THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 9 | SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER Max: 33°C



Sarvari: Aavani 24 **Tithi:** Sapthami Star: Krithigai/ Rohini Rahukalam:

12 noon to 1.30 pm Yamagandam: 7.30 am to 9 am **PRAYERS**

Fajar: 4.47 am Zohar: 12.12 pm **Asar:** 3.21 pm Maghrib: 6.16 pm Isha: 7.28 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.14 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM MOONRISE TODAY 11.08 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 12.14 PM



(+86,259)

(+1.078)43,63,843 73,894

covid19india.org

(+5,684)TN: 4,74,940 8,012

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

2,76,39,263 8,99,172

worldometers.info

Nod for CPCL's ₹33K crore refinery in Nagai

Hyderabad: A committee under the Ministry of Environment has accorded 'green signal' for Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd to set up a nine million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) Cauvery Basin Refinery in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu at an outlay of nearly ₹33,000 crore. The CPCL is in the process of sethearing on the project was conducted by the District Collector of Nagapattinam on September 20, 2019 at a CPCL township near the existing MMTPA refinery in Panangudi village, minutes of the

meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) held on August

StanChart fined ₹100 cr

for Fema violation in TMB deal

Mumbai: India's anti-money laundering agency fined Standard Chartered Plc ₹ 100 crore (\$13.6 million) for breaking foreign exchange rules when it worked on the takeover of a local bank marking one of the country's biggest penalties imposed on ar overseas lender. P7

BJP leader from Gwalior

joins Cong with supporters

Bhopal: BJP leader from Gwalior Satish Sikarwar joined the Congress along with several of his supporters in the presence of the party's Madhya Pradesh unit chief Kamal Nath on Tuesday Expressing confidence about winning all 27 seats in the bypolls that are yet to be scheduled, the former chief minister said voters of these constituencies may not support Kamal Nath or the Congress but they will

definitely support the truth.



Replace my photo with Sushant's in the election poster!



CITY | 2 **EMUs only after Central nod**



WORLD | 5 **Bruce Williamson** dies of Covid

SPORT | 8 Ponting speaks in Ashwin's support

Vol. 16 No. 165 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹3.00

Schools allowed to

FROM SEPTEMBER 21

reopen for classes 9-12



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

PLA fires in air after failing to capture Indian position: Army

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

Tensions with China seem to be intensifying in Ladakh with the Indian Army saying on Tuesday that in a major escalation of the ongoing face-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Chinese troops fired shots in the air on Monday night after failing to capture an Indian position in the Chushul sector. This is the first time in 45 years that a shot has been fired at the LAC.

According to sources, on Monday night, Chinese troops, armed with guns and what looked like their traditional *Guandao* weapon (a single-edge blade on the end of a pole), attempted to dislodge Indian troops from Mukhpari, one of the highest peaks in the Chushul

Since Indian soldiers were on a height, they could see Chinese action and warned them to move back, and that's when they fired shots in the air.

Officials said still some 30-PLA soldiers are involved in a direct face-off with Indian soldiers in Mukhpari. The situation in the area is tense and even a small incident can lead to a big escalation.

China, however, accused Indian troops of crossing the LAC and firing shots at Chinese border personnel.
"Through diplomatic and

military channels we have made stern representations asking the Indian side to stop it's dangerous actions, immediately withdraw the people who crossed the line and discipline the frontline troops and those who fired the warning shots and nilar dents won't happen again,' Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said at the ministry brief-

MONEY WILL BE

RETRIEVED: GOVT

DC CORRESPONDENT

All the funds that had

been siphoned off illegal-

ly in the implementation

CHENNAI, SEPT 8



Chinese PLA troops armed with spears near Mukhpari area and North of Rezang La on the south bank of Pangong Tso on Monday.

China to handover porters, says Rijiju

New Delhi, Sept. 8: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has confirmed that five youths missing from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by them and their handing over process to Indian authorities is being worked out, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday.
The five youths had

gone missing on Friday from the Sino-Indian border in the Upper

ing in Beijing on Tuesday. The Indian Army dismissed Chinese allegations and Brigadier-level talks were held on Tuesday to try to de-escalate the situation. The Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Chinese Army. A series of other high-level meetings were held in New Delhi on Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

"China's PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have con-firmed that the missing youths from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by their side. Further modalities to handover the persons to our authority is being worked out," Mr Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said.

— PTI

period between September-November, before winter sets in and snowfall blocks many of the crucial passes in Ladakh, is often referred to as "cam-paign season" because the climate is ideal for battle.

Chinese military aggression came four days after defence minister Rajnath counterpart in Moscow that it must not try to change the status quo at

INDIA, RUSSIA TO Jaishankar meets **SIGN DEFENCE LOGISTICS PACT**

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC

India and Russia are expected to ink a mutual defence logistics support agreement during the annual bilateral summit between the two countries that will take place in October or November this year, Russian deputy chief of mission (DCM) Roman Babushkin said on Tuesday. Russia has decided not to

sell weapons and defence equipment to Pakistan because of Indian "sensi-tivities and requests", he

said. The senior Russian diplomat said Russian supply of the S-400 missile defence system to India is "on schedule" but added that in case of India asking for the expediting (fast-tracking) of this, the Russian side "will do its best".

India already has similar defence logistics support pacts with the United States, France, Singapore and Australia. New Delhi is expected to ink such a pact soon with Japan as well apart from Russia which is India's time-tested friend and key defence supplier. Such defence logistics support pacts ensure that either country's defence platforms including ships and aircraft being able to use the other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies including fuel and

President Russian Vladimir Putin is expected to visit India in October or November for the Summit.

Iranian foreign min on way to Moscow

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

Close on the heels of defence minister Rajnath it was the turn of external affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Tuesday to make a stop-over in Iran during which he held talks with Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif. Sources said the EAM was "transiting" through Iran en-route to Moscow to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting there on September 9 and 10. But the two high-level vis-

cession have raised eyebrows and perhaps indicates New Delhi's concern over reports of massive Chinese financial assistance to Iran amid crippling American sanctions which may pose a huge strategic challenge to India and its development of the Chabahar port. The Iranian sea-port of Chabahar has proved crucial for India as it provides sea-land connectivity to Afghanistan bypassing the through route Pakistan. The situation in Afghanistan and role that Pakistan-backed Taliban may play there could also be weighing on New Delhi's mind. The development of Chabahar port and situation in Afghanistan are expected to have been discussed on Tuesday between the two ministers had earlier managed to get the US to exempt the Chabahar port from sanc-

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8 The Union health ministry on Tuesday issued standard operating procedure (SOP) for the opening schools across the

DC CORRESPONDENT

Singh's recent visit to Iran,

its from India in quick suc-

least six feet, using face covers, frequent hand-

with a focus on social distancing. The partial resumption of activities is meant for "the students to take guidance from their teachers", the guidelines issued by the ministry

country for standards

nine to 12 on a voluntary

basis from September 21

The government has allowed opening of the schools outside the containment zones but pro-hibited all activities, including assemblies, sports and other events that can lead to overcrowding.

Seating arrangement has to ensure a distance of 6 feet between chairs, desks etc. The precautionary measures include teachers, employees and students ensuring physical distancing

washing, following respiratory etiquette, self-monitoring of health, and not spitting. There should be regular sanitisation and facilities for hand washing. Weather permitting, outdoor spaces may be utilised for conducting teacher stu-dent interactions meeting physical distancing pro-"Cleaning and regular

disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be mandatory in all class rooms, laboratories, lockers, parking areas, other common areas etc. before beginning of classes and at the end of the day," the guidelines said.

Arrangements for contactless attendance shall be made by the school administration. Specific markings on the floor inside and outside the premises with a gap of six feet should be made. ■ P4



For whom

Classes 9-12 From Sept 21

Schools outside containment

On voluntary basis, with written

consent of parents/guardian of classes and at the

Dos

▶ 6 feet distance between chairs, desks.

Use face covers, hand wash, follow respiratory etiquette, self-monitor health, not spitting.

▶ Regular disinfection of frequently touched sur-

end of the day. Outdoor spaces for conducting teacher stu-

dent interactions ▶ Encourage online or distance learning.

Air conditioner to be set in the range of 24-30

IN BRIEF

Don'ts

Assemblies, sports and events

RS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN POST ALL SIPHONED OFF

the evolving situation.

Congress favours joint **Opposition candidate**

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi in Ahead of the Monsoon sesthe State would be recovered and all those who sion of Parliament, the Congress Party has decided to take on the Centre were involved in it would aggressively on the floor of be brought to book, state agriculture secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi both the Houses and also put up a joint Opposition candidate for election to the post of Deputy Chairp-erson of the Rajya Sabha, said on Tuesday.
The CB-CID, which is investigating the scam, which is scheduled to be

had found non-farmers held on September 15. by producing fake docu-The decisions were taken ments in 11 districts. Over ₹110 crore had been siphoned off, of at a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi here on which ₹32 crore had been recovered, and 18 Tuesday.Sources told this persons had been arrestnewspaper that Leader of ed, Mr Bedi said. Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Ghulam Nabi Azad and party Treasurer Ahmed Patel would coordinate with the other Opposition parties over putting up a joint candidate.

The post fell vacant when current Deputy Chairperson Harivansh's term ended and he has since been re-elected to the Upper House from Bihar. The NDA was likely to renominate him as its candidate. Apart from fielding a joint Opposition candidate, the Congress strategy group also decided to raise the issue of restoration of the Question Hour in both houses during the session and Chinese aggression at

the border in Ladakh.

The party would also

raise the issue of the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic amid a rise in daily number of cases and India taking the second spot in total cases in the world, besides the ill-effects of the lockdown.

besides Mrs Gandhi by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Manmohan Minister Singh and Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad and leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Congress deputy leaders in both houses and chief whips and party's whips also attended the virtual

The Parliamentary Party

meeting was attended

Reverse RBI policy, CM tells PM Modi

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEP 8:

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prevail upon the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to immediately reverse its policy to dis-incentivise good borrowers, who repay on time, and restore the earlier weightage system for free flow of priority sector credit

It is 'a short-sighted and counter-productive strategy, for not just the overall economic well-being of the nation, especially when the nation is combating the impact of Covid-19, but also for the health of the banking system which is struggling with rising non-perform-



ing assets, Palanisamy said in the letter on Tuesday. Referring to the recent master directions for priority sector lending, issued on September 4, he said it contained "a very disturbing and discrimi-

natory provision." "Adjustments for weights in PSL Achievement" contained a provision to incentivise flow of prioritv sector credit to districts with comparatively lower flow of credit with a higher weightage of 125 percent, he said.

Denial of job in Air India: SC to hear TN transwoman's plea

New Delhi, Sept. 8: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear after three weeks a TN transgender woman's plea challenging Air India's decision to deny her a job as a cabin crew member. A bench of Justices A. M. Khanwilkar, Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna said the matter has been already notified for hearing and would be taken up after three weeks. Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for the petitioner, said that she had filed an applica-tion for early hearing of her main petition as the matter is pending since

■ Details: P2

Rhea arrested in drugs case, sent to jail for 14 days

Mumbai, Sept. 8: After three days of interrogation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday

Chakraborty in a drugs case linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, following which she was sent in judicial custody till September 22 by a local court.

The court rejected Rhea's bail application. The NCB told the court that she was an "active member" of a drugs syndicate and procured drugs for Rajput, her bovfriend

The NCB, however, said

it did not want her custody as it had already questioned her for three days. Her lawyer Satish Maneshinde said they will approach sessions court

for bail.

After producing her before the additional chief magistrate judicial through video link, the NCB told the court that she was confronted with all other accused including her brother Showik during her interrogation and facts in their statements were

verified. disclosed her Rhea involvement in procurement of drugs for Rajput and related financial transactions and also her instructions to co-accused Sammuel Miranda, Dipesh Sawant and Show Chakraborty, it claimed. Showik

The sections of the NDPS Act invoked against her include 8(c) (sale, possession or manufacture of banned drugs) and 20 (b) (ii) (possession or use of small quantity of banned drugs), as per her lawyers. After the arrest, the 28-

year-old Rhea was taken to

Sion hospital in Central

Mumbai where she tested

nagative for Covid-19.

Mutha Ashok Jain, NCB deputy director general, South West region, said the central agency had enough evidence to arrest

Bollywood actor Rhea

Chakraborty

leaves for a medical test after being arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with drugs-related allegations in the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, from NCB office at Ballard Estate, in Mumbai, Tuesday.



No water shortage in Chennai till May 2021

Chennai: Sept. 8: The Chennai Metrowater is hopeful of ensuring 700 MLD (million litres a day) water supply to residents till May next year, thanks to comfortable storage in the four chief reservoirs here and the anticipated four tmcft Krishna river Pradesh, from next week. "With the above water sources and the four tmcft Krishna water that will be available from September 14, city residents will be provided uninterrupted 700 MLD water till May 2021," local administration minister S. P. Velumani

SHORT TAKES

Woman killed in road accident

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

25-year-old woman was killed after a private bus ran over her near Chromepet on Monday night.

The deceased, identified as, Vaishnavi, 25, a resident of Arumugapettai in Walajahbad in Kanchipuram district, was a maintenance worker in the Greater Chennai Parks in the

After duty on Monday night, Vaishnavi was riding pillion with a motorist who gave her a ride to Kanchipuram. While they were near the Chromepet bus stand, the driver lost control of the bike and hit the median. In the impact Vaishnavi fell on the road and a private minibus, coming behind the bike, ran over her. She died on the spot. Based on information, the Chrompet traffic investigation police rushed to the spot and recovered the body. An investigation has been launched. Vaishnavi lived with his husband and two children.

5-member gang held for kidnapping

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

The Chengalpet town police on Tuesday arrested a five-member gang for kidnapping a farmer in

According to the police, the victim was identified as Parthasarathy, 50, a farmer who lives in Vaiyavur in Kanchipuram district. He is also into real estate brokership.

Parthasarathy borrowed ₹6.5 lakhs from one Lakshman, a financier in Tindivanam, a few months ago. Due to the coronavirus lockdown, he struggled financially and failed to repay the amount. Parthasarathy requested for more time to repay. But the financier demanded money instant-

On Tuesday, Lakshman sent his men to abduct Parthasarathy. Police said the five men intercepted Parthasarathy

Palayaseevaram Chengalpet. Following a heated argument, five of them forcibly pushed him into the car and fled.

In the afternoon, when the gang stopped the car to have lunch on the Chennai-Tiruchy national highway, Parthasarathy managed to alert the police control room. Samundeeshwari immedi-

ately instructed the Chengalpet town police to trace him.

The police team traced the car near Pazhaveli in Chengalpet district. The police team rounded up the gang along with the kidnapped. The five men identified as Viji, Micheal Raj, Santhosh, Raju, Rathinam were arrested by the police for criminal intimidation and abduc-

accused were remanded in judicial custody. Police are now on the lookout for the financier.

In the afternoon, when the gang stopped the car to have lunch on the Chennai-Tiruchy national highway, Parthasarathy managed to alert the police control room. Chengalpet **DIG Samundeeshwari** immediately instructed the Chengalpet town police to trace him

Encroachments take life out of Ramapuram lake

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

Though the state government brought in various measures to restore lakes and water-bodies in the city, especially after the 2015 flood, under the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, the reclamation encroached Ramapuram lake and its water-bodies remains a pipedream. The lake and its water-bodies, according to revenue records, was spread over 27 acres in 1987. But now it has shrunk to two acres. Till 1990 the waterbody

was the lifeline for entire Ramapuram village which had groundwater level at two feet depth. Today the groundwater table plummeted to 30 feet in wells and went beyond 150 feet in bore wells due to unchecked encroachment of the lake by at least 700

people.
An official report prepared

Chandrasekharan, tahsildar, Maduravoyal taluk in August 2019 says that out of 10.87 hectares (27acres) Ramapuram lake and water-bodies spread over 2.08 hectares (5.13 acres) has been classified as 'Gramanatham' (village residential area) in the revenue records. The remaining extent of 8.79 hectares (21acres) stood registered as Ramapuram lake. Of this, 1.66 hectares

Jumbo dies after

being injured in

fight with other

Coimbatore, Sept. 8: A

male elephant was found

dead, with injuries on its

trunk near the reserve

forest area of Andiparai Shola in Valparai range in the district, forest

department sources said

Based on information

by some tea estate workers that they noticed an

elephant with its trunk

injured and bleeding

moving to the forest area

last night, forest depart-

ment officials rushed to

the spot and recovered

the carcass, sources

The veterinarians car-

ried out autopsy on the 25-year old elephant this

morning and concluded that the death could be

due to injuries sustained

in a fight with other ele-

phants in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).

The carcass was later buried there, they

This is the third ele-phant to die in the ATR

this year and 20th in the

last seven months in Coimbatore Forest divi-

Based on informa-

tion by some tea

that they noticed

an elephant with

its trunk injured

ing to the forest

est department

the spot and

and bleeding mov-

area last night, for-

officials rushed to

recovered the car-

cass, sources said

estate workers

elephants

on Tuesday.



The encroached Ramapuram lake.

(4 acres) was earmarked for Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The rest of the land must have remained as Ramapuram Lake and water-bodies. But the lake has been reduced to 85ares (2.1acres) today. Though the lake is maintained by the Greater Chennai Corporation since 2012, encroachments continue on both sides of the lake in Thirumalai Nagar, the report reveals.

Paul Dhas, president, Ramapuram Welfare Federation, said that Ramapuram lake was

only source of recharge of ground water for one lakh inhabitants and around Ramapuram village. ' took up the matter with the GCC authorities and the district collector in 2018. But they have failed in preventing encroach-

The entire area is being encroached by residential, commercial and educational institutions. The authorities should act encroachers against under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment (Amendment) Act, 1965. We had also filed a Public Interest Litigation in the high court last year to get encroachments removed, but it reached

nowhere," he said. Meanwhile, an official with the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT), that comes under GCĆ, said that eviction drives and resettlements would be a huge and costly task for the government.

So the government protects the existing potion of land by regularising the encroachments, the offi-



Devotees throng Vadapalani Murugan temple for Aavani krithigai festival on

EMUs only after Central nod

much expected Tambaram- Chengalpet third line will be commissioned by March 2021, in phases, and electrification of 270 km long rail lines will be completed in the current financial year, said General Manager, Southern Railway, John

The fourth line connecting Chennai Beach to Egmore railway stations will be completed in 2023 and the Detailed Project Report will be submitted in November this year, he said while addressing a virtual press meet on

The operations of EMUs have been halted in all the cities across the country due to Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. It will be resumed only after approval from Railway Board and Central government.

A total of 901 Covid-19 infected patients have been treated and were cured at railway hospital, Perambur till August 31, 2020. The SR operated 507 Shramik Specials and facilitated the movement of 7.35 lakh stranded persons. Southern Railway had arranged Refund of fare on Cancellation of Tickets during Lockdown to the tune of Rs.70.58 crores during the period

from 1.6.2020 to 31.8.2020 The doubling of Mecheri Road to Mettur dam (12Km), Omalur-Mecheri Road (17 km), Attippatttu-Attipattu Pudunagar (1.70km) will be completed March next year and

gauge

down period.

conversion of

Andipatti-Theni (17km), -Bodinayakanur (15km) will be completed by September next year. Employees at Carriage Works, Perambur manufactured 7,200 PPEs, Loco Works, Perambur 2,000 PPEs and Golden Rock Workshop, Trichy 10,250 PPEs. The Southern Railway has made 2,54,190 masks and 37,040 liters of sanitizers during the lock-

Five killed in lorry-car collision

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

Five persons, including four of a family, were killed and four others sustained injuries when a lorry and car collided Vriddachalam in Cuddalore district on

Tuesday.
According to police,
Velusamay of
Nainarpalayam in
Kallakurichi district was proceeding to Sri Kolanchiappar temple in Vriddachalam along with his family members in a car to perform ear boring ceremony of his children. When the vehicle was nearing Periya Nesalur village on Ullundurpet-Salem Highway, a youth attempted to cross the road and, noticing the danger, the driver applied

the brake. Meanwhile, a lorry transporting fish from Parangipettai to Kerala collided with the car. The vehicles were damaged and turned upside down.

Revathy, wife of Velusamy, their relatives Bhavani, Parimala and Loganathan, a worker in the lorry, died at the spot. The injured – Velusamy, Devanath, Arivarasan, Prathvijay, Renukadevi and Manimegalai, were rushed to the government general Perambalur. Devanath died in the hospital. The bodies were sent to government general hospital, Vriddachalam for postmortem. Traffic was disrupted for more than an hour. Cuddalore SP M. Sree Abhinav inspected

12 more succumb to coronavirus in Pondy; toll climbs to 337

Puducherry, Sept. 8: Puducherry continued to see an upward trend in Covid-19 deaths as 12 more people died of the deadly virus on Tuesday, raising the toll in

the union territory to 337. A release from Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said 440 new cases of the viral infection were reported, pushing the overall tally to 17,749. Of the fresh cases as many as 4,831 were active followed by 12,581 cases of recovery and discharge. The Director said 440 new cases were identified after examination of 2,081 samples in the last 24 hours, while 446 patients were discharged from hospi-

The fatality and recovery rates were 1.9 percent and 70.88 percent respectively. Kumar said the department examined 85,906 samples so far and it was found that 66.500 of them tested negative. Results of examination of remaining samples was awaited.

Green Line metro services to resume today

DC CORRESPONDENT

Green Line metro rail services, from St. Thomas Mount to Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Metro station, will resume on Wednesday. A Chennai Metro Rail

Limited (CMRL) release said the operation will be resumed in the Green Line as part of bolstering of its operations in a graded manner. The CMRL, which had suspended all operations on March 22 due to the pandemic and lockdown, resumed the Blue Line operations on Monday between Washermenpet and Airport metro sta-

The Green Line operations between St Thomas Mount and Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Metro via Koyambedu will restart from 7 am to 8 pm with peak hour headway of 5 minutes and non-peak hour headway of 10 min-

The train stoppage time at stations has been increased from 20 seconds to 50 seconds in order to maintain social distancing and fresh air circulation. Contact-less QR code

ticketing methods and travel card reader machines have been introduced in all 32 metro stations for safety of passengers. These facilities can be utilised aownioaaing CMRL mobile app.

Lifer for two in murder case

DC CORRESPONDENT KARUR, SEPT. 8

The district fast track Mahila court awarded sons on Monday for murdering a retired staff nurse and stealing her jewelry, including mangalsutra, here in 2013.

According to the prose cution, the accused Vetri alias Sivasubramanian (33) and his friend Prabakaran (23) hailing from Thanthondrimalai and Sukkaliyur respectively, strangled the victim Jayanthi (62), and stole her jewelry of eight sovereigns, and set on fire the victim's body in a nearby forest area. Pasupathipalayam police arrested the duo and filed a murder case against them before the Mahila court. Mahila Court Judge Sasikala awarded

Denied job as cabin crew member by AI

SC to hear transwoman plea after 3 weeks of her candidature. "The

New Delhi, Sept. 8: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear after three weeks a transgender woman's plea challenging Air India's decision to deny her a job as a cabin crew member. A bench of Justices A M

Khanwilkar, Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna said that the matter has been already noti-fied for hearing and would be taken up after three weeks. Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for the petitioner, said that she had filed an application for early hearing of her main petition as the matter is pending since 2017. On July 23, the top court had allowed the transgender woman, who had undergone sex change in 2014, to amend her plea challenging Air India's decision to deny her the



job of a cabin crew member by assailing the grounds of conducting personality test for third gender candidates by the national carrier. The top court had issued notice in 2017 and sought responses from Air India and the Civil Aviation Ministry on the plea. They justified the decision of not selecting her saying she had failed to secure minimum marks to qualify for the personal-

ity test and group discussion (PT and GD) and there no discrimination tioner had claimed that to pursue her dreams, she had worked for 13 months in Sutherland Global Services in the airline sector and even at Air India's customer support, both domestic and international, at Chennai. Born in Tamil Nadu in 1989, she said she graduated in engineering in 2010. She underwent the gender surgery to turn into a woman in April 2014 and this information was pub-lished in the state government gazette. The petitioner said she learnt about an advertisement on July 10, 2017, by Air India for the post of a female cabin crew for its Northern Region office in Delhi on a term engagement

basis for an initial period of five years. She applied in the female category as she had undergone a successful sexual reassignment surgery in Bangkok. She said she got the call letter, appeared for PT and GD tests and undertook four attempts, "but unfortunately she has not been short-listed for the post in question even though she fared well in the tests conducted". In her petition, she alleged that she was not shortlisted for being a transgender and the vacancies in the cabin crew were earmarked only for women. She said that representations made to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, but there was no redressal. She had sought direction to Air India and the ministry for consideration

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 prohibits discrimination. It is clear that no person shall discriminate against a transgender person in relation to employment or occupation...", her plea said. Citing the top court verdict of 2014, she said the apex court has given certain directions for protection of the rights of the transgenders by including a third category in documents like election card, passport, driving license and ration card, and for admission in educational institutions, hospitals, among others. "By recognising diverse gender identities, the court has busted the dual gender structure of 'man' and 'woman' which is recognised by the society," she said in her plea.

life sentence to both.

FB gang holds youth for ransom, three held

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUCHY, SEPT. 8

Police have arrested three persons including a woman, and are on the lookout for five others regarding the cheating of a youth group through facebook, by posting romantic messages and

obscene photos. Police identified the arrested as Rahamathnisha (20), a third-year college student, Asiknivas, youth wing organiser (Indian National League), Tiruchy district. In their joint operation, the gang had access to the facebook account with one Vinodkumar (30) a printing

Police on lookout for another five

Chettipalayam in Cuddalore district, a year ago, through Rahamathnisha expressed her love for him through facebook, and made

frequent cans through whatsapp. September, Rahamathnisha called Vinodkumar and told him that she would like to meet urgently, and Vinodkumar came

Tiruchy on his two-wheeler. On reaching Tiruchy, he informed Rahamathnisha

about it.
A little later, a person introducing himself as a sent by Rahamathnisha to take him home, asked him to come to the military ground. But, a four-member gang in an auto-rickshaw Vinodkumar and said they were asked Rahamathnisha to take him

.Vinodkumar and two others traveled in the autorickshaw, and two others followed them Vinodkumar's two-wheeler.

gang

snatching his bike, demanded ₹one lakh for them to release him and his twowheeler. When Vinodkumar refused, they assaulted him, snatched his ATM card and taking him forcibly to an ATM kiosk, attempted to draw cash, but there was no money. Finally, the gang released him saying they would release his bike only

Vinodkumar to a house in Cantonment area, and

if he paid them Rs one lakh. Based on his complaint, K K Nagar police formed a special team, and they called the gang members. Stating that the amount demanded was ready, they asked them to collect the same at a particular spot.
There, three members of Rahamathnisha came to the spot where the police team

Soon, the police team rounded them up, and they were remanded to judicial custody.

was waiting.

Based on their input, police are in search of another five persons including Ansari, lover of Rahamathnisha, who is said to be ab-.sconding.

Preliminary enquiries revealed that the gang was involved in similar crime in enquiries different parts of the state and had cheated several persons, police added.



Heavy traffic jam near Koyambedu junction on Tuesday due to flyover work.

Did AICTE object to waiving arrears or not?

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAL SEPT. 8

Did the AICTE really raise objections to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's decision to exempt college and university students with arrears from taking those examinations? Or does the government order

It remained a million dol-lar question, keeping the students in a quandary, even after a copy of an e-mail purportedly sent by the AICTE chairman Anil D. Shahansrabudhe to Anna University vice-chancellor M K Surappa made its rounds in the media.

While the publication of the letter copy on Tuesday led to many suspecting the claim of the government that no such letter was forwarded by Surappa, who had first said that he had received a communication from the AICTE and that he had referred it to the gov-ernment, it did not clear the doubts over the students' future at the end of the

Reacting to the letter, whose authenticity came under a doubt later in the day with fisheries minister Jayakumar reiterating that the government had received no such communication and even the university not approving the genuineness of the letter, DMK president M. K. Stalin launched an attack on the government on the issue.

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the media

DC CORRESPONDENT

Tamil Nadu should reject the

provisions of the National Educational Policy (NEP)

2020 that were not in conso nance with the lederal struc-

ture, social justice and equity,

said a statement by 100 educa-

tionists and civil society rep-

resentatives, addressed to the

Chief Minister Edappadi K

'NEP 2020 demolishes the

federal character of India by

promoting centralization, by

controlling all decision-mak-ing from ECCE and primary education to higher educa-

tion, including professional

education. This cannot be

countenanced,' the statement

Since the State had pro-

gressed well in education, the

Assembly should adopt a res-

olution demanding transfer

of Education as subject to

List II in Seventh Schedule

under Article 246 of the

Constitution of India (as was

the case in the original

Constitutional scheme), the

'As is known, originally education was a state subject in

the Constitution. In 1976 (dur-

statement said.

Palaniswami.

Vegetable, fruits exports from Chennai hit

P.A. JEBARAJ I DC

The export of vegetables and fruits from Chennai to other countries has falldrastically since March due to the Coronavirus lockdown, apart from reduced air cargo services and high freight charges.

Chennai regularly exports vegetables such as carrot, cabbage, beans, beetroot, garlic and all seasonal fruits, said an

Vegetable and fruit exporters usually prefer via passenger flights to ensure the quality and freshness of prod-ucts. But with the airlines

increasing freight charges exports have come to a standstill. There is lot of uncer-

tainty from sourcing fruits and vegetables to get cargo slots. In the initial days of the lockdown, labour and transportation were the big challenges, but gradually the high freight charge became the major reason for the drop

The bulk of vegetables and fruits are exported from Chennai airport to Dubai, Qatar, Singapore, Malaysia and other countries. Due to the high freight charges the export volume has come down. The export cost of one kilogram of vegetable is

Rs 60 via passenger flight, while the charge via cargo flight is Rs 200. The products are not delivered on time via cargo flights, compromising the freshness of the goods.

An exporter said the overseas buyers are not ready to pay for the higher cost. They are waiting for the international flights to resume operations for an improvement in the sit-

Officials at the Chennai airport said they are tak-ing necessary steps to export the goods on time. However, they said the freight cost cannot be reduced as it is a fixed price across the country.

Pseudoephedrine drugs worth ₹40L seized demo by DMK

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI SEPT, 8

Pseudoephedrine drugs worth ₹40 lakh, hidden in lumbosacral belts and trophies, were seized by the Chennai air customs. A person has been arrested in connection with the drugs seizure.

According to the air customs, based on a tip-off, two courier parcels suspected to contain narcotics, which were des-tined to Australia, at courier terminal were intercepted. The first parcel contained eight lumbosacral belts, which appeared to be unusually heavy. On cutting the belts, three plastic pouches containing white crystalline powder were found concealed inside each

Two kg of white crysalline powder were recovered from 24 plastic

The second parcel con-

"NEP 2020 demolishes the federal character of

India by promoting centralization, by controlling

all decision-making from ECCE and primary edu-

education. This cannot be countenanced"

subject in the Constitution. In 1976 (during

cation to higher education, including professional

"As is known, originally education was a state

Emergency) by 42nd Constitution Amendment, it

was shifted to the Concurrent List (List III under

Call to bring education

under state list: Experts

ing Emergency) by 42nd Constitution Amendment, it

was shifted to the Concurrent

List (List III under Article

246), the signatories of the

Implementation of NEP 2020

would usurp the constitution-

al right and duty of the State

and Union Territory go-

vernments to frame their own

policies and programmes or

enact laws concerning educa-

tion, as per the needs and aspirations of the people of

the State, the statement said.

Even before the state gov-

ernment had decided on the

policy issue relating to the NEP, teachers, who are

NEP, teachers, who are employees of the govern-ment, had been asked to give

statement explained.

tained two trophies which appeared to be unusually heavy. On opening the wooden base of trophies, a plastic pouch containing one kg of white crystalline powder was found concealed inside each trophy. Two kg of white crystalline powder were recovered from the two trophies.

kg pseu-Total 4 doephedrine drugs valued at Rs. 40 lakhs were recovered and seized under the NDPS Act, 1985. Pseudoephedrine is a much-sought-after chemical precursor in the illicit manufacture Methamphetamine.

The white crystalline powder tested positive for Pseudoephedrine, a controlled substance covered under NDPS Act, 1985. Follow up searches were carried out and one person has been arrested by the customs. Further investigation is

suggestions on it, the state-

ment pointed out and said the

Union Secretary writing to

the School Education Secre-

tary even before the policy

was placed before Parliament

was a serious violation of the federal structure of India.

The signatories, including

People First chairman M G Devasahayam, coordinator

Thomas Franco, former vice-

chancellor Vasanthi Devi, for-

mer high court judge Hariparanthaman and educa-

tionist Prince Gajendra Babu, urged the State govern-

ment protect the rights of the

state, uphold parliamentary

democracy and carry for-

ward the social justice meas-

DC CORRESPONDENT

The state Assembly pandemic.

The Business Advisory Committee, which met on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Speaker P Dhanapal, decided to make it a three-day session between September 14 to 16 and finalized the proceedings. The second day would see the transaction of government businesses and the third day for taking up supplementary demands for

Appropriation Bills. Leader of

session, including media persons, would have to undergo a coronavirus test 72 hours ahead of the beginning of the ses-

Emerging out of the Murugan said that they had asked for a sevenday session.

'Withdraw Neet'

DC CORRESPONDENT NAGAPATTINAM, SEPT. 8

Members of the district unit of the DMK vouth and students wing here, led by party district incharge, Gowthaman, carried black flags and placards and staged a demonstration here on Tuesday urging the Centre and state governments to withdraw NEET, and to streamline the on-line education

and classes.
Similar demonstrations were held at Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur and Tiruchy dis-

Covid test mandatory for **MLAs to attend Assembly**

CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

meeting at the Kalaivanar Arangam on Monday (September 14,)would actually transact business for just two days as the first day would be spend on obituary references to the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, MP from Kanyakumari H Vasanthakumar, Chepauk-Thiruvellikeni MLĀ J Anbalagan and victims of Coronavirus

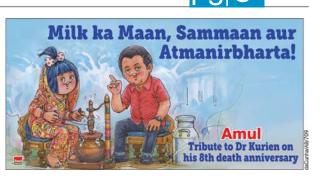
grants

There would be question hour on both the days, the Speaker said after the meeting, which was attended by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, Deputy Opposition Durai Murugan, DMK whip Chakarapani, Leader of the Congress Legislative Party K R Ramasamy and Deputy Speaker Pollachi Jayaraman. All those attending the

sion, it was announced.

₹14.26 cr credited into bank accts of ineligible persons in Cuddalore dt

Cuddalore: Cuddalore district collector Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri on Tuesday said a sum of ₹14.26 crore was credited into the bank accounts of 77, 254 ineligible persons under the Central government sponsored Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme in the coastal district



Govt will open 2,000 mini clinics in state, says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

Spread of coronavirus continued with 5,773 new infections reported in the State apart from 89 fatalities despite the Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami claiming that the pandemic had been brought under control in the last five months.

In Chennai, there were 946 new cases and 16 deaths, while the districts that had high numbers were Chengalpattu 330, Coimbatore Cuddalore

Thiruvallur 248and Thiruvannamalai 262. However, addressing an

advisory meeting on Covid-19 prevention measures, strengthening of medical infrastructure and continuing awareness Palaniswami increased testing, which went up to 85,000 a day, as

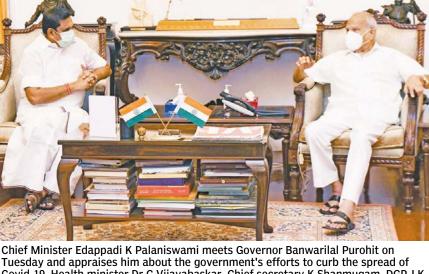
advised by the medical experts and higher officials, helped bring down the rate of infection.
Relaxation in lockdown had led to the opening up

of most sectors and people had been allowed to move freely. But since the removal of e-pass system and other monitoring of movements had added to the task of the officials, who had to be vigilant and ensure that the disease did not spread, the Chief Minister said.

He said the government had planned to open 2,000 mini clinics all over the state to treat people suffering from minor ailments like fever and headache. With basic medical equipment the mini clinics would function with one doctor, one nurse and one assistant.

Vacancies in the health department would be filled, Palaniswami said, adding that the government would not allow the loss of even one life. Every life is precious and should be saved, whatever be the financial burden, he said. Whatever efforts the gov-

ernment made, at the end of the day it was the cooperation of the people that made the difference, he said, urging people not to crowd in fish and meat markets. Also he wanted the police to ensure that there was no crowding at Marina beach, where people could be putting themselves at risk by buying selves at risk by buy restored soon, he sain, hormalev will be adding that people should



Tuesday and appraises him about the government's efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19. Health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar, Chief secretary K Shanmugam, DGP J K

₹74.69 cr second data centre inaugurated

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

A high-tech State Data Centre, the second such facility in Tamil Nadu was inaugurated by Chief Minister K. Palaniswami

on Tuesday.

The facility, set up at an estimated cost of ₹74.69 crore on Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Elcot) premises in Perungudi here, was inaugurated through a video conference by the CM from the secretariat. The SDC-2, under the IT

department with 195 server racks would cater to safe storage of govern-ment data and also render online services between state departments, people and the industry besides fulfilling other information technology based needs of the government, an official release nere

CM Palaniswami had on June 1, 2018, announced a Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (CSA-TN) at a cost of Rs 21.39 crore.

"To protect the government's e-governance infrastructure and assure safe and secure internet services, Cyber security archi-

Expert committee on school education

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

The state government has appointed a 13-member committee led by the principal secretary of school education to offer recommendations implementation National Education Police (NEP) 2020.

The committee consisted of five IAS officers, who are Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, Kulkarni, Latha, Kavitha Ramu and C Munianathan, according to a government notifica-The other members are

Akila Radhakrishanan of Unicief, N Panchana- for translation in 2019.

As part of this initiative, Palaniswami also launched a portal www.cert.tn. gov.in which shall be the computer emergency response team for the

wearing facemasks and tance.

tham, VC of Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, A Jothimurugan, former VC of Thiruvalluvar University, R. Balsubramanian, Pro vice chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Mariazeena Johnson, chancellor of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, R Elangovan, Retired
Director of School
E d u c a t i o n,
Sundaraparipooranam
Pakshirajan, former
member of Tamil Nadu Child Rights Protection Commission and V. K. Jeyashiri, a school teacher who won the Sahitya Academy

tecture for Tamil Nadu plan will be implemented through the state-run Elcot, "he had said. state government and play a key role in audit, supervision and protection of the government's computer and data infrastructure. The first Tamil Nadu State Data Centre was set up under the National e-Governance Action Plan

follow the norms like maintaining social dis-

Disincentive framework unacceptable

From P1

said.

'Prima facie this is not objectionable. However what we find unacceptable is the dis-incentive framework contained in the guideline for districts with comparatively higher flow of priority sector credit with a lower weightage of 90 per cent,' he

Since all 32 districts of Tamil Nadu (prior to bifurcation) had been categorised as districts with comparatively high flow of priority sector credit. the whole of Tamil Nadu had been covered in the disincentive frame work for priority sector lending, he pointed out.

"In no other State have

so many districts been covered in the disincentive frame work. Tamil Nadu appears to have been singled out for particularly adverse treatment in the Master Directions"

In no other state have

so many districts been covered in the dis-incentive frame work. Tamil Nadu appears to have been singled out for particularly adverse treatment in the Master Directions," Chief Minister said. While attempts could

and should be made to increase credit flow to districts where it was low, such efforts ought to be by increasing the overall credit flow and not by attempting diverting credit from other districts or States, he said, adding: 'The overall size of the pie needs to be increased alongside greater financial penetration.'

Explaining that districts in Tamil Nadu had received a higher flow of credit on account of the enterprise, hard work, diligence and timely repayment of loans by households and businesses, as they had been good borrowers, utilising the loans for the intended purpose and servicing the debt on time, he said they should not now be penalised for having abid-

ed by the rules, by direct-

ing the flow of credit away from them.

On the contrary, they should be encouraged to expand the economic activities in the country. Hence the policy of the RBI is unfair and regressive and must be reversed immediately. Hard working, law abiding borrowers who serviced their debt on time, deserve to be encouraged by higher flow of credit.

When the country, par-ticularly Tamil Nadu had been affected by the pan-demic, uninterrupted flow of credit was critical for revival of economic activity and no such retrograde action, adversely affecting flow of credit, should be taken, he said

BU urged to fund sanitation of exam halls

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC

The Bharathiar University in Coimbatore has been urged to allot funds for sterilization and sanitation of examination halls at the Government Arts College (GAC) here in Ooty, for holding of final semester examinations at the college, as otherwise, it may not be possible to conduct the exams in a safe environment, given



Senate

member, Bharathiar University, Dr R Sanil, Associate professor, Zoology, at the GAC here and also president, Ooty chapter of Tamil

Nadu Government College and second year degree Teachers Association, in a letter to Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, stated that colleges are acting only as centers to conduct university exams. Hence, it is the responsibility of the university to adhere to the directions of the government to hold exams.

"To conduct exams, the university had already collected fees from students. But the exams for the first

courses annulled. Exam fee collected from students of the first and second year degree courses, is more than enough to provide proper facilities to maintain hygiene in exam centres. Hence, the university may sanction an amount of Rs. 20 per student per exam, and provide proper sanitation facilities for the students and clean rooms and surroundings, after each batch of exams. More visit the colleges during examination days. So, there is a dire need to take all precautionary measures in the backdrop of Covid-19 threat," he said, and added that the university asking colleges to look into the local bodies for sanitation facilities is unjustifiable, when the university has enough funds to be allotted for the



On behalf of the Vellore Red Cross unit, Collector Shanmugasundaram on Tuesday inaugurates the project of planting 15 lakh fruit-bearing trees and palm tree saplings across the district. Kudimaramathu works around the Anpoondi lake here have been completed, and the new tree planting project is expected to strengthen the lake bund also. The project would also help improve the forest cover across Vellore, said the collector. Indian Red Cross secretary Dr C Indernath participated in the event. - K. Senthil Nathan

3 ARRESTED FOR HOISTING 'PAK FLAG' IN J&K TOWN

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, SEPT. 8

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday claimed that they arrested three over ground workers of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) on charge of hoisting Pakistan's national flag in a township of northern Bandipore district of the Union Territory. It also claimed recovering a handgrenade and other incriminating material from the trio.

A statement issued by the police here said that they registered an FIR and took up investigations after receiving information that some "anti-national elements" at the behest of local active LeT militants have hoisted Pakistani flag at the main marketplace in Hajin township of Bandipore "in order to create fear psychosis and incite antinational feelings among the common people of the area".

During the course of investigation, officers learnt about the involvement of three indi-viduals involved in the commission of crime. They have been arrested and identified as Mujeeb Shamas, Tanveer Ahmad Mir and Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh — all residents of Mir Mohalla Hajin," the statement said.

BJP CHALLENGES NEELAM GORHE'S ELECTION

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

Shiv Sena legislator Neelam Gorhe was on Tuesday reelected as the deputy chairperson of the Maharashtra legislative Council. However, the BJP has challenged the election in the Bombay High Court on the ground that BJP MLCs infected by Coronavirus were deprived of their voting

Earlier, the Chairman of the Legislative Council Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar announced that Gorhe was elected "unanimously". However, the BJP staged a walkout from the House stating that the election should not be held as the matter is sub-judice. Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena also appointed Gorhe as a spokesperson of

the party.
The Maha Vikas Aghadi
(MVA) had fielded Neelam Gorhe, while the BJP had nominated Vijay alias Bhai Girakar. However, the BJP has also approached the High Court seeking its intervention in the scheduling of the elec-

MP BJP LEADER JOINS CONG AHEAD OF BY-POLLS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 8

Senior BJP leader Satish Singh Sikarwar on Tuesday joined Congress here dealing a jolt to the saffron party ahead of crucial by-elections to 27 Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, expected to be held by the end of October.

Sikarwar is most likely to be nominated as Congress candidate for the Gwalior constituency which is going to byelections along with other 26 Assembly seats.

"Sikarwar was inducted in Congress along with 150 BJP cadres including two local sarpanches by former chief minister and Madhya Pradesh PCC president Kamal Nath", a press release issued by the party said.

"I was fighting against the feudal force of the erstwhile Gwalior royal family of Scindia when I was in the BJP. But, the BJP's battle against the feudal culture in Gwalior has lost relevance after Scindia switched over to BJP from Congress. Hence, I quit BJP to join Congress to continue my fight against the feudal force in Gwalior", Sikarwar told

reporters. Ŝikarwar had contested as a BJP candidate in Gwalior Assembly constituency in 2018 polls and lost to Munnalal Goyal who had then fought the polls as a Congress nominee. Mr Goyal quit Congress and joined BJP in March this

year. Nath said "Congress is now free of the influence of the (Gwalior) palace (following Scindia's exit from Congress).

Nath described Scindia and the latter's followers who quit Congress to pull down his government in March as 'merchants of power' and said "BJP has bargained with 'merchants of power' to assume power in MP".

Nepal steps up surveillance on border

Indian security agencies keenly watch sudden, unusual spurt in helicopter sorties by Nepalese army

VIKRAM SHARMA I DC HYDERABAD SEPT. 8

Amid heightened tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control, hectic activity by Nepal Army particularly a sudden spurt in helicopter sor-ties around the Lipulekh pass on the border between Uttarakhand and Tibet Autonomous Region of China near the trijunction with Nepal is being keenly watched by Indian agencies.

The increase in activity by the Nepal Army, around the time China is said to have deployed surface-to-air missiles and expanding its military base near Mount Kailash, not far away from the Lipulekh pass, suggests that Nepal could well be assisting China in the inhospitable mountain passes under the garb of constructing its own outposts along the India-Nepal border, close to the hill state of Uttarakhand, where massive deploy-ment of forces is under-

Over the past couple of months, Nepal Army choppers have been seen undertaking multiple sorties — something which sources describe as quite unusual — as the Himalayan nation has, more or less, left the people living on its border with India and China at the mercy of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. The PLA is said to be not only supplying food and other essentials to the villagers but is also believed to be slowly taking control of certain areas inside Nepalese ter-

Informed sources told Deccan Chronicle that while the annual trade at Purang town in Tibet where traders from the three countries gather each year — had been suspended this year due to Covid-19, so also the Kailash Mansarovar Kailash yatra, the passes remained inaccessible for the civilians. This made the task of enhancing its military bases near Mount Kailash easier for the PLA. Satellite images show the deployment of surface-to-air missiles and the ongoing construction activity to expand the base. The pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar traverses the Lipulekh

As tensions along the Tinkar valley is the de LAC in eastern Ladakh facto tri-junction between reached its peak post the China, India and Nepal.



Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force lands amid border tensions with China, in Kishtwar district of Jammu on Tuesday.

China talks of approaching harsh winter, hopes for disengagement

confrontation would be more than willing to extend all possible erupted between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh, China on Tuesday hoped disengagehelp.
"It is no secret that ment can be achieved as ing and taking control of soon as possible through consultations, ritory. It has also been extending support to the people living in the borflagging approaching harsh winter.

Foreign Chinese Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian expressed this hope hours after India and China accused each other of firing in the air near the Pangong lake at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh

on Monday.
The Indian Army said
Chinese troops fired shots in the air and attempted to close in on an Indian position in eastern Ladakh on Monday as it rejected charges by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) that it transgressed across the LAC

Army came after the PLA channels and through conlate on Monday night sultations on the ground

Beijing, Sept 8: As fresh alleged that the Indian troops crossed the LAC and "outrageously fired" warning shots near the

Pangong lake.
The use of firearms along the LAC marks a serious escalation in border tensions as the previous instance of shots being fired at the de-facto border was in 1975.

Zhao spoke about disengagement when asked at a media briefing about restoration of the status quo by disengaging the troops. "You have a good wish. We all hope our troops get back to their camping area and there won't be any more con-frontation in the border

"You know that place has a very bad natural condition and it is above a height of 4.000 metres." he added. "In winter this is not good for humans to The remarks by the diplomatic and military

we can achieve disengagement as soon as possible and reach consensus.' India has already called

on China to work jointly for complete disengagement and de-escalation on the LAC, saying the future of the bilateral relationship is dependent on the situation along the border. This is the first time in

the four-month-long border standoff that China has officially acknowl-edged the harsh conditions of the mountainous Ladakh region in winter where the temperatures plummet to minus 30 degrees Celsius posing major health hazards to the thousands of troops mobilised by the two

Reports from the area said both sides were making arrangements for a long drawn out faceoff especially at the Pangong take area where the troops were positioned eyeball to eyeball with heavy weapons and armoury.

ments, Zhao sought to blame Indian troops for firing warning shots first on Monday.

On the Indian stand that it was Chinese troops which took provocative steps first, he read out the statement of the PLA's Western Theater command spokesman alleging ly crossed the LAC and outrageously fired warning shots on Chinese border patrol soldiers forcing them to take countermea

"I also want to stress in this incident, the Indian side fired shots to the Chinese border troops first. This is the first time since 1975 that the tranquility is interrupted by the shots. And the Chinese side always stresses that both sides should peacefully settle our differences through dialogue and consultations. Confrontation won't benefit either, he said. - PTI

COMMITTED TO SERVE COUNTRY, SAY VILLAGERS NEAR BORDER

Pithoragarh (U'k-hand), Sept. 8: Amid tensions on the Line of Actual Control between India and China, villagers in border areas of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh recalled the 1962 War and said they were committed to serve the

country.
"We are ready to face the enemy whenever the Army needs our help, 80-year-old Gopal Singh Napalchayal, a resident of Napalchu village in Vyas Valley, said.

"We have a strong sense of commitment towards the nation and its armed forces," he

Recalling the 1962 war, Napalchayal said when Chinese troops reached near the Darma, Vyas and Johar valleys in the district, villagers helped the Army carry ammunition and food to border posts on sheep and mules.

Our women donated their gold and silver ornaments to help the nation, he said.

It was time for our winter migration after harvesting our crop in October when the war with China began in 1962 but our villagers decided to remain here, he recalled, adding that they did not vacate their villages till the conflict

We used to come down to Chiyalekh Malpa and Jipti camps to carry ammunition to our sho-ulders up to Garbiyans from where it used to be taken to the last posts on sheep back, Napalchayal

Johar Valley villagers said they draw their inspiration from the late Laxman Singh Jangpangi, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 1959 for his services to the nation as an Indian trade agent in Gartok town of

He was the first Indian who had informed the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru of the ill-intentions of the said Sriram Singh Dharmashaktu, a resident of upper Johan

India to start Phase 3 trial of various vaccines as Covid tally crosses 42.8 l

VINEETA PANDEY |DC NEW DELHI, SPET. 8

The government is now working towards initiating Phase 3 human trials of the Russian novel coronavirus vaccine – Sputnik V – on the Indian population. NITI Aayog member (health) VK Paul said that this decision was taken following the discussions with the Russian governwhich approached India for manufacturing of Sputnik V in India and its possible use for Indians. The trials or the bridging studies for

the Russian vaccine will

begin shortly after the reg-

In addition to this, India is all set to start Phase 3 trials of the Oxford vaccine candidate next week at 17 locations. Besides, two indigenous vaccine candidates – one by Biotech and another by Zydus Cadilla – too are progressing well with Phase 3 trials set to go. However, given its huge population, the government is happy to collaborate with partner nations to get the benefit of vaccines for its population as

soon as possible. "Russia had offered us production of the vac-cines by Indian companies and Phase 3 trials in India. The government of India attaches great importance to this offer of partnership from a very special friend of this nation. It is a win-win situation for us. On both fronts there has been significant progress. Some companies are in touch for manufacturing.

On the regulatory aspect, the Indian scientists have looked at it and have paved bridging studies which will be facilitated in the spirit of partnership, science and humanity," Paul

violent clashes in Galwan

Valley, sources said that, besides their own resources, the PLA is

believed to be taking assistance from the Nepalese Army which,

going by its recent aggres-

sive posturing with India over Lipulekh, Kalapani

China has been occupy-

areas inside Nepalese ter-

dering villages in an

attempt to win their con-

fidence, which would lead

to lesser dependency on India. Nepal assisting China directly or indi-

rectly is not surprising,

senior officials in the

know of the develop-

ments, said adding that Nepal Army copters have

been spotted repeatedly

over Tinkar and Chhangru villages in Nepal beside the Lipulekh pass. Sources said that the helicopters

have been transporting

men and material. The

Limpiyadhura,

The development comes at a time when India is recording very high numbers of cases on a daily basis. In the last 24 hours, close to 76,000 fresh cases of COVID-19 were detected from various parts of the country taking India's total tally to 42.80 lakh, as per union health ministry data of early Tuesday morning. India also registered record 1, 133 deaths in a single day taking its overall fatalities due to the deadly virus to 72, 775.

While Mr Paul said cases are very high on daily cases and not stabilizing at present, he attributed these rising numbers to higher testing India is conducting among its population. He added that the virus is spreading faster because people are avoiding testing despite having symptoms and they are spreading infection since they are neither isolated nor treated. He also blamed people for being laxed and not taking enough precautions while

going in public. 'Economic activities and unlocking processes have helped the virus grow more...But let us not forget that the recovery rate in India is very good and the case fatality rate is very low (1.70%)...When we see closely we find signs of stabilising," he said.

Kerala nos go past 3,000-mark again

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Kerala on Tuesday recorded 3026 new cases of Covid -19 even as 1862 persons recovered from the infection. The total number of active cases in the state has gone up to 23,217. Of the new cases 2723 contracted the infection through contact, 49 came from abroad, 165 from other states, the source of infection among 237 is yet to be known and 89 health workers also got infected. The state reported 13 Covid - 19 deaths taking

the toll to 372. Thiruvananthapuram district reported the highest number of cases at 562, Malappuram Ernakulam Kozhikode 246, Palakkad Alappuzha 217

Telangana reports 2,392 cases, 11 deaths

Hyderabad: Deaths from Covid-19 in Telangana state crossed the 900 mark and stood at 906, with the state health department on Tuesday reporting 11 more fatalities from the disease. It also said there have been 2,392 new Covid-19 cases taking to 1,45,163 the total cases so

The Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation area had 304 fresh cases followed by Ranga Reddy district with 191, and Karimnagar district with 157 new cases. The other districts to register more than 100 cases between Sunday and Monday evening were Mechal-Malkajgiri with 132, Khammam 116 and Nalgonda with 105 cases.

10,601 new cases, 73 deaths in AP

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday registered 10,601 new Covid-19 cases taking the tally to 5,17,094 and 73 deaths taking the death toll to 4,560 in the last 24 hours.

recorded the highest number of new infections with

Prakasam district has

146 deaths reported in Karnataka

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Tuesday reported 7,866 Covid-19 cases and 146 fatalities, taking the total number of infections to 4,12,190 and the death toll to 6,680. The day also saw 7,803 patients getting discharged after recovery. Out of the 7,866 fresh cases reported, 3,102 were from Bengaluru urban alone. The state has a cumulative 4,12,190 Covid-

RAFALE JETS TO BE FORMALLY INDUCTED INTO IAF TOMORROW

New Delhi, Sept. 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, his French counterpart Florence Parly and India's top military brass will attend a cere-mony in Ambala airbase on Thursday to formally induct five Rafale fighter jets into the Indian Air

Force, officials said.
Parly and Singh will hold talks in Ambala on ways to further deepen bilateral defence and security cooperation after the ceremony, they said.

The French defence minister is scheduled to morning and will depart late afternoon, the officials said.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-govern-mental agreement with France to procure 36 of the aircraft at a cost of ₹59,000 crore. The jets, produced by

French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, are yet to be formally inducted into the Ten Rafale jets have been delivered to India so far and five of them

stayed back in France for imparting training to IAF pilots. The delivery of all 36 aircraft is scheduled to be completed by the end

of 2021. A second batch of four to five Rafale jets are likely to arrive in India by November.

Farooq Abdullah hits back at Ram Madhav

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 8

> A day after Bharatiya Janata Party's national general secretary, Ram Madhav, accused Farooq Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir's other regional mainstream leaders of 'trying to inject a dangerous Islamist discourse into the state politics" the latter on Tuesday hit back saying that it were the saffron party and its ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) which are paying communal politics and that the same will result into their extermination.

> "If anybody is playing communal politics, it is the BJP and RSS. We never did it and they are playing it and this will drown them," Abdullah said while speaking to reporters here after offering fateha prayers at the grave of his father and legendary Kashmiri leader Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah commemorating his 38th death anniversary. He asserted that his

> National Conference (NC) party never played politics over religion.

"NC never played politics over religion. That is our history. What was the motto of Sher-e-Kashmir (Sheikh Abdullah)? It was Sher-e-Kashmir ka kya irshad; Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Itehad (what is the

command of Lion of Kashmir? The unity among Hindus, Muslims

and Sikhs)", he said. He added that the reason behind Sheikh becoming instrumental in changing the name of J&K Muslim Conference to National Conference way back in 1938 was because he knew people from all faiths were part of the struggle against the autocratic rule in the princely

Madhav had in an article appearing in Greater Kashmir newspaper alleged that the NC lead-ership and other signatories of 'Gupkar Declaration' were "trying to take the people of Kashmir for a ride to chase a chimera"

On August 4, 2019, a day before Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories, the leaders of the state's regional parties including NC and People's Democratic Party (PDP) and their allies in Congress and CPIM had met at Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road and signed joined statement named as 'Gupkar Declaration' through which they vowed to protect the special status, identity and autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir and fight tool and nail attempts to split it up.

former leader of the country" and "sharing videos in a WeChat group to

obstruct the implementa-

tion of the national text-books policy". WeChat is a popular messaging app in

China. The local govern-

ment is also exerting pres-

they had suspended two

members of the ruling

Communist Party without

pay for failing to carry out the policy. Police in Chifeng city said Monday

they handed over Com-

munist Party members,

including two elementary

school teachers, to a local

party disciplinary committee for investigation.

Down loading of

to 30.09.2020 at

15.00 Hrs

01.10.2020

sure in other ways. Authorities in Zhenglan banner announced that

IN BRIEF

B'desh blast toll rises to 27

Dhaka: The death toll from a near-simultaneous explosion of six air conditioners in a mosque on the outskirts of Bandladesh's capital Dhaka rose to 27, with one more victim succumbing to his injuries, according to a media report.

A 30-year-old man died on Monday while undergoing treatment at the Sheikh Hasi-na National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, the bdnews24.com reported. Another 10 people were battling for their lives at the hospital, it said on Monday. A gas leak in an underground pipeline caused the six air conditioners to explode almost si-

multaneously during Friday evening prayers on Septemb-er 4 at the Baitul Salat mosque in the central district of Narayanganj.

Bruce Williamson dies of Covid

Los Angeles: Bruce Williamson, the former lead singer of the legendary vocal group The Temptations, has died at the age of 49 after a battle with Coronavirus. The singer passed away on Sunday at Mountain View Hospital in Las Vegas, his business manager, Anta Ealy, confirmed to USA Today. Williamson was diagnosed with Covid-19 in late August, weeks after having his gallbladder removed, Ealy added. Williamson's son Bruce Alan Williamson Jr took to pen an emotional tribute on Facebook. "There's no words in the world that can express how I feel right now. I love you Daddy. Thank you for being awesome, thank you for being loving, thank you for being Who You Are. I pray to God and we will meet again," he wrote on Monday. Original Temptation Otis Williams also remembered Williamson as "one of our brothers". "Once you are a Temptation, you are always a Temptation," he said.

Murderer sworn in as Lankan MP

Colombo: A Sri Lankan politician sentenced to death for murder was escorted out of prison on Tuesday to become the first convict to be sworn in as a member of parliament, to heckles from opposition MPs. Premalal Jayasekara from the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP) was convicted in August of murdering an opposition activist after opening fire at an election rally in 2015. But the 45year-old's conviction and sentence came after nominations for the August 5 poll, meaning he could still contest the election and take up his seat. Jay asekara was a no-show when the current parliament held its first session on August 20 as prison authorities refused to let him out. However, he petitioned the Court of Appeal which on Monday held that he should be escorted from prison to exercise his rights as an MP. Opposition lawmakers wearing black shawls in protest heckled Jayasekara as

PAK MINE BLAST DEATH TOLL AT 19

he took the oath.

Peshawar, Sept. 8: At least 19 people have been killed and dozens were battling for their lives after six units of the famed marble mines in Pak-istan's Ziarat Ghar mountain collapsed, causing large boulders to fall on them, according to media reports on Tuesday.

The mines collapsed on Monday night, instantly killing 12 miners, the Geo News reported. The death toll rose after seven more succumbed to injuries at the District Mohmand Hospital. Majority of the deceased include labourers and few others who had gathered at the foothill in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Safi town near the Afghanistan border, about 85 km from provincial capital Peshawar. Mohmand District Police Officer Mohmand Tariq Habib told Geo News that 15 to 20 people are still buried under

He said the rescue operations were hit due to darkness on Monday night and that heavy machinery had been mobilised on Tuesday for rescue operations. Deputy Commissioner Iftikhar Alam said the death toll is expected to rise, according to the daily. Around 45 labourers were busy in excavation operations when the mine collapsed, the Dawn newspaper reported. The Provincial Disaster Ma-

nagement Authority (PDMA) said nine people have been rescued, it reported.

Rescue Officer Bilal Faizi said most of the injured were in serious condition



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (left) speaks during his interview with a group of Russian journalists in

Belarus Oppn activist resists push to leave country, nabbed on border

Kyiv (Ukraine), Sept. 8: A leading opposition activist in Belarus was on the border Tuesday after she resisted authorities' attempt to force her to leave the country. Maria Kolesnikova, a member of the Coordination Council created by the opposition to facilitate talks with longtime leader President Alexander Lukashenko on a transition of power, was detained Monday in the capital, Minsk, along with two other council members.

Early Tuesday, they were driven to the Ukrainian border, where the authorities told them to cross into Ukraine. Kolesnikova refused, and remained on the Belarusian side of the borBelarusian authorities. Two other council members, Ivan Kravtsov and Anton Rodnenkov, crossed into Ukraine. The authorities have

applied similar tactics to other opposition figures, seeking to end a month of demonstrations against the re-election of Lukashenko in a vote the protesters see as rigged, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger to Lukashenko, left for Lithuania a day after the August 9 vote, under pressure from the authorities.

On Saturday, a top associate of Tsikhanouskaya, Olga Kovalkova, moved to Poland after the authorities threatened to keep her



in jail for a long time if she refused to leave the country. Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe against members of the Coordination

Council that opposition activists set up after the election to try to negotiate a transition of power.

Several council members were arrested and some others called for questioning. Last week, Koles-nikova announced the creation of a new party, Together. She said the move will help overcome the current crisis, but the party founders' call for constitutional changes

has stunned some other opposition council members opposition who argued that it could divert attention from the main goal of getting Lukashenko to step

Stop interrupting witnesses, Assange told

London, Sept. 8: A British judge told WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday that his extradition hearing will proceed without him if he continues to speak from the dock and interrupt

Baraitser

tively to pass important

house of Parliament.

hearing at London's Central Criminal Court after Assange interrupted defence witness Clive Stafford Smith, who was giving evidence.

Assange's outburst couldn't be heard by outburst following journalists proceedings by video Assange is fighting an

Pak sessions next

week on FATF bills

Islamabad, Sept. 8: UN DECRIES
Pakistan government has decided to hold a new session of the National ATTACKS ON
Assembly and the Senate on September 14 and 15 respect JOURNOS IN PAK

bills, including one related Geneva, Sept 8: The

money laundering and ter- United Nation voiced ala-

rorist financing, which was rm Tuesday at growing

earlier rejected by the upper attacks on journalists

The decision to call the often amid cries of blas-

fresh sessions was taken phemy, urging Islamabad

during a meeting between to protect those facing

Prime Minister Imran Khan threats and probe any

and his adviser on parlia- violence. mentary affairs Babar Awan The UN rights office

on Monday, according to a said it was growing

Awan called on the prime at numerous instances of

minister following the post- incitement to violence,

ponement of the Senate and both online and off, par-National Assembly (NA) sesticularly against women

sions scheduled for Monday. and minority journalists

According to a press release, and activists, as well as

tance came for discussion It pointed to the case of during the meeting. The journalist Shaheena fresh session of the Natio-Shaheen, who was shot

nal Assembly will be held on dead last Saturday by

various matters of impor- physical attacks.

attempt by American prosecutors to extradite him to the US to stand trial on spying charges. US prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military documents a

India, Israel,

u.S. working

Washington, Sept. 8: India, Israel and the US

have earnestly begun trilateral

cooperation on

digital leadership

and innovation, a

top American offi-

cial has said, asserting that it is

right that the

play a key role in

next generation 5G technology in a way that is "open,

interoperable, reli-

able and secure"

The 5G collabora

tion is the first step and just the

tip of the iceberg,

the United States

Agency for Inte-

rnational

Development (US-

Administrator,

Bonnie Glick, told

Deputy

delivering

three

countries

on 5G tech

ago.
The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison. Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle media freedom and put journalists at risk around the world.

GREATER NOIDA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Plot No.1, Sector-Knowledge Park-4, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar-201308 (U.P.)

Ref. No.: H.D./2020/597

Date: 07/09/2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

of Interest (EOI) for design, commissioning, operation and maintenance of decentralised solid waste collection and processing system in Greater Noida City.

Expression of Interest document with detailed scope of work is available on the Authority's website (http:// www.greaternoidaauthority.in) from 9 September 2020. The EOI needs to be submitted in softcopy on the email ID health@gnida.in with subject "EOI for Decentralized Waste Management in Greater Noida". The hard copy is to be sent on above mentioned address and addressed to DGM (Health). Last date of submission is 24 September 2020.

> D.G.M. (Health) Follow Us On (a) (f) (b) (Official GNIDA)

VARIOUS WORKS AT KATIHAR DIVISION E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg./18 of 2020; dated: 04-09-2020. E-tende are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No.1. Brief Description

of Work: BG CTR (P) of the existing 52 Kg rail on PSC sleeper (M+7) density by 60 Kg/90UTS rail on PSC-6 sleeper with (M+8) density from Km. 132.2 to 132.9, 142.4 to 144.0, 144.3 to 145.0, 146.6 to 147.9, 148.0 to 148.2, 192.1 to 192.6, 212.0 to

214.0 (Dn line), from Km. 171.2 to 171.9 (Kumedpur L/8), from Km. 159.3 to 164.0 to 164.7, 188.1 to 189.1, 192.1 to 192.6, 197.6 to 200.2, 207.4 to 208.4, 208.

104.0 to 104.7, 185.1 to 109.1, 192.1 to 192.5, 197.1 to 200.4, 207.4 to 208.4, 208.9 to 209.4, 210.4 to 214.0 (Up line), 198.9 to 200.1 (Samsi L/3) between New Jalpaiguri - Malda Town section under the jurisdiction of DEN/I/Katihar. (Grand Total = 23.50 Km). Tender Value: ₹3,55,94,501.36; Earnest Money: ₹3,28,000.00. Tender No.2. Brief Description of Worts: Track maintenance and other ancillary work for a period of 02 years under the jurisdiction of SSE/P.Way/Buniyadpur. Tender Value:

₹60,59,254.45; Earnest Money: ₹1,21,200.00. Tender No.3. Brief Description o Work: BG TBTR of existing steel channel sleeper by H beam sleeper Bridge No. 12

UP (40 sleeper). Bridge No. 131 UP (110 sleeper), Bridge No. 133 UP (60 sleeper

Bridge No. 13 UP (112 sleeper), Bridge No. 14 UP (115 sleeper), Bridge No. 42 UI (125 sleeper), Bridge No. 32 UP (265 sleeper), Bridge No. 3 UP (626 sleeper) between

September 14 and that of the unidentified men in Senate on September 15, Balochistan's Kech dis-Awan said. -PTI trict. -AFP7 Indo-Americans in Forbes' rich list in US

and activists in Pakistan,

increasingly concerned

Seven Indian-Americans have figured in Forbes' richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row. The 2020 Forbes list of 400 Richest People in America has been topped by Bezos, 56 who has a net worth of \$179 billion and has occupied the spot of the richest person in the US for the third year in a row. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Cofounder

Bill Gates is ranked second on the list with a net worth of \$111 billion. The richest people in the US saw their wealth despite Coronavirus pandemic's devastated impact on the

economy. "Pandemic be damned: America's 400 richest are worth a record \$3.2 trillion, up \$240 billion from a year ago, aided by a stock market that has defied the virus...Even in these trying times mega-for-tunes are still being minted," Forbes said.

The list has seven Indian-Americans firm cybersecurity firm ZScaler CEO Jay Chaudhry, Founder and Chairman of Symphony Technology Group Romesh Wadhwani, cofounder and CEO of online home goods retailer Wayfair Niraj Shah, Silicon Valley ven-

ture capital firm Khosla

Ventures founder Vinod

Khosla, Managing Par-

Ventures Kavitark Ram Shriram, Airline veter-an Rakesh Gangwal and Workday CEO and Cofounder Aneel Bhusri. Rounding out the top five on the list are Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on the third spot with a net worth of \$85 billion, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, ranked 4th and with a net worth of \$73.5 billion and chairman, chief technology officer and co-founder of software giant Oracle Larry Ellison, ranked 5th with a new worth of \$72 billion. President Donald Trump is ranked 339th on the list with a net worth

of \$2.5 billion.

Malda Town - New Jalpaiguri, Bridge No. 129 DN (40 sleeper) Bridge No. 131 DN (110 sleeper), Bridge No. 133 Dn (60 sleeper) between New Jalpaiguri - Malda Towr section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/I/Katihar (Total = 1663 Nos. sleeper). Tender Value: ₹4,60,56,250.67; Earnest Money: ₹3,80,300.00. Tender No.4. Brie Description of Work: Construction of relay room at Harishchandrapur, Same Bhaluka Road, Kumarganj & Old Malda stations for Electronic Interlocking. (Civ Engineering). **Tender Value:** ₹42,00,408.38; **Earnest Money:** ₹84,000.00. **Tende** No.5. Brief Description of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of DEN/I/Katihar. Tender Value: ₹45,35,400.00; Earnest Money: ₹90,700.00. Tender No.6. Brief Description of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc under the jurisdiction of DEN/L/Katihar. Tender Value: ₹43,11,100.00; Earnes Money: ₹86,200.00. Tender No.7. Brief Description of Work: Dewatering of RUE at NC-7, NC-43, NC-45, NC-52, NC-23, NC-25 & SK-323 prevent water logging is road under bridge. **Tender Value**: ₹8,83,440.00; **Earnest Money**: ₹17,700.00. **Tende** No.8. Brief Description of Work: Supply of 60 Kg WR (90UTS) portion and 52 Kg WR (90UTS) portion by single shot crucible method under the jurisdiction of DEN/L Katihar. Tender Value: ₹1,32,90,360.00; Earnest Money: ₹2,16,500.00. Tende No.9. Brief Description of Work: At New Jalpaiguri: Maintenance and operation of No.9. Brief Description of Work: At New Jalpaiguri: Maintenance and operation of No.9. water supply at Filter House, Mahananda Pump House, all colonies, service building station and its surrounding area for 2 years under SSEW/New Jalpaiguri. Tender Value: ₹9,43,12,260.99; Earnest Money: ₹1,88,600.00. Tender No.10. Brief Description of Work: Supply of drinking/portable water by Motor Truck at Tindhar Works Shop, ADME's office & Mahanadi Station etc for 12 months. Tender Value ₹22,49,850.00. Tender No.11. Brief Description of Work: Supply of drinking/portab water by Motor Truck at Darjeeling (ORH, Holiday Home, Station Building, Runnin Room, Loco Shed & Railway Colony & Craigmount Rest House) and at Ghum Sonada (Station building and DIR/DHR's Office) for the period of 12 months. **Tende** Value: ₹68,03,037.00; **Earnest Money**: ₹1,36,000.00. **Tender No.12. Brie** Description of Work: Provision of 5 Nos. lift (1 at Katihar, 2 at Barsoi & 2 at Purnea Civil Engineering works only. Tender Value: ₹61,05,007.52; Earnest Money ₹1,22,100.00. Tender No.13. Brief Description of Work: Provision of 2 Nos. lift a Jogbani Station, Civil Engineering works only. **Tender Value:** ₹24,42,003.01; **Earner Money**: ₹48,800.00. **Tender No.14. Brief Description of Work**: At Forbesgar Provision of diversion for connectivity to Saharsha. Tender Value: ₹1,96,55,006.6 Earnest Money: ₹2,48,300.00. Tender No.15. Brief Description of Work: Provis of 1 Nos. lift at New Jalpaiguri Station, Civil Engineering works. Tender Value ₹12,21,001.50; Earnest Money: ₹24,400.00. All above E-tenders will be closed a 15:00 hrs. on 05-10-2020 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 05-10-2020. The compl information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 15.00 hrs of 05-10-2020 in website www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

China says Oz TV anchor detained

protests last week against

a new policy that replaces

Mongolian-language text-

books with Chinese ones

in classrooms. The push

to use the new textbooks,

which started in other

ethnic minority regions

such as Xinjiang and

Tibet in 2017, has prompt-

ed demonstrations and school boycotts by ethnic

Mongolians in at least five

cities and counties in

The 23 detentions were

ties, according to an

Associated Press tally of

nine local police reports

over the past several days.

The reasons range from "organising and collect-

ing signatures for a peti-

oviding Round the cloc

Inner Mongolia.

CHINA DETAINS 23 IN CRACKDOWN

Taipei, Sept. 8: Police in China's Inner Mongolia region have detained at least 23 people following China's Inner Mongolia region have detained at least 23 people following ly insulting a deceased

ON INNER MONGOLIA PROTESTS

Beijing, Sept. 8: China said Tuesday that it had detained a high-profile Australian journalist working for its state media on 'national security grounds". Cheng Lei's detention was a new blow to deteriorating relations between the two countries that have seen China warn its citizens of travelling to Australia and vice versa.

In the first comments on CGTN anchor Cheng Lei, held since August 14, for-eign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said authorities took "compulsory measures" against her on suspicion "of criminal activity endangering China's national security

'The case is still in the process of investigation in accordance with the law," Zhao said, adding that her across eight banners, the regional word for coun-'legal rights and interests are all receiving full legal protection". He did not give further details of the

allegations against her. Cheng — who conducted interviews with interna-VS WILL
CEOS for Global tional *CGTN*'s

Business and BizTalk shows — has not been seen in public since being held, although Australian diplomats in Beijing were able to speak to her on August

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR **EXECUTION OF WORKS**

(1) Tender Notice No.: 544-SNT Name of work: Execution of works in connection with: (1) Proposal for soft up - gradation of Belha Station, (2) Improvement of Bhilai Power Provision of High level passenger platform with amenities in DN Main Line at Nipania (NPI). **Tender** Value: ₹ 1,10,19,651.99. Earnes Money Deposit: ₹ 2,05,100/-Completion Period: 12 (Twelve

received shall be rejected. Details are available on our website: www ireps.gov.in For Divisional Railway Manage

PRIRIS&TIIPI73 (S&T) Raipur.

f South East Central Railway @@secrail

Bidders will be able to submit thei original/revised bids upto 15.00 hours on 01.10.2020 only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offers

Technical

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

UTILITY POWERTECH LIMITED

(A JV Of Reliance Infra Ltd. and NTPC Ltd.)
CHENNAI SITE
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

47984803.90(Part-

E-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central ganization Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following E-TENDER:-Quantity **Brief Description** Due Date elly filled Telecom 6 695.00 Kms 01.10.2020 Rs. 20,00,000/- (No. Twenty Lakhs only) Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rs Quad Cable as per RDSC Specification No. IRS:TC-30/2005 [Ver.1] with ame

latest amendment. Note: 1 The complete information of above E-Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. http://ireps.gov.in. Only E-Bids shall be accepted agains above Tender. The e-bids may be submitted before 11.00 hrs on tender opening date

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER/
CORE/PRAYAGRAJ
13/20 (Kaka) FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA
Serving Customers with a Smile No.: PR/513/20 (Kaka)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

The Dv. Chief Engineer/Br. N.Rlv. Bridge Workshop Charbagh, Lucknow for & on behalf of President of India, invites E-tenders in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the

02/W/BWS/CB/2020-21 "Grit Blasting, Metalizing & Painting of members of Bridge Girders, FOBs etc in Bridge Work Rs. 6,70,08,090/-2. Approximate Cost Earnest Money Cost of tender form Rs. 10,000/- each 24 (Twenty Four Months) Completion period Starting Date of Submission through e-tendering 01.10.2020 up to 14:30 & Open on same day at 15:00 hrs. Last Date & Time of Submission & open of Tender **Eligibility Criteria**

> any of the following during last 07 (seven) years ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works costing not less than the amo equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or Two similar works costing not less than the amo equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or One similar work costing not less than the ar equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. (b) (i) In case of composite works (e.g. works involving

(a) The tenderer must have successfully completed

more than one distinct component, such as Civi Engineering works, S&T works, Electrical works, OHE works etc. and in the case of major bridges substructure, superstructure etc.), tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited:

Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of each component of tender, or

Two similar works costing not less than the amoun equal to 40% of advertised value of each component of One similar work costing not less than the amount equa

to 60% of advertised value of each component of tender. Note: Separate completed works of minimum require values for each component can also be considered for fulfillment of technical eligibility criteria.

(b) (ii) In such cases, what constitutes a component in a composite work shall be clearly pre-defined with estimated tender cost of it, as part of the tender documents without any ambiguity. Any work or set of works shall be considered to be a separate componen only when cost of the component is more than ₹ 2

The tenderer must have received contractua payments in the previous three financial years and the current financial year upto the date of opening or tender, at least 150% of the advertised value of the tender. The tenderers shall submit Certificates to this

effect which may be an attested Certificate from the

concerned department / client and / or Audited Balance Sheet duly certified by the Chartered Accountant etc. Similar Nature of Work | Metalizing/Galvanizing of Bridge Stee Girder/Steel Structures 10. Website particulars Dy. Chief Engineer/Br. N.Rly. Bridge Workshop and notice board Charbagh, Lucknow location where

tender can be seen. Note: - a. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procuremen system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. o. For all terms & conditions please refer tender documen

complete details of

espect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway onl T. Notice No. 02/W/BWS/CB/2020-21 dated 04.09.2020 1965/2020

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Chronicle

9 SEPTEMBER 2020

KCR's land revenue law may well be momentous

f bureaucrats and officials don't find ways to scuttle the intent and objectives of the sudden, disruptive land legislation Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao sprung on the state, it has built in within its scope ability to reform and impact and set a benchmark so momentous that it would be chronicled someday as one of India's most important legislations. The legislation is momentous, epic, but the asterisk (with a conditions apply warning) is rather crucial — if the bureaucracy, higher and lower, don't suc-

ceed in sabotaging Mr Rao's dream, as they are often wont to do.

As most Indians know, land revenue is one of the most brazenly corrupt functions of all governments and administrations: nowhere in our national democracy is Article 14 followed to its finality — land registrations don't discriminate against any Indian based on gender, region, religion, caste or economic strata — everyone pays a bribe while buying or selling a land. Almost no one's land is safe either. No criminal or political goon in any area can grab or illegally occupy anyone else's land to make a claim based on the proviso of "possession" without the connivance of officials of the land department.

Records of ownership and transfer are fraught with such complex conditionality and local variances, if one wishes to truly experience a slice of the

medieval ages, one can try to buy, sell or seek a migration of purpose of land. Chandrashekar Rao wishes to change all that, starting with abolishing and removing the village revenue officer (VROs). In an announcement on Monday that was styled to draw parallels with Narendra Modi's "surgical strike" swiftness, Mr Rao decided to order all VROs to hand over all land documents to tahsildars, who would henceforth likely register all agriculture land while subregistrars will handle non-agriculture land. Mutations will be hassle-free with a single website, named Dharani, will handle all land records and transfers. In the past, in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, late chief minister N.T. Rama Rao

tried to revolutionise land administration and abolished the Patwari system, which earned him huge political goodwill, but the deeply entrenched Patels/Patwaris of Telangana region managed to embed themselves back into the system with a new nomenclature — VROs.

India's current land system was largely conceptualised and designed by Sher Shah Suri, which Mughal emperor Akbar modified and named the mansabdari system, which, with a few changes, lasted the British era and thrived with very few amendments in Independent India.

 $Can \ Telangana \ set \ a \ new \ benchmark \ in \ high \ quality \ transformation \ of \ a \ vex$ atious branch of administration and enable our experiencing a basic economic right in a manner befitting the 21st century? Will Mr Rao's political determination and foresight be able to withstand the pressures of not just the displaced VROs, but an entire powerful corrupt ecosystem — land mafia, politicians, local goons, officials, touts and "dispute settlement" lords

Will Mr Rao deliver a reform that will make history hail him as a great reformer or will he succumb before forces within his own party and government to hijack it remains to be seen. But for once, there is hope.

Come clean on economy

he galloping number of coronavirus infections, the disastrous performance of the economy and the worrying developments on the border call for a national consensus so that India can take them on effectively. And a lasting consensus can be built only on facts. The onus is on the government to feed the people with them.

Unfortunately, the government seems to have little plan to brief the people about the tough challenges the nation faces. The spite with which the ruling party replies to the legitimate questions posed to it is both unheard of and uncalled for. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, MP, has been asking the government on how it plans to mend the economy, which, he says, tanked because of the wrong policies of the government, including demonetisation and what he calls the faulty implementation of GST. The government can very well explain to him, and the nation, how those measures helped the economy. Instead, they have resorted to ad hominem attacks on Mr Gandhi. When told that the new tax regime systematically killed the small scale sector, the BJP's response was that Mr Gandhi had to apologise to the Supreme Court in the past for "one of his lies". This is

The nation is witnessing a strange economic phenomenon where the people find it difficult to make ends meet; it's day-to-day subsistence for them, while a handful of corporate honchos go on accumulating wealth. The loss of more than two crore jobs during the pandemic is sure to exacerbate the situation. It's not just Mr Gandhi who has expressed disappointment at the way the government responds to the crisis: eming economists such as Dr Raghuram Rajan have demanded course correction. The BJP and the ruling dispensation cannot go on evading the tough questions; shooting the messenger does not kill the message.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA

K. SUDHAKAR

R. MOHAN Resident Editor

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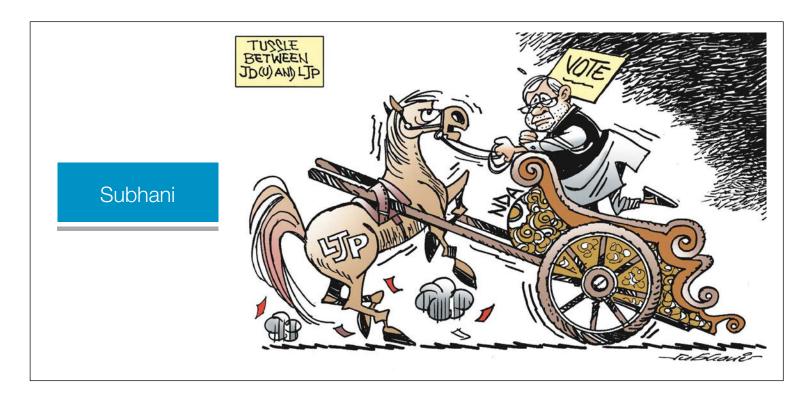
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Understand the politics behind China tensions



N.V. Subramanian

olitics governs ween all coun-Military power and diplomacy subsume within politics and cannot be a substitute for politics. This understanding is completely missing in India's negotiation of the ongoing border crisis with China in Ladakh. In contrast, every Chinese action is mediated by

Why have the Chinese suddenly shown a hard side towards India? Unless China's political objectives which led to the border action are clearly understood, it will be of little help to apply purely military and diplomatic solutions to it. Politics has to be met with politics, which this writer has been reiterating from the first days of the Galwan Valley clash.

Before Galwan, there was no history of compaviolence decades sides Both tive perceptions of the Line of Actual Control, the de factor border between India and China. Transgressions, tensions and rival claims were handled peacefully by the two armies and by the two nations' diplomats. China always restored the status quo.

Why are the Chinese so adamant about holding on to new territories now? There's a definite trust deficit with the current political leadership. The Army remains the same. The diplomatic institutions have not changed. Only political attitudes, ideologies and the consequent thrusts have changed. Indian politics has changed. The Chinese are responding to that change.

Chinese have responded to a similar political change even ear-lier. In the late 1990s, they hardened their stance towards the Atal Behari Vajpayee government for having justified India's

1998 nuclear tests on the grounds of the threat posed by China. Pakistan and China have been extra close ever since, although Vajpayee had tried to undo the damage with China. Vajpayee's Lahore initiative was also aimed at weakening the China-Pakistan nexus. He did not fancy a twofront war.

The past six years have been a process of unlearning Vajpayee's lessons. Pakistan-bashing brings handsome electoral dividends. It was why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected with a bigger majority in 2019. Then on August 5 the same year, the Lok Sabha saw unfettered revanchism about wresting Aksai Chin from China. The same day, the Chinese protested against the change in Ladakh's status to Union territory, but were completely ignored.

They kept on protesting. The deadly Galwan incident and the preceding tense days took the establishment and "strategists" by surprise. They had forgotten the Chinese protests. Galwan was thought to be a local incident, neither cleared by the Central Military Commission nor the higher authorities in Beijing, which admits of complete ignorance about the inner workings of China.

China is a highly political nation. Every organ and institution of the State, including the powerful military, subsumes within politics, which is solely represented by the Chinese Communist Party and its (current) leader Xi Jinping. Every decision that China takes is political. The Galwan incident was political, although the instrument was military.

The most worrisome aspect of tensions is the political trust zero between India and China. This was not the case before May 2014. Tensions have geographies like bodily diseases. The ten-

sions currently are located in eastern Ladakh. Over-analysing the location and ignoring or underplaying the politics is perilous. Suppose the tension shifts to the east-ern sector. Will the emphasis shift to the new location, neglecting politics once again? Will eastern Ladakh be forgotten in the panic about a new area of tension?
Sadly, China does not trust the current leader-

ship in New Delhi. After India's self-admitted "preemptive action" in east-ern Ladakh in Augustend, the conflict risks have risen. China has withdrawn peace guarantees. To the Line of Control (with Pakistan) is joined the entire Line of Actual Control in mili-tary tensions. Vajpayee's strenuous efforts to prevent a two-front crisis by building independent with both relations Pakistan and China have now been completely undone.

Since India has an elected government whose character surfaces China's worst instincts, politics has no chance unless New Delhi is willing to try. India has to hold a frank political dia-logue with China to understand the root cause of tensions. A resolution will not come from military-to-military talks and narrow diplomacy or armed posturing. Frank political discussions may concern India's perceived drift towards the United States against Beijing; the August 5, 2019 action and the statement on Aksai Chin in the Lok Sabha; India's counter action in Doklam, in the disputed Bhutan-China region, and

The political idea is to turn the clock back to the pre-May 2014 period, when relations were even with China. A two-front

There is Vajpayee's

way of securing India by politics, which is remarkably Bismarckian. The other is defiantly blundering along with an adversary most unsuitable for any kind of experimentation.

conflict is always a night-mare. A shattered econo-my, record unemployment, a drifting neighbourhood, peaking Covid-19, the world's disinterest in Sino-Indian troubles, the growing internal divisiveness, and much wrong elsewhere makes accommodative assuaging politics imperative over military machismo and sterile diplomacy.

Understandably, India does not trust China any longer. But before May 2014, the same adversary was trusted to the extent that the LAC was considered peaceful, compared to the LOC. What changed? A nationalist government came to power in India entrenched in revanchist

ideology.

It is also true that Xi Jinping in 2018 was confirmed China's President for life. He is only second to Mao Zedong to get an interminable tenure. Xi shuns Deng Xiaoping's policy of rise by stealth. He is determined to consolidate China's leading position in the world and gather up recalcitrant territories.

At the same time, Xi's hard line has been exacer-bated by the boorishness of US President Donald rump, who has ated America's decline. He is the Boris Yeltsin to Mikhail Gorbachev-Barack Obama. Should Joe Biden be elected in November and he sensibly normalises relations with China, India shouldn't be left stranded with doors with Beijing rapprochement.

Dependence on a professional military and career diplomats can only take a nation state so far. States are not built around such people but constituted by politics mediated by citizens. Vajpayee knew that

Two courses are open now. There is Vajpayee's way of securing India by politics, which is remarkably Bismarckian. The other way is defiantly blundering along with an adversary most unsuitable for any kind of experimentation.

> The writer is an analyst and journalist based in New Delhi

SHARE COVID-19 CUP

The cartoon by Subhani in DC dated September 8, 2020 wherein the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is shown as being shocked for being given a cup (the first prize being received by US President Trump) by corona virus itself for India taking the second place in number of corona cases evoked not just laughter but has also made one ponder about the precarious state we are living at present thanks to the inefficient handling of the pandemic by the government. The cup for the second prize should also be shared by the Chief Ministers of several states of India with Modi for making India take the second place in Covid19 cases in the world by their lethargic attitude in control of the virus poor enforcement of rules of mask wearing, social distancing etc.

M.C. Vijay Shankar Chennai

JUSTICE FOR VIEWERS SINCE TWO months, we are hearing

the verdict of guilty on a daily basis of Rhea Chakraborty and her family in Sushant's tragic end ('Justice for Sushant' holds mirror to media, Sept. 8). The stake holders in this case are the Centre, governments of Bihar and Mahareshty and investigating again. Maharashtra and investigating agencies CBI, ED and NCB. It is a night-mare for TV viewers after 9 pm, with all channels reviewing the day's findings of the case with a magnifying glass a la Sherlock Holmes, Hercules Poirot and Perry Mason all in one and pronouncing the verdict of guilty. It is a drama in real life with angry men and women who abuse each with no rhyme or reason making the coverage a study in midsize history of hypocrisy, as rightly concluded by you in the editorial. Parthasarathy Mandadi,

LESSON FOR LIFE

ANGER, THEY say, is one letter short of danger. Life is all about conquering anger, which is the by-prod-uct of ego, and reflecting a mature outlook in our behaviour. That the world No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic displayed his anger when trailing Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta by hitting the ball full toss (accidentally though) at the throat of an official in the US Open on Sunday was really shocking. He was rightly disqualified from the prestigious tournament. Players like Djokovic, one feels, should see video cassettes of how tennis ace Bjorn Borg played the game. He was an embodiment of patience. Be that as it may, Djokovic's ugly incident is indeed a

esson for life.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



Civil servants under watch for corruption

ransparency and weeding out corruption is a big theme with the Modi sarkar, and it has doggedly pursued this goal despite pushback from the babus. Last year, the government endorsed lists of dozens of officers of the IRS and IT services accused of corruption, sexual harassment and other

The campaign continues. Now, as part of weeding out inefficient and corrupt babus, the Modi sarkar has again reiterated that Central ministries and departments must constantly update the list of officers who have completed 30 years of service. Besides, the register of officers with "doubtful integrity" will be regularly reviewed and updated to help identify babus who can be prematurely retired from service. Sources say that the department of personnel and training (DoPT) issued a letter

to this effect on August 28. Apparently, the names of such officers will be forwarded to the respective review committees on a routine basis. Cases about the IAS, IPS, IFS and Railway cadre babus will be considered by the respective secretary of DoPT, ministry of home affairs, ministry of external affairs and Central Railway Board, respectively.

Will corrupt babus get the message?

CBDT CHIEF GETS EXTENSION The chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Pramod Chandra Mody, got his term extended by six months ending February 28, 2021. A retired 1982batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Mr Mody was slated to retire on August 31. His predecessor Sushil Chandra (now Election Commissioner) too got an extension in May 2017, which was considered a rare exception at that time. Now with Mr Mody's continued tenure, it seems to have

become a norm.

The virtually last-minute announcement has finally ended

the hectic speculation in babu circles about the government's plans. Since the beginning of August, the Board has been led by two retired IRS officers, Mr Mody and member Sushil Kumar Gupta. According to sources, there was a keen tussle between the two seniormost babus for the top slot. Finally, it appears that the government decided to go with a tried and tested hand than opt for a new face.

Mr Mody's extension also puts paid to the hopes of Seema Khorana Patra and Prabhash Shankar who were next in line in seniority to have a go at the top

RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL?

Shah Faesal's brush with politics in Jammu & Kashmir turned out to be short-lived. The erstwhile IAS topper had made headlines last year when he announced he was quitting the civil service to protest the situation in Kashmir. He founded a political party Jammu & Kashmir People's

Movement (JKPM). Now, more than a year later, he has left his own party and indicated that he might return to the service.

According to sources, the government has not accepted his resignation of January 2019, pending investigation into some of his posts on social media. Apparently, before quitting politics Mr Faesal contacted top officials in the home ministry, and if we believe the rumours, even national security advisor Ajit Doval, before announcing his decision.

Those in the know say that since the government has not accepted his resignation, the door is open for his re-entry into the IAS. However, he will have to withdraw

his resignation first. The website of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) still shows Mr Faesal as a serving officer, even though he plunged into politics for a year and a half. Since his resignation has not been processed, Mr Faesal can still withdraw his resignation. But

more likely the final say in this matter may be a political one than an administrative decision.

BABUS MUST BE 'KARMAYOGIS'

The Modi sarkar has now added

'Karmayogi" to the government's expanding lexicon of buzzwords. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to "Mission Karmayogi", a skill-building programme for civil servants. It has been touted as the "biggest human resource development reform in the government"

According to C. Chandramouli, secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, babus will have to be "imaginative and progressive, energetic and enabling, transparent and tech enabled, and constructive and creative" to face modern challenges. But, all that it sounds like is a fancier word for good old "training".

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

FINANCIAL

Chronicle

WEDNESDAY | 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 | CHENNAI

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,365.35	-0.14
Nifty 50	11,317.35	-0.33
S&P 500*	3,361.59	-1.91
Dollar (₹)	73.59	-0.32
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.58	0.41
Euro (₹)	86.97	-0.11
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,989▲122	0.23
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.14	-1.87
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.056	0.063
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.667	0.056
* As of 9:30 PM IST		

Railways generate over 8L man-days under Garib Kalyan

The Railways have generated more than 8 lakh man-days of work in six states under a scheme launched in June this year, the ministry said. The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan was launched with an initial funding of Rs 50,000 crore. The Railways are executing various works under it, including con-struction of approach roads for level crossings, development and cleaning of silted waterways, trenches and drains, etc.

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■ Pain may persist for power, infra firms

Small gains for large sectors from recast

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

The guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India based on K.V. Kamath committee recommendations may help bail out borrowers in real estate, traders. hotels/restaurants sectors, but resolving stress in lumpy power and infrastructure sectors through this mechanism would be a challenge without economic revival, say analysts.

The Kamath committee, which suggested restructuring of Covid-stressed corporate loans across 26 sectors, identified five key ratios with different limits across sectors to be used as the threshold in implementing a resolution plan. According to the panel, sectors affected by Covid-19 account for Rs 38 lakh crore of banking sector debt, forming 37 per cent of the total banking system

A one-time restructuring, including loan moratorium extensions, for stressed companies and individuals could delay or help moderate the bad loan (NPA) pain in the near to medium-term for the banking sec-

Anand Dama, banking analyst at Emkay Global, said, "We believe that the current corporate one-time restructuring framework for only standard cases maximum tenor extension of two years in identified stressed sectors...(due to) limited time period, upfront heavy provisioning requirement,



stringent financial thresh-"Among banks, the total olds for eligibility and exposure toward the key troubled sectors forms 15supervisory mechanism is far better than corporate 31 per cent of the total debt restructuring which was extensively used to Overall, we believe this is a prudent attempt by the expert," said Alpesh suppress NPAs and had a success rate of as low as 15 Mehta, analyst at Motilal per cent. We believe that the restructuring mecha-Oswal. The RBI on Monday has nism may help the stressed

borrowers mainly in real

ment."

announced a resolution traders, framework for accounts hotels/restaurants, etc., but resolving stress in adversely impacted by Covid-19. The K.V. Kamath lumpy power/infra sector panel has identified 26 secthrough this mechanism tors that have been impactwill be challenging without ed by Covid-19 with varyeconomic revival and secing severity—mild, modertors specific packages/initiatives by the governate, and severe. It also suggested financial parameters based on leverage, liq-Niranjan Hiranandani, uidity, and the debt service president, Assocham, said, ability of the company and No doubt, the threshold thus identified five key for five ratios that banks need to monitor while putratios in considering a resolution plan—(a) total out-

exposure.

side liability / adjusted ting a resolution plan for the stressed borrower will tangible networth (b) total bring transparency and debt/Ebitda (c) current efficiency, but the whole ratio (d) debt service covergamut depends on the age ratio, and (e) average recovery path for each of debt service coverage ratio. the sectors." However, the The borrower's resolutwo years' time frame to tion plan would be preachieve the threshold for pared based on pre-Covidall the ratios may not be 19 performance, and the sufficient for highly stressed companies," he Covid-19 impact on 1HFY21

financials would be used to

project future cash flows.

PUBG set to return sans **Tencent**

New Delhi, Sept. 8: PUBG Corporation, the unit of a South Korean company behind Player Unknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), will no longer give Tencent Games the rights to publish its pop-ular mobile game in India, it said in a blog.

company's announcement came a week after India banned the game along with 117 other Chinese-origin

apps. "Moving forward, PUBG Corporation will take on all publishing responsibilities within the country," the company said, adding that it was exploring ways to provide gaming experience to Indian users in the future.

It was not immediately clear if the move would spur Indian authorities to revoke their ban.

Tencent, which ran the franchise in India, confirmed that PUBG Corp would take on the responsibilities of publishing the mobile game in India.

"Our existing coopera-ion with PUBG tion with Corporation in global markets other than India is not affected," Tencent said in a statement.
The ban on PUBG in

India, the game's biggest market by users, has shocked and angered gamers.

Seizing the opportunity, an Indian firm and a Bollywood actor are together planning to launch a locally made tactical mobile game by the end of October. Reuters

StanChart fined ₹100 cr for Fema violation in TMB deal

SUVASHREE GHOSH & ANTO ANTONY SEPT. 8

India's anti-money laundering agency fined Standard Chartered Plc Rs 100 crore (\$13.6 million) for breaking foreign exchange rules when it worked on the takeover of a local bank, marking one of the country's biggest penalties imposed on an overseas lender.

An eight-year probe found that Standard Chartered violated the so-called Foreign Exchange Management Act when it worked with a group of investors to buy a stake in Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd in 2007, according to an August order from India's enforcement agency that

was seen by Bloomberg.
"Senior officials at
Standard Chartered saw an investment in TMB shares as an opportunity that might ripen into an eventually larger ownership for the bank," Sushil Kumar, the enforcement agency's special director, said in the order.



A representative for the British lender confirmed receipt of the order, adding that the bank was evaluating it and so unable to comment fur-

Standard Chartered --India's largest foreign bank by branches--also acted as a custodian for shares on the deal, according to the order. Tamilnad Mercantile was fined almost Rs 17 crore for similar charges, the order said.

A spokesman at Tamilnad Mercantile declined to comment, while the Enforcement Directorate didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The case dates back to about 13 years ago when Mercantile Tamilnad transferred 46,862 shares to overseas investors, including GHI Ltd, Swiss Re Investors, FI Investments and Cuna Group, without seeking permission from the Reserve Bank of India, according to the order. Some of those shares were then transferred to **Sub-Continental Equities** Ltd, an affiliate of StanChart in April 2008, without the central bank's permission, it

The transfers were done through escrow accounts with StanChart, which acted as a transaction agent and a lender to one of the investors on the deal, the order said.

"Standard Chartered through its affiliate Subcontinental was a proposed and eventually an actual investor in TMB shares to be purchased through the agreement arrangements," Kumar

— Bloomberg

Govt to sell 15-20% stake in IRCTC

New Delhi, Sept. 8: The government plans to sell about 15-20 per cent stake in IRCTC via offer for sale (OFS) and would like to complete the transaction in minimum number of tranches.

Last month, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) had invited bids from merchant bankers by September 10 for managing the sale in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC).

However, it did not disclose the quantum of stake on offer in the Request for Proposal.

Following this, a pre-bid meeting was held on September 4 with poten-tial bidders.

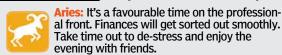
Dipam has now posted

its response to the queries raised by potential bidders on its website.

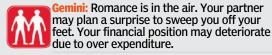
To a query on intended stake dilution, it said, "The indicative percentage is 15 per cent to 20 per cent. The exact details will be shared with the selected merchant bankers." The government currently holds 87.40 per cent stake in IRCTC.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Faurus: Friends or acquaintances may ask you for a loan. You must remain careful and discriminate between those who truly need help financially and those taking advantage.



incer: Business prospects look great. You will earn good money and your bank balance will be healthy. Try to balance between work and personal life.

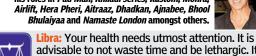


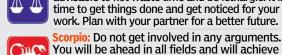
Leo: You may get money from unexpected sources. You may donate to charity. You will be energetic and complete projects on time. Family atmosphere will be warmer.



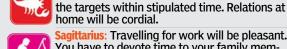
irgo: Financially you will be sound. Manage your time schedule to attain maximum output. You will be praised for your good deeds. But you may not be satisfied and will work harder to be more successful.







advisable to not waste time and be lethargic. It is time to get things done and get noticed for your work. Plan with your partner for a better future. Do not get involved in any arguments.



tarius: Travelling for work will be pleasant. You have to devote time to your family members to keep the atmosphere at your home peaceful.

Capricorn: Your love life will prosper. Colleagues



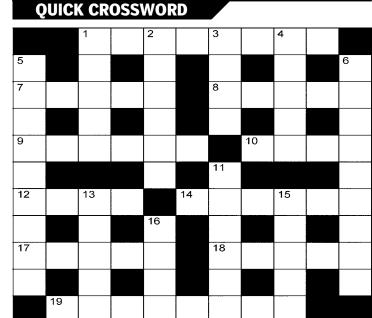
and friends will help you in sorting personal problems. The financial front doesn't look too bright. There might be delays in payment. Aquarius: Participating in seminars will help

you you come up with innovative ideas.



trate on working hard. es: A favourable time to invest in stock market and real estate. Take care of your health first and then take up money making opportunities. Your diplomacy and tact will be required to solve complicated issues on the work front.

Keep away from office politics and concen-



Across 1.Thunderous verbal attack

- 7. Dried bird excrement (5)
- 8. Freight (5)
- 9. Lengthen (6) 10. Responsibility (4)
- 12. Curved support (4) 14. Chanteuse (6)
- 17. Colourless tissue fluid 18. Fatuous (5)

19. Genuine (4,4)

Word Mine Μ NE ATOAN

How many words of four or more How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. Down

- 1. Preliminary sketch (5) 2. Quantity (6)
- 3. Boulder (4) 4. Nobility member (5)
- 5. Pleasant (9) 6. Used sparingly (9)
- 11. Summer two-piece (6) 13. Small group of musicians (5)
- 15. Fit with glass (5) 16. Horse rider's shout (4)

jumble RYUMK **YOEGO NLEDAT RBYEAK**

Across: 1

Down: 1.

ormally, 6. With, Cherub, 9. Prove, Adult, 12. Point,

13. Adage, 16. Ruined, 18. Tiff, 19. Rhapsody.

Newspaper, 2. Ratio, 3. Lace, 4. Yielded, 5. Gnu, 8. Butterfly, 10. Vintner, 14. Amigo, 15. Idea, 17. Urn.

Now arrange the circled letter (Answers tomorrow ICONIC VANIS BEEFY

> 10, to make the key heart switch. Once South had dodged that arrow, he should have made an avoidance play in clubs, leading low to his 10 on the first round.
> When South didn't do that, West should have unblocked his club queen under South's

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CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson



I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE LAWYER PRESEN AT THE MEETING





THE WIZARD OF ID Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall





THE ONES YOU TO BET ON MUST HAVE LOTS OF IMAGES OF

ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs









ACTS

ucille Ball said, "I'm not funny. What I am is Only a brave person with a

strange sense of humor would find anything funny in today's deal. Maybe that was in the back of Shakespeare's mind when he chose "A Comedy of Errors" as the title for his play.

After the given auction to four spades, West led the diamond queen: two, seven, three. South won the second diamond lead with his ace

and drew trumps ending in the dummy. Next, he led a low club to his ace and a sec-ond club, playing low from the board when West's queen appeared. The best West could do was to cash his heart ace, and declarer claimed 10 tricks. How many errors were

There were three mistakes.
The first was East's. Why hadn't West led a heart, despite East's (debatable) raise? Presumably because he had a suit headed by the

♣ A K 7 6 4 3 Dealer: South Vulnerable: East-Wes West North 2♥ 2♣ Pass Pass

ace without the king. So East should have striven to get on lead to play a heart through South's king. The diamond-queen lead showed the queen-jack. (The dummy made it most unlikely that this was a short-suit lead.) East should have overtaken with the diamond king at trick one. a play that would have one. one, a play that would have marked him with the dia-mond 10 as well. However South maneuvered, East would have gained the lead, probably with the diamond

ace. East would have won a trick with the club jack

SHORT TAKES

Coach Poonia is Covid positive

New Delhi: Dronacharya awardee athletics coach and former international hammer thrower Virender Poonia has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to a hospital in Jaipur. The 47-year-old Virender is the husband of Olympian discus thrower and sitting Rajasthan MLA Krishna Poonia. He is now admitted to the Railway Hospital in Jaipur. He, however, said he is doing

"Last week I had body pain and sore throat and so I went for Covid-19 testing and it turned out to be positive. The result came on Saturday,"

Virender said. "Today is the fourth day (after testing positive) and I am alright. There is still body pain and sore throat but I am hoping

to get better." Virender, a Railways employee, won a bronze in hammer throw in the Asian Junior Championships in 1992 and finished fourth in the 1998 Asian

Senior Championships. He was Krishna's coach when she won the discus throw gold medal in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. He received the Dronacharya Award in 2012. - PTI

Ailing Ali asked to stop training

New Delhi: Promising India defender Anwar Ali has been asked to stop training as his latest medical reports are being sent to the Asian Football Confederation, months after being diagnosed with a congenital heart condition, which has put a question mark on his

One of the impressive performers of the 2017 U-17 World Cup at home, Anwar underwent blood tests, a CT scan and an MRI at a top private hospital in Kolkata last week, the reports of which had been sent to the All India Football Federation's medical committee. "His reports have been sent to

the AFC and till a final decision is taken, he has been asked to stop practice. A decision on his future in football should come by this weekend," I-League chief executive officer Sunando Dhar said. The centre-back's career has been left hanging in the balance ever since he was

Italy edge Dutch, Norway win big

heart condition last year. - PTI

Paris: Nicolo Barella extended Italy's two-year unbeaten run as he scored the winner in 1ondav's 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands in the Nations League while Erling Haaland netted twice for Norway in a 5-1 thrashing of Northern Ireland Roberto Mancini's Italy saw their record 11-match winning streak end with last week's draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina but got the best of the Netherlands in Amsterdam courtesy of Inter Milan midfielder Barella's header in first-half stoppage time. "It was a great performance by the entire team, we played with personality. We earned a great result and we are all happy. especially with the performance," said winger Lorenzo Insigne. "We could have scored more goals and killed the game but we still earned the three points. That is what counts

Clippers out-gun Nuggets, in lead

Miami: Paul George scored 32 points and the Los Angeles Clippers turned up the heat defensively on Monday in a 113-107 win over the Denver Nuggets for a 2-1 lead in the NBA Western Conference semifinals. Kawhi Leonard added 23 points, 14 rebounds and six assists for the Clippers, coming up big on both ends of the floor as Los Angeles powered to the finish in the see-saw battle. Denver, blown out in game one but coming off a convincing game-two victory, led 78-68 midway through a third quarter. It was tied up at 101-101 with less than five minutes remaining and the Clippers closed it out with a 12-6 scoring run. — AFP

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Editor: ADITYA SINHA

Elise in Wonderland Ponting speaks in

Mertens sends 2nd seed Kenin packing, Serena advances

New York, Sept. 8: Serena Williams battled into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Monday as top men's seeds Dominic Thiem and Daniil Medvedev sailed through to the last eight at

Flushing Meadows.
After Williams kept her bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title alive, second seed Sofia Kenin was sent crashing out in the last 16 Belgium's Elise Mertens.

Kenin, the highest seeded player left in the tournament and winner of the 2020 Australian Open, was bundled out of the last 16 6-3, 6-3, in 1hr 14 mins by Mertens.

Mertens, the 16th seed, will now play Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the quarter-finals.

Kenin, who had not lost a game in her first three

rounds, never got her service game together against Mertens.

The 21-year-old Moscowborn player won only 56 percent of first serve points compared to 75 percent for Mertens.

Unseeded Azarenka came from a set down to oust 20th seed Karolina Muchova 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in 2hr 30min. Earlier, Williams had to

summon up every last ounce of strength to depose 15th seed Maria Sakkari in three hardfought sets. 38-year-old American needed almost two and a half hours to

dislodge her 25-year-old Greek opponent 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 inside an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in

The American will play Tsvetana Pironkova for a place in the semi-finals

BOPANNA-SHAPOVALOV OUSTED FROM US OPEN

New York, Sept. 8: The Indian challenge came to an end at the US Open with the quarterfinal loss of Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov in the men's doubles event here.

Bopanna and Shapovalov lost 5-7, 5-7 to Dutch Jean-Julien Rojer and Romania's Horea Tecau in the last-

eight match which lasted one hour and 26 minutes on Bopanna and Shapovalov lost their serve once in

each set and could not convert the only break chance that came their way in the second set. It was Bopanna's best performance at a Slam since he made the quarterfinals at both the US Open and

after the Bulgarian ousted France's Alize Cornet in another draining three-

the French Open in 2018.

'ABSOLUTELY UNREAL' Pironkova, playing her first tournament in three years after a lengthy break in which she gave birth to her son, prevailed 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 at the Armstrong

Stadium.
"It's absolutely unreal, I really can't believe it,"

said Pironkova, whose last tournament appearance before this year's US Open was the 2017 Wimbledon championships when she exited in the second round.

In the men's draw, second-seeded Thiem raced into the round of eight with a three-set demolition of Canadian rising Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Thiem dismantled the 20-year-old 15th seed 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1 in 2hr 7min.

He will play Australia's 21st seed Alex de Minaur for a spot in the semifinals after the Australian breezed past unseeded Canadian Vasek Pospisil 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-2, in 2hr 17

Third seed Medvedev blew away unseeded American France Tiafoe 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 in only 1hr 38

Live on TV

US OPEN TENNIS

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star

Sports Select 1, 2, HD

THE RESULTS

Men's singles fourth round: Andrey Rublev (RUS x10) bt Matteo Berrettini (ITA x6) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; Alex De Minaur (AUS x21) bt Vasek Pospisil (CAN) 7-6 (8/6), 6-3,

Pospisii (CAN) /-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-2; Dominic Thiem (AUT x2) bt Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) bt Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

Women's singles fourth

round: Elise Mertens (BEL x16) bt Sofia Kenin (USA x2)

6-3, 6-3; Serena Williams (USA x3) bt Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3;

Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Alize Cornet (FRA) 6-4, 6-7

(CZE x20) 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Ashwin's support Ashwin and Ponting have had an open discussion over the mode of dismissal and by the former Australian captain's own admission, they have reached a common

> "There's an argument there as well, but as I said to him, I would expect that he would hold on to the ball and not Mankad and tell the batsman to stay in his crease next time and see if he's good enough to try and

ground.

close the game out for us."
The batting great, however, made it clear that there is no place for "cheating" which is the case when non-strikers tend to back

ly cheating by trying to steal a yard or two here or there. It's something that

In fact, Ponting found logic in Ashwin's ration-

"He's saying, 'What if it's the last ball of the IPL, what if I'm bowling and the batting teams needs two runs to win and the non-striker is charging halfway down the wicket? What do you expect me to

Dubai, Sept. 8: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky

Ponting says he is on the "same page" as off-spinner

R. Ashwin regarding run-

ning out non-strikers for backing up too far before a

Ashwin, who was in the spotlight last IPL after dis-

missing Jos Buttler during a Kings XI Punjab versus

encounter, did something

that his current IPL coach

didn't endorse. However, Ashwin and

Ponting have had an open discussion here over the

mode of dismissal and by

the former Australian cap-

tain's own admission, they

have reached a common

ground. "He (Ashwin) made me

get on a podcast with him

when I first arrived here to

have a good open chat about it," Ponting told

'Cricket.com.au'.
"I think we're both on the

same page. He feels he did

everything in the rules and

laws of the game and he's absolutely right," Ponting

ball is delivered.

Rajasthan

up too far. "It shouldn't get to that stage anyway, batsmen shouldn't be cheating. That's what batsmen are doing, batsmen are actual-

needs to be addressed Ponting reiterated the need for a run penalty for offenders.

"I think something has to happen with the laws of the game to make sure batsmen can't cheat and there certainly shouldn't be the rule the way it is," he said. -PTI

150-160 is handy, says RCB coach

Dubai, Sept. 8: A score of 150 to 160 will be a competitive one in Dubai or Åbu Dhabi track, reckons RCB coach Mike Hesson, who is happy to have identified his team's designated death bowlers, an area that has let them down during earlier Indian Premier

League seasons.
The length of side boundaries are bigger in grounds like Abu Dhabi and that will bring down the aver-

'Here 150-160 will be good scores in some grounds and it will be different. Chinnaswamy Bengaluru) is a great bat ting wicket, smaller boundaries and scores (team totals) are (on) higher (side)," Hesson told RCB's

YouTube channel. He said that on certain

grounds, spinners will come in handy, especially when the surface is a bit

"On certain grounds yes It depends, like Abu Dhabi, seamers had played a big role there and probably (the pitch) doesn't (offer) spin as much as the other two grounds (Dubai and Sharjah). It does skid. We need the ability to adjust to conditions on the day as well," Hesson said.

Bowling at the death in grounds like Abu Dhabi will be completely different from Chinnaswamy.

"Bowling at the death in Abu Dhabi will be quite different from bowling at Chinnaswamy. The lengths you bowl and we have identified our death bowlers, Hesson said.

Roland Garros to No Barty at French Open allow spectators

Paris, Sept. 8: Spectators Federation will be allowed at the French Open this month despite the growing number of coronavirus cases in the country, organizers

Organizers unveiled the health protocols for the clay-court grand slam, which will take place at Roland Garros in western Paris from September 27 after being postponed from its May start due to the pandemic.

Since the international circuit restarted, Roland Garros will be the first tournament with the privilege of hosting an audience," French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli said on Monday.

round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Monday.

In accordance with the latest government guidelines capping attendance to 5,000 people in regions such as Paris, the federation has scaled down its plans.

The federation wanted to welcome 50% to 60% of capacity, the equivalent of about 20,000 fans per day. Instead, Roland Garros will be divided into three zones based on the three main courts, with 5,000 Philippe Chatrier and Suzanne Lenglen courts.

Sydney, Sept. 8: World number one Ashleigh announced Tuesday she will not defend her French Open

crown, citing the coronavirus fears that also prompted her and several other top players to withdraw from the US

Elise Mertens of Belgium plays a shot en route to her 6-3, 6-3 win over Sofia Kenin of the United States in their US Open women's singles fourth

The Australian, who claimed her maiden Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2019, said it was a "difficult" decision but the health of her family and team came first.

"Last year's French Open was the most special tournament of my career so this is not a decision I have made lightly," she said on she said on

social media.
"There are two reasons



Ashleigh Barty

for my decision — the first is the health risks that still exist with

Covid. "The second is my preparation, which has not been ideal without my coach being able to train with me due to the state border closures in

Australia. is based Barty

Brisbane while her coach, Craig Tyzzer, is in Melbourne and unable to travel as the city battles a significant secondwave virus outbreak.

She announced in late July that she would sit out the US Open, currently underway in New with defending men's champion Rafael Nadal and world number two Simona Halep among those who also opted out because of the pandemic.

At the time, Barty was still monitoring the situation with the French Open, which is due to start on September 27, but said Tuesday her withdrawal was the latest development in "a challenging year for everyone"

YUVRAJ EYES A STINT

Melbourne, Sept. 8: Flamboyant Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh, who retired last year, is eyeing a stint in the Big Bash League and Cricket Australia is trying to help him find a team, a media report has said

No Indian player has ever featured in the BBL as the country's cricket board (BCCI) doesn't allow active players to take part in overseas league.
The 38-year-old Yuvraj had retired from international

and domestic cricket last year, clearing the decks to ply

his trade in foreign leagues across the globe. According to a report in *Sydney Morning Herald*, Yuvraj's manager Jason Warne of W Sports & Media has confirmed that Cricket Australia was trying to find a franchise that would be interested in the former Indian all-rounder.

"We're working with CA to try to find him a home,"

Warne said on Monday.
Yuvraj, the 2011 World Cup player of the tournament, last played for India in 2017.

Every brand may have a 'Dhoni' living inside it



Dr Raj Mohan Tella

Guest Column

n trying times like these, does greatness matter? Does it really elevate us and set the course of our lives or for that matter of brands and businesses on an ascendant? The context is the great Dhoni and the call is to all those brands, which want to build greater affinity with their stakeholders. Unravelling Dhoni may actually lead us to out what is it that brands can imbibe from his actions and exploits.

I turn to the philosopher Peter Koestenbaum to unbundle the Koestenbaum states that there are four ways or dimensions of a leader — vision, reality. ethics and courage in his Diamond Leadership

Model. To begin with visioning, which simply means to think big and new. You would recollect how Dhoni envisioned a young and energetic team way back in 2008, while setting into motion the gradual phasing out of established seniors. I am not suggesting that a business phase out veterans, but am only drawing the focus to the necessity of a vision for the enterprise. When businesses have a vision or a well-articulated destination, then everyone and all the energies of a business are focused to achieving that. comes reality,

Next which means responding to facts without illusions. If you are a Dhoni follower, you would recognise the great's cricketing brain, where every decision of his was based on homework, facts and an intuitive capability of marrying all the pointers to conceptualising out of the box linked; we know that from economics. But when you blend it with self-belief then the chances of triumph seem far greater. We saw that in Dhoni.

moves. To succeed, brands ing victories.

Then comes ethics — sensitivity and empathy.

research and understanding of audience needs, map trends, develop cusall of these to trigger those unique marketing/ brand-

too have to rely on facts; tomer affinity and blend

player doesn't vouch for learning from Dhoni? You would have

seen him interacting with the juniors in the team, guiding the bowlers from behind the wicket and leading the way by exam-

For brands listening can be core strength. The more they listen to their audiences, the sharper their insights. Customers, influencers, social media advocates, suppliers, vendors, employees and more — giving them an ear and empathising with them only makes a brand and the leadership more sensitive to the existing and emerging needs.

Koestenbaum's last dimension is courage. Greatness is about the ability to act, initiate and risk. You and I know that one innings, which won India, in 2011 was a play of Dhoni's courage and planning. But in contrast, how many times have you seen a brand take that risk and come across as being courageous amidst mar-keting challenges. Risk and return are linked; we know that from economics. But when you blend it with self-belief then the chances of triumph seem far greater. We saw that in Dhoni. In today's times, you can see it in some brands and businesses. Especially, in the ones who

India and abroad. So the next time you think of Dhoni or want to build a great brand, put the four Koestenbaum

are successfully raising investments both from

dimensions to play. There is a good chance you will embark upon a journey of useful change and repurposing. Begin by asking fundamental and what could emerge is the presence of one or two dimensions and not all four of them in your brand. Then the task is cut out. Engineer the missing dimensions into your business environment and thinking. For I believe that every business and brand may have a 'Dhoni' living inside them. You could give it that winning nudge towards greatness.

(Dr Raj Mohan Tella is the founder of Brandlogues, a global brand consulting firm. He can be reached at rajmohan@brandlogues.com)