

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 29.6°C

Min: 23.4°C

RH: 84%

Rain: 0.8mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.

Thundershowers likely.

Max/Min temp. 31/23 °C



NATION | 8
'Kashmiris rather have Chinese rule them'



SPORTS | 12
Dhoni ridiculed for slow batting



CORONA COUNT
CASES (+88,373) **57,27,461**
DEATHS (+1,157) **91,163**
covid19india.org



STATE GOVT BULLETINS
TELANGANA (+2,296) **1,77,070**
(+10) **1,062**



ANDHRA PRADESH (+7,228) **6,46,530**
(+45) **5,506**

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES
3,19,46,610
DEATHS
9,78,202
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
213

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ACB raids Malkajgiri ACP, seizes assets worth ₹75 cr Probe reveals Bonthu-benami link?

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The Anti Corruption Bureau on Wednesday, in a series of raids on properties owned by the Malkajgiri assistant commissioner of police Narasimha Reddy, discovered assets far above his known sources of income. Simultaneous raids on his house in Mahendra Hills, several other towns in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, including some properties owned by his relatives, have revealed that the senior police officer has accumulated assets worth ₹75 crore or more. Among those who were raided as part of the ACB raids to probe Narasimha Reddy's assets, was the Gangadhara mandal MPP from Karimangar district Sri Ramula Madhukar, who before his election to the post, was involved in land deals in Hyderabad. Sources revealed that Madhukar's wife Bonala Swetha was appointed as the Chief Information Officer in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation soon after Bonthu Rammohan took charge as Hyderabad city Mayor. The sources said that the ACB believes that



The ACP's house at Mahendra Hills in Secunderabad. — S. Surender Reddy
₹75cr in cash and other assets belonging to ACP Narasimha Reddy were seized during the ACB raids on Wednesday.

Madhukar has been a *benami* for Bonthu Rammohan and the ties between them, if any, along with any possible role that Narasimha Reddy may have played in this relationship, will also be probed. The sources further said that the ACB officials seized Madhukar's laptop computer and his mobile phone and there

was some pressure to return the gadgets to Madhukar but that the ACB has refused to do so. The raids conducted on 20 different locations revealed that Narasimha Reddy had accumulated some flats, independent houses.

■ **Page 2: ACP involved in land settlements**

KCR makes mutation free, lets poor stay on govt land

Asks people to add names of family members with civic body

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday said mutation for houses, plots, flats and other non-agricultural properties can be done online with the concerned gram panchayat, municipality and municipal corporation for free and without any applications. He also announced the regularisation of the houses which the poor had constructed on government lands. An order in this matter, he said, will be issued in the next two days.

● **MUTATION IS** transfer or change of property ownership in the records of the local body. The buyer or transferee of the property gets the mutation done in his favour in the local body records after getting the property registered in his name.

After holding the review with the ministers of municipal administration and panchayat raj and senior officers of both departments at Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief Minister said people can mutate their non-agriculture prop-

erties with the help of house number and Aadhaar number. Mutation means the transfer or change of property ownership in the records of the local body. The buyer or transferee of the property gets the mutation done in his favour in the local body records after getting the property registered in his name. Online mutation eliminates a layer of bureaucratic process and reduces interface between the buyer or transferee and officials. The Chief Minister said that the owners of around 90 lakh properties have got

them mutated with local bodies and this measure is aimed at getting the rest to do so. In order to make property transactions among family members easy, he also asked people to enrol the names of the family members with the local body concerned along with the Aadhar number. He said omitting the names while mutating the properties with the local bodies will complicate the process of transferring or sharing of the property among the family members.

■ **Page 4: No registration till Dharani portal up: CM**



Suresh Angadi

RAILWAYS MoS SURESH ANGADI DIES OF COVID

New Delhi, Sept. 23: Minister of State for Railways and Karnataka BJP MP Suresh Angadi passed away on Wednesday, days after he tested positive for Covid-19. The 65-year-old passed away at around 8 pm at the AIIMS trauma centre which has been converted into a dedicated Covid-19 facility, sources at the hospital said. A fourth-term MP from Belagavi, Angadi is the first Union minister to have died of Coronavirus. At least six MLAs and three MPs have earlier succumbed to it. Former president Pranab Mukherjee, who died on August 31, was also diagnosed as Covid positive. Angadi had on September 11 tweeted that he had contracted the disease. The MP had requested all those who came in close contact with him over the last few days to monitor their health and get tested in case of any symptoms. — PTI

Oppn MPs boycott last day session

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23

The last day of monsoon session saw several protests in Parliament with Opposition MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha boycotting proceedings in their respective Houses and holding silent marches against the passage of "anti-farmer and anti-labour bills" in the

"absence of discussions". Representatives of the Opposition parties also met President Ramnath Kovind later in the evening and asked him to return the Farmers' Bills so that they can be passed after discussions and suitable amendments. Briefing the media after meeting the President along with other leaders, Leader of Opposition in

Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Opposition did not consider itself responsible for the pandemonium in the Upper House on Monday. "There was no division of votes, no voice voting. Constitution was undermined in the temple of democracy... Unfortunately the deputy chairman got the Bills passed forcefully and we could not under-

stand what was happening. We have requested the President to return the Bills so that they can be discussed again and passed with amendments," Mr Azad said. Claiming that the Constitution was undermined, he said: "The government should have consulted all parties, farmer leaders before bringing the farm bills".

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SHORT TAKES

GOV. CALLS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Hyderabad, Sept. 23: Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday exhorted women to strive to get economically empowered.

Emphasising on the economic empowerment of women, she said that creation of wealth by women through entrepreneurship is crucial to tide over the Covid-19 induced economic instability.

The Governor was launching the 2-month-long Atma Nirbhar self-employment training programme for Raj Bhavan parivar women at Raj Bhavan Community Hall, here.

The training will be given by the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India, formerly known as the ALEAP.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Soundararajan said that when women earn money they judiciously use all that money for the family's welfare.

"In these testing times of pandemic, women need to learn new skills and start their own entrepreneurial ventures to create wealth and get economically strong and empowered," she added. —INN

SCR REPORTS RISE IN FREIGHT SERVICES

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Despite the lockdown, the freight services of the south central railway (SCR) continue to chug on.

According to the general manager, SCR, Gajanan Mallya, there has been an increase in the amount of foodgrains transported in the trains during the Covid-19 pandemic. The SCR managed to run special trains, including parcel cargo express trains, Shramik specials and passenger special trains.

"We transported two metric tonnes during this time last year. This time it has doubled to 4.3 metric tonnes. The southern zone's performance during the last six months of lockdown, has been above par," Mallya said. However, its earnings through passenger services are close to ₹4,500-5,000 crore every year. "but this year, we have not made more than ₹500 crore in passenger services," added Mallya.

This year some major infrastructure work was taken up. This included setting up scissor crossings with pre-stressed concrete sleepers at Kazipet and Vijayawada, replacement or reinforcement of 23 bridges and comprehensive track maintenance on the second rail-cum-road bridge on the Godavari River. New work that have been sanctioned in Telangana include a 32 kms line between Manoharabad and Gajwel, a 30 kms double line between Shadnagar and Gollapalli and an 11 kms line between Jaklair and Makhtal.

"There have been requests from some quarters to run Shramik special trains for migrant workers seeking to come back. We will have to get approval from the MHA to take it forward. We are going to get new trains in the future," Mallya said. On the MMTS front, Mallya added, the SCR is trying to finish all levels of the transportation system.

● **THIS YEAR** some major infrastructure work was taken up. This included setting up scissor crossings with pre-stressed concrete sleepers at Kazipet and Vijayawada, replacement or reinforcement of 23 bridges and comprehensive track maintenance on the second rail-cum-road bridge on the Godavari River. New work that have been sanctioned in Telangana include a 32 km line between Manoharabad and Gajwel.

Quality of teaching suffers as docs not promoted for 10 yrs

Some medical colleges are without regular principals, senior docs

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

With no promotions in the medical and education department of health for the last 10 years, the medical joint action committee has complained to health minister Etala Rajender that it is affecting the quality of education and also creating hurdles for aspiring doctors to continue in government service.

The new medical colleges in Mahabubnagar and Siddipet require

principals and superintendents and senior doctors need to be appointed. But as all hiring is stalled, there are only in-charge positions created. This has hampered the morale of senior doctors in Telangana as their juniors are being appointed as in-charges.

A senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, said "The problems in Nizamabad and Warangal during the pandemic are an indication of how junior in-charge doctors have not been able to take

the pressure and have resigned. The appointment of senior doctors would have helped in this fire-fighting situation and there would have been control measures in place. It is high time the government appoints senior doctors as they are required not only for the new colleges but also existing ones."

According to the Medical Council of India, doctors older than 58 years of age must not hold administrative posts. Dr. Bongu Ramesh,

chairman of the joint action committee for medical education, said "There is a notification issued that they must be promoted and their services must be utilised in medical colleges. But that is not happening. We are seeing a lot of people coming on an adhoc basis and that affects medical education."

At the same time, with no promotions in the department, morale is affected as there are no incentives to look forward to. Another senior doctor,

on condition of anonymity, explained "The age limit of retirement has increased from 58 to 65 years. As a result, those looking forward to getting promoted as professors now have to wait. In the meantime, juniors are elevated to positions for which they are not eligible. This is leading to a lot of bad blood in the fraternity." The doctors complain that neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has carried out promotions twice in 10 years while they are still waiting.



ACB sleuths conduct raid at the residence of Malkajigiri ACP Narasimha Reddy at Mahindra Hills on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

ACP involved in land settlements

From Page 1

The ACP's assets were spread in the city in Nacharam, Habsiguda and Gudimalkapur, and he had acquired 33 acres of land in Ghatkesar, assigned land parcels that spread over five plots, and documents related to 55 more acres

in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.

Preliminary investigations by the ACB, according to the officials, have revealed that the Narasimha Reddy was allegedly involved in many 'land settlements' right from the time he was the inspector of police in Uppal.

He had also worked at the Narsingi police station.

In addition to the raids on properties he owned in the city, the ACB teams also raided properties owned by his relatives in Karimnagar, Warangal and Nalgonda.

The raids were led by

teams led by six deputy superintendents of police from the ACB.

The Anti Corruption Bureau officials said that bank lockers rented by Narasimha Reddy or his members of his family, will be opened on Thursday for verifying their contents.

HC seeks centre's stand on bankruptcy code

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Telangana High Court has sought the stand of Union ministry of corporate affairs, apart from ministry of law and justice, on a petition challenging the ministry's notification of November 15, 2019, notifying all provisions relating to "personal guarantors to corporate debtors" under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 and Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority for Insolvency Resolution Process for Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors) Rules, 2019 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

The division bench comprising Chief

● **THE COURT** issued notices to the Union ministry of corporate affairs and law and justice to respond within four weeks on contentions raised by the petitioner.

Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy was dealing with a petition stating that issuing of notification by ministry of corporate affairs was outside its ambit and is the vice of excessive delegation.

Vikram Posarla, the counsel for petitioner, contended that rules and provisions merely grant the power to notify the date on which provisions of IBC, 2016, come into force, but not to select the class of persons to which the provisions will apply. The

impugned notification selected "personal guarantors to corporate debtors" as a class of persons to which the provisions would apply. But such power was never delegated to the ministry, the counsel pointed out.

He further underlined that the notification creates a situation where the creditor can unjustly enrich itself by making a claim in Insolvency Process of Guarantor without accounting for the amount realised by it in the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of the Corporate Debtor under Part II of the code. The court issued notices to the Union ministry of corporate affairs and law and justice to respond within four weeks on contentions raised by the petitioner.

GHMC at 'fault' for shut Gough Road

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The contradictory pleas by GHMC while seeking land for laying of an alternate route for commuters using Gough Road are not in sync with the Corporation's actual requirement and hence have been found untenable.

That was the clarity given by the local defence authorities while justifying the closure of Gough Road that runs through the AOC Centre in Secunderabad.

A PIB news release, citing defence authorities, said "Lack of urgency on the part of GHMC officials to implement the directions of the High Court that were passed in 2014 has led to continuous suffering of residents, who have been denied use of alternate

● **A JOINT** survey with the revenue department for finalizing the extent of defence land that is required has been completed at the behest of defence authorities.

roads." It said that a joint survey with the revenue department for finalizing the extent of defence land that is required has been completed at the behest of defence authorities.

A meeting has been scheduled with GHMC officials for Saturday to expedite the matter.

The release said that "defence authorities are hopeful that the state government will construct the alternate road to Gough Road, which has been pending despite the High Court having directed it in 2014."

Nearly 2,000 Covid patients on life support

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Coronavirus continues to make itself felt in Telangana state giving little respite to the people by registering 2,296 more cases. There were also 10 more deaths from the disease taking the fatalities from Covid-19 to 1,062, while the total cases so far reached 1,77,070 in the state.

As many as 6,346 suffering from Covid-19 in the state were in various government and private hospitals in the state as on Tuesday evening, according to the Covid-19 bulletin issued by the health department on Wednesday. An additional 23,527 Covid-19 patients were either in home or institutional isolation.

A majority of the admitted to hospitals — 4,966 — are receiving additional care including ventilator support. As per the data released by the health department among those requiring more hands on care, 824 were on ventilator support while 1,123 were in intensive care units taking those on life support to around 2,000 persons.

● **AS MANY** as 6,346 suffering from Covid-19 in the state were in various government and private hospitals in the state as on Tuesday evening, according to the Covid-19 bulletin issued by the health department on Wednesday.

Another 3,019 patients were on supplementary oxygen support. The rest of 3,327 patients were in regular wards, the department said.

As per the bulletin, the GHMC area registered 321 new Covid-19 cases, the highest in the state for the 24-hour period from 8 pm Monday to 8 pm Tuesday. Ranga Reddy district followed with 217 cases, Medchal-Malkajigiri with 173, Nalgonda with 155, Karimnagar with 136, Warangal Urban with 99, Siddipet with 92, Nizamabad 82, and Sangareddy with 81 cases. Four other districts — Suryapet, Mahbubabad, Kamareddy and Bhadrachalam reported more than 70 cases each. The lowest cases for the day — six — were reported from Narayanpet district.

Bharat Biotech, US varsity sign pact

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer, Bharat Biotech, has entered into a licensing agreement with Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis for a novel chimp-adenovirus, single dose intranasal vaccine for Covid-19.

According to a release from the company on Wednesday, the Phase-I trials for the vaccine will take place in Saint Louis University's Vaccine & Treatment Evaluation Unit. Once Bharat Biotech obtains the required regulatory approvals, it will pursue further stages of clinical trials in India, the company said.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
Office of the Executive Engineer Serilingampally Circle-20, SLP Zone:GHMC					
Procurement Notice					
NIT No.	32/EE/CIR-20/SLP/2020-21	Category of Work	Estimate Amount (Rs)	Start Date/Last Date of Bids	Name & Address of Officer Cell No.
1-11/2020-21	32/EE/CIR-20/SLP/2020-21	Civil & Other Works	245.88	28.09.2020 01:30 PM	EE, CIR-20, SLP, GHMC 9154299724
Date:22-09-2020	RO No: 5298-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21	Sd/- Executive Engineer, Circle-20, GHMC			

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
MALKAJIGIRI CIRCLCE - 28					
NIT No.	GHMC/ MK/JETN/ 2020- 21/19	Name of the Work	ECV (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	Name & Address of Officer Cell No.
		Maintenance Works CC Road-29 Compound wall-1, Community Hall-2 Other work-8 (Total work-40)	738.70	25.09.2020 04:30 PM 30.09.2020 04:30 PM	Executive Engineer 9989930374
For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in					
RO No: 5309-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No.28, GHMC					

	HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY URBAN FORESTRY HGCL Building, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 008	
	R.C.No.1809/UF/HMDA/2018	Dt.21.09.2020
TENDER NOTIFICATION		
<p>The Urban Forestry of HMDA is inviting tenders for Supply of UV stabilized polythene bags for raising of nursery stock , other development & maintenance works and Procurement of various plant material (upto March 2020) in HMDA jurisdiction from the registered contractors in any State or Central Government Departments / Organisations who have previous experience of executing similar nature of works on e-procurement platform. The last date for tender filling is 05.10.2020. For further details please visit HMDA official website: http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in</p>		
		Sd/- Director(FAC), Urban Forestry, HMDA
R.O.No.936-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21		

TENDER NOTICE	
"C-DAC invites Request for Proposals for Empanelment of Translation Agencies. Interested bidders may download the Tender Document from www.cdac.in and submit the bids in Sealed Envelope, details as given in the Tender Document, along with an EMD of Rs. 5000/- (Refundable), by Demand Draft favouring C-DAC, Pune payable at Pune. For Last Date of Submission of Bids kindly refer www.cdac.in	
dayp-06132/11/0006/2021	

भारत सरकार Government of India

परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy

क्रय एवं भंडार निदेशालय Directorate of Purchase & Stores

संदर्भ/Ref : DPS/CPU/09/D/1/279/19-20/167

Date: 22/09/2020

e-Tender Notice

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और की ओर से निदेशक, क्रय एवं भंडार द्वारा निम्नलिखित ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं / Online tenders are invited by Director, P&S for and on behalf of the President of India for following :

क्रम सं. S. No.	निविदा संख्या Tender Number	संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description	निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तारीख / Due date of submission UPTO 2.30 pm
1	DPS/CPU/03/C2/2207/PT	RADON MEASURING SYSTEM WITH ACCESSORIES	19/10/2020

संपूर्ण निविदा दस्तावेज वेबसाइट <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं तथा वहाँ से डाउनलोड भी किया जा सकते हैं। निविदा में भाग लेने के लिए एनरोलमेंट अनिवार्य है। निविदाएं केवल ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करनी हैं। तकनीकी सहायता के लिए संपर्क 020-25315555 EXTN No.6. विज्ञापनों को हमारे उपकरणों कोर्टल पर एनरोल करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।

Complete tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from website <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. Enrolment is mandatory for participating in Tender. Tenders are to be submitted online only. For Technical assistance. CONTACT 020 25315555 EXTN No.6 mail to support.dpsdae@nextenders.com. Vendors are encouraged to enroll on our above sited portal.

HUGE | SCAM

The agency is probing multi-crore gaming fraud involving Chinese companies

Lax scrutiny by payment gateways to invite RBI ire

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Lax due diligence by payment gateways like Paytm, Cashfree and Razorpay could invite the wrath of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is investigating the money-laundering angle in the multi-crore gaming fraud involving Chinese companies, is said to be preparing a detailed report on the

role of payment gateways that enabled Chinese companies to smoothly run their pan-India operations. The ED's report, which is likely to mention the role of HSBC bank in the online gaming fraud, will shortly be submitted to the RBI. It is learnt the Enforcement Directorate has come across hard evidence about payment gateways being lax in their functioning. Highly placed sources

told *Deccan Chronicle* that right at the initial stages of investigation, role of Paytm and Cashfree had surfaced in payments going to the Chinese companies run by Beijing T Power. As the probe deepened, ED summoned top executives of both these firms repeatedly to explain how transactions running into thousands of crores could go unchecked under their watch. In subsequent investigations, it emerged

that one of the Chinese companies had parked Rs. 9 crore with another payment gateway Razorpay.

However, no individuals of these payment gateways have as yet been found to have assisted the accused Chinese companies. ED has found that locals were hired and used to open bank accounts with HSBC for payments through Paytm, Cashfree and Razorpay.

"Non-reporting of suspi-

cious transactions to regulatory authorities has helped accused companies to run their operations smoothly," ED officials maintain.

Analysis of two bank accounts belonging to M/s Dokypay Technology Private Limited revealed that they collected ₹1,268 crore in 2019, out of which ₹300 crore came via Paytm payment gateway and ₹600 crore was transferred out via the same Paytm gate-

way. Examination of M/s Linkyun Technology accounts revealed a similar pattern involving outward foreign remittances of ₹120 crore. There are suspicions that the network of companies indulged in banned activities like online betting as well as hawala transactions.

ED is presently questioning Chinese national Yan Hao and two other accused in the case.

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha
 Ashtami till 7.06 pm
Star: Moola till 6.13 pm
Varjyam: 4.38 pm to 6.13 pm; 3.57
 am to 5.35 am (Friday)
Durmuhurtam: 10.08 am to
 10.56 am; 2.55 pm to 3.43 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 6, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.06 am
Zohar: 12.18 pm
Asar: 4.29 pm
Maghrib: 6.17 pm
Isha: 7.24 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.10 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM

MOONSET TODAY 12.54 PM

MOONRISE TOMORROW NIL

COUNTER POINT



How much did the Centre spend on PM's visits to China and Pakistan?

IN BRIEF

Swiggy staff strike enters 9th day

Hyderabad: While the strike by Swiggy delivery executives has entered the ninth day, the company is maintaining that 80 per cent of its staff is back at work and only 20 percent are protesting. Swiggy further says it has revised the average payment to ₹85 per order for those taking more orders. The company claims it is not forcing anyone to work and delivery executives are logging in on their own. Meanwhile, the Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers (IFAT) has stated that its main demand is pay-out of ₹35 for four kilometers, which remains unfulfilled. The federation alleged that accessibility to the app is not being allowed to those who are protesting which, it says, is unfair.

Urdu Academy to hold training classes

Hyderabad: Urdu Academy, in collaboration with Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu), is organising training classes for Urdu medium teachers belonging to government schools in subjects of maths, physics, biology and social science. Academy president Maulana Mohammed Raheemuddin Ansari said classes will be in all probability be held between October 19 and 23. Earlier, the classes were to be held physically. But due to COVID-19, it has been decided that the mode of training will be online. Objective of the training is to educate teachers in technical and pedagogical methodologies of teaching, which will help their pupils to grasp their subjects easily. Academy secretary Mohammed Ghouse said online applications for coaching will be invited next week. Services of the renowned professors of central and state universities will be utilised for training the government Urdu teachers.

RTC buses back on roads after 6 months

Commuters have to travel at their own risk, say officials

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) on Wednesday resumed its operations in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits after about six months since the Covid-19 lock down in March.

Though the TSRTC had resumed its operations in districts from June, the state government has asked it to shut in the city citing the number of Coronavirus cases. However, as many 230 buses in over 100 routes in the suburbs hit the roads, though restrictions are still imposed to operate in the core area.

Surprisingly, the RTC

● **RTC AUTHORITIES** said that though the department decided to run 230 buses on 135 routes, only 150 buses turned up and with very minimal footfall. Officials said that they expect increased footfall on Thursday since very few were aware of the resumption of services since it was a sudden decision.

Authorities were silent on Covid-19 guidelines being implemented in the buses.

Officials said that unlike the Hyderabad Metro Rail limited (HMRL), RTC buses in the city cannot assure social distancing norms. They said that commuters will travel at their own risk.

RTC authorities said that though the department decided to run 230 buses on 135 routes, only 150 buses turned up and with very minimal footfall. Officials said that they expect increased footfall on Thursday since very few were aware of the resumption of services since it was a sudden decision.

Officials said that though they have sanitised the buses, they cannot ensure social distancing in the city. It will be the duty of commuters to wear face masks and use hand sanitisers, etc.

A senior RTC official, requesting anonymity, said that looking at the number of Covid-19 cases in the core city, the authorities were worried about operating in

the city. He said operations in peripheral areas, including Rajendranagar, Maheshwaram, Ibrahimpatnam, Bandlaguda and others should be considered as pilot, since the organisation will study challenges in operating buses in the core city.

The official said it would be an impossible task to operate buses in an organised manner like HMRL considering the revenue aspect.

When asked about commencing the operations of buses in the core city, the official said that a final decision will be taken by the state government and most likely buses will fully operate in a couple of days based on the outcome of the 135 routes pressed into service.

TSBIE TAKES BACK DECISION ON SYLLABUS REDUCTION

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

A day after the Telangana state board of intermediate education (TSBIE) announced a 30 per cent reduction in the first and second years' syllabus for the current year due to the four months of classes lost because of the lockdown, it has hastily taken back the decision of cutting down the syllabus in the humanities stream.

In a release, the board said there was no question of removing lessons on national heroes, social reformers and eminent personalities. It said that while the syllabus for maths and science was reduced on the basis of CBSE's recommendation, the 'proposals' for reducing the syllabus in the humanities should be treated as 'under examination'. The intermediate syllabus for the humanities is based on the state syllabus and any reduction in this will have to be approved by a competent authority, which has not been done yet.

The release of these proposals prior to approval of a competent authority is 'unintended and premature' and the reduction of the syllabus in each subject will now be discussed and intimated in due course.

It may be recalled that the board had on Tuesday removed topics like Join India Movement (the freedom movement in Hyderabad state), Telangana Praja Samithi (Separate Telangana state movement-early phase), non-cooperation movements (separate Telangana state movement-later phase) and popular jatras (fairs and festivals of Telangana), other than lessons on liberalism, individualism, communism, GST, etc in the intermediate first and second years' humanities syllabi.

● **IN A RELEASE**, the board said there was no question of removing lessons on national heroes, social reformers and eminent personalities.

Despite deaths manholes still open



People of Boduppal place a television set on an open pothole to cover it for the convenience of the motorists, in Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

JNTUH exam notice has students in jitters

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The student community in the state continues to express disappointment with the authorities. In the latest development, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Hyderabad (JNTUH) released a notice intimating a second and third spell of exams to be conducted from the second week of October.

The notice released on Monday read: "This second spell of semester exams comprises regular and supplementary examinations of all PG courses (including Pharm D) and all I-I, II-I, III-I and IV-I supply exams of the B.Tech and B.Pharm courses. All the

I-2, II-2, III-2 (even semester) regular examinations of the B.Tech and B.Pharm courses shall be conducted in the third spell of semester exams, which will commence from last week of October."

Students opposed the University's decision saying this was unjust and put undue pressure on them, already struggling with completion of syllabus through online classes during a raging pandemic as they are.

Several students told *Deccan Chronicle* that the University authorities were not bothered about the impacts such decisions would have on them, including on their health and practical issues such as transportation.

● **STUDENTS OPPOSED** the University's decision saying this was unjust and put undue pressure on them, already struggling with completion of syllabus through online classes during a raging pandemic as they are.

A B.Tech fourth year student who will have to appear for both regular exams and supplementary exams for third year, second semester said, "I tested positive for Covid-19 recently. We are expected to prepare for both sets of exams at such short notice. We are not robots to get ready within a month for the

entire semester course, especially when struggling with online classes for the previous semester."

Another student said the decision caused panic among students, confused about whether to focus on the current semester or to prepare for the previous semester exams. A student from Medchal district said, "The college told us that it will promote all students to the next semester, so I did not carry any books with me. Now I don't know how to arrange for books and resources at such short notice, while focusing on ongoing classes and work assignments."

Final year students who are supposed to appear for supplementary exams

of previous semesters are finding it difficult to decide whether to focus on placements or prepare to clear backlogs.

The notice gave students the option to pick three preference centres for the exams, of which one will be allocated randomly. However, students say this will not work because of accommodation-related issues. Even if the university allowed us pick our centre, we would still have this problem, the students said.

Students are now demanding that the university revoke the decision to conduct previous semester examinations and to allow students to focus on the running semester and online classes.

IN THE FAST LANE

Rules shared by police on Twitter, other social media platforms to make driving easy

Traffic cops take the cricket route for safety on roads

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

It is the IPL cricket season and it is not just the hard-hitting batsmen who have been hitting the ball over the boundary line. The Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) too has thrown its hat into the ring and if its initial performance is anything to go by, it is well on its way to hit the ball out of the park.

In a series of posts on Twitter and other social media platforms over the past three days, the CTP shared what it called 'Road Safety Lessons from IPL 2020' using images from the games so far to make telling points about why it is a good idea to follow road rules. And the messages make no bones about what lies in wait for those who ignore traffic rules and safety norms.

"There is no Super Over in our life to get another chance," reads one message. "Follow traffic rules. Save lives," the message superimposed on a screen-grab from the Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab game on September 21. Two more such messages were picked up from subsequent matches.

"The idea is to relate popular trending topics to road safety issues," says Mohammad Khaja, a constable with CTP and part of their three-member social media team adding, "our attempt is to inspire people to pay attention to traffic and road safety rules."

One of the more popular messages Khaja and his teammates developed starred Tollywood actor Nandamuri Balakrishna. "Even Balakrishna responded to our message saying he liked it and was happy to



Cyberabad Traffic Police's social media team (left to right) Constable Md. Khaja, Sub-Inspector P. Shashikanth Reddy and Constable S. Samrat.

be part of such traffic safety awareness initiatives," Khaja says. "We want to get our messages across that road safety is a priority and in an entertaining manner when possible," he says.

"The team does a tremendous job on this front," says CTP's Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Vijay Kumar, adding "Khaja

is a rare find. He is very well read, very creative and is not common to find someone like him in the force."

"The entire drive of the social media team of CTP is not to get some publicity for ourselves but about finding the best way to connect with people, educate and inform them," Vijay Kumar explains.



Road safety lessons by CTP superimposed on a screen-grab from the Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab game on September 21.

"Using social media works for both sides-for us to get our messages across and for people to connect with us with their grievances, alerts and any requests. The best part is that it is instant communication," the official says.

It is not just entertaining

messages that CTP's social media team focuses on. From time to time, it writes its own news reports about road accidents and posts them highlighting the cause for an accident, the impact it has left on a family and how a tragedy could have been averted.

POLICE ARREST DRUG PEDDLER, 150 GM OF OPIUM SEIZED FROM ACCUSED

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

A drug supplier was nabbed with 150 grams of opium by the south zone task force on Wednesday in the city.

On a tip-off, the south zone task force, Hyderabad, along with Nallakunta police apprehended the accused, Dinesh Kumar, and seized 150 grams of opium, a cell phone and a bike from him.

Kumar is a native of Rajasthan, came to Hyderabad six

years ago to work in the steel ward in Nagole as a labourer. He himself is an opium addict. During the lockdown, he lost work and financially became weak. Immediately after the lockdown was lifted, Kumar went to his native place and hatched a plan to sell and supply opium in the city. In first week of September, he procured 1 kg of opium from Rajasthan which he sold in the city to various clients for ₹1,400 to ₹1,500 hundred a gram.

Career Chronicle

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
 (Set up an Act of Parliament)
 ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established for the regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountants in India. During its more than 70 years of glorious existence, ICAI has achieved recognition as a second largest global Accountancy Body. ICAI invites applications from administratively capable human resources for the following positions for its Centre of Excellence—Hyderabad:

Position	Qualification Pre-requisite	Experience Pre-requisite	No. of Position	Monthly Remuneration (all inclusive)
Master Trainer	Post Graduate Degree in Finance, Social Sciences or IT domain (minimum 60% marks) from a reputed Institute/University	4-5 years of proven experience as a Trainer, Corporate Trainer, or related position in a MNC/IT/Finance Company	1	
Social Media Expert	Bachelor's in Computer Science/IT or B.Tech with minimum 60% marks from a recognised University. Diploma in Marketing, Business, Media or Public Relations	4-5 years of proven working experience in Social Media Marketing as Social Media Officer or as Digital Media Specialist in IT/ITES/Financial MNC	1	Rs. 75,000/-

For structured application and eligibility criteria, please visit our website: www.icai.org. Interested candidates may e-mail their structured application at recruitcoehyd@icai.in or can send through speed post to the Assistant Secretary (HRD), The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, ICAI Bhawan, I.P. Marg, New Delhi 110 002, superscribing on the envelope 'Application for the post of _____' within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.

Advt. No. 74/2020

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
 invites applications for the post of
Director (Finance)
 in
Central Coalfields Limited
 Last date of receipt of applications in
 PESB is by **15.00 hours**
 on **27th November, 2020.**
 For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

National Centre for Disease Control
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
 22, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054
 WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A walk-in-interview for selection to 06 Consultant (Epidemiologist); 02 Consultant (Microbiologist), (01) Communication Officer, (01) Statistician-cum-Programmer and (01) Data Processing Assistant, purely on contract basis initially for a period of one year, subject to further extension of the program, is scheduled to be held in Central Surveillance Unit of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme under National Health Mission at NCDC, Delhi on 16th October, 2020.

Selection Procedure:
 Registration of the Candidates will be carried on 16th October, 2020, between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. at NCDC, Delhi followed by personal interview on the same date, the candidates are required to submit their resume along with photocopies of all documents/ testimonials and 2 passport size photographs at the time of registration.

Terms & Conditions:
 a) No TA/ DA will be admissible for attending the Walk-in-interview
 b) Candidate must ensure their eligibility as per Terms of Reference (TOR) before appearing in Walk-in-interview, detailed advertisement can be viewed at website www.idsp.nic.in and www.ncdc.gov.in.
 c) Candidates must bring all the original certificates including experience certificates for the verification, candidates without original documents will not be permitted to appear in the interview.

davp 17129/11/0003/2021

Director

prda

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 B-14/A, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI BHAWAN, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI-110016.
VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for appointment to the post of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust)** on **Deputation / Contract basis** for an initial period of three (03) years, extendable thereafter, for a period of another two (02) years subject to satisfactory performance review and mutual consent. The complete details of eligibility criteria, mode of selection, emoluments and application form etc. are available on PFRDA's website i.e. www.pfrda.org.in as well as NPS Trust's website i.e. www.npsttrust.org.in and also on the website of National Career Service www.ncs.gov.in.

Corrigendums/ Addendums/ Notices (if any) relating to this vacancy notification shall be issued only on the website of PFRDA/NPS Trust.

The last date for receipt of application is **22 October, 2020 (Thursday).**
 Sd/- THE GENERAL MANAGER (Admin & HR)
 davp 15102/11/0005/2021

SHORT TAKES

BAJRANG DAL
PROTESTS NEAR
AP CM'S HOUSESANJAY SAMUEL PAUL DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Around 60 Bajrang Dal activists were arrested for staging a 'dharna' in front of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence, in Jubilee Hills here on Wednesday. They were demanding the government to provide adequate protection to Hindu temples in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the Station Head Officer of Banjara Hills police station, N. Kalinga Rao, around 60 protestors reached Jagan Mohan Reddy's house around 11:30 am.

Raising slogans against the Chief Minister and Minister Kodali Sri Venkateshwar Rao (Kodali Nani) they demanded Jagan Mohan Reddy to sign the faith register at Tirumala temple expressing faith in Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Police detained all the protestors as a preventive measure, he said.

NO REGISTRATION
TILL DHARANI
PORTAL UP: CM

From Page 1

The Chief Minister said there won't be any registrations of agricultural or non-agricultural property until Dharani portal is operational.

The Chief Minister also asked people to enrol the details of houses constructed in agriculture fields, near agriculture wells and also farmhouses. The online mutation, however, will not be applicable to the houses or structures built on the lands of Wakf, Endowments, FTL and lands under the ULC.

The Chief Minister said that he will hold a meeting with Hyderabad MLAs and mayors of municipal corporations in the state to finalise the modalities of regularising the sale of property in slum areas made on the basis of declaration through a public notary in Hyderabad.

He also said that the government would give a final chance for the registration of property bought through Sada Bi Nama (paper transactions).

He said the government would issue a maroon-coloured passbook to each non-agriculture property holder in the state, which would render a fool-proof protection to the property and ease transactions through minimising the human interface.

BJP DEMANDS
WHITE PAPER ON
HYDERABADDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

BJP MLC N. Ramachander Rao on Wednesday demanded that the state government release a white paper on the total amount spent for development of Hyderabad city during the past four years.

Addressing a press conference, he pointed out that municipal administration minister K. T. Rama Rao had recently declared that government has already spent ₹65,000 crore on development under GHMC limits, particularly Hyderabad city. While the claim is so, citizens of the city have been experiencing innumerable problems, including bad roads and open nalas, which are causing great inconvenience to general public.

Ramachander Rao said recent rains claiming two lives in just a day expose the claim of such amounts being spent on beautification works in the capital city. He accused TRS leaders of making false promises just before GHMC elections to win the confidence of gullible voters.

The BJP MLC said while the TRS government had promised two-bedroom houses to all homeless poor, it has constructed not more than 10,000 houses during the last four years in the city, when the fact is that lakhs of people have no houses.

Expressing confidence that BJP would win a majority of seats in GHMC during the coming elections, Ramachander Rao asked people to support BJP and free Hyderabad city from the clutches of TRS and MIM.

● **RAMACHANDER RAO** said recent rains claiming two lives in just a day expose the claim of such amounts being spent on beautification works in the capital city. He accused TRS leaders of making false promises just before GHMC polls.

Cong demands caste-wise
reservation for GHMC polls

Senior leader Shashidhar asks govt whether wards will be increased

MADDY DEEKSHITH
| DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The Congress party found fault with the ward-wise reservations in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

Former minister, M. Shashidhar Reddy, demanded that the TRS government give a clear picture on whether wards in GHMC would be increased. If not, he asked for transparent surveys based on caste reservations in the wards well in advance in order to conduct a free and fair election. He said enumeration should be completed and reservations declared at least

one week prior to the election notification.

The Congress party discussed the ongoing special summary revision with reference to January 1, 2021 as the cut-off date and some glaring irregularities were pointed out. During the meeting with party leaders at Gandhi Bhavan, it was decided that it would be taken up with the chief electoral officer, Dr Shashank Goel.

The state government did not come out with any categorical statement about their intent to continue with the same number of 150 municipal wards for the coming GHMC elections, said Reddy, adding that if they come out with this,

they will also have to announce whether they will continue with the wards as per the delimitation done last time or fresh delimitations will be carried out now.

"The delimitation of divisions was taken up on the basis of the 2011 population census. Hyderabad population census data is gathered on the basis of 35 census wards, which are not the same as the GHMC wards for holding elections. There are wards number 1 to 23 on the Hyderabad side and 1 to 12 on the Secunderabad side. Further, each of these wards comprise enumeration blocks (EBs). EB-wise census data should be put in the

public domain by GHMC. Similarly, GHMC should also put out the EB-wise break up of each of the 150 wards (divisions) of the GHMC with the details of SC and ST population. If the delimitation process is completed in such a way, the opposition will know which of the 150 wards should be earmarked for SC and ST reservation. The other category will be BC reservation. The number of BC voters are determined ward-wise after an enumeration is done on the field, polling station-wise," said Reddy.

During previous polls, several discrepancies have been found in the enumeration of BC voters. Caste-wise reserva-

tions in the wards and data were manipulated accordingly, to make the 150 wards suit the ruling party, said Reddy, adding "In 2015, we had focused on the large-scale illegal deletion of lakhs of voters, which was stayed with the intervention of the election commission of India. It had led to the transfer of the then GHMC commissioner, Somesh Kumar." However, during the upcoming GHMC polls, the Congress will carefully monitor this whole process of delimitation, enumeration of BC voters and reservations to prevent the government from making it unfairly advantageous for themselves.

AP affairs in TS



Senior Congress leader Ganga Bhavani (left), AP Mahila Congress president, Ramana Kumari (centre) and former central minister M.M. Pallam Raju (extreme right) felicitate Andhra Pradesh party in-charge Oommen Chandy during the AP Congress coordination committee meeting on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

MANUU HOLDS
ONLINE TRAINING
SESSIONDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Students, NSS volunteers and alumni of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) received online training on constitutional duties and rights framework on Wednesday organised by 'ComMutiny', a youth collective supported by UNICEF. The training was themed "Social leadership for change". Around 180 volunteers participated.

Chandy accuses Centre
of letting down APDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Former Chief Minister of Kerala and AICC in-charge for AP Congress affairs Oommen Chandy on Wednesday charged the BJP government at the Centre of betraying Andhra Pradesh in its six years of rule as it had not implemented a single promise made during the bifurcation.

He was addressing a press conference here after a meeting with the AP Pradesh Congress Committee president S. Sailajanath and other senior leaders of the party.

Reminding that the UPA government has assured the special status to Andhra Pradesh, successive governments should not forget the promises made by their predecessors and they have an obligation to honour the assurances.

Stating that during the meeting they discussed national politics, farmers' issues and also the situation of the party in Andhra Pradesh, he alleged that the BJP government has failed in resolving farmers' problems.

The senior party leader said that they will strengthen the Congress in AP by establishing booth-level booth level committees.

Wakf Board seeks funds to pay Imams

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

About 4,000 applications of Imams and muezzins seeking monthly remuneration have been pending with the Wakf Board for more than two years now. Though the Wakf Board is sending reminders for addition-

al funds to the government, it seems like the government is not inclined to oblige.

The state government had in 2015 launched a scheme for giving remuneration to Imams and muezzins following Supreme Court orders and representations from various corners. The government, vide GO Rt. No. 117 (07-07-

2015) started the scheme covering 5,000 masjids. In the beginning, only ₹1,000 was fixed as honorarium and in April 2017 the amount was enhanced to ₹1,50,000. In September 2018, the amount was enhanced to ₹5,000 per month. The Wakf Board achieved a target of 10,000 Imams and muezzins in the same year. Since then, it

is receiving applications, which have mounted to 4,000.

Wakf Board officials said that the Chairman and CEO have addressed letters to the government intimating about the pending petitions and asked to relax the limit of 5,000 Masjids and increase the earmarked amount.

SCENIC | BEAUTY

It was closed for 7 months due to the pandemic

Kuntala waterfall open to public

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, SEPT. 23

Visitors are now being allowed to see the scenic beauty of the Kuntalawater fall.

The forest department has lifted the restrictions on visitors under the pressure from tourists and visitors and is now allowing visitors after seven months, though visitors must follow Covid-19 norms

They also have to park their vehicles two km from the site and walk to the waterfall. Forest officials were under tremendous pressure from the visitors and tourists to allow



The forest department has lifted the restrictions on tourists to visit the Kuntala waterfall.

them to go down the steps to watch the gushing Kuntala waterfall and enjoy its scenic beauty from up close. There are several incidents where forest employees and visitors quarrelled over the closure of Kuntala waterfall for visitors and tourists in the last seven months. Some visitors mount-

ed pressure on the forest staff through political leaders and sought permission to go to close to the bottom of the waterfall. However, forest staff did not allow the visitors and tourists to Kuntala waterfall in view of Covid-19 epidemic, despite the political pressure.

Somanna of Kuntala village, reputed as a guard for the safety of the visitors, said the waterfall which remained closed for seven months was opened for visitors and now tourists can enjoy the waterfall which was gushing with water following the rains upstream.

NEW REFORMS
WILL BENEFIT
INDUSTRIES: KTRS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Industries and Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday said that a citizen services management portal will be created to provide government services on a single website.

The minister held a high-level meeting with heads of various departments to discuss new reforms required to improve Ease of Doing Business standards in the state.

He also held a review meeting on the TS-bPASS policy. Stating that the new reforms would be useful for the industry in multiple ways, the minister gave a set of directions to be followed by the secretaries while drafting the new reforms.

Rama Rao opined that these new reforms will bring a positive change in the implementation of works by various departments.

He instructed officials to create a dashboard to check the status of programmes taken up by various departments.

While reviewing the TS-bPASS policy, the Minister said that the Telangana state government is providing building and layout permissions to the citizens in a hassle-free manner.

He said that the departments should work in coordination for its successful implementation. He asked the concerned departments to appoint one nodal officer from each department for better coordination.

The minister said that soon an announcement will be made on the implementation of TS-bPASS and its plan of action.

● **WHILE REVIEWING** the TS-bPASS policy, the Minister said that the Telangana state government is providing building and layout permissions to the citizens in a hassle-free manner.

● **HE SAID** that the departments should work in coordination for its successful implementation.

● **THE INDUSTRIES** and Municipal Administration Minister asked the concerned departments to appoint one nodal officer from each department for better coordination.

OBITUARY



Sri Muppidi Narender Reddy
DOB 13-06-1952 – DOD 21-09-2020

Sir, you shall remain in our Hearts forever.

The Management, Staff and Students of
CVR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

The Management -
Recollecting his
Towering Support,
Faculty - Remembering
his Perfect Arrangements,
Students - Recalling his
Endearing Solutions,
Buildings - Resounding his
Silent Words,
Roads - Resonating his
Humble Steps,
Buses - Reapproaching his
Gentle Waves.

Campus - Reverberating his
Immense Care.

SHRADDHANJALI



*With profound grief, we inform
you the sad demise of*

Shri. PURUSHOTHAM DAS SHAH

S/o Late Narottam Das Shah
Retd. Officer-State Bank of Hyderabad

DoB: 28-Oct-1937 | DoD: 20-Sept-2020

In grief: Family & Friends
Mob: 98866 26263

(S/2021/D00630)



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

SUMITHA BHASKAR JUTIKA

29th AUG 1943 - 24th SEP 2017

We miss you Maa

VANESSA CHELLI BABA
KITTY MASOOD SWETHA
VICKY DIMPLE SONU BONNIE
ARCHIE

(S/2021/D00558)

*I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.*



A.M. DEYANI DIWAKAR
W/o Late Anaparthi Diwakar Babu
DOB: 14-05-1966 DOD: 23-09-2020
Burial details: Funeral at Narayana
Cemetery on 24-09-2020 at 12 noon

(S/2021/D00631)

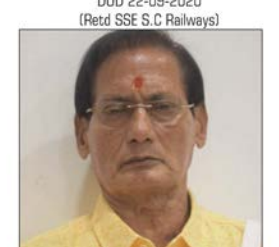
11th DAY CEREMONY



Regret to inform the sad demise of our
Father **SRI AYADAPU UPENDER
REDDY** on 14-9-2020. The 11th Day
Ceremony is on 24-9-2020 at our
Village Anajipoor, Bhongir Mandal,
Yadadri-Bhongir District.
Inserted by: A. Hanumanth Reddy (Son),
A. Jayalatha (Wife), A. Himani (Daughter),
A. Chandrakala (Mother),
A. Narender Reddy (Brother),
A. Ravinder Reddy (Brother)
and Family Members.

(S/2021/D00618)

VAIKUNTA SARABADHAN
SRI KURAKULA KONARAH
DOD 22-09-2020
(Retd. SSE S.C. Railways)



3rd Day Ceremony on 24th September
9th Day Ceremony on 30th September
at our Residence, Plot No: 24, Kakaguda,
Near Jadala Mysamma temple, Karkhana
Sec-Iad
From: Kurakula Venkayamma & Family
(9900595973)

28th ANNIVERSARY



PATNAM SWAMY GOUD
DOD: 24th September 1992
Fondly Remembered by:
PATNAM GNANESHWAR GOUD (Advocate)
& **PATNAM SWAMY GOUD'S FAMILY**

1st Death Anniversary



MATA PRAKASH KAUR
W/o Late Jagdish Singh (Bata Singh)
*We miss you every moment in our life,
your presence continues to surround
us, in our hearts, you are always there.*
Remembered by: Son & Daughter-in-law:
Gurbhraj Singh & Kamal G Singh
Grand Children: Ishpreet & Ashdeep
Amandeep & Amisha,
Daughter: Satwinder Kaur
Son-in-law: Raju Saluja
Ph.: 77999 08072

● **WHILE REVIEWING** the TS-bPASS policy, the Minister said that the Telangana state government is providing building and layout permissions to the citizens in a hassle-free manner.

● **HE SAID** that the departments should work in coordination for its successful implementation.

● **THE INDUSTRIES** and Municipal Administration Minister asked the concerned departments to appoint one nodal officer from each department for better coordination.

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18th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



BADRI BALIAH
Always remembered with deep reverence
Prof: B. Gopal Rao (Son)
Dr. Avan Rao (Daughter-in-law)
Praveen (Grand Son)
Sangeetha (Grand Daughter-in-law)
Praneeti and Ria (Great Grand Daughters)

(S/2021/D00626)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Mrs. VIMALA MARGARET GOVADA
W/o Late Jagdish Singh (Bata Singh)
"Safe in the arms of Jesus"
Wore a pleasant smile always,
missed greatly now.
Inserted by: Husband, Children
and Grandchild.

(S/2021/D00629)

28th ANNIVERSARY



Sri PATNAM SWAMY GOUD
(Toddy Excise Contractors
Association President)
1978 - 1992
Expired on: 24-09-1992
Inserted by:
Patnam Prabhakar Goud (Son) &
Family

(S/2021/D00632)

28th ANNIVERSARY



SRI PATNAM SWAMY GOUD
Date of Death: 24-9-1992
"Safe in the arms of Jesus"
Your blessings are always with us.
Inserted by: 6th Son's Family
Patnam Maheshwar Goud & Patnam Savitha
Grandchildren: P. Vijay Prathap Goud, P. Mona,
Tulla Jaya, Tulla Kishore Kumar
Patnam Swamy Goud Family

(S/2021/D00628)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Late Mrs. Y.K.V. SAMUEL
(W/o. Late Y. SAMUEL)
DOB: 18-09-1922 DOD: 24-09-2000
*The Memory of the just is
blessed Prov. 10:7*
Phone: 9490173211

(S/2021/D00632)

SHORT TAKES

CAN'T SURVIVE,
SAY BUDGET
PRIVATE SCHOOLSHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

The Telangana recognised schools' management association (TRSMA), in a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekhar Rao, on Wednesday, requested the government to take over budget private schools in the state, because of the pandemic and the consequent lockdown.

The letter's subject which was 'Save Education, Take over Budget Private Schools in Telangana' further added that the schools that are serving 50 per cent of the children of the state with quality education at a modest tuition fee every year but are now facing an acute financial crunch.

Schools have been physically closed since March 15. They were pushed into existential crisis and things became worse when the government issued orders promoting all students from class 1 to 9 to the next class and declaring all students of SSC passed without the formal public examinations. As a result, 40 to 50 per cent of the tuition fee that was due for the academic year, 2019-20 remains uncollected.

With the lockdown being extended from time to time, we are unsure whether we will ever be able to recover the fees of 2019-20. Some of the budget private schools have already been closed down permanently and many more are on their way out due to severe financial challenges arising out of non-payment of the tuition fee,' the letter read.

Finding no other alternative, the TRSMA has said that they hope to surrender the budget private schools to the government without any delay, and requested the Chief Minister to pay salaries to the existing employees at par with government staff and other running charges of schools.

3 MAOISTS
KILLED IN
FIRING

Hyderabad, Sept. 23: Three Maoists, including two women, were killed on Wednesday in an exchange of fire between the ultras and police in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district of Telangana, bordering Chhattisgarh, police said.

The incident occurred around 7 PM on some hillocks in Chennapuram forest area under Charla police station limits during combing operations being conducted in the region.

The bodies of a man and two women ultras were found when the area was searched after the exchange of fire, they said.

With this, the number of ultras killed this month during combing operations in the state has risen to eight.

Two Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire between them and police in Kumram Bheem district in the state on September 19 night while three others died in similar incidents in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district earlier this month.

On Wednesday, Police said they seized one 8 mm rifle, blasting materials and other items from the scene in Chennapuram forest. Police also said another exchange of fire took place in the afternoon at Palvancha reserve forest area in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district and some extremists escaped.

One SBBL gun, kit bag, solar plate, and other materials were seized from the place in searches conducted after the exchange of fire, they said.

The Maoists began annual celebration week to mark the formation of CPI (Maoist) following the merger of Peoples War Group (PWG) and Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) (in 2004) on September 21. — *PTI*

AP registers 88.26% recovery rate

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 23]

Andhra Pradesh has registered an 88.26 per cent rate of recovery among the Covid-19 infected patients.

The state health authorities in their Covid-19 bulletin on Wednesday reported that the total number of Covid-19 infected patients is 6,46,530, of which 5,70,667 were already discharged from hospitals after recovery indicating the remarkable rate of recovery percentage.

The state saw 7,228 new Covid-19 cases taking the tally to 6,46,530 and 45

deaths taking the death toll to 5,506.

Out of 72,383 samples tested, 7,228 individuals have tested Covid-19 positive in the last 24 hours. Out of a total number of 53,02,367 samples tested in the state so far, 5,70,667 patients have recovered and 70,357 patients are active with the virus.

Among the daily new infections of confirmed coronavirus, East Godavari continues to top the state with the highest number at 1,112, followed by 962 in West Godavari, 648 in Guntur, 612 in Anantapur, 600 in Kadapa, 536 in Chittoor; 502

in Prakasam, 479 in Nellore, 428 in Krishna, 414 in Visakhapatnam, 387 in Vizianagaram, 319 in Srikakulam and 229 in Kurnool.

East Godavari has the highest number of cumulative cases at 90,047, followed by 60,659 in West Godavari, 56,653 in Chittoor, 54,720 in Kurnool, 54,263 in Anantapur, 51,232 in Guntur, 49,163 in Nellore, 47,824 in Visakhapatnam, 43,710 in Prakasam, 40,939 in Kadapa, 36,893 in Srikakulam, 32,597 in Vizianagaram, 24,935 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries. The rate of recovery of Covid-19 infected

patients has been good in East Godavari at 77,732, followed by 53,590 in West Godavari, 51,733 in Kurnool, 51,216 in Anantapur, 49,394 in Chittoor, 46,212 in Nellore, 44,273 in Guntur, 43,233 in Visakhapatnam, 37,277 in Kadapa, 32,796 in Prakasam, 32,066 in Srikakulam, 26,573 in Vizianagaram, 21,677 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries. The state health authorities have discharged 8,291 Covid-19 infected patients after complete recovery in the last 24 hours.

Kodali: Did Modi go to Ayodhya with his wife?

Minister hits out at BJP for raising issue of Jagan offering silk saris to Lord Venkateswara alone

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, SEPT. 23

BJP LEADERS have no moral right to demand that Jagan Mohan Reddy must give a declaration at Tirumala temple or question him on bringing his family to the temple. They should ask PM Modi and UP CM to take their families during visits to temples.

KODALI SRI VENKATESWARA RAO,
Andhra Pradesh State civil supplies minister

Janata Party leaders over prevailing political unrest in the state, Kodali Nani pointed out that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also visiting temples without his family.

Responding to BJP's demand for his expulsion from AP Cabinet due to his recent remarks on faith declaration issue, Nani asked why would YSRC sack him, saying, "will BJP dismiss Amit Shah from ministry if opposition parties demanded it."

The minister, who reached Tirumala to join his Chief Minister, who arrived at the hill town on a two-day visit to present silk vastrams to Lord Venkateswara on the occasion Garuda Vahana seva on behalf of the state government, responded strongly to BJP's demand that the AP CM, whose government has run into a controversy over non-Hindus declaring their faith in the Lord, should visit the Tirumala temple along with his family.

Speaking to media persons, Nani said, "Why didn't Modi take his spouse during his recent visit to Ayodhya Ram Mandir bhumi Puja?"

He further said, "BJP leaders have no moral right to demand that Jagan Mohan Reddy must give a declaration at Tirumala temple or question him on bringing his family to the temple. They should ask PM Modi and UP CM to take their families during visits to temples."

Slamming BJP state

chief Somu Veerraju, Nani reminded him that BJP had secured lesser votes than those polled by NOTA (none of the above) in 2019 elections. "It would be better for BJP leaders to mind their own party matters. They should focus on getting more votes in next elections rather than politicising temple incidents," he strongly admonished.

Nani said he was convinced that there was a need to have a debate on whether or not to continue non-Hindu declaration at Tirumala temple, and reiterated that he was committed to ensuring the faith declaration is removed from Tirumala Venkateswara temple.

"Let him (PM) go back to Ayodhya with his wife and do puja again. *Modi garu ye bharyani teesukeltaru?* (Which wife will Modi take?)"



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy carries a pair of new *Pattu Vastrams* on his head and goes in a procession to the main shrine to present them to Lord Venkateswara on Wednesday.

Jagan offers silk
robes at TirumalaDC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, SEPT. 23

Ignoring protests by opposition parties, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy entered the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala without signing the declaration form and offered silk clothes to the Lord on behalf of the state government.

It is an official tradition to make such an offering on the occasion of Garuda Vahana Seva during the annual Brahmotsavams.

Meanwhile, clad in the traditional attire of white shirt and silk dhoti with the Tirunamam (insignia) applied to his forehead and adorned with traditional headgear by temple archaika at Bedi Anjaneya Swamy temple, he carried the silk vastrams in a silver plate over his head.

Later, the CM handed over the vastrams to the chief priest inside the temple and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

Later, the Chief Minister was offered Vedasirvachanam by vedic Pundits at mandapam.

PM HAS VIRTUAL
DARSHAN OF
TIRUMALA LORDDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his delight at having virtual darshan of Lord Venkateswara on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister had held a video conference on the day with Chief Ministers of several states, including Andhra Pradesh, to review measures being taken to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The CM, however, made it a point to attend the virtual meeting from Annamayya Bhavan with the portrait of Lord Venkateswara in the backdrop.

Seeing the Lord's portrait, PM Modi said he was very happy with having the darshan of Lord Venkateswara. He also appreciated the AP CM for taking part in the virtual meeting.

Miscreants desecrate idol of Kala
Bhairava Swamy near AllagaddaD. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL SEPT. 23

The linga (phallus) of Kala Bhairava Swamy at Patha Kandukur near Allagadda was stolen as it is believed to have magical powers of granting children to barren woman.

It is believed that women who are unable to conceive worship the sacred phallus of Kala Bhairava to become fertile. Some women decorate the sculpted genitalia with kumkum, turmeric and carry the dust home.

The villagers said unknown persons entered the temple and lopped off the linga of the idol. Before doing so, they offered pujas, garlanded

● **ALLAGADDA DSP,** Pothu Raju, said the manner in which the phallus was disfigured makes it seem that the intention was to possess the symbol of masculinity to adore it for procreation.

● **THE PRACTICE** at this temple is that newlyweds and infertile woman come in seclusion and circumambulate the shrine before physically touching the phallus. The belief is that the idol's masculinity gifts them offspring, Raju said.

the idol and offer coconuts. The response to the desecration did not go

down well with the villagers as both YSRCP and TD started accusing each other. Former minister, Bhuma Akhila Priya, said, "Ever since the YSRCP government assumed office, religious harmony has become a casualty. The reticence of Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is baffling," she said.

Allagadda DSP, Pothu Raju, said the manner in which the phallus was disfigured makes it seem that the intention was to possess the symbol of masculinity to adore it for procreation.

The practice at this temple is that newlyweds and infertile woman come in seclusion and circumam-

bulate the shrine before physically touching the phallus. The belief is that the idol's masculinity gifts them offspring, Raju said.

The 6.5 feet tall, 12th century idol of Kala Bhairava was installed by Kakatiya rulers during their sojourn in Renati Seema as it was then known. The idol weathered the ravages of time even as the old structure was ruined. A new temple was built in the year 2000 and it flourished again, said temple priest Siva Ramaiah. YSRCP MP, V. Vijaya Sai Reddy, sanctioned ₹40 lakh for the renovation of the temple. The new idol was installed in front of the old idol, he said.

Church statues
found brokenDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 23

Two statues of Jesus Christ and Mary Matha installed on premises of RCM Church at Mandapeta in East Godavari were desecrated in the early hours of Wednesday. According to Mandapeta police,

unidentified miscreants broke the heads and hands of both the statues using a hammer.

Based on a complaint from one K. Ratnakar, police have booked a case under sections 294 and 427 of IPC.

Special teams have been formed to nab the desecrators.

RTC resumes services
in AP with Covid rulesDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 23

Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has from Wednesday started state-wide operations with "whatever possible social distancing" among passengers.

Corporation authorities point out that as states like Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have removed norms of maintaining social distancing in seating arrangements, AP too will follow the same to overcome loss of revenues. The state government has also permitted RTC buses to operate as per their designated

capacity at the time of their registration with the state transport department.

Yet, in view of continuing risk of Covid-19, they will try and ensure that "whatever possible social distancing" among passengers is maintained. An official explained that first, passengers will be asked to occupy the window seat of each row on the left and right side of the gangway. The seats abutting the gangway will be left vacant. However, once all the seats are filled in this manner and more passengers are boarding, the remaining seats will be filled in the same order on the left and right

sides. The official clarified that no standing passenger will be allowed in the bus.

APSRTC has started operating around 4,600 services in this manner covering nearly 42 lakh km distance from Wednesday onwards.

To cut down the risk of Coronavirus, passengers are being thermally screened before being allowed into the RTC complexes.

Commuters are also being advised to sanitise their hands.

Further, bus drivers and conductors are allowing passengers to board the bus only if they are wearing a face mask.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs), 2021					
No.22/21/2019-E.I(B) - The Commission's Programme of Examinations and Recruitment Tests (RTs) for the year 2021 is given below for the information of candidates. The annual calendar has also been placed on the Commission's website (www.upsc.gov.in). Aspirants and candidates are advised to retain this advertisement for use as a ready reckoner for applying for the Commission's Examinations in 2021.					
S.No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2021.	07.10.2020	27.10.2020	21.02.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
2.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2021	28.10.2020	17.11.2020	07.02.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
3.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			21.02.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
4.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			07.03.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
5.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2021	02.12.2020	22.12.2020	14.03.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
6.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2021	30.12.2020	19.01.2021	18.04.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
7.	Reserved for UPSC RT for the posts of EO/AO in the EPFO			09.05.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
8.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2021	10.02.2021	02.03.2021	27.06.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
9.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2021 through CS(P) Examination 2021.			04.07.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
10.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			16.07.2021 (FRIDAY)	3 DAYS
11.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2021	07.04.2021	27.04.2021	17.07.2021 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
12.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2021	07.04.2021	27.04.2021	18.07.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
13.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2021	15.04.2021	05.05.2021	08.08.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
14.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2021.	05.05.2021	25.05.2021	29.08.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
15.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			29.08.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
16.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			05.09.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
17.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2021	09.06.2021	29.06.2021	12.09.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
18.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			17.09.2021 (FRIDAY)	5 DAYS
19.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2021			10.10.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
20.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2021			14.11.2021 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
21.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2021	04.08.2021	24.08.2021	21.11.2021 (SUNDAY)	10 DAYS
22.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2021			11.12.2021 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
23.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	15.09.2021	05.10.2021		
Note 1: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations / RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.					
Note 2: Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2020 is to be conducted on 8,9,10,16,17 January, 2021.					
Note 3: Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2020 to commence on 28.02.2021 and will continue for 10 days till 09.03.2021.					
Candidates are advised to visit the Commission's website regularly for updates, detailed information, and frequently asked questions regarding the Commission's Examinations and Recruitments, as well as for making online applications and downloading e-admit cards and e-summon letters.					
Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply. davp 55101/14/0001/2021					

DECCAN Chronicle

24 SEPTEMBER 2020

With Opp. away, govt sneaks in labour code

The government on Wednesday pushed through a set of key pieces of legislation that will impact the lives over 50 crore people who form the country's workforce. The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, along with the code on wages, which has already been enacted, subsume and replace 29 central laws that governed the country's industrial relations.

The Industrial Relations Code raises the threshold on the number employees needed in an organisation for retrenchment and closure of establishments without government approval to 300 from 100. While the law throws job security of a large number of people into the wilderness, it is welcomed by the industry as it makes hiring and firing easy. It also redefines the sole negotiating union in an establishment as the one in which more than 51 per cent of the workers are members. Establishments now need not listen to the voice of smaller sections of their employees. The Code on Social Security provides for universal social security to all workers, including the unorganised and the gig and platform workers who account for over 90 per cent of the total workforce. The Bill mandates that the governments set up social security funds for them and fixes the maximum hours of work as eight per day. It is to e sen hw th provision to allow women to work in hazzdous industries, albeit with safety measures, will benefit them. A redeeming feature is the attention on inter-state guest workers: the government will now have to maintain a database on them online. They can also avail the benefits of the public distribution system either in the native state or the state of employment, and insurance and provident fund benefits available to other workers. Critics have noted an alarming and unusual feature in the bills that gives the government wide powers to frame rules that will form the operational part of the legislation. They include the conditions for increasing the threshold for lay-offs, retrenchment, and closure, for applicability of different social security schemes to establishments, and specifying safety standards, and working conditions to be provided by establishments under the occupational safety code. The government has made its intention clear when it said the purpose of labour reforms is to provide a transparent system to suit the changed business environment. The codes also empower the state government to offer relaxations in provisions on labour security, with an aim to trigger a race to attract capital.

That the codes cleared parliamentary scrutiny in less than three hours of discussion, that too when the Opposition was boycotting the proceedings, reflects the disdain the government has shown towards not only to parliamentary practices but also to the people whose lives they will impact. The government showed a similar high-handedness when it got the farm bills passed. Every trade union, including the Bharatiya Mazdur Sangh affiliated to the Sangh Parivar, has voiced their protest against the anti-labour provisions in the codes. It remains to be seen how the government will tackle the disaffection within India's workforce.

Callous disregard of data

Data, they say, is the new oil. The finance minister had poured scorn on the new maxim in her Budget speech saying it is just a cliché though she did acknowledge the significance of credible data to base decision-making on. The real import of the importance of data in modern administration may have dawned on the government when it confessed in Parliament that it had no data on the deaths of guest workers who were forced by the suddenness of the declaration of the world's most severe lockdown to collectively log millions of miles as they trudged home in distress. This human tragedy, so gut-wrenchingly portrayed when a child was photographed trying to wake its dead mother on a road in Bihar, surpassed even the horrors of the pandemic.

In the absence of credible data gathering, the figure of a crore migrant workers having walked or ferried home by special trains and buses can only be taken as a ballpark figure conjured to satisfy questions tabled in Parliament. If it did not collate any data from different states on the fatalities and the number of returning migrants, the government is guilty of carelessness. But if the real reason is that data is being withheld because of the embarrassment it would cause, the government stands condemned by its own callousness. The suspicion is data — media sources put guest workers' deaths near about 300 — is a tool to be manipulated in the hands of the current dispensation as amply proved in several debates over statistics regarding job losses in a downward spiral of the economy in the last couple of years.

The government also admitted in Parliament that it had no data on farmer suicides in the last three years. The fact that its own national crime database reveals 10,281 farmer suicides in 2019 and 10,357 in 2018, besides counting 42,480 deaths by suicide of farmers and daily wage workers last year, shows up the rulers as shying away from the truth when it comes to keeping people's representatives informed in Parliament. In refusing to address inconvenient data, the government is proving unworthy of the people it governs.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Subhani



Are we ready for 'give & take' with China at LAC?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
Reflections

The five teenaged Arunachal Pradesh boys who went missing on September 4 and were later found on the Chinese side of the border highlighted the dilemma that the top Indian and Chinese Army commanders must have faced during Monday's mammoth meeting.

Of course, the boys, who had unwittingly strayed across the border and were later found in China by People's Liberation Army personnel, were close to the extreme northeastern end of the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control between India and China. The meeting of Chinese and Indian commanders at Moldo was on the Chinese side of the LAC's north-western end. This is where, as Jawaharlal Nehru famously told Parliament before the 1962 border war, "not a single blade of grass grows".

In contrast, the Northeast is lush with vegetation and bristling with game. Moreover, as one of the lost boys put it: "We are hunters, we move around a lot." Yet, despite their experience and expertise, they got lost and could not be found for several days. "The borders are not demarcated well", they said. "We can't say which side is which."

It must be even more difficult to do so among the barren rocks and snow-clad heights of Ladakh where there are often no marked borders at all, as narrated in Kyle J. Gardner's forthcoming book, *The Frontier Complex: Geopolitics and the Making of the India-China border, 1846-1962*. This is where India accuses the Chinese PLA of encroaching on Indian territory in early May.

New Delhi and Beijing have been at loggerheads over charges and counter-charges for the past five months, re-enacting the tensions between Washington and Beijing that resulted in the recent menacing Chinese video of an aerial attack on what looks like a fortified American military position in Guam.

A September 6 meeting in Moscow of India's external affairs minister, Subrahmanyam Jai-shankar, and China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation went on for more than two hours. But it did not break the stalemate.

India is in the dual position of being both the aggrieved party and the one which enjoys a slight tactical advantage. It is pressing China to agree to a three-step process of disengagement, de-escalation and de-induction. The basis of the demand is that India now occupies tactical heights on the south bank of the Pangong Tso-Chushul river system.

This is the area that Raja Gulab Singh's general, Zorawar Singh, invaded in 1834. The Chinese, with their much vaunted sense of history, should not forget that the Dogra forces of the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir soundly defeated the Qing emperor's Sino-Tibetan army during the Sino-Sikh War of 1841-42.

Ladakh's king, Tshespal Namgyal, was dethroned and exiled and Ladakh incorporated into the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. China's PLA may be trying to regain through backdoor means what the Chinese lost fair and square in a war 178 years ago.

However, it must be admitted that the proposed Johnson-Ardagh line (for Tibet's northern boundary with Chinese Turkistan) and the abortive Macartney-MacDonald Line (to delineate Aksai Chin) were even more inconclusive than the McMahon Line which those Arunachal Pradesh boys so unwittingly transgressed.

One wonders whether either side at the Moldo talks in a fresh bid to ease the months-long standoff remembered Rajiv Gandhi's warning about these mythic lines. India's sixth Prime Minister, who paid an epochal five-day visit to Beijing in December 1988 to meet Deng Xiaoping, reminded everyone that the disputed Sino-Indian border was a thick pencil line on a small-scale map, blurring all physical features. Identifying the border in the ground can't be easy since according to Gardner, the British left large stretches of it without delineation or demarcation.

Indians are indignant about the Chinese intrusion into our sacred motherland only because they have been told about them by their political and military leaders. No one has any direct knowledge of those inaccessible heights. Similarly, when the Chinese complain similarly of Indian encroachments, they are only echoing the PLA and what the *Global Times* prints. Again, there is no independent corroboration.

The Indian delegation for Monday's sixth round of military talks was headed by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, the commander of the Leh-based

The protracted campaign which the Chinese call 'wei qi' is hardly best suited for the onset of winter. It's not in anyone's interest to be lost in the uncharted mountains like those five Arunachal Pradesh boys.

14 Corps. Opposite him was the South Xinjian military district chief, Maj. Gen. Liu Lin. The inclusion in the Indian team of an external affairs ministry joint secretary, Naveen Srivastava, made it the first simultaneous military-diplomatic meeting between the two sides.

This was the first meeting between the two corps commanders since their 10-hour August 2 deliberations at Moldo. Indian and Chinese troops have clashed at least twice since August 2, accusing each other of firing warning shots in the air in violation of a long-standing agreement against using firearms within 2 km of the LAC.

It is futile now to reflect that a positive response to Zhou Enlai's suggestion of swapping Aksai Chin for Arunachal Pradesh, which the Chinese call "South Tibet", would have avoided much anguish. But one lost opportunity does not invalidate the underlying give-and-take principle that is so necessary for good neighbourliness. In fact, Russia resolved its territorial disputes with China only by relinquishing its claim to several hundred islands on the Argun, Amur, and Ussuri rivers and approximately 50 per cent of Bolshoy Ussuriysky Island. Now, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore and even protégé North Korea can solve their problems with China on a give-and-take basis without emulating Pakistan, which bought China's "irreplaceable, all-weather friendship" with a slice of India's Jammu and Kashmir that it had occupied.

The protracted campaign which the Chinese call "*wei qi*" is hardly best suited for the onset of winter. It's not in anyone's interest to be lost in the uncharted mountains like those five Arunachal Pradesh boys.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

TRS CORPORATOR

Congratulations to Serilingampally police for promptly arresting TRS corporator Ragam Narendar Yadav for assaulting a college student. I hope they will conduct an impartial inquiry into the matter and do justice to the aggrieved student. The corporator should realise that he is not above the law.

P. Sudarshan Reddy
Hyderabad

BOLLYWOOD PICTURE

With Sushant Singh Rajput's unfortunate death, Bollywood's ugly face has come to the fore with allegations of drug consumption and casting couch in the past few days. While it is not correct to use someone's demise to fulfil their personal agendas, few actors have put up a brave face to speak up against this matter. While it remains to be seen how true these allegations turn out to be, it will surely dent the intentions of wrongdoers in the industry. Hope the truth comes out in SSR's case.

Jitesh Mathur
Hyderabad

JNTUH EXAMS

Our state government is not doing much with regard to our education. JNTUH has decided to conduct offline semester exams now. They had started classes and have now all of a sudden announced that they would hold exams. Why doesn't anyone take this matter seriously?

Varen Konakalla
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Podgorny, Giri begin talks

MOSCOW, SEPT. 23. President V.V. Giri and President Nikolai Podgorny began formal talks in the Kremlin today with salies of newsmen who crowded in there for a brief view.

The Soviet President observed that the temperature within the chandelied hall of the seventeenth century Supreme Presidium which was cool and comfortable had suddenly become warm. "Even for us it is extremely hot" said President Giri as spotlights focused on the two Presidents and movie cameras whirled. One President said about the newsmen they are good friends," while the other added," but bad enemies."

Suresh Rajan



Investor visa: A way out of the Covid-19 conundrum?

Eight months after the first human case of the new coronavirus (Covid-19) was diagnosed in the United States, a countless number of dreams and plans have been permanently tabled or put on hold. Businesses have shuttered, some colleges and universities will be starting the fall fully remote, and racial strife is adding to the turmoil in the country.

While "unprecedented times" is now a cliché for describing this time we are in, it's also apropos to describe this year as a time like no other. If someone were to make a movie about the 1918 Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, and 1968 race riots all happening at once, it would look and feel like 2020.

Amid all the uncertainty in the US surrounding public health, job security, unemployment figures, and education, no one wants to put their future on hold. Foreign investors will continue to see opportunities to invest in US businesses and in support of creating more jobs and securing permanent US green cards.

Despite the pressures that the pandemic and surrounding rhetoric have

placed on immigration and some visa programs, the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programs continues to be a viable, solid alternative to getting a quality US education and becoming US residents.

PRESSURES ON OTHER VISA PROGRAMMES

The topic of immigration has received particular attention from the Trump Administration this summer and has targeted some visa programs but not others.

Mr Trump's June 22, 2020, presidential proclamation effectively shut down L-1 and H-1-B visa channels by suspending visa issuances for workers, their spouses and children. Then, the administration said international students would have to transfer or leave the country if their universities opted for online-only learning this fall; this proclamation was later rescinded after major universities like Harvard and MIT sued.

On August 19, exemptions to the June order were announced for tech and healthcare workers who would be resuming employment with the same employer. Even then, there's an

uncertainty around these visas that cannot be shaken.

As a consequence, we are likely to see renewed interest in the EB-5 program, which provides mutually beneficial arrangements for immigrants and job creators. A one-time investment of \$900,000 for a new US business that creates at least 10 jobs for US workers earns the investors green cards and the ability to achieve permanent residency.

The "at-risk" capital is returned after the permanent green cards are received. Students who take advantage of this program are not limited by the industry they will work in after graduation — unlike other visas — and they do not have to worry about having to re-apply for visas or work permits.

In an average year, about 10,000 EB-5 visas are issued per year, and just under half that figure was used as of June over the course of fiscal year 2020 (which ends September 30), according to department of state visa control chief Charles Oppenheim in a June IIUSA webinar.

He acknowledged issuance has been slowed by the pandemic impacts, and

he predicted the programme could gain at least 4,200 new visas in FY2021. In other words, we could see 14,000 new EB-5 visas next year (starting October 1).

This is good news for residents of countries that have limits on the number of immigrant visas or that tend to have a higher number of EB-5 applicants.

Part of the sluggishness this past year was due to the limitations or resistance to in-person meetings and the increase in the minimum investment from \$500,000 to \$900,000 that became effective last year. Applications for EB-5 could take longer for investors to make if they cannot see projects firsthand.

Another shift we'll see from the pandemic's impacts is the categorisation of Targeted Employment Areas (which are rural or high unemployment areas) toward the end of 2021, as some regions in the US have been hit harder than others.

This could open up or shift opportunities for some investors. Similar to the most recent financial crisis, when stock market return potential has diminished, investors in a strong posi-

tion are likely to turn to real estate for stability, as demand in real estate is increasing.

High net worth investors may also be enticed to put their funds toward other countries, such as Portugal, whose Golden Visa Program is attractive for fast-tracking residency into the European Union.

Taxation in Portugal is considered more favourable and can be an important factor as investors and their families decide where to reside. The country also offers universal health care and affordable yet quality education.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming months, businesses are going to be picking up the pieces. Some international students may have opted for a gap year rather than deal with visa uncertainty and the limits of virtual-only learning.

The next year could be an opportune time to plan carefully the kind of future families and investors want to establish for themselves.

The writer is executive chairman and founder of LCR Capital Partners

SHORT TAKES

VACB TO LOOK INTO LIFE MISSION ALLEGATIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPT. 23

The Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau (VACB) has decided to conduct a probe into the allegations connected with the Life Mission Project in Wadakancherry under which 140 apartments are being constructed.

The main allegations include a commission of ₹1 crore pocketed by Swapna Suresh, one of the key accused in gold smuggling case from Unitac, the agency which is executing the project. Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac had also made a statement that the commission amount was around ₹4.5 crore which triggered a major controversy in the state.

The Opposition and ruling fronts have been engaged in allegations and counter allegations over the issue for the past one month. As the allegations created doubts over the LDF government's flagship programme Life Mission, the ruling front was keen to come clean on the charges.

When asked about the vigilance probe at a press conference, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said allegations had been raised regarding commission from ₹20 crore given for the project. "The vigilance has ordered a preliminary probe to examine whether there is any violation of the Prevention of Corruption Act," he said.

WOMAN DIES AS 'PANIPURI' GETS STUCK IN WINDPIPE

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 23

A woman in Odisha's Sundargarh district reportedly died due to suffocation while eating Panipuri, reports said on Wednesday. The incident was reported at Sarafgarh village under Lephripara police station in Sudargarh district on Tuesday evening. The deceased was identified as Phulamati Kisan.

According to sources, a panipuri (Gupchup) reportedly got stuck in the windpipe of Phulamati while she was having the snack with her family members. She was immediately rushed to Lephripara hospital where the doctor declared her dead on arrival.

Doctors suspected that she might have died due to the blockage in the windpipe. "If any kind of food enters the windpipe it causes asphyxiation resulting in immediate death of a person," said Sundargarh Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Saroj Kumar Mishra.

NO COERCIVE ACTION AGAINST FB INDIA HEAD: SC

New Delhi, Sept. 23: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed a Delhi Legislative Assembly panel not to take coercive action against Facebook India head Ajit Mohan till October 15 over its summons to him to depose before it in connection with the north east Delhi riots.

Following the order, the Peace and Harmony Committee of the Delhi Assembly deferred its proceedings, and said it would notify the further course of action and the next date of sitting in due course of time. The committee, chaired by AAP MLA Raghav Chadha, had issued a notice to Mohan, who is the vice president and managing director of Facebook India, over complaints accusing the social media giant of deliberately not taking action to curb hateful content on its platform. The committee had issued a fresh notice to Mohan to appear before it on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mohan, submitted in the top court that the committee cannot decide the breach of privilege of the house and that administrative control over social media is with the Central government. "Privilege is something to be decided by the Assembly. A committee cannot decide whether action on privilege can be taken or not," Salve said, adding the Delhi government could not put Mohan "in the pain of punishment" by asking him to appear before the Committee. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the legislative committee, however, submitted it is not proper for the court to stay the proceedings in the matter, and that there is no question of coercive action.

Heavy rains lash Mumbai



People wade through a waterlogged street following heavy rains at Bhandi Bazaar in Mumbai on Wednesday. The city received its second-highest rainfall in 24 hours in the month of September since 1994. The incessant rains caused flooding at several areas in the city and left the rail and road traffic heavily disrupted.

— PTI

PM says only 60 districts in 7 states are a cause of worry

Modi meets CMs of seven states, talks of 'micro containment zones'

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked state governments to focus on "micro containment zones" to prevent the spread of Coronavirus instead of shutting down activities in the entire state which may restrict economic growth.

During a review meeting with the Chief Ministers and representatives of seven states with a high number of cases, Modi asked them to reassess if lockdown of one or two days a week are being effective in containing the deadly virus or are hampering economic activities. He also asked states to enhance their focus on effective testing, tracing, treatment, surveillance and clear messaging to curb the pandemic.

Modi said out of 700 districts in the country, only 60 have major spread of Covid-19 and asked the CMs to spend about one hour a day overseeing containment in these districts.

Noting that most Covid-19 patients are asymptomatic, Modi said an effective messaging is all the

MP mantri shuns face mask in public, questions its purpose

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, SEPT. 23

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra on Wednesday triggered a row by saying that he shunned face mask. Mishra was seen attending various government programmes in Indore, which has emerged as a Coronavirus hotspot in the state, without face mask, taking everyone by surprise.

"I don't use face mask (in public)," he said while fielding a question by reporters in this regard. "I never wear face masks when I attend public pro-

grammes. *Isi mein kya hota* (what purpose does it serve)," he quipped.

Incidentally, the Indore district administration has made it mandatory for people to wear face mask in public and imposed a fine of ₹100 on those who violated the rule.

Opposition Congress seized the opportunity to attack the BJP on the issue and said that the home minister of the state has scant regard for the rules framed by his own government (Indore district administration).

"Mishra has thrown the rules to the wind by saying that he shunned face mask in public. He should

honour the rules framed by his own government", Congress spokesman here Narendra Saluja said.

Mishra, incidentally, was the only leader in MP who dared to move in public without a mask when the pandemic started claiming lives of people in the middle of April this year.

Indore topped the chart of Coronavirus cases in the state by reporting 20,383 Covid-19 cases. Indore also recorded the highest number of 509 deaths due to the virus in the state.

The state has reported 1,10,711 Coronavirus positive cases and 2,035 deaths so far.

● **THE PRIME MINISTER** asks the Chief Ministers to reassess if lockdown of one or two days a week are being effective in containing the deadly virus or are hampering economic activities.

KERALA RECORDS BIGGEST SINGLE DAY SPIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPT. 23

Kerala reported the biggest single-day spike of 5,378 cases on Wednesday even as 2,951 persons recovered from the infection in the last 24 hours. This is the first time that Kerala crossed the 5,000 mark on a single day in Covid-19 cases.

With this the total number of cases reported in Kerala so far has gone up to 1,48,132 of which 1,04,682 have recovered and 42,786 persons are under treatment in various hospitals across the state. The state reported 20 deaths on Wednesday taking the toll to 592.

Of the new cases 4,426 contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 640 persons is yet to be known, 64 came from abroad, 140 from other states and 99 health workers also got infected.

CAG says Rafale maker violated offset clause

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23

The CAG report on "management of defence offsets" said on Wednesday that French company Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have not transferred technology to DRDO which they had initially proposed in the ₹59,000 crore deal for 36 Rafale jets.

Dassault Aviation is the manufacturer of Rafale jets and MBDA provided missiles Meteor, MICA and SCALP for the fighter jet.

CAG in its report submitted in Parliament said that in many cases, it was found that the foreign vendors made various offset commitments to qualify for the main supply contract but later, were not earnest about fulfilling these commitments. "For instance in the offset contract relating to 36 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), the vendors M/s Dassault Aviation and M/s MBDA initially proposed (September 2015) to discharge 30 per cent of their offset obligation by offering high technology to DRDO," said CAG report. It said that DRDO wanted to obtain Technical Assistance for the indigenous development of engine (Kaveri) for the Light Combat Aircraft. "Till date the Vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology," said the report.

India and France in 2016 had signed an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) which has a 50 per cent offset clause to be executed by the French partners. However a controversy arose when Dassault Aviation chose

Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Defence as their offset partner which had no experience in the defence sector.

In 2005, India adopted the offset policy for defence capital purchases. This meant that for all capital purchases above ₹300 crore made through imports, the foreign vendor was required to invest at least 30 per cent of the value of the purchase, in India. This investment was to be made in the Indian defence and aerospace sector.

Various avenues were available to the vendor to discharge these offset obligations. This included foreign direct investment, offering of free Transfer of Technology to Indian firms, and purchase of eligible products manufactured by Indian firms (exports) among others. For the discharge of these offsets the foreign vendor had to select an Indian firm as a partner (Indian Offsets Partner or IOPs).

CAG report said that from 2005 till March 2018, 46 offset contracts had been signed with foreign vendors, valuing ₹66,427 crore. Under these contracts, by December 2018, ₹19,223 crore worth of offsets should have been discharged by the vendors. "However, the offsets claimed to have been discharged by them was only ₹11,396 crore, which was only 59 per cent of the commitment," it said. Further, only 48 per cent (₹5,457 crore) of these offset claims submitted by the vendors were accepted by the Ministry.

The rest were largely rejected as they were not compliant to the contractual conditions and the Defence Procurement Procedure.

India objects to Turkey's views on Kashmir

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23

India on Wednesday registered a strong objection to the comments made by President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly during which he had termed Kashmir a 'burning issue'.

India said his remarks constitute gross interference in India's internal affairs and that Turkey should reflect on its own policies more deeply.

"We have seen the remarks by the President of Republic of Turkey on the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. They constitute a gross interference in India's internal affairs and are completely unacceptable. Turkey should learn to respect the sovereignty of other nations and reflect on its own policies more deeply," India's Permanent Representative in the United Nations in New York said.

In his virtual address during the UNGA debate, President Erdogan said the Kashmir "conflict" is a "burning issue" and "steps taken following the

LOCAL BODY HEAD SHOT DEAD BY ULTRAS

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 23

Gunmen believed to be separatist militants on Wednesday night shot dead a Block Development Councilor (BDC) in Khag area of Jammu and Kashmir's central Budgam district.

The police sources said that the victim Bhopinder Singh, who was also chairman of the local block development council, was targeted by unknown assailants near his ancestral residence in Dalwash village of Budgam.

abolition of the special status of Jammu-Kashmir further complicated the problem." He further said "We are in favour of solving this issue through dialogue within the framework of the UN resolutions and especially in line with the expectations of the people of Kashmir."

Maha hosp starts phase II & III vaccine trials

HARSHADA PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, SEPT. 23

King Edward Memorial (KEM) hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday started phase II and III trials of the Oxford Covishield vaccine. The civic hospital got the approval from the Maharashtra ethics committee for conducting trials on Tuesday.

The hospital will be conducting trials on 100 volunteers and it has started screening volunteers for it.

"We have received many calls. As we have decided to choose volunteers from Mumbai only, we have registered 375 callers. Out of 375 callers, we will select 100 as volunteers for the trial," said Hemant Deshmukh, dean of the KEM hospital.

Volunteers will have to clear RT-PCR and antigen tests for Covid-19. Those who are found negative in both tests will be given the vaccine, the hospital informed.

"We will maintain the record of all patients and

● **THE HOSPITAL** will be conducting trials on 100 volunteers and it has started screening volunteers for it. Volunteers will have to clear RT-PCR and antigen tests for Covid-19.

they will be guided by our team of doctors throughout the trials. We have given identification numbers to the registered callers and the hospital will identify them only by those numbers," Deshmukh said adding

that the hospital has not decided the number of male and female volunteers in advance and it all depends on the outcome of the screening process.

The selected volunteers will be given two doses of vaccine and after the second dose, the volunteers will be monitored for 180 days.

The results of the vaccine's efficacy will be assessed at the end of 180-days period.

Apart from the KEM, another civic-run BYL

Nair hospital will also conduct a trials for vaccine. The Nair hospital is waiting for the approval from the Maharashtra ethics committee.

Trials for the Oxford vaccine candidates are being conducted in Pune, Maharashtra also.

The Pune based Serum institute of India has partnered with British-Swedish pharma company AstraZeneca for manufacturing Covid-19 vaccine candidate, being developed by the University of Oxford, UK.

NO | AWARENESS

The tribals belonging to PVTG category continue life sans masks, sanitisers

Unaware of Covid, Bonda tribals lead carefree life

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
MALKANGIRI, SEPT. 23

The Bondas, one of the primitive tribal groups, living on the top of Bonda hills under Khairput block of Odisha's Malkangiri district are still unaware that the world has plunged into a major health crisis called the Coronavirus pandemic. The Bondas continue to live their life like any other normal period. Neither are they using

masks nor sanitisers to ward off Covid-19 infections, much because of the fact that they have not yet been apprised about the disease and its damaging impacts.

"No one has come here so far to make the people aware about the disease. These people who are living on hilltops rarely visit local markets and hence have little chance of getting infected. However, if any of them get infected by any means, the situation will be beyond control

as our people do not have much knowledge of modern healthcare and hygiene," Dambaburu Sisa, a Bonda tribal and former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), said.

Sisa said there was an urgent need on the part of the state government to depute special officers to Bonda hills and ensure good hygiene of the tribals living there.

Bigna Kirsani, a Bonda youth who was previously chairperson of Khairput

block, said the local residents do not have access to information.

"Since most of the villages under Mudulipada and Andrahil gram panchayats don't have power supply, they can't watch television. Other means of communication like telephone and radio still remain a distant dream for them. The only medium of reaching out to them is engagement of volunteers and social workers. Some of us who have got a little bit of education are doing

our best to make them aware about the threats posed by Covid-19," said Kirsani.

Sharing an interesting experience while distributing masks and sanitisers, Kirsani said when they entered different hamlets and villages, the people asked them, "What is Covid?"

He informed that some social workers had mobilised some masks and sanitisers from non-governmental organisations and distributed them

among the tribals.

The district Project Director of Malkangiri B.M. Bhuyan, who in fact monitors Bonda development, could not be reached for his comments. A call to his mobile phone went unanswered.

Bonda Development Agency chief K.T. Behera also remained incommunicado.

Categorised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), the Bondas are an endangered tribal community.

SHORT TAKES

NCB SUMMONS DEEPIKA, SARA, SHRADDHA

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 22

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday issued summons to actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh in connection with the ongoing drugs probe in Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case.

The actors have been asked to appear before the NCB in three days stated the summons. The agency, meanwhile, grilled Madhu Mantena of KWAN talent management agency after his name cropped up during the questioning of Rajput's talent manager Jaya Saha.

The actors will be grilled based on the witness statements and the chat records that were retrieved by the investigating agencies. While investigating, the NCB found that Sara and Shraddha had visited Rajput's farmhouse in Lonavala and were allegedly part of drug parties there which has also been claimed in statements of witnesses.

Deepika, meanwhile, came on the NCB's radar after chat records between the actor and her manager Karishma Prakash allegedly asking for hashish. The NCB may also grill the duo together at a later stage, officials said.

Deepika is likely to appear before NCB on Friday, whereas Sara and Shraddha would be there for questioning on Saturday, officials said. "The summons has been issued and further probe is underway. Others if found involved may also be summoned as and when needed," said an NCB officer.

FIR LODGED AGAINST ANURAG KASHYAP

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 23

Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against filmmaker Anurag Kashyap after actress Payal Ghosh accused him of raping her in 2013, an official. Kashyap has dismissed the allegations as baseless. The First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Versova police station on late Tuesday night after the actress along with her lawyer Nitin Satpute approached the police.

The FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 376 (D) (rape), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 342 (wrongful confinement), the official said, adding that further investigation is underway.

According to the police, Mr Kashyap will be called for questioning in connection with the alleged seven-year-old incident. In her police complaint, the actress alleged that Mr Kashyap raped her at a place on Yari Road in Versova in 2013. The actress and her lawyer earlier approached Oshiwara police station in Mumbai on Monday, but they were asked to go to the Versova police station as the alleged incident took place at the under Versova police's jurisdiction, the official said.

MAHA BUILDING COLLAPSE TOLL INCREASES TO 40

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 23

The death toll in the building collapse in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district increased to 40 on Wednesday with the recovery of 14 more bodies overnight. Twenty-five persons have been pulled out of the debris alive so far and are being treated at hospitals in Bhiwandi and Thane, an official said.

The search operation continued throughout the night despite heavy rains. The bodies recovered from the debris were mutilated and highly decomposed as they had remained there for over 50 hours, the official said.

Even at the time of writing this news more people were feared trapped. Due to heavy rains rescue teams were facing difficulties in rescue operation however they continued rescue operation throughout night. According to NDRF and Thane Municipal Corporation's disaster management cell, the rescue operation will continue as more people are feared trapped under the debris.

Of the 40 bodies recovered so far, 18 were children.



Police use water cannons to disperse supporters of Lok Insaaf Party (Punjab) during a protest over the passage of recent farm Bills and electricity amendment Bill, at Punjab-Haryana border in Ambala district on Wednesday. The Haryana police also on Wednesday used water cannons in Panipat and Ambala on agitators to stop them from proceeding to Delhi to protest against the farm reform Bills.

— PTI

Kerala may challenge farm Bills

Says Centre didn't consult states despite agriculture being state subject

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 23

The Kerala government is planning to move the Supreme Court against the farm Bills passed by Parliament recently.

Replying to a question on the feasibility of a state government challenging Bills passed by Parliament, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said a proposal had come before the Cabinet here on Wednesday. "We thought it needs to be examined in detail legally. So we decided to send the proposal to the law department for detailed perusal. That's

what has happened," he said. There were reports that legal advice received by the government stated the passing of farm Bills amounted to violation of states' powers and blatant and serious contravention of Constitutional norms.

According to the CPM-led LDF Government the Bills are anti-farmer and also aimed at promoting the interests of corporates. The Left parties have already announced that they would be taking part in the agitation planned by Kisan Coordination Committee across the country on September 25.

The two Bills - Farmer's Produce Trade and

Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 - have been passed by both Houses of the Parliament.

Earlier agriculture minister Mr V. S. Sunil Kumar had sought legal opinion and he got the advice that the government can go ahead and challenge the legislations in the apex court.

The matter was discussed at the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday and the government was of the opinion that the Bills mounted to interfering with the

powers vested with the state under the federal system. Mr Sunil Kumar who has been tested positive, took part in the Cabinet meeting online.

He pointed out that despite the fact that agriculture fell in the state list as per the seventh schedule of the Constitution; the Centre did not consult even single state before introducing these Bills in the Parliament.

He said the Centre had also not taken the farmers organizations into confidence.

"This goes to show that the Bills will only serve the interests of big corporates who have stake in agriculture sector," he

said. Apart from fighting the Bills legally in the courts, the agriculture department also plans to counter the Centre's move by bringing in agriculture cooperative societies and self help groups on a big scale.

The minister said the Bills had been brought at a time when lakhs of farmers were committing suicide across the country due to agrarian crisis.

The Left parties in Kerala along with many unions and organizations working in the agriculture sector have expressed solidarity with the nationwide agitation called by Kisan Coordination Committee on September 25.

2 PAK SOLDIERS KILLED IN CROSS-LoC SKIRMISHES

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, SEPT. 23

Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in renewed cross-LoC skirmishes in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch area on Wednesday.

The Pakistani authorities said that two of its soldiers Noor-ul-Hassan and Waseem Ali were killed in "intense exchange of fire" in Dewa sector of the Line of Control (LoC).

The Indian Army officials in frontier Poonch town had earlier said that the Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire understanding by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along LoC in three sectors of Poonch.

They said that "unprovoked" firing and shelling from across the de facto border started at around 9 am and continued till reports last came in.

A defence spokesman in Jammu while confirming it said, "At about 9 am on Wednesday, Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Kerni, Qasba and Shahpur sectors."

He added that the Indian Army retaliated "befittingly". It was not immediately known if there were any casualties or damage on the Indian side.

According to the Indian authorities, the Pakistan Army has violated ceasefire along the LoC as many as 37 times, so far, this month alone.

They said that last week an Army jawan was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured in Pakistani firing in LoC's Sunderbani sector.

Kashmiris rather have Chinese rule them: Farooq

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 23

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah who, according to his critics, has as a politician grown accustomed to setting off controversies, said in his latest harangue that the people of Kashmir do not feel Indian and do not want to be as such.

"Today Kashmiris do not feel Indian and do not want to be Indian. They are slaves. They would rather have the Chinese rule them," he said in an interview to veteran journalist and television commentator Karan Thapar.

Reacting sharply to the government's doing away with the '1927 State Subject Law' and replacing it with new domicile law in what is now called as the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir; Mr. Abdullah said, "Every Kashmiri believes the new domicile laws are intended to create a Hindu majority. The gap between Kashmiris and the rest of the country is wider than ever before and growing."

He added that alleged attempts to change the

demography of J&K have further embittered the Kashmiri people.

He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, of "deceiving" and keeping him in the dark about the Centre's plan to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcating J&K.

He said, "Modi deliberately deceived me in August 2019 but I will fight to restore the dignity of Kashmiris till my last breath. The Abdullahs and Muftis have come together in Kashmir's greater interest and now Mehbooba (Mufti) is politically close to Omar (Abdullah) and me. I speak to her frequently".

Revealing the details of his meeting with the Prime Minister roughly 72 hours before August 5, 2019 when J&K was stripped of its special status and split up into two UTs, he said that he had met Mr. Modi to seek his assurances about the continuation of Articles 370 and 35A.

He said that he asked the Prime Minister why there were so many troops in the Valley and whether this was because of any perceived military threat.

He suggested the Prime Minister deliberately went



● HE SAID, "Modi deliberately deceived me in August 2019 but I will fight to restore the dignity of Kashmiris till my last breath. The Abdullahs and Muftis have come together in Kashmir's greater interest and now Mehbooba (Mufti) is politically close to Omar (Abdullah) and me. I speak to her frequently".

out of his way to give him the impression the massive increase in troops was for security purposes.

He said the Prime Minister did not say a word about Articles 370 and 35A. Consequently, he emerged from that meeting believing the two Articles were not in danger. When asked he agreed that the Prime Minister had misled and deceived him.

The Senior Abdullah who is a member of Lok Sabha representing home constituency Srinagar said in the interview which has been published by *The Wire* alleged that the Kashmiris are being treated like second class citizens and hence are "slaves." He also said that

it was a "complete rubbish" for the BJP to claim that the people of Kashmir have accepted the August 2019 changes just because there have been no protests. He said if the soldiers on every street and Section 144 were to be lifted people will come out in their tens of lakhs.

Asked how Kashmiris view the Central government and, in particular, Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah, Mr. Abdullah said they were deeply disillusioned.

He said they had no trust in the Central government. He added that the trust that once bound Kashmir to the rest of the country has completely snapped.

He said that in August 2019, when the constitu-

Despite protests, RS sees 100.47% productivity

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT 23

Making an appeal to Rajya Sabha MPs to ensure that the "unseemly behavior" that led to the suspension of eight opposition parties members from the House is not repeated, chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said to protest is the right of the opposition but the question is how it should be done.

In his valedictory speech before the House was adjourned sine die eight days ahead of schedule due to Covid-19, Mr Naidu informed that the 252nd session of the Rajya Sabha witnessed a productivity of 100.47 per cent, with 25 bills being passed and the session has been satisfying in terms of productivity but there were some areas of concern as well, including for the first time in the history of the Upper House, a notice of motion for removal of the deputy chairman was given.

Mr Naidu said it is "extremely unpalatable" when Bills are passed amid a boycott of proceedings by some sections of the House, but not taking up legislative work in such a situation may legitimise their action as an 'instrument of blocking legislation'.

As many as 15 Bills including the three farm sector related Bills, over which the House, witnessed unruly scenes and suspension of eight members, were passed in the last two days with no Opposition member present in the House as they were boycotting the proceedings.

Expressing concern over the conduct of some of the members, he said it was "deeply painful" and all need to "collectively ponder" over these issues. Over the suspension on the eight members, Mr Naidu said rules

of the House do provide for such action when it becomes inevitable.

"We have to conclude this session eight sittings ahead of the scheduled 18 sittings as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to challenge humankind across the globe even after nine months of its outbreak," said the Chairman.

Referring to the suspension of eight MPs, Mr Naidu said "the developments in the House surrounding this unprecedented move have been deeply painful for all those who hold the stature and the dignity of this august House dear to their hearts."

Earlier during the day, the House bid farewell to 11 members who will retire in November, including civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav, Ravi Prakash Verma, Chandrapal Singh Yadav and Javed Ali Khan, BSP's Veer Singh, Congress's P.L. Punia and Raj Babbar and BJP's Arun Singh and Neeraj Shekhar. Mr Naidu said some of the members will return to the House after re-election.

Meanwhile, BSP supremo Mayawati hit out at the government as well as the Opposition for the ruckus and chaos during the ongoing Monsoon Session, saying their conduct has harmed the dignity of Parliament and the Constitution.

In a tweet in Hindi, the BSP supremo said "Although Parliament is called the temple of democracy, its dignity has been shredded many times. Even during the ongoing Parliament session, the functioning of the government and the behaviour of Opposition in the House are embarrassing for the dignity of Parliament, Constitution and democracy. Very sad!"

tional changes were suddenly announced, the NC and all other mainstream political parties stood badly discredited in Kashmiri eyes.

Speaking of himself, he said he seemed to have fallen between two stools. The Indian government viewed him as a traitor and arrested him. Kashmiris, on the other hand, saw him as a servant of India and said things like 'serves Abdullah right' and chided him and taunted him for having said *Bharat Mata Ki Jai*. This left him deeply shaken and upset.

He, however, claimed that after 7-8 months in detention his standing and that of his party and other mainstream parties has been considerably restored in Kashmiri eyes. People now realize they are not "servants of India", he asserted.

He said that the NC and, in fact, all the other parties that had come together to issue the Gupkar Declaration of August 2019, which was reiterated on August 22 this year, were committed to restoring the dignity of Kashmiris. He said this meant reinstating Articles 370 and 35A and restoring

statehood. He said he would fight for this - but always peacefully - till his last breath. The former chief minister said that he had faith in the Supreme Court and hoped that they would stop postponing the petition his party has brought and hear it expeditiously. In the interview he, in fact, appealed to Supreme Court judges to hear the constitutional case quickly.

Asked why he had not raised this matter during the present session of Parliament, he said he wasn't given time. He said he had gone to meet the Speaker, along with MPs from Congress, Trinamool, DMK and the Communist Parties, and the Speaker had assured them time for a discussion would be allocated. But that never happened.

Asked if he believed the government had intervened and told the Speaker not to give time, Mr. Abdullah said he did not know but agreed the Speaker had not kept his word.

He said that in the greater interest of Kashmir the Mufti and Abdullah families have buried their past differences and come together.

FRESH | START

Top cop had failed to get BJP ticket when he tried to contest from Buxar in 2009

Bihar DGP quits, may contest polls from Buxar

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, SEPT. 23

Bihar Director General of Police Gupteshwar Pandey's early retirement has triggered speculations that he would join politics and contest Assembly polls from Buxar.

This is the second time he is trying his luck in electoral politics, in 2009 he had opted for voluntary retirement to contest Lok Sabha polls from Buxar but he returned to the Police force after he failed

to get a ticket from the BJP.

Sources, however, said that this time Mr. Pandey decided to quit six months earlier than his actual retirement date after he got assurances from the NDA. He was to retire from services on February 28, 2021.

The Bihar government had appointed him as DGP of the state police on January 31, 2019.

Few hours after reports of his voluntary retirement surfaced, a music

● AFTER REPORTS of his voluntary retirement surfaced, a music video went viral on the social media terming Gupteshwar Pandey as "Robin Hood of Bihar" and "Janata ka hero".

The video went viral on the social media terming Gupteshwar Pandey as "Robin Hood of Bihar" and "Janata ka hero".

In the video singer Deepak Thakur also praised Mr. Pandey's role

in Sushant Singh Rajput case and how he faced criticism from various political parties for leading a battle for the deceased actor. Gupteshwar Pandey had hit headlines by taking a strong stand on the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

He had also stoked a controversy by saying that "Rhea Chakraborty doesn't have *aukat* to make any comments on Bihar CM Nitish Kumar".

On Wednesday while talking to reporters he

said that "people from various districts where I served earlier have been asking me to contest polls but I have not taken any decisions yet. But as far as my interest in serving people is concerned I can do that even without joining politics".

During his interaction with the media in Patna, he praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his effort for state's development and said that "he never compromises on the issue of crime and corrup-

tion". While JD(U) leaders have been maintaining silence on Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey's early retirement, BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand in a statement said that "questions should not be raised as he has decided to quit voluntarily. In democracy he has the right to choose his political ideology or party".

Late on Tuesday evening, the state home department issued the notification granting voluntary retirement for Pandey.

IN BRIEF

6th term: Belarus Prez takes oath

Kyiv: President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus was sworn in Wednesday to his sixth term in office at an inaugural ceremony that was not announced in advance amid weeks of huge protests of the authoritarian leader's reelection, which the opposition says was rigged. Several European countries used the occasion to reiterate that they don't recognise the results of the election and refused to regard Lukashenko as the legitimate president. The ceremony was held in front of several hundred dignitaries at the ornate Palace of Independence in the capital of Minsk, the state news agency Belta said. Police and other security forces blocked off parts of the city and public transportation was suspended.

Navalny released from hospital

Berlin: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was released from a Berlin hospital after more than a month's treatment for poisoning, with doctors now believing that a "complete recovery" from the Soviet-era nerve agent is possible for him, the hospital said Wednesday. Navalny spent 32 days at Berlin's Charite hospital, 24 of them in intensive care, before doctors deemed his "condition had improved sufficiently for him to be discharged from acute inpatient care." As he was released Tuesday, the 44-year-old displayed his characteristic sarcastic sense of humour. In an Instagram post, he took swipe at Russian President Vladimir Putin, scoffing at reported comments by the Russian leader suggesting that Navalny might have intentionally poisoned himself. He was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on Aug. 20.

UK: Truck lines if no-deal Brexit

London: The British government says there could be lines of 7,000 trucks at the English Channel and two-day waits to get into France immediately after the UK makes its economic break from the European Union at the end of the year. Michael Gove, the minister in charge of Brexit preparations, described that as a reasonable worst-case scenario in a letter to logistics firms. The government letter says that between 30% and 50% of trucks wanting to cross the Channel may not be ready for new paperwork and regulations that will come into effect on Jan. 1. "This could lead to maximum queues of 7,000 port-bound trucks in Kent and associated maximum delays of up to two days," the document said. The UK withdrew from the EU's political institutions on Jan. 31 but remains in a tariff-free transition period until the end of the year.

COURT: NAWAZ ARREST REPORT BY SEPT. 30

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 23

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday directed the concerned representative to submit report on the implementation of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) supreme Nawaz Sharif's arrest warrant through United Kingdom's County Court by September 30. During the hearing of Avenfield and Al-Azizia references conducted by a two-member bench, Additional Attorney General has assured the court that official of Pakistan High Commission will reach the PML-N supreme's residence in London to inform him about court orders. The IHC had issued non-bailable arrest warrant against Nawaz for September 22 and rejected his plea seeking exemption from the hearing. The court had also directed the concerned authorities to initiate proceedings to declare him as proclaimed offender. His petition to continue the case hearings through legal representative was also turned down by the IHC. Nawaz had requested the IHC to nullify its ruling and allow him to become a part of the court proceedings through his representative. He made the request on medical grounds. The IHC had ordered him to surrender and appear on September 10 at any cost in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani had said in his remarks, "Nawaz Sharif has to appear before the court for hearing. He may face additional three-year imprisonment if he is absconder in the reference."

Trump: Harris incompetent

Don: US has most powerful weapons ever produced

Washington, Sept. 23: US President Donald Trump has termed Senator Kamala Harris as "grossly incompetent," saying he was surprised when his Democratic rival Joe Biden picked her as his running mate in the November 3 presidential election.

Harris, 55, is the first-ever PoC and Indian-American woman to be the vice-presidential candidate of a major political party. "I was surprised to learn when Biden selected Harris as his running mate. Believe it or not, it's true she is rated the most liberal person in Congress. I think she's grossly incompetent I'll be honest with you," Trump said during a rally in Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

Trump, a Republican, said during the Democratic primaries no one treated Biden as badly as Harris. "Also, Harris was dropped out of the Democratic Party's presidential race as her popularity ratings dipped low," he said. Former vice president Biden has defended Harris, saying she is smart, tested and prepared. "She (Harris) is smart. She is tested. She is prepared," Biden said during a virtual fundraiser event with Harris.

"The way she talks about her mom, her immigrant story that started Indian. It's one of the things that really stood out to me. We both talked about our moms. My mom was all about sacrifice and community and how much they sacrificed for both of us, my mom and hers. And I know the pride you feel in her nomination," Biden said. Harris, who is busy campaigning in various parts of America, on Tuesday distributed yard signs to supporters who drive by parade-style and

CHINA TRAILS U.S. IN DEVELOPING 6TH-GEN CRAFT

Beijing, Sept. 23: China, which in recent years tried to catch up with the US in the design and production of new generation warplanes, is trailing the American air force in the development of the sixth-generation fighter jets by several years, according to a media report. America is leading the world in the sixth-generation fighter jets with the US Air Force saying it has flown a prototype - a milestone that is still years away for China, South China Morning Post reported.

Trump said for decades, American politicians spent trillions of dollars rebuilding foreign nations, fighting foreign wars that never ended, and defending foreign borders. "Instead of endless war, we are forging peace in the Middle East, it's so great. Peace in the Middle East," he said. "We will strike down terrorists who threaten our citizens and we will keep America out of endless, ridiculous, stupid foreign wars," he said at an election rally in Pennsylvania on Tuesday night. "I am just telling you the most powerful weapons ever produced we have and other countries know that and it's a good thing that they know it and I don't think we will ever be using them and I hope we don't, I hope to God," Trump said.

The president said by saying so, he was not leaking any classified information. He said he was allowed to speak about it because he is the president of the United States. Trump said that he has rebuilt the US military. "It was totally depleted when I took over. We built a military, \$2.5 trillion we spent all made in the US saying, the greatest equipment, the greatest planes and rockets and missiles and our nuclear," he said.

He spoke at a voter mobilisation event in Detroit. She also launched Michigan's "Shop Talk" programme at Headliners Barbershop in Detroit. "Everything's

at stake," Harris told a woman as she made a brief stop at a woman-owned cold pressed juice company in Michigan.

Senate GOP plans vote on Don court pick before election

Washington, Sept. 23: Votes in hand, Senate Republicans are charging ahead with plans to confirm President Donald Trump's pick to fill the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Supreme Court seat before the November 3 election, launching a divisive fight over Democratic objections before a nominee is even announced.

Trump said Tuesday he will name his choice Saturday, confident of support. Democrats say it's too close to the election, and the winner of the presidency should name the new justice. But under GOP planning, the Senate could vote October 29. "I guess we have all the votes we're going to need," Trump told *WJBX FOX 2* in Detroit.

"I think it's going to happen," Republicans believe the court fight will energize voters for Trump, boosting the party and potentially deflating Democrats who cannot stop the lifetime appointment for a conservative justice.

The Senate is controlled by Republicans, 53-47, with a simple majority needed for confirmation. The one remaining possible Republican holdout,

WOMAN WROTE 'GIVE UP' IN RICIN NOTE TO TRUMP

Washington, Sept. 23: A Canadian woman accused of mailing a package containing ricin to the White House included a threatening letter in which she told President Donald Trump to "give up and remove your application for this election," according to court papers filed on Tuesday. Pascale Ferrier, of Quebec, was arrested Sunday at the New York-Canada border and is due to make her first court appearance Tuesday afternoon in federal court in Buffalo, New York. She faces a charge of threatening the president.

Mitt Romney of Utah, said Tuesday he supports taking a vote. Still, with early presidential voting already underway in several states, all sides are girding for a wrenching Senate battle over health care, abortion access and other big cases.

2L dead as Don vilifies science, prioritises politics

New York, Sept. 23: "I did the best I could," President Donald Trump said. Huddled with aides in the West Wing last week, his eyes fixed on Fox News, Trump wasn't talking about how he had led the nation through the deadliest pandemic in a century. In a conversation overheard by an *Associated Press* reporter, Trump was describing how he'd just publicly rebuked one of his top scientists — Dr Robert Redfield, a virologist and head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Redfield had angered the president by asserting that a COVID-19 vaccine wouldn't be widely available until late 2021.

So hours later, with no supporting evidence, Trump called a news conference to say Redfield was

"confused." A vaccine, Trump insisted, could be ready before November's election. Mission accomplished: Fox was headlining Trump's latest foray in his administration's ongoing war against its own scientists. It is a war that continues unabated, even as the nation's Covid-19 death toll has reached 200,000 — nearly half the number of Americans killed in World War II, a once unfathomable number that the nation's top doctors just months ago said was avoidable.

Over the past six months, the Trump administration has prioritised politics over science at key moments, refusing to follow expert advice that might have contained the spread of the virus and Covid-19, the disease it causes.

China denies forced labour in Xinjiang

Beijing, Sept. 23: China on Tuesday lashed out at the passage of a bill by the U.S. House of Representatives that threatens sanctions over the alleged use of forced labour in China's Xinjiang region, calling the accusation a lie.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the bill "maliciously slandered the human rights situation in Xinjiang" and sought to curb devel-

opment and progress in the region while stirring up ethnic divisions and interfering in China's internal affairs. "The so-called problem of forced labor is totally a lie fabricated by some organisations and personnel in the United States and the West," he told reporters at a daily briefing.

The House voted 406-3 to declare that any goods produced in Xinjiang are

presumptively made with the forced labour of detained Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, and therefore banned from being imported to the US. If enacted into law, it could force companies to avoid a region that produces 80% of the cotton in China, one of the world's top producers of the fiber, as well as tomatoes and manufactured goods.

involved to suggest the student's entry could lead to donations, Howle said. "There's at least another 400 or so students...that were really questionable," Howle said, including some student athletes who didn't appear to have any athletic ability. UC President Michael V. Drake, who took over the job in July, said in a statement that he took the findings and recommendations "very seriously and will do all I can to prevent inappropriate admissions."

"The University will swiftly address the concerns the State Auditor raised. Furth-

ermore, individuals involved in improper activities will be disciplined appropriately," Drake said. The audit recommends that the UC President's office take a more robust role in auditing the admissions processes at the nine campuses and closely examine what is called "admissions by exception," granted for student athletes, artists, or those who have other specific talents that are attractive to a campus.

"We think that the Office of the President and their audit function should be not only looking deeper at these four campuses but looking

MORE CURBS IN HARD-HIT MADRID

Madrid, Sept. 23: Health authorities in Madrid may extend to more communities the restrictions on movement it imposed on areas of the Spanish capital with high Coronavirus infection rates.

About 860,000 Madrid residents already are required to justify trips out of 37 neighbourhoods. The region's deputy health chief, Antonio Zapatero, said Wednesday that a decision on additional measures would be announced on Friday.

once and for all. Describing the November 3 election as a "matter of economic survival", Trump said that the country was doing great on economic front before the plague was unleashed on the United States, and blamed China for it. "You had the greatest year you have ever had last year, and you were really on your way — we were very, very sadly disturbed by what happened with China. They let the plague out. They shouldn't have done it," he said.

"We built the greatest economy in the history of the world. And right now we're doing it again," he asserted.



French police officers secure the bridge leading to the Eiffel Tower, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020 in Paris. Paris police have blockaded the area around the Eiffel Tower after a phone-in bomb threat. — AP

Paris police barricade Eiffel Tower following phone-in bomb threat

Paris, Sept. 23: Paris police have blockaded the area around the Eiffel Tower after a phone-in bomb threat.

The Eiffel Tower in Paris was evacuated for two hours Wednesday after an anonymous caller threatened to blow up the great edifice situated in the heart of the French capital, police said.

Police cars and tape surrounded the streets below the tower and the bridge stretching from across the Seine River to the Trocadero Plaza.

Some tourists were still walking in the area, but it was unclear if any were still inside the tower on Wednesday.

Two police officers at the scene told The Associated Press that the operation was the result of a phone-in bomb threat.

Eiffel Tower management did not respond to requests for comment.

After an inspection was carried out, nothing suspicious was found and the Eiffel Tower was able to reopen to visitors.

"A man phoned up,

shouted 'Allah Akbar' and said he was going to 'blow up everything'" at the Eiffel Tower, said a police source, who asked not to be named.

A security cordon was put around the monument, traffic diverted and the Eiffel Tower evacuated at 12:15 pm (10:15 GMT).

Its operator SETE said in a statement that after a thorough search nothing was found and the tower was able to reopen at 2:15 pm.

The 131-year-old tower gets about 25,000 tourists

daily in normal years and about seven million visitors a year, some three-quarters from abroad, but visits are down this year because of Coronavirus travel restrictions.

While the Eiffel Tower is scheduled to be open every day, it occasionally closes because of suicide threats, bomb threats or labour strikes.

The monument had reopened on June 26 after its longest closure since World War II forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

— Agencies

ACADEMIC | ANOMALY

Admission policies and practices from 2013-14 to 2018-19 at 4 campuses examined

Auditor: UC wrongly admitted well-connected students

San Francisco, Sept. 23: The University of California "inappropriately admitted" at least 64 wealthy students over the past six years as "favours to donors, family, and friends," according to an audit released on Tuesday that found hundreds more questionable cases of student athletes accepted to the top UC schools.

"This is a significant problem that the university needs to deal with," State Auditor Elaine Howle said in a telephone interview. The audit examined admission policies and practices

over a six-year period at four of the UC's nine campuses — UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara. It reviewed the academic years of 2013-14 through 2018-19.

Auditors found that 22 applicants were falsely designated as student-athlete recruits "because of donations from or as favours to well-connected families." These students "had little or no athletic skills," Howle said. "UC Berkeley really had some significant weaknesses in their admissions process," Howle said.

The audit found that the

elite school admitted 42 applicants based on their connections to donors and staff while denying admission to others who were more qualified. Howle said she believes the findings have barely scratched the surface of problems in the UC admissions process.

The 64 students identified as being improperly admitted were based on "definitive evidence," such as emailed communications showing a student was denied admission but then reconsidered and accepted after an athletic coach or the development office got

centre of the scheme was Newport Beach-based college admissions consultant, William "Rick" Singer.

Those investigations, known as Operation Varsity Blues, previously identified at least three students at UCLA and UC Berkeley who were improperly admitted. UCLA men's soccer coach Jorge Salcedo was indicted on charges of racketeering conspiracy for allegedly accepting \$200,000 in bribes from the scheme's mastermind, Singer, in exchange for helping two students gain admission to the school as soccer players.

— AP

SHORT TAKES

OLD-GROWTH TREES SPIKED CALIF. FIRES

Los Angeles, Sept. 23: A lack of firefighting resources in the hours after it was sparked allowed a fast-moving wildfire to make an unprecedented run through Southern California mountains and eventually find fuel in old-growth trees to become one of Los Angeles County's largest fires ever, an official said Tuesday.

The Bobcat Fire has burned for more than two weeks and was still threatening more than 1,000 homes after scorching its way through brush and timber down into the Mojave Desert. It's one of dozens of other major blazes across the West. "This is a stubborn fire," Angeles National Forest spokesman Andrew Mitchell said. Only about 100 firefighters were initially dispatched on Sept. 6 when the Bobcat Fire broke out and swiftly grew to about 200 acres (81 hectares), he said.

"To put that into perspective, normally for a fire that size we'd have at least double or triple that number of firefighters," Mitchell said. At the time, many Southern California ground crews and a fleet of retardant- and water-dropping aircraft were assigned to multiple record-breaking blazes in the northern part of the state. By the time staffing was ramped up, flames had found their way deep into inaccessible forest. Embers floated across mountain ridges, igniting towering trees and creating an expanding wall of fire.

LEOPARDS REAPPEAR NEAR BEIJING

Beijing, Sept. 23: North China leopards, once on the edge of extinction, have been spotted again in their traditional mountainous habitats near Beijing after more than two decades following improvement in their living environment, the official media here reported. It is a clear sign that the population of the rare subspecies of leopard has continued to grow as the environment in the region has improved, a report by the state-run *Xinhua* news agency said.

The leopard, also known as the Chinese leopard, is classified as a national first-class protected animal in China. It once widely inhabited in Beijing, the provinces of Hebei and Shanxi and other parts of North China. However, in the second half of the 20th century, deforestation and rampant illegal hunting led to a sharp decrease in its numbers.

By 2008, the population had reduced to fewer than 500, while their habitat area was estimated to have declined by 80 per cent. Since November 2012, the endangered leopard has been repeatedly spotted in its traditional habitats in Hebei province-Xiaowutai Mountain and Tuoliang-thanks to conservation efforts in the region, the report said. Most recently, a North China leopard was spotted in Hebei Tuoliang National Nature Reserve.

WILD MAPLE TREES NEED CONSERVATION

Oxford, Sept. 23: One in five maple species is threatened in the wild, according to the first full assessment of extinction risks. Known for the vivid colour of their autumn leaves, the trees are popular in parks and gardens.

But in their natural habitats, they face a myriad of threats, including unsustainable logging, climate change, deforestation and forest fires.

Botanists are calling for urgent action to protect rare maple trees. And they say seeds should be stored as an insurance policy against extinction. The assessment of all 158 species of maple is part of an effort to map the conservation status of all tree species by the end of 2020.

It was carried out by the group, Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Conservation manager Dan Crowley told *BBC News*: "Maples are some of our most familiar trees, particularly in autumn when they give us those wonderful displays of yellow, orange, red and purple colours."

"And whilst they are common in some of our open spaces, spaces where they are highly valued, several species are also highly threatened in the wild."

The scientists say action is needed to ensure there is active conservation in protected forests where maples grow.

Cheaper e-vehicle batteries after 3 yrs: Musk

California, Sept. 24: Elon Musk described a new generation of electric vehicle batteries that will be more powerful, longer lasting, and half as expensive as the company's current cells at Tesla's "Battery Day". Tesla's new larger cylindrical cells will provide five times more energy, six times more power and 16% greater driving range, Musk said, adding that full production is about three years away. "We do not have an affordable car. That's something we will have in the future. But we've got to get the cost of batteries down," Musk said.

To help reduce cost, Musk said Tesla planned to recycle battery cells at its Nevada "gigafactory," while reducing cobalt — one of the most expensive battery materials — to virtually zero. It also plans to manufacture its own battery cells at several highly automated factories around the world.

The automaker plans to produce the new cells via a highly automated, continuous-motion assembly process, according to Drew Baglino, Tesla senior vice-president of powertrain and energy engineering. Speaking at the event, during which Musk



Elon Musk

outlined plans to cut costs, the CEO acknowledged that Tesla does not have its new battery design and manufacturing process fully complete.

The automaker's shares slipped as Musk forecast the change could take



three years. Tesla has frequently missed production targets.

Tesla expects to eventually be able to build as many as 20m electric vehicles a year. This year, the entire auto industry expects to deliver 80m cars

globally. At the opening of the event, which drew over 270,000 online viewers, Musk walked on stage as about 240 shareholders — each sitting in a Tesla Model 3 in the company parking lot — honked their car horns in approval.

Rescuers fight on as whale toll in strandings hits 290

Sighting of another pod of 200 whales in same harbour made by copter

Tasmania, Sept. 23: Rescuers fighting to save a pod of 270 whales stranded in Tasmania's west have discovered a further 200 whales about 10km away in the same harbour, which all appear to be dead. The stranding is likely one of the largest on record globally and the worst in Australia's history.

The sighting was made by helicopter over Macquarie Harbour on Wednesday morning and brings the total number of dead long-finned pilot whales in the stranding to about 290.

The number of dead could rise further today as data from infrared helicopter surveillance is analysed, said Nic Deka, the coordinator of the rescue from Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service regional manager.

Dr Kris Carlyon, a marine conservation program wildlife biologist, said on Wednesday that the addition of 200 whales made this current stranding the largest in Tasmania's history.

Records show some 294 whales, also long-finned pilots, stranded at Stanley on Tasmania's north-west in 1935. About 60 rescuers led by the Tasmanian government's Marine Conservation Programme are entering the second day of the rescue that's focused on an area called Fraser Flats, near the town of Strahan.

About 25 whales were lifted off sandbanks and pulled by boat to open waters on Tuesday, but two had returned to the main stranded pod. Deka said the new group of 200 whales were in two bays between 7km to 10km south of the main rescue site.

They appear to have gone



Rescuers work to save a pod of whales stranded on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour on the rugged west coast of Tasmania on Wednesday. Up to 290 whales have died and a challenging operation is underway to rescue more still stranded in a remote bay in southern Australia. Scientists said two large pods of long-finned pilot whales became stuck on sandbars in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's sparsely populated west coast.

— AFP

undetected and likely entered the harbour about the same time as the others. A crew was heading to the new stranding site on Wednesday morning. The harbour is about 35km long and about 8km wide.

Deka said: "From the air, most appear to be dead."

Asked why they hadn't been seen before, he said: "The water is a very dark tanin colour and maybe they stranded and then washed back in to the bay. From the air they did not look to be in any condition for rescue."

He said even if those 200

whales had been seen late Monday when the group to the north was discovered, it was unlikely that it would have changed their strategy. When the first 270 whales were discovered, about 90 were estimated to be already dead. "We would still have focused our efforts on Fraser Flats because they are the ones with the best chance of survival."

On Tuesday, Deka told *Guardian Australia* that two methods were being considered. Burying the whales in a landfill was one, or towing them out

into open water and using ocean currents to keep them offshore was another. "We do know we can't leave them in the harbour because they will present a range of issues. We are committed to retrieving and disposing."

He said on Wednesday the focus was still on saving the whales at Fraser Flats and he was optimistic the 25 whales saved yesterday would be joined by more today.

About 40 government staff and 20 volunteers, mostly from the harbour's fish farming industry, are

in chest-deep in water and manoeuvring large webbing under the whales and lifting them off the sand.

Tags are attached to the rescued whales to monitor them. Pilot whales are very social and need to be taken far enough away from the main group that they don't turn around and go back. Deka said it was disappointing that two whales saved on Tuesday had returned to the stranding site, "but the majority of the whales (we saved) are still out in deep water and are still swimming."

— Agencies

EU's farm animals' emissions exceed cars, vans combined

Paris, Sept. 23: Cows, pigs and other farm livestock in Europe are producing more greenhouse gases every year than all of the bloc's cars and vans put together, when the impact of their feed is taken into account, according to a new analysis by Greenpeace.

The increase in meat and dairy production in Europe over the past decade has made farming a much greater source of emissions, but while governments have targeted renewable energy and transport in their climate policies, initiatives to reduce the impact of food and farming on the climate have lagged behind.

In 2018, the latest year for which accurate data is available from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, livestock on EU farms (including the UK) were responsible for the equivalent of about 502m tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, mostly through the methane they release. That compares with 656m of carbon dioxide from Europe's cars and vans in the same year.

But when the indirect greenhouse gas emissions are calculated, using established methods to estimate the deforestation and land use

changes associated with growing animal feed, then the total annual emissions are equivalent to 704m tonnes of carbon dioxide. The calculations are set out in a new Greenpeace report entitled *Farming for Failure*, published on Tuesday.

The EU's meat and dairy production rose by 9.5% between 2007 and 2018, which according to Greenpeace translated into an increase in annual emissions of 6%, or about 39m tonnes. That would be the equivalent of putting 8.4m new cars on the road. If such rises continue, the EU has little chance of meeting its obligations to reduce greenhouse gases under the Paris agreement. Last week, the EU strengthened its targets on cutting emissions, announcing a target of 55% cuts by 2030, compared with 1990 levels, as part of the European green deal, and ahead of key UN climate talks next year.

Marco Contiero, agriculture policy director for Greenpeace, said policymakers must get a grip on livestock emissions, or face missing carbon reduction targets. "European leaders have danced around the climate impact of animal farming for too long," he said. — Agencies

Storm heads to Tokyo, residents on alert

Tokyo, Sept. 23: A tropical storm in the Pacific Ocean is slowly approaching the Tokyo region Wednesday, and officials are urging residents to take precautions early from expected heavy rain and gusts.

Tropical Storm Dolphin headed north over waters south of the Hachijo island, packing sustained winds of up to 108 kilometers (67 miles) per hour, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The storm is not expected to make landfall according to the agency's latest projection, but it is expected to bring downpours in Tokyo and other areas in eastern Japan on Thursday and Friday. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko

● **TROPICAL STORM** Dolphin headed north over waters south of the Hachijo island, packing sustained winds of up to 108 kilometres per hour.

Koike urged residents, especially those on islands south of Tokyo, to prepare early for possible evacuation. She said Tokyo is taking ample safety measures to prevent the Coronavirus and setting up more evacuation centers to secure enough space.

"Please take precautions well ahead of time," Koike said. Two consecutive typhoons earlier this month hit parts of Japan and the Korean Peninsula,

causing widespread damages and flooding to houses, roads and other facilities in the region. — AP

Storm Beta brings rains flooding Houston

Houston, Sept. 23: Tropical storm Beta has caused severe flooding in Houston as it weakened into a tropical depression on September 22 bringing incessant rains, flooding streets, and forcing emergency workers to rescue dozens of people.

The heavy rains submerged the roads, swamping cars, blocking highways, and forced to shut schools, offices, and energy shipping ports. The National Hurricane Center has predicted as much

as 6 to 12 inches of rain in the middle and upper Texas coast, with some regions getting as much as 20 inches.

The National Hurricane center has issued a warning saying that significant flash and urban flooding will continue for the middle and upper Texas coast today. It added that the slow-motion of Beta will continue to produce a long duration rainfall event from the middle Texas coast to southern Louisiana. It further added that flash, urban and minor to isolated moderate river flooding is likely to occur.

The periods of rainfall will spread east into the Lower Mississippi Valley and portions of the south

east through the end of the week.

The weather department said that persistent onshore flow will continue to result in above normal high tides, and coastal flooding over the next few days will be slow to recede. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner was reported to have appealed the local residents to stay home and warned not to drive through the high waters.

The highway cameras around the city are showing roads underwater, and several suburban school districts closed campuses. Houston has also asked all city employees not designated as essential workers to stay home. — Agencies

● **THE COLDEST** temperature ever recorded on Earth was the -89.2 Celsius (-128.6 F) recorded in 1983 at the high-altitude Vostok weather station in Antarctica.

rainfall, and even of "heaviest hailstone" and "longest lightning flash."

It said that the record came to light after "a WMO blue-ribbon international panel of polar scientists tracked down the original scientists involved" from the Klinck automatic weather station than ran for two years in the early 1990s.

The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was the -89.2 Celsius (-128.6 F) recorded in 1983 at the high-altitude Vostok weather station in Antarctica, WMO said.

Petteri Taalas, the secretary general of the WMO, said: "In the era of climate change, much attention focuses on new heat records. This newly recognised cold record is an important reminder about the stark contrasts that exist on this planet."

Searching through the archives allows scientists to check temperature patterns, and provides valuable data for climate models. The Klinck station operated for two years in the early 1990s, before its automated instruments were sent for use in the Antarctic. It came to light only after a WMO group tracked down the original scientists. The data had to go through rigorous checking before the new record was accepted. Their assessment is published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*. — AP

China to be carbon neutral before 2060

Beijing, Sept. 23: China will reach carbon neutrality before 2060 and ensure its greenhouse gas emissions peak in the next decade, Xi Jinping has told the UN general assembly.

"China will scale up its intended nationally determined contributions [under the Paris climate agreement] by adopting more vigorous policies and measures," the Chinese president said, calling for a "green recovery" from the coronavirus pandemic.

The unexpectedly forthright commitment will

give fresh impetus to the UN's efforts to galvanise action on the climate crisis, which has been flagging as the Coronavirus has wreaked havoc on the world's societies and economies this year.

"Xi's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 is a gamechanger," said Thom Woodroffe, a former climate diplomat and senior adviser at the Asia Society. "For the first time ever there is now a clear long-term trajectory for decarbonisation in China."

China is the world's

biggest emitter, and had previously committed only to aim for peak emissions in about 2030. Its response to the Coronavirus crisis has included plans to build new coal-fired power stations. But last week the country held an online summit with the EU, amid signals Beijing would take a stronger climate stance.

Last week, the EU also came forward with strengthened commitments under the Paris agreement, pledging to cut emissions by 55% by 2030. China's pledge to bring

forward a strengthened national plan is a major boost to the prospects for next year's vital UN climate summit. Called Cop26 and to be hosted by the UK, the summit has been delayed by a year to November 2021.

Cop26 is viewed as one of the last chances to put the world on track to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris agreement, to hold global heating to well below 2C, regarded as the limit of safety. Current commitments under the accord would lead to a disastrous 3C rise.

Every nation is supposed to come forward this year with a strengthened national plan to make Cop26 a success. But until recently, it was mostly only smaller countries that had done so, covering a minority of global emissions. With China and the EU now publicly committed to bringing forward new plans, two of the world's three biggest emitters are now pledging strong action at Cop26.

The biggest player now missing from the stage is the US.

— Agencies

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	37668.42	-0.17
Nifty 50	11,131.90	-0.20
S&P 500*	3,304.65	0.33
Dollar (₹)	73.56	0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.25	1.13
Euro (₹)	85.96	0.48
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,697*684	-1.36
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.20	0.48
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.990	-0.021
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.676	0.012

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Hexaware Tech to offer ₹475 per share for delisting

Hexaware Technologies on Wednesday said will offer ₹475 per share as the final price for its delisting offer. The company stated the offer was successful and 8.72 crore equity shares had been validly tendered. The bid process for the delisting offer had started on September 9 and closed on September 16. "The acquirer and promoter have accepted the discovered price of ₹475 per equity share as exit price."

Mobile World Congress will be held in June 2021



The world's biggest four-day telecom assembly Mobile World Congress has been scheduled to start from June 28, 2021, global industry body GSM Association said on Wednesday. The Mobile World Congress is held in the last week of February every year but this year, it was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic, and after telecom companies one after the other started pulling out of the conference.

Toyota launches Urban Cruiser priced ₹8.4 lakh

Japanese auto major Toyota on Wednesday launched its compact Sports Utility Vehicle Urban Cruiser, which it has sourced from compatriot Suzuki, in India with price starting at ₹8.4 lakh as it looks to use cross-badged products from the latter to draw more customers in the volume segment. The Urban Cruiser is the second model to be launched in India under the global Toyota-Suzuki alliance after premium hatchback Glanza.

Airtel picks up stake in tech start-up Waybeo

Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it has picked up a strategic stake in Waybeo under its start-up accelerator programme, in line with its strategy to ramp-up cloud offerings. The company did not divulge into the financial details of the deal. Tech start-up Waybeo, focused on deep artificial intelligence-based analytics for cloud telephony, is fifth to join the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program.

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Boycott call fails to reduce import of Chinese products

Chinese share in imports rose to 19% as against 14% last year

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 23

Despite the drop in demand post-lockdown and the general resentment towards Chinese products after Ladakh incursion, China has increased its share in imports into India. Imports from the Communist country came down only by 29 per cent between April and August this year compared to 48 per cent decline in overall imports. China's share in India's total imports has gone up to 19 per cent between April and July, up from 14 per cent in the year-ago period. During the lockdown months of April and May and even during the initial months of unlock, the flow of imports in general

FOREIGN DEPENDENCE

While India's total imports declined by 48 per cent, the country's imports from China have dropped merely by 29 per cent.

Agro chemicals, medical and scientific instruments, other miscellaneous chemicals, handicrafts and petroleum products have seen rise in imports

and especially those from China had faced several issues. During these months, the shipments of many items got stuck at the ports, consumption was curbed and logistics remained unresolved. Further, the Chinese incursion into Ladakh evoked a strong resentment among Indian consumers and calls to ban

Chinese imports had become loud. Small and medium traders under Swadeshi Jagran Manch and the Confederation of All India Traders had given open calls to boycott Chinese products. This was followed by increased scrutiny of Chinese products at ports and consequent delays. The government also wanted to cut

the Chinese imports wherever possible and promote indigenous production. Certain curbs in the form of increased import duties were also brought in for select items. However, the share of Chinese imports in India's overall imports has gone up to 19 per cent in the period between April and July compared to 14 per cent in the year-ago period. Among the top 50 commodity groups, import of agro chemicals rose from \$321 million to \$377 million, medical and scientific instruments grew from \$200 million to \$205 million, other chemicals from \$212 million to \$240 million, handicrafts from \$156 million to \$168 million and petroleum products from \$60 million to \$68 million.

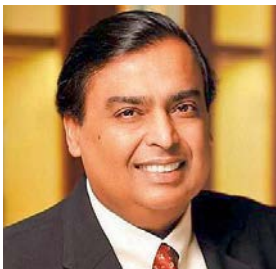
UTI MUTUAL FUND PLANS ITS IPO ON SEPT. 29

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 23

The successful listing of IPOs floated by Happiest Minds Technologies and Route Mobile has inspired many others to list their shares on bourses. Following CAMS, Chemcon Speciality Chemicals and Angel Broking, many more companies have fasttracked their IPO plans. Sources said UTI Mutual Funds' ₹3,000-crore IPO would kick off on September 29. The IPO of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS) got huge response from all categories of investors and was subscribed 47 times on the final day of bidding. The qualified institutional bidder portion got subscribed 73.18 times excluding the anchor investor portion. Chemcon Speciality Chemicals' ₹318-crore IPO, which was closed on Wednesday, got subscribed over 149 times on the last day of bidding. Chemcon, being a smaller size issue, received bids 40.91 times shares on offer from retail individual investors, 449.14 times from HNI investors and 113.53 times from qualified institutional buyers category. Angel Broking's ₹600 crore IPO got fully subscribed on the second day of bidding. At the time of closing, it got subscribed 1.46 times.

US PE buys 1.28% stake in Rel Retail for ₹5,550cr

New Delhi, Sept. 23: US private equity firm KKR & Co will invest ₹5,550 crore to buy a 1.28 per cent stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm as the Mukesh Ambani-run conglomerate extends fundraising spree that has already netted more than \$20 billion.



Mukesh Ambani

"KKR will invest ₹5,550 crore into Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd," RIL said in a statement. The investment values Reliance Retail, which runs grocery stores and fashion chains, at a pre-money equity value of ₹4.21 lakh crore. "KKR's investment will translate into a 1.28 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis" it said. This is the second investment by KKR in Reliance Industries (RIL) units. It had previously

picked up a 2.32 per cent stake in the digital arm, Jio Platforms for ₹11,367 crore. For Reliance Retail, KKR is the second investor. US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners had earlier this month agreed to buy 1.75 per cent stake in the venture for ₹7,500 crore. Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail business spanning supermarkets,

consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart. It operates almost 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns. The investment will add fire to Ambani's battle for dominance in the retail market that is also being eyed by Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com and Walmart Inc's Flipkart. In May, Reliance launched an online grocery delivery service JioMart. It has tied up with WhatsApp to connect customers with local kirana stores. Late last month, Reliance acquired the retail and logistics businesses of Future Group for ₹24,713 crore to boost its retail vertical. Founded in 1976, KKR has \$222 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2020. — PTI

TELECOM STOCKS CRASH AFTER JIO'S POSTPAID PLANS

New Delhi, Sept. 23: Telecom stocks on Wednesday tumbled up to 10 per cent a day after Reliance Jio unveiled its postpaid plans. Vodafone Idea shares plummeted 10.05 per cent to close at ₹9.22 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 14 per cent to ₹8.81. Bharti Airtel also tumbled 7.89 per cent to settle at ₹433.90 after falling 9.99

per cent to ₹423.95 during the day. Bharti Airtel was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack. "Telco stocks like Vodafone Idea and Airtel plunged after Reliance Jio released a new postpaid tariff plan," said Sumeet Bagadia, executive director, Choice Broking. After unleashing a price war in mobile tariffs and fibre-broadband services,

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio on Tuesday unveiled postpaid plans, bundling up to 500 GB of data and subscription to Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney + Hotstar. JioPostPaid Plus for mobile customers will have a monthly tariff from ₹399 to ₹1,499 with different benefits, the company said in a statement. — PTI

Brokerages to see no Covid impact

Mumbai, Sept. 23: The domestic brokerage industry's revenue will grow up to 12 per cent in FY21 on the back of heightened retail participation in markets, a report said on Wednesday.

While the economy has been reeling under the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic, the trading volumes in the domestic markets have been on an upwards trajectory

— ICRA

The agency said its pool of 11 entities grew their revenue by three per cent in FY20, but the revenue growth has been 16 per cent per annum on a com-

pounded basis since FY16, and added that its outlook on the industry is "cautiously stable". While growth momentum is expected to continue, operational and funding challenges could have a bearing on the performance, particularly for small to mid-sized brokerage companies, it said. "In the current fiscal, the industry aggregate revenues are expected to increase to ₹23,000 crore (Y-o-Y growth of 10-12 per cent)," it said. "While the

economy has been reeling under the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdowns, the trading volumes in the domestic capital markets have been on an upwards trajectory, reaching an all-time high in July 2020," it said. The option of work from home, limited investment opportunities and attractive valuations have helped drive investor interest to capital markets, ICRA's Samridhhi Chowdhary said. — PTI

MONEY | MATTERS

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter agree on common definition, external auditing, standard reporting

Social media, advertisers in deal to curb hate content

London, Sept. 23: Facebook, YouTube and Twitter have agreed with big advertisers on first steps to curb harmful content online, following boycotts of social media platforms that advertisers had accused of tolerating hate speech. The agreement comes three months after Facebook was hit by a boycott from major advertisers in the wake of anti-racism demonstrations that followed the death of George Floyd, an American Black man, in police custody.

Advertisers have complained for years that big social media companies do too little to prevent ads from appearing alongside hate speech, fake news and other harmful content. Big tech companies, meanwhile, want to be seen as taking action on the issue to fend off calls for more regulation. Under the deal, announced on Wednesday by the World Federation of Advertisers, common definitions would be adopted for forms of harmful content such as hate speech and

bullying, and platforms would adopt harmonised reporting standards. The platforms agreed to have some practices reviewed by external auditors, and to give advertisers more control of what content is displayed alongside their ads. The deal comes less than six weeks before a polarising US presidential election. "This is a significant milestone in the journey to rebuild trust online," said Luis Di Como, executive vice president of global media at Unilever, one

Any progress in reducing harmful online content is to be welcomed. However, up to now voluntary action from social media companies has rarely lived up to its initial promises.

DAVID BABBS, Clean Up the Internet

of the world's biggest advertisers. "...Whilst change doesn't happen overnight, today marks an



Depositors and account holders of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank hold placards during a protest near the Reserve Bank of India in New Delhi on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the central bank said net worth erosion, steep fall in deposits posed serious challenges in finding a workable plan for the revival of the fraud-hit bank. — AFP

Gold price likely to touch record high by November

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 23

The uncertainty around US Presidential elections may see gold making new highs, finds a report by Citigroup. A revisit of the record high levels in the international market will see gold touching ₹56,000 in the Indian market.

Even if gold moves back to the record high levels of \$2,070, at the current rupee levels, gold in the domestic market may move past ₹56,000 per 10 gm towards ₹58,000 levels.

HIMANSHU GUPTA, V-P, Globe Capital

Uncertainty over the contest and delays about the outcome may "be underappreciated by precious metals markets," Citigroup said in a quarterly commodities outlook. This could see gold moving up by more than \$200 an ounce from the current levels to cross \$2,070. Gold had touched \$2,070 in the first week of August. But the metal has been witnessing some correction with the movement of the dollar index. The US elections in November would see incumbent Donald Trump pitting against Joe Biden. The election "could be an extraordinary catalyst

for gold flat price and volatility skew late in the fourth quarter, even though historically there is no clear pattern for gold trading or price volatility into and after US elections," Citi said. "That is one reason why we expect gold prices to hit fresh records before year-end," it added. According to Himanshu Gupta, vice-president and head of commodities and currencies research, Globe Capital, gold went up during the last presidential elections, but due to the lack of support

from the macro fundamentals, it fell later. "However, this time, gold has the support of macro fundamentals. Interest rates are low and are expected to remain lower until 2023. Despite the recent recovery in the dollar index, the greenback is in bearish territory. Further, the global economies are not going to recover any faster," he said. "Our medium term target is \$2,250-\$2,300 levels. Even if gold moves back to the record high levels of \$2,070, at the current rupee levels, gold in India may move past ₹56,000 per 10 gm towards ₹58,000 levels. Even our Diwali target is around those levels," said Gupta. Kedia Commodities has set a 3-month target of \$2200 and a 6-12 month target of \$2400 per ounce. "We lift the 2021 base case gold price forecast by \$300 per ounce versus our early July forecast, to \$2,275," said Ajay Kedia, the MD of Kedia Commodities.

PE flow in realty dips 85% in eight months

New Delhi, Sept. 23: Private equity investment in Indian real estate plunged 85 per cent during January-August period of this year at \$866 million (around ₹6,500 crore) as investors remained cautious due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Colliers International and Ficcip report.

The private equity (PE) inflow stood at \$5,795 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. Data centres segment attracted maximum investment so far this year at 46 per cent of the total inflows. Office segment accounted for 24 per cent of the total PE investment at \$207 million (around ₹1,500 crore) till August of this calendar year. Industrial and warehousing share stood at 12 per cent, hospitality 9 per cent, housing 8 per cent and co-living one per cent. "Investors, both foreign and domestic, are adopting a cautious approach to Indian real estate in the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic," said the report. "Future India: Captivating Strategic and Private Equity Investments." According to Colliers International, through August 2020, overall private equity inflows into Indian real estate stood at ₹65 billion (\$866 million), which is just 15 per cent of the corresponding period in 2019," it added. The report said that newer asset classes such as data centres and rental housing gained prominence among investors. "During 2020 through August, the leading segments have been data centres, driven by demand for cloud infrastructure, as well as offices as, they tend to offer steady rental income," the report said. During January-August 2019, office segment got 47 per cent of the total PE inflows that stood at \$5,795 million. Industrial and warehousing had received 9 per cent funds, hospitality 12 per cent, housing 8 per cent, retail 18 per cent and mixed use development 6 per cent. — PTI

SEBI ENHANCES FINE ON ICRA, CARE RATINGS

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 23

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has enhanced penalty imposed on credit rating agencies ICRA and Care Ratings in the IL&FS matter from ₹25 lakh to ₹1 crore each, in the wake of serious nature of the threat their ratings posed to the securities market. "The lapses while rating the securities of IL&FS and IFIN have resulted in real and severe financial loss to investors. It has shaken up the investors' faith in the reliability of credit ratings in the context of the corporate debt market," Sebi in the order. "Had the Noticee (Credit Rating Agencies) downgraded the ratings at the appropriate time and thereby forewarned the investors, the impact of the default on investors who invested in AAA rated instruments, could not have been this severe," the market regulator said in its order.

Defamation League and NAACP, two of the oldest and biggest anti-racism campaign groups in the US. The campaign did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. In a statement last week, it said: "Facebook's failures lead to real-life violence and sow division, and we're calling on the company to improve its policies. We need to urge people to vote and demand Facebook stop undermining our democracy. Enough is enough." — Reuters

SHORT TAKES

Marsh ruled out, Holder in for SRH

Dubai: Australian and Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Mitchell Marsh was on Wednesday ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League with an ankle injury he suffered in the team's opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore. West Indies captain Jason Holder has been named as Marsh's replacement and is expected to join the Sunrisers squad soon in the UAE. "Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out due to injury. We wish him a speedy recovery. Jason Holder will replace him for #Dream11IPL 2020," Sunrisers posted on its official *Twitter* handle. Marsh came out to ball the fifth over in Sunrisers' opening game against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. However, he could only bowl four deliveries as he twisted his right ankle in the second ball while trying to stop a drive by Aaron Finch in his follow through. — *PTI*

Focus is more on fun, says Stoinis

Dubai: Star all-rounder Marcus Stoinis says carrying the confidence of good BBL performance into the 13th IPL and not putting too much pressure on himself should help him deliver for his new team Delhi Capitals. The 31-year-old made a quick-fire 53 off 21 balls to help his side score 157 for 8 and then snapped two wickets to drag their IPL opener against Kings XI Punjab into a Super Over, where they emerged victorious. "I've come in with some confidence through good performances this year, but also maybe putting less responsibility on myself than some other years. My focus is on just having a lot of fun and trust that I'll be good. Everyone who plays cricket at this level, the main reason you play it, is because you love it. That's the main ingredient," said Stoinis. — *PTI*

Murray magic spurs Nuggets

Orlando: Jamal Murray scored 28 points as the Denver Nuggets held off a ferocious late fightback from the Los Angeles Lakers to roar back into contention in the Western Conference finals series on Tuesday. Murray nailed two crucial late three-pointers in the closing minutes as Denver held on for a 114-106 victory in game three to reduce the Lakers' lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series. But the Nuggets — who looked in complete control for long periods of the contest — were given a mighty scare by the Lakers in a thrilling fourth-quarter battle. The Lakers had trailed by 20 points with just over 10 minutes remaining but whittled away the Denver lead to just three points with 3min 53sec left on the clock in Orlando. — *AFP*

West hammer Hull amid Covid scare

London: West Ham manager David Moyes and managers players Issa Diop and Josh Cullen tested positive for the Coronavirus just before the Premier League club's 5-1 win over Hull in the League Cup on Tuesday. Sebastian Haller and Andriy Yarmolenko both scored twice and Robert Snodgrass was also on target. West Ham's medical team were informed of the test results while Moyes and his squad were at the Stadium preparing for the third round tie. Diop and Cullen had to withdraw from the line-up. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET
IPL: Kings XI Punjab vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD
TENNIS
ATP Hamburg European Open: Fourth day's action from 4 pm on Sony Six, HD
FOOTBALL
UEFA Super Cup: Bayern Munich vs Sevilla from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2, HD
BASKETBALL
NBA Western Conference Finals (Game 4 of best-of-7): Denver Nuggets vs Los Angeles Lakers from 6.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six

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Mumb high Indians

Blues vault from bottom to top as Rohit cracks whip

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 23: Skipper Rohit Sharma's effortless batting formed the cornerstone of Mumbai Indians' resounding 49-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

On a big Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Rohit pummelled the KKR bowlers into submission for a 54-ball 80 and powered Mumbai to an imposing 195/5.

The night belonged to Rohit, the great white-ball exponent, whose knock was laced with six sixes.

Then the Jasprit Bumrah-led Mumbai attack did most things right to restrict KKR to 146 for 9.

KKR were never on course for a comfortable chase as they lost openers Shubhman Gill (7) and Sunil Narine (9) cheaply to be in a spot of bother at 25 for two.

One-down skipper Dinesh Karthik (30 off 23) and Nitish Rana (24 off 18) tried to up the ante but they were still playing the catch-up game with 125 runs needed from the last 10 overs.

Kolkata were dealt a double blow in quick succession — first Karthik was trapped by Rahul Chahar (2/26) in front of the wicket and then Hardik Pandya grabbed a running catch on the fence to send back Rana.

Bumrah (2/32) in the 16th over sealed the game for Mumbai as he removed Andre Russell (11), who was bowled, and then forced Eoin Morgan (20) to edge to the wicket-keeper: Pat Cummins (33 off 12) launched into Bumrah with four sixes in a very expensive 18th over, but it was too late for Kolkata.

Kieron Pollard (1/21), Trent Boult (2/30), James



Rohit Sharma of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi of United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. — *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Quinton de Kock c Naik b Shivam Mavi 1, Rohit Sharma c Pat Cummins b Shivam Mavi 80, Suryakumar Yadav run out (Sunil Narine/ Eoin Morgan), 47, Saurabh Tiwary c Pat Cummins b Sunil Narine 21, Hardik Pandya hit wicket b Andre Russell 18, Kieron Pollard not out 13, Krunal Pandya not out 1. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1, w-1) 14.

Total: (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 195. Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-98, 3-147, 4-177, 5-180.

Bowling: Sandeep Warrier 3-0-34-0, Shivam Mavi 4-1-32-2, Pat Cummins 3-0-49-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-22-1, Andre Russell 2-0-17-1, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-39-0.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubhman Gill c Pollard b Trent Boult 7, Sunil Narine c de Kock b James Pattinson 9, Dinesh Karthik lbw b Rahul Chahar 30, Nitish Rana c Hardik Pandya b Pollard 24, Eoin Morgan c de Kock b Jasprit Bumrah 16, Andre Russell b Bumrah 11, Nikhil Naik c Pandya b Boult 1, Pat Cummins c Pandya b Pattinson 33, Shivam Mavi st de Kock b Chahar 9, Kuldeep Yadav not out 1. **Extras:** (lb-2, w-3) 5. **Total (for 9 wickets in 20 overs) 146.**

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-25, 3-71, 4-77, 5-100, 6-101, 7-103, 8-141, 9-146.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-1-30-2, Pattinson 4-0-25-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-32-2, Rahul Chahar 4-0-26-2, Kieron Pollard 3-0-21-1, Krunal Pandya 1-0-10-0.

Gambhir lashes out at Dhoni

New Delhi, Sept. 23: Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not lead from the front by dropping himself down the batting order during a mammoth chase, opined former India batsman Gautam Gambhir, tearing into CSK captain's decision to bat at number seven against Rajasthan Royals.

The former India opener reckons that if any other captain had done this, he would have drawn a lot of flak but since it is Dhoni, people are not even talking about it.

With Chennai Super Kings chasing a massive 217-run target in Sharjah, Dhoni came to bat when they needed 103 runs from 38 balls.

Dhoni sent the likes of Sam Curran, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him. CSK lost the match by 16 runs.

"I was a bit surprised to be honest. MS Dhoni batting at No. 7? And sending (Ruturaj) Gaikwad, Sam Curran before him. Makes no sense to me. In fact you should be leading from the front," Gambhir told *ESPNCricinfo's* T20 Time Out.

RAYUDU SET TO MISS ONE MORE GAME

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, SEPT. 23

After Covid-19, now it's an injury scare for Chennai Super Kings. M.S. Dhoni's three-time champions are sweating over the fitness of their key batsman Ambati Rayudu and experienced all-rounder Dwayne Bravo.

Rayudu who played a stellar role in CSK's win over Mumbai Indians in the opener is nursing a hamstring injury and is set to miss Friday's encounter against Delhi Capitals. Rayudu didn't play Tuesday's game against Rajasthan Royals as Chennai hit a bump with a 16-run defeat.

K.S. Viswanathan, CEO of Super Kings, said Rayudu's fitness will be assessed on Thursday.

West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo missed the first two games due to a knee injury, but young Sam Curran proved to be a blessing in disguise for CSK. However, Rayudu's prolonged absence from the XI could disrupt the team's balance.

The pull-outs of Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh have already depleted the CSK squad, but the team management hasn't pressed the panic button yet.

"We are not thinking of replacements," Viswanathan said.

Coach Stephen Fleming said there could be some movement in the batting order, suggesting that in-form Faf du Plessis may open the innings.

"Maybe...keeping in mind that we have had a couple of injuries. We already had to shuffle because of Rayudu injury. It's still early days and we are trying to find out who can drive this car. We are playing another game in a quick succession. We have to make sure that we don't panic and we never do," added the Chennai Super Kings coach Fleming.

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QUARANTINE DIDN'T HELP, SAYS DHONI

Sharjah, Sept. 23: The extended two-week quarantine of Chennai Super Kings hampered his preparations as he did not get enough time for batting practice, said captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni after his side lost to Rajasthan Royals by 16 runs in their second IPL game.

Dhoni came in to bat at No.7, sending Sam Curran and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him in a mammoth 217-run chase on Tuesday.

Asked why he came so low in the order, the CSK captain said, "I haven't batted for a long time. 14-day quarantine doesn't help."

Dhoni was not out on 29 off 17 balls with three sixes in the last over.

"With 217 on the board, we needed a very good start which was not the case. Smith and Sanju batted very well. We need to give credit to their bowlers. Once you've seen the first innings, you knew the lengths to bowl," Dhoni said. — *PTI*

Kings XI to lock horns with RCB

Dubai, Sept. 23: Kings XI Punjab will look to put behind the controversial 'short run' decision in their IPL opener and start afresh when they take on Virat Kohli's buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

In their opening game against Delhi Capitals, the square-leg umpire erroneously called KXIP's Chris Jordan for a 'short run' in the third ball of the 19th over, effectively costing his team the closely fought game.

In contrast, RCB opened their campaign on a winning note defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs, raising hopes that things might finally fall into place for them this season.

Devdutt Padikkal started his IPL career on a classy note hitting a sublime half-century and will once again be in focus, while AB de Villers will also look to continue in the same vein following a crucial half-century.

Both Kohli and Aaron Finch looked good on Monday night and would be itching to spend more time in the middle.

Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man in the RCB bowling attack. The leg-spinner was instrumental in his team's victory on Monday, triggering a batting collapse.

However, RCB will again miss the services of South African all-rounder Chris Morris who has picked up a side-strain. Morris was bought for a whopping ₹10 crore at the auction.

Umesh Yadav continues to leak runs in the IPL and going by his showing in the first game, he could be replaced by Mohammad Siraj. It remains to be seen if the team can fit in England all-rounder

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

● Matches: 24

● Punjab won: 12

● Bangalore won: 12

MEETING IN 2019

● Royal Challengers

Bangalore beat Kings XI

Punjab by 8 wickets at

Mohali

● Royal Challengers

Bangalore beatKings XI

Punjab by 17 runs at

Bangalore

FOR THE RECORD

● Mohammed Shami recorded

his best bowling for Kings

XI Punjab by taking three for

15 in the previous match

against Delhi Capitals. He

took 22 wickets at an average

of 22.00 in 15 matches

for Kings XI Punjab in IPL.

● Virat Kohli, who scored

5426 runs at an average pf

37.68 in 170 innings of 178

matches for Royal

Challenger Bangalore, is the

highest run-getter in IPL. He

scored just 14 runs in the

first match against Sunrisers

Hyderabad.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

Moeen Ali in the middle-order.

For KXIP, Mayank Agarwal looked in imperious touch but was gutted to not be able to get his team over the line with just one run required to win.

Rahul, Glenn Maxwell and Nicholas Pooran will be expected to step up as they possess the ability to take away the game from any opposition.

Big hitters Chris Gayle, who was left out of the opener for better balance in the eleven, could be back and batting all-rounder Jimmy Neesham could also be given a chance. — *PTI*

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Royal Challengers Bangalore	1	1	0	0	2	+0.500
Delhi Capitals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.000
Chennai Super Kings	2	1	1	0	2	-0.145
Kings XI Punjab	1	0	1	0	0	+0.000
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-0.500
Kolkata Knight Riders	1	0	1	0	0	-2.450

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

Sanju sharpened during the break

Sharjah, Sept. 23: Convinced that possessing an array of shots is a must to go with power-hitting, wicket-keeper batsman Sanju Samson says he worked on these aspects during the Coronavirus enforced break.

The work done by Samson was there to be seen when he pulverised the Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday night, setting up a Rajasthan Royal's win with his blistering 32-ball 74-run knock, studded with nine sixes and a boundary.

That he is an impact player is a known fact but his clean and elegant hitting earned praise from one and all.

"I think range-hitting is what the game demands in

this generation. I had time to work out in these 5 months, and I think I've increased that ability," Samson said.

"I've been working hard on my fitness, diet and training, and on my strength, because my game relies a lot on power hitting," he added.

Samson, who was adjudged Man-of-the-Match, said his plan is to go and hit all the deliveries in his arc.

With Robin Uthappa and Jos Buttler also in the squad, the Royals are spoilt for choice in the wicket-keeping department.

However, Samson said he is happy to play any role the captain and coach deem fit for him. — *PTI*

State's sports quota policy is off the mark

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 23

Telangana has enlisted the priority of achievements to be followed for admissions into various professional courses under the sports quota. It's way off the mark.

Sportspersons from 31 disciplines — including fencing, kho-kho, softball and yoga — have been recognised as eligible for the 0.5 per cent reservation in courses excluding MBBS and BDS but the priorities accorded to competitions are skewed, going by the Government Order dated 22-09-2020.

Perhaps the most glaring error is that the World Championships/ Cups (only every four years) are placed fourth on the list, behind Olympics, Asian

Games and Commonwealth Games, achievements in which are ranked in the following order of priority: individual gold (1), team gold (2), individual silver (3), team silver (4), individual bronze (5), team bronze (6), individual participation (7) and team participation (8).

This means that participation in a team event at the Commonwealth Games (24) will trump a World Championship gold medalist, who languishes at 25 on the priority list!

The GO also states that each candidate is eligible to claim only one highest sports achievement, meaning participation in the Olympics will still beat multiple medals won at the Asian Games or participation in Asian Games will be enough to beat two or

more medals from the Commonwealth Games and even the Worlds.

The Asian Championship, Junior/ Youth World Cup Championships/ Cups/ Youth Olympics, World Universities Championships, Junior/ Youth Asian Championships, World School Games, Junior & Youth Commonwealth Championships/ Games occupy segments 5 to 10 respectively behind the World Championships, ending with a priority rank of 80. South Asian Games, National Games/ Championships, All India Inter Zonals/ Universities, National School Games and South Zone Championships and South Zone Inter Universities are slotted in segments between 10 and 20, ending with a priority



Dutee Chand celebrates her gold at the World University Games last year.

rank of 158. Sub-junior South Zone, Senior State, Khelo India and Inter Collegiate tournaments bring up the rear that ends with a priority rank of 188. According to the GO, a

committee of senior officers from Youth Advancement, Tourism & Culture (Sports) Department formulated the guidelines.

"They have clearly got this wrong," says athletics coach N. Ramesh.

"The World Championships are right at the top along with the Olympics. You need very high standards to even to qualify for them. Allotting points for specific medals at different levels would've been better," adds the Dronacharya Awardee who has coached sprinter Dutee Chand to two silvers at the Asian Games, India's only gold at the World University Games and a qualification at last year's World Championships in Doha.

Renowned coach Bobby George, who mentored wife and long jumper Anju

to India's only medal at the World Athletics Championships back in 2003, cannot stop laughing. "I don't think they've done the homework," he chuckles.

There are too many loopholes. For example, the parameters for tennis are not specified. "How do you rate a Grand Slam?" Bobby asks, before coming up with "How about the World Indoors Athletics? Or a World marathon/ race walking champion?"

"You can't hand out slots to all sports. You cannot rate a Kabaddi World Cup on par with World Athletics Championships purely because of the number of countries participating in those events. This is really sad. It should be a diligent process," Bobby says.

Former athlete P.

Shankar shakes his head. "I can't understand how the World Championships can be slotted below the Commonwealth Games... beats me," says the 4x400m relay silver medalist at the 2006 Asian Games.

Another middle distance runner from Hyderabad, G. V. Dhanalakshmi, termed it off the track. "This is flawed. The World Championships have got to be up there along with the Olympics. There's a benchmark to be achieved to actually take part in the Worlds. I am not aware how the state government is working out priorities," said the athlete who won the 4x400m women's relay silver alongside the legendary P. T. Usha, Shiny Wilson and Saramma at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima.