


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 13 SEPTEMBER 2020




## WEATHER

 Max: 32°C  
Min: 22.6°C  
RH: 57%  
Rainfall: 0.8 mm  
**Forecast:** Cloudy sky.  
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 30/23 °C

## COVID-19 COUN

CASES	DEATHS
(+98,333)	(+1,152)
47,51,788	78,614
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+2,278)	(+10)
TS: 1,54,880	950
(+9,901)	(+67)
AP: 5,57,587	4,846

### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

 2,88,52,013  
**DEATHS**  
 9,22,630  
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES  
 213  
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari;** Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Ekadasi till 3.13 am (Monday)  
Star: Punarvasu till 4.26 pm  
Varjyam: 12.12 am to 1.46 am (Monday)  
Durmuhurtam: 4.39 pm to 5.27 pm  
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
Muharram 24, 1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
Fajar: 5.03 am  
Zohar: 12.22 pm  
Asar: 4.33 pm  
Maghrib: 6.26 pm  
Isha: 7.35 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.20 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.04 AM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 3.12 PM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 1.39 AM**

## COUNTER POINT



They don't let any chance slip by for publicity!

## IN BRIEF

### Chinna Jeeyar's mom passes away

**Hyderabad:** Tridandi Chinna Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami's mother, Alivelu Mangatayaru, has passed away. The 85-year-old mother of the spiritual leader breathed her last on Friday night at Chinna Jeeyar Swami's ashram at Mulchintal village in Ranga Reddy district. The last rites were held on Saturday.

### Protester Nagula succumbs to burns

**Hyderabad:** The security guard N. Nagula, who immolated himself near the State Legislative Assembly on Thursday, has died. Doctors at Osmania General Hospital who were treating him for superficial but extensive burns, said he succumbed to the burn injuries.

### Sonia in US for medical check-up

**New Delhi:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi left for the United States on Saturday for a routine medical check-up, sources close to her said. They said her son and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is accompanying her during her travel to the US. Rahul is expected to return within a week. Gandhi, 73, is expected to be away for around a fortnight and will miss more than half of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

## WORLD | 7

### Russian police seek to question Navalny



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## SPORTS | 8

### Thiem, Zverev in US Open final

## TABLOID

### B'wood celebs under drug scanner



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Indian Army trucks move towards the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh amid the prolonged India-China stand-off, in Leh on Saturday. — PTI

# Home ministry set for long winter haul at China border

## Rushes bulk supplies of special tents, heaters, warm clothes

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12

The Union home ministry has started preparing well in advance for any potential threat from the Chinese forces in the coming winter season. It has started rushing bulk supplies of essential commodities, like special winter tents and heaters, warm clothes, sunglasses and packaged food.

The MHA is trying to ensure that adequate stocks for over six months are available at all high-altitude border locations

● **THE MHA** is trying to ensure that adequate stocks for over six months are available at all high-altitude border locations along the India-China border in the next 10 days.

● **LARGE CONSIGNMENT** of "good quality essential supplies" were being transported to all remote locations in the region.

along the India-China border in the next 10 days. Sources claimed a large consignment of "good quality essential supplies"

were being transported to all remote locations in the high-altitude region. In view of the increased tensions with China in Ladakh, the Indian forces are making unprecedented arrangements to ensure China doesn't attempt any border incursions during winter.

It has also been decided all security forces will remain at their respective locations all through the winter to deal with any Chinese threat. Earlier, during the harsh winter months, both Indian and Chinese forces used to

withdraw from their patrolling locations, but this time the Indian forces will remain at their positions.

The MHA has already asked all border guarding forces to send in their specific requirements for winter deployment along the sensitive China border. It also directed these forces, particularly on the China and Nepal borders, to finalise their "winter deployment schedule" by this month and start deployment from next month to deter any Chinese mischief.

## DGCA WARNS AIRLINES AGAINST IN-FLIGHT PHOTOS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12

The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday warned all domestic airlines that their scheduled flights will be suspended for at least two weeks if anyone is found taking photographs or doing videography inside the plane.

According to the DGCA order, as per Rule 13 of the Aircraft Rules 1937, no person is allowed to take any photographs inside a flight except when permission is granted by the DGCA or the Civil Aviation Ministry.

This permission is, however, not applicable when the aircraft is landing, taking off or on ground on a defence aerodrome.

# China releases 5 Arunachal youths

**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 12

Five men who had strayed across the international border in Arunachal Pradesh about 10 days back have been handed over to India by China's People's Liberation Army on Saturday.

Disclosing this, defence PRO Lt. Col. Harsh Wardhan Pande said: "The Indian Army took over all five individuals at Kibithu on September 12, 2020 after completing all the necessary formalities." The Army said in a statement that all these five "individuals will now be quarantined for 14 days as per Covid-19 protocols and will then be handed over to their family".

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu also tweeted to say that he was absolutely

glad to know that the five men had been handed over, and thanked the government and Army.

The five men who had been missing since September 1 were hunters and had gone on an hunting expedition and collect medicinal herbs, when they inadvertently strayed across the LAC with China, the Army had said in a statement.

The Army had earlier said in a statement: "As a result of the persistent efforts of the Army, five missing hunters from Indian side of the LAC in Upper Subansiri, who had inadvertently crossed over to the other side on September 2, 2020, were traced. The Chinese Army had on September 8 responded on the hotline and confirmed that the Indians were found on their side."

## ENEMY | LINES

### Old-timers in Indian Army reveal PLA very touchy about yaks, won't hesitate to go to war over them

# On LAC, PLA preys on yaks, we pray to them

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC**  
HYDERABAD SEPTEMBER 12

They chop it well from the head to tail, dump the large portions of flesh into a container and store it a few feet below the earth for several days. Worms to feed on the flesh and multiply. Weeks later, the container is pulled up and it is feast time.

This is how the soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of China deployed along the line of actual control (LAC) in Tibet

autonomous region eat the yak, with the worms, which makes them stronger and hardier. A few kilometres on the Indian side, the yak, dwindling in numbers, is worshipped.

The yak is a special animal to the PLA. Recently, the eastern command of the Indian army handed over 13 yaks and four calves that strayed across the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh, to China, in what was called a humane gesture.

Sources acquainted with

the functioning and habits of the PLA soldiers told *Deccan Chronicle* that the Chinese army has been heavily dependent on yaks even prior to the 1962 war. In fact, the PLA has a dedicated yak unit which takes men and material through impenetrable mountain passes along the LAC.

"Although the PLA soldiers kill and eat yaks, they do so mostly when the animal dies accidentally or is old and of no more use for them, though there have been instances wherein



Some yaks near the Ladakh border

they have snatched yaks from locals in Tibet and consumed them. They use yaks for patrolling. Their soldiers have survived on

the mountains not due to their technological advancements but due to the yaks which even provide warmth to the soldiers who sleep beside them during harsh winters," the sources said.

The PLA consider the yak to be a symbol of good luck, success and strength. According to feng shui, a traditional practice which originated in ancient China, yak heads and tails both symbolise good luck. The head symbolises strength.

Just like the Indian Army has been dependent on mules and ponies in mountain warfare, Chinese troops cannot do without yaks and keep 'recruiting' the best breeds. Of them, Tibetan yaks are the most popular and useful. "PLA soldiers also drink yak milk and eat yak butter, both considered highly nutritious and cures to various ailments. Yak blood is high in protein and raw yak meat is highly nutritious," the sources said. What makes it the best

suited animal in mountains is its massive respiratory system and outer coat and the fact that its blood takes in more oxygen than other bovines making it survive easily in the harshest of the climates. Yaks hardly sweat.

Old timers who served in the Indian Army say that the PLA is so touchy about yaks that it will not hesitate to go to war over them.

■ **Page 5:** Missing yaks led to tension in 1965



## SHORT TAKES

10 MORE  
SUCCUMB TO  
COVID IN TSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Telangana registered 2,278 new Covid-19 cases and 10 more fatalities with no signs of a let up in the spread of Coronavirus infections in the state. The new cases and deaths reported in the 24-hours between Thursday and Friday evenings, have taken the total cases to 1,54,880 and the toll to 950, as per the Covid-19 bulletin issued by the health department on Saturday.

The state had 32,005 active cases as on Friday evening of which 25,050 were either in home or institutional isolation. The number of recovered individuals so far is 1,21,925.

The most cases for the day, 331, were reported from GHMC area, followed by 184 from Ranga Reddy and 150 Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

Other districts registering three digits or close to that figure were Nalgonda with 126, Karimnagar 121, among others.

SHE TEAMS  
COUNSEL 117  
EVE-TEASERSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

SHE teams of Rachakonda commissionerate apprehended 117 eve-teasers in the last six months and also stopped eight child marriages.

These were brought to light during a counselling session conducted by the team at the Commissioner's camp office in LB Nagar here on Saturday.

As per the data given by the SHE teams, a total 140 cases were booked during the period. They included 90 FIRs, 44 petty cases and six counseled against eve-teasers in the last six months. Of the 117 eve-teasers, 12 were minors.

The respondent eve-teasers attended the session along with their family members. They were counseled by professional counselors from an NGO. Children in conflict with law were also counseled by a psychiatrist in order to bring a change in their behavior.

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RARE LIVER  
PROCEDURE AT  
CITY HOSPITALKANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Liver of a different blood group was transplanted into a 19-year-old patient from Warangal in Hyderabad. The girl was in the end-stage liver disease and thus required an urgent transplant. Suffering from a rare condition called Budd-Chiari syndrome, the patient had been waiting for a liver since two years. However, no cadaver donor was available for her blood group.

It was thus decided to opt for a different blood group through the ABOi Living Donor Liver Transplantation procedure. It involves transplanting a piece of liver from an available donor irrespective of the blood group. It is a rare procedure that was carried out at Apollo Hospitals.

COVAXIN TEST ON  
ANIMALS SHOWS  
SIGN OF HOPEDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Animal results of the two-dose, unactivated SARS-Cov 2 vaccine, Covaxin BBV 152, has shown protection and reduction in the replication of SARS-Cov 2 virus in nose, throat and lung tissues.

The animal trials were conducted on 20 monkeys in India and three different vaccine candidates were tried on them. The first dose of vaccine was given on Day 0 and the second dose was given on Day 14.

The results showed protective efficacy, increasing SARS-Cov 2-specific immunoglobulins which are antibodies, reducing replication of the virus.

Three groups of monkeys were given the vaccination and one group was not vaccinated. The three vaccinated groups did not develop pneumonia, while the non-vaccination group developed pneumonia. According to the official note released by Bharat Biotech, there have not been any adverse side-effects noted in the animal trials.

## Nature's beauty



Floating islands at the Khajaguda Lake have become a major attraction for people in Hyderabad. The lake is a popular spot for outdoor activities such as hiking and bouldering.

— P. SURENDRA

Guduru's plasma donation  
drive a boon to +ve patientsDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Plasma drawn from people who recovered from Covid-19 and being used as treatment for others suffering from the disease with the antibodies in the plasma believed to help in recovery, has been in great demand ever since plasma therapy trials were approved in India. And this has kept Guduru Narayan Reddy, the

Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer and a recovered Covid-19 patient, busy ever since he was discharged. He set up the Telangana Plasma Donors Association this July and has since helped a few hundred patients with him, along with a team of seven others including four who have been employed by him only to interface with patients' families and potential donors. "I appeal to all those who have recovered from the disease to come forward and donate their plasma. I am 58 and I have donated," he said on Saturday.

The group he started,



Guduru Narayan Reddy

Narayan Reddy said, receives about 250 to 300 phone calls a day from families of patients, who sometime call multiple times, as they seek out information on potential plasma donors to help save the lives of their near and dear ones. "Several research studies published by leading medical journals have shown that there is up to a 56 per cent chance of quick recovery if plasma which has antibodies for the disease and drawn from former Covid-19 patients, can help people recover if it is administered early enough," he said. "Our experience so far, also shows that good results are possible," he said.

The Association, he said, now maintains meticulous

records of donors and recipient patients so the data can be studied by medical professionals and tied to the outcome of plasma infusions among Covid-19 patients. "I have been on the phone since noon today. And tomorrow, 18 donors are ready to give their plasma. Sometimes, we also organise transport for the donors if they require it," he said.

"Many families who had patients suffering from Covid-19 who subsequently recovered after receiving plasma infusions organised by the Telangana Plasma Donors Association, send me videos of the recovered patient back at home. This is immensely satisfying to see that I am able to help others," he said.

Narayan Reddy said the Covid-19 situation in Telangana "would not have been as bad as it is now if the state government had taken prompt and correct actions in time instead of making tall claims about paracetamol and sunlight being enough to cure the disease and kill the virus," he said.



Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao garlanding a bust of PV Narasimha Rao at Laknepalli.

PV's house in Laknepalli  
to be made a memorialANUDEEP  
CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 12

As part of the state government's centenary birth anniversary celebrations of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, the minister for tourism V Srinivas Goud, minister for panchayat raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao, minister for tribal welfare Satyavathi Rathod visited Laknepalli village in Narsampet mandal on Saturday.

They said the birthplace of the former prime minister who brought revolutionary reforms and placed the country on the global map would soon be developed as a tourist hub.

The ministers first inspected the house where Mr Rao was born and pondered the idea of turning it into a memorial and her-

itage site.

They later announced that the village would soon gain popularity as a cultural and tourism centre. The village tank would undergo beautification and be developed as tank bund.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Srinivas Goud noted that PV Narasimha Rao is not only the first person to become the Prime Minister of the country from the southern states he is the only Telugu person to serve in the position.

"Mr Narasimha Rao spoke 17 languages flawlessly and strengthened the ties between India and the other countries. The state is proud to call him our own. As part of the development works in the village, we would require about a half-acre of land near PV's house. One acre

of government land would also be developed in his name," he said.

Sharing his bond with PV, minister for panchayat raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao said his father is a follower of P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"When I lost my first election, my father took me to meet Mr Narasimha Rao in New Delhi. He encouraged me and made some important pointers which helped me remain undefeated for 40 years," he said.

Minister Satyavathi Rathod said following the instructions of the Chief Minister

K Chandrashekar Rao, they have examined the village to plan the development works. "We will explain the situation here to the Chief Minister and he would take a call on the steps to be taken next," she said.

TS Covid data fails to  
present true picture

## Cases rising rapidly but govt not setting up containment zones

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

During the past three weeks, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, abutting Hyderabad city, has witnessed 2,832 new Covid-19 cases.

In this same period, Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district has seen 346 new cases, Bhadradi-Kothagudem has seen 1,629 new cases, while Vikarabad, not very far from Hyderabad district, has seen 373 cases, and Yadadri-Bhongir district, also close to the city, has seen 1,048 new Covid-19 cases.

However, what is inexplicable to say the least, is that the daily Covid-19 bulletins released by the Telangana health department, have steadfastly maintained that none of these four districts apparently require any containment zones, locations where new Covid-19 cases are found and are cordoned off to prevent the spread of the disease to other areas.

For the past three weeks, beginning August 22, the bulletins have been maintaining that Medchal-Malkajgiri, Yadadri-Bhongir, Bhadradi-

DISTRICT	WEEK	NEW COVID CASES
Medchal-Malkajgiri	22/8 to 28/8	853
Medchal-Malkajgiri	29/8 to 4/9	960
Medchal-Malkajgiri	5/9 to 11/9	1,019
Bhadradi-Kothagudem	22/8 to 28/8	500
Bhadradi-Kothagudem	29/8 to 4/9	605
Bhadradi-Kothagudem	5/9 to 11/9	524
Yadadri-Bhongir	22/8 to 28/8	271
Yadadri-Bhongir	29/8 to 4/9	429
Yadadri-Bhongir	5/9 to 11/9	348
Jayashankar-Bhupalapally	22/8 to 28/8	93
Jayashankar-Bhupalapally	29/8 to 4/9	123
Jayashankar-Bhupalapally	5/9 to 11/9	130
Vikarabad	22/8 to 28/8	140
Vikarabad	29/8 to 4/9	120
Vikarabad	5/9 to 11/9	113

Kothagudem, Jayashankar-Bhupalapally, and Vikarabad districts in Telangana have had not a single containment zone set up despite new cases being discovered daily in alarming numbers.

Incidentally, this is not the first time that the Covid-19 bulletins issued every day by the state, have mystified rather than clarified the reality on the ground with respect to the disease.

It may be recalled that the Telangana High Court had, several times, pulled

up the state government over Covid-19 details provided in the bulletin.

In addition to preventing those infected by the coronavirus from moving about freely, according to the Indian council for medical research (ICMR), all people living in containment zones are to be mandatorily tested for Covid-19, which makes the establishment of containment zones a vital part of the disease control measures.

Incidentally, over the past few months, after set-

ting up containment zones by cordoning off neighbourhoods during the initial phases of the lockdown, the state had been designating individual homes too as containment zones.

For instance, if a member of a family, or more than one, living in an apartment tests positive, only that apartment is considered a containment 'zone', though the rest of those living in the same building can officially be treated as being outside of the zone.

## OGH junior doctors call off strike

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Junior doctors in Osmania general hospital (OGH) have decided to postpone their strike as they have been assured of separate operation theatres and post-operative wards.

The junior doctors have agreed for now but also

stated that if their grievances are not resolved within a week, they will go on indefinite strike again.

For general surgery, the plastic surgery operation theatre has been allotted and another 100 beds will be arranged in a week.

Similarly, the orthopaedic department has also been promised that one more post-operative ward

will be given to them.

The administration has been given a time frame till September 19 to make these arrangements.

The OGH administration, in its internal orders to department, has stated that the operation theatre for neuro-surgery will be provided for orthopaedic cases.

The plastic surgery oper-

ation theatre will give three tables to general surgery and post-operative wards will be allotted to the general surgery department with the facilities available.

These directives will be carried out on or before September 19, stated Osmania general hospital superintendent Dr B. Nagendra.

No clarity on  
cotton buyingDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 12

Adilabad collector Sikta Patnaik on Saturday said clarity on purchasing of cotton officially from the farmers is yet to be given by the state and central governments in view of the Coronavirus pandemic.

She, however, said officials of concerned departments should take all measures to prevent spread of Covid during the cotton purchases at the cotton ginning factories and markets.

The collector was addressing a preparatory meeting on the cotton purchases with the cotton traders and owners of the ginning factories and officials of concerned departments.

She asked the officials concerned and ginning factory owners to hire the labourers for unloading the cotton produce at the ginning factories and to

ensure that all the laborers must get tested for Covid before hiring them for the work as part of measures to prevent the spread of the virus at the markets and ginning factories.

She asked the market committee officials to submit a comprehensive plan as far as cotton purchases are concerned.

Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna said it would be good if the cotton purchases begin in the first week of October and appealed to the collector to take steps to ensure that the farmers get the amount deposited in their bank accounts for their cotton within 2-3 days.

Jogu Ramanna asked the agriculture officials to create awareness among the farmers on the moisture content well in advance so that there will not be an issue with the moisture during cotton purchases and farmers would not face trouble.

Minister inspects  
works at parkDC CORRESPONDENT  
MANCHERIAL, SEPT. 12

Minister for forest and environment Allola Indrakaran Reddy inspected the ongoing development works at the B.R Ambedkar Urban Park that is coming up in 450 acre near Joduvagula on the outskirts of Chennai town on Saturday.

Speaking to mediapersons after inspecting the works, Indrakaran Reddy said the state government is creating urban parks to provide lung space and recreation in the environment to the people in the constituencies which are close to the forest areas.

He said the urban parks coming up to protect the environment and fresh air to the people living in and around the park and added that they were spending ₹3-5 crore on the development of each park and creating various facilities for recreation



Indrakaran Reddy

for the children and families. Minister also observed the model of the B.R Ambedkar Urban park shown by the forest officials.

The minister gave away Shadi Mubarak and Kalyana Laxmi cheques to some beneficiaries out of total 661 beneficiaries of Chennai constituency. Mancherial Zilla Parishad Chairperson Nallala Bhagyalaxmi, Chennai MLA Balka Suman and Chennai DFO Rajarao were present.

MINISTER PAYS  
TRIBUTES TO ZP  
VICE-CHAIRMANDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 12

Minister for forest and environment consoled the bereaved family members of Are Rajanna, ZP Vice-chairman, who died of covid recently on Saturday.

Along with Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna, I.K. Reddy visited Are Rajanna's house in Chanda (T) village in the Adilabad mandal and paid rich tributes to the departed leader. Minister expressed deep shock over the sudden demise of Rajanna and said the party has lost a committed public leader.

Meanwhile, TRS has conducted a special meeting to pay rich tributes to the Are Rajanna in which ZP Chairman Janardhan Rathod, Boath MLA Rathod Bapurao and others participated.





## IN BRIEF 500 bags of PDS rice seized

**Warangal:** The Task Force police on Saturday seized a lorry carrying 250 quintal of PDS rice in 500 bags at Saireddypally in Nallabelli mandal. Inspectors B. Nandi Ram and G. Madhu said, on a tip off, they reached the residence of one Banda Narasimha Reddy where they found PDS rice being loaded into a lorry bound to Maharashtra. On interrogating the driver Nandram Ramakrishna Ghedam and worker Muthineni Sudhakar, it was known that the prime accused, Thurpati Kishan of Gangapuram and Narasimulu of Mulugu, have been running the racket by collecting PDS rice from the surrounding villages and transporting it to the neighbouring state. "The driver and the worker were lodged in Nallabelli police station and a manhunt is on for Kishan and Narasimulu. The PDS rice seized is worth ₹6.5 lakh," Nandram said. Task Force personnel Somalingam, Shyam Sunder, Rajesh, Srujan, Mahender and Vijay were present.



Telangana SEC C. Parthasarathi speaks to officials in Nizamabad on Saturday.

## SEC visits his native Nizamabad

**Nizamabad:** Telangana state election commissioner C. Parthasarathi visited Nizamabad on Saturday. After taking charge, this is his maiden visit to Nizamabad. District collector C. Narayana Reddy, Commissioner of Police Kartikeya, Nizamabad municipal commissioner Jithesh V. Patil met the election commissioner at the R&B guesthouse. Mr Parthasarathi, a 1993 batch IAS officer (retired), is a native of Armoor town in Nizamabad district.

# TRS protests 'injustice' in employment of locals

MLA, MP stage dharna during Union ministers' visit to RFCL

**PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 12**

Tension prevailed when Ramagundam MLA Korakanti Chander Patel and Peddapalli MP Venkatesh Netha, along with the TRS party activists, staged a dharna at the Ramagundam Fertiliser and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) during Union ministers Mandaviya and Kishan Reddy were at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district on Saturday.

The TRS leaders obstructed the convoy of the Union ministers and raised slogans against the central government for not allotting due share of jobs to the locals in RFCL as promised.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Venkatesh Netha alleged that the central government had not given at least one job to the locals in the company while promising 80 per cent of the jobs initially.

He alleged that the BJP government was showing discrimination against the people living in Telangana region.

Further, he said that they had requested the managements of both the urea and ammonium plants to employ local people but they had not heeded to their plea.

Meanwhile, a heated argument took place between the leaders of TRS and BJP. Sensing that the situation was spiralling out of control, the police personnel intervened and brought the situation under control by arresting the protesters.

Later, with fool-proof security, the Union ministers were escorted to

■ Heated argument between the TRS and BJP leaders prompts police to intervene and arrest the protesters and shift them to the police stations

RFCL for inspecting the works in progress. Union minister Kishan Reddy already announced that to prevent the scarcity of fertilisers in the Telangana region along with other neighbouring states, the central government which has taken up renovation works of RFCL to produce the urea from November 15.

The RFCL was started in 1980 with a target to produce 3,000 tonnes of urea daily but due to the shortage of coal and frequent power cuts, apart from worker unions strikes, it was shut down on April 1, 1999.

After the formation of separate statehood of Telangana, the TRS government decided to renovate it using technology by converting into gas-dependent factory and sent proposals to the central government which was given approval.

Investing ₹6,120.55 crore, the renovation works of RFCL were taken up by central government in Ramagundam. Ammonia and urea plants were established in association with National Fertiliser Limited (NFL), Engineers India Limited (EIL), Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited (FCIL).

The natural gas required for the ammonia and urea plants are supplied through Mallavaram-Bhilwara pipeline and water required will be supplied from Godavari river from Sripada Yellampalli reservoir.

## Production to begin by Nov. : Mandaviya

**DC CORRESPONDENT PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 12**

Union minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya on Saturday ordered the officials concerned to expedite the construction works of RFCL (Ramagundam Fertiliser and Chemicals Limited) which are nearing completion and begin production of fertilisers by November this year.

Mr. Mandaviya, accompanied by Union minister of state for home affairs Kishan Reddy, inspected the urea and ammonium plants which are established under the renovation works of RFCL at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mandaviya said that as per the request made by the people of Telangana during separate Telangana movement to start the fertiliser factory which was shut down and also to start an additional plant in the NTPC, the central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had taken up renovation works of RFCL investing ₹6,120.5 crore and completed about 99 per cent of the works. The works were delayed for three months due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

He also said that Mr. Modi was taking measures to provide quality fertilisers to the farmers of the country for improving their economic condition. As part of

■ Modi aiming to ensure that fertilisers and urea need not be imported from foreign countries to meet the requirement of the farmers in India

that, he announced ₹600 to ₹700 subsidy on each fertiliser bag for the farmers, Mr Mandaviya said.

Around 4 crore MT of urea will be used by the farmers across the country every year out of which around 2.5 metric tonnes of urea will be imported from foreign countries. To prevent importing urea from other countries, Mr Modi had taken up construction works of five fertiliser factories across the country and RFCL is one among them, he informed.

Every year around 12.5 metric tonnes of urea will be produced in the RFCL, out of which 6.25 metric tonnes will be allotted to Telangana region. Once the production works begin in the RFCL, the farming community will not face scarcity of fertilisers. Apart from that, around 700-800 members will be provided employment opportunities in RFCL out of which maximum number of jobs will be allotted to the local people, he promised.

Additional secretary of the central government (fertilizer department) Dharmapil, district collector Bharati Holiker, Ramagundam City Mayor Uday Kumar, ED of RFCL Rajan Thapar were present.

# Seethakka points out to loopholes in Revenue Act

**ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, SEPT. 12**

Congress MLA from Mulugu, Danasari Anasuya alias Seethakka, criticised the state government for not allowing the opposition party members to speak during the ongoing Assembly sessions.

In a video she shared on social networking sites, she pointed out that it was the VROs, stamped as corrupt by the state government, who recognised the 57 lakh beneficiaries for the state government's Rythu Bandhu scheme. She asked how could the state government verify the genuineness of these beneficiaries in the future.

"The state government is boasting that it is spending lakhs of crores towards providing Rythu Bandhu. It has also

■ The Congress MLA pointed out online system cannot root out graft because even computers were operated by men but not by God

blamed the VROs for the rampant irregularities caused in the revenue records and snatched away their powers. It was the state government which paved the platform for all these irregularities by introducing the land records purification drive in the first place. While the officers carry the blame for the irregularities, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is being hailed for introducing such schemes which are not even helping the farmers get rid of their problems," she said.

Ms Seethakka also pointed out that the Section 5 of the new Revenue Act requires the farmers to

apply online and this could give a chance for corruption through middlemen.

"Does it not create new opportunities for irregularities?" she questioned. "In case a MRO or a politician threatens a farmer and gets a land transferred in their favour, the farmers do not even have the right to go to court according to Section 9. The state government seems to think online proceedings can completely curb corruption. It is a human and not god who is going to operate the online system and there is still a chance for irregularities," she reasoned.

The Congress MLA also questioned the rationale behind accommodating the VROs in other departments. She wondered if the corrupt officers won't continue their graft in other departments.

# Covid patients mortgaging assets for treatment

**PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, SEPT. 12**

While Covid patients are fearing for their life and losing confidence, their families are undergoing a lot of trauma bearing the medical expenses at the corporate and private hospitals for the treatment.

Some Covid patients getting admitted in private hospitals are being forced to completely spend their savings on paying the bills towards treatment while in a few cases they are even selling out their property to pay the bills.

In such a situation like a pandemic, the government hospitals should be able to offer affordable treatment

to the affected, with necessary facilities and medicines. It looks like the Coronavirus has pushed many middle-class families into more trouble what with many of them losing jobs or spending huge money on Covid treatment.

After losing jobs, getting treatment for Covid has become another burden for the middle-class people.

The poor people who can't bear the medical expenses got admitted to government hospitals in the district headquarters and in Hyderabad and some of them died because they could not get proper medical treatment in the state hospitals.

Syed Javeed of Utnoor who runs a hotel was tested

positive for Covid and got admitted to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad 9 days ago and his family members had paid ₹10 lakhs so far toward medical expenses.

The patient's brother said they pooled money from various sources by mortgaging their properties and also borrowed money from their relatives working in foreign countries. "We do not have any more money in our hands."

It is said that already, the family spent ₹1 lakh for medical treatment of the patient at a private hospital in Adilabad town before shifting him to Hyderabad.

This situation indicates there is a need to strengthen the healthcare sector.

## DO YOU OWN A PLOT IN UNAUTHORIZED LAYOUT? LAST & FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO REGULARIZE GREAT CHANCE TO REGULARIZE ALL UNAPPROVED LAYOUTS

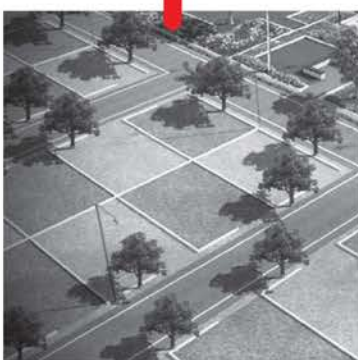
The Government of Telangana announces Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) in **Rural** and **Urban** areas for regularizing unauthorized Plots & Layouts.



**Sri K. Chandrashekhar Rao**  
Chief Minister, Government of Telangana

If not regularized under LRS scheme, the unauthorized Plot will not get the following approvals/facilities:

- \* No Registration
- \* No Building Permission
- \* No Water Connection
- \* No Electricity



**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**  
All existing unapproved sub-division of plots, existing unapproved layouts or ventures where

- \* The plots have been sold through a Registered Sale Deed
- \* Unauthorized layouts developed, provided at least 10% of plots are sold through Registered Deed
- \* Plots registered on or before 26.08.2020

**EASY TO APPLY:**  
Applicant should file an online application or at mee-seva center in the prescribed format for regularization of the Plot/Layout before the competent authority by 15-10-2020 for all such Plots / Layouts, which are unapproved / unauthorized and not covered under the prohibitory category.



**PROHIBITORY CATEGORY:**  
Plots falling in Government lands / ULC surplus / Endowment / Waqf Lands and falling in FTL of tanks are not eligible for regularization.

**LAST DATE FOR REGULARIZATION:**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2020**

**APPLICATION FEES PAYABLE:**  
**FOR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS:**  
**RS.1,000/-**  
ALONG WITH APPLICATION

**FOR LAYOUT DEVELOPERS:**  
**RS.10,000/-**  
IF APPLIED FOR THE ENTIRE LAYOUT

**ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS REGISTERED, THE ENTIRE REGULARIZATION CHARGES SHOULD BE PAID BY 31/01/2021**

**Details of the Scheme & Regularization Charges are available at:**

**<http://irs.telangana.gov.in/>**

**Helpline Numbers:**  
**For Clarifications call between 10 AM and 6 PM**

1. For Plots in HMDA: 1800 - 4258838
  2. For Plots in GHMC: 040 -2111 1111
- e-mail: [support-lrs@telangana.gov.in](mailto:support-lrs@telangana.gov.in)**

### Information to be furnished while applying:

Details of the Applicant including Aadhar number and Mobile number (for receiving generated OTP)

### Documents to be uploaded:

#### For Individual Plots:

Scanned copies of the Sale Deed (both front and back pages) which clearly shows the Sale Deed number and SRO details

#### For Entire Layout Regularization:

- a. Scanned copies of the Layout & Ownership documents
- b. Scanned copies of the Sale Deeds/ECs of the Plot sold

### Plot/Layout Details:

#### a. If Plot:

Locality*	Plot Number*	Survey number*	Area/Extent in Sq. Yds*	Sale Deed Number*	Sale Deed Year*	Registered at (SRO name)*

#### b. If Layout:

Locality*	Total number of Plots*	Total Layout Area/Extent in Sq. Yds*	No. of Plots sold*	Open Space provided*

\*along with details of extent including Mandal/Ward/Village etc., wherever applicable.

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**Sri K T Rama Rao**  
Hon'ble Minister for MA & UD Industries & Commerce, IT & C

**Utilize this last & final opportunity - Get your plot regularized**



## SHORT TAKES

## 24 SCORE 100 PERCENTILE IN JEE-MAIN

New Delhi, Sept. 12: Five students from the national capital have scored 100 percentile in the JEE-Main exam, which was conducted earlier this month after being postponed twice in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The result for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main was declared late night on Friday.

The top scorers from Delhi include Chirag Gupta, Gurkirat Singh, Laksh Gupta, Nishant Aggarwal and Tushar Sethi. They are among the 24 candidates who have scored 100 percentile in the crucial exam.

The exam for admission to engineering colleges was conducted from September 1 to 6, amid stringent precautions and social distancing measures due to Covid-19.

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

A total of 8.58 lakh candidates had registered for the JEE-Mains exam for admission to engineering courses in IITs, NITs and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) while only 74 per cent of them had appeared for the exam.

Based on the results of the JEE-Mains Paper 1 and Paper 2, the top 2.45 lakh candidates will be eligible to appear for the JEE-Advanced exam, which is a one-stop exam to get admission into the 23 premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). JEE-Advanced is scheduled to take place on September 27.

## RAHUL HITS OUT AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the Central government for the decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), job losses and the increasing number of Covid-19-related cases and deaths in the country.

The Congress has accused the Modi government of not handling the Covid-19 pandemic effectively.

Taking a jibe at the Modi government, he said its "well-planned fight against Covid-19 has put India in an abyss of 1.historic GDP reduction of 24%, 2. loss of 12 crore jobs, 3. Rs 15.5 lakh crore additional stressed loans, 4. highest daily Covid-19 cases and deaths globally. But for GOI and media 'sab chhanga si'."

Mr. Gandhi's reference to "well-planned fight" against Covid-19 is seen as a jibe at Home Minister Amit Shah.

Mr. Gandhi's tweet comes days after Union Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah said that India is putting up a "well-planned" fight against the pandemic under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi had criticised the Modi Government for its mismanagement of the Covid-19 crisis, saying that Mr. Modi promised to end the crisis in 21 days but instead finished off small businesses and the livelihood of crores of people.

## ANURADHA PAUDWAL'S SON PASSES AWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 12

Veteran playback singer Anuradha Paudwal's son Aditya Paudwal died on Saturday after suffering a kidney failure at a hospital. He was 35.

Aditya, who breathed his last early on Saturday morning, had been suffering from kidney ailments for "quite some time", an official from Cine Singers Association said. "I got a call from Aditya Paudwal's family and they said he died due to kidney failure at a hospital. We later informed all our members. He had been unwell since quite some time, he had kidney problems," said Himanshu Bhatt, General secretary of Cine Singer's Association.

Aditya was a music arranger and producer. He had arranged and produced a song for Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer *Thackeray*, which was released in 2019.

The news of Aditya's death was first shared by music composer Shankar Mahadevan, who took to Instagram to pay his tributes.

## Language matters



People belonging to Sikh community during a signature campaign for inclusion of Punjabi language in the list of official languages, in Jammu district on Saturday. The Union Cabinet on September 2 approved a Bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and English, will be the official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Bill is likely to be tabled in Parliament during the Monsoon Session next week.

- PTI

## Seats to Manjhi's HAM may be allotted from JD(U)'s quota

## Nadda meets Nitish to discuss seat-sharing, rift among NDA allies

NAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, SEPT. 12

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday held an hour-long meeting with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to discuss the prevailing political scenario in view of the Assembly elections due later this year.

The meeting assumes significance as it was held amid an ongoing rift between the NDA partners – Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) led by Chirag Paswan and the JD(U).

Both JD(U) and LJP have been sparring over the past few months on issues including the Bihar government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic,

guest workers crisis and flood scenario in the state.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who has been made in-charge for the Assembly elections, and BJP national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav along with Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi was among those present at the meeting with Nitish Kumar at his official residence 1, Anne Marg in Patna.

One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was seat-sharing among alliance partners of the NDA. Sources aware of the development said that Nitish Kumar wants the BJP to settle the issue

before election dates are announced.

Political analysts keeping tab of the developments in Bihar believe that amid ongoing rift with LJP, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is likely to persuade Mr. Nadda to first settle the seat adjustment issue with JD(U) and then allocate seats to the LJP from BJP's quota.

Sources said, "seats to Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM will be allotted from the JD(U)'s quota". After returning to NDA camp earlier this month Jitan Ram Manjhi had said that his party was in NDA to support Nitish Kumar who has been working for the development of the

state.

BJP insiders, however, said that the party's leadership would soon meet Chirag Paswan in Delhi to resolve the differences between the LJP and JD(U). Later while inaugurating "Aatma Nirbhar Bihar" and party's campaign song for Bihar polls at BJP office in Patna Mr. Nadda said that, "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA comprising BJP, JD(U) and LJP will contest Bihar polls and win".

"Since people want NDA to return, it is our responsibility to make Bihar self-reliant so that it gets

includes in the list of other developed states. People are not going to get trapped by the conspiracy being hatched by opposition parties", BJP national president JP Nadda said during his speech during the event.

Union Minister of State, Home affairs Nityanand Rai had said that the NDA under Nitish Kumar will retain power in Bihar by winning 220 seats. "NDA will form government in Bihar under the leadership of Nitish Kumar by winning 220 seats", Nityanand Rai told reporters after attending the meeting of the BJP's election chaired by J.P. Nadda.

## 2 Cong MLAs join JD(U) in Bihar

Patna Sept. 11: The JD(U) made fresh inroads into the Grand Alliance as two Congress MLAs, a former RJD minister and several other leaders including an RLSP spokesman joined the ruling party ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls due in October-November.

The opposition Grand Alliance comprises four parties – the RJD, Congress, RLSP and the Vikassheel Insaan Party.

Congress legislators Sudarshan Kumar and Purnima Yadav, senior RJD leader and former state minister Bhola Rai, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party's (RLSP) Bihar unit spokesman Abhishek Jha are among those who

switched sides on Friday.

These leaders took the membership of the JD(U) state headquarters here in the presence of senior leaders such as Ashok Kumar and Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

A total of seven RJD MLAs have so far quit the party to join the Janata Dal (United) in the past one month while five RJD MLAs joined the ruling party in June.

Those who joined the party on Friday reposed their faith in the leadership of Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, saying that they want to work with him for states all round development.

-PTI

## PEOPLE SUCCEED IN B'WOOD DUE TO TALENT, NOT RELIGION: SENA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 12

In a veiled attack on actress Kangana Ranaut, Shiv Sena on Saturday said that Bollywood legends have never betrayed Mumbai. In a strong-worded editorial in *Saamana*, Shiv Sena mentioned several names in Bollywood stalwarts saying many of them came to Mumbai and made their names, but they were never dishonest to their *karmabhooni*.

The Sena said that the foundation of the Indian film industry was laid by Dadasaheb Phalke, a Maharashtrian, and artists have achieved success in the industry due to talent and not religion. People from all over came to try their fate in Mumbai's cine-world, first lived in hovels or on

pavements, but after luck smiled on them, went onto build palatial homes in Juhu, Pali Hill or Malabar Hill. But they were never ungrateful to Mumbai-Maharashtra, it said.

"Several veteran Muslim artistes like Madhubala, Dilip Kumar, Meena Kumari or Sanjay Khan took Hindu names as the industry was 'secular' in that era. Even when Marathi and Punjabi dynasties ruled the roost like the Kapoors, Roshans, Duttos or Shantarams, as many families do today. There were several others with no 'gharana' behind them like Rajesh Khanna, Dharmendra or Jeetendra who came up with hard work, and launched their own 'gharana' for their children," the editorial said.

## LJP calls meeting of party MPs on Sept. 16

New Delhi, Sept. 12: Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan has called a meeting of all party MPs on September 16 as the party continues to deliberate whether to fight against the Janata Dal(U) in the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls.

LJP sources said the meeting will also consider the proposal by the party's Bihar unit that it should contest 143 seats in the elections to the 243-member state Assembly.

The LJP has six members in the Lok Sabha from the state and one Rajya Sabha member is its founder and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

The party also hopes that there will be clarity

● **THE LJP** has six members in the Lok Sabha from the state and one Rajya Sabha member is its founder and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

● **LJP SOURCES** said the meeting will also consider the proposal by the party's Bihar unit that it should contest 143 seats in the elections.

by the time of the meeting about the seat-sharing arrangement between the two principal National Democratic Alliance parties, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-headed JD(U) and the BJP.

LJP sources said any

attempt to undermine the party's position in the state will prompt it to go all out against the JD(U).

They said the JD(U) has been working to undercut the LJP. They cited the ruling party's decision to join hands with Dalit leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, who has a history of targeting the LJP, a party whose base is primarily among Dalits, as another attempt in this regard.

Nitish Kumar on Saturday held a crucial meeting with BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda on seat-sharing among the NDA alliance partners for the assembly elections due in October-November.

-PTI

## India records over 97,000 Corona cases

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has ordered the Serum Institute of India (SII) to suspend any new recruitment in Phase 2 & 3 clinical trials for Covid-19 vaccine candidate ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 till patient safety issues are resolved even as India recorded 97,570 new cases.

The DCGI also asked SII to increase safety monitors of vaccine trials. SII told the DCGI the trials will restart only after a review by the UK's Drug and Safety Monitoring Board.

Bharat Biotech, which is making the indigenous Covaxin, announced the successful completion of its trials on monkeys. "The vaccine candidate was found to generate robust immune responses... preventing infection and disease in primates upon high amounts of exposure to live Sars-CoV-2 virus," the study said.

India on Saturday had two records in a day.

On one hand it recorded the highest numbers of fresh coronavirus cases,

with 97,570 new infections, but also had the highest number of recoveries in a single day after 81,533 patients were discharged, taking the recovery rate to 77.77 per cent.

The Union health ministry said 60 per cent of total recoveries had taken place in five states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Maharashtra alone contributed more than 14,000 and Karnataka saw over 12,000 in new single day recoveries. The total number of recoveries has crossed 36 lakhs in India, and active cases are 9.58 lakhs. The overall Covid-19 cases detected so far is 46.60 lakhs, while 77,472 persons died due to the virus, of which 1,201 fatalities were in the last 24 hours.

Kerala recorded 2,885 cases even as 1,944 people got cured from the infection. Of the new cases, 2,640 persons contracted the disease through contact, source of infection among 287 persons was not yet known, 42 came from abroad, 137 from other states and 55 health workers also got infected.

## Infighting in Cong to fore as first list for bypolls is out

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, SEPT. 12

Infighting in Congress here on Saturday came to the fore with a senior party leader virtually questioning the first list of candidates released by the AICC for the upcoming by-elections to 27 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, saying the Pradesh Congress Committee was not aware of it.

Former minister and Congress spokesman here P.C. Sharma, considered to be a staunch loyalist of party veteran Digvijay Singh, took Congressmen here by surprise when he said that the PCC was unaware of any such list.

"PCC is not aware if any candidates' list has been released by the AICC", Mr Sharma told reporters here. He, however, refused to speak on the issue further.

The surprising remark by him comes in the wake of reports that the candidates' list released by the AICC on Friday has caused consternation in a powerful faction of the party in the state. Sources said the powerful faction led by Mr Singh felt ignored in finalization of the first list of 15 candidates released by the AICC on Friday.

The list was released a day after MP PCC president Kamal Nath met Congress high command at Delhi on Thursday.

● **CONGRESS SPOKESMAN** Sharma took Congressmen by surprise when he said that the PCC was unaware of any such list.

● **AT LEAST** four candidates figured in the first list of candidates have joined Congress in the last couple of weeks from other parties such as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

At least four candidates figured in the first list of candidates have joined Congress in the last couple of weeks from other parties such as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

Incidentally, former BJP leader Satish Sikarwar who has quit BJP and joined Congress a couple of weeks ago with the hope of getting ticket for the by-elections to Ambah (SC) Assembly constituency has been left in lurch with the party deciding to field Satyaprakash Sikarwar in the seat.

This has dismayed the party faction that backed his candidature.

Meanwhile, Mr Nath on Saturday launched the campaign for the party for the by-elections to 27 Assembly seats in the state at Agar Malwa by leading a 'padyatra' or foot march of party workers and leaders there.

## ALLY | SPEAKS UP Nirupam slams Shiv Sena for attack on a retired officer

## 6 Sainiks held for assault on ret'd Navy officer

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 12

Six suspected Shiv Sena workers were granted bail on Saturday in a case of assaulting a retired Navy officer resident of Malad for allegedly forwarding a cartoon of the party president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on social media, evoking allegations of political pressure from the BJP.

Denying any political interference, Joint commissioner of police (law and order) Vishwas Nangre Patil said the bail was granted to the accused in view of the Covid-19 situation.

The six persons were arrested after local BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar posted a video of Friday's assault on the retired officer.

cer, Madan Sharma (62), on Twitter.

A complaint was filed against Sena workers at Kandivali police station.

Leader of opposition in the state Legislative council Pravin Darekar, Bhatkalkar and the victim's family members staged an agitation outside the ACP's office in Kandivali.

They demanded that the accused be booked under sections 326 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons and means), and 452 and 450 (house-trespassing) of the Indian Penal Code, which are non-bailable.

Nangre Patil, who visited the site of the protest, told the protesters the accused were booked under section 325 of the IPC for causing grievous

hurt and rioting sections, which was a bailable offence.

"Six persons arrested under section 325 of the IPC. They were granted bail in view of the Covid-19 situation. There is no political pressure. I don't think section 326 can be invoked since that amounts to the use of sharp weapons. We will see the legal scrutiny of slapping trespassing clauses against them," the police officer said.

The Shiv Sena heads the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation, also comprising the NCP and Congress.

Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam slammed Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena over the attack on a retired Navy officer by the Shiv Sainiks for

allegedly forwarding a cartoon of Mr Thackeray on social media.

Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray was himself a cartoonist and had regards for the force, the Congress leader said.

The 65-year-old officer has been discharged from Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivali.

Meanwhile, the BJP staged a protest against the attack near the additional police commissioner's office.

Mr Nirupam, who was a former Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member, said, "Shiv Sena has not changed. It is still a party of goons. The government indulged *gundagardi* (hooliganism)". He said that the attack is a gross abuse of power. The state government and police are

shielding the Shiv Sainiks. The Shiv Sena is showing off nationalism.

Balasaheb ji himself used to make cartoons and make political and social comments through the cartoons, Mr Nirupam said.

When asked why are you not speaking the language of BJP, Mr Nirupam said that he would say it is the other way round, the BJP is speaking the language of Sanjay Nirupam. He has been speaking against the Sena since he was a spokesperson. He had been raising the issues against the Sena since he was Mumbai Congress chief. When the MVA government was formed, he was against the coalition government in Maharashtra with the Shiv Sena.





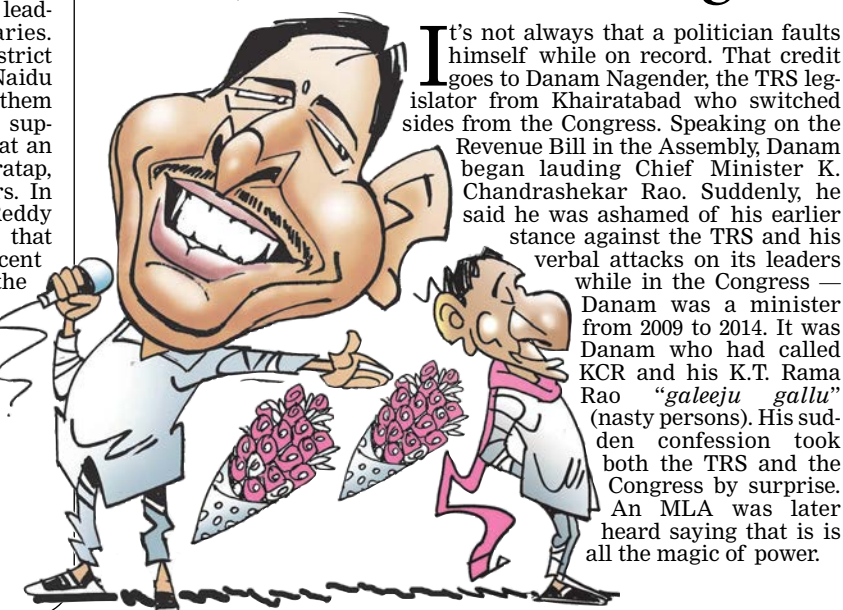
## Vijaysai Reddy back to controversy

After a lull, apparently caused by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's snub, V. Vijaysai Reddy, YSR Congress general secretary, is back to his favourite activity of making controversial statements and landing his party in a tight spot. Recently, DGP Goutham Sawang wrote a letter to Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu to furnish evidence to support his allegations that the government had been tapping the phones of political leaders and legal luminaries. Separately, the Chittoor district police issued notices to Naidu and his son Lokesh, asking them to furnish information in support of their allegations that an autorickshaw driver, Om Pratap, was killed by YSRC leaders. In the midst of this, Sai Reddy made the wild accusation that Naidu had a role in the recent gutting of the chariot at the Narasimha Swamy temple in Antarvedi, East Godavari district, inviting criticism as well as a demand from several quarters that he also be issued notices by the police seeking evidence to back his allegations, as had been done in the case of the Naidus. Watch this space for the next gaffe.

## KCR: Salao for Telangana people's health

At the start of the classic novella, *The Old Man and The Sea*, which finally won Ernest Hemingway the Nobel Prize for literature, an entire village wishes to boycott Santiago, the old fisherman, because they fear he has gone 'salao' and can no longer catch any fish. Parents don't wish to let their children fish with him. Derived from the Spanish word *salado*, salao means extremely irredeemably unlucky. In Telangana state, ruling party circles are speaking in hushed tones whether an irreversible whisper campaign is sweeping across the population, especially the rural masses, that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is 'salao'. If what common people are talking is an indication, yes, KCR is a great leader but ever since he was elected for a second term, health pandemics are raging the state. Such talk began last year, when malaria, dengue, chikungunya and typhoid spread during the rainy season. With Covid, the ill-reputation is firming up. As a villager from KCR's constituency summed it up, "whatever he gives us or not, like it would not rain when Chandrababu Naidu was CM, if KCR is in power we will fall ill. His reign means a divine curse of disease." TRS leaders are hoping their supreme leader can defy the superstition like the old man in Hemingway's epic.

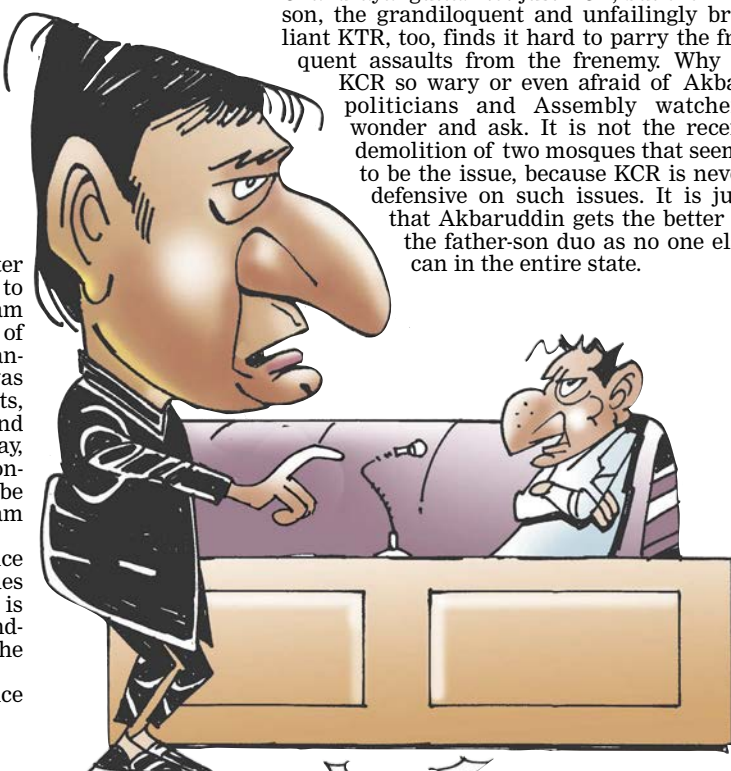
## Danam ashamed of flaying KCR, KTR while in Cong



It's not always that a politician faults himself while on record. That credit goes to Danam Nagender, the TRS legislator from Khairatabad who switched sides from the Congress. Speaking on the Revenue Bill in the Assembly, Danam began lauding Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Suddenly, he said he was ashamed of his earlier stance against the TRS and his verbal attacks on its leaders while in the Congress. Danam was a minister from 2009 to 2014. It was Danam who had called KCR and his K.T. Rama Rao "galeju gallu" (nasty persons). His sudden confession took both the TRS and the Congress by surprise. An MLA was later heard saying that is all the magic of power.

## Jagan gets 'rid' of Dr Ramesh, Kallam is back in action

The curtain has lifted on the mystery, though after some time. The real intention behind the drama to strip the powers off AP CM adviser Ajay Kallam and CM's additional CS Dr P.V. Ramesh was to get rid of the latter. The CMO took away all subjects being handled by the two, besides a junior officer, J. Murali. It was projected that the advisers, who are retired bureaucrats, shouldn't handle files and hence the action. Kallam and Dr Ramesh met the Chief Minister who, sources say, behaved like nothing had happened and remained non-committal to Dr Ramesh. Everyone thought it would be the same for Kallam. But, a few days later, Kallam returned to the thick of action. He began attending crucial meetings of the CM, coming to office regularly and addressing the media on critical issues like fixing meters to agri pumpsets. Dr Ramesh is nowhere to be seen these days. He has not been attending office as there is nothing to do, though on paper he is still working with the CM. What made Jagan get rid of Dr Ramesh, to whom he gave much importance initially, is the million-dollar question.



## Akbar scores over Kalvakuntlas in Assembly

Talking of literary epics, K. Chandrashekar Rao undergoes quite a bit of metamorphosis not too dissimilar to Franz Kafka's protagonist Gregor Samsa when it comes to facing MIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi. It is quite an unimpeachable dictum that KCR is Telangana state's greatest orator, a speaker with wit without peers, a man whose rhetoric ranges from scathing rebuffs to chilling rebukes. His whiplashing one-liners, smart squibs and snide retorts can destroy the courage of his opponents. Yet, the mighty KCR who waxes eloquent against most opposition leaders and gives an earful to journalists at press conferences, transforms *a la* Samsa into a reserved, timid and soft-spoken man on the back foot whenever he gets to face a barrage of questions or angry criticism of Akbar. Barely does KCR start giving a reply when Akbar, with his perpetually angry and vituperative harangue, interrupts. Getting on KCR's nerves with ease, Akbar succeeds in pushing Rao on the defensive — his legerity seems to vanish, he clambers for an answer and speaks in a soft diphthong of a tune, placating the angry young legislator from Chandrayangutta. Not just KCR, but even his son, the grandiloquent and unfailingly brilliant KTR, too, finds it hard to parry the frequent assaults from the frenemy. Why is KCR so wary or even afraid of Akbar, politicians and Assembly watchers wonder and ask. It is not the recent demolition of two mosques that seems to be the issue, because KCR is never defensive on such issues. It is just that Akbaruddin gets the better of the father-son duo as no one else can in the entire state.

## SHABBIR SAYS KCR RUINING EDUCATION SECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir alleged that the state government, headed by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, has completely neglected the education sector and ignored the problems being faced by teachers' community. He was addressing the Teachers' Day Programme organised by the National Solidarity Committee at Gandhi Bhavan here on Saturday. He said that Rao came to power in 2014 on the promise of providing free KG to PG education. However, his government has ruined the entire education system across all levels. He said over 4,000 primary schools were shut down while hundreds of junior and degrees colleges were closed. Universities were deprived of funds and none of them has had a full-time Vice-Chancellor in the last six years.

## MISSING YAKS LED TO TENSION IN 1965

From Page 1

"A missing flock of 59 yaks and about 800 sheep had triggered tensions between the two countries in 1965. It led to a border conflict between the two armies in Sikkim in 1967. There were heated exchanges between the two countries over the yaks and sheep after the PLA accused Indian forces of stealing the animals from Tibetan herds-men on the Sikkim border," a former army officer who worked along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) recalled. Though there have often been suspicions that the PLA sends yaks and sheep into Indian territory fitted with spying tools, the Indian army, wary of PLA's designs, has not found any concrete evidence of that.

## Uttam demands laptops for poor across Telangana

SA. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

TPCC President N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday demanded that the Union and state governments must provide free laptops to all poor students belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families across Telangana State. He was addressing District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meetings in Suryapet and Nalgonda districts, held to review all government-funded schemes in these two districts under Nalgonda Parliamentary constituency. He said that the Covid-19 pandemic has badly hit the education system across the world and it was difficult to impart education through conventional means. In view of the pandemic, and also to meet future exigencies, he



TPCC chief N. Uttam Reddy addressing the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meetings in Suryapet on Saturday.

demanded that the two governments should work out a strategy so that they could equip poor students with a free laptop, along with free internet connectivity, considering that online classes seem to be the only way out in the prevailing circumstances. He said, "They must focus on creating appropriate infrastructure for poor students to make a success of online education." He reiterated that the state government must utilise the entire Mineral Funds to upgrade government hospitals in the state. He said there was a lack of coordination between the Centre and the state government, which has resulted in farmers not getting insurance facilities for their crops.

## GET TESTED AGAIN FOR COVID-19: TS ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Saturday made it clear that all members allowed to attend the session will have to again undergo Covid-19 tests before the session of the two Houses resumes on Monday after a two-day break. In a statement here on Saturday, they asked all ministers, MLAs and MLCs to undergo tests at the special counters set up at the Assembly and Council before 9 am. They directed Legislative Secretary V. Narsimhacharyulu to arrange tests for Assembly and Council staff, marshals, media representatives as well as the police. It is stated that the tests for these categories of people will be conducted on Sunday afternoon at the special counters arranged in Assembly and Council premises.



Medical staff collects the swab from the people for Covid-19 testing at a Community Hall at Resapuvanipalem in Visakhapatnam Saturday. — P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

## KCR wants promotions for revenue staff in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Speaking to representatives of the Telangana revenue employees' services association (TRESA) at Pragathi Bhavan Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, on Saturday asked the authorities to take up the process for promotion of revenue employees in the state. Revenue staff who discharge 54 different duties and work round the clock during elections and natural calamities do commendable work, said Rao, while releasing ₹60 crore to improve facilities at the offices of tahsildars in the state and directing officers to ensure that there is no dearth of funds for protocol and other

office maintenance expenditures in those offices. Urging revenue employees to strive for the successful implementation of the new revenue act, Rao asked the revenue staff to behave in a dignified manner when people come to their offices with grievances and give a patient hearing to them and resolve their grievances. Reminding them that in the past, people used to treat employees who worked efficiently as demi-gods, Rao said, "We must bring back such culture again. The department must consider the interests of the poor among SCs, STs, BCs and OBCs as paramount and strive for their betterment." Making it clear that the

option will be given to village revenue officers (VROs) to join any other departments without causing any inconvenience to them, Rao reassured that the new Revenue Bill was not against anyone. Meanwhile, TRESA president, V. Ravinder Reddy, general secretary K. Gautam Kumar, members Manne Prabhakar, Ramakrishna, Banala Ram Reddy, Desya Nayak, Nagamani, Vani Reddy, Sailaja, Madhavi, Palnati Srinivas Reddy and Niranjan assured the CM that they will extend their full support for successful implementation of the new act. They demanded the appointment of a chief commissioner of land administration.

## 8 TELANGANA CANDIDATES TOP JEE EXAM

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Telangana topped the 100 percentile list of the NTA JEE (mains), the results of which were announced late Friday night. Eight out of the 24 students, namely, Chagari Kaushal Kumar Reddy, Chukka Tanuja, Deeti Veshash Chandra, Morreddigiri Likhith Reddy, Rachapalle Shashank Anirudh, Rongalla Arun Siddardha, Shiva Krishna Sagi, and Vadapalli Arvind Narasimha who topped the engineering entrance exam are from Telangana. The second cycle of the JEE (mains) in April/September 2020, conducted amid concerns and fears over the growing Covid-19 cases, recorded 6.35 lakh candidates appearing for the exam as compared to 8.41 lakh candidates who had registered across the country. Even though numerous instances of violation of safety guidelines were reported across the country and Telangana, the NTA in its official communication said that the exams were conducted without any glitch in 660 centres in 232 cities, including eight outside India.

## 3 FROM HYD LINKED TO ARE CONVICTED BY NIA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Three persons from Hyderabad, who were tried as IS operatives, along with six others, have been convicted by the special court for National Investigation Agency (NIA) on charges of conspiring to carry out terrorist acts in India. The NIA, in a press release on Saturday, said their punishments will be pronounced on September 22. Among the nine convicted in the case, those from Hyderabad are Abu Anas, Mohammad Obedullah Khan, and Mohammed Nafees Khan.



## DECCAN Chronicle

13 SEPTEMBER 2020



Shashi Warriar

Off the beaten track

## JFK, yoga, and intermittent fasting

In every home that my wife and I have occupied since our marriage, and in all the homes my parents made while I grew up, there was a piece of furniture that held a group of airtight plastic or steel containers, placed fairly high up, outside the reach of a child. If you opened any one of those containers, you'd find a bunch of opened plastic bags containing biscuits or deep fried bits of joy, or junk food.

I call this bit of furniture, which you will find in practically every middle-class home, the JFK, for Junk Food Kuponboard. It has one branch in the fridge, in a box that contains pieces of cake, chocolate, and other sweets, and a second in the freezer, the home of ice-cream. The shop that supplies most of its contents, incidentally, is the JFP, or Junk Food Paradise, which we will visit shortly.

Yoga, I believe, is one of the forms of discipline that most people give up regularly. I believe this for two reasons. First, it was Google that told me, so it must be true, like everything else Google tells us. Second, I know how tough it is, for I very nearly gave it up some years ago. I managed to hang on to it despite the creaking of aged limbs and so on, so I even got a bit smug about continuing my practice in the face of all these difficulties. My weight stayed more or less the same for a decade or so.

The lockdown changed all that. Week after week of staying put, with large and regular meals and plenty of snacks in between, turned my waistline into a sort of coastline. By the middle of May, I had developed an equatorial bulge, and the effort of getting into my clothes left me breathless. Worst of all, the roundness was spreading. I upped my yoga practice, but to no avail, for it only made me hungrier and fatter.

At the end of May, when I discovered I could no longer shoehorn myself into my loosest pair of jeans, I decided to go on a diet. Wondering what kind of diet to go on, I turned once again to reliable old Google, which came up with something — after searching through a gazillion sites in a micro-second — that sounded about right.

Intermittent fasting. You restrict your eating to a six-hour period every day, during which you eat whatever you like. During the remaining 18 hours, you fast, your only intake being plain water or tea without sugar or milk.

I've been doing this for some weeks now: I eat only between eight in the morning and two in the afternoon. So let share with you what my day looks like.

I come awake, without an alarm of any kind, by half-past-five. Under the new scheme of time, this is 150 minutes AM (Ante Mealtime), with each minute feeling like an hour. I finish my ablutions, feed the pets, two dogs and a cat, and take the dogs for a walk. Back home, I prepare the next meal for the dogs. The clock now stands at 105 AM, and the minutes are getting longer.

I bring out the yoga mat and start on my regular practice, which used to take about 45 minutes before I started fasting. When I roll up the yoga mat afterwards, I discover that it's 75 AM, so I've finished my practice in 30 minutes. Amazing how supple fasting makes you!

Casting about for ways to fill in the remaining minutes, I clean out my desk, reply to emails and WhatsApp messages, and remove all the junk files from my laptop and phone. I go through the news channels, Indian and foreign, and am disappointed to find that none mentions my fast. It's now 45 AM. Amazing how efficient fasting makes you!

The remaining minutes pass like blocks of concrete. 1 AM finds me at the kitchen door, watch in hand, and when that last dreadful minute is past, I charge for the JFK, there being no time to cook a proper breakfast. Eleven minutes later, the JFK is sadly depleted, and needs replenishment.

After a short nap, still pleasantly full, I replenish the JFK. I hop onto the bike with an empty backpack and ride out to the JFP, a couple of kilometres away. The owner greets me with delight, tells me that he will give me a 10 per cent discount on all my purchases, and shows me three different kinds of savouries I haven't tried before. I take a packet of each, besides the regular stack. I buy another couple of packets of fried nuts. For unexpected visitors, you see. The backpack feels very heavy when I pick up. Great exercise for my shoulders, so it's all good.

Back home, I restock the JFK, and, needing refreshment, try one of the new savouries. Excellent! I return to my study and sit down to work, but spend most of the time wondering about lunch. Fasting certainly gives you an appetite!

After a long and pleasant lunch that would feed an Ethiopian family for a week, I return to the fridge. A couple of minutes before the end of my eating window, 2PM under the old scheme of time, there is still a cup of vanilla ice-cream in the freezer, and I manage to finish it just in time. Since I believe always in looking to the future, the time is now 1080 AM, of which I will spend 480 minutes sleeping, and dreaming of food.

After three weeks of this, when I still can't get into my jeans, I visit the weighing machine, and discover that I've put on four kilos! So now I'm wondering why they call it intermittent fasting and not intermittent feasting...

*Shashi Warriar has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.*

Subhani



## De-escalation in Ladakh: Mixed signals after talks



K.C. Singh

The Ladakh imbroglio has been a complex interplay between military jostling at the Line of Actual Control and talks at the official, military and political levels. The Galwan setback was followed by a military-to-military understanding on the PLA's pullback. Video conferences followed between external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and national security adviser Ajit Doval with Wang Yi, who doubles up as China's foreign minister and state councillor. However, till August's end, the Chinese were unwilling to fully restore the status quo. In fact, they consolidated their hold on the northern bank of Pangong Tso and other areas like Depsang Plains, threatening India's access to Daulat Beg Oldie and the Karakoram Pass.

Surprised by China's lightning deployment of heavily armed troops at multiple points on the LAC, India also needed time to mirror deployments, with troops needing acclimatisation for high-altitude duty. Even the threat of economic decoupling, with over 200 Chinese apps barred, left China's military posture unaffected. On August 28-29, the Indian Army dramatically seized the highest Kailash range mountaintops, overlooking Spanggur Tso and the Chinese military garrison at Moldo. Below them lies Spanggur Gap, between two lakes, through which Chinese troops attacked in 1962. India's positions were then overrun as they were at lower heights. Mukhpuri, now held, and to its northwest Black Top, perhaps contested, dominate the entire region from south of Pangong Tso to Spanggur Tso lake and beyond, overlooking Chin-

ese roads and military installations.

This just preceded the meeting of the Indian and Chinese defence ministers on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. China's rhetoric changed instantly, with allegations of India breaching agreements and the LAC, aping Indian allegations earlier. India was clear its forward push was pre-emptive and only up to Indian claim lines and understanding of the LAC. India was merely following the playbook the Chinese used since April. After the Galwan betrayal, the rules of engagement were changed with local commanders empowered to use all means at their disposal to protect their troops and defend Indian posts and territory. With three of five agreements — signed in 1993, 1996 and 2013 — breached by China, India also set them aside. India's countermove levelled China's first-mover advantage somewhat, giving India's diplomats vital negotiating chips.

It was against this background that Mr Jaishankar arrived in Moscow for an on-the-sidelines meeting with his Chinese counterpart. Most analysts were sceptical about a positive outcome as there was no consensus about Chinese motives. Was Chinese ire persisting over the constitutional and territorial changes made by the Indian government in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019? Or was China paranoid over the India-US strategic convergence, symbolised by excessive bonhomie between Narendra Modi and Donald Trump at the "Howdy Modi" and "Namaste Trump" extravaganzas? Finally, was it India's rejection of China's Belt and Road Initiative or the perceived Indian sabotage

of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership? Alternatively,

was the provocation more local over India's upgraded infrastructure, or misreading of jingoism of Union ministers threatening to seize Pakistan- and China-occupied Kashmir, or perceived threat to Chinese investments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor? However, there is no doubt over one overweening purpose, rekindled by President Xi, to create a China-dominated, Sino-centric Asian regional order. Cutting India, its only possible strategic rival, down to size has been a Chinese preoccupation since 1962.

China has chosen the moment well, with the world distracted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the US presidential election and a global economic slowdown. Chinese assertiveness over territorial claims and international affairs manifested after the 2008 financial crisis. It was sharpened as Xi took the presidency in 2013. Instead of moderating its behaviour and recognising its constructive liability for the pandemic, China has shamelessly and aggressively pursued narrow national interests. But globally China is facing headwinds as even Europe is beginning to see demerits of engaging China blindly. Whoever wins in America or succeeds Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, the decoupling from China will continue. Xi faces a major Communist Party plenary in October, where he wants his choice of the next PM endorsed. China's economy may have revived fast, but the developed world and larger markets are circling their wagons. Australia, India and Japan are discussing a "supply chain resilience initiative", while Japan is

subsidising Japanese companies wishing to shift businesses out of China.

Mr Jaishankar and Mr Wang produced a five-point joint statement which recalled the "consensus" reached by Mr Modi and Mr Xi, reiterated the need to reduce tensions and abide by agreements and suggested the resumption of dialogue at civil, military and political levels. The only new element was a recognition that after the situation eases, new confidence-building measures are needed, allowing both sides to address strategic and local concerns. But the relief was shortlived as the individual statements by both sides seemed to undercut the feelgood joint statement. China asserted its "stern" position, said India must stop "provocations" like firing and recall all personnel and equipment that had trespassed to enable an enhanced dialogue. It claimed Mr Jaishankar accepted Chinese policy towards India had not changed and bilateral relations did not depend on "settlement of the boundary question". India contested China's claims, insisting that Mr Jaishankar had forcefully sought restoration of the status quo. What does this dissonance between an agreed statement and separate claims mean? Both sides may be posturing for home audiences, while agreeing in private to slowly restore normality. It could also mean Chinese unwillingness to exchange its cross-LAC territorial gains for India's vacating the heights south of Pangong Tso.

The next few weeks will show whether de-escalation will start or jostling for tactical gains and capture of vantage points, in a barren terrain littered with ridges, continue. If the latter, the possibility lingers of armed local action spiralling into the use of heavy arms or even air power.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambksingh.*

## LETTERS

### NEW REVENUE LAW

Earlier, the village officers/patwaris abused their power and deprived landholders of their right over their land. This also was done to Wakf Board property. Now, the Telangana government's move to abolish village officers and stay registration of 77,000 acre Wakf land and act against encroachers and land-grabbers of over 55,000 acre of Wakf land is a revolutionary remedy. We pray the new revenue law will be fruitful.

Owais Haroon Nilofar  
Hyderabad

### HOLD EXAMS ONLINE

Being caught in the middle of the pandemic, taking offline tests affects students the most. Online exams may decrease their anxiety levels a bit. Remote proctoring is more secure, flexible and it can also result in huge savings in administration costs. With proper guidelines, online exams can be a huge success.

S. Shirley Grace  
Hyderabad

### HIMACHAL DAUGHTER

After Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut started making silly remarks against fellow actors and now even non BJP politicians and their party, "Himachal ki Beti" has now managed to get Y-category security. However, I am sad that neither her parents nor the Himachal government has taught her good manners.

N.S. Rajan  
Hyderabad

### LIBERATION DAY

When the country is reeling under a pandemic, BJP leaders in TS are playing with fire by igniting the embers of police action days by saying the government of Telangana should celebrate the Liberation Day officially. Why do they want us to remember the dreaded incident which was like hell for all communities? I request the CM not to fall prey to the tactics of these Hindutva brigade.

Mirza Maqsood Baig  
Hyderabad

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

### Hijacked women, children freed

AMMAM, Sept. 12 About 90 women and children were freed from the hijacked airliners in the Jordanian desert today and driven to a luxury hotel in Ammam by guerrillas singing gay Palestinian songs.

Jordanian troops escorted the convoy of 10 minibuses which carried the hostages 72 kms to the capital

**50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle** from the capital a strip where some of them had

been prisoners for six nights and days.

Most looked remarkably fresh and cheerful, considering the ordeal they had been through, and in a series of brief interviews told reporters their guerrilla captors had treated them well.

# Swami who fought against BJP's Hindutva denied in death

## Threat to Tomar

Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar is a worried man these days. On his home turf of Gwalior-Chambal, crucial Assembly bypolls are set to take place, which may establish the supremacy of Jyotiraditya Scindia as BJP's iconic figure on Mr Tomar's turf. Mr Tomar, who holds the additional charge of panchayati raj and rural development, was embarrassed when a well-known party spokesman fumbled and failed to name him as the country's agriculture minister. The spokesperson, having roots in the BJP's economic cell, reportedly took Radha Mohan Singh's name, who was agriculture minister in the previous Narendra Modi ministry. Sources close to Mr Tomar feel their leader needs more visibility if he has to counter Mr Scindia within the BJP.

## Dissidents' new dilemma

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi turned out to be smarter than her detractors. The 23 Congress dissenters who wrote a letter seeking inner party democracy are now perplexed by Sonia's move to appoint the Congress

Working Committee nominating some prominent dissidents who were asking for CWC polls. Would Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Mukul Wasnik muster the courage to turn down a CWC nomination? As per the party constitution, 12 members are required to be elected while an equal number can be nominated. Last time when CWC polls were held, the party was led by Sitarum Kesri in 1997. Sonia is travelling abroad for her medical check-up and likely to skip the monsoon session of Parliament. In her absence, a six-member panel [without Rahul or Priyanka Gandhi] would officiate.

## How to protest

The monsoon session of Parliament is starting amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Ironically, when the House had met in March 2020, the chair had reprimanded members for wearing masks. Six months later, wearing masks has been made mandatory. The seating arrangement is also bothering the Opposition as members are spread to galleries in order to enforce social distancing. How would they protest if access to the well of the House is denied?



By WAQYANAWIS

## AAP in hills?

Though the Uttarakhand state Assembly poll is scheduled for early 2022, the BJP has begun preparation. Politically, the Trivender Singh Rawat government does not seem strong enough to return to power. So BJP strategists are looking for a "third front" to prevent the Harish Rawat-led Congress

from edging the party out of power. The buzz is that Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party is set to contest the hill state poll in a big way. The presence of a third contender will be bad news for the Congress. The BJP is also reportedly promoting the Uttarakhand Kranti Dal, otherwise considered a defunct outfit. The calculations are that if AAP and/or Uttarakhand Kranti Dal get a few seats through cutting into Congress votes and anti-BJP votes, then a Haryana-like situation can bring the BJP back to power.

## Bhai closes Darbar

Jafferbhai Mansuri of Delhi Darbar fame is no more. Covid-19 took another toll. Jafferbhai was a legend in Mumbai as his biryani of the Delhi Darbar chain of restaurants was worth every paisa.

In 1973, Jafferbhai had founded his Delhi Darbar restaurant at Bombay's Grant Road, and by 2006 he became the Biryani King, having a chain of restaurants called "Jaffer Bhai's Delhi Darbar" from Grant Road to Jogheshwari. The chain also owns several restaurants in the UAE.

Jafferbhai's biryani was much sought after

in wedding receptions. An unassuming and affectionate person, Jafferbhai used to keep a keen eye on his friends and acquaintances who were often given a packet of biryani and kebabs to relish at home.

## Silence, they said

Swami Agnivesh will be greatly missed. The social crusader in saffron was a spare time politician who did not get his due even in death, as most English-language newspapers did not carry his obituary. Surprisingly, most Urdu dailies had news of his death on the front page with some editorials and lengthy obits. Perhaps it was due to Agnivesh's consistent opposition to BJP's brand of Hindutva. A Brahmin from Andhra, Agnivesh was a vocal Arya Samaji whose influence spread from Punjab-Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan to other parts of the Hindi heartland. Agnivesh had given up a career as a professor in Calcutta to be a full-time social activist. His mission was to resist the RSS at all levels.

*The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power*



## IN BRIEF

## China satellite can't reach orbit

**Beijing:** China's optical remote-sensing satellite Jilin-1 Gao-fen O2C failed to enter the pre-set orbit on Saturday, official media reported here. The satellite was launched aboard the Kuaizhou-1A carrier rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center at 1:02 pm (local time). The launch centre said the mission failed because of abnormal performance, state-run *Global Times* reported. Specific reasons for the failure are under investigation, it said.

## 250 guns seized in Germany

**Berlin:** German police said Saturday they have seized about 250 firearms and a few thousand rounds of ammunition from a man who is believed to be a far-right sympathiser. Police in the northwestern state of Lower Saxony said the weapons were found in the Seevetal area, just south of Hamburg, during a search on Friday evening. A police statement said investigators think the man has right-wing sympathies "because of the overall circumstances." The statement didn't elaborate or say why the man might have had the firearms, citing the ongoing investigation into a suspected violation of weapons laws.

## 50 die in Congo mine collapse

**Kinshasa:** More than 50 people are dead after landslides collapsed three artisanal gold mining wells near the city of Kamituga in eastern Congo's South Kivu province on Friday, officials said. Heavy rains for days led to the disaster. "The diggers and the transporters of the stones were swallowed up by the waters," said the Kamituga mayor, Alexandre Bundya. "A team of rescuers with motor pumps came to recover the bodies of the victims." Diwa Honoré, who survived the tragedy, said more than 50 people had been in the three wells, which are about 50 metres deep.

## Assange court case to resume

**London:** The London court hearing on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's extradition from Britain to the United States is set to resume after a Covid-19 test on one of the participating lawyers came back negative, WikiLeaks said Friday, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser ordered the proceedings adjourned Thursday while a lawyer representing the US government was tested for the Coronavirus. WikiLeaks said the case is now set to continue on Monday. Assange is fighting American prosecutors' attempt to get the British government to send him to the US to stand trial on spying charges. The extradition hearing at London's Old Bailey criminal court is scheduled to last until early October. US prosecutors have indicated the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret

## TANKER FIRE WARNING NEGLECTED

**Colombo, Sept. 12:** The authorities of the oil tanker that went up in flames off Sri Lanka's eastern waters seemed to have neglected warnings from the crew on possible fire on board, a Sri Lankan court has heard. The Panama registered MT (Motor Tanker) New Diamond, a Greek-owned vessel and under charter by the Indian Oil Corporation, was carrying nearly two million barrels of crude oil from Mina Al Ahmadi port in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when it caught fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in Ampara district on Thursday last.

A Filipino crew member died and another was injured in the mishap. The fire was doused in a joint operation of the Indian and Sri Lankan forces on Sunday last. But a new fire broke out within hours due to extreme heat and strong winds. After the second fire was brought under control on Wednesday, the tanker was towed away from the site.

A narrow diesel patch was noticed and an Indian Coast Guard aircraft sprayed dispersants to minimise potential damage to the marine environment. The state authorities sought court's permission to obtain oil samples on board the vessel to carry out tests to verify that the oil leaks visible in the surrounding sea area were those from the tanker.

## Covid vaccine trials resume

## Recommended after a pause following an adverse reaction in one of the participants

**London, Sept. 12:** Biopharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford on Saturday said that clinical trials for their Coronavirus vaccine have resumed in the UK after the Medicines Health Regulatory Authority's (MHRA) confirmed that the trials were safe.

The human trials resumed days after a pause had been announced in the trials after an adverse reaction in one of the participants. AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, as the trial sponsor, said that they cannot disclose further medical information but confirmed that independent investigations concluded that the trials were safe to restart. "Clinical trials for the AstraZeneca Oxford coronavirus vaccine, AZD1222, have resumed in the UK following confirmation by the MHRA that it was safe to do so," AstraZeneca said in a statement. "AstraZeneca is committed to the safety of trial participants and the highest standards of conduct in clinical trials."

"The company will continue to work with health authorities across the world and be guided as to when other clinical trials can resume to provide the

## JOIN IN VIRUS FIGHT: INDIA

**United Nations, Sept. 12:** India, along with 168 nations, voted in favour of a Covid-19 resolution in the UN General Assembly that reaffirms international cooperation to respond to "one of the greatest global challenges" and acknowledges the World Health Organisation's "key leadership role" in responding to the outbreak, a reference the US objected to as it opposed the resolution. — PTI

vaccine broadly, equitably and at no profit during this pandemic," the company said.

On September 6, the standard review process triggered a voluntary pause to vaccination across all global trials to allow the review of safety data by independent committees, and international regulators.

The UK committee concluded its investigations and recommended to the MHRA that trials in the UK are safe to restart. All trial investigators and participants will be updated with the relevant information and this will be

disclosed on global clinical registries, according to the clinical trial and regulatory standards, AstraZeneca said.

AZD1222 was co-invented by the University of Oxford and its spin-out company, Vaccitech. It uses a replication-deficient chimpanzee viral vector based on a weakened version of a common cold virus (adenovirus) that causes infections in chimpanzees and contains the genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19 virus spike protein).

After vaccination, the surface spike protein is produced, priming the immune system to attack the SARS-CoV-2 virus if it later infects the body. AstraZeneca, the biopharmaceutical giant in tie-up with the university to produce the vaccine, had described the pause as a "routine" one following what was "an unexplained illness". The Oxford University's Jenner Institute team started working to develop a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2, or the virus which causes Covid-19 in January this year and says it has been working with "unprecedented urgency" in a race against the Coronavirus. — PTI

## PoC beaten to death in Italy

**Rome, Sept. 12:** Hundreds of people in Italy walked in a funeral procession on Saturday for a young PoC whose brutal beating death has shaken up the country and drawn condemnation from the highest levels of government. Premier Giuseppe Conte and Italy's interior minister attended the funeral of 21-year-old Willy Monteiro Duarte, who was killed during a fight in Colleferro, a city on the outskirts of Rome, in the early hours of September 6. Four Italians have been arrested, including a pair of brothers with police records, but to date prosecutors haven't indicated if the slaying was racially motivated.

Italian news reports have quoted witnesses as saying Monteiro Duarte, who was born in Rome and whose family is from the African island nation of Cape Verde, intervened while seeing a friend get beaten up in the fight and was then fatally beaten

himself. The funeral procession featured hundreds of people, most wearing white shirts and masks, walking toward the sporting stadium where Monteiro Duarte was honoured and then clapping in respect as his casket was carried out.

It was a strong show of solidarity for the young man, who was described as hard-working and upstanding by those who knew him. Italy's premier has displayed dismay over Monteiro Duarte's death. He called the family to express his condolences. In a statement, Conte demanded justice and asked rhetorically what it means that someone could be killed in Italy for having tried to help a friend.

"Will we tell our children to turn their heads away? Not to intervene to quell disputes or to try to protect weaker friends or friends in obvious difficulty," Conte said. — AP

## Belarus president to visit Russia on Monday: Kremlin

**Moscow, Sept. 12:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday will hold talks with Belarus strongman Alexander Lukashenko, who faces the biggest protest of his nearly three-decade rule, the Kremlin said.

Lukashenko's visit will be the first to Soviet-era master Russia by the Belarusian leader since protests broke out over his disputed election win last

month. Putin has been keen to unify Russia and Belarus, and Moscow has accompanied its recent offers of military aid with calls for tighter integration. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday however there was no plan for the leaders to hold a news conference or sign any documents. The location of the "working visit" in Russia was yet to be announced, he said.

Lukashenko said last week that during his talks with Putin, he planned to "dot all the i's on issues that are very sensitive and delicate for the two states". Lukashenko, who has been in power for 26 years, has vowed that he will not give up power to the opposition, which claims its candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya was the rightful winner of the August 9 polls. — AFP

## FILM | FEST

**Under the Open Sky** showcases small joys, big disappointments and generosity of strangers

The female gaze: Lighting up and lightening the *yakuza*

**SUPARNA SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12**

I have attended the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) twice in person, and am now, in these surreal Covid-times, participating in the festival digitally.

Today is Day 3 of the 11-day festival. And usually, for those who fly into Toronto from the sub-continent, this is when jet-lag really hits. There is no jet-lag this year, but there is Net-lag. For two days I have struggled with a crappy WiFi that keeps disappearing, only to make sudden, brief, special appearances. I am pleased that despite

my annoying WiFi stretching the 126-minute Japanese film, *Under the Open Sky*, to almost four hours, I stayed with it.

I had to. It's that rarest of rare films — a *yakuza* (Japanese crime syndicate/gangster) movie directed by a woman.

*Yakuza* is, perhaps, one of Japan's most loved gifts to the world after sushi. It's a film genre that has not just inspired great directors across the world, but has also helped sustain many grindhouse talents and enterprises. But, *yakuza* movies have always been men's domain. Films about alpha men made by alpha

male directors.

Director Miwa Nishikawa, who has also written *Under The Open Sky*'s screenplay, has not made a typical *yakuza* film as they have come to be defined by its master-directors, though she uses many of the tropes of the post-retirement funk that ex-*yakuza* characters often struggle with, especially in Takeshi Kitano's stunning *Sonatine* (1993) and Yasuo Furuhata's *Demon* (1985).

Her film follows Mikami (Koji Yakusho), an ex-*yakuza*, as he returns to the world after serving a 13-year jail sentence for murder. But the world has mo-

## Protest in Paris



A protester kicks back a tear gas canister as around 1,000 people gathered in two "yellow vest" protests against President Emmanuel Macron's perceived prioritisation of business and the rich over struggling ordinary families, in the Paris on Saturday. "Yellow vest" marches had been announced for other major cities in France including Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon and Lille. — AFP

Republishing Mohammed cartoons: Al-Qaeda threatens *Charlie Hebdo*

**Paris, Sept. 12:** Al-Qaeda has threatened French satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* with a repeat of a 2015 massacre of its staff, after it republished controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, the SITE observatory said on Friday. Al-Qaeda in its publication *One Ummah* had warned that Charlie Hebdo would be mistaken if it believed the 2015 attack was a "one off", after the magazine printed the "contemptible caricatures" in a defiant issue that marked the start of the trial in Paris of suspected accomplices in the attack.

The comments came in an English edition of the Al-Qaeda publication that

purported to mark the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States carried out by the terror network.

It said it had the "same message" for the France of President Emmanuel Macron as it did for his predecessor Francois Hollande who was president at the time of the 2015 attacks.

It said France under Macron "gave a green light" to the republication of the cartoons. Twelve people, including some of France's most celebrated cartoonists, were killed on January 7, 2015, when brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi went on a gun rampage at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, whose no-taboo st-

yle, including publishing cartoons of the prophet, had divided the country.

The trial, which began on September 2 and is expected to continue until November; sees 14 suspected accomplices face justice even though all the perpetrators were killed in the wake of the attacks.

It had reopened one of the most painful chapters in France's modern history which heralded a spate of jihadist attacks on its territory that have claimed more than 250 lives.

**Charlie Hebdo's** director Laurent Sourisseau, known as "Riss" and who was himself badly wounded in the shoulder in the attack, told the court this

week that there was nothing to regret in publishing the cartoons. "What I regret is to see how little people fight to defend freedom. If we don't fight for our freedom, we live like a slave and we promote a deadly ideology," he said.

**Charlie Hebdo's** republication of the cartoons drew new condemnation from states, including Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

But Sourisseau, who now lives under round the clock protection, said it had to republish them.

"If we had given up the right to publish these cartoons, that would mean that we were wrong to do so" in the first place, he said. — AFP

## RUSSIAN COPS SEEK TO GRILL NAVALNY

**Moscow, Sept. 12:** Russian police said Friday they were seeking to question opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Berlin after Moscow rubbished Germany's declaration that he was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent.

The 44-year-old Kremlin critic and anti-corruption campaigner fell ill after boarding a plane in Siberia and was hospitalised there before being flown to Berlin.

Germany said there was "unequivocal evidence" that he was poisoned with the nerve agent but Russia says its doctors found no trace of poison. The Siberian transport police, who have been retracing Navalny's movements, said in a statement Russia would be preparing a request for its officers and an "expert" to shadow German investigators.

Navalny is now out of a medically induced coma and reacting to speech. Russia said it wanted its officers to be present as "German colleagues carry out investigative activities with Navalny". — AFP

## ● PAKISTAN FM called the negotiations a golden opportunity for the Afghan leadership to pave the way for durable peace in Afghanistan.

ship to pave the way for durable peace in Afghanistan. Qureshi reiterated that Pakistan sincerely played its reconciliatory role in Afghan peace process as a shared responsibility, and it will continue doing so.

He also urged international community to play its due role to take the peace process to its logical conclusion. He said the mistakes of the past should not be repeated.

## SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 12

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi Saturday said that Pakistan has been holding the stance that Afghan issue could not be resolved through use of force and it is welcoming that the world is now accepting Pakistan's stance.

He was speaking through video link in the opening ceremony of Intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha. Qureshi said that holding of these negotiations is an important milestone in establishing peace in Afghanistan.

The FM called the negotiations a golden opportunity for the Afghan leader-

Arab Emirates earlier this month. The Afghan sides are also expected to discuss constitutional changes, and power sharing.

Even seemingly mundane issues like the flag and the name of the country could find their way on the negotiation table. — AP

tiff

ved on, and it didn't leave a place at the table for him. A proud man with few usable skills and an expired driving licence, Mikami has to now live off state welfare. That's almost physically painful for the man who once thought nothing of venting his anger with his sword or fist at even a hint of an insult.

Though Mikami some-

times finds himself reacting in his old ways, there is no brooding, sulking, or bloody outrage in Nishikawa's film.

There is a very obvious touch of a woman in the film's rhythmic, everyday pace as Mikami experiences small joys, big disappointments, and the touching generosity of strangers.

*Under the Open Sky* is more than a genre curiosity. It's as if Nishikawa switched on a bright white light in what was till now a smoke-filled grimy world with an old, dim, yellow light bulb. And then she opened the windows and let some fresh air in.

The film has some lovely moments, but it's not a great film. Its plot meanders, and Nishikawa, at times, labours her point, even pausing the story to deliver flat, dreary speeches. And sometimes, when it's on Mikami's job search, it feels as if we are watching like a government-sponsored video on the reformation, rehabilitation and assimilation of ex-gangsters.

Yet I could not walk away from *Under The Open Sky* because of Koji Yakusho. He doesn't inhabit the character of Mikami. He creates it with a mix of humanity, a yearning for a mundane life even as he struggles

with some remains of the raging gangster he once was. These emotions reside in his dialogue and expressions, of course, but also in the smallest of gestures.

Yakusho brings to the character of Mikami a complex mix of quiet humility, dignity and simple-minded naivety. It's a moving, measured performance but with the fluidity of an actor who creates an interiority and brings feeling and meaning to even stock scenes, like where he is just sitting and staring out of a window.

It's more than a stirring performance. It's an honourable one.



## SHORT TAKES



Anil Mittal

## Cricket coach Anil Mittal no more

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

Former Hyderabad cricketer and dedicated coach Anil Mittal passed away in the City on Saturday following a heart ailment. He was 62 and is survived by his wife and two sons. His last rites were performed on Saturday evening.

An effective mediumpacer with a natural inswing, Anil represented Hyderabad in all age groups. The tall, well-built cricketer also played for State Bank of India in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's top division league. Later, Anil took up coaching and was involved with the St John's Sports Coaching Foundation since its inception in 1986-87, mentoring several State level players along the way.

He was also a long-standing coach of the St Andrews School team, instrumental in pushing the side into the top bracket alongside Noel Carr, his fast friend and opening bowling partner at the East Marredpally Cricket Club (EMCC) in the 1970s. Anil and Noel also played together on Hyderabad's State teams and coached at St John's as well as Wesley College.

"I am still in shock. Anil was a dear and close friend of mine for 40 years. We shared some fantastic and wonderful memories. My heartfelt sympathies and condolences to his Wife, Mum, sons and rest of his family members. You will be sadly missed Anil Pal," Noel, who now lives in Australia, wrote on his Facebook page.

## Hami takes pole as Merc dominate

**Mugello, Italy:** Lewis Hamilton claimed a record-increasing 95th pole position on Saturday when he outpaced Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas to seize the prime grid position in qualifying for Sunday's inaugural Tuscan Grand Prix. It was the series leader and six-time champion's seventh pole in eight races this year as Mercedes continued their dominant run to nine poles out of nine this season with an eighth consecutive front row lockout. Bottas had been fastest in all three practice sessions, but he was unable to maintain his superiority over the Briton in the decisive hour albeit that his second run was affected by yellow flags after Esteban Ocon spun in his Renault. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**England vs Australia:** 2nd ODI from 5.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## FORMULA ONE

**Italian Grand Prix:** Main Race from 6.35 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** West Bromwich Albion vs Leicester City from 6.30 pm; Tottenham Hotspur vs Everton from 9 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**Spanish League:** Deportivo Alaves vs Real Betis from 5.30 pm; Real Valladolid vs Real Sociedad from 7.30 pm; Villarreal vs Huesca from 10 pm; Valencia vs Levante from 12.30 am (Monday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

## TENNIS

**US Open:** Men's singles final from 1.30 am (Monday), on Star Sports Select 1, 2, HD

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## Gunners on fire

Rampant Arsenal crush Fulham as Premier League returns

**London, Sept. 12:** Arsenal made a flying start to the new Premier League season as Gabriel Magalhaes grabbed a debut goal and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored a stunner in Saturday's 3-0 win at Fulham.

Just 48 days after last season's delayed conclusion, the Premier League is back and Arsenal hit the ground running with the kind of confident display that has become their hallmark since Mikel Arteta took charge.

Arsenal's free-flowing attack was too incisive for promoted Fulham and Alexandre Lacazette gave the visitors an early lead at Craven Cottage.

Brazilian defender Gabriel scored Arsenal's second after the break in his first appearance since his close-season move from Lille.

Aubameyang added the final flourish with a typically eye-catching strike that emphasised why Arsenal are so desperate for the Gabon forward to sign an extension to the contract which expires at the end of the season.

Arteta has said that fans concerned Aubameyang will leave can "relax" because he is "very optimistic" his captain will agree a new deal soon.

With former Chelsea winger Willian providing a pair of assists on his debut, it was the ideal way for Arsenal to start a season that appears full of promise after last season's FA Cup triumph.

Although their eighth-placed finish in the Premier League ranked as Arsenal's lowest final position since 1995, Arteta had little to do with that after taking charge in December following the dismal reign of Unai Emery.

The former Manchester City assis-



Arsenal's Gabriel (second from left) is cheered by teammates after scoring against Fulham in their English Premier League match in London on Saturday. Arsenal won 3-0.

tant coach has been a much-needed breath of fresh air for Arsenal and pushing for a place in the top four should not be beyond his revitalised team this term.

While the continued absence of fans due to the coronavirus and shorter than usual break has taken a little anticipation away from the new campaign, Arsenal were keener than most to get back in action after beating Chelsea in the FA Cup final.

— *AFP*

## NEYMAR BACK IN SQUAD AFTER QUARANTINE

**Paris, Sept. 12:** Brazilian star Neymar is back in the Paris Saint-Germain squad for Sunday's Ligue 1 match against Marseille after serving a Covid-19 quarantine, PSG coach Thomas Tuchel has confirmed.

Neymar tested positive for coronavirus on September 2, having contracted the virus holidaying in Ibiza following the 1-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final in Lisbon last month.

The Brazilian, along with the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes, were all quarantined, with Neymar making his return to training on Friday.

## LYON HELD AT BORDEAUX

Champions League semifinalist Lyon were held at Bordeaux to 0-0 in a tepid French league encounter.

In a game of rare chances on Friday, Lyon almost

stole a win 10 minutes from the end when highly rated midfielder Houssem Aouar hit the post after skipping past center half Laurent Koscielny.

Bordeaux remained in second place with five points from three games, while Lyon was third with four points having played one game less. Lyon lost to eventual winner Bayern Munich 3-0 in the Champions League semis last month. — *Agencies*

## Thiem, Zverev in new-look Slam final

**New York, Sept. 12:** Dominic Thiem of Austria will play Germany's Alexander Zverev in the US Open final for their first Grand Slam titles after they won their last-four matches in contrasting styles on Friday.

Second seed Thiem ousted third-seeded Russian and last year's runner-up Daniil Medvedev in a closely fought three-setter that was packed with powerful baseline rallies and impressive serving.

The 27-year-old Thiem won 6-2, 7-6 (9/7) 7-6 (7/5) in 2hr 56 min inside Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach his fourth Grand Slam final.

Earlier, Zverev came from two sets down to complete a remarkable comeback against 20th-seeded Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta and reach his first tennis major final.



Germany's Alexander Zverev reacts after defeating Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 during their US Open semifinal in New York on Friday.

The 23-year-old German won an error-strewn, scrappy encounter 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in 3hr 23min.

It marked the first time

in Zverev's career that he came from two sets behind to win.

"I actually looked at the scoreboard when I was

down two sets to love," Zverev said.

"I was like, 'I can't believe it. I'm playing in a semi-final, I'm supposed

to be the favourite and I have no chance, I'm playing that bad."

Zverev made 36 unforced errors in the first two sets compared to just 12 for Carreno Busta as the nerves of the occasion seemed to get the better of him.

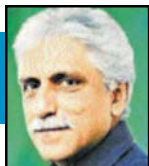
## FIRST-TIME DUO TAKE DOUBLES CROWN

First-time doubles duo Laura Siegemund and Vera Zvonareva won the women's doubles title, defeating China's Xu Yifan and Nicole Melichar of the United States in straight sets in the final.

Germany's Siegemund and Russian partner Zvonareva had never played doubles together before this year's US Open.

However, the unseeded pairing romped past the third-seeded Xu and Melichar 6-4, 6-4 to cap a fairytale victory. — *AFP*

## Djoker's US Open ouster shows rules are paramount

Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

It's turning out to be an eminently forgettable year for Novak Djokovic. He suffered a major setback when the Adria Tour he had organized mid-year had was called off for violating the protocol to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Four players tested positive including Djokovic himself, and the tour was kaput.

The world no.1 tennis player's attempt to form a parallel tennis players body, while it has made some progress, has invited deep controversy too.

However, the worst blow was his ouster from the US Open last week, which wrecked his chances of winning an 18th Grand Slam title.

Djokovic was 'defaulted' from the tournament for breaking the rules. The incident happened in the 11th game of the first set of the fourth-round match against Pablo Carreno Busta when he was broken. Busta now led 6-5 and would have served for the set.

Before play could resume, however, Djokovic hit the ball in frustration,

which struck the line judge behind him. She collapsed, and with this, also went Djokovic's hopes of winning another Slam and edge closer to Rafael Nadal (who has 19 titles) and Roger Federer (20).

With Nadal (because of Covid fear) and Federer (recovering from surgery) both skipping the US Open, Djokovic was odds-on favourite to win. He had looked in impressive form too, dropping just a single set in three matches before the unhappy incident in the fourth match.

Sport can be gloriously or cruelly uncertain, of course, so one can only speculate how the tournament would have panned out. But with his major rivals missing, Djokovic's path to the title seemed relatively easy. A momentary

lapse of reason, one impetuous action, and his hopes came crashing down.

Sensing immediately that what he had done was wrong, Djokovic, to his credit, immediately apologised to the line judge and inquired of her well-being. But the damage had been done. Within minutes, the decision had been taken. Djokovic would have to forfeit the match.

US Open Tournament Referee Soeren Friemel explained later why the harsh punishment: "Based on the facts that the ball was hit angrily, recklessly; that it went straight at the line umpire's throat; that the line umpire was clearly hurt and in pain, the decision was made that Novak [Djokovic] had to be defaulted."

Was such a punitive action against him justified, more so when Djokovic did not intend to hit the line judge? The tennis world has been in turmoil since the incident. Djokovic's supporters have been livid, claiming he was being victimized. An equal, if not more, number of aficionados think the punishment fair.

I believe the action against him was not only justified, but necessary. It also sends out a strong message of how rules must be held paramount in sport, which is particularly relevant in our part of the world where prima donnas can get away with anything.

For this, the ATP and the US Open tournament officials deserve credit. Think of it. In a year where sport

## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

## RCB are in great shape, says Kohli

**Dubai, Sept. 12:** Back into the thick of things after five months of coronavirus-forced break, Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli is happy with the fitness level of his team members, saying "everyone is looking in great shape" ahead of the IPL beginning on September 19.

Kohli, a fitness freak, also said that he himself felt good from the first training session after landing in the UAE.

"From fitness point of view everyone is looking great, everyone is in good shape. It's a matter of feeling good and I think I felt good from the first session onwards," Kohli said in a video posted on RCB's twitter handle.

"Obviously, there are few things that you try and rectify along the way and once you reach your optimum mind set and you enter competition you just want to stay in that as much as possible."

The India captain said the team management's focus during the two-week training period in the UAE was a balanced approach to avoid injuries to players.

"We don't want to push anyone into a niggle or an injury because we understand it's been a while away from the game. So I think we moved ahead in a

● **The India captain said the the team management's focus during the two-week training period in the UAE was a balanced approach to avoid injuries to players.**

balanced manner.

"We don't want to be a maniac like doing 6 sessions in six days. We gave ample off time to the boys which will continue to do along the course of the these next few training sessions also," Kohli said.

Kohli said after the long break, the need of the hour was to start slowly and increase the intensity of training sessions gradually, which the RCB has now managed to attain.

"First few days we are just getting our eye in, getting back in thick of things after 5 months, it's a bit different, try and get into the frame of mind which you usually want to be. It takes a bit of time, in these session now we are mostly batting in the middle, trying to figure out hitting angles, understanding the pace of wicket and all these."

"I am very very happy with how the team is shaping up," said the talismanic batsman. — *PTI*

## Khan to be first American in IPL

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 12:** The IPL is set to see participation of a player from the USA for the first time with Kolkata Knight Riders roping in fast bowler Ali Khan for the upcoming 13th edition of the league.

The two-time winners will pick the 29-year-old fast bowler — pending IPL approval — as a replacement for the English seamer Harry Gurney, according to an *ESPNcricinfo.com* report.

Gurney is scheduled to have surgery related to a shoulder injury, and has pulled out of both the IPL and England's Vitality Blast last month.

Khan's signing will make him the first USA player to feature in the IPL.

Khan was part of the Trinbago Knight Riders' squad which remained unbeaten on the way to their CPL title win on Thursday. He picked up

eight wickets from as many matches with an economy rate of 7.43.

He was on KKR's radar last season as well but no deal could be worked out.

The pacer burst on to the limelight during the 2018 Global T20 Canada, where he was spotted by star West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who brought him to the CPL. Khan returned a haul of 16 wickets from 12 matches for Guyana Amazon Warriors that year, the second-most by a fast bowler in the season.

Bravo, in one of his Instagram stories, posted a video with Khan, Brendon McCullum and a few more inside a plane with the caption 'Next stop Dubai'.

Former Rajasthan Royals bowler Rusty Theron, who now plays for USA, was part of the now defunct Deccan Chargers team in 2011 and Kings XI Punjab in 2010. — *PTI*

## AUSSIES OPEN ODI SERIES WITH WIN AGAINST HOSTS

**Manchester, Sept. 12:** Australia beat England by 19 runs to win the first one-day international at Old Trafford on Friday. World champions England, set 295 for victory, finished on 275-9 as Australia defeated their arch-rivals for just the third time in 14 ODIs.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood reduced the hosts to 22-2 on his way to 3-26 before leg-spinner Adam Zampa (4-55) struck twice in two overs to leave England in dire straits at 57-4. But Sam Billings hit 118 — a maiden ODI hundred — after his fifth-wicket partnership of 113 with opener Jonny Bairstow (84) gave the hosts hope of an unlikely victory. — *AFP*

**Brief scores:** Australia 294/9 in 50 overs (G. Maxwell 77, M. Marsh 73; M. Wood 3/54, J. Archer 3/57) bt England 275/9 in 50 overs (S. Billings 118, J. Bairstow 84; A. Zampa 4/55, J. Hazlewood 3/26).