sept.) at 7 pm at CSI Wesley Church, Clock Tower, Secunderabad.  
Inserted by: Loving Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-law and Grandchildren  
Mobile: 98983 95336  
(CA-3425)

## 10th DAY CEREMONY

**SRI MANDALA GNANESHWAR**  
Deputy Manager, BDL (Retd.)  
DOB: 15-06-1948 D.O.D: 22-09-2020  
On 30-09-2020 (Wednesday) At Plot No. 10, 1st Floor, 10th Floor Colony, Opp. ACC Apartments, Kharkana, Sec-bad - 500 011.  
Inserted by Smt. M. Subadra (Wife & Family Members) Cell: 77806 62961

## IN REMEMBRANCE

I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.  
**REV. SAMUEL DATT**  
DOB: 03-09-1898 D.O.D: 02-05-1971  
A National Pioneer of the Methodist Church in India who was an outstanding Clergyman for over 50 years known for his devoted Ministry and consecrated life. We miss you and remember you daily.  
Inserted by: Shakuntala & Kenneth Datt  
(S/2021/D00657)

## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. - Psalms 112:6  
**Mr. P. ANANDAM**  
Retd. Principal, TSRS  
DOB: 01-02-1959 DOD: 30-09-2017  
Your memories are a treasure for our lifetime, from which we will never part. God has you in His arms, we have in ours. In our hearts You will fondly remember and immensely missed!  
Mrs. P. Shantha Anandan (Wife)  
(Son) Praveen - Priyadarshini (Daughter-in-Law)  
Daughters - Latha, Sons - In-Law and Grand Children.  
Ph: 9912224160 / 040-27899040.

## 10th DAY CEREMONY

**NALLA EASHWARAYYA**  
(Retd. Appointed Municipal Commissioner)  
Directorate of Municipal Administration  
DOB: 21-09-1930  
10th Day Ceremony on 30-09-2020 at Residence - Plot No.31, Janakapuri Colony, Near Karkhana, Secunderabad - 500 009.  
Inserted By: Wife Nalla Sakkubai, Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-Law and Grand Children.  
Dr. P. Narayan Swamy (MBBS, M.Sc., M.Ed., CIPE (LONDON)) District Educational Officer(Retd)  
DOB: 18-05-1950 - DOD: 21-09-2020  
"Always in our thoughts forever in our heart"  
By: Wife J. Suprema, Brother J. Prasad Brother : Sri Smt. Late J. Mallesh & Lakshmi Ph. No : 7396470694

## OBITUARY

We regret to inform that our beloved mother T. Ramamajammal passed away on 16th September, 2020.  
**Smt. T. RAMANUJAMMAL**  
DOB: 01-01-1929 DOD: 16-09-2020  
"We pray to God for her soul to rest in peace"  
We are performing 15th Day Ceremony today September 30th 2020 at our residence H No 20 Sri Venkateshwara Colony, Yaprak JNCC Post Sec-bad-500087. Ph: 79893631218  
Inserted by: SONS, DAUGHTERS AND FAMILY

## OBITUARY

**LATE S. ABHAYJIT SINGH JI CHHABRA**  
(Bunty Seth)  
S/o. Late S. Jasbir Singh JI Chhabra  
Grand S/o. Late S. Ranjit Kaur JI Chhabra  
Grand S/o. Late S. Sunder Singh JI Chhabra  
DOB: 04-11-1966 - DOD: 30-09-1987  
**Samarjit Singh Chhabra**  
(SONNU BHAI) Turkeyamjal  
9246117224, 9963599944

## 1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

LK: 23-43 Today you will be with me in Paradise.  
**T. DENNY**  
DOB: 30-09-2019  
Join us for Mass at St. Mary's Basilica at 6 am to celebrate his life of divinity & glory.  
Fondly remembered by: WIFE & CHILDREN  
(S/2021/D00654)

## SAD DEMISE

**DR. JAYAGIRI PARAM KISHAN RAO**  
Expired on 26-09-2020  
In Grief: DEEPAK Kumar desai (Husband)  
(B/P Senior Leader Kapra Divison/UPLL Assembly), Abhishek Deepak Kumar Desai, Dharmen Deepak Kumar Desai (Sons)  
Kinjal Abhishek Desai, Nikita Dharmen Desai (Daughter in Laws), Grand Children: Shresth, Tihan, Kshama, Haynya.  
Address: 1-4-210/65/A, Netaji Nagar, Kapra, Hyderabad 50103, Code: 9985949663.

## 11th Day Ceremony

We announce his passing on Sep 17th  
Funeral was held on 18th Sep 2020.  
Deeply Mourned By:  
JAYAGIRI SHANTHA - Wife  
Sons & Daughters in Law  
RAGHU KISHORE & ARCHANA  
SANTOSH KUMAR & SRAVANI  
Daughter & Son in Law  
RADHIKA & KALYAN RAM

## 6th ANNIVERSARY

**Mrs. ADITI KUMAR**  
W/o Col. Sanjay Kumar  
DOB: 18-09-1967 DOD: 30-09-2014  
Not a day goes by without you in our thoughts. You will always remain in our hearts forever.  
Inserted by:  
Col. Sanjay Kumar (Husband)  
Akul & Akash (Sons) & Family Members (M: 949219

## IN BRIEF

**Lightning kills man, 2 injured**

**Khammam:** Iluru Vasudeva Reddy, a registered medical practitioner in Gannavaram, died due to a lightning strike at Thatipudi under Wyra mandal on Tuesday. Two others sustained injuries. The incident took place when they had taken shelter under a tree near Thatipudi. Police said Vasudeva Reddy died on the spot. The two injured persons were shifted to hospital in Khammam for treatment.

**Gang loots petrol bunk in Bodhan**

**Hyderabad:** A gang of thieves suspected to be from Maharashtra robbed a petrol pump in Bodhan on Sunday night. The masked thieves threw stones at the workers, snatched the cash bag and money stored in the cash counter and fled. The incident occurred at about 11.15 pm according to a complaint lodged by Shirdi Sai Jyothi filling station on Bodhan bypass lane. Petrol bunk owner Venkateswarlu said the attack was caught on CCTV cameras. Police is examining the footage to identify the gang. — INN

**State permits multimedia classes**

**Hyderabad:** The state government on Tuesday informed the High Court that it would allow three polytechnic colleges, which had got approval from the AICTE, to conduct the 3D Animation and Graphics, Animation and Multimedia Technology and Fashion Technology courses. The three colleges had approached the court complaining that the Commissioner of Technical Education had not accorded them the no-objection certificate to conduct the courses, despite their securing approval from the All India Council for Technical Education. Vani Reddy, counsel for the government, told the court that orders will be issued in this regard.

**COPS ARREST 5 FOR CHEATING USING OLX**

**HARLEEN MINOCHA I DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Cyberabad cyber-crime police special team on Tuesday apprehended five fraudsters using the online trading platform Olx from Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. They have been accused of committing 40 crimes, 15 in Cyberabad, 18 in Hyderabad, six in Rachakonda and one in Nizamabad.

Police said the accused confessed to this upon their arrest. The police seized two mobile phones, 12 ATM cards, 21 SIM cards and ₹1 lakh in cash. The accused have been identified as Rukhmin, Murfed, Saikul Khan, Sharukh, and Rakham Khan.

A team led by inspector M. Ravinder Reddy was formed after an increase in the number of frauds. The special team, after picking up clues, went to different places in Bharatpur district and stayed there for two weeks. They gathered information locally and apprehended the accused persons with the support of the local district police.

V.C. Sajjanar, the commissioner of Cyberabad police, has advised the public to not believe advertisements posted by unknown callers without physical verification of the product and verifying the genuineness of websites and apps while searching for any buying or selling.

He asked them not to believe blindly an ad on OLX about two-wheeler, four-wheeler vehicle, mobile phone, sofa set, etc., especially posted in the name of Army or CISF personnel. Cricket betting racket busted.



Traders dry and sell onions on pavements at the Uppal Metro station after Malakpet and Kothapet markets were closed, in Hyderabad on Tuesday. They said it is difficult to store onions in monsoon. — GANDHI

**Police bust cricket betting racket, 1 held**

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The North Zone Task Force busted a cricket betting racket on Tuesday, arresting a person and seizing ₹45,000. On Monday night, during the match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians, accused Karnati Sudheer, 46, resident of East Marredpally, under Tukaramgate police station limits.

The main organiser is said to be Prachi, a resident of Jaipur, Rajasthan.

**HAPPY RETIREMENT**

**Shri NANDAGIRI MADAN MOHAN**  
Tahsildar - Endowments Department,  
Govt. of Telangana &  
**Smt. NANDAGIRI VEENA DEVI,**  
In charge of Govt. of India  
Inscribed by:  
Sunil Ghanathe, Ganga Ghanathe,  
Sneha, Sohan & Ghanathe Family.  
(S/2021/D/00658)

**URDU ACADEMY TO CONSTRUCT ITS OWN BUILDING**

**ATHER MOIN I DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Urdu Academy has proposed to construct its own building on the land allotted to it by the government in Manikonda. The academy is presently housed in Haj House.

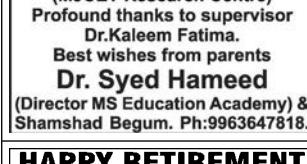
The government had allotted 1.04 acre of land on Survey No. 29 in Manikonda village, Serilingampally mandal, in 2002 to the minorities welfare department for the construction of Urdu Ghar cum Shadikhana. The land has been kept vacant since 18 years, and not put to use for the purpose for which it was allotted. Now the Urdu Academy wants to utilise the land and construct a building complex of ground plus three floors to house its offices.

Secretary Urdu Academy, Dr Mohammed Ghousie has addressed a letter to the Chief Engineer, Telangana State Medical Service and Infrastructure Development Corporation, requesting the official to furnish a plan and estimates for construction of the proposed building.

The academy also plans to construct a research centre-cum-library on the open land of 1,673 sq. yards in the Old City.

**Congratulations!!!**

**Dr. SALMA FAUZIA**  
W/o. Dr. Abdul Gafoor.  
Awarded by  
Dr. Kalem Fatima.  
Best wishes from parents  
**Dr. Syed Hameed**  
(Director MS Education Academy) & Shamshad Begum. Ph:9963647818.

**HAPPY RETIREMENT**

**Mrs.C.ANTHONIAMMA**  
W/o.Late C.Vijaypuri  
Completing 36 Years of service in State  
Government Hospitals & Retiring as Nursing  
Superintendent from Niloufer Children Hospital, Hyd.  
We are proud of the work you have done.  
The person you are and the difference  
you have made in people's life.

**Prices of essential commodities soar****Hike in prices burdens consumers amidst the pandemic**

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

the retail market cost ₹120 a kg and ladies' finger ₹80.

Md. Riyaz Khan, a wholesaler with Kohinoor House, Begum Bazaar, said most prices have gone up. Sona Masoori rice is now costlier by ₹6 a kilo. Tur dal, which was ₹85 per kilo is now ₹105.

The price of edible oils have shot up too. A 15-kg can of sunflower oil which was ₹1,500 a month ago is now selling at ₹1,800. A 15-kg can of palm oil which was ₹1,200 is now ₹1,500.

"Business is very dull, there are hardly any customers," said Khan.

● **MIDDLE AND** the lower middle-class citizens are the primary victims of this price hike. The families which used to buy vegetables in kilos for daily consumption are now restricted to buying a quarter kilogram. French beans in the retail market cost ₹120 a kg and ladies' finger ₹80.

Shaillaja Jayawanth, a retired teacher, grieves over this price rise: "It will be difficult for a common person to bear this load in this time of Covid-19 crisis. The government should intervene and regulate the prices."

On the other hand, diesel prices have gone up as well and this means the transportation of the commodities will also be affected.

"I bought a quarter kilo of French beans for ₹30. Name any vegetable, the rates are very high. It will be tough for the family. My husband is the only bread winner in the family. We have two children. If these rates continue, we will have a difficult time," said Vindya Salla, a housewife.

# INDIAN NAVY

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**ALLEGATIONS OF NAIDU NOT TRUE: SAWANG**

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 29

The flurry of letters exchanged between Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and AP DGP Gautam Sawang continued on Tuesday, with the police official replying to the Opposition leader on the attack on S. Ramachandra, brother of suspended judge S. Ramakrishna.

The TD had alleged the YSRC activists were behind the attack and appointed a fact-finding committee into the incident, comprising former MLAs Pasam Sunil Kumar and Nelalava Subramanyam and party leaders Pantagani Narasimha Prasad, J. D. Rajasekhar and A. Peter.

Sawang wrote that Naidu's allegations were far from the truth and informed that the victim had suffered minor injuries due to his drunken state as much as the physical scuffle. Naidu had written an open letter to Sawang on Saturday alleging that the YSRC government was responsible for the attack on Ramachandra. TD leaders accused YSRC leaders including minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy for the attack.

Sawang stated that ironically, while the TD chief tried to accuse the YSRC of orchestrating the attack in order to "silence the dissenting voice of judge Ramakrishna", the investigation revealed that the accused (Prathap Reddy) was a "staunch TD supporter."

**WOMAN PAYS ₹2 LAKH TO KILL HUSBAND**

D SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC

KURNOOL, SEPT. 29

Vexed with deviant behaviour of her husband, Durgamma, a native of Sivapuram village, hired five contract killers for ₹ 2 lakh to eliminate her husband Gangaiah.

According to Atmakur D. S. P. J. Venkata Rao, Durgamma had repeatedly complained to police that her husband had been abusing her daily in an inebriated condition. Despite counselling by police, Gangaiah, a native of Chinna Gummalapuram village, did not mend his ways.

Durgamma had married Gangaiah about 15 years ago. They have two children aged 11 years and 12 years. Because of their father's behaviour, the kids were living with Durgamma's parents in Chinna Gummalapuram since a few years.

In the interim, Durgamma was also having an affair with another person. As such, she decided not to go through the turmoil of her husband and gave ₹2 lakh contract to five youth of Sivapuram village. The gang took Rs. 1 lakh from Durgamma as advance. On Sunday night, the gang took Gangaiah to a nearby forest in the name of drink and dinner. After they all consumed liquor, the contract killers attacked on Gangaiah and strangled him with a towel. After confirming his death, they left the body in the deep forests, three kilometres from the killing spot, the D.S.P. disclosed.

One of the killers got injured and on questioning by their village people, the five youth confessed to the killing.

They villagers admitted the injured youth to the Government General Hospital in Kurnool which the other youth absconded from their village.



Hydrochloride acid been transferred from the leaking truck into a new vehicle under the supervision of NDRF and police opposite Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, in Guntur, on Tuesday.

— ELETI TEJO ROY

**Gas leaks from tanker on NH-16**

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 29

The leakage of hydrochloric acid from a tanker created panic at Kaza tollgate in Guntur on the Vijayawada-Chennai national highway-16 on Tuesday but alerted officials immediately shifted the tanker to a safer place.

The driver of the tanker observed acid leaking

when the lorry stopped at the tollgate and he and the tollgate staff informed officials who immediately shifted the vehicle with the help of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel to an open place, the Bible mission grounds, opposite Acharya Nagarjuna University.

Mangalagiri rural circle inspector, P. Seshagiri

Rao, said that the NDRF and fire department officials, with the support of a mechanic, controlled the leakage by fixing a cap and informed the filling station authorities in Rajahmundry.

The vehicle had started from Rajahmundry on Monday night after filling the hydrochloric acid into the tanker was moving towards Chennai.

# Agency, source of ganja for filmstars

## The weed is grown in over 10,000 acres

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC

VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 29

The origin point of ganja, smoked by film stars and staff of Bollywood, Tollywood or others, lies in the Agency tracts of Visakhapatnam and border villages of Odisha. The psychoactive drug of this area is rich in quality and coveted throughout the country. Sources said Shilavathi, a variety of weed grown in the area, is highly popular among users.

Cannabis and other varieties of psychotropic drugs caught national attention after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and subsequent arrest of his co-stars and female friends from Bollywood.

Inside sources disclose that after MD, the most popular drug used by Bollywood actors is ganja, sold under code name Dubies. While cocaine, LSD and MD are imported or sourced from Goa and

Bengaluru, ganja is mostly procured by agents from the Visakh agency area.

While ganja grown in Kulu and Manali in Uttarakhand is mostly converted into hashish or charas, the crop grown in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand is largely consumed locally and hardly crosses borders of these two states.

Under trial prisoners under remand in Visakhapatnam Central Jail hail from different parts of the country. They have disclosed during investigations over the years that the Vizag agency-grown ganja has been reaching every corner of the country, particularly top cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. The crop is purchased for ₹2,000 a kilogram at the harvest point but gets sold between ₹40,000 and ₹60,000 in these cities.

"We have booked cases against people from

Mumbai and other cities. But it is difficult to conclusively say that the weed seized in Bollywood has originated from Vizag agency," says Special Enforcement Bureau A. S. P. Ajitha. Sources say ganja grown in north-eastern states is also sold in Bollywood.

Junior artists and technicians from Hyderabad say it is ganja from Visakhapatnam agency that is mostly sold in Hyderabad.

Weed is grown over an extent of 10,000 acres in Vizag and East Godavari agency areas, particularly along the AOB (Andhra-Orissa Border), from which police and excise personnel largely keep away due to presence of outlawed Maoists there.

Vizag Rural police had seized 31,648 kg of ganja worth ₹6 crore in 2017, around 16,000 kg worth ₹3.2 crore in 2018, and 21,970 kg worth ₹4.19 crore in 2019, according to reports.

## HIJACKERS OF CELLPHONE TRUCK NABBED

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

TIRUPATI, SEPT. 29

Chittoor police have arrested a gang of robbers from Madhya Pradesh over robbing of cellphones worth ₹7 crore from a lorry container on the Puttur-Chennai National Highway.

The container, carrying a consignment of 7,500 mobiles to Mumbai from the Xiaomi factory in Sriperumbudur near Chennai, was intercepted by a highway robbers' gang that blocked the contained by parking a lorry across the highway on the night of August 25. When the driver of the container stopped his vehicle, he was attacked by robbers and the container hijacked. Subsequently, the robbers shifted eight boxes of cell phones into their lorry and fled from the spot, leaving the remaining boxes of cell phones in the container.

After the injured driver came to his senses, he rushed to Nagari police station and lodged a complaint with police.

## Cost-sharing hits Tirupati RuB work

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

TIRUPATI, SEPT. 29

Works on road under-bridge (RuB) at Rayala Cheruvu in Tirupati, which would connect northern and southern sides of the temple city, have come to a halt with confusion over sharing of its cost between the Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) and the Indian Railways.

Thanks to Lord Venkateswara's shrine on Tirumala, Tirupati has expanded rapidly. Its southern side has grown at a much faster rate with many commercial and residential establishments, while key institutions of the government, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), apart from certain private offices, are located on the northern side that has reached a saturation point with regard to development.

An estimated 2.5 lakh vehicles pass daily through the railway gate that separates the northern and southern sides. The gate closes about 80-100 times a day owing to movement of trains. Each time the gate gets closed, the entire road on both sides of the gate gets packed with vehicles, leaving citizens stranded on the road for a long time.

Considering the hardships, railways came forward to construct an RuB along the Rayala Cheruvu road about three years ago. The expenditure was to be jointly borne by the state government and Railways on a 50-50 cost sharing basis. Initially, the state government did not follow up on RuB with Railways. But

after the new government took over, the Municipal Corporation of Tirupati has been ordered to coordinate and carry out RuB works as early as possible. Since then, MCT has taken up various works including diversion of power and water supply lines, apart from construction of box culverts and RCC drains at the said railway gate. The civic body has since then completed 90 per cent of its works. The balance works have been temporarily halted due to reported non-payment of installments by Railways, an MCT official disclosed.

When contacted, municipal commissioner P. S. Girisha admitted that they have to receive an installment of ₹69.80 lakh towards 50 percent share of Railways for the works already executed. The commissioner has written a letter to railways divisional engineer (DRE), Guntakal, on September 24 requesting for release 50 percent share for the current set of works being executed and future works contemplated.

In his letter, the civic chief enclosed the utilization certificate for ₹69.80 lakh and sought ₹131.05 lakh for next installment of works taken up by MCT on 600-mm diameter water supply pumping main, approach roads and so on, which would cost ₹262.10 lakh.

When this newspaper contacted Guntakal division DRM Alok Tiwari, he maintained that there has been no delay by Railways in releasing monies for the RuB. Works have almost been completed.

**EARLIER, IT was decided that all the schools would reopen from October 5 and JVK kits would be distributed the same day. Each kit consists of cloth for three sets of uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, a pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, belt and a school bag.**

Given that 27,564 anganwadi centres are being operated in rental spaces, officials were told to shift them to permanent buildings. So far land identification was done in 14,738 places. For 12,826 centres, suitable lands are yet to be identified.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Nani, ministers, Botla Satyanarayana, Kannababu, Adimulapu Suresh and other officials were among those at the Spandana programme.

two pairs of socks, belt and a school bag.

Directing officials to focus

on completing the first phase of Nadu Nedu work as early as possible, Reddy also told joint collectors to monitor the work on a daily basis.

In the first phase, 15,715

schools were identified,

where 10 facilities are to be provided. So far, work is in progress in 15,562 schools. Officials informed the CM

that slab work has to be done in 701 toilets.

Besides the distribution of JVK kits on October 5, Reddy said that the distribution of RoFR pattas to adivasis in 35 Scheduled Area zones would take place on October 2, commemorating Gandhi Jayanti.

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**SHORT TAKE**  
**AIIMS RULES OUT  
 POISONING IN  
 SUSHANT'S CASE**

SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
 MUMBAI, SEPT. 29

The investigators in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case on Tuesday revealed that the viscera report from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has ruled out poisoning as the cause of death of the actor. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), meanwhile, stated that more actors are likely to be summoned in connection with the probe in the drugs angle. The NCB last week grilled actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh in the case.

The AIIMS was conducting an independent probe in the suicide case and the findings of the Cooper Hospital who conducted the autopsy on the deceased actor were under consideration. The officials revealed that the cause of death is yet to be ascertained and that only possible foul play by use of a toxic substance has been ruled out at the moment. Further reports, involving the analysis of the marks on Rajput's throat will be out soon.

The reports were received by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the primary probe agency in the suicide. The CBI took over the abetment to suicide and cheating case filed by the Patna police based on a complaint of Rajput's father.

The NCB, meanwhile, stated that more Bollywood actors could be summoned for investigation in the drugs probe. The names have been zeroed in based on the statement of Deepika, Shraddha, Sara and Rakul, who were grilled on Saturday along with manager Karishma Prakash.

The NCB will send summons to these actors soon, officials said.

# Bypolls in 12 states on Nov. 3 and 7: EC

**Byelections will be held for one LS, 56 Assembly seats**

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
 with agency input**  
 NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Bypolls for 56 Assembly seats in 12 states and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar will be held on November 3 and 7. The results will be declared on November 10 alongside Bihar results.

The Election Commission of India, however, in a statement said that it has decided not to hold Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal at this stage.

According to the ECI, bypolls for 54 Assembly seats would be held on November 3 while that for one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar and two Assembly seats in Manipur would be held on November 7.

There are two vacancies each in the

**THE ELECTION** Commission of India said that it has decided not to hold Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal at this stage.

Assemblies of Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, while one seat is vacant in West Bengal.

The term of the legislative Assemblies of the four states would end on different dates between May and June next year.

Earlier, the EC had said that bypolls are pending in 64 Assembly seats. But the figure now stands at 63, including the seven seats in four states

where the schedule was not announced on Tuesday.

The reason is that the number of vacant seats in some states has changed due to various reasons, including court cases. "The figures are not static. We go by the number of clear vacancies on a given date," a senior official explained.

Besides the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha bypoll in Bihar, by-elections are being held to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier, the EC had said that bypolls are pending in 64 Assembly seats. But the figure now stands at 63, including the seven seats in four states

## Bypolls crucial for Shivraj govt

**RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC**  
 BHOPAL, SEPT. 29

The Election Commission on Tuesday announced to hold byelections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, the outcome of which would decide the fate of Shivraj government, on November 3.

Stakes are high for chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his predecessor and Congress veteran Kamal Nath and senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia

in the November 3 by-elections. BJP needs to win at least 9 out of 28 Assembly seats to gain majority in the House and continue in power in the state.

Similarly, Congress fancies a chance of returning to power in the state if the party could win 21 out of these 28 seats in the upcoming by-polls.

The party still hoped that it would be able to woo its erstwhile allies, four Independents, 2 BSP MLAs and the lone SP legislator, to its fold in such a case.

party tried hard to convince the RJD to change its leadership so that people don't return to the NDA out of fear. RJD leadership is confused and lacks maturity," Kushwaha said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Jitan Ram Manjhi led Hindustani Awami Morcha had left the grand alliance citing the RJD's arrogance towards smaller allies and joined RJD.

"My party RLSP has decided to fight elections in alliance with BSP and JPS," Upendra Kushwaha said.

According to Kushwaha, he was also not happy with Tejaswi Yadav's leadership and wanted the RJD to change him before the polls as people don't see him as a viable face against Nitish Kumar.

"People want change in Bihar but do not want the situation of the previous government to return. Our

move is being seen as a major political development ahead of Bihar Assembly elections to be held in October and November.

Political analysts see this as Kushwaha's attempt to form a Third Front after he failed to strike a seat-sharing deal with the BJP. Reports suggest that the RLSP was demanding "sizeable" seat share which did not materialise due to JD(U)'s unwillingness.

He had quit the grand alliance a week earlier due to his differences with RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav and was trying to return to

NDA fold. RLSP insiders said that Upendra Kushwaha wanted more than 35 seats to contest in the Assembly elections but the RJD was willing to spare only 10-12 seats for smaller partners like RLSP.

He also suffered a setback recently after his party's state president Bhudeo Chaudhary left the RLSP and joined RJD.

"My party RLSP has

decided to fight elections in alliance with BSP and JPS," Upendra Kushwaha said.

According to Kushwaha, he was also not happy with Tejaswi Yadav's leadership and wanted the RJD to change him before the polls as people don't see him as a viable face against Nitish Kumar.

The Assembly election in Bihar for 243 seats are to be held in three phases beginning October 28 and the results will be declared on November 10.

**NAYEER AZAD | DC**  
 PATNA, SEPT. 29

Former Union Minister and RLSP Chief Upendra Kushwaha announced his alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Janadari Party Socialist (JPS) on Tuesday.

The move is being seen as a major political development ahead of Bihar Assembly elections to be held in October and November.

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## Kushwaha's RLSP to fight Bihar polls with BSP, JPS

**GILVESTER ASSARY | DC**  
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 29

The Central Election Commission on Tuesday canceled Assembly bypolls in Chavara and Kuttanad constituencies in Kerala.

The EC's decision came on the request made by the state government to abandon the byelections. The request was made in the wake of increasing cases of Covid-19 in the state, political parties questioning the logic of getting MLAs elected for a tenure of just three months since the state would be going to Assembly polls early next year and the huge expense to the tune of ₹12 crore for the conduct of bypolls.

Besides, the state government had also apprised the EC of the huge pressure under which the staff of police, revenue, local bodies and various government departments had been working as Covid warriors continuously for six months.

Therefore, deploying them for poll duties will be at the cost of compromising anti Covid-19 operations, the state had pointed out.

He pointed out that going by the voting percentage in Kuttanad, the Assembly segment in the last Lok Sabha polls, at least 1.17 lakh voters were likely to turn up for casting their votes in 172 polling stations. Similarly, 1.32 lakh voters were expected to exercise their franchise in 163 polling stations in Chavara.

With the state witnessing a huge spike in Covid-19 cases over the last couple of weeks, it would be difficult to ensure social distancing in polling stations. The government had also cited the incessant rains in the state as another reason for cancelling the bypolls.

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With the state witnessing a huge spike in Covid-19 cases over the last couple of weeks, it would be difficult to ensure social distancing in polling stations. The government had also cited the incessant rains in the state as another reason for cancelling the bypolls.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

30 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Don't let political fight hurt interest of farmers

The repeated assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the continuance of the minimum support price for agriculture produce notwithstanding, the farmers' protests against the three new laws governing agriculture and markets show no signs of abating. It is in this background that Congress president Sonia Gandhi's direction to the state governments her party runs to enact laws that can circumvent the three laws — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 — gains significance. The Congress move shows the principal Opposition party has decided to take on the government politically and legally on an issue that can have nationwide appeal. Politically, it has thrown the ball in the court of the BJP's allies in National Democratic Alliance asking if they wanted to work against the interests of the farming community and risk their future. Experts are divided over the states' power to enact laws in the subject that can stand legal scrutiny but a stiff resistance by the Congress governments to the Modi dispensation could once again catapult the Congress into the centre of political activity, a role it abdicated long ago. Agriculture is on the concurrent list but "markets" are exclusively in the states' domain and hence the Centre is barred from legislating on them. It was this realisation that stopped the government from going ahead with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017, while they were challenged in the Supreme Court. This time around, the government did not interfere with the markets or mandis; instead, it removed their very raison d'être by allowing people to sell their produce wherever they want.

The state governments have economic reasons as well to fight the Centre as these laws will effectively choke and eventually stop a steady stream of their revenue as rents and taxes. A legal fight, and a possible win, could force the governments run by other parties also to follow the course, earning the Congress a decent political dividend.

The Congress has more reasons to invest in the agitation. It is not the first time a Central legislation has triggered widespread protest — those against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, are not that distant to fade away. But the government put up a resistance and defended its positions using many a card, including the communal one. But farmers as a class are unlikely to give in to such machinations as they feel a threat to their livelihoods. It is indeed wise for the Opposition to be seen on their side.

A protracted legal battle could imperil the interests of the farmer, who even otherwise feels he has little future in this country. If his interest, and the food security of the nation, are supreme, then the Union government which has committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022-23 should initiate a consultation process with the farmers, the Opposition, the state governments and other stakeholders to end the agitation and stop legal battles.

## Trump: Artful tax dodger

Long before he became President of the United States Donald Trump was among those thought to be famous for just being famous. He played such fame into a path to the White House where he holds court while having paid less income tax in a year — \$750 in 2016 and 2017 — than a successful hairdresser would have. The ridiculously low taxes he paid or none at all in 10 of the last 15 years, as exposed by the *New York Times*, were made possible by a show of chronic losses, which betrays his pretensions to being a billionaire honcho. Mr Trump's tricks might not be unusual for real estate businessmen bilking the US tax system, but it becomes extremely worrisome considering his personalities conflict of interest. What the expose of chicanery in computing taxes means in politics — as he is in the thick of a re-election campaign and going into the first debate with Joe Biden — is it lays bare the myth of Donald Trump, "The Apprentice" of the reality show. He may conveniently brush it aside as "fake news", which is what he dubs anything that goes against the grain of his presidential persona. The fear that the mountebank from a parallel universe who lives and thrives in an alternative reality may be a security threat as he owns responsibility for debts of \$400 million is just dawning on America. Curiously, the facts dug out may not be the decisive tipping point in the polls. Mr Trump's antics help show up the uber-wealthy as they are seen compulsively cheating on taxes through tax havens, rebates, refunds and handouts to kin, all by employing clever accountants and sharp lawyers. Most white and blue collar workers of the world have no such devices to deny Caesar his due even if the argument is stretched into saying a person may be considered smart if he can legally avoid personal taxes. Every US President since Watergate has made public his financial records, but not Mr Trump. It remains to be seen if his name is all that marketable anymore.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

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**Kishwar Desai**  
**London Diary**

## Lonely Gandhi at Westminster; 'working' hols the new mantra

As October 2 approaches, we had hoped that the situation in London would have improved, allowing us to at least have a ceremonial placing of flowers at the feet of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament Square — remembering him at the close of his 150th birth anniversary. The Indian high commissioner, Ms Gaitri Kumar, had also suggested that, if things improved, a few of us could gather there for a simple memorial. But it seems that now further restrictions have been announced, thanks to Covid. So we would request all those for whom it is possible to go individually to place some flowers as we cannot have any kind of formal ceremony.

Summer is behind us and the chill is setting in — bringing a fresh bout of coronavirus. In the past few years, Diwali in London had just begun to be popular, with people even celebrating at Trafalgar Square. But the year has trained us well in social distancing, meeting in bubbles, wearing masks and working from home, and so though we were prepared

for skipping the festival of lights — we thought we would at least celebrate Christmas, in a big way.

Now the infection is really serious. Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson was thinking of limiting gatherings to six including children. Now no one is sure. Plans to come back to office are shelved. Infections are running in four figures per week. And not only in UK but across Europe. Schools had just opened and now they face serious problems. The Conservatives never like to bring bad news especially shutting people indoors. But Boris has to deny his normally ebullient nature and be stern. There are rumours however that he escaped for a day to Perugia for a break with Carrie Symonds, and his newborn baby.

No one thought so but Covid looks like a long term guest who is loath to go away. All around hopes of getting back to normal are dashed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, who had been spending borrowed money like there was no tomorrow, was hoping to begin cutting back in his winter budget. But it

looks like he is still Superman coming to the rescue of the unemployed and the bankrupt. But even he has begun to pose for his Instagram photos in a sombre mood. The serious visage is necessary as the Chancellor will have to tell people that the easy borrowing cannot go on forever.

People are finding ingenious ways of coping. Now that going back to the office is less likely, they have realised that working from home need not mean your local home. Now you can book short or long holidays so you can work from Estonia or Anguilla or even Perugia if you want. It is all online so who is to know? There are new travel agencies who can fix you a place where your fancy takes you. So the new lifestyle mantra is to Work from the Holiday Home. Not WFH, but WFHH.

But there are sadder changes due to the virus. London has always been a global city not just for the rich tourist but even for the traders and the artisans. The first indoor shopping centre was built in Elephant and Castle a popular area with a bus terminus as

well as underground and surface railway stations in 1965. The centre had Latin American, West Indian, Turkish and many other nationalities running shops. Next to the three-level shopping centre developed a further subterranean set of shops. This shopping centre is being demolished to the great sorrow of its cosmopolitan clientele. Yes, it wasn't very posh — but the messy complex was a part of London life. A new centre is promised but it will undoubtedly be much more upmarket. Incidentally the name Elephant and Castle is derived from a Spanish princess who visited London and stayed nearby. Infanta de Castile as she was called became Elephant and Castle in London-speak. All a part of London lore.

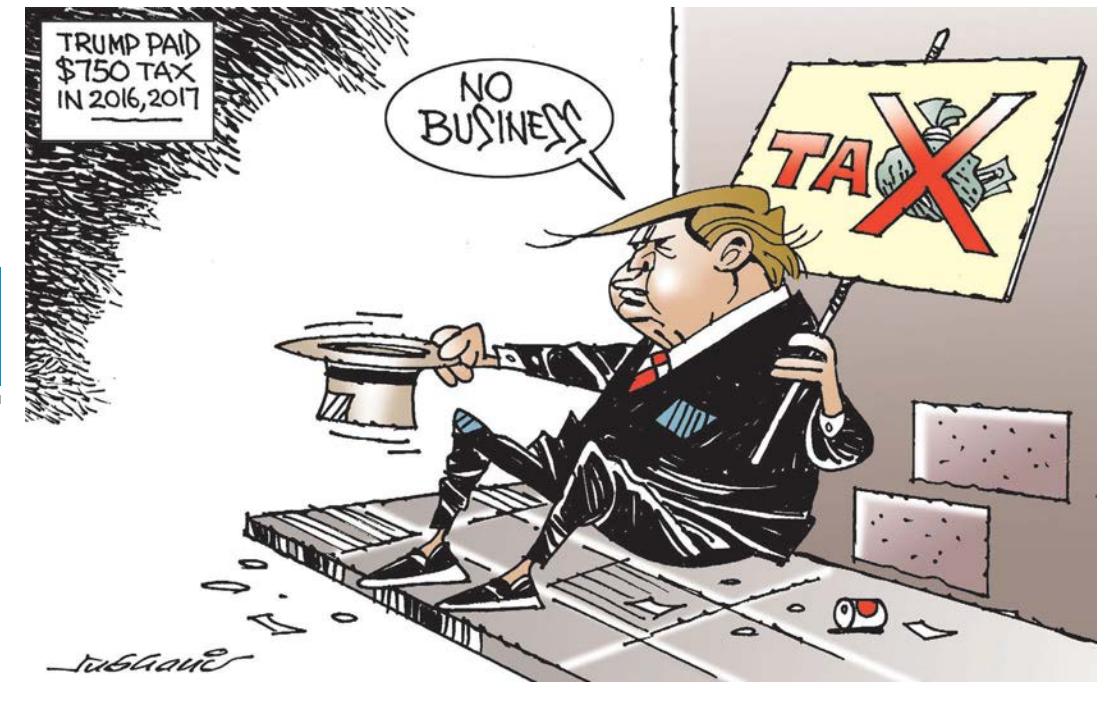
There was apparently a "clever" shooting of a kiss in Eastenders, the popular TV show essential in Covid times where it looked like a kiss but obviously the lips of the two actors did not meet. The couple leaned towards each other though the actual act was hidden behind a pillar, so the audience could imagine the rest. I

found the excitement over this non-kiss quite funny — as Indian cinema had in the past invented a thousand ways to "show" a couple kissing or making love — right from them sinking behind a flowerbed, to being hidden behind a tree, to two flowers leaning towards each other, to two birds flying, or the camera shyly panning away when the lovers met... it was only in recent times that outright kissing became the norm. Now it seems that while some brave actors are washing out their mouths with sanitisers before and after a kiss, others are finding some euphemisms for it... they should just take look at old Indian films, and they will find a thousand ways in which couples can have assumed to have kissed, or made love, without any physical encounter.

Old Indian cinema has the answer for lovemaking in the time of Covid!

**Kishwar Desai** is an award-winning author. Her latest book, *The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani*, will be out by November.

Subhani



## Unlock 5.0: Woes will linger, support a must

Sanjay Kumar

The quarterly GDP growth figures for the first quarter of 2020-21 released couple of weeks ago revealed a dismal state of Indian economy, with a growth rate of -23.9 per cent. This GDP growth rate is at its lowest since the quarterly figures started releasing in 1996. This figure does not convey anything new; it merely provides an aggregate picture of economic hardship being faced by a large number of Indians in the big cities, small towns as well as in villages. This situation cuts across people employed both in the formal and informal sectors. Several reports indicate lakhs of people losing their jobs, and salaries being reduced in different proportions in different sectors due to lockdown as a result of Covid-19. What also indicates towards economic hardship being faced by a large number of people is the amount of money withdrawn by the people from their employee's provident fund (EPF). The labour minister informed the Parliament of about 39,400 crore EPF withdrawals during the period March-August 2020. While it is true that lockdown brought economic activity to a complete standstill having an impact on the daily lives of the people, there are evidences which suggest that the economy was not doing well even before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the lockdown. What the lockdown did was to make the economic condition of the people much worse than it was before.

The GDP figures are not surprising as the strict nationwide lockdown has brought the economy to a virtual standstill, many people losing their jobs, families having faced moderate to harsh eco-

nomic hardship. Analysis of the data collected from the survey conducted by Gaon Connection team and Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) amongst 25,371 respondents spread across 23 states and Union Territories helps us unravel this story. The data presents a grim situation. More than 78 per cent of those surveyed mentioned that their work had either completely (44 per cent) or largely (34 per cent) come to a standstill due to the lockdown. It is not surprising to note that a very large number of people suffered financially resulting in many families finding it much more difficult to make ends meet during the lockdown as compared to before the lockdown. It is important to note that a large proportion of households reporting a high difficulty in making ends meet even during pre-lockdown times indicate that a very large proportion of rural households were already suffering financially even before Covid-19 struck, and the pandemic-induced lockdown only exacerbated their economic woes.

The only saving grace for the economy seems to have been agriculture. Agriculture and allied activities still grew at 3.4 per cent during the contraction. The findings of the survey also suggest, due to lockdown, while there were delays in harvesting of crops, selling produce, and sowing the crop for the next cycle, the impact on the income of farmers was perhaps limited compared to what people working in other sectors had to face. More than half of farmers (58 per cent) reported that they got as much as the government rate for their produce.

The negative GDP growth reflects a sharp

contraction in private consumption. Declining incomes, and uncertainty about jobs and employment opportunities, was bound to have an impact on consumption patterns. A significant number of people were forced to reduce their expenditure on everyday household items during the lockdown. Almost 49 per cent people reduced expenditure on basic food items like atta, rice, grains, and pulses. Almost two-third (63 per cent) had reduced expenditure on processed items like snacks, biscuits, and sweets. Similarly, there was a decline in the consumption of FMCG goods as well. For instance, 56 per cent people reported lower household expenditure on personal care products like soap, shampoo, etc.

The declining income not only has an impact on current expenditure patterns, but also on future consumption. The uncertainties of jobs and anticipation of further reduction in salaries has led to a large number of people deferring their plans for buying expensive goods.

They are also planning to reduce expenditure by not spending on items the use of which can be avoided. About 49 per cent and 57 per cent said that they would reduce expenditure on basic food items and personal care products, respectively.

While these findings are from a survey which was conducted only in rural India, it is unlikely that the situation would be vastly different in towns and cities. As Covid-19 related restrictions have eased across the country especially after Unlock 5.0, economic activity is gradually coming back on track. However, experts have alerted that economic recovery will remain slow. This makes it imperative for the government to continue taking steps for supporting citizens through various measures.

**Almost one-fourth of those surveyed (23 per cent) mentioned that they were forced to take additional loans or borrow money as they ran out of funds during the lockdown**

## LETTERS

### NUTRITION

Although I fully agree that low consumption of fruits, milk and milk products by a majority of Indians is one of the factors for the increased cases of diabetes and hypertension, the fact is that most of the people are unable to buy them (*Unhealthy food puts more Indians at risk of diabetes*, DC, Sept. 29). The gap between the poor and the rich must be reduced.

P.V. Tirumala Rao  
Hyderabad

### CASTE KILLING

he brutal murder of a 28-year-old Hyderabad interior designer, who got legally married with a woman aged 23 belonging to another caste, was purely a case of caste killing. Both lived in the same locality and knew each other for eight years. This is the second and most unfortunate, unwarranted murder on similar grounds in Greater Hyderabad. To prevent these happenings from occurring, the police, government and the courts have to play a vital role to the maximum extent possible, to sustain the confidence kept on them by the people.

D.N. Rao  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### 3 commandments for smokers

HAMBURG, Sept. 29. "There is no such thing as a clean cigarette", according to tobacco experts who attended an international Congress here this week.

The mass media last week splashed the news that tobacco scientists were working on such a "healthy" cigarette which people could smoke without fear of cancer or heart ailments. Experts admitted that the latest type of filter tips could absorb as much as fifty per cent of the dangerous stuff. The new-type filters let through much more smoke so that the smoker finds more pleasure and less danger.

Tobacco researchers are already thinking of a future compulsory label on all cigarette packages saying "cancer-producing". The three commandments of the cigarette smoker, say the experts, should be "smoke fewer cigarettes, smoke only filter-tipped cigarettes and smoke no more than one half of each cigarette for 'death sits in the butt.' — PTI.



**SHORT TAKE**  
**90 PER CENT STILL VULNERABLE TO CORONAVIRUS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
 with agency inputs  
 NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The second sero-survey conducted by ICMR has found that one in 15 individuals, aged 10 years and above, were estimated to have been exposed to SARS-CoV2 till August 2020. According to ICMR, this shows that a considerable population is still susceptible to Covid-19.

While giving out the details of the survey, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said 6.6 per cent of the 29,082 people (aged 10 and above) surveyed between August 17 and September 22 showed evidence of past exposure to Covid-19 and 7.1 per cent of the adult population (aged 18 and above) also showed evidence of past exposure to it.

Dr Bhargava added that though lockdown, containment and behavioural change at population level have managed to check the potential spread of SARS-CoV2, the survey findings show that about 90 per cent of the population is still vulnerable.

The survey showed that urban slums (15.6%) and non-slum (8.2%) areas had higher SARS-CoV2 infection prevalence than that in rural areas (4.4%).

The second sero-survey was conducted in the same 700 villages and wards from 70 districts from 21 states, which were covered during the first survey.

The first sero-survey of May revealed that the nationwide prevalence of Coronavirus infection was only 0.73%.

The second survey further showed that there is a lower infection to case ratio in August compared to May, which reflects a substantial increase in testing and detection across India.

Meanwhile, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19, the Vice President secretariat said.

It said Naidu, 71, is asymptomatic and in good health.

The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health," the secretariat tweeted. Naidu has been advised home quarantine. His wife Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation, the tweet said.

Decline in fresh cases of Coronavirus continued on Tuesday as 70,589 new patients were detected taking India's overall tally to 61.45 lakh.

In the last 24 hours, the number of deaths too came down to 776 from a thousand that was reported daily for the last several days.

India's total deaths now stand at 96,318, as per Union health ministry.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said considerable decline has been noted in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh but in Kerala cases are on the rise.

The health secretary also said that the government does not agree to the ₹80,000 crore figures put out by Serum Institute of India for the Covid-19 vaccines saying, "We have calculated the amount required in the meetings and currently, that amount is available with the government."

He added that a panel of experts on vaccine administration has met five times to work out the modalities.

## Daughter backs 'wife-beater' DGP

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 29

Spouse of 'wife-beater' director general of police (prosecution) of Madhya Pradesh Purushottam Sharma on Tuesday, curiously, faced attacks from two fronts, from her daughter who called her mentally sick and from the media woman who accused her of encroaching upon her privacy by taking video of her house.

The top cop was placed under suspension by the state government on Tuesday evening.

The couple's daughter Diwanshi Gautam stoutly defended her father describing him a victim of marital conflict triggered by her mother. She also claimed that her mother was suffering from mental disorder.

In a letter to chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ms

# We want to bury them in our zameen: Kin of Shopian victims

Families of the 3 youths want bodies to be exhumed and handed over to them for burial

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC MODA KATHUNI (J&K), SEPT. 29

"My child was innocent. I'm completely shattered and broken. My heart is bleeding also because we couldn't bury him and our two other boys in our own zameen (soil)," lamented teary-eyed Shameema Akhtar while showing the photograph of her son Muhammad Imitiaz saved in her other son's mobile phone.

Imtiaz, 20, was among three youths from Rajouri killed in an alleged fake encounter by the Army in militancy-infested Shopian district on July 18, a day after the trio had arrived there to work in an apple orchard to earn living and then passed off as 'terrorists'.

J&K police say that they had provided sufficient time for identification of the corpses at the Police Control Room Kashmir at Srinagar. As no one came forward to claim the bodies and people also failed in identifying them, they were buried in a cemetery in the remotest Baramulla district, almost 250 kilometres from their home district in presence of a magistrate after conducting post-mortem and lifting DNA samples, the police said.

*Bahut zulum hova oss kay saath* (a great injustice was done to him), said Sabir Hussain, father of Imitiaz.

He revealed to this correspondent that his son had passed his Class 12th examination with good marks and was "very keen" to get admission in a good college either in Rajouri town, Jammu or Srinagar and in order to meet the expenses for his studies he went to Shopian to "earn some money".

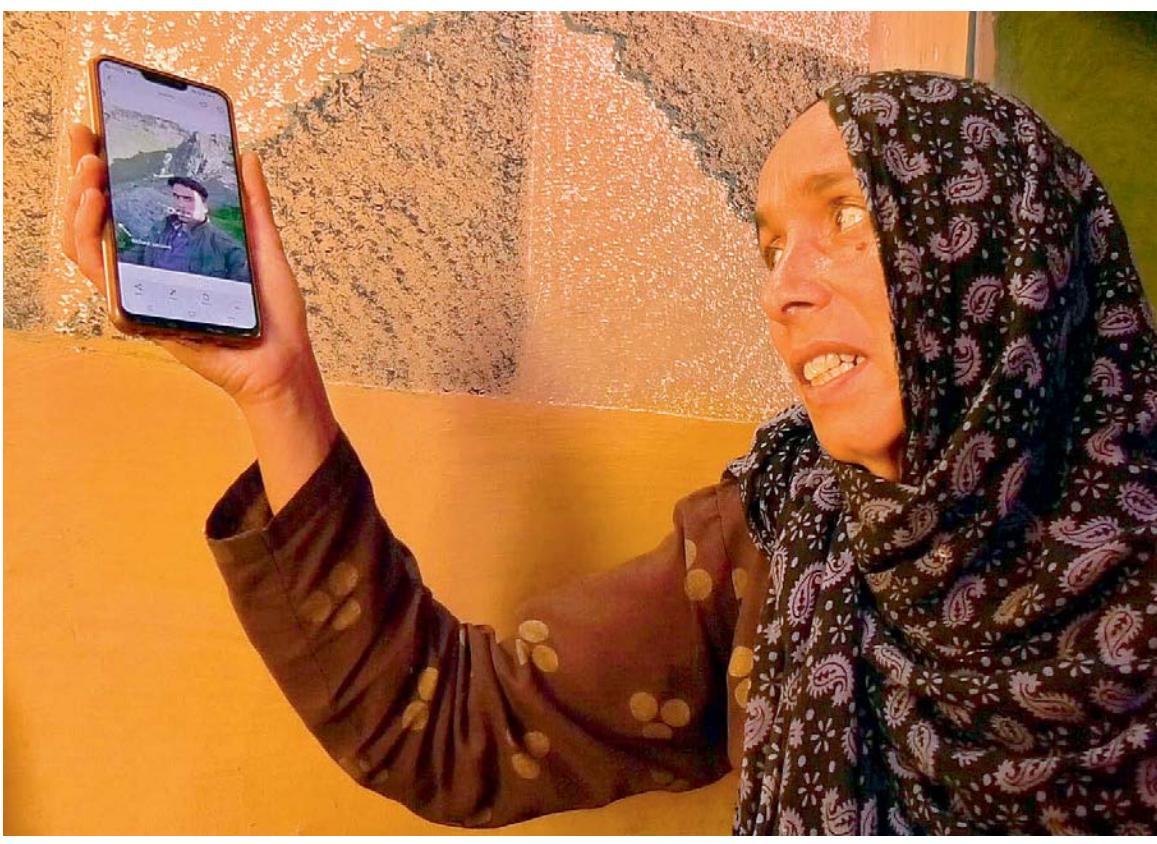
Hussain said the other two slain youths Muhammad Abrar, 25, and Ibrar Ahmed Khan, 16, were his nephews (sagay bhanjay).

"You can understand we have been devastated," he said but added that he is quite confident that the Army "will do justice with us."

He and also his other son Muhammad Aarif pleaded that since the Army has admitted that the three youths were killed by its men during a so-called operation in Shopian's Amshipora on July 18 and the J&K police have announced that the results of the DNA samples of their parents have matched those of the slain, their bodies should be exhumed and handed over to their families.

"We want to give them decent burials in our own zameen," said Hussain.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmiri range), Vijay Kumar, said in Srinagar last week, "We've received the DNA sample results of three families of Rajouri and these have matched with those of the three killed in Amshipora, Shopian on July 18. We will now take further course of action and complete the remaining formalities."



Shameema Akhtar looks at the photograph of her son Muhammad Imitiaz saved in a mobile phone.

## Polls in PoK: India lodges protest

DC CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with Pakistan against its attempt to conduct polls in November in the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), saying that these areas are an integral part of India and illegally occupied by Pakistan.

Amid reports that Pakistan plans to turn the Gilgit-Baltistan region into its fifth province, New Delhi termed Pakistan's action of conducting polls there as "cosmetic exercises intended to camouflage its illegal occupation".

illegal occupation".

In another development, India — at the "second Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism" held virtually — highlighted that the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and 2016 Pathankot terror attack are yet to get

justice due to unwillingness and non-cooperative attitude of a particular country", a thinly-veiled reference to Pakistan.

In a statement, the MEA said, "We have seen reports regarding announcement of elections to the so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan (Elections and Caretaker Government) Amendment Order 2020" and continued attempts by the Pakistan establishment to bring material changes in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation. Action such as these can neither hide the illegal occupation nor the grave human rights violations of people residing in PoK territories."

accession in 1947. The Government of Pakistan has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it."

The MEA added, "The Government of India has also completely rejected the recent actions such as the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan (Elections and Caretaker Government) Amendment Order 2020' and continued attempts by the Pakistan establishment to bring material changes in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation. Action such as these can neither hide the illegal occupation nor the grave human rights violations of people residing in PoK territories."

Directing the next hearing on October 15, the court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre to address the court on two issues — what is the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the Public Safety Act and for how long Mufti will continue under detention.

Mehta, sought to justify Mehbooba Mufti's detention on the grounds of "public order".

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Mehbooba Mufti was arrested along with former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah — and other Kashmiri leaders on October 6 and 7 to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of the four-nation Quadrilateral or Quad — the United States, India, Japan and Australia.

He will also hold individual bilateral consultations with each of the other foreign ministers.

But interestingly, a statement put out by the MEA made no mention of the word 'Quad'.

The MEA did say, however, that the foreign ministers of the four nations would "discuss regional issues and collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific apart from Covid.

## AMNESTY HALTS OPERATIONS IN INDIA

New Delhi, Sept. 29: Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an "incessant witch-hunt" over unfounded and motivated allegations.

Amnesty India, in a statement, said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research work.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organisation to a grinding halt," it said. However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving foreign funds illegally.

In 2018, the Enforcement Directorate had carried out searches at the headquarters of Amnesty International in Bangalore. The raids were conducted for an alleged violation of the foreign exchange act.

There is no ED investigation against Amnesty International India Foundation, but against a private company linked to the NGO that allegedly received dubious export proceeds worth over ₹51 crore, government sources said.

The BJP alleged that Amnesty International is involved in "multiple illegalities" and it has no right to lecture on propriety. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, BJP leader Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said any organisation can work in India but it cannot violate the laws and regulations of the country.

## JAISHANKAR TO VISIT JAPAN FOR QUAD MEET

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
 NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

In a major move that will send a strong signal to China at a time of heightened tensions, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Japan on October 6 and 7 to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of the four-nation Quadrilateral or Quad — the United States, India, Japan and Australia.

While two Abdullahs were released in March, Mehbooba's detention was extended on May 5 for another three months but after the lapse of three months she has not been released.

## SC: FOR HOW LONG WILL MEHBOOBA BE IN DETENTION?

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
 NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre far how long it was going to keep the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti under detention and can she be detained beyond one year under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The former J&K Chief Minister is in detention since August 5, 2019, under the draconian PSA for over a year after Article 370 conferring special status to J&K was abrogated.

Giving the Centre a week's time to respond to a plea by Iltija — daughter of Mehbooba Mufti — seeking immediate release of her mother, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul heading a bench also comprising Justice Krishnakesh Roy asked, for how long the detention will continue and under what orders and can detention be extended beyond one year.

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While two Abdullahs were released in March, Mehbooba's detention was extended on May 5 for another three months but after the lapse of three months she has not been released.

After their killing, the Army had claimed they were "terrorists" killed in an "encounter" with it.

The Army sources said that it has now begun a "Summary of Evidence", a step before a possible court martial of its officers and men involved in the fake encounter.

During this process, all civilian witnesses would also be cross examined, the sources added.

There are reports that the police have detained for questioning two local residents who were working as "informers" for the Army and may have been involved in the Amshipora operation. The reports said that the duo is also likely to be called by the Army for cross examination.

During this process, all civilian witnesses would also be cross examined, the sources added.

All sections of society, including politicians, sports and cine stars and activists, spoke out on Twitter and elsewhere to express their anguish and demand justice for her.

Cricket captain Virat Kohli hoped that justice would be done to the Hathras gangrape victim saying that the incident "goes beyond cruelty".

"What happened in Hathras is inhuman and goes beyond cruelty. Hope the culprits of this heinous crime will be brought to justice. #JusticeForManishaValmiki," Kohli, who is in the UAE for the ongoing IPL, tweeted.

The four men alleged to be involved in the crime have been arrested and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code, according to the Hathras SP.

On September 14, the young woman had gone to

all members of the Dalit community to take to the streets and demand death penalty for the guilty.

"The government should not test our patience. We won't rest until the culprits are hanged," he said as restless crowds milled around the complex. Azad held the state government "equally responsible" for her tragic death.

Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women BJP leaders on the issue and alleged that the state has become the "crime capital" of the country. The party also staged protests demanding justice for the victim at Safdarjung Hospital after struggling for two weeks between life and death in hospitals.

"Law and order in UP has deteriorated to a great extent. There is no semblance of safety for women. The criminals are committing crimes in the open," Priyanka said. BSP chief Mayawati and Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav also spoke out.

## ODISHA BABU ARRESTED FOR HARASSING WIFE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
 BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 29

A senior bureaucrat of Odisha was on Tuesday arrested for allegedly torturing his wife.

The accused identified as Sarat Chandra Bag was posted as Deputy Collector of Boudh district. Bag's wife complained that he was regularly beating her as she opposed his extra-marital affairs.

"My husband was having an extra-marital affair. I had caught him red-handed with another woman recently. When I confronted him over his affairs, he and his other associates brutally thrashed me and snatched my mobile phone," the wife told reporters in Jharsuguda.

The DGP has been relieved of his duties after the video went viral on Monday.

In a related development, the media woman who was video-graphed along with the DGP in her house by Mr Sharma's wife on Monday lodged a complaint with the local police station demanding action against her for encroaching upon her privacy by taking video of her house.

The top cop was placed under suspension by the state government on Tuesday evening.

The couple's daughter Diwanshi Gautam stoutly defended her father describing him a victim of marital conflict triggered by her mother. She also claimed that her mother was suffering from mental disorder.

In a letter to chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ms

## Dalit woman gangraped in Hathras dies

</div

**IN BRIEF**  
**UAE to send mission to moon in 2024**

**Dubai:** The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned mission to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said Tuesday, a new gamble in space by the oil-rich nation that could see it become only the fourth country to accomplish that goal. The announcement by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.

**Roadside bomb kills 14 in Afghan**

**Kabul:** At least 14 civilians, including women and children, were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb in central Afghanistan, officials said, as violence continues despite peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government. Seven women, five children and two men died when their vehicle detonated an explosive device in Daikundi province, interior ministry spokesman Tareq Arian said in a statement.

Three children were also wounded, he added, blaming the Taliban for the blast. Nasrullah Gholi — the spokesman for the governor of Daikundi — said the victims were traveling to a shrine when their minibus struck the bomb.

**Saudi breaks up Iran trained terrorist cell**

**Riyadh:** Saudi Arabia has said it arrested 10 members of a "terrorist cell," some of whom underwent military and explosives training at Revolutionary Guard camps in Iran. Tehran on Tuesday denied the charges. Saudi security authorities said weapons and explosives stored at a house and a farm were seized, but did not say where the raid or the arrests last week were carried out. "Competent authorities at the presidency thwarted a terrorist cell... whose elements received military and field training on how to make explosives, at the Revolutionary Guard's sites in Iran," the kingdom's State Security Presidency said late Monday.

**French envoy faces probe for 'stealthing'**

**Paris:** Paris prosecutors are investigating a French ambassador for allegedly not using a condom as requested during consensual sex, a practice known as "stealthing," a source close to the inquiry said Tuesday. The woman, 30, told police she had spent part of the night at the home of the 44-year-old envoy she met through a dating site. "They had met up several times without any sexual relations. That evening, they had consensual sex," the source said, confirming a report in French magazine Le Point. "She asked him to use a condom but realised during the act that the man was not wearing one," the source added. The woman filed her complaint three days later. The source did not identify the envoy by name, while Le Point said only that he is based in the Middle East.

**TEACHER GIVEN DEATH PENALTY FOR POISONING KIDS**

**Beijing,** Sept. 29: A kindergarten teacher in China has been sentenced to death for poisoning dozens of children in an act of revenge against a colleague that left one toddler dead.

A court in the central Chinese province of Henan said Wang Yun put sodium nitrite into porridge being prepared for her colleague's students, sickening 25.

The attack took place in March 2019 and left one boy severely ill for months before he died in January this year, according to news reports.

The Jiaozuo City Intermediate People's Court on Monday said Wang knew sodium nitrite was harmful but went ahead "with no regard for the consequences," leaving many innocent children in hospital.

News reports last year said the children began vomiting and fainting after eating their breakfast.

Kindergarten students in China are aged between three and six.

The death sentence was handed to Wang this week for the offence of using dangerous substances.

# Thousands flee California wine country fires

**San Francisco,** Sept. 29: Northern California's wine country was on fire again on Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to evacuate. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state.

In Sonoma County, residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior living facility in Santa Rosa boarded brightly lit city buses in the darkness overnight, some wearing bathrobes and using walkers. They wore masks to protect against the Coronaviruses as orange flames marked the dark sky.

The fire threat forced Adventist Health St. Helena hospital to suspend care and transfer all patients elsewhere. The fires that began Sunday in the famed Napa-Sonoma wine country about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Francisco came as the region nears

**MORE THAN** 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.

the third anniversary of deadly wildfires that erupted in 2017, including one that killed 22 people.

Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history. "Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin evacuated her property in the Oakmont community

of Santa Rosa at about 1 am. She is rebuilding a home damaged in the 2017 fires. Gorin said she saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled early Monday.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

More than 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.

Many more residents have been warned that they might have to flee, even though winds eased significantly Monday afternoon, giving firefighters an opportunity to make some progress, he said.

—AP



The Glass Fire slowly crests the ridge outside of Calistoga in Napa Valley, California. The wildfire went from 1,500 acres to more than 15,000 acres overnight as winds spread embers across the valley.

—AFP

# First US Prez TV debate rolls

## Debate to offer platform for Don and Biden to outline their visions on US crisis

**Cleveland (US), Sept. 29:** In an election year like no other, the first debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, could be a pivotal moment in a race that has remained stubbornly unchanged in the face of historic tumult.

The debate will offer a massive platform for Trump and Biden to outline their starkly different visions for a country facing multiple crises, including racial justice protests and a pandemic that has killed more than 20,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

The health emergency has upended the usual trappings of a presidential

campaign, lending heightened importance to the debate. But amid intense political polarisation, comparatively few undecided voters remain, raising questions as to how, or if, the debate might shape a race that has been defined by its bitterness and, at least so far, its stability.

Biden will step onto the Cleveland stage holding leads in the polls — significant in the national surveys, closer in the battleground states — but facing questions about his turn in the spotlight, particularly considering Trump's withering attacks.

And Trump, with only 35 days to change the course of the race, will have

arguably his best chance to try to reframe the campaign as a choice election and not a referendum over his handling of a virus that has killed more people in America than any other nation. "This will be

the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic.

"If Biden is unable to indict Trump for all that he has done, (that) would be profound failure. There is no spinning that away." The president's handling of the Coronavirus will likely dominate much of the discussion. The pandemic's force will be tangible as the candidates' podiums will be spaced far apart and the traditional

opening handshake scrapped.

And the debate could be shaped by an extraordinary confluence of other recent moments: the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, allowing Trump to nominate a conservative jurist to replace a liberal voice and reshape the high court for generations, and the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years. But the impact of the debate — or the two that follow in the weeks ahead — remains unclear.

—AP

# Fighting rages in Nagorno Karabakh despite truce calls

**Berlin,** Sept. 29: German Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged an immediate end to the fighting in the region of Nagorno Karabakh in phone calls with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, her spokesman said on Tuesday.

At least 95 people have been killed in the clashes that have been raging since the weekend, including 11 civilians, according to the latest available tallies.

"The chancellor urgently called for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the negotiating table," Steffen Seibert said.

Merkel spoke with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday and with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday, he added.

The so-called Minsk Group of mediators, led by France, Russia and the United States, "offers an appropriate forum" for dialogue, Merkel said in the calls.

The UN Security

**YEREVAN AND BAKU** have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorno Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up last July and in 2016.

Council is due to hold emergency talks Tuesday behind closed doors on Nagorno Karabakh, diplomats said.

Yerevan and Baku have been locked in territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorno Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up last July and in 2016.

The region declared independence from Azerbaijan after a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives.

It is not recognised by any country — including Armenia — and is still considered part of Azerbaijan by the international community.

—AFP

breed dolphins and killer whales any more, she said.

"It is time to open a new era in our relationship with these (wild) animals," she said, arguing that animal welfare is a priority.

Pompili said the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.

The ban does not apply to wild animals in other permanent shows and in zoos. Pompili did not set any precise date for the ban in travelling circuses, saying the process should start "as soon as possible."

She promised solutions

**Geneva,** Sept. 29: Coronavirus tests that deliver results in 15-30 minutes are to be rolled out across the United States and in scores of poorer countries, as health authorities worldwide try to get a handle on a disease that has now killed more than a million people.

US President Donald Trump announced 150 million tests would be distributed in America, while the World Health Organisation said 120 million more would be available for the developing world at \$5 each as long as funding was secured.

The testing push comes as the virus shows no sign of receding, with infection numbers climbing rapidly in Europe again and governments there clamping down on movement in an attempt to curb the surge.

Paris, London and Madrid have all been forced to introduce controls to slow infections, and on Monday Dutch authorities became the latest to tighten curbs, while the Czech Republic and Slovakia said they were preparing to declare

as governments scramble to develop adequate response systems, Li is targeting global sales.

Already used at hospitals and airports in China, the contraption can process four samples in one go and deliver results in just half an hour.

It has been certified by the European Union and Australia, and Coyote is seeking similar status from the United States and World Health Organisation.

PCR tests are the industry standard and a major weapon against a pandemic that has now killed more than a million people and other researchers are also on the quest to find the fastest method.

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Testing has been hailed as one of the best weapons to contain the pandemic and other researchers are also on the quest to find the fastest method.

—AFP

a state of emergency.

The WHO said its \$600 million scheme to roll out the quick diagnosis kits across 133 countries in the next six months would enable low- and middle-income nations to close the gap in testing with the

rich world.

The kits are far faster, cheaper and easier to administer than regular standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab tests but are less sensitive and more likely to return false negatives.

# 7 lakh children in Syria risk hunger

**Beirut,** Sept. 29: An additional 7,000 children in Syria face hunger because of the country's badly damaged economy and the impact of Coronavirus restrictions, an international aid group warned on Tuesday.

Save the Children said the new figures mean that in the last six months, the total number of food-insecure children across the country has risen to more than 4.6 million.

After nearly a 10-year conflict that killed some 40,000 and displaced half the country's population, Syria's economy has been badly harmed by the war as well as by widespread corruption, Western sanctions and a severe economic and financial crisis in neighbouring Lebanon.

The local currency crashed in recent months making it more difficult for many Syrians to buy



Shahbaz Sharif

## POMPEO VOICES SUPPORT FOR GREECE, TURKEY

**Athens,** Sept. 29: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support on Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are "at an all time high and getting stronger." Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe," Pompeo said.

"We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership."

Lahore, Sept. 29: Pakistan's Leader of the Opposition and PML-N chief Shahbaz Sharif was on Tuesday sent on a 14-day physical remand by an accountability court in assets beyond means and money laundering case, a day after he was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Shahbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from the Lahore High Court's premises on Monday after the court rejected his bail application in the \$700 crores money laundering case.

—PTI

# French govt to implement \$9.2 million package to help people working in circuses

## France to ban use of wild animals in circuses

**Paris,** Sept. 29: France's environment minister has announced a gradual ban on using wild animals in traveling circuses, on keeping dolphins and killer whales in captivity in marine parks and on raising mink on fur farms.

Barbara Pompili, France's minister of ecological transition, said in a news conference on Tuesday that bears, tigers, lions, elephants and other wild animals won't be allowed any more in travelling circuses "in the coming years."

In addition, starting immediately, France's three marine parks won't be able to bring in nor

**POMPILI SAID** the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.

will be found for each animal "on a case-by-case basis." The French government will implement an 8 million-euro (\$9.2 million) package to help people working in circuses and marine parks find other jobs.

"That transition will be spread over several years, because it will change the lives of many people," she said.

—AP



A visitor takes a selfie with a camel during a circus performance at Bastille square in Paris. Frances environment minister announced on Tuesday.

## SRI LANKA BANS CATTLE SLAUGHTER

**Colombo,** Sept. 29: The Sri Lankan government has approved a proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the island nation. However, it decided to import beef for the benefit of those who consume it.

The Cabinet on Monday approved the proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the country. Cabinet spokesman and Mass Media Minister Keheliya Ramkella said on Tuesday, adding that legalising the decision would be done in due course.

On September 8, the Parliamentary Group of

the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLP) approved Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the country.

The Cabinet said it will take immediate necessary measures to amend the Animal Act, the Cattle Slaughter

## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	37,973.22	-0.02
Nifty 50	11,222.40	-0.05
S&P 500*	3,339.59	-0.36
Dollar (\$)	73.85	-0.07
Pound Sterling (\$)	95.10	-0.63
Euro (\$)	86.25	-0.46
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	51,367▲663	1.29
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.09	-1.34
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.037	-0.019
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.651	-0.012

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

### RBI places its nominee on Dhanlaxmi board

Dhanlaxmi Bank said RBI general manager D.K. Kashyap has been appointed on its board for two years by the regulator. The bank did not disclose the reason for appointment of the RBI's nominee of its board with effect from Sept. 28. The RBI usually does not appoint its nominee on the boards of private banks unless there are exceptional circumstances to avoid any conflict of interest. Dhanlaxmi was put under the PCA in Nov. 2015.

### Swatch shuts some systems after cyberattack



Swatch Group shut down some of its technology systems after detecting a cyberattack over the weekend, the world's biggest watchmaker said on Tuesday. "Swatch Group confirms that it has identified clear signs of a developing cyberattack on some of its IT systems during the weekend," the company said. The shutdown had affected some of its operations, Swatch said, without explaining more.

### Sebi to issue code of conduct for MF managers

Markets regulator Sebi decided to introduce a code of conduct for mutual fund managers, including chief investment officer of asset management companies (AMCs). In addition, AMCs have been allowed to become self-clearing member of clearing corporations for debt transactions. The chief executive officer will be responsible to ensure that the code of conduct is followed by officers.

### Sebi slaps ₹1 cr fine on Brickwork Ratings

The Sebi imposed a penalty of ₹5 crore on Brickwork Ratings India, for lapses while assigning credit ratings to non-convertible debentures of Essel Group companies. Brickwork also failed to review the rating of NCDs of Great Eastern Energy Corporation after another credit rating agency downgraded the NCDs in April 2017. Also, the regulator has found delay in recognising default of NCDs of Diamond Power Infrastructure.

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— PTI

## ■ Wealth of 828 equals a third of GDP India's wealthy got thrice as rich in 5 yrs

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Over the last five years, there were several stories about financial pain caused to the rich because of events such as black-money-busting demonetisation, anti-tax evading GST and a persistent fall in economic growth rate.

Now here's a reality check: 828 super-rich persons commanding a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore have seen their wealth swelling three-fold in the last five years, according to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020.

The survey also claimed that the combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion, which is one-third size of India's GDP. This further widens the inequality in wealth between the super-rich and the poor.

Their combined wealth is more than the combined GDP of India's South Asian neighbours - Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

According to the World Bank's Gini Index, inequality has been rising since 1993, which portrays a sorry picture of economic reforms benefiting the rich more than the poor.

While the country's economic growth slowed last year, the cumulative wealth of the 828 super-rich has increased by 20 per cent or Rs 10 lakh crore compared to that of last year. However, the average growth in wealth

SUPER-RICH LEAGUE

- Combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion
- Mukesh Ambani stayed top with a wealth of ₹6,58,400 cr
- Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot with ₹1,43,700 cr
- With ₹1,41,700 crore, HCL founder Shiv Nadar ranked third
- The list saw 162 new faces this time

among the 828 super-rich has remained nine per cent, suggesting few individuals in the super-elite club benefitting more than others.

"About 28 per cent of the upswing in wealth on the list has been bestowed by Mukesh Ambani, who saw meteoric success post diversifying from oil to telecom and retail. A further 21 per cent of the additional wealth has been generated by pharma, mainly on the back of the rise in healthcare spending and a realigned priority towards personal healthcare stimulated by the Covid-19," Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and chief researcher, Hurun India said.

With a wealth of Rs 6,58,400 crore, Mukesh Ambani continued to be the richest man in India. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Chigurupati Krishna Prasad of Granules India saw the second fastest rise in wealth.

Ambani's wealth dropped by 28 per cent to Rs 3,50,000 crore and then, backed by a series of funding and strategic investments, his valuation registered a "V-shaped recovery" and increased by 85 per cent in four months.

With a wealth of Rs 1,43,700 crore, the Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot in the list. The brothers saw the valuation drop by 23 per cent due to a lacklustre performance of their flagship companies such as IndusInd Bank, Gulf Oil and GOCL Corporation. With Rs 1,41,700 crore, the founder of HCL, Shiv Nadar, ranked third, backed by a 37 per cent increase in HCL's share price.

The list saw 162 new faces, 76 per cent of which are self-made entrepreneurs. Their numbers in the list were up at 64 per cent, up from 54 per cent five years ago.

Backed by a stellar IPO of Happiest Minds, founder Ashok Soota debuted in the list with a wealth of Rs 3,700 crore. Route Mobile's IPO bestowed Sandip Kumar Gupta and Rajdip Kumar Gupta with a wealth of Rs 2,000 crore each.

Among the biggest gainers, Udaan co-founders and former Flipkart executives Amod Malviya, Sujeet Kumar and Vaibhav Gupta had their wealth increase by 274 per cent. Chigurupati Krishna Prasad of Granules India

saw the second fastest rise in wealth.

### Bid for Mahindra Thar hits ₹1.1 crore

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, SEPT. 29

In a first of its kind, Mahindra & Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, which started an online auction for the first unit of the all-new second-generation Thar SUV to fight the Covid pandemic, on Tuesday crossed the Rs 1.10-crore mark.

The company will match the amount raised at the auction and the entire proceeds will be donated to a charitable organisation supporting Covid-19 relief.

Tuesday was the last day for bidding.

While Mahindra did not officially announce the winning bidder, Aakash Minda from New Delhi had bid for Rs 1 crore early on Tuesday. Later Abhishek Datta from Medinipur raised it to Rs 1.07 crore mark.

But with just a few hours to go, Arun from Chennai, surpassed that figure for the Thar No.1 at Rs 1.09 crore, industry sources said. But, finally, it was Aakash Minda who bid big in the final few minutes, taking the tally to Rs 1.11 crore.

M&M will announce the new Thar's price on October 2, which is Mahindra's 75th Founders' Day and the SUV is likely to be priced in the Rs 12-15 lakh range.

The winner of the auction can choose a charitable organisation from the three suggested.

## Retro tax: Cairn seeks \$1.4 billion from govt

New Delhi, Sept. 29:

British oil explorer Cairn Energy Plc on Tuesday said it is seeking from the Indian government \$1.4 billion (about Rs 10,300 crore) in losses arising from the expropriation of its investments to enforce a retrospective tax demand.

In its half-yearly earnings statement, the company said it expects an international arbitral tribunal to shortly give a decree on its challenge to the government seeking Rs 10,247 crore in retrospective taxes.

"The main evidentiary hearing of Cairn's claim under the (UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty) took place in August 2018 in The Hague with a final hearing in December 2018," the firm said. The tribunal, it said, has indicated that "it expects to be in a position to issue the award after the end of the summer of 2020."

Cairn said it is seeking "full restitution for losses of more than \$1.4 billion resulting from the expropriation of its investments in India in 2014; continued attempts to enforce retrospective tax measures; and the failure to treat the company and its investments fairly and equitably."

This is the second most high-profile retrospective tax litigation.

Last week, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's efforts to claim Rs 22,100 crore in past taxes from Vodafone Group

were in breach of fair treatment under the bilateral investment protection

## Agarwal looks to raise \$5 bn to join PSU sale

NISHANT KUMAR &  
DINESH NAIR  
SEPT. 29



Anil Agarwal is targeting \$1 billion or more in an initial round of fundraising for the proposed India Direct Investment fund, according to people familiar with the matter, asking not to be identified because the plans are private.

Agarwal, the founder of Vedanta Resources Ltd., is raising capital from international investors to buy stakes in government companies being sold under India's Rs 2.1 lakh crore (\$28 billion) divestment programme.

The fund will also target companies being restructured under the country's bankruptcy rules.

— Bloomberg

another person. He plans to buy companies over a five-year period and then boost their profitability before seeking an exit, the person said.

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— Bloomberg

organisation done in 2006.

Alongside, the department attached the company's near 10 per cent shareholding in its erstwhile subsidiary, Cairn India.

Cairn Energy had in 2010 sold Cairn India to Vedanta.

— PTI

Swatch Group shut down some of its technology systems after detecting a cyberattack over the weekend, the world's biggest watchmaker said on Tuesday. "Swatch Group confirms that it has identified clear signs of a developing cyberattack on some of its IT systems during the weekend," the company said. The shutdown had affected some of its operations, Swatch said, without explaining more.

### Farmers must take permission to bring goods from outside: Haryana official

Chandigarh, Sept. 29: Prior registration on a Haryana government portal is a must for farmers from outside the state bringing their produce for procurement in government-run mandis, a senior state government official said on Tuesday.

In the wake of reports that some farmers from neighbouring UP were not allowed to sell their paddy crop at government-run mandis in Karnal district a few days ago, the official said there is no bar, but they will have to register themselves on a portal and then wait for a message before they are called.

Notably, the farmers have to register on "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal uploading their details and then every registered farmer receives an SMS when they have to bring their produce.

The official said registration is mandatory for farmers looking to sell non-basmati varieties of rice. "This time, we have decided that from October 5 onwards the outside farmers can also register and then we will also give them a schedule and call them," P.K. Das, additional chief secretary, food and civil supplies, told PTI over the phone.

Asked to comment on the Karnal incident, Das said "those who are coming with basmati, we are not stopping them because the government does not have to purchase that... But if you look at it, when we are telling farmers in Karnal and elsewhere that we will call them by sending SMS and then they have to come to mandis with the produce, how can we allow farmers from outside to come and sell at procurement price (without registration or portal)."

"What we are saying that we will do procurement, but farmers will have to come through the system," he said.

## Walmart may invest \$25 bn in Tata Group's super app

Bengaluru, Sept. 29: Walmart Inc is in talks with Tata Group for a potential investment of up to \$25 billion in the Indian soft-to-software conglomerate's new 'super app', a newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to ongoing discussions between the two companies, the super app could be launched as a joint venture between Tata and Walmart, leveraging on the synergies between Tata's e-commerce business and Flipkart, Walmart's e-commerce unit, according to the report.

The news comes as Reliance Industries Ltd, controlled by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, raised over \$20 billion from investors, including Facebook, Alphabet's Google, KKR & Co and Silver Lake Partners, by selling stakes in its digital business Jio Platforms.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported that Tata Group is in discussions with potential investors about stakes in its new

digital platform.

The Walmart investment could touch \$20 billion to \$25 billion eventually for a large stake in the proposed super app that will be hosted under a Tata Sons unit.

The super app, which is scheduled to be launched in India in December or January, will bring together Tata's consumer business under one channel offering a wide range of products in the retail space.

Tata's consumer businesses include watch and jewellery brand Titan and fashion retail chain Trent.

Shares of Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Tata Steel gained more than 1 per cent each on Tuesday.

If the Walmart deal goes through, it will top its investment in Flipkart, for which the US-based company paid \$16 billion for a 66 per cent stake.

The report in Mint newspaper said Walmart had hired Goldman Sachs as the banker for the proposed deal.

— Reuters

## Amazon ups festive wager with ₹1,125 crore funding

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Building a war chest ahead of the festive season, US-based e-commerce giant Amazon has infused fresh capital to the tune of Rs 1,125 crore into its India unit Amazon Seller Services. Having pumped in Rs 2,310 crore into the same entity in June, the global e-tailer has already infused around half a billion dollar into its Indian business this year.

Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited, Singapore and Amazon.com Inc Limited, Mauritius have pumped in Rs 1,125 crore into Amazon Seller Services, regulatory documents sourced by business intelligence platform Toffler, showed.

Amazon Seller Services allotted equity shares to these entities for the transaction on September 17.

Having pumped in fresh capital of Rs 2,310 crore in June, Amazon has infused a total of Rs 3,435 crore into the India business.

This is half of the Rs 7,000 crore, or \$1 billion, announced by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos in

January to help bring small and medium businesses online.

This will help Amazon take on Flipkart as well as Reliance Industries owned JioMart during the festive season.

Both entities are well-funded for the festive season. In July, Flipkart had announced that it had received funding of \$1.2 billion from investors led

by SoftBank.

E-commerce players are increasing their physical infrastructure and hiring more people before the festive month. RedSeer Consulting says this will create 300,000 new jobs.

### E-comm to create 3 L jobs

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

## SHORT TAKES

## Battery-powered masks for players

New Delhi: Claiming to be the best in ensuring optimum oxygen for the wearer, battery-operated masks designed by an IIT-Kharagpur alumni will be put on trial for India's Olympic-bound athletes by the IOA to assist their intense training. The IOA has tied up with IIT Kharagpur's Piyush Agarwal, who currently owns a startup 'PQR Technology Private Limited' and has got government funding under the 'KAWACH Mask Project'. His start-up is currently attached with IIT Delhi. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said that the battery-operated masks, which cost around 2200 each, will be trialled first on a few Olympic-bound athletes. If they don't face any breathing issues and after approval from the IOA Medical Commission, the masks will then be used by all the Olympic-bound athletes and others. "It was initially very guarded about resumption of training by athletes but since they have started training and we don't know when this pandemic will end, we have to think about the best way possible and this idea of masks which seems safe for intensive training struck us," Mehta said.

— PTI

## Schumacher son is closer to F1

Maranello, Italy: Michael Schumacher's son, Mick, will have an official Formula One drive during a race weekend for the first time next week at the Nurburgring, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari said on Tuesday. Schumacher gets the practice drive in an Alfa Romeo on Oct. 9 on his home track in Germany as a member of Ferrari's young driver program, taking over Antonio Giovinazzi's car for the first session of the weekend. "I am overjoyed to get this chance in free practice," Schumacher said in a statement. "I'm going to prepare myself well, so that I can do the best possible job for the team and gain some valuable data for the weekend." The 21-year-old Schumacher leads the Formula 2 standings after winning races in Monza and Sochi. He won the European Formula 3 championship in 2018 and tested a Ferrari F1 car in Bahrain in April 2019. — AP

## Pliskova ends Sherif dream run

Paris: Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a Roland Garros second round clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday. Pliskova squandered eight set points in the opening set as world No. 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead. However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4. Latvia's Ostapenko, the world No. 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1.

Having supplanted Kevin Anderson as South Africa's No. 1, Lloyd Harris is a man on a mission — to take tennis to the football strongholds of his country's townships. Harris won his opening match 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) against Alexei Popyrin of Australia. — AFP

## Live on TV

**CRICKET**  
IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Australia Women vs New Zealand Women: Third T20 from 9.15 am on Sony Six, HD

England Women vs West Indies Women: Fifth T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

**TENNIS**  
French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

**FOOTBALL**  
Spanish League: Huesca vs Atletico Madrid from 10.30 pm; Real Madrid vs Real Valladolid from 11 pm (Thursday) on LaLiga page on Facebook

Italian League: Benevento vs Inter Milan from 9.30 am; Lazio vs Atalanta from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2

Champions League Play-offs: Midtjylland vs Slavia Praha from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

**WWE NXT**  
Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

**BASKETBALL**  
NBA Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six

## RED HOT SUN

Hyderabad beat high-flying Delhi for first win of season

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 29: Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs for their first win in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Kane Williamson, playing his first game of the season, smashed 41 off 26 balls after SRH were put in to bat. Openers David Warner and Jonny Bairstow made 45 and 53 respectively as SRH scored 162 for four in 20 overs.

In response, Delhi Capitals ended at 147 for seven in 20 overs with Rashid Khan taking three wickets.

Earlier, Bairstow

smashed two fours and one six in his 48-ball 53

and shared two crucial partnerships — 77 off 57 balls with David Warner (45 off 33) for the open-

ing stand and 52 off 38 balls with Kane Williamson (41 off 26) for the third wicket.

Making his IPL debut,

Jammu and Kashmir's

Abdul Samad (12 off 7)

blasted a four and six in his useful cameo.

Warner and Bairstow

were circumspect with

the pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada (2/21) and Anrich Nortje

maintaining their line and length.

The result was

Sunrisers could only

score 38 in the power-

play, which yielded just

two fours and a six — all

hit by Warner.

Bairstow picked his

first boundary in the sev-

enth over, launching a

slog sweep for a six off

leg-spinner Amit Mishra

(2/35). The duo tried to

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Warner sent one

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Mishra returned to dis-

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before Sunrisers crossed

the 100-mark in 14th over.



Rashid Khan of Sunrisers Hyderabad celebrates the wicket of Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer in their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. — BCCI

spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

Mishra returned to dismiss Manish Pandey (3) before Sunrisers crossed the 100-mark in 14th over.

Playing his first match

of the season after recovering from an injury, Williamson smashed two fours in the 16th over to take SRH to 128 for two.

Bairstow reached his fifty off 44 balls before holding out to Nortje in the 18th over. Williamson too was dismissed in the last over.

— PTI

Bairstow picked his first boundary in the seventh over, launching a slog sweep for a six off leg-spinner Amit Mishra (2/35). The duo tried to make up for the lack of boundaries on the slow track with their excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Warner sent one straight over Ishant's head for his second six and then picked a four off Mishra with a reverse sweep but the

spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

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"So you take a chance on these calls and it could have gone either way. If we had 10-12 runs anything could have happened," explained the coach.

Jayawardene had to admit that seven runs were too small to defend even for a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah. — PTI

"If anyone could see, he (Kishan) was very tired at that moment and we were thinking that we probably need a couple of fresh guys who can go and hit the ball," he said.

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