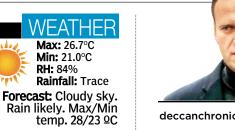
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 15 SEPTEMBER 2020



WORLD 7 Foreign labs confirm **Navalny poisoned**



SPORTS 8

Thiem wins US Open in historic comeback Will the BWF bow

TABLOID

to pressure?



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COVID-19 **C** WUNT

CASES **DEATHS** (+1,026)(+78,172)49,23,175 80,780

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+13)

(+1,417)TS: 1,58,513 974 (+60)(+7,956)AP: 5,75,079 4,972

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



coronavirus

STROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Trayodasi till 10.55 pm Star: Ashlesha till 2.19 pm Varjyam: 1.18 am to 2.45 am (Wednesday) Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.21 am; 11 pm to 11.47 pm **Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Muharram 27, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.03 am **Zohar:** 12.21 pm **Asar:** 4.33 pm Maghrib: 6.24 pm **Isha:** 7.33 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.18 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.04 AM** MOONSET TODAY 4.55 PM **MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.40 AM**

We shouldn't have allowed

even masks and sanitisers

inside the House!

Singh's statement

New Delhi: Defence minister

on China likely

Rajnath Singh is likely to

Parliament on Tuesday on

troops along the LAC in

eastern Ladakh, sources

said. The statement would

assume significance in the

by the Opposition for a debate on the issue. He had

backdrop of demands made

met his Chinese counterpart

Gen Wei Fenghe in Moscow

recently. External affairs

Wang Yi had also met in

Bhushan seeks

contempt review

New Delhi: Activist-lawyer

him guilty for contempt of

court for his two derogatory

tweets against the judiciary

After depositing with the SC

registry rupee one, a "nomi-

nal fine" imposed by the

review of the judgement

holding him guilty for the

court as punishment upon

him, he filed the petition for

contempt of court contend-

ing that it "suffers from mul-

tiple errors apparent on the

face of the record of law

and of fact"

Prashant Bhushan on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking review of the order holding

Moscow recently.

minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart

the continuing standoff between Indian and Chinese

make a statement in

IN BRIEF

ease building permits

The Telangana Assembly on Monday passed the Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-bPASS) Bill, introduced by the TRS government to put an end to the decades of woes of people seeking building permissions in the state.

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

While introducing the Bill, municipal administration and urban development minister K. T. Rama Rao said that "the TS-bPASS is aimed to reduce human interference and bring transparency in issuing building permis-sions as well as to make citizens more responsible. Self-certification deemed approvals make it a landmark legislation in municipal reforms. No other government in the country has introduced

He further stated, "It is a first of its kind and is a fully automated, completely transparent and citizen friendly system. Under the system, permissions will be issued in a time bound manner without any delay."

such a policy.'

Explaining the features of the Bill, Rama Rao told the house that people constructing a building with-

People can apply for building permission through mobile app or website or MeeSeva

Law aims to end people's interface with officials

Assembly clears law to

Permissions, which are issued based on self-certification, will be put on TS-bPASS website for public objections, if any within 21 days.

Complaints received from citizens about unauthorised constructions will be verified within 48 hours.

Delay in granting permission with 21 days will lead to deemed approval.

The law is expected to help most people as 95% building applications were for the plots, having less than 600 sq yard area.

in 75 square yards land need not obtain any permission from the municipal offices but have to register with the urban local body using TS-bPass.

He said that citizens constructing houses in above 75 square yards to 600 square vards space can

seek instant permission for constructions through self-certification under the new law and start

their construction. In 2015-2016, the state government had introduced the development permission management system (DPMS) in all municipalities, corporations and HMDA. Under DPMS, the entire process right from receipt of application to issue of permission to the applicants, including payment of fees was made online with no human intervention.

Though DPMS has brought down the time taken for disposal of building permissions considerably and the system allowed applicants to track their file online and created more accountability among the officials, Rama Rao said it had no legal sanctity.

Apart from statutory support to the system, he pointed out that the average time taken for issuing building/layout approvals continued to be higher than the prescribed time limit under the DPMS and, moreover, applicants still had to visit different offices to obtain NOCs, often multiple times, resulting in delays.

Page 2: Powers of town planners trimmed: KTR

Covid enters Parliament, 25 MPs, 56 staff positive

BJP has 12 Covid+ MPs, YSRC 2, Sena, DMK, RLP one each

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

As the Monsoon Session of Parliament began on Monday amid the raging Coronavirus pandemic, which seems to have reached another peak in India, 25 members — 17 from the Lok Sabha and eight from the Rajya Sabha — tested positive for the deadly virus. Of the 17 Lok Sabha MPs, 12 are from the BJP, with prominent ones being Meenakshi Lekhi and Parvesh Verma (both from Delhi) controversial MP Anant Kumar Hegde.

Two YSR Congress MPs were positive, while the Shiv Sena, DMK and RLP have one MP each affected by Covid-19. This worrying development comes as around 200 MPs are above 65, including some in the 85-90 age bracket, most prominent among them former Manmohan Minister Singh, who is 87 and a Rajya Sabha member.

Almost 80,000 deaths have been reported in India since the outbreak of the virus in January, while 92,000 positive cases were reported between September 13 and 14 alone.

Incidentally, while briefing the Lok Sabha on the handling of the Covid situation by the Centre, health minister Harsh Vardhan said it had been managed 'very well"

Interestingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the media prior to the start of the session, acknowledged it was



Rajya Sabha MP Mary Kom dispensing hand-santiser on Parliament premises on the opening day of Monsoon Session in New Delhi on Monday. However, removal of masks raises questions on following Covid-19 safety protocols.

being held "under special circumstances as there is a Corona pandemic on one hand while our obligation towards fulfiling our duties on the other

He said several important decisions would be taken during the session, and "the more diverse the discussion is in the House, the more beneficial it is for the country'

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Lok Sabha secretariat as the session is being held while the pandemic seems

to have peaked again across the country. It is estimated that 56 persons have tested posi-

tive within the entire

Parliament House complex, which include MPs, personnel from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats and also mediapersons.

Sources said these people tested positive during the RT-PCR tests which were conducted in the Parliament complex prior to the session's start.

Earlier, at least seven Union ministers and aro-und 25 MPs and MLAs had contracted the disease. Among them is home minister Amit Shah, who after undergoing the mandatory quarantine period last month, had to be admitted again to AIIMS a couple of

He had earlier been admitted there on August 18 for post-corona care but was discharged on August

In a first, all MPs marked their attendance through an app called the "Attendance Register" on the first day of the session, Lok Sabha secretariat sources said. Normally MPs sign the attendance register that is kept outside each House.

Speaker Om Birla welcomed the MPs, saying it was an extraordinary occasion, and urged them to follow all arrangements and guidelines for safety during the Covid-19 pan-

Umar Khalid sent to 10-day remand

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

A Delhi court on Monday sent former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid to police custody for 10 days for his alleged role in the riots in north-east Delhi in February this year. He was arrested by the

Delhi police's special cell on Sunday night under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after 11 hours of interrogation.
An FIR filed by the Delhi

police against Khalid accuses him of making provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to citizens to come out on streets and block roads during US President Donald Trump's visit to India.

While seeking the court's permission for Khalid's custody, Delhi police said that their computer team has extracted 40 GB of data from Khalid's mobile phone and that they want to question him about it. It runs into 11 lakh pages.

Investigators alleged that during interrogation, his active involvement in protests against CAA, NPR, and NCR with the support of several other radical groups or organisations which finally resulted in the recent riots was reconfirmed.

The court allowed police to interrogate Umar Khalid in its custody saying it was a fit case for police custody remand. It said the investigation in the present case of con-spiracy for Delhi riots which took place in Delhi is continuing.

In its order, the court also said that since there was an apprehension regarding Khalid's safety, in case he was taken out of the office, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) should make proper arrangements for his safety and security during the entire police custody remand and medically examined every 24 hours.

It allowed his counsel to confer with him for a period not exceeding half an hour at the beginning of the police custody and thereafter daily during police custody remand at

a specified venue.
"The police officials shall ensure that they remain outside the audible range during the period," the court said in its

32,000 GUEST WÓRKERS BACK HOME IN STATE

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

The waves of labourers and workers who moved back and forth across the country during the lockdown saw as many as 37,050 of them returning to Telangana.

In the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, this number was 32,571, the Lok Sabha was informed in a written reply by Union labour minister Santosh Kumar Ganwar.

The minister said Uttar Pradesh saw the biggest return of such guest workers with 32,49,638 returning home, followed by Bihar with 15,00,612, Bengal with 13,84,693 and Rajasthan with 13,08,130 going back to their homes in the wake of the shutdown of factories, construction and other employment avenues during the lockdown.

According to experts, the return of guest workers to their home states is one of key reasons, which led to spread of Coronavirus, which was initially a purely urban phenomenon, to rural areas in the country. The disease now covered almost the entire coun-

BJD, YSRC back NDA in RS deputy chairman poll **DC CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

NDA candidate Janata Dal (U) member Harivansh Narayan Singh was re-elected as the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Harivansh defeated the RJD's Manoj Jha and the opposition candidate by voice vote after he was supported by the NDA's friendly parties, including the BJD and the YSRC.

Mr Harivansh, who was re-elected after he was renominated by the JD(U) to the Upper House of Parliament after his previous term ended in April, had defeated the Congress's B.K. Hariprasad, who was the joint candidate of the Opposition parties in 2018 for the post.

After the victory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed him as an "outstanding umpire" and a "torchbearer of democracy" while mentioning that Mr Harivansh hails from Bihar, "a land known for



Harivansh Narayan Singh

its democratic ethos." Crucial Assembly polls

referred to Harivansh's humble background and also about his journalistic

Thaavarchand Gehlot.

are scheduled in Bihar in October-November. The Prime Minister also

days. Earlier, BJP president

and Rajya Sabha member J.P. Nadda had moved a motion seeking support for Harivansh's candidature, which was seconded by Union minister and leader of the House, Similarly, the Leader of Opposition and Congress

Congratulating newly-elected Rajya Sabha chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said the House will benefit from

Azad had moved a motion

in support of Mr Jha,

which was seconded by

deputy leader of opposi-tion Anand Sharma.

his vast experience as a journalist, social worker and legislator. Many other leaders, including Azad, TMC's Derek O. Brien, SP's Ramgopal Yadav, BSP's Satish Chandra Mishra

congratulated him. Earlier in the day, 15 new members took oath in the Upper House, including the JMM's Shibu

Soren, the BJP's Syed Jafar Íslam, the DMK's T. Shiva, the TMC's Dinesh Trivedi, the TRS's K Keshava Rao and the BJP's Jaiprakash Nishad. The House also paid trib-

utes to its former members and former president Pranab Mukherjee who passed away recently.

disorders in children and

adults, glaucoma and oth-

ers related with loss of

vision are conditions

SWIGGY DELIVERY STAFF ON STRIKE FOR MORE WAGES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

Three thousand Swiggy delivery executives in Hyderabad are to go on indefinite strike from September 15 onwards as there is a reduction in their minimum earnings and other companies have been engaged in delivery. The five major areas from the city where the highest orders are processed are Gachibowli, Hitech, Malkajgiri, Uppal and

Boduppal.
The Indian Federation of App-based Transport workers (IFAT) claim that during the lockdown, Swiggy reduced minimum earnings from ₹35 to ₹15. More than 40 per cent orders are less than four kilometers and Swiggy charges ₹35 from customers but the delivery executives are paid only ₹15.

The introduction of batch orders means that in a single trip delivery, an executive delivers more than one order and for the second order, the executive is getting only ₹10, they complain.

In a statement, Swiggy has refuted both these complaints stating that delivery partners are paid ₹45 and in those who perform very well are given ₹75. There are incentives paid for batch orders and the complaint that only ₹10 is paid is

IFAT has asked them to show proof that they pay the amount that they have claimed on their social media handle.

There are also complains that during lunch and dinner time, the waiting time in restaurants increases by 20 to 30 minutes but Swiggy is not paying them for this

PANDEMIC | EFFECT | Ophthalmologists report 80% drop in consultations, rise in home remedy bids Don't delay eye care due to Covid fear, say docs

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

With an 80 per cent drop in patients to eye hospitals, ophthalmologists warn that any neglect in getting proper eye care could lead to further deterioration in the condition of their eyes.

According to doctors, those suffering from diabetes, glaucoma and chronic eye conditions must not stop their regular consultations in fear of contracting

se suffering from glaucoma require regular consulta-tions. Those with chronic conditions like uveitis and advised medications by the ophthalmologists need to visit as physical verification is important. Dr Somasheila Murthv.

head of cornea and anterior segment service at L V Prasad Eye Institute, explained, "In times of Covid-19, patients have been divided into two groups: one can be managed with tele-consultation and other requires a physi-



cal visit to the hospital. Those in the teleconsultation category have dry eyes, fatigue and discomfort due to prolonged use of digital media. The other category is patients suffer-

ing from a chronic medical condition and their physical consultation is important to assess their situa-

Emergency sections in all eye hospitals are working

only in the last stages. Those who suffer from sudden loss of vision, continued redness of eyes, sensitivity to light and injuries are tr-

approaching hospitals. It must be understood that

which need care on time. ying home remedies before These must not be taken approaching hospitals.
Dr Sreelakshmi Nimmagadda, managing director lightly and patients must follow up with their doctors. Elective procedures and cataract and refractive like cataract surgeries are surgeon at Win Vision Eye decided in advance and hospitals says, "Most peothey are often advised to ple with an eye condition are confused. It is with a lot wait. But if they find that there is a problem, they of difficulty that they are must not hesitate to visit the eye hospital and seek

yet patients are coming issues related to retinal

Diabetic patients and tho-















IN BRIEF **Manuu among** top 25 varsities

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is the only language university, Indian or Foreign, to find a place in the Outlook-ICARE list of annual top-ranked central universities. It was ranked 24th from among 25 shortlisted universities based on parameters such as academic & research excellence, Industry interface & Placement, Infrastructure facility, Governance &

Admissions & Diversity &

54 central universities in

India as of June 2020.

Outreach etc. The UGC lists

FAKE CURRENCY RACKET BUSTED, THREE ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

The Rachakonda police bust a fake currency racket apprehended three persons on Monday. Sleuths of SOT, Malkajgiri Zone, arrested the indulging in making fake currency denominations of ₹500 notes on a tip-off. They seized a printer cum scanner, fake currency notes amounting to ₹10 lakh and three mobile

Police said Karam Nagendra Prasad, Bandari Goutham and Tubbakula Naresh from Sangareddy, printed the fake notes and through their sources were about to distribute them in the market on

Sunday night. However, the sleuths along with Ghatkesar police appre-hended them while they were at Ghatkesar on their way to

LAST DATE FOR TAX PAYMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

The state government on Monday extended the last date for the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for payment of pending property tax and water bills arrears till October

Responding to a request from All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) MLA Ahmad Balala during the discussion on Ts-bPASS.

Bill 2010, municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao announced theextension of the scheme by another 45days from the set deadline of September 15.

Under the OTS scheme, the state government allowed waiver of 90 per cent of accumulated interest arrears on property tax upon clearing the entire arrears and full interest will be waived off for water bill defaulters on payment of the entire arrears in single payment across all 141 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the

CM ASSURES JOBS TO SINGARENI VICTIMS' KIN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

Chief Minister Chandrashekar Monday assured in Assembly that the state government will make sincere efforts to provide employment on compassionate grounds to the next of kin of Singareni workers who die in harness, apart from ensuring hassle

free retirement benefits. He was responding to queries raised by the MLAs on medical board meetings and employment based on compassionate grounds during Question Hour in the Assembly. He told the members that they will see "good" decisions shortly in this regard. But the candidates should have some patience as posts cannot be created for them. He said, "When posts relevant to their educational qualifications fall vacant, pri-

ority will be given to them. On the issue of Income-Tax exemption to workers in mines, he when he brought the issue to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter told him that if exemption was given to Singareni workers, the same facility will have to be extended to Coal

India workers too. Stating with regard to tax the United exemption, Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government are on the same page, Chandrashekar Rao said, "Will continue to fight for it, we will also ask our MPs to raise the issue during the ongoing Parliament session.'

4 FUGITIVES MAY HAVE FAKED COVID INFECTION TO FLEE JAIL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

More than a fortnight after four prisoners two under-trials and two convicts - escaped from the prison ward of Gandhi Hospital as Covid-19 suspects, there has been no sign of them, nor do police have any clues to nab them.

It may be recalled that two convicts M. Somasunder and P. Narsaiah, and two undertrials Md Abdul Arbaz and Md Javed, had escaped from a bathroom in the hospital after pry-ing open a window grill and made good their escape during the intervening night of August 26 and 27. Though the city police formed spe-cial teams to track them and kept a watch on their known associates and families, there has been no progress in finding their whereabouts.

And even the one hope of finding even any one of them in desperate need of hospital care as Covid-19 patients, now appears remote. It is learnt that the under-trials may have faked their Covid-19 symptoms to get out of prison and get admitted to the hospital.

It is suspected that the prisoners faked body aches and dry cough to convince prison officials to dispatch them to Gandhi Hospital, where security to the prison ward is limited to a policeman posted as a guard. "Once a prisoner begins showing symptoms for Covid-19, the goal is to get the person to the hospital - one for his own safety, and two, to keep other inmates safe," a police department official said.

The two under-trials

were shifted to the hospital prison in the second and third weeks of August. The two convicts were already being treated at another hospital from where they were shifted to Gandhi. It is not clear whether the under-trials were tested for Covid-19 upon admission in Gandhi Hospital.

"Everyone is scared to be in the hospital unless absolutely required. This most likely, would have been the case with the lone guard posted to keep an eye on the ison ward," an oificiai said. It is suspected that the two under-trials hatched the plan and the other two joined them in the escape.

No social distancing at GHMC



A large number of people from different places seen at the North Zone GHMC office for various works without maintaining social distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19, in Hyderabad on Monday. Even the officials are not directing them to follow the Covid protocols.

Rail Nilayam shut after staff test +ve

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

Concerned at reports of many Covid-19 positive cases in its premises, South Central Railways (SCR) shut the doors of its headquarters, Rail Nilayam, for two days as a preventive measure. Thorough sanitation and other protocol precautions that were taken up on Monday would continue into Tuesday.

All the 2,500 employees working at Rail Nilayam have been subject to RT-PCR tests on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

After deciding to sanitize the entire premises,

employees were urged to work from home. They have been asked to furnish latest Covid-19 status ALL THE 2,500 employ-ees working at Rail Nilayam have been subject to RT-PCR tests on Tuesday, Thursday and

reports to the concerned authorities. Those who test positive will be assisted by railway doctors.

A high-ranking official, on the condition of anonymity, told *Deccan Chronicle* that results of positive cases have shocked everyone. It is also learnt that many in the general manager's office have also been found infected with Coronavirus.

Those who have not undergone tests will have their RT-PCR tests at LGDS Central Hospital on September 15, 17 and 18,

203 pvt, 42 govt hosps give Covid care

Government panel checks if they followed norms, charged inflated bills from patients

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

The number of private and corporate-run hospitals offering Covid-19 treatment has crossed 200 in Telangana, with the State Health Department saying there are now 203 such hospitals extending services to Coronavirus victims.

This means there are five times more private hospitals offering Covid-19 care than government hospitals, whose number has remained static at 42. More private hospitals

are now being allowed to treat Coronavirus despite complaints that they are fleecing patients and their families by overcharging them. Many private hospi-

tals are being accused of excessive billing, which is though the government has withdrawn Covid care permission to two large hospitals for not adhering to government-fixed rates and violating Covid-19

treatment protocols.

Under pressure from public and opposition parties, the government has on September 9 set up a three-member task force comprising IAS officers Rahul Bojja, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and D. Divya, to oversee treatment of Covid-19 patients in private hospitals, following of safety protocols by them and whether they are adhering to the ceiling fixed by government on charging patients.

Meanwhile, with additions to the list of private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients, the bed strength at these facilities has increased to 10,660 as on Sunday, according to data released by the State Health Department on Monday. The number of beds previously available

treatment was 10,443. The 42 government hospitals providing Covid-19 care have bed strength of 8.092.

at the 199 private hospitals providing Coronavirus

A total of 4,248 patients have been admitted to private hospitals as per the latest data released by state health department, compared to 2,645 admissions in government hos-

Dip in Covid-19 positive cases as weekend tests fall

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

Telangana has seen a dip in new Covid-19 cases, thanks to the drop in number of tests performed during the which is becoming a more or less regular feature in the testing pattern of the

According to Health Department Covid-19 bulletin released on Monday, 34,427 tests have been conducted between Saturday

and Sunday. Results of 825 of these cases are awaited. Follow the tests, the state has seen emergence of 1,417 new Covid-19 cases between Saturday and Thirteen more people lost their lives to the disease during this period. With this, the state so far

has reported total 1,58,513 Covid-19 cases, while fatalities stand at 974, the Health Department said. There have been 30,532 active patients of whom

23,639 are in institutional or home isolation.

Reflecting the fewer tests conducted during the weekend, new cases in Hyderabad Greater Municipal Corporation area as well as in other districts too fell, with GHMC recording 264 cases, Ranga Reddy 133, Karimnagar 108, and Sangareddy 107

These are the districts that have crossed the three figure mark of new Coronavirus infections.

CONTACT-LESS

ELEVATORS AT

Loud talk, laughter spread Covid: Experts

KANIZA GARARI | DC

Apart from movement of people in public places. speaking loudly, laughing, shouting, screaming can also increase the release of aerosols in the air allowing the SARS Cov 2 virus to eject and spread around causing Covid 19.

Behaviours in closed environment that can lead to aerosol generation are loud singing, talking loudly in office corridors.

colleagues from one corner to another, in an asymptomatic patient will allow for the spread of the virus around. Dr C. Shekhar Singh, ear

nose and throat surgeon explains, "Talking normally requires a normal effort of the nose, mouth and throat. But when one speaks loudly, shouts, or vomits, requires more effort and pressure on the to the unlock in which it is diaphragm and abdominal found that people are mov-

THE FOCUS on aerosolgenerating behaviours is due to the unlock in which it is found that people are moving about without wearing masks or following the social distancing

muscles. During this, the aerosoi generation from

the body is high." The focus on aerosol-generating behaviours is due

masks or following the social distancing norms. The use of metro, movement of people to their offices and also other human activities have brought these behaviour

Dr K. K. Aggarwal, past president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) says, "It is very important to understand

taken during this time of Covid-19. It is important to understand that masks are extremely important and if someone is shouting, laughing loudly and screaming then even three feet is not a safe distance and it will have to be six feet. These small aspects will nelp people some ways in which that in the prevention techniques, behaviours which can increase risk asymptomatic carriers of Covid spread the virus around."

AIRPORT T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC

HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

In a step towards contact-less travel experience, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, has successiumy executea pilot project of switching on an elevator at departures from the traditional push-button control to a safer touchless alternative mode.

The airport has developed the system which is based on Infrared (IR) technology. As part of the local engineering innovation for creating rapid solutions to complex problems, the developers have used an array of infrared sensors to detect the spatial position of the user's fingers as they pass through the sensing point.

Users of that elevator can now wave their hands closer to the sensor to call the elevator at any floor they are standing. Once inside the elevator, they can point their finger towards a floor number as a command for a designated

CONG MP FILES PIL, CHALLENGES **LAYOUT SCHEME**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 14

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

challenging the govern-

ment orders issued for

Sabitha counters Cong's charges

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC

Education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy on Monday countered allegations of Congress MLA D. Sridhar Babu that the state government has permitted a few TRS men to establish private universities in the state.

Participating in a discussion on Telangana State Universities (Establishment (Amend-Regulation) (Amendment) Bill 2020, Sridhar Babu charged that instead of strengthening government universities, the state government is focusing on establishing private universities. When he tried to take the names of certain leaders of the ruling party, including a cabi-

net minister, who have got approval from state government for setting up universities in the state, Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy asked the member to refrain from mentioning names.

Replying to the debate, the minister maintained that approval for establishing universities has been given to only those sponsoring bodies that complied with conditions stipulated in the letter of intent and received approval from the expert committee constituted for the purpose. Referring to regulating the fee structure of private universities, she said a government's representative would be there in governing councils of these uni-

KTR: Town planners powers trimmed

Taking inspiration from the TS-iPass which was introduced in July 2015 as a one-stop online system issuing industrial building permissions based on self-certification, the government felt the need for a similar single window system for giving missions/layout appro-

vals, Rama Rao said. Keeping in view the introduction of a single-window system for building and layout permission, the state government has incorporated the relevant provisions under this

Rama Rao explained that the state-level TS-bPASS chasing cell will be established at district, state level and zonal levels within GHMC limits to ensure that all the proposals under the single window

in the time frame of 21 days and will also coordinate with the line departments for adherence to the

timelines. The minister said that the new Act mandates all municipalities, including the GHMC, to clear all building permission applications within the stipu-21 days, failing which the permission is deemed to have been approved.

He said that an automated certificate will be issued to the applicant with the signatures of relevant authorities, including the municipal com-missioner, and the town planning officer on behalf of the municipality concerned, to enable them to obtain bank loans or other financial assistance.

He said that occupancy certificates also will be issued within 15 days

upon submitting relevant documents. While making an application for registration or

self-certification approval, the applicant will declare that in case of any wrong information or violation of rules, the concerned authorities can demolish the construction without any notice.

He said that the official concerned shall be liable for disciplinary action if there has been delay in issuing the permission and penalty shall be levied wherever applicable.

The state-level central support system will be set up to ensure that every grievance/issue reported was attended to and applicants will be updated via SMS at every stage. Referring to the role of town planning teams, Rama Rao said that it will be minimised with regard

to building permissions.

ment plans, GIS-based planning for civic infrastructure and other future planning-related work. Replying to the suggestions from MIM MLA, Ahmad Balala, and TRS MLA, Sudheer Reddy, of considering notary regis-tration for building per-

They will be henceforth

deployed to focus on dis-

trict urban master plan-

ning, road-widening and

road development plans,

municipal waste manage-

reminded them of the Chief Minister's assurance of giving a chance for regularisation of notary agreements. Answering to the sugges-

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to issue a notice before the demolition of any structure, the minister said the

HAWALA | PAYMENTS | The multi-crore Chinese online gaming racket was busted last month

30L bank a/cs in India linked to gaming fraud

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC

Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that close to thirtv lakh bank accounts across India are beneficiaries of the companies involved in the online gaming fraud, headquartered in China, to which payments, ranging from a few thousands to lakhs of rupees were made, after defrauding them of 10

times more than the

money they had invested by placing bets on the com-

Transactions of ₹1 crore and more have been found in each of the nearly 100 accounts (out of the 30 lakh), suspected to have been used for hawala transactions. It is suspected that around 20 lakh people would have actually placed bets while the remaining were receiving payments through hawala. After investigation into INVESTIGATORS HAVE now begun to write to all the banks to immediately freeze those 100 accounts while the remaining accounts are being scrutinised. An amount of ₹9 crore was parked with Razorpay.

the multi-crore online gaming fraud which was busted last month, investigators have now begun to

immediately freeze those 100 accounts while the remaining accounts are being scrutinised. An amount of ₹9 crore was parked with Razorpay, a payment gateway. The detectives had stum-

bled upon a Hyderabadbased merchant dealing in human hair who was payments receiving through hawala and there were many more like him who were using the same

It was found that another gaming company, 'Aoke Club,' established by the Chinese company had an account with Cashfree, through which an amount of ₹80 lakh was deposited into the bank account of the local merchant. This way, both parties do business, evade taxes and import duty, among other charges in both countries. The merchant had been a

regular supplier of human

exporter, who in turn was exporting tonnes of hair to China over the last

many years. Senior executives of Razorpay were summoned by the CCS who explained in detail the transactions. The money was parked by Aoke Club, which is one of the many companies floated by the Chinese company. Razorpay has shut down the account.

regularisation of unapproved and illegal layouts. He contended how government can prohibit registration of properties, which do not come under the new scheme unveiled by the state government. "Prohibitin g registrations, apart

from sewage, water and electricity connections, are not traceable to powers provided under provisions of various acts of municipalities and panchayat raj, and ultra vires to the Constitution", the MP stated in the petition.



OTHER STORIES

TS TOLD TO CLARIFY ON UG, PG EXAMS

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state government to come up with a clear stand on holding the final examinations for UG and PG courses and whether it is permitting online exams or demanding physical mode exams.

If exams are to be held in physical mode, how is the government preparing, asked the court, seeking information in tabular form on the colleges and courses allowed to hold online exams and those holding offline exams.

The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, was dealing with PILs related to the holding of UG and PG exams, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On being directed to inform the court on the feasibility of conducting the exams in online mode, the Telangana government on Monday submitted that the final exams for UG and PG courses will be held in physical mode and furnished that it was not possible to conduct the exams online.

The government also said that it would oblige the suggestions of the HC to conduct advanced supplementary exams for students who could not attend the exams due to the pandemic and treat them as regular passed out students and not supple-

mentary passed out. However, the court found contradictory statements in letters issued by the higher and technical education wing regarding the exams. In a letter issued on September 11, it mentioned as that no online exams will be conducted and, on very next day, in another letter, it permitted some institutes to conduct online exams.

The court observed the ambiguous stand of the state and directed the advocate general, B.S. Prasad, to come up with clarity. At 4.30 pm, Prasad said that all UG and PG courses, irrespective of university, will conduct examinations in physimode, but some colleges autonomous JNTU(H) and Osmania university were given permission to hold online exams for technical

Counsel for the JNTU(H). advocate Jaiswal, submitted that the university has planned to conduct exams only in physical mode and it has been arranging for the same.

KCR BETRAYED **DALITS WITH FALSE PROMISES: TD**

ULI SHARATH KUMAR | KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 14

The promise of three acres of land to the Dalits which was included in the election manifesto of TRS party proved to be fake alleged the Telugu Desam Party SC cell state vice-president Damera Satvam on Monday.

Mr Satvam was referring to the announcement made by the Chief Minister, Chandrasekhar Rao during the ongoing assembly session that there is no land available in the state for distribution. In a statement released, Mr Satyam alleged that before the 2014 elections, the TRS party included in its election manifesto that it would distribute three acres of land for the Dalit families which are dependent only on agriculture, KCR also promised the people before 2018 elections that he would keep his promise. However, after coming to power, for the second time, he betrayed Dalits by grabbing

When the TRS government conducted a comprehensive household survey in 2014, it was found that around 3 lakh Dalit families are present across the state who are dependent on agriculture. The government also estimated that it requires 9 lakh acres of land to distribute to the Dalit families. Now in the assembly CM KCR announced that land is not available in the state for distributing to Dalits. When there is no land for distribution, how could KCR gave such a promise to Dalits, he ques-

Mr Satyam said that the for-mer Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh and TD chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu has a perfect vision. During his tenure, he established SC corporation and introduced a scheme for distribution of government land to eligible lowincome families who belonged

to Scheduled Castes (SCs). CM KCR is deceiving Telangana people with hollow promises. He promised to make a Dalit leader as a Chief Minister of the state, and distribute 3 acres of land to Dalits, and now the said land is not available.

Recently laid road washed off in Tadvai

Villagers for action against contractor for poor quality work

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, SEPT. 14

Heavy rains since the past two days in the district flooded several areas especially the low lying vil-

The rivulets once again received good inflows of water and flowed in spate. As a result roads were

damaged in some places. The road between Berelli and Bayyaram in Tadvai mandal got washed off near a culvert due to heavy flow of

Jampanna Vagu at night. A motorist who was unaware of the washed off road fell down and got seriously injured. He was shifted to the MGM hospital in Warangal for treatment. The villagers set up roadblocks to alert the motorists coming that

Berelli village remained under siege of flood water for most part of Sunday night and Monday morning.

The villagers complained that the road that got washed away was recently laid but without proper planning which resulted in it getting washed away. They demanded action against the officials responsible for it and also to blacklist the contractor who delivered a poor quality job. In Ankampalli village of

the mandal, a culvert got washed away hampering traffic movement. THE BERELLI vil-

lage remained under siege of flood water for most part of Sunday night and Monday morning.



The washed off road near Berelli on Monday.

More rains may damage cotton, paddy in Kharif

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, SEPT, 14

Khammam district experienced the third spell of incessant rains in the present Kharif season. The showers in two spells in August are enough for the crops and all the water bodies, including medium irrigation projects, were filled up. More rains will damage cotton and paddy

Munner, a tributary of river Krishna witnessed floods thrice and the river is overflowing at present due to heavy rains in erstwhile Warangal district. mandals Penuballi, Vemsoor. Mudigonda, ni, Tallada, Sattupalli. Kusumanchi, Tallada, Kamepalli, Nelakondapalli and Khammam Rural witnessed good rains in the third spell. Though the

rains are not needed at

Three spell of rains in Khammam for the last 45 days

Nearly three depressions emerged in the Bay of Bengal in August and two in September.

present, it will not damage the crops much so far. The average rainfall from 1 to 14 September was 78.1 mm against a normal of 71.8

Various mandals witnessed heavy rains in the last two days and it is feared that more rains will hit the crops hard. The moisture content in the soil has reached the maximum capacity and further rains in the coming days will mean water logging

The rainwater will log in 4,000 acres of paddy and cotton in five mandals in Sattupalli, Vemsoor and Penuballii. In case further rain in the coming days,

the cotton plants will be

slanted to the ground. Nearly three depressions emerged in the Bay of Bengal in August and two in September. Rains wit-nessed at least 12 days in two spells in August and one spell in September. Fifty per cent of crops are close to reaping and more rains will damage the

All the streams in the district experienced overflow at least thrice for the

last 45 days. Heavy rains were also witnessed on Monday in Sattupalli and Vemsoor mandals. The groundwater increased from five to feet to fifteen feet in all

Politicians, officials hand-in-glove with sand mafia

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, SEPT. 14

Illegal sand mining from local streams and rivulets is rampant in the villages of Penchikalpet, Bejjur, and Kagaznagar mandals in Kumarambheem Asifabad district.

Some businessmen are shifting sand in trucks or lorries to cities and towns with the help of local political leaders from Penchikalpet mandal and even from the shore of river Pranahitha.

Villagers point out that local streams and rivulets lose their recharging capacity in summer and it has been made worse by sand mining, which has dried up bore wells and wells.

Police seized four trucks two days back and registered cases against their drivers for illegally transporting sand from Lodpelli vagu in Penchikalpet mandal.

Traders involved in the illegal activity are lifting sand stating that it was for construction of Rythu Vedikalu and 2BHK houses.

One can find huge quantities of sand

dumped between Lodpelli-Kannepalli villages. Workers load sand into lorries or trucks from the sand dumps in the evenings and the vehicles proceed to their destinations late in the night.

Shyam Kumar of Penchikalpet said illegal sand mining is thriving because of tacit sup-port being extended by politicians and officials from revenue department. He said this will result in drought-like situations.
As the government is

losing revenue, he said that the government should auction sand from streams and rivulets under gram panchavats.

Mining of sand with the help of JCBs is on a large-scale at Bokkivagu (steam) that flows between Kondapelli and Lodpelli in Penchi-kalpet mandal.

perception among the general public is that local body representatives and political leaders are hand-in-glove with the sand mafia.

Local revenue officials have remained mute spectators as they allegedly get bribes regularly from the sand



Four trucks seized by cops for illegally transporting

CCI asked to take steps to lift cotton

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, SEPT. 14

Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) was asked to make arrangements for lifting cotton in Khammam district as the arrangements are being made keeping Covid-19

The state government informed CCI that cotton arrivals to the Khammam farm market had already commenced and the farmers are eager to sell their produce to address farm expenses to address labour charges for the next reaping.

It is expected that 2.26 lakh tons of cotton will come to the market in the Kharif, Cotton is the one of the main crop along with paddy in the district and it is raised in 2.44 lakh acres.

Unlike earlier, there is certain clarity on crop booking under a comprehensive crop plan and there will be no surprise arrivals of any farm produce this year. In this context, the ginning mill owners, marketing officials and CCI were asked to set up cotton lifting centres by coordinating themselves.

CCI was asked to set up centres Nelakondapalli, Madhira, Wyra and Enkoor along Khammam farm market. The State government wants to benefit more from the farmers and the CCI should be the produce to the mills.

Cotton is the one of the main crop along with paddy in the Khammam

2.26 lakh tonnes of cotton to come to the markets

400 centres for paddy lifting in the

5.55 lakh tonnes of paddy

Target of lifting

ready to pay a minimum support price of ₹5,515 per quintal to cotton this

Marketing officials are making arrangements to place moisture finding machines and weighing machines at cotton lifting centres. The cotton and marketing officials started making aware of moisture per cent that relates to the price of the produce. Drying the cotton at their houses is a must to get MSP.

On the other hand, efforts are being made to lift paddy in the kharif in Khammam district.

It is planned to lift 5.55 lakh tons of paddy this season by setting up 400 centres. The district was divided as four sectors in the previous Rabi to transport the paddy to the rice mills. But, the district was divided as eight sectors in the present kharif to speed in transport PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC

The Communist Party of India will not tolerate and will not sit quiet, if the Bharatiya Janata Party government tries to suppress the powers and rights of state gov-ernments, warned the district secretary of the CPI party, Ponaganti

Kedari on Monday.
In the part of the call given by the national committee, the leaders of the district unit of CPI party staged a protest against the central gov-ernment at Kaman Chowrasta Karimnagar district.

Mr Kedari alleged that by bringing GST with the slogan of one nation one tax, the Central government is trying to intro-duce several bills in the Parliament to suppress the rights of the state government. It would be dangerous for democracy if the governments of various states do not oppose such bills, he pointed out.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading at an alarming rate in many states, instead of supporting them, giving announcements to get the debts on their own to tackle the deadly virus by the finance minister of the central government is unfair, he criticised. Mr Kedari said that with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, around ₹2.35 lakh crore loss occurred to the state government.



CPI leaders and workers stage a protest against the Central government at Kaman Chowrasta in Karimnagar district on Monday.

Left parties find fault with NDA on cases against Yechury

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, SEPT. 14

Left parties — CPI-M, CPI and CPI (ML) New Democracy found fault NDA government for filing illegal cases against CPI-M national secretary Sitaram Yechury and writer Jayathi Ghosh.

three parties staged protests against the illegal cases and demanded the Centre to lift them immediately. CPI-M leader Ponnam Venkateswara Rao said, "The second phase NDA government is the worst and the voices of opposition are being oppressed by filing illegal cases. The writers and intellectuals are being targeted". Criminal cases were filed against Sitaram

Yechury and Jayathi Ghosh in the riots which took place seven months back in Delhi during the protests against the National Register of Citizens of India. CPI district secretary Potu Prasad said that the NDA government is not main-

taining restraint in deal-

ing with the people and

their agony over various

issues.

"The increasing intol-erance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government against the intellectuals is nothing but a violation of funda-mental rights," he said. CPI (ML) New

Democracy Chandranna Group leader M. Giri said that the people are living amidst fears due to the gestures of the NDA

He demanded the government to lift cases Yechury and against Jayathi Ghosh

CPI(ML) Democracy leader Gokinepalli Venkateswara Rao said that the people are ready to fight against the undemocratic acts of NDA government.

The killing of Kalburgi and Gouri Lankesh and arrest of Varavara Rao and Saibaba showed the anarchic rule of NDA government in the country. The Prime Minister,

instead of protecting poor and unemployed youth from the economic depression, is spending time to suppress the opposition voices, he

Creative

For 22 years, we've been popular across India as 'Dilsukhnagar Arena', a shining emblem of multimedia education. With commitment to excellence that permeate: every dimension of Animation, VFX, Graphic & UI/UX Design training, we've set new standards and shaped thousands of successful careers.

We have now rebranded ourselves as 'Creative Multimedia Academy' and are introducing many new courses. In this regard, recent ads of Aptech in newspaper are baseless, malicious and libelous. We are taking action against this. In these unprecedented times of Corona, it is sad that students are being inconvenienced with veiled threats regarding their certificates and their careers.

We will continue our commitment to mparting world-class multimedia education in the name of 'Creative Multimedia Academy'. Nothing matters more to us than shaping successful careers, and we will not allow anything to stop us. We remain unrestrained in

CREATIVE MULTIMEDIA

6 SRSP GATES LIFTED, WATER RELEASED INTO GODAVARI

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, SEPT.14

rent rainy season, the gates of Sriramsagar project opened on Monday and released water into river Godavari. Following the 56,725 cusecs inflows from the upstream areas, the project has reached its full reservoir level, and the officials lifted the gates and released 12,500 cusecs of water into the river. The gates of Balegaon barrage in the neighbouring Maharashtra state opened and released floodwater into river Godavari.

As a result, inflows gradually increased into SRSP from 32,352 cusecs to 56,725 cusecs on Monday. The water level in SRSP has reached 1090.9 feet as against its full reservoir level is 1091 ft. By opening six flood gates, the officials released 18,750 cusecs by Monday evening. Chief engineer B. Shankar, superintending engineer Sushil Deshpande, executive engineer B. Rama Rao monitored the flood situation.

SRSP officials alerted people on the banks of river Godavari in the erstwhile Nizamabad, Adilabad and Karimnagar dis-tricts over the release of the floodwater. They said that farmers, shepherds should be cautious during the water flow

in river Godavari. Given the COVID-19 protocol, the visitors' entry was restricted at the dam site during the flood gates opening. Around 37,725 cusecs water outflow continued for canals and drinking water needs.

CCS COPS NAB **BURGLARS GANG, SEIZE ASSETS**

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 14

The Central Crime Station police on Monday nabbed a burglar gang involved in various theft cases here at Vidyaranyapuri road in Theegalaguttapalli and seized gold and silver ornaments along with one two wheeler from their possession.

According to the CCS police, the accused three were identified as Bonthu Vamshi, 20, and two minors residents of Vavilalapally of Karimnagar district. Being addicted to luxurious

life, Vamshi formed a gang with two minors and indulged in various theft cases. During the day time, all three would go round the colonies, select the locked and break the house during night along with stealing the valuable ornaments.

After receiving complaints from the people, the CCS police deployed six teams to nab the burglars. A case is registered against the B. Vamshi and the minors were

CHILD I DEVELOPMENT Parents told to take advantage of all the schemes provided for the benefit of kids

Children malnourished despite government schemes

CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, SEPT. 14

The Warangal Urban district Childline-1098 organised a training programme on child marriage and malnutrition on Monday Nakkalagutta

Hanmakonda. Erstwhile Warangal District Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Mandala Parashuramulu observed that despite the Central and state governments implementing various nutrition schemes for the upliftment of children at the village and town levels, many children are still suffering from malnutri-

The main symptoms of malnutrition are frequent illness in children, being underweight, weak, always lazy and irritable and delayed in the developmental stages of

"Parents should pay special attention to their

• THE MAIN symptoms of malnutrition are frequent illness in children, being underweight, being weak, always lazy and irritable and delayed in the developmental stages of

PARENTS SHOULD pay special attention to their child's growth and provide them with more fruits, leafy vegetables, protein, milk, eggs and fresh vegetables.

them with more fruits, ers, child marriage ban leafy vegetables, protein, officers, NGOs and leaders milk, eggs and fresh veg-

child's growth and provide etables. Anganwadi teachof various political parties

should mobilize the people from the village level on the Prevention of Child Marriage Act 2006," he

He further demanded that the girls be included in the SC, ST, BC and Minority Girls' Welfare Ashrams run by the Telangana state government. Girls can contact the Child Welfare Committee for any assistance, he said. Hanmakonda CDPO K. Madhurima said, "The role of Anganwadi

teachers is very much in building a society free of malnutrition and child

marriages He said good results would come if everyone worked together for the development of boys and girls at the ward level, especially with a sense of dedication.

He said that they should take advantage of all the schemes provided by the government without worrying about the birth of a girl child.

Childline Coordinator M.D. Iqbal Pasha opined that the governments should allocate more funds for the development of children. Governments need to work harder to make education and health accessible to

Childline Coordinator Ragi Krishnamurthy, ICDS supervisors V. Rajya-lakshmi, J. Nirmala, T. Kavitha and Anganwadi Teachers were present among others.

SHORT TAKES

VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER DIES OF COVID-19

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 14

Congress and former minister Chanesh Ram Rathiya on Monday died of Covid-19 in a hospital in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh.

Rathiya, 78, served as minister in the Digvijay Singh as well as Ajit Jogi governments in undivided Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively. He had been suffering from age-related ailments.

He had tested positive for Coronavirus last fortnight and was admitted to a Covid-19 hospital in Raigah. He breathed last on Monday morning, official reports said. He is survived by his wife,

two sons and three daughters.
He was first elected to undivided Madhya Pradesh
Assembly in 1977 from
Dharamjaigarh in Raigarh district and won the seat five times in a row in successive elections. His son Laljit Singh Rathiya currently represents the constituency in Chhattisgarh Assembly.

Chhattisgarh has witnessed a sudden surge in Coronavirus positive cases and deaths in the last three months. The cases have crossed 64,000 on Monday, while the tally of toll mounted to 555.

The state has reported 49,500 Coronavirus cases and 261 deaths in the last one month alone. As many as 31,931 Covid-19 patients in the state

KOLKATA METRO RESUMES SERVICES AFTER 5 MONTHS

Kolkata, Sept. 14: Metro rail services in Kolkata resumed on Monday after a gap of more than five months, a senior official said. The regular services were suspended on March 23 due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Special trains, however, were run for NEET aspirants and their guardians on Sunday.

"Services have resumed at 8 am and around 3,000 people have commuted in the first two hours," Kolkata Metro Railway General Manager Manoj Joshi said.

"The last trains from the originating stations on both sides will commence their journey at 7 pm and complete it by 8 pm," he said.

Joshi said all safety protocols including social distancing are being followed.

A train is halting at a station for 30 seconds instead of the previous duration of onds to avoid rush during boarding and deboarding, a Metro Railway spokesperson said. A total of 110 services are being run on the Noapara-Kavi Subhash line at an interval of 10 minutes during peak hours, she said.

The services will remain suspended on Sundays for the sanitisation of rakes and stations, the spokesperson said.

Commuters can book their tickets online and download the e-passes or use smart cards, she said. The e-passes mention the departure and destination points along with

PM 'BUSY WITH PEACOCKS', SAYS **RAHUL GANDHI**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT, 14

As the Monsoon session of Parliament began amid rising number of Covid-19 cases, for mer Congress President Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the government had asked people to become "aatmanirbhar (self-dependent)" which means they should save their lives themselves as the Prime Minister was "busy with pea-

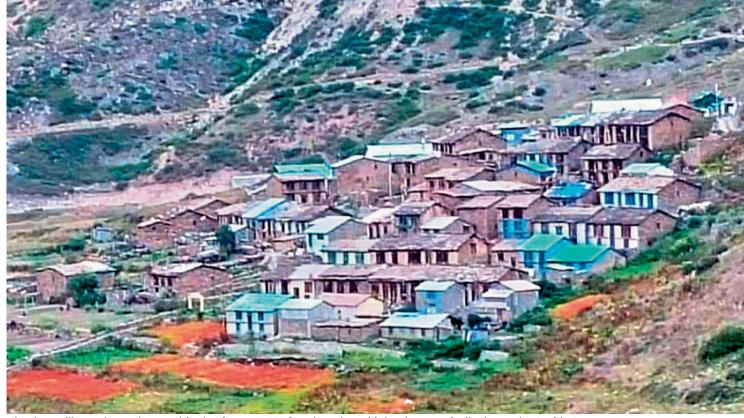
Gandhi tweeted that the Coronavirus cases will cross 50-lakh this week and active cases hit the 10-lakh mark.

"Unplanned lockdown is the product of one person's ego and because of it Coronavirus has spread throughout the country," he said.

The Wayanad MP further

said that the "Modi government said become 'aatmanirbhar' (self-sufficient) which means save your life yourself because the PM is busy with peacocks". He was referring to a recent video showing the Prime Minister feeding pea-

cocks at his residence. Notably, Gandhi who is accompanying his mother Sonia Gandhi during her travel to the US for a routine medical check-up, would not be attending Parliament session.



The three villages, located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, have been hit hard economically due to the Covid-19.

Nepal offers ₹2 cr, house to villagers in Uttarakhand

Villagers told to hoist Nepal's flags atop their houses in return

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD SEPT, 14

Public representatives in the KP Sharma Oli government in Nepal are offering ₹2 crore and a house in Kathmandu to each family living in the three Indian villages along the Nepal border in Uttarakhand to switch their loyalties to the Himalayan country to enable them stake a claim over the three villages located in Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand. All that the villagers have been asked to do is hoist Nepal flags atop their houses.

After claiming Kalapani region as its territory, Nepal now has its eyes on Kuti, Nabhi and Gunji vil-lages - located a few kilometres away from Kalapani in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand whose people share a 'roti-

LOCKDOWN

HELPED CURB

COVID CASES:

NEW DEI HI, SEPT. 14

With 92,071 fresh cases

of Coronavirus, India on

Monday recorded an overall of 48.46 lakh

cases of infection so far.

Among those who tested

positive were about 25

MPs who were detected

to be carrying the infec-

tion during a checkup at

Union Health Minister

While saying that the

battle with Covid-19 is

still far from over, Dr Harshvardhan urged

MPs to create awareness

among people in their constituencies with reg-

ard to Covid appropriate behaviour. "On one ha-

nd, when we are in the

stage of unlock so as to

revive the economy, and

have a balanced appro-

ach, it is important that

sustained community

support is ensured con-

sistently to control the

spread of Covid infec-

tion and break its chain

said.

transmission," he

"In our country 92% of

the cases are reported to

be having mild disease.

In only about 5.8% of

cases where oxygen

therapy is required and

the disease may be severe enough to require

intensive care in only

Terming the lockdown

as "a bold decision" by

the government in March-April, the minis-

ter said that it helped

India successfully blunt

the aggressive progres-

sion of Covid-19.

1.7% cases," he said.

the Parliament House.

scenario.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Kuti, Nabhi and Gunji villages are located a few kilometres away from Kalapani in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand

also being promised along with funding education of children in the families

A house in Kathmandu is

• People from Gunji, Nabhi and Kuti villages to write to Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat pledging their support to India

beti' relationship with hit hard economically due people of Darchula in to the Covid-19

Besides, the Nepal government is also promising to fund the education of children and grant families Nepali citizenship. The otherwise hardworking and peace loving people of the three villages, located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, have been consider Nepal's offer which will hurt

• They would also highlight their

Due to poverty

and unemployment,

some villages may

pandemic. The ongoing standoff with China, which led to massive build-up of forces along the Line of Actual Control, not far away from these villages, brought them some hope of getting jobs, at least tem-

porarily.
"We have always stood

by the Army and ITBP, be it the 1962 war or now. But this time around, they have got porters and helpers from outside and have been completely ignoring us. When people are struggling to make ends meet, why will people hesitate to join hands with Nepal which is offering huge money and houses?" wondered a local, Yogesh Garbyal, who nevertheless added that 'by and large' all villagers have decided 'not to sell themselves' to Nepal and embarrass

India. Villagers will write to the Indian government pledging their full support in the wake of offers from Nepal. "While pledging our support, we will high-light our problems and put them before the adminis-tration," said Dinesh Gunjyal, Vice President of the Bharat-Cheen Seema

RAJNATH MAY SPEAK ON BORDER STAND-OFF TODAY

New Delhi, Sept 14: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to make a statement in Parliament on Tuesday on the contin-uing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, sources said.

The statement would assume significance in the backdrop of demands made by the Opposition for a debate on the issue.

Singh had met his Chinese counterpart Gen Wei Fenghe in Moscow recently. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi had also met in Moscow a few days ago.

Leaders, activists rally behind **Umar Khalid**

Kolkata, Sept. 14: West He has been charged Bengal Chief Minister under the Unlawful Mamata Banerjee on Mandata Balletjee on Monday reacting to the arrest of Umar Khalid, JNU alumnus and rights activist in connection with the Delhi riots said those involved in movements against the ments against the Centre's citizenship poli-cies are being "targeted". Banerjee, who is also

the Trinamool Congress supremo, said action should be taken only if there is evidence of

there is evidence of wrongdoing.

Apparently hitting out at the BJP-led government at the Centre, Banerjee, who has been one of its most stringent critics, said, "Those involved in movements against NPR, NRC have been targeted".

"I have seen it (the news

"I have seen it (the news of Khalid's arrest) in newspapers. First they (the Centre) had named Sitaram Yechury in the chargesheet and now they have removed it. But they have put the names of Yogendra Yadav and oth-ers (in the chargesheet) ers (in the chargesneet)
This is not right in
democracy. If someone
has done something
wrong and you have evidence of it then action
should be taken as per
law," Banerjee told
reporters at the state secreporters at the state sec-

retariat. Khalid was arrested by the special cell of Delhi Police late on Sunday night after 11 hours of interrogation for his alleged involvement in the February Delhi riots.

under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Meanwhile, a section of academicians, politicians and social activists on Monday expressed solidarity with former JNU student leader Umar Khalid. Dr S.Q.R Ilyas, national president of Welfare Party of India, and Khalid's father, tweeted, "My son Umar Khalid has been arrested by Special Cell, Delhi Police under UAPA. Police was questioning him since 1:00 pm. He has been implicated in Delhi Riots. #StandWithUmarKhalid.

According to a statement by his party, Ilyas strongly condemned the arrest of his son and said that police are "falsely implicating him in Delhi Riots"

Soon after his arrest, #StandWIthUmarKhalid started trending on Twitter.

hashtag Using "Stand With Umar Khalid", senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor tweeted, "PM says he welcomes criticism, but for gets to mention the cost of criticism to be paid by those who who speak out."Swaraj India chief Yogendra Yadav said Khalid is among the lead-ers that India deserves.

Lawyer Bhushan said Khalid's arrest exposes the "malafide nature of its investigation into Delhi

New party starts work in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 14

Two leading students' organisations in Assam -the All Assam Students Union (Aasu) and the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Parishad Monday announced the name of their new political outfit as Assam Jatiya Parishad which will contest 80-100 seats in the Assembly polls likely to

Announcing that the party will start its organisation work from Monday itself, the advisory committee of the students' bodies comprising Krishnagopal Bhattacharya, Basanta Deka, Raju Phukan, Jagdish Bhuyan and Haren Sutia, among others told reporters that the name for the party was decided after much consultation and deliberations among all the stakeholders. Informing that the party

will start organisation work in 25 districts, and that all tribes will have representation in the party, the advisory committee said that their slogan would be "Ghore Ghore Aami" (We are in every household).

not be an ordinary political party but wanted to be people's party, the advisory committee said that the constitution of the party would be ready soon but new political outfit will stay away from communal politics and it is going to be incorporated in the constitution.
Asserting that inclusive

politics would be the key to the formation of organ isational structure of the party, the committee has appointed former AGP minister and leader Jagdish Bhuyan as the first state convener while H.M. Borbhuyan has been given responsibility of Valley, Raju Barak Phukan to oversee work in Golaghat, Sivasagar and Jorhat, and Haren Sutia will be in charge of Lakhimpur. Chittaranjan Basumatary will be the in-charge of Jonai, Dhemaji and Dibrugarh districts.

Stating that they have already started work at the state, district, constituency and booth level. the advisory committee that will be supervising the overall policy making and manifestos of the party said that all tribes of the state will have Asserting that Assam representation in the Jatiya Parishad would party.

Kerala CM suspects conspiracy to derail development projects funded by UAE-based Red

HARSH VARDHAN GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, **VINEETA PANDEY | DC**

> Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday lashed out at the Opposition parties and a section of media for unleashing a propaganda to derail the LDF government's Life Mission project under which 2.26 lakh homeless and landless families have been provided homes.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, in a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha, said the government is constantly reviewing the evolving scenario. He added India is regularly coordinating with WHO headquarters, regional office and country office to get Cabinet. updates on the evolving

The Life Mission project came under the scanner

CPM DEMANDS UNION MINISTER

locker was part of the ₹20 cr housing scheme is

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Minister's

outburst against the Opposition and section of media came in the wake of state wide agitation launched by Congress-led UDF and BJP demanding the resignation of two ministers in Pinarayi

MURALEEDHARAN'S RESIGNATION ed that the gold smuggling

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The ruling CPM in Kerala

on Monday demanded the resignation of senior BJP leader and Union minister of state V Muraleedharan for allegedly attempting to derail the probe into gold smuggling case. The CPM said the reply

given by finance ministry in Parliament clearly stat-

₹1 crore found in her bank

the minister continues to contradict them publicly,' the CPM said. recently after one of the commission that she key accused in the gold received for a housing smuggling case Swapna project being implementclaimed that ed in Wadakkancherry in

Thrissur district. The

in Thiruvananthapuram

airport happened through

diplomatic baggage. How-

ever, Muraleedharan had

earlier categorically stat-

ed that the smuggled gold

was not found in diplomatic baggage. "The NIA,

Customs and now finance

ministry have said it was

diplomatic baggage but

showcase the Life Mission project as one of its biggest achievements. The Mission which began in 2017 is aimed at making Kerala a "homeless fami lies" free state by 2020.

floods.

Crescent for 140 families

who lost their houses in

The commission allega-

tions came as a bolt from the blue for the LDF gov-

ernment which is all set to

"If some wrong has happened in one contract then that particular issue should be tackled. You cannot tarnish the entire Life Mission which is providing homes to the homesaid the Chief Minister while inaugurating Konni medical college in Pathanamthitta district via video conferencing on

TREASURE I TROVE The copy handwritten by Kashmiri artists, is one of the finest manuscripts

Sotheby's sells 19th century Quran for ₹1.30cr

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 14

Sotheby's, the New Yorkbased British-founded American multinational corporation, has sold a copy of the 19th century Quran handwritten by Kashmiri artists for £137,500 (approximately

₹1.30 crore). 'This Quran is one of the finest manuscripts produced in Kashmir in the first half of the 19th century," a note from the world's largest brokers of fine and decorative art, jewelry, real estate and collectibles had said before putting the manuscript for auction at Christie's London some time ago, a report appearing in a local news portal

Giving the description of the sold manuscript, the Sotheby's says on its offi-

cial website that it is Quran copied by Muhammad Hasan with a marginal commentary copied by Muhammad Isma'il in Kashmir and dates back to 1246 AH (the Hijri year of the Islamic lunar calendar) corresponding with

"Arabic manuscript on paper, 544 leaves plus 3 flyleaves, 24 lines to the page. written in naskh in black ink within clouds against a gold ground, the Persian interlinear in red nas-ta'liq, ruled in blue and gold, verses separated by gold roundels, surah headings in blue thuluth against a gold ground within a cartouche, the margins dense with commentaries in nasta'lig within clouds against a gold ground, f.1b and f.2a with an illuminated frontispiece, several illuminated pages throughout, in lacquer binding decorated with flowers and signed 'Abd al-Aziz Mugul," reads the website.

According to it, though there are stains and rubbing, some losses to the illumination and the gold, minor tears, some crackeleaure and scratches to the binding, as viewed, the manuscript was in good condition when put to auction.

finest manuscripts produced in Kashmir in the first half of the nineteenth century. Not only does it bear the names of two scribes who have been involved in copying it, but also the names of the binder and the patron. Dated Qurans from Kashmir are rare, especially if decorated with such lavish illumination," it said.

'This Quran is one of the



The cover of the Quran

Hasan signs as the copyist of the Quran and Muhammad Isma'il as the copyist of the tafsir in the margins. "Each lacquer plate of the binding is finely decorated with a

lacing flower scrolls and plants, among which there is the signature of Aziz Mughul. The name of the patron as well as the date 1246 AH/1831 AD are written in black along the outer border. It is interesting to note that along with his name, Muhammad Isma'il, the patron is named tajir al-Isfahani (a merchant from Isfahan)". Muhammad M. Saleem Beg, Convenor of the J&K chapter of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage said, "I'm happy

central panel with inter-

it got an attractive price at the auction. Someone who knew the value of, as we learn from the Sotheby's, a rare and beautifully handwritten Quran, bought it and I'm sure it must have gone into safe hands."

Victor Jacquemont, a French traveller who was in Kashmir the same year this Quran was copied (1831) records that the Himalayan region was a big centre for the production of the manuscripts and there were between 700-800 copyists in the Valley. While Kashmiri Qurans are usually not signed and can be quite formulaic in their layout and decoration, this copy is extensively and finely illuminated, and must have been a commission by a Persian merchant who was resident in Kashmir in 1831, the Sotheby's said.

'Kashmir Life' portal quotes Hakim Sameer Hamadani, who has done his doctorate on Islamic architecture, as saying the copying seemingly has been commissioned by the Iranian Muhammad Ismail.









pg **5**

In Loving Remembrance



Sri Tikkavarapu Chandrasekhar Reddy

July 13, 1932 - September 15, 1993

"He whose Mind is not shaken by adversity, Who does not hanker after pleasures, Who is free from Attachment, Fear and Anger, He is the Sage of Steady Wisdom."

-Bhagavad Gita

It's his guiding spirit that has been and will always be the source of inspiration for us

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd.

Chronicle

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mathematician who found formula to help rural poor

he life and work of former Union minister for rural development and leader of the Rashtirya Janata Dal Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who passed away on Sunday in New Delhi due to Covid-19 related ailments, reflect how a visionary, grassroots level leader can impact the lives of millions of people, and still remain behind the curtain. One of the chief architects of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which ensured sustenance of millions of rural poor across the country for more than a decade, Dr Singh was the real champion of the cause of rural India.

Dr Singh, a PhD in mathematics and a former professor, had his political baptism in the Jayaprakash movement against the Congress government and the Emergency in the seventies and grew up along with Lalu Prasad Yaday and Nitish Kumar. Dr Singh was always part and parcel of the socialist bloc even as it went through several splits and metamorphosis until he sent a resignation letter two days before his death from his party, the RJD.

Dr Singh, who was a five-term Lok Sabha member and a minister in

Bihar and Union governments several times, was the face of rural India in the corridors of power. He never left his rustic characteristics despite his professional and academic standing and being part of the power structure for most part of his political life. He steadfastly worked for the uplift of the rural poor, whose living conditions were very familiar to him. It took his persuasive skills as well as first-hand deep knowledge of the ground situation to get the MGNREGA through, even though it was part of the election manifesto of the first edition of the UPA as many had felt it would put an unnecessary hole in the exchequer without offering commensurate returns. Today, the scheme is the lifeline of rural India; it has been one of the most efficient routes to reach the people during the pandemic Covid-19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance were skeptical about it before they came to power. However, to their credit, they realised its merit and steadily increased budgetary allocations to

Dr Singh also represents the section of leaders with calibre and character who were catapulted to the political leadership while being part of democratic restoration movements. Oppression by the powers-that-be could recoil into mass movements as was seen in the Seventies across India. Such movements would also attract people who would have otherwise gone their way of professional or occupational route. As Karl Marx said, "philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it." Dr Singh belongs to the group of people who made a heroic attempt to change the course of history.

Struggles for restoration of democratic rights are bound to repeat themselves. The sterling legacy Dr Singh leaves behind will no doubt inspire many bright and brilliant boys and girls to follow in his path. That will be

Champions in all respects

In triggering positive societal changes as in non-discriminatory treatment of minorities like African Americans, sport may have gone way beyond just mirroring society. The US Open tennis not only presents equal opportunity but equal pay too, but a young champion, who won her second crown at Flushing Meadows, may have dared to take sport even further by being an agent of change. The flaws in American society may be obvious but sporting icons, with their greater public presence, must take a stand in pointing them out.

Naomi Osaka's bold statement for racial justice in wearing seven different masks naming seven prominent Black victims of trigger-happy police brutality in the USA invests her powerful tennis of booming serves and hard strokes from the baseline with an even greater aura. Born to a Haitian father and a Japanese mother who came to Florida at age three, Osaka's empathy for people being trampled upon is natural. She had hardly savoured the moment the first time when she won a battle of generations in downing a testy Serena Williams in 2018 as the crowd had booed her. In 2020, Naomi confirmed that she has come on much more in beating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, who also should know a thing or two about the tumultuous politics of modern life.

Naomi is a champion in all respects. Joining her as the men's winner after a ding-dong, error-strewn battle, Dominic Thiem of Austria may have served notice that the young brigade is capable of challenging the monopoly of the above-30 Grand Slam champions Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Only the Serb was on court at the first no-spectators Grand Slam of the Covid-19 era but exited by default for poor behaviour. As Thiem hugged close friend Alexander Zverev of Germany, whom eaten in the first-ever fifth set tie-breaker at the US Open eloquently of bonds that tough social distancing norms too could not break. In 2020, more than ever, it appeared tennis had won in turning the spotlight on two deserving winners.

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Mediation vital on LAC, Ladakh disengagement



Mohan Guruswamy

he joint announcement by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi in Moscow (no doubt helped along by Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov) is being clutched at like straws by desperate drowning men hoping for an end to the crisis. In case we have forgotten, the RIC (Russia India China) was a geopolitical group that was formed to balance growing American and Nato unilateralism. The operative part of the joint statement is that the military commander-level talks will continue. The audible sigh of relief in some circles may be prema-ture, for talking doesn't mean a solution. For now, it only means a postponement of the armed conflict.

We have two outstanding issues between India and China. The larger one is about large tracts of territory in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. putes aren't going to be resolved in the foreseeable long term. Hence, Deng Xiaoping had sagaciously suggested to Rajiv Gandhi at their 1988 Beijing meeting that it is best left to history.

The pressing dispute on hand are the two overlapping Lines of Actual Control. The term LAC was first used by Zhou Enlai in November 1959 when he wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru defining it as "the so-called McMahon Line in the east and the line up to which each side exercises actual control in the west". The problem is that India and China never agreed on where the LAC was, as the perceptions of what each side "controlled" varied, by a few meters to tens of kilometers. For instance, in Sikkim where they vary at a few places, the actual overlap often is a few meters. This varia-

tion is because both sides are vying for better tactical positions to locate their bunkers and sangars (small built-up structures) on higher ground to observe the other side. In the Depsang Plains overlooking DBO, it is by as much as 20-30 km.
The DBO overlooks the

Chip Chap river as it curls southward to its rendezvous with the Shyok. The entire Chip Chap river was accepted by China as Indian territory even in 1956, but by 1960 China advanced its LAC to about 4 km of DBO and built a garrison at Tianwendian, about 24 km away. The PLA launches patrols from here into the contested Depsang. They have done the same in Galwan valley. In 1962 the Indian post was at the source of the Galwan river at Samzungling and the LAC is now about 2 km upstream of the confluence of Galwan and Shyok rivers.

often widely overlapping Indian forces arrived at a unique modus vivendi since 1962 which enabled each side to patrol up to its perception of the LAC without confrontation. The desire for peace made both sides cobble up agreements from time to time. The 1993 agreement made it incumbent for both sides to caution each other whenever their per-ceived LACs were crossed. Though the agreement stipulated that any dispute both sides would jointly check this and decide upon an alignment, it never happened. Then in 1996 both sides agreed to "exercise restraint when the patrols come face to face". This agreement also stipulated that both sides would not use firearms or explosives 2 km from their perceived Both

We have two outstanding issues between India and China: Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. These two territorial disputes aren ☐t going to be resolved in the foreseeable long term.

adhered to this, but now the patrols, while not confronting each other, began tailing each other maintaining a distance between them. This agreement also obliged both sides not to con-struct anything of a permanent nature in the

LAC overlaps.
This worked till 2013, when the PLA objected to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police leaving behind reusable shelters at a place called Chumar. In May that year a tailed PLA patrol decided to dig in midway between the two LACs in Depsang at a place called Rakhi Nula. This forced an Indian Army unit to dig in nearby. This crisis was resolved by a meeting between the local military commanders, with the Indian side agreeing to dismantle the Chumar structures and the PLA pulling out. This led to he more complex agreement, once again aimed at conflict prevention nd conflict resolution, but not fixing the

cause of conflict. This is where we were when the PLA, taking advantage of Army tardiness in not mirroring the annual PLA exercises in the area, dug in positions in Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, Ghogra and between Fingers 4 and 8 on Pangong Tso's north-ern bank. In Galwan the new PLA position is now less than 2 km from the upgraded 230-km-long road from Darbuk to DBO.

The Indian Army has now positioned itself threateningly on the Chushul heights.

The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse. India was in the midst of a major economic meltdown brought about by the spread of the Covid-19 virus from Wuhan. The

electronic media, no doubt prodded by the Narendra Modi govern-ment, went into a fury over the "Chinese per-fidy" and both Mr Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh made fire and brimstone speeches ostensibly to the troops in Ladakh. The Indian military buildup was under the full glare of the embedded media and newly acquired military hardware were dis-played. Like angry Bharatanatyam dancers, both sides are now semaphoring intentions to each other.

Simultaneously, Indian Army and PLA commanders have been in talks from June 16 seeking a disengagement. The question is who with-draws and to where? This requires the determination of a single LAC. This is beyond the ken of the military commanders of both sides. Military men are usually reluctant to withdraw to tactically disadvantageous positions. But the need now is to give and take. This therefore calls for mediation between the two militaries, and that is best done by a trusted third country's military. A neutral military mediator can understand the tactical security con-cerns of either side and can help in determining the optimal under the circumstances.

The three countries have invested big in the RIC and it is now time to make it pay. The stakes are big. Even a limited Sino-Indian war will mean the end of the Russia-India-China (RIC) and its promise of a multipolar world.

Russia is uniquely placed to play the role of a neutral mediator to help the two countries find an agreement on a single Line of Actual Control. It enjoys a good measure of trust in both countries. One hopes that both countries will find the good sense to accept mediation.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, has held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in

the Chinese economy.

POST-COVID CARE

Patients who recovered from Covid-19 need to be under the care of doctors. The Union health ministry's recommendations may lead to side-effects (Chyawanprash, yoga advised for Covid recovered, DC, Sept. 14). Some chvawanprash brands were earlier banned in other countries because of heavy toxic metals. Usage of modern medicines during hospitalisation may react to these. It would always be better to take the advice of doctors who treated them.

> P.J. David Hyderabad

Chyawanprash manufacturers claim it boosts immunity, strengthens the nervous system and helps fight innumerable ailments. However, there is little scientific evidence for this. It would be appropriate to recommend inclusion of more affordable protein-rich foods along with fresh fruits and vegetables instead of the expensive bottled formulations.

M. Saleemuddin

PUNNY CARTOON

Deccan Chronicle is lucky like Subhani. His cartoon about the absence of Question Hour in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on September 14 was, very punny, pun intended. It deserves to be saved in Parliament Library

Kamtikar Vinay Hyderabad

YEARS AGO IN Chronicle

Stay refused to ex-rulers on derecognition

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14 The Supreme Court today refused to stay the operation of the Presidential Executive Order derecognising the former princes. The Counsel for former princes Mr. N.A. Palkhiwala, moving the petitions on behalf of the former rulers of Gwalior, Udaipur, Nabha, Nalagarh and Kutch, as "test case" asked for state of the derecognition order on the ground that the order was a case

of "compound maladies." He said thousands of persons' livelihood depended upon the former rulers. He said the order which could be later declared invalid, affected thousands of persons who were now dependent on the princes.



Aakar Patel

Jaishankar's prescriptions are simplistic, just excuses

ndia's foreign minister comes from a family of scholars. His Lfather K. Subrahmanyam was the founder of the famous IDS think tank in New Delhi and had advised Indira Gandhi. On the weaponising of India's nuclear programme and the military intervention in Bangaldesh, Subrahmanyam had a

Subrahmanyam's son Sanjay, Jaishankar's brother, is one of the world's most famous scholars of medieval India. He has written books on commerce in Surat (my hometown) and South India as well as on Vasco Da Gama.

My point is that Dr S. Jaishankar has a background which is not the same as our other ministers. Jaishankar has recent a book released a few days ago which said three things had negatively affected India's foreign policy. The first was Partition, which reduced the size of India and made China even more important than it was. The second was the delay in the economic reforms of 1991: if done earlier, they would have made India a wealthier nation earlier than it will become. And third, the delay in choosing to Mere liberalisation does not mean economic growth. What Jaishankar says in his three points is reductive and simplistic.

make atomic weapons. He called them the three burdens.

What should we make of what he is saying? We need to examine two separate things, first to see to what extent what he says is true.

India's Partition did reduce the size of the country and if India had not been partitioned, the undivided nation would be larger geographically, stretching from Myanmar to Iran, and with a population of 1.7 billion people. It would not be particularly different in terms of its economy, per capita income, productivity or any other way. South Asia has developed together, none of the three countries which were once part of British India has either become a developed country and none on the other hand has not succeeded in developing at least a little. A visit to Pakistan and Bangladesh reveals them to be no different than most parts of India.

The second issue is the delay in economic reforms. This is not Jaishankar's subject because he is not an economist. We must therefore be cautious when we accept what he says as true. The Indian economy of Jawaharlal Nehru's time had little capacity. State capital was needed as an element, especially in heavy industry. And without the State, the institutions we take for granted, for example in higher education, would not have come at all. Whatever bhajans we may sing to privatisation, there is no private equivalent of IIT or IIM even today in India. This is not to say that the licence raj of Indira Gandhi was a good thing. It was not. The best we can offer Jaishankar's statement on the delay in reforms is a qualified yes, not a

full endorsement.

The third is the exercise of the nuclear option, which happened in May 1974. India makes a big deal of having an atom bomb. It is not such a big deal. Many nations in South America, Europe, Asia and Africa had the capacity to make one but chose not to. The other thing is that India violated its foreign commit-

ments to make the bomb. The reactors producing the material used in our bombs came from Canada, whom we had promised that we would only use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes (this is why Indira Gandhi made the claim that the 1974 test was a "peaceful explo-

We have held these weapons for 45 years now. How have they helped us? We cannot use them against Pakistan, which for 30 years we have accused of terrorism. We cannot use them against China, which is today inside our borders. It is debatable that the early weaponising of our programme could have helped us in

Jaishankar calls these three things "burdens" and he lays them at the Congress' door. Let us see what his party has done and is doing. India may have been partitioned, but Pakistan and Bangladesh are still next to us. They have not been relocated to Africa. What stops India from unifying the subcontinent through trade or travel? It is our nationalism. We have free movement (without visas) with Nepal, but could unify South Asia with visafree travel and trade if we chose to. The BJP does not want it.

The assumption Jaishankar makes about liberalisation automatically producing economic growth is false. Under the BJP, India's economic growth has been declining since January 2018, according to its own figures.

That is two and a half straight years of decline in six years of government. This did not happen during socialism or the licence raj.

This year we will see a contraction of the economy. Mere liberalisation does not mean economic growth. What Jaishankar says in his three points is reductive and simplistic. The past does not matter that much. If we think that it does, it is because we are not good enough at running the nation competently today and are searching for excuses why. If Jaishankar's diagnosis is correct, what stops him from correcting it today? His book does not say that. Perhaps that will come in a future

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist



IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill 3, injure 6 in Pak

Peshawar: At least three persons were killed and six other injured when some unidentified assailants opened fire at

them in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, police said. The accused ambushed the car in Peshawar's Michni road, killing Muhammad Ali and his two gunmen while six persons sustained injuries as they were caught in the firing. In another incident, the provincial vice president

of the ruling Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Tahir Iqbal, was assassinated and his three friends wounded as their car was ambushed by unknown gunmen in Haripur district. Chief Minister of the province Mehmud Khan ordered an inquiry into

the killing of the party leader and sought a report from the provincial police chief.

Pompeo: US envoy to China to leave

Beijing: The US ambassador to China appears to be leaving his post, based on tweets posted Monday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He th-anked Ambassador Terry Branstad on Twitter for his more

than three years of service. There was no immediate confirmation from the State Department, "Ambassador Branstad has contributed to rebalancing US-China relations so that it is results-oriented, reciprocal, and fair," he wrote in a follow-up tweet. China's foreign ministry said it was awa-re of Pompeo's tweet but had not received any notification

that Branstad was leaving. Branstad was embroiled in a recent controversy when China's official People's Daily rejected an opinion column that he had written. It wasn't clear whether his apparent departure was related to the piece. Pompeo tweeted last week that China's ruling Communist Party refused to run Branstad's op-ed.

Lukashenko visits Russia

Sochi: Belarus' authoritarian president visited Russia Monday in a bid to secure more loans and political support, as demonstrations against the extension of his 26-year rule entered their sixth week. Alexander Lukashenko's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi come a day after an estimated 150,000 people flooded the streets of the Belarusian capital, demanding Lukashenko's resignation. The Interior Ministry said 774 people were arrested in Minsk and other cities of Belarus for holding unsanctioned railies on Sunday. Protesters in Belarus have dismissed Lukashenko's reelection for a sixth term in the Aug. 9 vote as rigged. The United States and the European Union have criticised the election as neither free nor fair and urged the Belarusian leader to engage in talks with the opposition, a demand he rejected. In a bid to win Mos-

ATWOOD WINS DAYTON PEACE PRIZE

cow's support, the 66-year-

old former state farm director

has tried to cast the protests

as an effort by the West to

isolate Russia.

Cincinnati (US), Sept. 14: Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes The Handmaid's Tale", a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.

The Canadian writer and teacher has earned the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, officials of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials announced Monday. The award is named for the late US diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

Atwood — a prolific writer of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, essays, comic books and, as of late, tweets — in recent years has drawn a new round of acclaim for her bestselling 1985 novel of a dystopian future in which women are subjugated after an overthrow of the US government. Some readers of "The Handmaid's Tale" saw in the leaders of authoritarian Gilead similarities to the rise of Republican Donald Trump to president in the election of 2016. The television adaptation on Hulu starring Elisabeth Moss generated vet more commentary, and women dressed in red cloaks and white bonnets, as the handmaids were depicted in the book and TV series.

Georgia Dy punching PoC fired

Clayton (US), Sept. 14: and got upset and de-A sheriff's deputy in manded he get out of the A sheriff's deputy in Georgia has been fired after being captured on video repeatedly punching a Black man during a traffic stop, authorities said Sunday

The deputy was being let go for "excessive use of force", the Clayton County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. It did not identify the deputy, but said a criminal investigation has been turned over to the district attorney's office. Roderick Walker, 26, was arrested and beaten after Clayton County sheriff's deputies pulled over the vehicle he was riding in Friday with his girlfriend, their 5-month-old child and his stepson for an alleged broken taillight, his attorney, Shean Williams of The Cochran Firm in Atlanta said Sunday. The asked for identification deputies Walker's

T AGAIN!

vehicle when he questioned why they needed it since he wasn't driving, Williams said.

The subsequent arrest, captured on video by a bystander and shared widely, shows two deputies on top of Walker, one of whom repeatedly punches him. Walker's girlfriend screams and tells the deputies Walker said he can't breathe. A child in the vehicle yells, "Daddy". As Walker is handcuffed, the deputy who punched him tells the bystander that Walker bit him. Williams said his client denies biting the deputy. Walker was trying to survive and lost consciousness at least twice during the beating, Willi-

A photo of Walker taken later in jail shows a welt under his left eye.

10 dead in Chicago weekend violence

people dead over the weekend and 43 others injured. It came amid a surge in violence this year in the nation's third-largest city. Statistics released by the Chicago Police Department bring the number of shooting victims for the year thus far to 2,887 and the number of homicides to 542. Last year at this time, according to police statistics, there were 1,862 shooting victims and 364 homicides.

The violence follows the longer Labour Day weekend that ended with the same number of homicides and roughly the same number of shooting vic-

Nashville (US), Sept. 14: A gunman killed two people and wounded three

Chicago, Sept. 14: Gun 3 dead, 3 injured in violence in Chicago left 10 Tennessee rampage

others in a series of shootings and cariackings that ended with a highspeed chase as he fled police. He ultimately wrecked the car he stole and killed himself, while his remaining hostage survi-ved, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said. The string of crimes be-

gan Sunday morning along Interstate 24 near Beechgrove when Dangelo Dorsey, 29, opened fire inside a moving vehicle, wounding another, TBI Director David Rausch

MAKE

British MPs resume feuding over Brexit

Johnson's disputed plan that will break EU divorce treaty faces rebellion, resignations

London, Sept. 14: Britain's parliament on Monday finds itself in familiar territory — arguing about Brexit — with threats of rebellion and resignations over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial plan for a new law that will break his EU divorce

The House of Commons holds its first debate and vote over the bombshell new bill from late afternoon, despite a call from Brussels for it to be withdrawn by the end of the

The contentious legislation, unveiled last week, would override the divo-rce deal the UK struck with the EU last year in several key areas related to Northern Ireland.

It would see London unilaterally regulate UK tra-de and state aid within the British province, ignoring the EU treaty which gives Brussels a continuing say over Northern Ireland's

trading relationship.
If the law passes in the coming weeks, Brussels has warned it could scupper ongoing trade deal talks and threatened court action, leaving the prospects of an orderly Brexit

Even some Brexiteer lawmakers were aghast that which led to parliamen-Britain would wilfully tary deadlock and repeat-

• THE HOUSE of Commons holds its first debate and vote over the bombshell new bill from late afternoon. despite a call from Brussels for it to be withdrawn by the end of the month.

trash an international treaty, threatening the country's reputation and potentially endangering Northern Íreland's fragile peace.

Former prime ministers John Major and Tony Blair this weekend openly criticised the action, while David Cameron said Monday he had "misgivings" about the approach.

Johnson's pro-Brexit former attorney general Geoffrey Cox said it would be "unconscionable" to override an international treaty. "I think it is wrong that the British government or our parliament should renege on an agreement on which we gave our solemn word," he told Times Radio.

The latest row revives the bitter wrangling over how to implement British voters' shock decision in 2016 to quit the bloc,

BORIS DEFENDS LAW, SAYS EU **'UNREASONABLE'** London, Sept 14: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says his plan to uni-

laterally rewrite Britain's divorce deal with the European Union is an insurance policy against the bloc's unreasonable behaviour, comments that came as his former attorney general joined a growing number of once-loyal lawmakers condemning the contentious move.

Johnson said Monday that a planned law designed to override portions of the Brexit withdrawal agreement was needed because European Union might 'go to extreme and unreasonable lengths" in its treatment of member Britain.

ed postponements.

The impasse was broken after Johnson sealed a divorce deal with Brussels and used it to win a thumping victory in a December general election which gave his Conservatives an 80-seat majority in the House of Commons. -AFP

Suga secures party vote for Japan PM

de Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's rul-ing party on Monday, vir-tually guaranteeing him parliamentary election as the country's next prime minister. Suga received 377 votes in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party election to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced last month that he would resign due to health problems. The other two contenders received a combined 157 votes — former Foreign minister Fumio Kishida got 89 and former Defence Minister Shigeru

Ishiba had 68. The expected victory in tne party vote by currently the chief Cabinet secretary of Abe's government, all but guarantees his election in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the majority held by the Liberal De-

Suga gained the support of party heavyweights and their wing members early in the campaign on expectations that he would continue Abe policies.

That his victory appeared to be a done deal has raised criticism from inside and outside the party that the process is undemocratic and murky. The closed-door politics also apparently led law-

makers to support Suga in hopes of getting favourable party and Cabinet posts in the new administration. Suga has said his top priorities are fighting the Coronavirus and turning around an economy battered by the pandemic. He is known for his ironfist approach to getting jobs done as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats by using the centralised power of the PM's office.

FOREIGN LABS: NAVALNY WAS POISONED

Berlin, Sept 14: Specialist labs in France and Sweden have confirmed Russian opposition lead-er Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok, the German government said Monday. A German military laboratory previously confirmed the substance in his samples. German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said that the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has also received samples and is taking steps to have those tested at its reference laboratories.

"Independently of the ongoing examinations by the OPCW, three laboratories have now confirmed the proof of a nerve agent of the Novichok group as the cause of Navalny's poisoning, Seibert said.

Israel to renew curbs, daily cases see spurt

US President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event at Xtreme Manufacturing in Henderson, Nevada on

Jerusalem, Sept. 14: Israel said it will reimpose a national lockdown to battle a coronavirus surge, as the number of daily infections around world reached a record high.

Britain, France, Austria London, Sept. 14: The usual standard-of-care vealso reported spikes, as giobai cases rapidly approached 29 million with more than 921,000 Covid-19 deaths, accord-

ing to an AFP tally. The Israel lockdown will last three weeks starting Friday, keeping people to within 500 metres (yards) of their homes. It is the first developed economy to take such drastic steps to contain a second wave of infections. "I know these measures will exact a heavy price from all of us," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

World Health Organization reported 307,930 new cases worldwide on Sunday, the highest daily figure in its database since the beginning of the pandemic.

The surge has sparked concern in Europe, where Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz warned that his country was facing "the beginning of the second wave". The Czech Republic has also faced a surge, with one epidemiologist saying over the weekend that at the current rate, cases could overwhelm hospitals.

New restrictions are set

UK trials antibody cocktail treatment

man trials of a new antibody treatment for patie nts hospitalised with Covid-19. As part of the government-backed Randomised Evaluation of COVid-19 thERapY (RECOVERY) Trials, monoclonal antibodies, or potent laboratory-made antibodies, will be given to about 2,000 patients in the coming weeks to see if they are effective against Coronavirus.

The Phase 3 open-label trial in patients hospitalised with Covid-19 will compare the effects of adding REGN-COV2 to the

and the Czech Republic UK on Monday began hu- rsus standard-of-care on its own. "REGN-COV2 was specifically designed by Regeneron scientists to target the virus that causes Covid-19. RECOVERY will be the fourth late. stage randomised clinical trial evaluating REGN-COV2 and will add to our knowledge about how this novel antibody cocktail may help hospitalised patients in need," said George D. Yancopoulos, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron, the biotech firm collaborating on the project.

England on Monday, with social gatherings limited to no more than six peo-ple. Other parts of the world are still battling their first Coronavirus waves, including some populous nations such as Indonesia, where new restrictions came into effect on Monday — AFP

deaths in Oct, Nov: WHO Copenhagen, Sept. 14: The World Health Organisation expects Europe to see a rise in the daily number of Covid-19 deaths the head of the body's European branch said.

"It's going to get tougher. In October, November, we are going to see more mortality," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said, as the continent currently experiences a surge of cases though the number of deaths has remained relatively stable.

The resurgence is however expected to lead to an increase in daily deaths, the WHO said. "It's a moment where countries don't want to hear this bad news, and I understto come into force across in October and November, and," Kluge said. -AFP

TRUMP DEFIES GOV, HOLDS INDOOR RALLY

Las Vegas, Sept. 14: In open defiance of state regulations and his own administration's pande mic health guidelines, President Donald Trump on Sunday hosted his first indoor rally since June with a packed, mask-less Nevada crowd. Eager to project a sense of normalcy in imagery, Trump soaked up the raucous cheers inside a warehouse. Not since a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was blamed for a surge of Coronavirus infections has he gathered supporters indoors. There was no early mention from the President that the pandemic had killed nearly 200,000 Americans and was clai-

ming 1,000 lives a day. Few in the crowd wore masks, with one clear exception: Those in the stands directly behind Trump, whose images would end up on TV, were mandated to wear face coverings. The rally in Tulsa, his first in three months after the Coronavirus reached American shores, was a disa-ster for the campaign, a debacle that featured a sea of empty seats and a rise in Covid-19 cases.

Afghan government mounts pressure on Taliban for truce

Doha, Sept. 14: The Afghan government ratcheted up pressure for a truce with the Taliban on Monday, reiterating calls for a long-term ceasefire at talks in Qatar.

The two sides are in the early stages of meetings in the capital Doha in an effort to hammer out a deal bringing to a close 19 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan. A slick opening ceremony on Saturday saw the Afghan government and allies, including the US, call for a ceasefire. But the Taliban, who fo-

ught a years-long guerrilla campaign against American and Afghan forces after they were forced

KHALILZAD MEETS PAK ARMY CHIEF. DISCUSSES AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS Islamabad, Sept. 14: US

Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Monday met Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed the Afghan peace process among other issues.

Pakistan military's media wing — the Inter-Services Public Relations said that "matters of mutual interest, regional security, and the ongoing Afghan Reconciliation Process were discussed during the meeting". -PTI

from power in a 2001 USled invasion, did not mention a truce as they came to the negotiating table. Afghan presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi tweeted Monday that the pr-

esence of government negotiators at the talks "is aimed at achieving a ceasefire, ending the violence and ensuring lasting peace and stability in the cou-

FILM | FEST | Mr Jones is set in 1993 during what has come to be known as the Holodomor: to kill by starvation The mendacity of Duranty and the truth of Mr Jones

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14

It's true that history is written by victors. But its first inconvenient draft is written by journalists, by men and women often labelled as liars, insane and anti-national by authoritarian regimes and their toadies.

Despite that, you won't find them screaming on TV screens. You'll find them repeating the truth, calmly, with facts. The acclaimed, 71-year-old Polish writerdirector Agnieszka Holland's English language feature film, *Mr Jones*, tells the story of two foreign journalreth Jones (James Norton), a freelance Welsh journalist, and Pulitzer award winning Walter Duranty (Peter Sarsgaard), who was the New York Times' bureau chief in Moscow.

The film is set in 1993, during what has since come to be known as the Holodomor (to kill by starvation), or the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Jones arrives in a Moscow that is simultaneously welcoming and hostile. He's chasing a suspicion. Russia's claims of a successful revolution, of happy factories and prospering farms don't feel right because

the numbers — of the country's economy, investment don't add up. Duranty dismisses it as a

conspiracy theory against the revolution. Mr Jones is gorgeous to behold and is made with impressive technical prowess. Its scenes are shot and edited beautifully, often adding tension and energy. But the Communist Moscow that it creates is the sort we often see in Hollywood films — shadowy men lurk in dark corners, and all Russians speak English in an accent we have come to identify with duplicity and evil since the first James Bond film.

All the warmth in Ms Holland's film comes from her respect for Jones and the art director's love for Russian interiors — large, plush rooms with red walls, gorgeous carpets and lamps. But, the Russians drink too much and they eat all the time. Except in Ukraine, where Jones' story takes him.

snow covers Ukraine, as if trying to hide how Stalin's policies were leading to the starvation and death of six million people. We stand next to Jones as

he travels through ghost villages, walks into a house where dead bodies lie next to wood sliced into bite-size pieces. He watches all the grain being taken to Moscow and listens to kids sing of hunger and eating their dead. We are ready to throw up when a tiny piece of protein is offered to him. In between, George Orwell and his Animal Farm make brief appearances.

But central in all this is Jones, the first journalist to report about the famine and deaths, and his very public clash with Duranty, who NYT then called "our man in Moscow" though he was

Stalin's own Goebbels. James Norton is a big, gorgeous man with the air of upper class elegance and decency. He brings good boy-piety to the character of the earnest Mr Jones, but carefully saves it from descending into self-righteousness. Jones returns to England to tell the story of famine and deaths, and a government determined to

Duranty debunks it in NYT, painting the famine with govern-ment propaganda. He calls it "widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition".

Jones was killed a year later. He was 29. Duranty died aged 73, in

Florida, in 1957.

Holland's Mr Jones carries an urgent message: Two people may tell the same story differently. But there is only, always, one truth. You'll know you've spotted it when authoritarian regimes, their cohorts and apologists scream, "It's not true.

Hari meets Carlsen

in online chess

Chennai: Indian Grandmaster P. Harikrishna will compete against the likes of world cham-pion Magnus Carlsen and Hikrau Nakamura in an elite field in the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament beginning on Tuesday. The India number No. 2 faces a stiff challenge in the tourna-

With an Elo rating of 2714, he is the second lowest rated player in the field and would be up against Carlsen, who has been near unbeatable in recent times, and the highly-rated American Nakamura. The others in the fray are American Wesley So, Russians Ian Nepomniachtchi and Alexander Grischuk, experi-enced Armenian Levon Aronian, Iran's teen prodigy Alireza Firouzja and Americans Leinier Dominguez and Jeffery Xiong, the lowest rated player in the tournament. The ten players

Defeating Anand was special: Vidit

rapid and 18 blitz games. - PTI

will be competing for a

\$250,000 prize fund in nine

New Delhi: India's chess Olympiad gold-winning team captain Vidit Gujrathi says the

experience of playing against and defeating iconic Viswanathan Anand was the most special moment of his The 25-year-old Gujrathi, who became a Grandmaster in 2013,

beat the five-time world champion Anand in 2019. "It was a really nice feeling to play against a player to whom you look up to. I was in the Indian Top-5 but never got a chance to play against him, so I was thinking that I'm missing out on that experience," the youngster said during the show, In the Sportlight.

Gujarathi had the honour to captain the likes of Anand and the women's Grandmaster Koneru Humpy during India's gold winning campaign in the online Chess Olympiad recently.

— PTI

Hyderabad FC sign Lalawmpuia

Hyderabad: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC on Monday singed long-term deals with attackers Lalawmpuia and Sweden Fernandes ahead of the new season.

Both the 20-year-olds, who were a part of fellow ISL side FC Goa for the last three years, have each penned a three-year deal till the end of the 2022-23

Lalawmpuia, fondly known as Opi, came through the ranks at Pune FC and DSK Shivajians before being promoted to the senior side with the latter. The Mizo striker was signed by FC Goa for their developmental side in 2017, and has since regularly featured in local and national competitions for the Gaurs including the Goa Pro League, Durand Cup and the second Division League. Fernandes, meanwhile, has been involved in Goan youth football. - PTI

Bernal fails in

France, Tadej wins

Culoz, France: Egan Bernal's defence of the Tour de France was reduced to cinders on Sunday as the Colombian suffered a meltdown on the first major mountain of the race, while the overall leader Primoz Roglic denied any suggestions he was doping. With three massive mountains, the stage itself was won by 21-year-old rookie Tadej Pogacar, but the extent of the 2019 champion's astonishing collapse on the final climb is the story of the Tour so far. "I lost three years of my life on that climb, I gave it everything. But I just couldn't keep up,' said Bernal. - AFP

Live on TV

Rome ATP Masters: Matches from 2.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Eastern Conference Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7): Boston Celtics vs Miami Heat from 4 am (Wednesday); NBA Western Conference Semifinals (Game 7, decider): Los Angeles Clippers

Denver Nuggets from 6.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD

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TENACIOUS THIEM

Wrests US Open title after a historic comeback

Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverey in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open on Sunday for his first Grand

The second seeded Austrian beat the fifth seed 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in 4 hours and two minutes in a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

It marked the first time in the US Open's Open era history that a player had recovered from losing the opening two sets to win

Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949 at an event then known as the US Championships and held

in Forest Hills.
It was also the first time the final had been settled by a tie-break.
"I wish we could have

two winners today. I think we both deserved it," said

The title is the 27-year-old Thiem's maiden Grand Slam trophy after three previous defeats in finals of tennis majors.

Thiem was runner-up at the Australian Open earlier this year and also lost in the last-two showdowns at the French Open in 2018 and 2019.

He also becomes the first new Grand Slam champion since Croatian Marin Cilic won at Flushing Meadows in 2014. Thiem is also the first Grand Slam champion other than Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer since Wawrinka won the third of his majors at the 2016

"I achieved a life goal, a dream of myself, which I had for many, many years," the winner added. Zverev, 23, smashed four aces and 16 winners in the first set as he displayed an impressive serve and volley game to take a 1-0 lead in just 30 minutes.

The German was helped by some sloppy serving from Thiem, who hit three double faults as he was broken twice, in games three and seven.

In set two, Zverev wasted three set points while 5-1 up but held on to take a 2-0 lead on his fifth set point.

'he tide was beginning to turn though as Zverev's and soon Thiem found exhausted and limping,

Paris, Sept. 14: Neymar insisted he had been the victim of racism as he

was one of five players

sent off in a mass brawl at

the end of Marseille's 1-0

win over French league

champions Paris Saint-

PSG's Brazilian star

appeared to accuse Alvaro

Gonzalez of calling him a "monkey" in a series of furious tweets after he

was sent off in injury

time for slapping the

Marseille defender on the

"Look at the racism. That's why I hit him,"

Nevmar, who was return-

ing from Coronavirus

quarantine, said as he left

the pitch. Gonzalez later

denied making a racist

is not hitting this idiot in the face," Neymar, the

world's most expensive

Neymar was red-carded

after a VAR review, while teammates Layvin

Kurzawa and Leandro

Paredes were also sent off.

Marseille striker Dario

Benedetto and defender

Jordan Amavi were also

"It's easy for VAR to show my 'aggression'. 'Now I'd like them to show

the image of the racist who called me a 'MON-

KEY SON OF A BITCH'.

Florian Thauvin's close-

range volley on 31 minutes earned Marseille a

first victory over their bit-

ter rivals since November

2011 but the ugly scenes

overshadowed the game at

PSG's last goal came in

the 3-0 win over RB

Leipzig in the Champions

semifinal

I'd really like

Neymar tweeted.

Parc des Princes.

The only regret I have

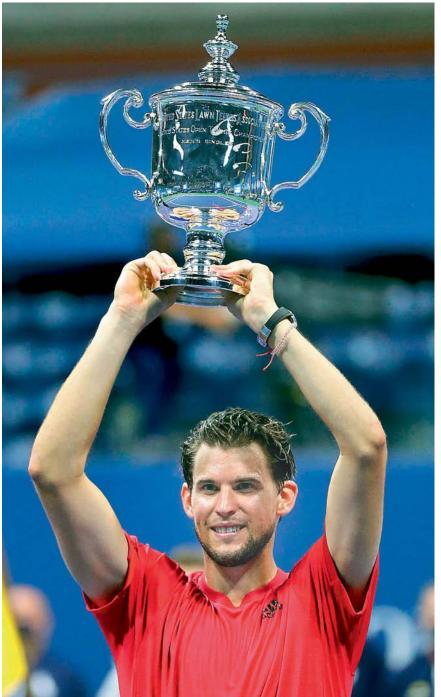
back of the head.

comment.

expelled.

player, tweeted.

Germain on Sunday.



Dominic Thiem of Austria celebrates with US Open championship trophy after defeating Alexander Zverev in the men's singles final at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in the Queens borough of New York City on Sunday. Thiem won 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

play became increasingly cagey as his suspect sec-ond serve got slower and his forehand, another weakness, became more

After Thiem took set four, Zverev found himself serving for the championship at 5-3 in the fifth set. But he could not hold

himself 6-5 ahead. He took a medical timeout before it was his turn to serve for

the championship. However, like Zverev moments earlier, Thiem failed to clinch the match and it went to a tie-break. He found himself 5-3 up after two double faults by zverev but Thien

PSG lose amid racism scuffle LEVERKUSEN

blew two championship points. He won the title and the winner's cheque of \$3 million on his third after Zverev hit a back

hand wide. Thiem collapsed to the ground with his head in his hands before the pair. who are close friends, embraced on the court.

SLAM CHAMP, **SAYS ZVEREV** New York, Sept. 14:

I'LL BE GRAND

Alexander Zverev pledged to bounce back from his disappointing loss in the final of the US Open on Sunday to capture a Grand Slam one day. The 23-year-old German

went two sets and a break up in his first Grand Slam final before losing in five sets to Austria's Dominic

'I was super close to being a Grand Slam champion. I was a few games away, maybe a few points away," a dejected Zverev told reporters. "For me what upset me

the most is not the third set, it's the fifth set. "I had a lot of chances in

the fifth set and didn't use them," he added. The second Thiem beat the fifth seed

Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in 4hr 2min. It was the first time in the US Open's Open era history that a player had recovered from losing the

opening two sets to win

It was also the first time the final had been settled by a tie-break.

Zverev said it hurt to lose in the manner he did. "Obviously being two sets to love and a break up in a Grand Slam final then losing is not easy,"

he told reporters.

Zverev's debut appearance in the last-two of a tennis major came after he reached the semifinals of the Australian Open earlier this year.

'I'm 23 years old. I don't think it's my last chance. I do believe that I will be a Grand Slam champion at some point," Zverev further added.

compared to Thiem's two. But the German also hit 15 double faults, with Thiem hitting eight.

The match was watched by just a few dozen people, mostly officials, journalists and event staff after the Coronavirus pandemic forced the tournament to de neia denina ciose

EINTRACHT 7-0

Leverkusen easily won its

first game without Kai

Havertz, routing fourth-

Norderstedt 7-0 in the

first round of the German

Germany star Havertz

joined Chelsea in the off-

season, but Peter Bosz's

team showed no ill effect

as it raced into a 3-0 lead

after 12 minutes and 6-0 at

for his Leverkusen debut

and missed two good

chances before rounding

off the scoring in the 77th

Nadiem Amiri netted brace while Lars Bender,

Lucan Alario, Florian

Aranguiz also scored a

goal each to get past

Norderstedt was among a host of smaller clubs

that gave up their home

advantage due to the costs

of meeting conditions to restrict the risk of Coronavirus infections.

allowed at Leverkusen.

to 300 fans were

Some 7,500 supporters

cheered third-division

Hansa Rostock against Stuttgart, but couldn't prevent their side losing

Freiburg beat third-divi-

sion Waldhof Mannheim

2-1 after hitting the cross-

bar three times in the

Meanwhile, Hamburg-based St. Pauli was

knocked out by fourth-

tier SV Elversberg 4-2 and Kiel enjoyed a 7-1 rout

Rielasingen-Arlen which

and Charles

the break on Sunday. Patrik Schick came on

minute.

Eintracht.

Eintracht



England fast bowler Chris Woakes (left) celebrates the dismissal of Australia's captain Aaron Finch during the second ODI cricket match at Old Trafford in Manchester,

England hit Oz hard, pull level

Manchester, Sept. 14: Australia batted itself into a winning position before dramatically collapsing as England won the second one-day cricket international by 24 runs to stay

alive in the series.
England's decision to bat first at Old Trafford had appeared to backfire with the world champions limited to 231-9 and Australia reaching 143-2 with 20 overs left on Sunday. Australia was making the

run chase look easy thanks to a 107-run stand for the third wicket between captain Aaron Finch (73) and Marnus Labuschagne (48). But the tourists then collapsed to 147-6, and 166-8, in Manchester before finishing 207 all out in 48.4 overs.

A trio of England pacers did the damage: Chris Woakes (3-32), Jofra Archer (3-34) and Sam Curran 3-35. Ìn what has become an unwanted tour tradition for Australia, Archer again claimed opener David Warner (6).

Morgan said bringing Woakes and Archer back into the attack dramatically swung the game in the home team's favor. Earlier, no England bats-

man reached 50, with Morgan (42) and Joe Root (39) leading the scoring. Both men were dismissed by Adam Zampa. Australia was aiming to

wrap up a series victory after beating England by 19 runs in the first ODI last Friday, also in Manchester.

The series finale is at the same venue on Wednesday, when England will be hoping to avoid its first ODI series defeat at home since 2015. Australian batsman Steve Smith could be in consideration for a recall for the series decider after missing the first two games because of concus-

AUSTRALIA EYE CROWDS

Melbourne, Sept. 14: Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews on Monday said his government is negotiating with Cricket Australia and Tennis Australia to have crowd attendance for the city's iconic sports events — Boxing Day Test involving India and the

There is speculation that MCG may miss out on hosting the Boxing Day Test, an annual highlight on the calendar, since Victoria is reeling under pandemic.
"We just have to work out what a safe crowd would be. It is too hard to say now what that number is,'

Andrews said in a daily news briefing. With Melbourne looking a dicey venue, Adelaide is seen as the front-runner for the Boxing Day Test against India. -PTI



Royal Challengers Bangalore's captain Virat Kohli (right) and AB de Villiers in this file photo.

Kohli, AB look to turn RCB around

New Delhi, Sept. 14: South African veteran AB de Villiers said captain Virat Kohli is "leading from the front" as Royal Bangalore Challengers look to shed their woodenspooners tag in the Indian

Premier League. De Villiers said India skipper Kohli was inspiring much hard work in the

build-up to the IPL's start in the UAE on Saturday. "I think everyone has

on his team's YouTube

"He leads by example, he sets the standards and it is pretty easy to follow when you have a captain leading from the front," he added.

Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai next Monday. Kohli, who took over as captain of the Bangalore team in 2013, has said he

Bangalore begin their

has "never felt so calm" entering an IPL season. "It's a tricky one because we say that (we'll improve) every season. (But) I promise you, 'it's different', that's all I can tell you,"

said de Villiers.

bought into this hardworking environment and a lot of credit should to go Virat for that," De Villiers said in an interview posted

ıl on — *AFP* August 18. Mourinho's first full sea-

PSG and Marseille players scuffle at the end of their French league football match at the Parc de Princes stadium in Paris on Sunday. Marseille won 1-0.

Everton ride on Calvert's goal, tear up Tottenham

London, Sept. 14: son as boss, but the hosts Everton signalled their looked short on ideas as intent for Carlo they slipped to a damag-Ancelotti's first full season in charge as Dominic Calvert-Lewin's towering header earned their first win over Tottenham since 2012 in a 1-0 victory on

Ancelotti has been heavily backed with the signings of James Rodriguez, Abdoulage Doucoure and Allan, and the Toffees looked a much-improved side on the one that finished 12th last season as they were thoroughly deserving winners at the Hotspur Tottenham

Stadium. Spurs are also hoping for an upturn in Jose

they slipped to a damaging home defeat for their aspirations of mounting a challenge to get back into the top four this season.

Everton settled the quicker with their new

midfield trio helping to control possession, but it was on the counter-attack they wasted by far the best chance of the game. Richarlison intercepted Ben Davies's wayward pass and accelerated past Toby Alderweireld and Hugo Lloris before skewing high and wide with an

Calvert-Lewin begging for surrendered Everton meekly to a 1-0 defeat

open goal to aim at and

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in July without mustering a meaningful shot on goal.

BETIS EASE PAST ALAVES

Madrid: It was a thrilling return to the Spanish league for Manuel Pellegrini. And a disappointing one for Unai

Back in the league on after Sunday long Pellegrini's absences, Real Betis won 1-0 at Alaves thanks to a stoppage-time goal from substitute Cristian Tello, while Emery's Villarreal couldn't get more than a 1-1 draw at home against promoted Huesca.

also gave up its right to

play at home.

against