

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 8 SEPTEMBER 2020



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India has traditionally tried to keep Tibetans' activities in the country under wraps to avoid provoking China which has been hypersensitive on the Tibet issue. The question being asked is if the latest India-China stand-off has led a change in India's Tibet policy.

IN BRIEF



4 held trying to sell antique statue

Mancherial: Mancherial task force police arrested four persons and seized an ancient statue of lord Buddha, weighing 6kg from the accused at Cheenur bus stand on Monday. Police said that the value of the statue is ₹30 lakh in the market.

INSULTED MAN ENDS LIFE BY SUICIDE

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, SEPT. 7

A 26-year-old man committed suicide after he was insulted by the sarpanch in Kusumabai thanda under Raghunathpally mandal. Villagers said the deceased Guguloth Ellesh questioned sarpanch Dharavath Ramesh regarding the absence of street-lights and sanitation in the village.

This resulted in a heated argument between the two and the infuriated Ramesh hit Ellesh with his slippers. Feeling insulted, Ellesh went home and attempted suicide. He died on the way to a hospital.

Holding the sarpanch responsible for the death of Ellesh, villagers in large numbers went to Raghunathpally police station and demanded action against him. Ramesh later gave 10 guntas land to the family of Ellesh as compensation.

STATE TO AUTOMATE MUTATION

From Page 1

He added that the government is considering automating the mutation process too following the abolition of VRO system.

The TRS government had launched the Land Revenue Management System through which a massive exercise of digitising the land records like pattadar passbook and the crucial Record of Rights (pahani) was taken up a few years ago. Records of a major extent of land were upgraded following the due process of calling for objections. Records of lands in dispute could not be taken up.

The stamps and registration department on the other hand digitised its records long ago and the data is made available to the SROs through online. For instance, in the Hyderabad district registrar office, records since 1860 are available. “Karnataka is at the forefront of integrating both revenue and registration data and maintaining even sub division of the properties,” one official said adding that AP initiated online mutation a few years ago but discontinued it.

SUSPEND NEW LRS, DEMANDS KONDANDARAM

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, SEPT. 7

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president Prof. M. Kondandaram on Monday demanded that the state government suspend the new Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) and redesign it in a way that it does not burden the people. He said that apart from land regularisation, steps need to be taken for flood-water and drainwater movement. “We demand that the state take up development works on priority, he said.

“We believe the scheme will only help in taking away the land from the poor and middle class people. After the state cancelled the permits and registration, they are faced with the burden of regularising it at a high price. Unable to pay the fees, many may lose their lands.

In the current form the land regularisation is not people friendly. Even if people want to pay for regularisation they do not have the money.

REVENUE WING MAY GET MORE POWERS UNDER NEW REGIME

From Page 1

The late N.T. Rama Rao abolished the Patel/Patwari system (referred to as Karanam/ Munasabu system in undivided Andhra Pradesh) with a stroke of pen and introduced a new model of administration, through mandal parishads and village revenue offices.

The move had a greater impact in Telangana and changed social and political dynamics in this region, then a part of undivided Andhra pradesh. As a consequence, the Telugu Desam became a strong political force in region till it was uprooted after the bifurcation of the state.

“The VRO system which replaced the Patel / Patwari system managed to retain the basic structure of maintaining land records and gradually ensured status quo was restored and rendered the entire revolution to a mere change of nomenclature,” a senior revenue official said.

As Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has often fumed and fretted against the revenue administration and on a few occasions threatened to abolish the department completely. But going by indications, KCR changed his mind and gave more teeth to the department, though he decided to abolish posts of VROs. It could be learnt that revenue officials above the level of Tahasildar will become even more powerful in determining land ownership in the new system.

■ **NTR’S MOVE** had a greater impact in Telangana and changed social and political dynamics in this region, then a part of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

VROs HAND OVER 60% OF LAND RECORDS BY DEADLINE

From Page 1

The process was to be completed by 3 pm and the Chief Secretary asked collectors to send a compliance report to the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) by 5.30 pm.

Until further orders, the records will be maintained at mandal level under the personal custody of the Tahsildars.

Meanwhile sources in the government disclosed that around 60 per cent of revenue records were handed over to tahsildars by the VROs by the evening and the remaining will be completed late in the night.

Earlier, people who visited sub-registrar offices across the state for land registrations were shocked by the decision and staged protests saying it was taken without giving prior notice.

Registration of will deeds, administration of marriages and franking services will continue.

WITNESS | ACCOUNT

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 7

“It was like there was a flood when everyone picks up what they can and evacuates to escape the waters. There were people emptying almirahs, there were people packing up file folders. The only thing that was being said was orders have been received to send every piece of paper that is a land record to the office of the district collector.”

This was the scene at the Pudur mandal revenue office on Monday, according to a farmer who was there to check about registration of a piece of land



VROs hand over files to tahsildar N.Venkata Reddy on the last day of duty in Karimnagar on Monday.

— DC

Tahsildars to register farm land in new Act

Issues with landowner data may remain after changes

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 7

The government will introduce the New Revenue Act by abolishing the posts of village revenue officers and village revenue assistants, which Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has said was a revolutionary move and the panacea for the increasing corruption in the revenue department.

Indications were given that the Bill envisaged changes in the process of registering properties and maintaining land records apart from renaming the posts of revenue officials from tahsildar to district collectors, which are more of a cosmetic nature.

Official sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the major change would be to make tahsildars the registering authority for agriculture lands. “It is quite

shocking. The move could be counter-productive both on administrative and ethical grounds,” a senior official said, pointing to the increasing incidence of corruption by revenue officials of the rank of tahsildar and above.

On the administrative count, tahsildars are burdened with several duties. Vested with magisterial powers, tahsildars move out of office frequently and may not have the time to attend to the additional duty of registering properties.

Instead, the government can follow the Karnataka model wherein the “Bhoomi” and “Kaveri”, the revenue and registration data, are linked to ensure hassle-free mutation, a process conferring the ownership of land to the purchaser, said a legal expert involved in the process of the New

■ **TAHSILDARS** ARE already burdened with several duties. Vested with magisterial powers, tahsildars move out of office frequently and may not have the time to attend to the additional duty of registering properties.

Revenue Act.

The CM had gone back on his announcement of conducting a fresh survey of land across the state, fearing backlash before the 2018 Assembly elections. “Fresh survey of lands and upgrading the existing Land Records Management System accordingly is the best solution,” an official said.

The government has to address issues relating to lands in dispute and cases where the mutation is either kept on hold or the

records in LRMS are not upgraded incorporating the names of new owners.

“In some cases, names of previous owners are reflecting in the revenue records. To avoid the previous owners from registering the property afresh, the software available with tahsildars should also read the Encumbrance Certificate,” one official pointed out.

Problems pertaining to sub division of land and excess land in records against the physical availability will remain the same without comprehensive survey, he added. “Noppokataithe mandokati” goes a famous adage in Telangana state to illustrate that a particular solution provided to address a problem is ineffective, just as the proposed changes mooted by Rao in the revenue administration in villages could turn out to be.

BJP claims changes will help ‘doralu’, Cong for deep study

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 7

Opposition parties have slammed the state government’s move to abolish the village revenue officers (VRO) system by bringing the new Revenue Act.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar termed the move ridiculous and meaningless. He alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had earlier transferred lands to doralu (landlords) and patels in the name of comprehensive survey of land records. Now, the CM is again attempting to benefit these sections by abolishing VROs, who are the base and lifeline of the revenue system.

He alleged that the decades-old revenue system has become highly defamed, derailed and corrupted only during the Chandrashekar Rao

■ **THE STATE BJP** chief said the revenue system had derailed and become corrupted during the KCR regime.

■ **CONGRESS MLA D. Sridhar Babu** said without reforming the VROs system, replacing it with another is meaningless.

regime.

The state BJP chief said reasons for declaring a holiday for land registrations was best known to the Chief Minister. He went on to allege that the state government had introduced the Land Regularisation Scheme only to ensure that valuable lands are grabbed by TRS and family members of the Chief Minister.

Congress MLA D. Sridhar Babu said that

without taking measures to reform or rectify flaws in the VROs system, replacing it with another is meaningless. Stating that bringing in new Acts is not a solution for rectifying lacunae in the system, he said that faults can be set right only through dialogue and deliberations between all parties.

Sridhar Babu asked why the Chief Minister had not constituted a committee with efficient officers to study and recommend reforms in the revenue system.

CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy accused the Chief Minister of taking a unilateral decision on abolishing the VRO system. He said such unilateral decisions of the CM are undermining aspirations of various sections of poor in the state.

Meanwhile, Telangana

Welfare Association has expressed concern at abolition of the VRO system by state government. Office bearers of the association said they are not against the act of the state government. But blaming VROs as corrupt to abolish the system has paining them a lot. They wanted the state government to ensure that their service conditions and benefits are maintained while merging them with other departments.

V. Ravinder Reddy and Goutham Kumar, president and general secretary of Telangana Revenue Officers Associations, welcomed the decision of the state government to abolish the posts of VROs. They, however, urged the state government to protect the service conditions of VROs while adjusting them in other departments.

AROUND THE STATE

People say VROs demand money

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, SEPT. 7

The people of Khammam district, particularly farmers, are were most happy over abolition of the village revenue officer (VRO) system and wanted it replaced with a foolproof system which is simple, flexible and accessible. Further, they said revenue services should be available in villages and not faraway places.

The worst phase of VRO system came when the government commenced purification of land records followed by the sada binama (blank paper agreements). The two programmes made hundreds of VROs crorepatas while landowners faced hardships at their hands.

Farmers of many villages realised that their land records had been tampered with by the VROs. There were scores of instances when farmers went to the collector’s office with petrol bottles, threatening to end their lives for their pattadar passbooks.

Neeluri Bhadrachari, a farmer of Mandalapalli in Dammamet mandal, said, “VROs are villains for farmers who demand

money for every work. The abolition of the VRO system is good. The government should bring in a comprehensive system in lieu of it. Revenue services should be available in villages itself,” he said.

There have been instances of some VROs running parallel offices from private places and collecting money for mutation of records, land conversion and issuing of pattadar passbooks. Mandals like Kusumanchi, Tirumal-ayapalem, Julurupad, Kayur, Bonakal, Chintakani, Khammam Rural, Nelakondapalli, Mulakalapalli, Pinapaka and Dummugudem in Bhadradi and Kothagudem districts witnessed many controversial cases. VROs showed even forest lands as revenue lands in Enkoor and Julurupad mandals.

Nearly 65 VROs were suspended or arrested by ACB sleuths during the last five years. No VRO seemed afraid of ACB or higher officials. Following the abolition of the VRO system, all VROs handed over their land records to mandal tahsildars.

UNCERTAINTY: VROs ASK FOR JOB SECURITY

PULI SHARATH KUMAR DC KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 7

Around 60 per cent of revenue records were handed over to the collectorate following orders to village revenue officers (VROs) to submit their records in Karimnagar district.

District additional collector Shyam Prasad Lal informed that after receiving the orders from the government, records were collected from VROs without any untoward incidents or opposition from the revenue staff present in the district.

All VROs and VRAs submitted records as per directions given to them at the office of collector. Around 60 per cent of the records were collected by afternoon and the process is on to collect the remaining revenue records, he said.

Some VROs and VRAs expressed dissatisfaction with the decision to introduce the new revenue Bill. They expressed worries over their future and said that it will be difficult for them to go to other departments. They asked the government for job security.

CHAOS AS REGISTRY WORKS ARE HALTED

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 7

People were shocked following the stopping of registrations of property documents from Tuesday in the backdrop of the proposed new Revenue Act.

There are 10 sub-registrar offices in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts. On an average, around 500 documents are registered each day in these offices generating around ₹50 lakh revenue. The district registrar post has been vacant in the undivided Nizamabad district and sub registrar (audit) in Hyderabad Damodar Rao was posted as in-charge district registrar. Recently, he was promoted as district registrar but he not taken charge. He is retaining the sub-registrar post in Hyderabad.

Of the 10 sub-registrar offices, only Nizamabad, Bheemgal and Kamareddy

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, SEPT. 7

Many people of Adilabad who wanted to register their lands, plots, and houses on Monday got disappointed when officials of the sub-registrar office told them that registrations could not be done as their server was down.

Though people waited till late evening hoping the server will get restored, they had to return home without completing their tasks. It is learnt the even revenue stamps were not sold at the Sub-Registrar Office.

Meanwhile, village revenue officers (VROs) have submitted all records pertaining to lands in their respective gram panchayat, apart from information related to Shadi Mubarak, Kalyana Laxmi and other schemes, to their respective tahsildars, as directed by the state government.

The tahsildars, in turn, will hand over their documents to their respective collectors. The handover of records is part of the process of implementing the New Revenue Act.

offices have regular officers. In Domakonda, Yellareddy, Bichkunda, Banswada, Bodhan, Nizamabad rural, Balkonda offices, senior assistants are working as in-charge sub-registrars. However, regular technical problems are affecting registration of documents. In these circumstances, stoppage of registrations would affect people.

Real estate association representatives protested against the state government’s decision to stop registrations.

They submitted a memorandum to the district registrar here on Monday. When contacted, Nizamabad sub-registrar T. Anand said that registrations for marriage documents and will deeds will continue.

“We will not take up registration of property documents until we get orders from higher-ups”, he said

ACB nabs two for taking bribe

Karimnagar: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials raided the Drugs Control administration office at Huzurabad in Karimnagar district on Monday. They caught two staff accepting bribe of ₹20,500. One Dasi Ravinder, resident of Huzurabad town applied for a license to open a medical shop in the town. To issue a certificate the junior assistant, Peddi Vinayak Reddy along

with office subordinate Mohammad Rizwan demanded a bribe ₹20,500. Ravinder approached the ACB official and complained. The officials caught Vinayak accepting the bribe from Ravinder. Mohammad Rizwan who took ₹500 was also held. A case was registered and the officials appealed to the people to dial 1064 if any official or staff of any department demanded bribe.

OTHER STORIES

DIGITAL CAMPAIGN TO GET BHARAT RATNA FOR PV

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 7

The TRS NRI cell coordinator, PV Centenary celebrations committee member Mahesh Bigala said that Indians across the globe are seeking the Bharat Ratna for former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao.

They are participating in the online campaign, urging the Central government to accord highest civilian honor to the PV, he said.

Mr Mahesh said that the TRS NRI cell is planning to install statues of the former prime minister in various countries. Mr Mahesh said that around 1 lakh digital signatures in support of Bharat Ratna for the former prime minister is expected.

2 MAOISTS KILLED IN PUSUGUBBA, SAYS SP

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 7

Bhadradri district superintendent of police Sunil Dutt said that two Maoists were killed in an encounter at the Pusugubba forests in Charla mandal at 3 pm on Monday.

Sunil Dutt said that a special party police was conducting a combing operation in the area after receiving information that Maoists were targeting government property.

The special party police noticed a Maoist dalam in the forest and asked them to surrender.

Instead, Sunil Dutt said, the dalam members opened fire at the police. The resultant exchange of fire lasted for 20 minutes.

He said that after the firing ended, the police while searching the area found two unidentified bodies.

The police recovered a SBBL (single barrel breach loading) rifle, a pistol and two kit bags from the place. The SP said that search was no at the site and surrounding areas.

Vitamin A helps combat Coronavirus: Scientist

The nutrient improves the immune system, keeps skin healthy

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 7

Doctors who advise and treat Covid-19 patients have been ignoring the importance of Vitamin A, which helps repair lung membranes and boost one's immunity levels to significant levels.

According to CLN Murthy, a retired scientist from CSIR-IICT, Vitamin A will help in fighting Coronavirus as it can improve immunity. He said that one of the first vitamins to be discovered, this nutrient improves eyesight, keeps skin healthy and the immune system robust. All these can be achieved with an extra dose of vitamin A.

Lower doses of vitamin A (25000 IU a day) can be used to treat a range of skin conditions, including acne, dry skin, eczema,



CLN Murthy, a retired scientist from CSIR-IICT

rosacea and psoriasis. It also heals skin wounds, cuts, scrapes and burns and brings about an early recovery from sprains. Women with heavy or prolonged menstrual periods are sometimes deficient in this vitamin. So supplements may be of value.

Murthy said that Vitamin A maintains the skin and cells that line the respiratory and gastroin-

● **VITAMIN A** greatly strengthens resistance to infections, including sore throat, colds, flu and bronchitis.

● **It can combat breast and lung cancers and improve survival rates in those with leukaemia.**

testinal tracts and are vital for normal reproduction, growth and development. It helps treat inflammatory bowel disease and ulcers. In addition, it is crucial for the immune system and forms an important line of defence against disease.

"By boosting immunity, vitamin A greatly strengthens resistance to infections, including sore

throat, colds, flu and bronchitis. It can combat breast and lung cancers and improve survival rates in those with leukaemia. Another benefit for cancer patients is that vitamin A may enhance the effectiveness of chemotherapy", he said adding that it can be used by those who have had a stroke. Vitamin A has proved effective in repairing lung membrane and reducing asthma attacks.

He said that a Brazilian study found that vitamin A may combat chronic lung diseases. Vitamin A is plentiful in fish (particularly fish liver), egg yolks, butter and organ meats such as liver (85 gms. provides more than 9000IU). Dark green, yellow, orange and red fruits and vegetables have large amounts of beta-carotene and many other carotenoids.

Bird hunters attack forest range office

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIRMAL, SEPT. 7

Woman members of a family of traditional bird hunters who are popularly known as 'Pittalollu' attacked Khanapur forest range office alleging that forest officials has bashed up one of their kin, Putta Kishan, who reportedly fell unconscious, on charges of poaching of the forest animals in Nirmal district on Monday.

Family members of Kishan ransacked the office and pelted stones at the window panes on knowing that Kishan had fallen unconscious while con-

ducting an inquiry in the office and shifted to a government hospital.

Kishan is a native of Lingapur village in Kadam mandal in Nirmal district. His family alleged that forest officials took him into their custody and were conducting an inquiry for the last four days.

While forest officials say that Kishan was a poacher and killed forest animals by erecting live electric wires in the forests. It is learnt that forest officials released a video showing live electric wires erected allegedly by Kishan.

GET READY TO HOLD EAMCET, NEET: COLLECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 7

District collector K. Shashanka chaired a review meeting with officials of various departments in Karimnagar on Monday. Officials were asked to make arrangements for conducting the Engineering, Agriculture and Medical Common Entrance Test (Eamcet) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Neet) exams.

The Eamcet examination will be held on September 9, 10, 11, 14, 28 and 29 while the Neet exam will be held on September 13 in the district.

As many as 5,408 students will be taking the Eamcet exams. The Eamcet S-I examination will be held from 9 am to 12 pm and Eamcet S-II will be held from 3 pm to 6 pm. Students have to arrive two hours ahead of the exams at the centre.

Students have been asked to follow the Covid-19 guidelines including wearing face masks and sanitising their hands before appearing for the examination.

The collector ordered officials to set up a medical camp at all the examination centres and deploy one superintendent, a doctor, two Asha workers along with providing ORS packets and drinking water facilities.

Officials of the electricity department have been told to supply uninterrupted power during the examination timings. The RTC was asked to make available bus facilities as per the convenience of the students appearing for the exams.

District Revenue Officer Venkat Madhava Rao, district panchayat raj officer Buchhaiah, RTC regional manager, Jeevan Prasad and others attended the meeting.

No registration of property from today

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 7

The government's surprise move of halting all registrations including vacant plots, farm lands has got people worried, especially those who want to register their property sold to others.

According to one estimate, about 4,300 such sale documents were ready for registration.

Rumours are that the government may transfer the powers of registration of properties including farm lands to the tehsildars as it will be easy for the tehsildars to check the land records with ease. The government had already stopped the registration of house plots that were not regularised.

Nearly 100 to 120 registrations are done daily in the Khammam town registrar offices after lockdown.

However, from September 8 no registrations will be done. However, if the registration ban continues, not

only the government but the sellers will be affected too. People who have entered into sale agreements of their properties are worried as the time to register the sale deed is running out.

There is also a question mark on the role of the document writers. N. Siva Kumar, a document writer said, "The new registration system should be more transparent and easy so that people can register their properties with ease."

Like the VRO system, there are number of malpractices in the registrar offices. Every document writer is a consultant between the staff of the registrar office and the buyers who want to register their property.

C. Prabhakar, an advocate said that the government should check twice while introducing new systems.

"Not only the people but the state will also suffer if there is a lacunae in the new system placed in lieu of old one," he said.

TRS leaders to be blamed for graft in revenue dept: TJS chief

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, SEPT. 7

Calling it unfair to blame only the Village Revenue Officers (VRO) for corruption in the department, TJS chief Prof M. Kodandaram said that unwanted political involvement needs to be avoided as part of cleansing the revenue department.

"After the TRS came to power, irregularities in the department are going unabated. Records are being changed as per the convenience of the TRS leaders by pressurising the revenue employees.

● **AFTER THE TRS** came to power, irregularities in the department are going unabated. Records are being changed as per the convenience of the TRS leaders by pressurising the revenue employees.


Political involvement in the biggest reason for irregularities in the department," he said.

Mr Kodandaram added that the state must solve the issue of people who hold pattadar pass books,

but the land is recorded under another persons' name. At the same time, the rights of the people must be upheld.

"There are some people who are cultivating on government lands. Some purchased them through sadabainama. There are tenant farmers who are demanding that the government schemes be applied. The state must work to protect their rights," he said.

The TJS chief also suggested the state government to put up important government decisions for discussion before implementing them without thought.




DO YOU OWN A PLOT IN UNAUTHORIZED LAYOUT?

LAST & FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO REGULARIZE

GREAT CHANCE TO REGULARIZE ALL UNAPPROVED LAYOUTS

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



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

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

All existing unapproved sub-division of plots, existing unapproved layouts or ventures where

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

EASY TO APPLY:

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

The applicants can file online application in a simple way through:

- * Common web portal
- * Mee-Seva Center
- * A smart phone based mobile app as developed for this purpose

PROHIBITORY CATEGORY:

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

LAST DATE FOR REGULARIZATION:

OCTOBER 15, 2020

APPLICATION FEES PAYABLE:

FOR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS:

RS.1,000/-

ALONG WITH APPLICATION

FOR LAYOUT DEVELOPERS:

RS.10,000/-

IF APPLIED FOR THE ENTIRE LAYOUT

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

Details of the Scheme & Regularization Charges are available at:

<http://lrs.telangana.gov.in/>

Helpline Numbers:

For Clarifications call between 10 AM and 6 PM

1. For Plots in HMDA: 1800 - 4258838

2. For Plots in GHMC: 040 -2111 1111

e-mail: support-lrs@telangana.gov.in

Information to be furnished while applying:

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

Documents to be uploaded:

For Individual Plots:

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

For Entire Layout Regularization:

a. Scanned copies of the Layout & Ownership documents

b. Scanned copies of the Sale Deeds/ECs of the Plot sold

Plot/Layout Details:

a. If Plot:

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

b. If Layout:


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

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

Download LRS 2020 Mobile App from

GET IT ON Google Play

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs_2020



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

Utilize this last & final opportunity - Get your plot regularized

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

SHORT TAKES

RHEA FILES
PLAINT AGAINST
SSR'S SISTER

Mumbai, Sept. 7: Actress Rhea Chakraborty, who is accused of abetting the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has filed a complaint with Mumbai Police, accusing Rajput's sister Priyanka Singh and a Delhi-based doctor of forgery and preparing a "fake" prescription of medicines for anxiety.

In her complaint sent to the Bandra police here on Sunday, Chakraborty sought that Priyanka Singh and Dr Tarun Kumar, working with Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi, be booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for forgery, the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Telemedicine Practice Guidelines.

The 28-year-old actress in her complaint said Rajput was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was undergoing treatment for various other mental health issues.

However, Rajput was not disciplined in following the treatment and would often abruptly stop his medications, she further said in the complaint.

"On June 8, 2020, Rajput showed me the messages he and his sister Priyanka had exchanged in which Priyanka sent him a list of medicines to take. I explained to Rajput that he has already been prescribed medicines by doctors who are treating him," Chakraborty said in her complaint.

"He (Rajput), however, disagreed with me and insisted that he would only take the medicine his sister was prescribing," she said.

On the same day, Rajput asked Chakraborty to leave the house as his sister Meetu Singh was coming to stay with him for a few days, according to the complaint.

INDIA ENTERS
INTO HYPERSONIC
REGIME

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 7

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday demonstrated its hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) at 11. 03 am from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.

With this successful demonstration, the country enters into the hypersonic regime paving way for advanced hypersonic vehicles.

The hypersonic cruise vehicle was launched using a proven solid rocket motor, which took it to an altitude of 30 km, where the aerodynamic heat shields were separated at hypersonic Mach number.

"The cruise vehicle separated from the launch vehicle and the air intake opened as planned. The hypersonic combustion sustained and the cruise vehicle continued on its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound i.e., nearly 02 km/second for more than 20 seconds. The critical events like fuel injection and auto ignition of scramjet demonstrated technological maturity. The scramjet engine performed in a text book manner," DRDO said.

C'GARH OPPOSES
NATIONAL DIGITAL
HEALTH MISSION

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, SEPT. 7

Chhattisgarh health minister T.S. Singhdeo on Monday expressed strong reservation about Centre's National Digital Health Mission, fearing that the policy may be used as a tool for surveillance on citizens by an 'authoritarian state'.

In a letter to Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, Singhdeo cautioned that the policy can be 'misused by an authoritarian state for surveillance purposes' and also can be misused to manipulate the sensitive personal information for the purpose of 'overt coercion'.

The National Digital Health Mission, draft policy of which was announced by National Health Authority functioning under Union health ministry on August 26, seeks to digitize the personal health records of citizens of India by developing a digital health ID, using Aadhaar, the 12-digit unique identification number linked to a person's biometric details.



Army soldiers carry the mortal remains of martyr Nyima Tenzin who laid down his life in a face-off with China on Aug 30, during his funeral in Leh on Monday.

For high altitude warfare,
ponies, mules are crucial

Equines can walk non-stop for 30 kms and carry loads upto 150 kg

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD SEPT. 7

Tough, intelligent and naturally cautious, they have braved bullets, air strikes, harsh weather and proved their mettle by serving in some of the most treacherous tracks and ridgelines in high altitudes across the world. From World War II to the operations in Jammu and Kashmir during 1947-48, the wars of 1962, 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war in 1999, they have played a key role in mountain warfare, delivering last-mile logistics to soldiers along the LoC and LAC.

As massive deployment of forces is underway across the LAC from Ladakh to Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh following the stand-off between the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army of China, the humble mules and ponies are back in action. Known for endurance and showing more patience under the pressure of heavy weights, these animals work alongside the soldiers, transporting mortars, guns and ammunition and other essentials needed to keep the soldier fighting fit.

Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that though the use of equines in mountain warfare has been minimal over the years except at a few places in the Kashmir Valley, where they are used to transport weapons and essentials for the Army, the stand-off with China and the massive deployment and men and material across the LAC has led the forces to rely heavily on the equines, which are best suited for the mountains. Even the special forces of the US and NATO have used the animals in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan.

Though helicopters and all-terrain vehicles have replaced animals over the years, ponies and mules are indispensable when it comes to high-altitude warfare. Army and ITBP personnel, who are being deployed in large numbers along the LAC in different states, rely heavily on them.

"Animals have always been an integral part of



EQUINES & THE ARMY

- During World War II, British ships were modified especially to carry a total of 4,179 mules from the US to India for use by British and Indian troops operating in Burma
- Equines are called by their hoof numbers
- The Indian Army has recognised the contribution of the equines
- PLA also uses equines and Yaks, which have huge lungs which are perfect for high altitude
- Ponies are many breeds like the Zanskar ponies of Ladakh, Manipuri ponies, Spiti ponies and Bhutia ponies
- Mules and ponies are used to transport mortars, grenades, guns, ammo, kerosene and food among other material.

the Army's logistics and there cannot be a substitute to it. High altitude regions experience hostile weather, heavy snow and rainfall in winters besides low visibility. In some areas along the LAC, there is thick vegetation and these conditions restrict the movement of helicopters which disrupts surveillance. These animals have been loyal to us at all our frontiers," sources said, adding that it is essential not to waste manpower during war time.

The PLA uses mules, ponies and even yaks, which not only transport material but also provide warmth when soldiers sleep next to the animals. The animals were used for evacuating the injured besides carrying artillery

guns. The Pakistan Army uses mules on its borders.

The equines, which have natural resistance to diseases and insects, can walk non-stop for 25 to 30 km and carry loads between 75 and 150 kg.

Just before the Kargil war, there was a proposal to disband the animal transport units that function under the Army Service Corps but it was shelved. The Remount and Veterinary Corps later established the Zanskar pony breeding and training centre in Ladakh, which is the highest stud farm in the world. This unit is currently providing strong and hardy Zanskari ponies for use by the Army in high altitude for its adaptability to extreme climatic conditions.

Efforts on to
secure release of 5
abducted youths

MANOJ ANAND | DC
with agency inputs
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 7

The Indian Army has begun efforts to secure the release of five villagers from Arunachal Pradesh who were reportedly abducted by the People's Liberation Army of China from Sera-7 area below the McMahon Line in Upper Subansiri in Arunachal Pradesh.

Disclosing that the Indian Army has made contact at the commander level and sent a hotline message to its counterpart in Eastern frontier of Arunachal Pradesh, sources said that local villagers have been assured that no stone will be left unturned to secure their release.

But reports quoting state-run *Global Times* quoted Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian as saying, "China's position on the eastern section of the China and India boundary and China's southern Tibet is consistent and clear. We have never recognised the so-called Arunachal Pradesh illegally established on the Chinese territory."

He also refuses to give details on five civilians who were abducted by the Chinese Army from Arunachal Pradesh.

"We have no details to release yet about the question on Indian army sending a message to PLA about five missing Indians in the region," he said.

The five youth, who have been missing since September 3, were part of a group of porters who carried supplies for the Army through an area without a motor-able road or mobile connectivity.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju had on Sunday announced that the Indian

● THE FIVE youths, who have been missing since September 3, were part of a group of porters who carried supplies for the Army through an area without a motor-able road or mobile connectivity. Parents of the abducted youths have expressed confidence in the Army.

● THE INDIAN Army has already sent a hotline message to the counterpart PLA establishment at the border point in Arunachal Pradesh. Response is awaited

KIREN RIJIJU,
Union minister

Army has sent a hotline message to the Chinese Army and a response was awaited.

"The Indian Army has already sent a hotline message to the counterpart PLA establishment at the border point in Arunachal Pradesh. Response is awaited," said Mr Rijiju. Kento Dangen, the deputy commissioner of Upper Subansiri district, told this newspaper that they dispatched a police team from the headquarters town of Daporijo to Nacho, about 120 km north, for an investigation but it will take some time for them to reach the frontier villages.

Parents of the abducted youth have expressed confidence in the Indian Army.

"We have very strong bonding with our Indian Army. They are always there to help us in our challenging days. We have been assured by local Army officers that they are trying to rescue the youths," a villager said.

Fact-checker
draws support
after police case

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7

Days after two FIRs were registered against fact checking website AltNews co-founder Mohammad Zubair in Delhi and Raipur for alleged online harassment of a minor girl, "#IStandWithZubair" was trending on Twitter on Monday.

Meanwhile, Pratik Sinha, another co-founder of AltNews, shared some screenshots of obscene and salacious posts made by JSINGH2252 on his Twitter handle.

He wrote, "It must be noted that NCPCR commission headed by @KanoongoPriyank has acted against @zoo_bear on the basis of a bogus complaint by @JSINGH2252. Who is this @JSINGH2252? Here's a preview into the vulgar mindset of this person. Is the establishment a voice for such people now?"

Later, on Monday, the National Commission for Women taking account of the post made by Mr Sinha filed a complaint with the cybercrime cell and also asked Twitter to take action against Twitter user JSINGH2252.

"NCWIndia has come across this post enclosing offensive tweets by @JSINGH2252 which has posted pictures of women with misogynistic comments. Our chairperson @sharmarekha has written to @TwitterIndia for deleting the account & to stop transmission of such content at the earliest," NCW tweeted.

Mr Sinha, in a statement on Twitter, stood by his colleague and alleged that the FIRs were an

attempt to hound Mr Zubair through the misuse of legal apparatus.

"An attempt is being made to hound co-founder of AltNews Mohammed Zubair (@zoo_bear) through misuse of legal apparatus.

AltNews stands by Mohammed Zubair. Zubair has been in the forefront of fighting fake narratives and his work hurts those who have weaponised misinformation to subvert the Indian democracy," Sinha said on Twitter.

Earlier, on August 6, Mr Zubair responded to an abusive message from Twitter user Jagdish Singh, who uses the handle @JSINGH2252.

He posted Mr Singh's display picture, which features a little girl who is perhaps his granddaughter. Mr Zubair blurred her face in the image posted.

"Hello Jagdish Singh. Does your cute granddaughter know about your part time job of abusing people on social media? I suggest you to change your profile pic," he wrote.

On August 8, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights took note of the matter.

The commission had acted on a complaint filed by the Forum for Indigenous Rights-Northeast India.

The commission wrote to the Delhi deputy commissioner of police and the nodal cyber cell officer, seeking action against Mr Zubair for "stalking of a minor girl on Twitter."

Mr Zubair called the complaint "absolutely frivolous." "I will be responding to it legally," he said.

There's no need
to use lantern:
Nitish Kumar

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, SEPT. 7

While addressing his party's election campaign through a virtual rally, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar accused the opposition of spreading lies and misleading people about the policies of the state government.

During the event, he asked his party leaders and workers to reach out to voters and explain them the difference between the 15 years of Jungle raj during Lalu-Rabri regime and the "good governance" during his tenure after 2005.

While referring to the latest NCRB data to claim that law and order scenario has improved in the state after his government came to power, he said that the state's ranking is 23rd in crime, 29th in crime against women, 33rd in rapes, 23rd in kidnapping and 11th in murders.

"What was the situation of law and order when they were in power? There used to be no fear of law and criminals used to roam around freely. But now the situation has changed and people go out with their family even

in the night without any fear", the Chief Minister said.

He also used the occasion to highlight the achievements of his government. He said that number of steps were taken to improve the situation in the state.

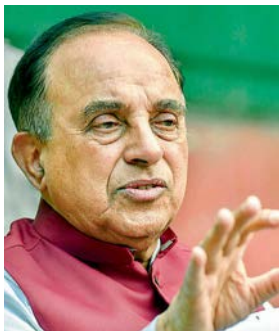
While taking a dig at the RJD he said, "there is no need to use lantern (RJD's party symbol) as electricity has reached every household in the state. Besides, the road network has also improved".

He further added that his government identified 65 panchayats and carried out a special drive in villages where Naxalism was at its peak during Lalu-Rabri regime.

"The situation improved in villages and there has been no incident of Naxal violence in the state".

According to political experts the NDA which is battling the anti-incumbency wave in the state hopes to return to power by highlighting the failures of the RJD government between 1990 and 2005.

Assembly elections for 243 seats in Bihar are scheduled in November.



Subramanian Swamy

TWITTER | WAR

Senior leader accuses BJP's IT cell of 'putting out fake ID tweets to make personal attacks

Now, Swamy wants Malviya sacked as BJP IT cell head

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7

Known for taking Bharatiya Janata Party's opponents head on in the social media and sometimes ending up getting entangled in political controversies, BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya faced a bizarre situation on Monday when the party's own Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy demanded that he be

sacked.

Accusing the BJP's IT cell for being "gone rogue" and "putting out fake ID tweets to make personal attacks" on him, Dr Swamy tried to keep the party leadership out from personal attacks against him by stating that he cannot be held responsible if his "angered followers make counter personal attacks just as the BJP cannot be held responsible for the rogue IT cell of the

● WHEN ASKED BY his followers to ignore the personal attacks against him, Dr Swamy said that he will but the party must sack those who are involved.

party." Malviya is the in-charge of BJP's national information and technology cell.

"The BJP IT cell has gone rogue. Some of its members are putting out

fake ID tweets to make personal attacks on me. If my angered followers make counter personal attacks I cannot be held responsible just as BJP cannot be held responsible for the rogue IT cell of the party," tweeted Dr Swamy, who often takes a different stand than the BJP like on the JEE-NEET issue.

Dr Swamy had earlier asked the government to come clean on news reports that Chinese

Army had re-entered Doklam and had slammed the Good and Services Tax.

When asked by his followers to ignore the personal attacks against him on the social media, Dr Swamy said that he will but the party must sack those who are involved.

"One Malviya character is running riot with filth. We are a party of *maryada purushotam* not of Ravan or Dushasan," tweeted the

BJP MP. It may be recalled that a case was lodged against the BJP president J.P. Nadda and Malviya in Rajasthan earlier this year over a tweet by the latter for allegedly tarnishing the image of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. The Rajasthan High Court later stayed the entire proceedings against the BJP president as the tweet was from Malviya's personal account.

IN BRIEF

Pakistan mine collapse kills 6

Peshawar: At least six labourers were killed on Monday when a marble mine they were working in collapsed due to landslides in northwest Pakistan, a senior official said. The incident happened in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province when the labourers were busy in excavation and the mine collapsed and buried them. "Six labourers have died in the incident and their bodies have been retrieved from the debris of the mine," Khateer Ahmed, DG Rescue 1122, said. He said that six other miners also received injuries and are undergoing treatment at a hospital.

24 killed in Yemen clashes

Dubai: More than 20 people were killed in clashes in Yemen's northern province of Al-Jawf late Sunday as government troops tried to reclaim positions lost months ago to Huthi rebels. Yemen's internationally recognised government has been fighting the Iran-allied insurgents since 2014, when the Huthis seized much of the north including the capital Sanaa. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened on the side of the government the following year. A government military source said 16 Huthis and eight loyalists were killed in clashes Sunday night. Government troops captured more than 40 rebels, the source said. Meanwhile, the insurgents advanced in the neighbouring Marib governorate, in particular the Mahliya district, after heavy fighting that also resulted in a number of casualties.

Nirav reporting ban plea rejected

London: A UK judge, presiding over fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi's extradition case over the estimated \$2-billion PNB fraud and money laundering charges brought by India, rejected an application seeking a partial reporting ban at the start of a five-day trial here on Monday. District Judge Samuel Goozee dismissed the application after hearing representations in what he called a "high profile case in India", including from members of the press present at Westminster Magistrates' Court who stressed the importance of free and fair reporting of the proceedings. Modi's barrister, Clare Montgomery, applied for the partial restriction with reference to a BJP press conference held in India in May, giving "unfair commentary" on the evidence given by former Indian High Court Judge Abhay Thipsay during the first part of the extradition trial. Thipsay, as a member of the Congress party, was accused of "party political bias" in his expert legal opinion, which challenged the Indian government's case.

RESPECT BREXIT WITHDRAWAL DEAL: EU TO UK

Brussels, Sept. 7: The European Union warned the British government on Monday not to renege on commitments made ahead of its departure from the bloc earlier this year. Amid growing signs that trust between the two sides is evaporating ahead of another round of post-Brexit talks in London on Tuesday, the bloc said any attempt by the British government to unilaterally ride roughshod over the divorce agreement could jeopardise the hard-won peace process on the island of Ireland, as well as the prospects for a trade deal.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the EU's executive commission, said she expected Boris Johnson's government to implement the withdrawal agreement that paved the way for the UK's smooth departure from the bloc on January 31.

She said in a tweet that the agreement was an "obligation under international law" and a "prerequisite for any future partnership". She added that the section in the agreement that ensures an open border between Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, and EU member Ireland, is "essential to protect peace and stability on the island" as well as for the "integrity" of the EU's tariff-free and frictionless single market. Her comments followed a report that the British government is planning domestic legislation that would effectively override the international treaty obligations enshrined within the withdrawal agreement, particularly over issues related to the Irish border.

Unicef to procure, supply vaccines

It is to ensure that all nations have safe, fast and equitable access to initial Covid doses

United Nations, Sept. 7: In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, Unicef has announced that it will be leading the procurement and supply of Coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available. The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries.

With several vaccine candidates showing promise, the UN agency, in collaboration with the Revolving Fund of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of Covid-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX Global Vaccines Facility for 92 low and lower middle-income countries, whose vaccine purchases will be supported by the mechanism. "We are ready for an immense new challenge," it said.

To lead the global supply of Covid-19 vaccines and help end the worst stage of this pandemic," Unicef tweeted on Saturday. "Unicef is the world's largest single buyer of vaccines for diseases like measles and polio. Thanks to our supporters, we now have the experience and expertise to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine to the world," it said.

Unicef will also serve as procurement coordinator to support purchases by 80 higher-income economies, which have expressed their intent to participate in the COVAX Facility and would finance the vaccines from their own budgets, it said.

The vaccine procurement and distribution effort, involving over 170 economies, has the potential to become the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind. "This is an all-hands on deck partnership between governments, manufacturers and multi-lateral partners to continue the fight against Covid-19 pandemic," Unicef executive director Henrietta Fore said. — PTI

PAK SCHOOLS SET TO REOPEN FROM SEPT. 15**SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 7**

Pakistan's Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) on Monday decided to reopen universities, colleges and school for matric students in the country from September 15.

Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training Shafqat Mahmood, chaired the conference on the issue. Ministers from all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir attended.

It was decided that in first phase universities, colleges and school for ninth and tenth grade will be allowed to reopen from September 15 under strict implementation of SOPs and in second phase students of sixth to eighth standard will be allowed to return to schools from September 22.

NAVALNY OUT OF COMA, SAYS HOSPITAL

Berlin, Sept. 7: Poisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's condition has improved, allowing doctors to take him out of an induced coma, the German hospital treating him said Monday.

Navalny, a fierce, high-profile critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany last month after falling ill on Aug. 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. German chemical weapons experts say tests show the 44-year-old was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting the German government last week to demand that Russia investigate the case.

"The patient has been removed from his medically induced coma and is being weaned off mechanical ventilation," Berlin's Charite hospital said in a statement. — AP

Khashoggi: 5 get death reprieve

Dubai, Sept. 7: A Saudi court issued final verdicts on Monday in the case of slain *Washington Post* columnist and Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi after his son, who still resides in the kingdom, announced pardons that spared five of the convicted individuals from execution.

While the trial draws to its conclusion in Saudi Arabia, the case continues to cast a shadow over the international standing of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose associates have been sanctioned by the US and the UK for their alleged involvement in the brutal

killing, which took place inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

The Riyadh Criminal Court's final verdicts were announced by Saudi Arabia's state television, which aired few details about the eight Saudi nationals and did not name them. The court ordered a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for the five. Another individual received a 10-year sentence, and two others were ordered to serve seven years in prison. A team of 15 Saudi agents had flown to Turkey to meet Khashoggi inside the consulate on October 2, 2018. — AP

Seoul, Sept. 7: A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea on Monday after battering islands in southern Japan, killing one person and injuring dozens of others. The Korea Meteorological Administration said Typhoon Haishen was passing over waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho on Monday afternoon after barreling through South Korea's southern and eastern regions.

The typhoon was weakening, with its maximum winds measured at 108

kilometres (67 miles) per hour after blowing at 144 kilometres (80 miles) in the morning, and was forecast to be downgraded to a tropical storm within six hours. Japanese disaster management officials in Kagoshima said a woman in her 70s died of a head injury after falling into a roadside ditch while evacuating from a coastal town as Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain.

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 other people were injured, five of them seriously. Schools and department stores were closed



Stella Moris (L), partner of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, arrives with her father John Shipton (R) and Australian human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson, at the Old Bailey court in London on Monday, for Assange's hearing to decide if Assange should be extradited to the United States to face trial over the publication of secrets relating to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The 49-year-old Australian, who is currently being held on remand at a high-security jail, faces 18 counts from US prosecutors that could see him jailed for up to 175 years. — AFP

Assange in UK court to fight US extradition bid over espionage

London, Sept. 7: Wikileaks co-founder Julian Assange, who faces charges of computer hacking and espionage in the US, on Monday returned to a UK court to fight his extradition to the US. The 49-year-old Australian national, who has been in Belmarsh Prison for 16 months, is wanted over the publication of classified documents in 2010 and 2011 and faces a possible penalty of 175 years in jail if convicted on being extradited to the US.

He appeared before the Old Bailey court in London where the court was informed of his formal arrest on a new indictment issued in June, during the Cporonavirus lockdown, by the US government.

The fresh indictment contains 18 charges, including plotting to hack comp-



Julian Assange

uters and conspiring to obtain and disclose national defence information. Wearing a dark suit, tie and white shirt, Assange sat behind a glass security screen at the back of the court and spoke only to say that he did not consent to his extradition.

James Lewis, the barrister-

acting for the US authorities, accuses Assange's lawyers of conducting a defence consisting of "an attack upon the President of the United States (which) ignores the institutional competencies of the agencies relevant to this case, the Constitution of the United States and the independence of its courts". "Neither mental health problems, nor Asperger syndrome prevented Assange's solicitation of, and orchestration of, the leaking of materials from the highest levels of government and state agencies, apparently on a global scale," he said.

Edward Fitzgerald, the barrister representing Assange, asserted that the prosecution was "being pursued for ulterior political motives and not in good faith". He said he had not seen his client in per-

son for six months in part due to the pandemic — and he told the court the latest indictment had been made "at the 11th hour" without warning.

However, a bid to rule out the new charges failed as the judge ruled they must be heard in the context of the extradition request. Assange's partner, Stella Moris, who gave birth to their two children while he had sought refuge in the Ecuador embassy in London, went to Downing Street on Monday morning in an attempt to deliver a Reporters Without Borders petition against the extradition.

Assange's father John Shipton was among the supporters gathered outside the Old Bailey court. "Julian has two young children, what concerns me today is the rights of those children," he said.

Birmingham stabbings: Man held 7 nabbed for knife attack in Tunisia

London, Sept. 7: A 27-year-old man was arrested on Monday on suspicion of murder and attempted murder in connection with a stabbing spree in Birmingham which claimed one life and injured seven others, UK police said. West Midlands Police said the suspect was detained at an address in Selly Oak area of the city in the early hours of Monday after detectives worked through the night in a bid to catch the suspect, who remains in police custody for questioning over the knife attacks.

"Officers worked through yesterday and into the early hours of this morning in a bid to trace the man we believe responsible for these terrible crimes," said Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, the Birmingham Police Commander. "We issued CCTV footage of the suspect and had a strong response from the public... Clearly, this is a crucial development but our investigation continues. We still need to speak to any witnesses who saw what happened who've not yet spoken to us, or anyone who may have video footage or photos of the incidents or the attacker," he said.

During the attack in the early hours of Sunday, a 23-year-old man suffered fatal injuries in Irving Street having been stabbed in what police believe was a "random attack". A man and a woman, aged 19 and 32, suffered serious stab wounds and remain in hospital in a critical condition. Five other people, aged between 23 and 33, were less seriously hurt. The first attack happened in the Constitution Hill area, followed by further stabbings in Livery Street, Irving Street and finally Hurst Street. — PTI

Tunis, Sept. 7: Tunisian authorities said Monday they had arrested seven people over a knife attack the previous day that killed a National Guard officer and wounded another. The attackers struck early Sunday morning in the tourist district of Sousse, ramming the officers with a vehicle and then assaulting them with knives.

Three assailants were later shot dead in a firefight, the National Guard said, labelling the attack a "terrorist" act.

The wounded officer was "in a stable condition", interior ministry spokesman Khaled Hayouni said. Since Sunday, "43 people have been questioned and seven of them arrested", Guard spokesman Hou-

em Eddine Jebabli told private station *Radio Shems*. They included "the wife of one of the assailants, who described her husband as a 'martyr' during the interrogation", he said. Two brothers of one of the attackers and a person suspected of recruiting them were also arrested, he added.

He said the attackers were a pair of twins and a third man from the marginalised northwestern region of Siliana, he said, without confirming or denying reports of a fourth attacker. Jebabli said the twins had visited Facebook pages dealing with "explosive and armed attacks" but had stayed under the radar of the authorities. — AFP

WE DO HAVE 2 JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN U.S.: HARRIS

Washington, Sept. 7: The US has two systems of justice for PoC and White Americans, Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris said, as the Indian-origin Senator rebuked President Donald Trump and his Attorney General for denying there is systemic racism in the country's justice system.

The strong criticism from Harris, the first Indian-American woman on a major party vice presidential ticket came less than two months before the US presidential election. Democratic Party's presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Harris are challenging incumbent President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence of the Republican Party in the November 3 election. But she said she was optimistic that as a nation, Americans hold dear to an ideal that is inscribed in marble on the Supreme Court, which is that ideal of equal justice under law. — PTI

Haishen lashes S. Korea after battering Japan

5 BOATS SINK DURING TRUMP PARADE

Austin (US), Sept. 7: Five boats sank in a Texas lake during a nautical parade in support of President Donald Trump as tightly packed boats created large waves, officials said.

Boaters began calling for help "almost immediately" after the procession for Trump's re-election got underway on a lake west of Austin on Saturday, according to Kristen Dark of

the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies ultimately responded to 15 distress calls and received three other reports of boats taking on water. No one was injured or killed.

Images of the event show the water of Lake Travis choppy with the wakes of dozens of boats flying American, Texas and "Trump 2020" flags. — AP



A coastal road is damaged in Ulsan, South Korea, on Monday. A powerful typhoon flooded roads, damaged buildings and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people. — AP

DECCAN Chronicle

8 SEPTEMBER 2020

‘Justice for Sushant’ holds mirror to media

Wild and unabashedly outrageous, a little far out in its brazen attempt to exploit the voter’s sentiment as son of the soil, the BJP’s improbable “Justice for Sushant” campaign, launched ahead of the elections to the Bihar legislative Assembly, invites the media today to a spot of introspection. The media is guilty of according the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput too much priority. To this end, it has blithely allowed itself to play into the hands of political lobbies that quickly converted the coverage into a running skirmish between the ruling party at the Centre and the Opposition-led Maharashtra government. Hungry for TRPs, the media remained oblivious. Rigour, due diligence and facts were tossed to the winds in the course of a media trial, masquerading as an investigation.

As floods raged through Bihar, alongside Coronavirus and recession, the big media invisibilised the sufferings of the poor and the marginalised. The post-truth media was shy of putting governments on the mat. The social media fostered echo chambers; cancel culture, and trolling and real life stalking of ones with uncomfortable views. But the cardinal sin committed by the media was trying to reverse-engineer the tastes of its audience and in so doing it underestimated it, badly. The masses are intelligent. They do not enjoy an exact overlap with the classes to which the journalist aspires to belong like every other middle class citizen. But they vote out governments. They have sections that are semi-literate and they also comprise minds that are not influential but are far more educated than the journalist themselves. The masses may be entertained by melo-drama and kitsch but they know how to distinguish between news and entertainment. Sometimes, they knowingly opt for the latter. At other times, they do so in the former’s absence. But to perpetrate their particu-late frauds, journalists were encouraged to buy into the toxic middle class culture of misogyny, shame, fear and fascination of “drugs” and various “nobler than thou” tribalisms that coexist as cognitive dissonances, indeed neuroses, in people’s psyches and milk them no end. It was surprising how the journalist of a television channel kept steering the conversation away to the topic of drugs even after Rhea Chakraborty dropped repeated clear hints about Sushant Singh being stressed out about the possibility of a “#MeToo-type allegation” prior to his death. Chakraborty has just been interrogated by the CBI and this adds to her statements new weight. It is also surprising how large sections of the media gave zero currency to the possibility that Sushant Singh’s death might have been the result of a suicide. This behaviour by the media invalidates the needs of people suffering from depression that the death had urgently highlighted.

There is a growing suspicion that the media is instinctively refusing to consider and/or present the actor as having been an overthinking, perfectionist, high-achieving, fallible human, with talent and flaw, and instead placing him on the pedestal of “the wronged genius” that it believes its audience wants him to occupy. Should it be otherwise, the ensuing shame withers its own pet narrative. All of which is typical of the regressive society that the media aims to cater to and likes to place itself above. The coverage of this case is indeed a study in its midsize history of hypocrisy.

Djokovic’s fault

Novak Djokovic, world’s top ranked player, has been thrown out of the US Open. And rightly so too for hitting a line judge in the throat with the ball he had smacked behind him in frustration after dropping his service to Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain in a fourth round match. The ball hitting the woman official was clearly accidental but then Djokovic is known to be a habitual offender in this regard and he had no business demonstrating his displeasure at himself or otherwise in this fashion on court. It may be deeply disappointing for fans to see the winner of 17 Grand Slams disqualified like this, especially since he adds such colour to the sport. But then Djokovic is also expected to be a paragon of good behaviour. The argument that there would have been little fuss and possibly just a small fine had the ball missed the line judge is futile. These are extraordinary times with the pandemic having changed the lives of everyone globally and the quirky turn of events comes just when Djokovic has been preparing to launch a controversial players’ association which excludes women players. The US Open loses its charm as the Serbian was the lodestar in the men’s half in the absence of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Modern tennis has evolved from the age of John McEnroe and his rage for perfection erupting in abysmal behaviour. Djokovic sounds contrite in his apology and he should be taking a leaf out of Federer’s play-book in being an epitome of grace on court. A loose cannon like him may lack the sangfroid of great champions but he can’t blame it on the pandemic-induced “cabin fever” or his being targeted for the event in Serbia-Croatia that became a virus super spreader among tennis players.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Subhani



Wuhan and the garden of false expectations

V Sudarshan



Picture this mood setter: It is a cool April evening on the banks of the East Lake in Wuhan, the year is 2018, some months after a testing standoff in Doklam, Bhutan, between Indian and Chinese troops. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese strongman Xi Jinping are listening to the dulcet tones of ancient Chinese string instruments and flutes playing a sweet Bollywood hit of yester-years. By the time the music sets the mood, the two leaders have taken a stroll by the East Lake without their official delegations in tow, have sat in a houseboat, without their delegations, partaken of Chinese tea, teased only by the gentle lake-side breezes. The song the Chinese musicians are playing with elegance, plucking pear shaped lutes, zithers, blowing melodiously on Chinese flutes, is a carefully chosen Kishore Kumar-Aasha Bhosle duet which goes, Mil Jaye is tarah, do lehrein jis tarah, phir na hona juda, han yeh wada rahan.

It is a song where two lovers pledge never to separate. This song helped define the so-called “Wuhan Spirit”. Later the following year, in Mamallapuram in another informal summit setting, which is to say, without the rigidity of official positions, Xi was to tell the media, looking as pleased as a fat Chinese cat that just tasted its favourite cream, that he had “heart to heart discussions” with Modi on bilateral matters. This heart to heart moment was branded by spinmeisters as the “Chennai Connect”. What the formal communications were to claim later, after both these mutually rewarding meetings, where each leader much better

understood the other’s strategic perspectives on a range of issues, reveal as much as they conceal. But Modi was to declare with much satisfaction: “The first informal summit between India and China last year in Wuhan led to fresh stability in our relations and gave a fresh momentum. Strategic communication between our two countries has also increased. The Wuhan summit instilled a new momentum and trust in our relations and today’s ‘Chennai Connect’ is the start of a new era in India-China relations.” Significantly, Xi Jinping said that such informal summits have helped “initiate discussions on many issues” and he was happy that Mr Modi had mooted the idea. So we know whose idea it was, these one-on-ones to better understand the other. That the Chinese responded, and that after 18 meetings between Modi and Xi Jinping, the comfort of “strategic communication” has entered the lexicon of diplomacy. It is also appropriate to underline the phrase “fresh stability” that Modi highlighted.

Now, consider the surprising remark that external affairs minister S. Jaishankar made in an interview to the Hindustan Times a few days ago: “We have very large number of Chinese forces (in Galwan and other areas) and frankly, we (emphasis added) are at a loss to know why.” It is at some variance with the statement by Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat to the same newspaper a week prior to that. In it he said two things broadly, one suggesting that there is proper intelligence coordination between the various agencies, thereby downplaying the possibility of intelligence failure, and second, that the military

option was always there if all else fails, a foreshadowing of intent. Indeed, there could be evidence that by October the aviation wing of the Research and Analysis Wing had produced compelling visual and other evidence which when pieced together showed that the Chinese were consistently massing, moving, constructing, like worker ants. This couldn’t have been filed away in some cupboard without the necessary dissemination. The answer lies elsewhere.

Is it even possible that in the 18 times Modi met Xi in the past six years, one-to-one, they failed to probe each other’s perspectives on the boundary issue? After all, there are over 460 incursions a year. The Wuhan summit followed the numbing Doklam experience. And now Galwan, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso follow Mahabs. How does this make any sense? Especially after Xi’s political endorsement, declared so openly: “Yesterday, Prime Minister, as you said, you and I had engaged in candid conversations like friends, heart to heart discussions on bilateral relations.”

The fact is the strategic framework of how to take the relationship forward, in place since Rajiv Gandhi’s 1988 visit to Beijing, which downplayed the urgent resolution of the boundary question and made it a secondary goal while seeking to expand the horizon of relations, had long collapsed by the time Modi started meeting the Chinese leadership in 2014. Was Modi still waiting for a strategic communication when he declared on June 19: “Neither have they intruded into our border, nor has any post been taken over by them (China)” After all our Prime Minister had a chance to broadly survey and review what the two countries had been able to achieve and, more important, had a chance to map the path where the two were heading in an uncertain world. It was quite an unparal-

leled achievement, expending so much political capital to better get a handle on this complicated relationship. Modi must surely have factored in the negative signals the Chinese have sent over the years, on the Nuclear Suppliers Group, on Jaish-e-Mohammed, on Pakistan, Arunachal Pradesh. Or were they, like the two characters in Chiroco’s painting, just conversations among the ruins, with the high Himalayas providing the barren backdrop? Could it be that for a while Modi and his policy-makers, based on Modi’s various heart-to-heart conversations with Xi, had thought there could be somehow a disconnect between Xi and sections of the PLA and that he would somehow prevail? Was this the context that we should have viewed our man in Beijing’s special pleadings in the middle of August with the director of the Office of International Military Co-operation of the Central Military Commission of China? Is it even possible that Modi, chowkidar exemplar, was blindsided by Xi and let himself be led up the garden path? If we allow for that possibility, then the recent surprise expressed by our external affairs minister, in the collective second person “we”, starts to make sense. He speaks not only for himself, but for those who provided close support in Wuhan, Mahabs and 16 other salubrious settings. Thus have the scales fallen from their eyes. That would explain the additional, proactive military scrambling, the forward deploying, in the areas of the Ladakh UT where we continue to plug the gaps. A delightful reworking of Nehru’s much-maligned forward policy.

The writer is the author of *Adrift: A True Story of Survival at Sea and Anatomy of an Abduction*. He writes, among other things, on diplomacy, security, strategic affairs and foreign policy.

LETTERS

ENGG LECTURERS

It really pains to see that educated people are being paid too little in India (*Engg lecturers work at petrol bunks, DC, Sept. 7*). Big companies extract the work from engineers and exploit them but they don’t pay them accordingly. After spending huge bucks on education, what security is the government giving to the educated youth?

Idris Saberi
Hyderabad

COVID-19 CASES

The number of Covid-19 cases is exponentially increasing and hence the well-meaning honest tax-paying citizens of India who are not politically inclined to any political forum/party want Central and state governments to immediately take up improving/increasing hospitals to Covid-19 cases (*India overtakes Brazil in Covid as Unlock 4 starts. DC, Sept. 7*). They may like to take the considered opinions of doctors and all health workers and appropriate the medical treatment.

T.M. Uday Shankar
Hyderabad

IPL, FINALLY

Indian cricket fans have something to cheer after a long gap of six months as the IPL 2020 schedule is out and the on-field action is set to begin at three venues in the UAE (*Royal Opening, DC, Sept. 7*). While this will be interesting to see how players adapt to new conditions such as bio-secure bubble, empty stadia and other Covid-19 related restrictions, fans across the world are eagerly waiting for some action. Kudos to the BCCI and the UAE government for arranging the league amidst the pandemic which will bring some cheer to action-deprived fans.

Jitesh Mathur
Hyderabad

FORMER RULERS ARE COMMONERS

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7 The 320 rulers of erstwhile States in the country became commoners today with their de-recognition by a Presidential order.

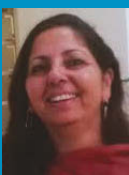
The Finance Minister, Mr. Y. S. Chavan told a cheering Rajya Sabha today that

the privy purses and privileges of the rulers had been ended “with immediate effect.”

Mr. Chavan declared that with the de-recognition of rulers, “the princes have ceased to be rulers.”

Anita Katyal

Political Gup-Shup



‘Pro-changers’ for voter lists; Anar ambition worries BJP

It has been more than ten days since the eventful meeting of the Congress Working Committee where its members hit out at their colleagues for writing a letter to Sonia Gandhi seeking far-reaching changes in the party organization. But a discussion on the subject continues to rage. There is considerable speculation about how the letter writers or pro-changers, as they are often called, will continue to push for the much-needed reforms in the party. To begin with, this group is waiting for the promised session of the All-India Congress Committee for the election of the next party president. Before that, they plan to seek the publication of the names of members who are entitled to vote for the party president to be able to peruse it in advance. It is an acknowledged fact that the list of voters comprises handpicked workers and supporters of office bearers whose contribution to the party is suspect. However, it is not clear if the publication of this list will actually help the letter writers as it will not be easy to detect bogus voters.

The Coronavirus pandemic has come in handy for the Modi government to control the flow of information to the media.

Maneka Gandhi (who was once called the kutta billi minister when she headed the environment ministry) may no longer be in the government but she is keeping herself busy dashing off letters to resident welfare associations in the Capital on her favourite subject - stray dogs. Her letters have pointed out that it is illegal to relocate dogs and that irrational phobias should not be entertained and gone on to draw attention to specific laws on strays and that punishments for breaking the law go up to three years and fines. The problem of stray dogs has been a subject of an animated debate in recent weeks as many residents from across the city have complained about it following increasing cases of dog bites. They are also upset with residents who do not feed the dogs at designated spots and don’t bother to sterilize them. This has predictably invited a backlash

from dog lovers like Maneka Gandhi.

The Gujarat unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party is getting worried as Anar Patel, the high-profile daughter of former chief minister and Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel, has become politically active and is said to be eyeing a seat in one of the Gandhinagar Assembly constituencies. An entrepreneur by profession, Anar Patel joined the BJP a couple of years ago and had tried for a ticket in the 2017 Assembly elections but failed to make the cut. Though the next Assembly election is due only after two years, BJP insiders maintain Anar Patel has started preparing for it by meeting party workers and voters of the area. This has not gone down well with the local party leaders, especially the sitting MLAs. Anar Patel had courted controversy when her mother was chief minister. Emerging as a parallel power centre, she was wooed and sought by party workers, industrialists and others. She was in the eye of a storm following media reports that her business partners were allotted land

at a throwaway price for the construction of a holiday resort. In fact, Anar’s role was cited as a major reason for Anandiben’s removal as chief minister.

The Coronavirus pandemic has come in handy for the Modi government to control the flow of information to the media. Take the case of the ministry of external affairs. The ministry earlier held regular briefings where the official spokesperson responded to queries from press persons on the beat. These physical press briefings were discontinued when the lockdown was announced and replaced by virtual press conferences. When the new system was first put in place, media persons were given the option of asking their questions during the virtual briefing. But this has changed. Journalists are now required to send their questions in advance. Very often, a whole lot are bunched together while inconvenient queries are ignored. Plus, there is no scope for any follow-up questions. This has naturally upset the beat reporters but none can afford to complain for fear of being

ostracized by the ministry.

The letter by Abdul Manan, leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, to Sonia Gandhi demanding that senior leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury be appointed president of West Bengal Congress, is being interpreted in party circles as a done deal. Manan is close to Chowdhury and the latter is apparently keen on taking up this post which has been lying vacant after the last incumbent Somen Mitra’s death. This move serves a double purpose. The party needs a strongman like Chowdhury in election-bound West Bengal and, at the same time, it will pave the way for replacing him as the party’s Lok Sabha leader. But the question is: who is best suited for the job. Shashi Tharoor or Manish Tewari are obvious choices except the two have fallen from grace after they signed the famous pro-change letter to Sonia Gandhi.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,417.23	0.16
Nifty 50	11,355.05	0.19
S&P 500*	3,426.96	-0.81
Dollar (₹)	73.34	-0.25
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.98	0.24
Euro (₹)	86.87	-0.28
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,877.25	0.49
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.99	-0.67
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.993	0.063
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.721	0.00

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Maruti Suzuki production up 11% in August

Maruti Suzuki India said its total production in August increased by 11 per cent to 1,23,769 units. The firm had produced 1,11,370 units in the same month last year. Passenger vehicles production stood at 1,21,381 units last month compared to 1,10,214 units a year ago, a growth of 10 per cent. Production of mini cars were at 22,208 units as against 13,814 units, up 61 per cent. Compact car production stood marginally up at 67,348 units.

Dumping probe into vitamin C from China



India has initiated a probe into the alleged dumping of vitamin C, used by pharmaceutical firms for the production of medicines, from China following complaint by a domestic manufacturer. Bajaj Healthcare Ltd has filed the application before the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR, seeking initiation of the probe. The company alleged the domestic industry is impacted due to the dumping of vitamin C from China PR.

PFC seeks to raise borrowing limit to ₹6 L cr

Power Finance Corporation will seek shareholders' nod to hike borrowing limit to Rs 6 lakh crore from Rs 4 lakh crore now in the AGM later this month. The company said considering the fund requirements of PFC over the next three-to-four years, the board on August 13 approved seeking shareholders' nod for raising the borrowing limit to Rs 6 lakh crore over and above aggregate paid up capital and free reserves.

Plan to recruit 14,000 staff this year: SBI

State Bank of India said it proposes to recruit 14,000 employees during the current year and its 'on tap VRS' is not a cost-cutting exercise. An SBI spokesperson said the proposed VRS is not a cost-cutting exercise, as "it was thought to provide a congenial solution to employees who expressed desire for making strategic shift in their vocations, either due to professional growth limitations, mobility issues..."



RBI accepts Kamath panel suggestions Debt recast: Ratios for 26 sectors set

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, SEPT. 7

The expert panel appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest the financial and sectoral parameters for restructuring loans for companies hit by the Covid-19 pandemic has recommended financial ratios for 26 sectors that could be factored in by lending institutions for the debt recast.

The committee headed by veteran banker K.V. Kamath has said that only borrowers classified as standard (did not default) and with arrears of less than 30 days as at March 1, 2020 should be eligible under the resolution framework. Banks can adopt a graded approach based on impact severity. "Time is of essence at the present juncture. Considering the large volume and the fact that only standard assets are eligible under the proposed scheme, a segmented approach of bucketing these accounts under mild, moderate and severe stress, may ensure quick turnaround. To complete this task simplified restructuring for mild and moderate stress may be prescribed. Severe stress cases would require comprehensive restructuring," said the expert committee report released by the central bank on Monday.

The 26 sectors selected by the panel for the resolution framework are power, construction, iron and steel manufacturing, roads, real estate, trading wholesale,



K. V Kamath

textiles, chemicals, consumer durables/FMCG, non-ferrous metals, pharma, logistics, gems and jewellery, cement, auto components, hotels, mining, plastic products manufacturing, automobile manufacturing, auto dealership, aviation, sugar, port and port services, shipping, building materials, and corporate retail outlets.

For sectors where ratios have not been specified, lenders can make their own assessment.

The committee selected five financial parameters related to leverage, liquidity, debt serviceability, etc. The financial parameters included total outside liability to adjusted tangible net worth, debt to Ebitda, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) and average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).

As per the report submitted by the panel, 72 per cent debt of the banking sector has been impacted by Covid-19.

The committee said the resolution framework may

be invoked not later than December 31, 2020 and the resolution plan needs to be implemented within 180 days from the date of invocation.

"The recommendations of the committee have been broadly accepted by the Reserve Bank," said the RBI.

The plan has to be prepared based on the pre-Covid-19 operating and financial performance of the borrower and impact of Covid-19 on its operating and financial performance in the first and second quarter of this fiscal and to assess the cash-flows for this, next and subsequent years.

In these financial projections, the threshold total outside liability to adjusted tangible net worth and debt to Ebitda ratios should be met by fiscal 2023. The other three threshold ratios should be met for each year of the projections starting from fiscal 2022. The base case financial projections need to be prepared as part of the resolution plan.

ED arrests Deepak Kochhar under PMLA

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 7

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank MD & CEO Chanda Kochhar, in connection with the money-laundering probe into the ICICI Bank-Videocon case.

According to sources, Deepak Kochhar has been arrested by the agency in Mumbai under the stringent sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He will be produced before a court in Mumbai on Tuesday.

On January 22, 2019, the CBI had registered an FIR for alleged cheating, criminal conspiracy under the Prevention of Corruption Act against Chanda Kochhar, Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot and his companies—Videocon International Electronics Ltd and Videocon Industries Limited. It also named Supreme Energy, a firm founded by Dhoot, and NuPower Renewables, controlled by Deepak Kochhar, in the FIR.

On January 31, the ED lodged a case of money laundering against Chanda and Deepak Kochhar, Dhoot and others to probe alleged irregularities and corrupt practices in sanctioning of Rs 1,875-crore loans by ICICI Bank to the corporate group.

Vodafone, Idea rebranded as Vi; tariff hike on cards

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 7

Vodafone Idea, India's third largest mobile operator, on Monday announced rebranding of the Vodafone and Idea brands as 'Vi' (read as We), in a move aimed at attracting digital customers and hinted at tariff hike for prepaid and postpaid users, as it looks to increase the average revenue per user (Arpu) figures.

The rebranding by the company comes amid intense competition in the country's highly-indebted telecom sector.

"Everyone is selling below cost and the telco is not shy to take the first step," Ravinder Takkar, MD and CEO at Vodafone Idea, said at a media briefing on Monday.

He also added that the telecom regulator would have to reconsider tariff charts.

Increased tariff rates will help the telco improve its Arpu, which is currently at Rs 114, compared to rivals Airtel's Rs 157 and Jio's Rs 140, Takkar pointed out.

According to analysts, higher Arpu will be an essential requirement for the company, with a net debt of Rs 1.7 lakh crore (including AGR liabilities) to service its annual cash obligations.

Vodafone Plc's Indian arm had merged with Idea Cellular in August 2018, but the telcos had since maintained two separate brands.

The new brand identity is an attempt to mount another challenge in the



space that has seen Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel strengthen over the past few quarters.

"The integration of two brands is a culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world," Takkar said as he announced the rebranded entity. "It's time for a fresh start," he said.

The board of Vodafone Idea had approved fundraising up to Rs 25,000 crore on September 4 to pay off the hefty dues owed to the government.

It plans to raise up to Rs 15,000 crore through debentures and an equal amount by issuing shares and warrants.

Through the unified brand and a bigger bet on digital, Vodafone Idea now hopes to attract fresh subscribers.

The company's customer base dropped sharply to around 280 million at the end of June from 408 million at the

time of its merger with Idea two years ago.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel had lost around 47 lakh wireless subscribers each in May 2020, according to the Telecom Authority of India data released in August.

Vodafone Idea is making efforts to keep its business running in India, after the Supreme Court (SC) gave telecom companies 10 years to pay adjusted gross revenue dues (AGR) dues.

Takkar said the 10 years granted to telcos by the SC to clear past statutory dues was "a good outcome."

Vodafone Idea owes slightly over Rs 50,000 crore to the Department of Telecommunications as AGR-related dues.

The SC asked telecom companies to make an upfront payment of 10 per cent of the balance AGR dues by March 31, 2021.

MFIs see current a/c restrictions as a headache, want to be excused

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, SEPT. 7

Micro-finance institutions (MFIs) have requested the RBI to exempt them from the restrictions on current account and overdraft facility extended by banks, as the new guidelines will create operational difficulties for them.

The Reserve Bank of India had restricted banks from opening current accounts for customers who have availed of cash credit or overdraft facilities. Instead all transactions should be routed through a cash credit (CC) or overdraft (OD) account.

"In the current scenario, when borrowers require urgent credit to restart their lives, implementation of the revised guidelines will result in numerous difficulties and operational issues for the microfinance sector," said P. Satish, executive director of Sa-Dhan. The sector has requested the RBI to review the circular and exempt all MFIs—NBFC-MFIs as well as non-NBFC-MFIs—from this circular in respect of restriction on opening and operation of current accounts.



According to Sa-Dhan, MFIs have various current accounts with banks based on the location of their branches. Since demonetisation all loan disbursements of MFIs are being credited to the bank accounts of their borrowers. Many MFIs also have ECS mandates for loan collections. Such banks may or may not have CC/OD facilities extended to such MFIs. Pursuant to the circular, these current accounts will need to be closed.

Though loan disbursements of MFIs are through bank accounts of borrowers, a large part of collections are still in cash. MFIs require multiple current accounts in multiple banks for their cash management requirements.

In case of MFIs which avail term loans from banks for on-lending, the requirement is that the lending bank will remit funds directly to the supplier of goods and services. This provision is a little insurmountable for MFIs as the loan availed is for further lending to the ultimate borrowers.

If all transactions are only to be routed through a particular bank, there would be no flexibility or back up available in case of any unforeseen issues with that particular bank or freeze on transactions with that bank.

If an MFI does not have more than 10 per cent exposure to any bank, it is not clear as to how the banking transaction requirements of that MFI would be met, said Sa-Dhan. It is not clear if an MFI having more than 10 per cent of exposure to a bank can do debit transactions from its collection account.

Rajan terms GDP fall alarming, tells bureaucrats to wake up

New Delhi, Sept. 7: Terming the 23.9 per cent fall in the economic growth in June quarter alarming, former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan has said bureaucracy should come out of complacency and take meaningful action. The current crisis requires a more thoughtful and active government, he said, adding unfortunately, after an initial burst of activity, it seems to have retreated into a shell.

"The sharp decline in economic growth should alarm us all. The 23.9 per cent contraction in India (and the numbers will probably be worse when we get estimates of the damage in the informal sector) compares with a drop of 12.4 per cent in Italy and 9.5 per cent in the United States, two of the most Covid-19-affected advanced countries," Rajan wrote in a post on his LinkedIn page.

He further said the bureaucracy needs to be frightened out of their complacency and into meaningful activity.

If there is a silver lining in the awful GDP numbers,



Raghuram Rajan

hopefully it is that".

Rajan, currently a professor at the University of Chicago, said the pandemic is still raging in India, so discretionary spending, especially on high-contact services like restaurants, and the associated employment, will stay low until the virus is contained.

The eminent economist pointed out that the government's reluctance to do more today seems partly because it wants to conserve resources for a possible future stimulus. "This strategy is self-defeating," he opined. Emphasising on the importance of government relief or support in the current scenario, Rajan said, "Without relief measures, the growth potential of the economy will be seriously damaged."

He said Brazil, which has spent tremendously on relief, is seeing a much lower downgrade to medium term growth than India.

"So, government officials who hold out the possibility of a stimulus when India finally contains the virus are underestimating the damage from a more shrunken and scarred economy at that point," Rajan noted.

Citing an example, Rajan said if one thinks of the economy as a patient, relief is the sustenance the patient needs while on the sickbed and fighting the disease. "Without relief, households skip meals, pull their children out of school and send them to work or beg, pledge their gold to borrow, let EMIs and rent arrears pile up."

He also suggested that reforms can be a form of stimulus, and even if not carried out immediately, a timeline to undertake them can boost current investor sentiment. "The world will recover earlier than India, so exports can be a way for India to grow," he said.

— PTI

Samsung to stop production at sole China TV factory by Nov.



JOYCE LEE SEOUL, SEPT. 7

Samsung Electronics has decided to cease production at its only TV factory in China by the end of November, a spokesman said on Monday, the latest in a series of moves by the South Korean firm to shift production from the world's second-largest economy.

The TV factory in Tianjin is the only Samsung Electronics TV production base in China, the spokesman said. The decision is part of "ongoing efforts to enhance efficiency" in its production facilities, Samsung said in a statement earlier.

The factory has about 300 workers, Yonhap news agency reported on Monday. Samsung declined to comment on the number of workers, but said some of the workers and equipment are expected to be retained.

The latest exit leaves Samsung Electronics in China with a home appliance factory in Suzhou and chip production facilities in Suzhou and Xian.

The decision follows Samsung Electronics' display unit confirming separately last week that it is selling off a majority stake in its Suzhou liquid crystal display (LCD) production unit to TCL Technology Group Corp's Star Optoelectronics Technology unit.

Samsung Display said in March it decided to end all of its production of LCD panels in South Korea and China by the end of this year.

In August, Samsung said it will halt operations of its last computer factory in China.

— Reuters

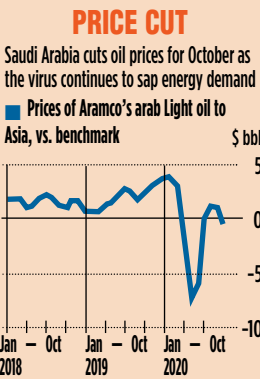
OIL RETREATS AS SAUDI ARABIA SLASHES PRICES FOR OCTOBER

JAMES THORNHILL SEPT. 7

Oil extended its slide after Saudi Arabia cut its pricing for oil sales in October, a sign that the world's biggest exporter sees fuel demand wavering amidst more coronavirus flare-ups around the globe.

Brent crude was at \$42.04 a barrel, down 62 cents or 1.4 per cent by 0859 GMT, after earlier sliding to \$41.51. US West Texas Intermediate crude skidded 63 cents, or 1.6 per cent, to \$39.14 a barrel after earlier dropping to \$38.55, the lowest since July 10.

The world's top oil exporter Saudi Arabia cut the October official selling price for Arab Light crude it sells to Asia by the most since May, indicating demand remains



weak. Asia is Saudi Arabia's largest market.

The kingdom's state producer, Saudi Aramco, reduced its key Arab Light grade of crude by a larger-than-expected amount for shipments to Asia, its main market. It also lowered pricing for US buyers. — Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Sindhu to play in Thomas, Uber Cup

New Delhi: Reigning world champion P. V. Sindhu has agreed to compete in next month's Thomas and Uber Cup after deciding to pull out of the event earlier due to personal reasons, national federation's president Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

"I have requested @Pvsindhu1 to join the team as we find a favourable draw and have the best chance to take a shot at a medal at the ThomasUberCup," Badminton Association of India (BAI) chief Biswa Sarma tweeted.

"She has agreed and will pre-pone her family function so that she can be part of the Indian Team and play for the country." The Indian women's team has been clubbed with 14-time winners China, France and Germany in Group D. — *PTI*

Messi back at Barca, trains alone

Madrid: Lionel Messi returned to Barcelona training for the first time on Monday since his failed attempt to leave the club this summer. Barca confirmed Messi has started by training alone, in line with La Liga protocol. "The 2020/2021 pre-season is under way for Leo Messi," the statement read. Messi was seen driving into the Ciutat Esportiva and Barca posted a photo on social media just before 6.30 pm (1630 GMT) of him training in kit and working with a ball. He was taking part in his first session since Ronald Koeman was appointed coach and his first since he said on Friday he had been forced to stay at Barcelona. In an explosive interview with *Goal*, Messi blamed the club's president Josep Maria Bartomeu for "breaking his word" over a much-disputed exit clause in his contract. — *AFP*

Bucks lose Giannis but beat Heat in OT

Miami: Khris Middleton starred as the Milwaukee Bucks, their backs against the wall and star Giannis Antetokounmpo injured, beat the Miami Heat 118-115 in overtime on Sunday to stay alive in the NBA playoffs.

With reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo ruled out after aggravating his sprained right ankle in the first half, Middleton stepped up to score 36 points — including nine of the Bucks' 11 in overtime. A Middleton three-pointer put Milwaukee up 116-112 with 6.9 seconds left in the extra session. Miami rookie Tyler Herro drained a three-pointer to close the gap to 116-115 before Middleton made two free throws to seal the win. Middleton led six Bucks players to score in double figures in the must-win game. — *AFP*

Fati impresses as Spain take control

Paris: Ansu Fati announced his arrival in international football on Sunday after becoming the youngest goalscorer in the history of the Spanish national team in a 4-0 thumping of Ukraine that put them top their Uefa Nations League group. Barcelona forward Fati put Spain three goals ahead after just 31 minutes of the League A, Group 4 clash at the empty Alfredo di Stefano Stadium in Madrid with a fine individual strike that came amid a scintillating debut start for his adopted country.

The easy win leaves Spain top of Group 4 on four points, one ahead of Sunday's opponents but more importantly two in front of Germany who were held to a second consecutive 1-1 draw, this time with Switzerland. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Semifinals: Trinbago Knight Riders vs Jamaica Tallawahs from 7.30 pm; Guyana Amazon Warriors vs St Lucia Zouks from 3 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports 1, 2, HD

CRICKET

England vs Australia Third T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

US OPEN TENNIS

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, 2, HD

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Georgia vs North Macedonia from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; **France vs Croatia** from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD; **Denmark vs England** from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

NO DJOKE!

Novak out of Open after hitting line judge with ball

New York, Sept. 7: Novak Djokovic was dramatically disqualified from the US Open on Sunday after accidentally striking a female lines judge with a ball in frustration during his last-16 match, sending shock waves through the tournament.

The world number one apologized for hitting the ball in disgust after losing his serve to go 6-5 down in the first set to Spain's 20th seed Pablo Carreno Busta inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Djokovic appeared to be looking the other way when he pulled the ball from his pocket and smacked it in the direction of the official, it hitting her full toss in the throat.

The official cried out and began gasping for air as she collapsed to the ground.

Djokovic rushed over to check on her, placing his hand on her back as she struggled to breathe. After a few minutes she got up and walked off the court looking dazed.

Around ten minutes of discussions then ensued between Djokovic and the tournament referee Soeren Friemel, during which the world number one pleaded his case.

The umpire then declared that Carreno Busta had won by default. Djokovic shook hands with his opponent before leaving the court without appearing to shake the umpire's hand.

He went then directly to his car and left the Flushing Meadows site in New York without speaking to reporters.

Djokovic, 33, later posted an apology on Instagram saying he "so sorry."

He also apologized to tournament organizers for "my behavior" but did not say whether he thought they were right to default him.

The United States Tennis Association said Djokovic had been defaulted under the Grand Slam rules for "intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences."

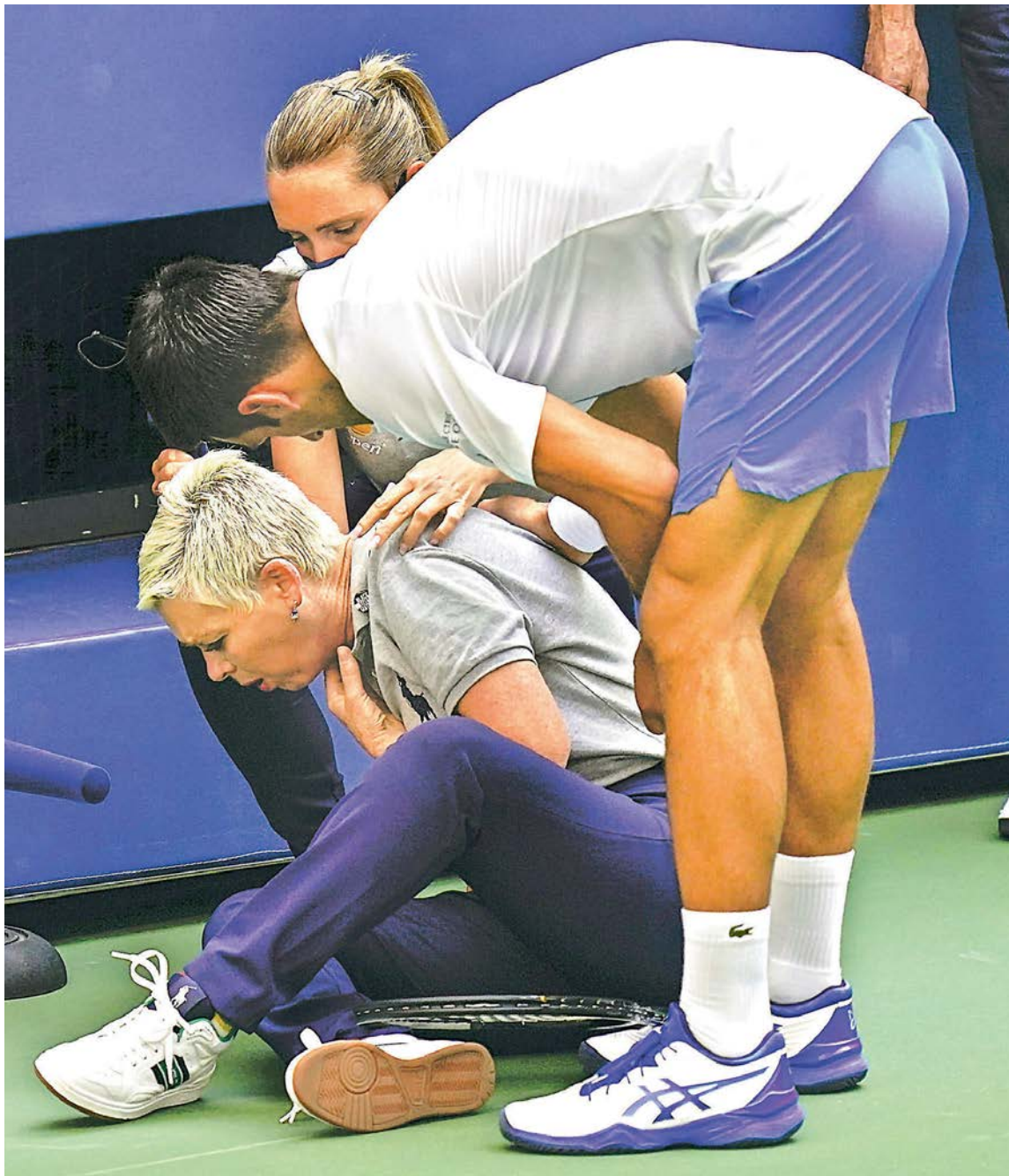
The body added that he would lose all ranking points and prize money from the tournament.

Referee Friemel said Djokovic told him he should not be defaulted because it was unintentional. Friemel said he agreed there was no intent but that it was a clear-cut case of Djokovic hitting the ball "angrily and recklessly."

"She was clearly hurt and in pain. There was no other option," he told reporters.

The Serbian star is one of only a handful of players to be disqualified from a men's singles tournament at a Grand Slam since John McEnroe was infamously tossed from the Australian Open in 1990.

— *AFP*



Serbia's Novak Djokovic checks a lines judge after hitting her with a ball in reaction to losing a point to Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain during their US Open fourth round men's singles match in New York on Sunday. Djokovic was disqualified from the tournament for the reckless hit. — *AP*

Extremely sorry, says Djokovic

New York, Sept. 7: Novak Djokovic apologised for his US Open disqualification on Sunday, declaring himself "extremely sorry" for the moment of madness which saw him defaulted from the tournament.

In a statement on Instagram just hours after his sensational exit in New York, the Serbian world number one said he had been left "really sad and empty" by the controversy.

The 33-year-old was tossed from the tournament after accidentally hitting a tennis ball into the throat of a line official during his fourth round match with Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty," Djokovic said in a statement on Instagram. "I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok."

"I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such



Novak Djokovic walks off the court after being disqualified in a fourth round match on Sunday. — *AFP*

This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok.

— **NOVAK DJOKOVIC**

stress. So unintended. So wrong."

Djokovic, who left Flushing Meadows without speaking to reporters following his exit, said he would try to learn from the incident. "As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he said.

"I apologize to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behavior. I'm very grateful to my team and family for being my rock support, and my fans for always being there with me." — *AFP*

Nick trolls Nole with Twitter poll

Sydney, Sept. 7: Nick Kyrgios opened a cheeky Twitter poll on Monday asking how many years he would be banned if he had hit an official with a ball, after 17-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic's default at the US Open.

The Australian has waged a running battle with the Serb in recent months over his ill-fated Adria Tour exhibition series, lashing out at the world number one's "stupidity" after several players contracted coronavirus.

And he was quick to have his say after Djokovic was sensationally disqualified from the US Open for hitting a woman line judge in the throat with a ball bashed away in disgust after losing his serve.

The combustible Kyrgios, who was hit with a suspended 16-week ban last year for a series of on-court outbursts, jumped onto social media to ask his followers what would happen if he had hit the line judge.

"Swap me for jokers incident," he said, using Djokovic's nickname.

"Accidentally hitting the ball kid in the throat. How many years would I be banned for?" asked the Australian.

The options given were five, 10 or 20 years with the poll attracting more than 60,000 answers in its first hour, with the majority voting for 20 years.

The United States Tennis Association said Djokovic, who apologised, would lose all ranking points and

Swap me for jokers (Djokovic's nickname) incident. 'Accidentally hitting the ball kid in the throat'. How many years would I be banned for?

— **NICK KYRGIOS** tennis player

prize money from the tournament.

While most took the Kyrgios's tweet as a light-hearted dig, not everyone was impressed.

"Slight difference: you did much worse," noted one user, while another wrote: "Same penalty as Djoko. Stop victimising yourself, get on with it."

The ATP opened a probe into Kyrgios last year following an explosive meltdown at the Cincinnati Masters where he smashed two racquets and launched into an abusive tirade at the chair umpire before appearing to spit at the official.

He was fined US\$113,000 for ball abuse, leaving the court without permission, an audible obscenity and unsportsmanlike conduct during his loss to Russia's Karen Khachanov.

While Kyrgios was penalised for the Cincinnati outbursts, he avoided further punishment for calling the ATP "pretty corrupt" during the 2019 US Open after he "clarified" his comment.

Kyrgios, ranked just 40 but a big drawcard, opted to remain in Canberra and not play this year's US Open due to the pandemic.

— *AFP*

Osaka powers into quarters

New York, Sept. 7: Two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka booked a place in the quarter-finals of the US Open on Sunday with a straight-sets win over Estonia's Anett Kontaveit.

Osaka, the fourth seed, powered past her 14th seeded counterpart 6-3, 6-4.

The 2018 US Open champion said keeping her emotions in check was key to dominating the 1 hour 12 minutes match.

Osaka said she hadn't watched live the incident with Novak Djokovic earlier in the day when he was disqualified for accidentally hitting a lines judge with his ball after losing a game.

She was sleeping ahead of her night match, but after becoming aware of it she said it served as a reminder to remain in control while on the court.

"That's definitely like a warning to never do that," Osaka said.

ROGERS, BRADY SCORE UPSETS

Shelby Rogers fought off four match points to upset sixth seed Petra Kvitova and reach the quarter-finals for the first time on Sunday.

The 27-year-old Rogers, who two years ago wondered if she would ever

THE RESULTS

Men's singles fourth round: Pablo Carreno-Busta (ESP x20) bt Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) 6-5 default; Denis Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt David Goffin (BEL x7) 6-7 (0/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; Borna Coric (CRO x27) bt Jordan Thompson (AUS) 7-5, 6-1, 6-3; Alexander Zverev (GER x5) bt Alejandro Davidovich (ESP) 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

Women's singles fourth round: Jennifer Brady (USA x28) bt Angelique Kerber (GER x17) 6-1, 6-4; Yulia Putintseva (KAZ x23) bt Petra Martic (CRO x8) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; Naomi Osaka (JPN x4) bt Anett Kontaveit (EST x14) 6-3, 6-4; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt Petra Kvitova (CZE x6) 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-6 (8/6).

play again as she struggled to recover from knee surgery, battled into the last eight with a 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-6 (8/6) defeat of Czech ace Kvitova in 2hr 40min.

Later, Jennifer Brady, the 28th seed, steamrollered Kerber 6-1, 6-4, to reach her first Grand Slam quarter-final.

Brady said she had transformed her game this year by improving her physical and mental strength.

She defeated Angelique Kerber earlier Sunday before ousting second seed Sofia Kenin.

— *AFP*

Stokes may miss first part of IPL

New Delhi, Sept. 7: IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals are likely to miss their premier all-rounder Ben Stokes during the first part of the T20 event as the World Cup-winner is currently in New Zealand to be with his ailing father Ged.

Stokes, considered the world's best all-rounder right now, left for Christchurch in the middle of the Test series against Pakistan last month after his father, a former All Blacks International, was diagnosed with brain cancer.

"As per quarantine rules in New Zealand, Ben has just completed his 14-day isolation period after reaching New Zealand. Now he will be meeting his father and obviously he would like to spend some quiet time with his family

in this time of crisis," a source privy to developments in the franchise said on conditions of anonymity.

Stokes has been bought by Royals for ₹12.5 crore.

"It is only logical that if he has just completed his quarantine, he would not be available for the first part of the IPL and that is completely understandable. The franchise will not even call Ben as this is not priority at the moment. Let him spend quality family time and any discussions on his availability can happen only after that," the source added.

It is understood that the franchise will "wait" for Stokes to get back to the management and only if the cricketer confirms his availability for the second half, it will take things forward. — *PTI*

'Calm' Kohli eyes better season

Dubai, Sept. 7: Virat Kohli has been able to "disconnect" from the underwhelming seasons that he and Royal Challengers Bangalore have endured in the IPL and there is a welcome "sense of calm" as he prepares to lead the side this year, something he last felt in 2016.

Despite the presence of champion players like Kohli and AB de Villiers, RCB, in the last three seasons, has failed to even qualify for the play-offs. The team last played the final in 2016, a season in which Kohli struck an unprecedented four hundreds.

"The 2016 IPL, we all loved to be a part of (it). Since then, this is the most balanced I have felt about (the) squad," the Indian skipper said on RCB's Youtube show 'Bold Diaries', sharing his thoughts on the upcoming edition start-

NEESHAM LOOKS TO MAKE IT COUNT IN IPL

New Delhi, Sept. 7: Back in IPL after six years, New Zealand all-rounder James Neesham says his much "steadier head" and international success should help him immensely in his stint with Kings XI Punjab this season. By his own admission, Neesham did not know much about his game when he made is IPL debut with the Delhi franchise six seasons ago.

"It is my first time getting involved in a long time. It is exciting to come as an older player and as an experienced player. Last time I played for Delhi, I was young and talented but didn't really know much about my game. I did not know what I needed to do to succeed. It was a challenge back then," Neesham said.

Neesham was bought by KKR for the 2015 edition but could not take part due to an injury.

"This time I have come with a steadier head and knowledge under the belt and hopefully I can pass that knowledge to some of the younger guys in the squad." — *PTI*

ing September 19 in Abu Dhabi. Kohli said that both he and AB de Villiers feel that this

tered to deceive on many occasions.

"I (have) never felt so calm going into a season before. He (ABD) is coming from a very different space and he is enjoying his life and is very relaxed and fit as ever. I feel I am in a much better space, much more balanced, when it comes to environment of (the) IPL," Kohli said.

This is the first time he feels that he isn't carrying any baggage.

"Disconnecting with things that have happened in the past and not taking that baggage, as we have done that way too many times," he responded to a query on what has changed for him this season.

"Just because we have a bunch of players that are so skilled, people like seeing them play is the reason people have had so much expectation as well." — *PTI*

BUTTLER MISSES FINAL T20 vs OZ

Southampton, Sept. 7: England's wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler will miss the final T20 match against Australia on Tuesday to be with his family, the country's cricket board announced on Monday.

Buttler, who hit a match-winning unbeaten 77 in the second T20, left England's bio-secure bubble on Sunday evening following the team's six-wicket victory over the arch-rivals. — *PTI*

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