


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30.7°C

Min: 22.3°C

RH: 68%

Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.

Thundershowers likely.

Max/Min temp. 32/22 °C

COVID-19

COUNT


CASES	DEATHS
(+85,185)	(+1,112)
58,12,646	92,275

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,176)	(+8)
TS: 1,79,246	1,070
(+7,855)	(+52)
AP: 6,54,385	5,558

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



3,22,60,737

DEATHS

9,84,440

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana

Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha Navami till 6.47 pm

Star: Purvashadha till 6.34 pm

Variyam: 2.52 am to 4.31 am (Saturday)

Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.20 am; 12.31 pm to 1.19 pm

Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HUIJI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 7, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.06 am

Zohar: 12.18 pm

Asar: 4.28 pm

Maghrib: 6.16 pm

Isha: 7.23 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.09 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM

MOONSET TODAY 12.14 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.51 PM

COUNTER POINT



Forget about heroes,

only a ruling party leader

can save the heroines now!

IN BRIEF

Mackler prize for Masrat Zahra

New York: Kashmiri photo-journalist Masrat Zahra on Thursday received the Peter Mackler prize for courageous and ethical journalism, for her coverage of women impacted by decades of unrest in Indian-held Kashmir.

"To work in this industry is to bring the truth," the 26-year-old journalist said during a virtual ceremony. "My pictures offer a glimpse of the daily struggle of people in Kashmir," said the 12th journalist to receive the prize, distributed by the Global Media Forum in partnership with AFP and Reporters Without Borders.

Cong Bidar MLA dies due to Covid

Bengaluru: Congress MLA B. Narayan Rao, who was undergoing treatment for Coronavirus, died on Thursday, the hospital in Bengaluru where he was admitted said. The 65-year-old MLA from Bidar in North Karnataka was admitted on September 1 after being diagnosed with severe Covid infection, Manipal Hospital director Dr Manish Rai said in a statement. He passed away at 3.55 pm, it said. Dr Rai said he was critically ill with multi-organ failure and on multiple supports including ventilator in the ICU under constant observation by an expert panel of doctors.

NATION | 6

Deepika to join NCB probe tomorrow

SPORTS | 10

Olympics can be held without vaccine: Bach

TABLOID

Deverakonda to play Wg Cdr Abhinandan?

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## SPB's condition is 'extremely critical': Hosp

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 24

The health condition of popular playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, who was admitted to hospital last month, suddenly deteriorated on Thursday and he is stated to be in an extremely critical condition.

A medical bulletin from MGM Healthcare, released at 6.30 pm on Thursday said that the singer was on maximal life support and that a team of experts was closely monitoring his health. He remained on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) and other life support systems, the bulletin said. The news of Balasubrahmanyam's condition suddenly taking a turn for the worse prompted his fans to post "get well" messages and asking for people to pray for his health.

Earlier, when the hospital had said that he was critical, the film music industry had organised a



S.P. Balasubrahmanyam

joint prayer for the speedy recovery of the singer who has to his credit over 40,000 songs in many languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi. Subsequently his condition became stable though he remained in life support. "His condition in the last 24 hours has deteriorated further warranting maximal life support and he is extremely critical," assistant director (medical services), MGM Healthcare, Dr Anuradha Baskaran said in a statement. The singer was first admitted with mild Covid symptoms and had posted a video in which he sounded confident.

## HC grills state over reduced Covid tests

VUJJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

The Telangana High Court on Thursday sought an explanation from the government following reports of dearth of oxygen-equipped beds in Covid designated hospitals and the sudden reduction in the number of tests for the Coronavirus.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Bollam Vijaysen Reddy was dealing with a batch of 20 public interest litigations filed by various petitioners seeking a series of directions to the government to initiate concrete steps to curtail the spread

of the Coronavirus. "We came across with the reports that tests have been reduced in the last few days. You have promised the court that 40,000 tests per day will be conducted. In reality, it is not happening. Maharashtra is conducting 1 lakh tests per day. Of course, in this state, the situation is not so severe. You should keep your commitment on the tests," the bench observed.

The bench pulled up the government for its earlier attempts of persuade the court stating that it was working to convert every bed in Covid19 designated hospitals to oxygen beds.

■ Page 2: Covid hosps not as per WHO standards: HC

## Former bookie reveals IPL betting secrets

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

IPL is most eagerly awaited not only by the die-hard cricket fan but also the gamblers and betting mafia. Each ball is bet on and the stakes are attractive. Betting ring organisers design interesting incentives tempting the punters to eye the jackpot.

A rehabilitated betting ring organiser, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told *Deccan Chronicle* that the police always catch the smaller fish while the kingpins operate from outside the city.

Crores of rupees are at stake for each match, he said and explained that bets are placed on a ball to ball and wicket to wicket

basis, on players' performances, their replacements and right up to the eventual champion.

The 13th edition of IPL, now underway in the UAE, is keeping the Hyderabad police on their toes. They busted betting gangs Wednesday night in two different raids. They apprehended the bookies and seized cash. Commissioner of police

Anjani Kumar said in a post on Twitter: 'Such betting is not only illegal but also takes youth to a wrong direction. Parents must keep a watch on kids if they are getting attracted towards such vices.'

On Wednesday, during the match between Mumbai Indian and Kolkata Knight Riders, Hyderabad city police raided two different bet-

ting venues. West Zone Task Force sleuths arrested N. Vijay Kumar, who was running the show from his residence at Chudi Bazar with a network of 15 assistants spread across the city and recovered ₹32,500, nine cell phones and a television set.

■ Page 2: Farmhouse owner held, ₹40k seized

JAIL | TASTE Arrested for online gaming fraud, Hao gets fried rice, coffee, tea in prison

## Chicken burgers on Chinese suspect's plate

VIKRAM SHARMA I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

For a globetrotter who led a high life, a smelly prison barrack or the dingy 4x4 lock-ups in police facilities that he lands up in every few days could be a nightmare, especially if the arrested happens to be a Chinese national. To adjust to a plateful of bland sambar, curry, rice and roti can be torture of the highest degree. After all, Chinese cannot change their eating habits. If one were to keep aside

the well-documented experiences of foreigners lodged in prisons in China, many of whom were mercilessly tortured and even killed, Chinese national Yan Hao, arrested for the massive online gaming fraud, finds himself quite comfortable. Never handcuffed since his arrest on August 12, no use of third degree or any form of force, and no hurling of abuses by his interrogators — Hao is even pampered with chicken burgers, fried rice, coffee, tea and snacks. He gets to eat whatever he



Yan Hao

requests. Sources associated with investigation into the multicore online gaming fraud told *Deccan Chronicle* that 44 days after his

arrest, Hao continues to be a person of interest for multiple agencies. He remains a busy man with back-to-back "Q&A" sessions with various agen-

cies, who know that the suave honcho knows a lot more about the shady dealings of the Chinese companies he was working for. His arrest comes at a time when tempers are running high between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC.

While the the Central Crime Station (CCS) of Hyderabad police questioned him for four days, the Santoshnagar police interviewed him for five more.

Subsequently, he was questioned by the

Rachakonda police for four days. Presently, he is in eight-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate, which makes it a total of 21 days.

In the days to come, he is likely to be taken into custody by the police of a couple of districts in Telangana state followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and at least two more states, where separate cases have been registered.

■ Page 2: Hao appears unlikely to escape

## Punjab farmers block trains

Railways says trains to be affected; Cong, Left back nationwide stir today

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

The Congress on Thursday supported the 'Bharat Bandh' call given by farmer organisations for Friday, saying millions of party workers stand in solidarity with the farmers' cause and will participate in their dharnas.

Chief Congress spokesperson Randeep Sujewala said that while farmers and farm labourers fill the stomachs of countrymen with their hard labour, the Modi government was attacking them and their fields.

"The diabolical and debilitating attack on farmers and farm labourers by the three 'black bills' of the Modi government will be decisively defeated," he said in a post on Twitter. All farmers' organisations, Left parties and others have called for a country-wide agitation against the anti-farmer laws brought in by the BJP government.

Meanwhile, farmers squatted on the tracks in Punjab on Thursday, beginning a three-day "rail roko" agitation against the farm Bills as the Railways suspended several trains to avoid untoward incident.

Twenty trains have been partially cancelled and five short terminated till September 26 as protesters blocked rail tracks at various places, including



Farmers block a railway track as part of the rail roko andolan during a protest near Amritsar on Thursday, against the farm Bills passed by Parliament recently.

Amritsar, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Barnala, Mansa and Nabha.

The railways on Thursday said the agitation will severely impact loading of foodgrains and other essential goods as well as movement of passengers travelling on special trains, mostly on an urgent basis.

The call for the rail roko agitation was given by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and different farmers' outfits extended their support to it later.

Meanwhile, reiterating the Narendra Modi government's commitment to farmers' welfare, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar cited the

reports of various commissions and the views of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former agriculture minister Sharad Pawar to say that the three farm bills were in line with their recommendations

Accusing the Congress of being "double faced," the minister said the Congress

should first disassociate itself from its 2019 election manifesto which promised what these bills are aimed at, and said the Opposition members' criticism during the debates in Parliament was never about the provisions of these proposed laws.

■ Another report on Page 4

## Khalid in custody till October 22

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

A Delhi court on Thursday sent former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February, to judicial custody till October 22.

Khalid was present before additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat through video conferencing at the end of his police custody. He was arrested on September 13.

Police did not seek his further custody. In the FIR, police has claimed that the communal violence was a "premeditated conspiracy" which was allegedly hatched by Khalid and two others. He has also been booked for the offences of sedition, murder, attempt to murder, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and rioting.

The FIR alleged that

● KHALID WAS present before the additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat through video conferencing

Khalid had given provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to the citizens to come out on streets and block the roads during the visit of US President Donald Trump to spread propaganda at international level about how minorities in India are being tortured. In this conspiracy, firearms, petrol bombs, acid bottles and stones were collected at numerous homes, the FIR claimed.

Co-accused Danish was allegedly given the responsibility to gather people from two different places to take part in the riots, police alleged. Women and children were made to block the roads under the Jafrabad metro station on February 23 to create tension, the FIR said.

■ Another report on Page 6



### JONES DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

Mumbai, Sept. 24: Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday. Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the Star Sports' commentary team for the Indian Premier League.

■ Full report on Page 10



## IN BRIEF

**Farmhouse owner held, ₹40k seized**

From page 1

In another raid, South Zone Task Force sleuths, along with Falaknuma police, busted a racket and apprehended Syed Sattar who is a farmhouse owner, and Mohammed Hassan, a businessman, and seized ₹40,000 cash and two cell phones. A third accused Syed Kaleem Ali, resident of Talabkatta, is absconding.

**MANUU OFFERS ONLINE ADMISSIONS FOR PG STUDENTS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) is offering online admissions for merit-based postgraduate and undergraduate courses. The last date for submission of online application is September 30.

Apart from merit-based PG and UG programmes, admissions will also be held for Bachelor of Vocational Courses in various streams. Madrasa pass-outs can apply to join bridge courses for entry into UG and polytechnic programmes.

Direct admissions into BTech and Polytechnic under lateral entry for eligible students and PG diploma in retail management, part-time diploma programmes in Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, Persian and Islamic studies and certificate courses in Tahseen-e-Ghazal and Urdu are available. For details, candidates can visit the University's website manuu.edu.in.

**HAO APPEARS UNLIKELY TO ESCAPE**

From page 1

In between, he is lodged in Chanchalguda central prison, where he is reportedly in a separate barrack since he happens to be a foreigner.

For a major part of his custody, Hao was lodged in the lock-up in the CCS, which once used to be infested with bandicoots. Besides Satyam czar B. Ramalinga Raju, Nowhera Shaikh (accused in the ₹5,700-crore Ponzi scam), Gali Janardhan Reddy (accused in mining scam) and hardened terrorists have spent sleepless nights there. Over the years, the lock-up has been spruced up and reportedly, there are no more bandicoots.

Unlike Nigerian nationals, who are compulsorily handcuffed as they are often violent in custody, Hao is not considered dangerous and there appear to be nil chances of him trying to escape. His questioning is done very politely in English, a language he is fluent in. But for his arrest, Hao would have been on his honeymoon as he was to get married to the daughter of one of his bosses in Beijing T Power Company.

**DHRUVA COLLEGE HOLDS SILVER JUBILEE REUNION**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Dhruva College of Management, which began in 1995, recently celebrated the virtual silver jubilee reunion of its first batch of students who completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Management. According to Dr S. Pratap Reddy, college founder, 59 of the 60 students from the first batch from the institution who earned the diploma attended the event.

The students were spread over five countries and the event went on for five hours, Dr Pratap Reddy said. He said the college which began in a ramshackle building in Kacheguda in 1995 is now nestled in a well-wooded location at Medchal.

He said the reunion on September 19 witnessed and reinforced the bond between the students and the faculty despite the passage of 25 years since the students graduated and left the college. It is a record of sorts that every one of the students from the inaugural batch attended the virtual reunion. "The only student who was missing as one who has passed away," Dr Pratap Reddy said.

● **THE STUDENTS** were spread over five countries and the event went on for five hours, Dr Pratap Reddy said.

**Getting ready for Durga Puja**

An artist paints an idol of Goddess Durga for the Dasara festivities, at Nagole in Hyderabad. Dasara will be celebrated next month. — S. SURENDER REDDY

**4L pvt school teachers struggle for livelihood****Teachers' body says 2,400 budget schools have been sold**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

With at least 2,000 schools shut, and 4,000 of the total 11,000 private schools on the verge of closing down, the Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association (TRSMA), says its members are fighting with their backs to the wall to keep the schools functioning.

On Wednesday, the association, in a letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrababhai Naidu requested the government to take over budget private schools because of the severe impact on them following the Covid-19 lockdown and its consequences. The association had said that budget private schools have been providing quality education at low cost but are

● **WITH THE** schools being shut since March 15 and instructions to promote students from Classes 1 to 9 to the next class and declaring all students of SSC passed, the steep loss in tuition fee for the 2019-20 academic year has affected the schools.

now facing an acute financial crunch.

With the schools being shut since March 15 and instructions to promote students from Classes 1 to 9 to the next class and declaring all students of SSC passed, the steep loss in tuition fee for the 2019-20 academic year has affected the schools.

According to Sadulla Madhusudhan, TRSMA general secretary, "The four lakh people who

depended on budget private schools are now feeling abandoned. Students are suffering in such a situation. It is every child's right to have education till Class 10 and it is the government's duty to ensure it."

Madhusudhan added that the government is funding the education of only 45 per cent of the student population in government schools and their budget is not being fully utilised. This money can easily be diverted to help the suffering budget private schools.

Among those bearing the brunt are the likes of Abdul Sami, a teacher with 15 years of experience, who has now opened a tea stall to support his family, in the absence of six months of salary and his school shut down.

Another teacher, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, has received no salary in the last nine months and is surviving as a supervisor in a paint shop in Hyderabad, after 12 years of teaching experience. Shiva Ramakrishna who worked as a principal in a school in Hyderabad for the last 10 years is now having to sell vegetables because he had to quit to support his family.

Due to the ongoing situation, Srinivas Reddy, honorary president of TRSMA, informed *Deccan Chronicle* that so far about 2,407 budget schools in different districts have already been sold to corporate players due to the financial crisis in just the last eight months. To save the rest, they now look up to the government for help.

**TEEN ARRESTED FOR 2 MURDERS BOOKED UNDER PD ACT, JAILED**BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

A 19-year-old youth who was previously arrested as an accused in two cases of murder will now be held under the Preventive Detention Act, the city police said on Thursday.

According to the police, Mohd Azhar, a resident of Mecca Colony, Tadbun, had committed two murders along with his associates and was responsible for creating large-scale fear, terror and panic among the general public.

Azhar was arrested on June 3 and was remanded to judicial custody and lodged in Chanchalguda jail and he was booked under the PD Act on September 18.

**Fake Covid protection kits flood city markets**KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Inferior quality personal protection kits and counterfeit products are creating multiple safety and credibility issues for healthcare workers and manufacturers in India.

These devices are sold with fake certifications from Indian authorities. Imported products with slightly changed names and certifications require proper scrutiny before they are deployed.

Maintaining the quality and efficacy of products is a challenge as there is a large requirement for such equipment and multiple suppliers are engaged by hospitals.

In a price sensitive market, it has been found that many are hospitals are succumbing to the pressure of low prices and finding quality a huge challenge. Compromising on safety is one of the reasons noted in the spread of infection among healthcare workers.

Those in the districts have been complaining of the low-quality kits. Indian Medical Association doctors had raised the issue of inferior quality of kits in the market in August in the state.

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry receives complaints on a daily basis of fake kits and counterfeit certificates from various state government hospitals in the country.

Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator, said, "There are many unscrupulous elements who have utilised their tailoring machines to stitch PPE kits. There is no regulation and our complaints are not listened to. By doing this, Indian manufacturers are getting a bad name. We demand accreditation and proper certification which will give the customers a clear picture of where their products come from."

Another major problem noted is that of products procured online. A manufacturer in Hyderabad, on condition of anonymity, said, "The products are manufactured in India but the labels are changed. This is mostly being noted in face masks, goggles and helmets. The requirement is very high and one manufacturer does not suffice; multiple channels are required. But there must be quality checks carried out and this is not happening."

With more than 87,000 healthcare workers, including doctors, affect-

**Court: Oxygen beds are not at WHO levels**

From page 1

"This is the third time that the state is coming before the court with such submissions. Always you are telling the same thing. These are things which are a cause of concern," the Chief Justice observed.

The bench observed that many Covid hospitals did not meet the World Health Organisation recommendations with regard to the number of beds with oxygen and sought to know from Dr G. Srinivas Rao, Director of Public Health, why the government was not able to increase the number of such beds.

"This court has information not only from the newspapers and the media but also from other sources which reveals that there is a significant shortage of oxygen beds. The shortage of oxygen beds will prove fatal to patients suffering with

Coronavirus, because it is the lungs that get affected and the patient does require oxygen immediately to recover or else it will prove fatal," Chief Justice Chauhan said.

Advocate-General B.S. Prasad informed that Srinivas Rao could not come to court due to the death of his father and sought three weeks to file an elaborate report on the steps taken by the government to curtail Covid-19.

The court directed Dr Srinivas Rao to file a detailed report on the availability of number of beds with oxygen and explain the reasons for lagging behind the ratio prescribed by the WHO and the endeavor of the government to increase the ratio, apart from abiding by its commitment of increasing number of tests. The hearing was adjourned to October 8.

**Covid cases still high in rural areas**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Telangana state continues to register more than 2,000 new cases of Covid-19, indicating that the spread of the virus is continuing, especially in the rural areas, even as unlocking continues.

There were 2,176 new cases and eight deaths registered on Wednesday, according to the state Covid-19 bulletin issued on Thursday.

The total cases in TS stand at 1,79,246 and the toll at 1,070.

There are 30,037 active cases in the state and 23,929 are in isolation with 55,318 tests carried out. The number of total tests carried out are

26,84,215 from March.

With the active cases being high, the spread of infection must be monitored as it will continue to increase if the protocols of masks, hand washing and social distancing are not followed.

From September 20, the guidelines have been revised for social events with 100 members to be allowed. This will mean that more people will venture out and there must be protocols followed to contain the spread.

People are moving out on work but the movement of senior citizens is restricted.

They have kept themselves indoors or are moving in the areas around their houses.

To deal with this, it has developed an app for customers. This is now giving them direct contact and a clear picture of where the products are in different parts of India.

**ACB says value of ACP's assets crosses ₹100 crore**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Ongoing searches and investigations by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) into the disproportionate assets accumulated by Malkajigiri assistant commissioner of police Y. Narasimha Reddy, resulted in finding more wealth.

While the police official was on Wednesday believed to have accumulated ₹70 crore or more in real estate and other assets as per market value, investigating officials on Thursday believed that the figure

could touch ₹100 crore.

Narasimha Reddy was on Thursday evening sent for a 14-day judicial remand to Chanchalguda and ACB officials are expected to seek his custody on Friday.

Meanwhile, the police officer has been removed from his post and attached to the office of the Director General of Police while Shyam Prasad Rao, ACP in Cyberabad police commissionerate, has been posted as Malkajigiri ACP.

On Thursday, ACB officials, who opened a bank locker belonging to Narasimha Reddy, found gold jewellery weighing

about 300 gm and property ownership documents. Another locker in a different bank is expected to be opened on Friday.

Thursday's investigations revealed that he had documents for land worth ₹1 crore in Shankarpally village.

According to officials, six persons could have acted as his benamis in land deals. Investigations were on into whether the police official himself was a benami for some political leaders. In addition to ACB officials, Narasimha Reddy was also questioned by GHMC officials on Thursday.

## SOP | STORY

**State has still not disbursed the first instalment of scholarship of last year's spring session****Minority students left in the lurch over OSS**ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Minority students pursuing their higher education in foreign countries on government scholarship they have not received money under the Overseas Scholarship Scheme (OSS).

The government is yet to disburse the first instalment for the 2019 spring session. The students received only the airfare reimbursement on

Tuesday, while the government is yet to finalise the list of students for the fall season of 2019 and spring season of 2020. Students selected for the spring season of 2019 should have got the second instalment by this time.

The TRS government started the scheme in 2015, under which selected candidates get ₹20 lakh monetary aid. Each scholar receives a scholarship of ₹20 lakh towards fee and living expenses by way of

● **PARENTS CONTENTED** that their wards went to foreign countries to pursue higher studies with the hope that they will get monetary aid from the government.

a grant subject to his/her joining the course. An amount of ₹10 lakh is payable to the students up on production of the first semester results while the second instalment is paid on submission of the sec-

ond semester results.

The government provides scholarships to 250 students for each spring and fall season in a year. Parents said students selected for the fall season (August-December) in 2018 had got their second instalment recently, while those selected for the spring season (January-July) 2019 have received only the airfare.

Parents contended that their wards went to foreign countries to pursue

higher studies with the hope that they will get monetary aid from the government. Now they are facing difficulty in bear the expenses.

"Our financial position is not sound. We have to send money to them for which we have to either borrow or mortgage our assets," said a parent. They urged the government to release the amount to those who were already selected and release the list of selected

candidates for the remaining seasons without delay.

Asked about the delay, a senior official of the minority welfare department said there is no financial crunch for the scheme. He said that students of the 2018 fall season were provided with the second instalment. The government has released ₹30 crore out of ₹62 crore earmarked for 2019 and has started disbursing the amount. Students selected for the

2019 spring season will get the amount within a week.

At a meeting with the finance minister, Harish Rao, the government agreed to release the remaining amount. Due to the lockdown, there is a delay in finalising the students to be awarded scholarships for the 2019 fall season. However, this process will be completed within a few weeks after which applications for the 2020 spring season will be sought.



## SHORT TAKES

## KTR TO OPEN DURGAM CHERUVU BRIDGE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

All is set for the inauguration on Friday evening of the cable-stayed bridge over Durgam Cheruvu in Madhapur and the elevated corridor from Road No. 45 to the lake.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on Thursday announced that the one-of-a-kind bridge in the city and the connecting elevated four-lane corridor will be inaugurated by minister for municipal administration and urban development K.T. Rama Rao. Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy is scheduled to attend the event as chief guest.

The new bridge is the world's longest span concrete deck extradosed cable stayed structure, according to the GHMC. The civic body has plans to close the bridge for traffic during weekends to allow pedestrians to enjoy walks on the structure.

The bridge and the elevated corridor are expected to relieve congestion on Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills and Madhapur Road and reduce the distance between Jubilee Hills to Mind Space and Gachibowli by two kilometres.

● **THE NEW** bridge is the world's longest span concrete deck extradosed cable stayed structure, according to the GHMC.

## Ready for relocation



Trees are pruned and ready to be relocated along the 7.5-km elevated expressway in Uppal, on Thursday. — **GANDHI**

## MAN KILLS FATHER, BURIES BODY IN FIELD

Hyderabad, Sept. 24: A man had killed his father 40 days ago over a dispute and buried the body in an agricultural field, the police said on Thursday. His mother allegedly supported him.

Police said the victim, S. Kistaiah of Gundala in Ranga Reddy district, had gone missing and his relatives began looking for him.

Based on suspicion, they confronted his son Ramesh who said that after a quarrel he had killed his father with his mother's help. The police is investigating. — **INN**

## KTR starts work on GHMC polls

## Minister highlights revenue Act benefits

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has commenced a teleconference exercise to gear the party cadre up for the ensuing elections to Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam municipal corporations as well as the graduate MLC election in-charges of the erstwhile Khammam, Warangal, and Nalgonda districts on Thursday.

Stating that the Opposition parties have no agenda to fight against the TRS in the elections, he asked the in-charges to ensure the party's victory, which, he predicted would be a landslide.

He told the in-charges to give priority to voter registrations, which will begin on October 1 and make the programme a huge success. Rama Rao pointed out that TRS has won all elections from the Panchayat to the Assembly and had recorded a grand victory in municipal and

● **K.T. RAMA RAO** stated that the government has taken development activities to every nook and corner of the state.

Highlighting various welfare and development schemes initiated by Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, he pointed out that the benefits of the new Revenue Act and Municipal Act were reaching every citizen in the state. He mentioned that they had eradicated the 60-year-old fluorosis problem in just six years. He said, "today there are no fluoride victims in the state and it is our party's achievement."

Rama Rao stated that the government has taken development activities to every nook and corner of the state. He exhorted the leaders to highlight welfare schemes introduced for the benefit of youth and students. Under vari-

ous recruitment programs, the government has filled one lakh vacancies while in the private sector, the government attracted about ₹2 lakh crore investments and creation of 15 lakh employment opportunities, he added.

The minister pointed out that the agriculture sector in the Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda districts had reported a boost because of availability of sufficient water.

Reminding that the TRS government has already developed a mega textile park in Warangal, he said that attempts are on to inaugurate the Khammam IT Tower in October and also to operationalise the Buggapadu food processing park and setting up of various other food processing parks.

He asked all the public representatives, including ministers, MLAs and MLCs to register their votes along with their families on October 1.

## Eflu aspirant applies for change of exam centre in March, denied

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

An English and Foreign Languages University (Eflu) aspirant fears that she could lose out on a year of her education, after university authorities and exam service providers rejected her plea to change her examination centre from Chandigarh to Hyderabad due to travel restrictions amid the raging Coronavirus disease across the country.

Yempati Keziah Lavanya, an applicant for the BA English course at Eflu, was residing in Manali with her parents in January when she applied for the entrance test, and chose Chandigarh as her examination centre. After the Covid-19 outbreak, the family returned to their hometown Hyderabad in March, and she requested the university authorities to change her exam centre to the city.

With no response from

Eflu till September 21 when the applicant received her hall ticket for the Chandigarh exam centre, she met with Eflu's controller of exams and approached the State Human Rights Commission that instructed the university to consider the case. The entrance exam is on September 26.

Eflu responded on Thursday saying a change in centre cannot take place since the service provider cannot accom-

modate or change the centre for candidate as the maximum capacity is filled.

University's Vice Chancellor E. Suresh Kumar, in a clarification to *Deccan Chronicle*, said, "The situation is not in our hands. Considering social distancing measures, the capacity at all centres is now full and the service provider cannot accommodate a change at this point. The centre provided to the applicant was her choice at the time."

## 2 paediatric liver transplants carried out in Hyd

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Two paediatric live liver transplants were carried out in the city, showing that creating safety pathways during the Covid-19 pandemic allows for such procedures to be performed.

A three-month-old infant and a two-and-a-half-year-old child suffering from recurring jaundice required these transplants.

The transplant on the infant was carried out in Care Hospitals. The baby was suffering from a rare congenital disorder called biliary atresia

which affects one in 15,000 newborns. A donor donated a part of the liver. Both donor and recipient have recovered and are stable, the hospital said.

The two-and-a-half year old child suffered from biliary atresia but the family did not have sufficient funds for the

transplant. The surgery was carried out free by the Prathima Group of Hospitals. The father of the child donated a part of the liver. Dr Ch. Madhusudhan, senior gastroenterologist and liver transplant surgeon of Osmia General Hospital, along with his team of 20 doctors

carried out the surgery free.

These two live transplants have boosted confidence in the medical fraternity that they can go back to elective surgeries soon with proper planning and testing. This will help to revive the live transplant procedures which were stopped after the lockdown.

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

A man drowned and a search was on till late evening on Thursday for a woman who reportedly jumped into a rain-water filled stone quarry in two different incidents in the city.

According to GHMC officials, Disaster Rescue Force teams have been searching for the woman, identified as 28-year-old E.

Latha of Balayyanagar in Gajularamam, after they received a call for rescue.

Officials said that the incident occurred at around 3 pm on Wednesday and they received the call at 5.35 pm. Three DRF teams with four supervising officers are involved in the search for the woman.

Also on Wednesday, the DRF teams were involved in another search, this time for a man identified as A. Ravi Kiran Goud, 20,

who entered the water near a check dam on the Musi river near Golden Heights in Rajendranagar.

Officials said the man jumped in for a swim around 4 pm. After receiving a rescue call, DRF teams that reached the spot began searching for him. On Thursday morning, they discovered Ravi Kiran's body, the officials said, adding that it was handed over to the local police.

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## SHORT TAKES

COPS ARREST  
CHIT FUND  
FRAUDSTERBALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

A 41-year-old man who was running a chit fund business and absconded with ₹76 lakh of money deposited by his customers has been arrested in Bengaluru, the city police said.

Kacham Kiran Kumar's arrest followed investigations into a complaint lodged this March by Nazeer Ahmed, and two others, Vijaya Laxmi Pasunuri, and Dacheppally Prakash who between them said they had deposited ₹76 lakh in the business organized by Kiran Kumar.

Instead of honouring the commitment of payments, Kiran Kumar sold his house and escaped with the amount deposited by the three complainants.

The police said their investigations revealed that Kiran Kumar collected ₹5 crore from customers in the business that he ran illegally.

ANURAG VARSITY  
ANNOUNCES  
SCHOLARSHIPSHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Anurag University that released the results of AnuragCET-2020, an entrance examination conducted for admission into its BTech programmes, has announced scholarships for meritorious students, amounting to ₹2.5 crore. Candidates who secured ranks 1 to 10 will be exempted from paying tuition fee, those with ranks 11 to 25 will be given 50 per cent exemption and those with ranks 26 to 55 will be given 25 per cent exemption in tuition fee. Nearly 8,000 candidates appeared for the entrance examination. The ranks of successful candidates are placed on the website [www.anurag.edu.in](http://www.anurag.edu.in). For further information, students can contact 8181057057.

## Don't fire teachers



Sarva Siksha Abhiyan teachers on contract stage a protest urging the state government to regularise their services, near the Directorate of School Education, Hyderabad, on Thursday.

— P. REGURENDA

No word from  
TRS on protest

## Party had opposed farm Bills in House

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

The TRS which strongly opposed, and voted against, the farm bills in Rajya Sabha did not make it stand clear in extending the support to the call given by various farmers organisations for a nationwide agitation against the legislations on Friday.

The party's top leadership had not made any announcement till late Thursday night about its stand. However, a senior leader of the TRS, on condition of anonymity, said, "Farmers from our party may participate in the protest, though not representing the party."

● **THE PARTY'S** top leadership had not made any announcement till late Thursday night about its stand.

Meanwhile Telangana Pradesh Congress committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to the Congress cadres to join the protest. In a statement, he said that the Congress had strenuously opposed the anti-farmers Bills in Parliament. All farmers' organisations, Left parties and others have called for a country-wide agitation against the anti-farmer laws brought in by the BJP government.

Farmer organisations, including the All India Farmers Union (AIFU), the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), the All India Kisan Mahasangh (AIKM) and the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), have given a call for the agitation.

Ten central trade unions, including the All India Trade Union Congress, the National Trade Union Congress, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, the All India United Trade Union Centre and the Trade Union Coordination Centre, have also come out in support of the protest on Friday.

Don't act like Nizam by not paying  
outsourced staff, HC tells civic bodyVUJJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

The High Court on Thursday observed that the GHMC should not like act the Nizam of Hyderabad, ordering its outsourcing and temporary employees to work whenever it says and then leaving them without paying the minimum time scale wages.

The court said that the GHMC is not permitted to exploit labour by hiring them on a temporary basis for years together.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayes Reddy made these observations while dealing an appeal petition filed by the GHMC, challenging the direction of a single judge

to consider the regularisation of the 98 outsourcing employees working as sanitary supervisors, sanitation workers, entomology field workers and in other posts for the last 15 years.

Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao had opined that the GHMC was exploiting outsourcing employees and directed it to consider absorbing them as regular employees. The court directed the GHMC to pay the minimum time scale to them in the meanwhile.

Challenging the direction, GHMC filed an appeal which came for hearing before the division bench. The GHMC relied on the Supreme Court judgment in the Uma Devi case, in which the apex court said that no outsourcing employee can be regularised after one-

● **THE GHMC** also contended that if the orders of the single judge were implemented, around 30,000 employees would seek similar benefits and it would become a financial burden on the corporation.

time settlement at the prescribed time. Moreover, the posts were not sanctioned.

The GHMC also contended that if the orders of the single judge were implemented, around 30,000 employees would seek similar benefits and it would become a financial burden on the corporation.

Responding to this, the division bench asked the corporation how it was deploying outsourcing employees in essential duties if they were not

holding sanctioned posts.

"The Supreme Court said in the Umadevi case that no appointment should be made on a temporary basis. It also says that the creation of posts is the responsibility of the employer, as per the nature of work. If you are using the temporary or outsourcing employees for perpetual work, it tantamounts to the exploitation," the bench observed.

The court directed the GHMC to submit the service rules of GHMC and the number of outsourcing employees it has hired, how many sanctioned posts it had and the nature of such posts. The court also sought details of the GHMC's one-time service settlement in absorption of outsourcing employees. The hearing was adjourned to September 29.

## REVIEW | MEET Laws not meant to fill coffers with poor man's money: KCR

## CM: Decisions favour poor

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 24

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said that government decisions would be in favour of the poor who have constructed their houses on government lands and have been living in the houses for decades.

He said the government's aim was to ensure that the poor do not suffer due to the implementation of new laws, and that their benefits should reach the poor. The new laws are not meant to fill the state coffers with money collected from the poor through the regularisation of lands, Rao said.

At a review meeting with mayors and public representatives from the municipal areas on Thursday at Pragathi Bhavan, the CM instructed officials concerned to prepare solutions to the problems faced by people with regard to lands and properties before the Dharani portal becomes fully

operational. Claiming that the state government has decided to solve all the problems related to residential properties, construction sites and property issues lying unsolved for decades, and reiterating that government decisions would be in favour of beneficiaries of GO 58, 59 and the poor who have constructed houses for decades, Rao asked public representatives and officials to drop other work and all the wards, collect details of people's properties and ensure that they are registered online.

Urged them to get themselves involved at the ground level in the process where non-agricultural properties like plots, flats, houses not yet registered online are being registered now and reminding them of the curse of some people who had opposed the Telangana.

Statehood saying that the land rates will fall in the new state, Rao said that

● **THE PARTICIPANTS** of the meeting brought to Rao's notice the decades-old problems and issues pertaining to lands, properties in their areas. Asking the officials to take note of these issues, Rao directed the officials to prepare guidelines to solve these problems immediately.

With the measures taken by the state government, land rates in Telangana both agricultural and non-agricultural, are reaching peak demand.

"Due to good governance there was a decline in land disputes, land grabbing incidents, harassment, land mafia activities and rowdysim. The visible developments have doubled the famous Hyderabad culture of Ganga Jamuna tehzeeb," said Rao.

Listing out the communities which have settled down in Hyderabad, Rao added "Our government

works beyond the limits of caste, religion or class." The participants of the meeting brought to Rao's notice the decades-old problems and issues pertaining to lands, properties in their areas. Asking the officials to take note of these issues, Rao directed the officials to prepare guidelines to solve these problems immediately.

Ministers K.T. Rama Rao, Mahmood Ali, Sabitha Indrareddy, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Mallareddy, Gangula Kamalakara, Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Deputy Speaker, Padma Rao, MIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, MLAs of MIM and TRS MLAs, chief secretary, Suresh Kumar, mayors B. Ram Mohan, Jakka Venkat Reddy, Nilam Gopal Reddy, Gunda Prakash Rao, Sunil Rao, Durga and municipal officials participated in the meeting.

Illegal miners make a killing  
out of official sand reachesRAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 24

The official sand reaches in Manuguru mandal have turned into cash-cows for illegal miners, who, in the name of tribal agencies, are going about illegal mining and selling in the open market with a gay abandon.

River Godavari provides a convenient space to form sand beds after floods. It is common that floods will bring in a lot of mud and sand, which are in upper places in the river and prevalent in Manuguru mandal.

It is because of this that the government chose five sand reaches and handed them over to tribal women bodies, which, over a period of time, have been sidelined with sand mining going into the hands

of illegal miners. The functioning is quite simple and systematic. People book sand online with Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC). As the government has handed over sand reaches to tribal women thrift groups, contractors into mining pay the tribal group leaders and get down to their business.

The five sand reaches in Manuguru mandal are at Chinaravigudem, Annaram, Sambaigudem, Janampet and Tuguthagudem. Sand to the extent of 100 lorries with each vehicle carrying 32-tonne load is mined per day officially and are released online.

The main market is Khammam and Hyderabad with the former selling each lorry for ₹80,000 while it is ₹

one lakh in Hyderabad.

Incidentally, the transporters get another five to ten tonnes over and above the price paid online. Sources said that this 'extra' sand will be to the tune of 2,000 tonnes on any given day, which translates to ₹60 lakh approximately. Additionally, another ten lorries of sand is being mined illegally per day from each mine. The price of this sand in the open market will be ₹40 lakh. In simple arithmetic terms, sand worth Rs one crore is being shifted illegally only from Godavari River in Manuguru mandal per day, which comes to a staggering ₹30 crore every month.

The government is not getting a single rupee from this sand while contractors and leaders share the spoils.

**30th ANNIVERSARY**  
"...I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

**J. RATNAMMA DAVID**  
(Teacher and social worker, W/o. Late Jaiwala David)  
DoB: 18-07-1907 DoD: 25-09-1990  
Looking back in your loving memory still comforts us and binds us together in moving forward.  
Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Great Great Grandchildren.  
Phones: 9848666425, 9000775654, 9490683468  
**JAIWALA FAMILY**

**10th DAY CEREMONY**  
Date of Ceremony 27th September 2020

**Shri. NARSING RAO KOPPULA**  
(SBI Colony, Mehdiapatnam)  
DOD: 19.09.2020  
Inserted by: **KOPPULA FAMILY**  
Venue: Mahmood Paradise  
Function Hall, Yousufguda.  
Contact: 9966522277

"The only God, be honour and glory forever and ever Amen" Timothy 1:17

**LOVING PARENTS**

**Merugu Devapriyam Abraham**  
DOB: 11-11-1915 DOD: 25-9-1981  
**Mrs. Merugu Devamani**  
DOB: 18-12-1921 DOD: 13-2-1998  
**WE UPHOLD YOUR WAYS**  
Children, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Near & Dear

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**VUPPALA AMARNATH GARU**  
Ex. Corporator Maharajgunj  
D.O.D: 15th Sept 2020  
May his soul merge in the Lotus  
Feet of Supreme God Shiva  
**KAPARTH PANDURANGAM FAMILY**  
(S/2021/D00641)

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**Advocate R. RAJAN**  
DOB: 10.03.1962 DOD: 25.09.2013  
You live in our heart,  
May you soul rest in peace.  
Pankajakshyamma - Mother  
Col. A.N. Sobhana - Wife  
Rohit - Son, Rohini - Daughter  
Prasad & Family, Prabha & Family  
K.K. Pillai & Family

**OBITUARY**  
IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER

It is with our deepest sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of  
**Mr. Y. S. DURGAPRASAD (SOMBABU)**  
on 17th Sep, 2020 at 1:30 AM.  
**Yalamanchi Vijayalakshmi, Family and Friends**  
Residence: Film Nagar, Hyderabad.  
Cell: 9849809472 & 9849683090

**SHRADDANJALI**

With profound grief we inform you the demise of  
**TELUKUNTA SUDERSHAN RAO**  
Inserted by: Family:  
Telukunta Anil Kumar  
Telukunta Vidya Devi  
Kotha Anil Kumar  
Kotha Lakshmi  
Telukunta Jagdish  
Telukunta Prasanna

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**T. PRAKASH**  
DOB: 25.9.1967 DOD: 13.10.2019  
We miss you every moment of our lives, you will live forever in our hearts.  
Inserted by: T. Ravi Chander & Brothers Families & Sisters Families  
(S/2021/D00642)

**OUR RESPECTFUL HOMAGE**  
We deeply regret the sudden & sad demise of

**Sri Sudershan Dubey**  
DOB: 24-09-2020  
Member: Exhibition Society  
Our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family  
Your memories always be with us  
May his soul rest in peace.  
Members of: Exhibition Society  
Economic Committee AP & Osmania Graduates Association

**OBITUARY**  
IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER

**Shri. NARSING RAO KOPPULA**  
(SBI Colony, Mehdiapatnam)  
DOD: 19.9.2020  
Inserted by: **GOWDICHERLA FAMILY**  
(S/2021/D00637)

**14th DAY CEREMONY**

**Shri. BALAKRISHNA PATHAK**  
Expired on: 12-09-2020  
We Regret to inform the sad demise of our Father **Balakrishna Pathak** on 12-09-2020  
14th Day Ceremony on 25-9-2020 at #16-116, Sai Baba Mandir Road, Dilukhannagar, Hyd.  
Inserted by: Sons: Narendra Pathak, Niteen Pathak, Milind Pathak  
Ph:040-24068581

**1st Death Anniversary**  
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. **PSALMS 116:15**

**Late Mrs. D. Mary Samuel**  
W/o Late Mr. Lakshmalia P. Samuel  
Born: 26.03.1937 Called to Glory: 25.09.2019  
Mom, we miss you every single day.  
Thank you for impacting and shaping our lives positively. We love you & miss you!!  
Inserted by: Children  
Mob.: 9966201447, 9885122973

**5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Late M. NARSIMLOO**  
S/o Late AGIAH  
DOB: 15.6.1952 DOD: 25.9.2015  
"Your memories are always in our hearts forever"  
Inserted by: Wife: M. Suvama  
Sons: Govind, Mami, Babul  
Daughters-in-law, Sons-in-law, Sisters & Grand Children.  
Brothers: Shankarao, Sriaramulu, Ashok & Mangalappally Family Members.

**12th ANNIVERSARY**

**T. KISHTIAH (A.E.)**  
We miss you Bapu,  
I can see the difference without you.  
**LOVE YOU**  
From:  
Sumitra, Ramesh, Priya, Dinesh  
(S/2021/D00662)

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**Mr. BODI SUDHAKER**  
M.A., M.Ed Rtd. Govt. Head Master  
D.O.B: 25-09-1951 D.O.D: 11-06-2018  
Forever Remembered, Forever Missed  
We Love U...  
Wife: Mrs. Bodi Ashalesha  
Son: Mr. Bodi Surman  
Daughter: Mrs. L. Anula Moses  
Grand Daughter: Shiny Suhana  
(S/2021/D00619)

**OBITUARY**  
IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER

**Shri. NARSING RAO KOPPULA**  
(SBI Colony, Mehdiapatnam)  
DOD: 19.9.2020  
Inserted by: **GANTA FAMILY**  
GR Constructions.  
(S/2021/D00636)

**4th ANNIVERSARY**  
In Fond Memory Of

**Late. Smt. INDRANI MAJUMDAR**  
W/o. Sri. Ajay Kumar Majumdar  
DOB: 05.04.1955 DOD: 25.09.2016  
"We truly miss you, love you eternally"  
Inserted by:  
Dr. Sharmila Majumdar (Daughter), Baby Anya (Grand Daughter)  
Padmanava Debnath (Son-in-law)  
Sonia Majumdar (Daughter)  
Family & Friends  
Ph: 040-23399953

**Unique person all of us feel Proud to belong to him**

**Shri. P.S. Chandrasekhar**  
(M.A.D.P.A)  
DOB: 25-09-1932  
DOD: 06-07-2006  
**Dr. P. Sarojini. Ch**  
W/o. **P.S. Chandrasekhar**

**6th Birth in Heaven**  
"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants" Ps. 116:15

**CH. JOEL KAPIL KUMAR B.E.**  
DOB: 12-05-1978 DOD: 25-09-2014  
S/o. Dr. Chintala Franklin  
Dr. Mrs. Joyce Premraj  
Inserted by: Wife: Pramila Kapil Kumar  
Daughter: Joanna Shefali & Family Members

**6th ANNIVERSARY**  
In Ever Loving Memory of

**Dr. MD. SHUJATH ALI KHAN**  
D.O.B: 15-08-1949 D.O.D: 25-09-2014  
Inserted by:  
Wife, Daughters, Son, Son-in-Law, Daughter-in-Law, Grand Children and Near & Dear ones. Ph: 8886178487

**10th ANNIVERSARY**

**Late A. CHAYA DEVI**  
W/o Late A. Babu Rao  
(Retd. S.E., Irrigation)  
D.O.B: 27.05.1939 D.O.D: 25-09-2010  
Close in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered  
Inserted By: Family Members  
Ph: 27505895

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Sri. KISHAN PERSHAD TIWARI**  
(M.A.D.P.A)  
Retd. Government Officer  
Died On: 25-9-2010  
Your memories will always be in our hearts  
Inserted By:  
Wife, Sons, Daughters,  
Daughters-in-law, Grand Childrens  
Ph: 998988412

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

**11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In Loving Memory of

**Late Mr. K.S.K. SRINIVASA RAO**  
Retd. F.M. (A.P. Khadi & V.I. Board)  
DOB: 7th Oct 1933 - DOD: 25th Sept 2009  
Inserted by: Daughter - K. Rosemary  
Son-in-law: B. Vinod Kumar  
Grand Children & Great Grand Children  
Ph: 8179862992

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**Late N. SRINIVASULU**  
(Retd. Dy. Superintendent in APSRTC)  
D.O.B: 25.09.1937  
Inserted by: N. Pushpalatha (Wife)  
Sons & Daughters  
N. Vishnu Kumar - Advocate, High Court, T.S.  
Mobile: 9000523816



## SHORT TAKES

## WOMAN, 127, RECOVERS FROM COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 24

In a near-medical miracle, a woman who is stated to be 127 years old, who had tested Covid-19 positive, was discharged from the Government General Hospital here on Thursday following full recovery.

Kannarapu Veera Raghavamma of Jagapathinagar in Kirlampudi mandal of East Godavari district was admitted on August 31 in a critical condition. Doctors and her kin apprehended that it would be difficult for her to survive given her age and health condition. However, the meticulous efforts of doctors and medical personnel helped her to recover fully.

Hospital superintendent Dr M. Raghavendra Rao said that when Raghavamma was admitted, her pulse rate had gone down steeply and she was suffering from breathlessness. Doctors and staff paid special attention to her.

As she had no diabetes and lung problems, the recovery was quite fast. He said that East Godavari collector D. Muralidhar Reddy was reviewing Covid-19 position frequently and making efforts to increase the recovery rate by giving suggestions to the medical fraternity.

Family members of the woman said that she was born in 1893. When they admitted her in GGH, they had lost hopes of her survival. But, due to the efforts, treatments and care of the doctors and medical personnel in GGH, she recovered well. The delighted Raghavamma thanked the GGH personnel.

## RAINS TURN NALLAMALA LUSH GREEN

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC  
KURNOOL, SEPT. 24

The Nallamala forest spread over Kurnool, Kadapa and Prakasam districts in AP and Mahbubnagar in Andhra Pradesh is lush green following the bountiful rains. Rich in biodiversity, the forest has more than 1,600 species of plants. Of them, at least 400 are medicinal plants. Devadhari, Vishamusti, Nagamusti, Tellieswari, Mayurasikha, Malleru, Chhillaginjala and Tippateega are some of the most popular of these 400 varieties.

Though the government has sanctioned ₹10 crore to set up an integrated Ayurvedic medical college with wellness centres in 2014, the project was not taken up, said Dr Prabhakar Reddy, an Ayurveda doctor and an Ayurvedic doctor who was instrumental in setting up the Ayurveda college at Tirupati. There is a great potential to leverage Nallamala herbs for developing herbal medicines and treatment systems. He said a 100-bed hospital with ayurvedic research would help with cures to many ailments.

Lavanya, a plant researcher, said Srisailam is the most popular for Ayurveda after the Himalayas and Varanasi, she added. Biodiversity research assistant K. Venkatesam said that they are researching regularly and send report with species to the Zoological Survey of India for formal announcement. They are researching only to identify the plants and recently they have no new species in their research, he added.

Most useful plants are available in Nallamala, he said. Malleru and Chhillaginjala are used for antibiotics and water purification purposes, Nagamusti and Mayurasikha are control blood pressure and sugar, Tippateega is very useful for reconditioning of liver function, Devadhari leaves are useful for blood, M. Ramesh, who practices Ayush medicine, explained.

## BJP hits the streets against Nani

Demands dismissal of minister for jibe against Modi visiting Ayodhya alone

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA,

RAJAHMUNDY, NELLORE, KADAPA, SEPT. 24

BJP cadres staged protests demanding the dismissal of minister for civil supplies Kodali Venkateswara Rao alias Nani, objecting to his comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

On Wednesday, Nani had objected to the demand of BJP leaders that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy should be accompanied by his wife Bharati to the Tirumala temple to perform certain religious duties. The minister had questioned whether Modi and Adityanath had brought their wives to lay

the foundation stone of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

BJP leaders and activists staged protests at Vijayawada and Guntur demanding the immediate dismissal of the minister and warned of intensifying the protests if the government failed to do so.

BJP state vice-president and former minister Chadipiralla Adinarayana Reddy said Kodali Nani was acting like a 'drunk monkey.'

Alleging that everything was going according to the plan of the Chief Minister, and that he was provoking the ministers to make adverse comments on Hinduism, Adinarayana Reddy said that in a Hindu country, everyone

should practice dharma.

BJP leaders and activists led by its state secretary Vishnuvardhan Reddy started from their office at Vijayawada to the sub-collector's office to stage a dharna against Nani on Thursday.

However, the police did not allow them, so the saffron party leaders and cadres protested on the road. The police under precautionary measures arrested the BJP cadres, shifted them to various police stations and later released them.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy alleged that minister Rao and YSRC MLA R.K. Roja provoked Hindus through their objectionable comments against Hindu customs and traditions. He said that the CM was playing votebank politics

which was why he was silent despite the scathing attack on the Hindu religion by his ministers and legislators.

Claiming that the police arresting 41 persons for hurling stones on a church but not arresting a single person in the Antarvedi chariot fire case shows the biased attitude of the government, Vishnuvardhan Reddy alleged that the BJP tried to lodge a complaint against the minister with the police but in vain and demanded that the CM dismiss the minister with immediate effect.

At Amalapuram, BJP cadres urged social welfare minister Pinepe Viswaroop to advise the CM to drop minister Rao. BJP leaders, led by his parliamentary constituency

president, Manepalli Ayyaji Vema, protested in front of the office of Amalapuram sub-collector, Himanshu Koushik, on Thursday and submitted a memorandum to him.

In Kakinada, BJP staged a dharna in front of the collectorate led by its constituency president, Ch. Ramkumar. Similarly, BJP activists held dharnas in front of Narasapuram and other revenue divisional offices in East and West Godavari districts.

In Guntur, BJP leaders and cadres, in large numbers, joined a dharna and aired slogans against Nani. BJP's district unit president, Bharath Kumar, staged a protest before the collectorate in Nellore.

## JUMBO TRAMPLES GIRL TO DEATH IN KUPPAM VILLAGE

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
TIRUPATI, SEPT. 24

An 18-year-old girl was trampled to death and her mother sustained injuries when an elephant ran amok at Pattichenu on the AP-Tamil Nadu border under Kuppam mandal in Chittoor district on Thursday. The girl, Sonia, and her mother Krishnaveni, are from the village.

According to forest officials, the incident occurred when the two were sleeping in their groundnut farm where they had gone to guard it from possible attacks by wild elephants.

In the early hours of Thursday, an elephant suddenly attacked them, trampling Sonia to death. Krishnaveni escaped the elephant attack but sustained injuries.

On hearing the elephant, villagers rushed to the farm and shifted Krishnaveni to hospital. Upon information, forest and police officials reached the spot and a case has been registered by the police, who also launched an investigation into the matter. This was the second such incident to occur this year in Chittoor district. In April, a shepherd, Dhananjaya, 54, hailing from Keeramanda village was trampled to death, while another was injured after being attacked by a herd of wild elephants in the forest near the village in Bangarupalem mandal.

In the past decade, 18 people have lost their lives and 44 persons injured in man-animal conflicts till last year. Going by the estimates, around 42 people were killed by the wild elephants between 1990 and 2002, and around 12 elephants were electrocuted in fields in the same period.

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
**ADDENDUM-1 TO TCN No. EM/OHP-28/2020, DTD.03/08/2020**

The clarification to the pre-bid queries held on 12.08.2020, which was uploaded on 21.09.2020 may please be treated as Annexure-A to the e-TCN No.EM/OHP-28/2020, dtd.03.08.2020.

**Executive Engineer (M) IOHP Division**  
PPT/PR/224/20-21, Dt.24.09.2020

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

No. DNR/S&T/Sig/2020/14 Danapur, dtd. 22.09.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following work.

1. Name of the work with its location : Reliability of signalling gears for the equipment Axle counter, UFSBI etc through media diversity arrangements at 44 nos of block section under DNR Division. 2. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 19914514.48. 3. Earnest Money : Rs. 2496000.00. 4. Last Date & Time of Submission : Up to 15:00 hrs. on 16/10/2020. 5. Opening of tender : 15:30 hrs. on 16/10/2020. 6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained : Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note : Any corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer E. C. Railway, Danapur PR/0673/DNR/S&T/T/20-21/36

## Paddy fields flooded



An agriculture field in Gollaprolu mandal is flooded by surplus water from the Yeleru reservoir in East Godavari district on Thursday.

— VADREU SRINIVAS

## RECOVERIES IN AP BEAT NUMBER OF NEW COVID CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 24

Corona positive cases are gradually declining in Andhra Pradesh with 7,000 to 8,000 cases being reported each as against 10,000 cases earlier. Around 7,855 positive cases were registered and 8,807 patients discharged after recovery in the past 24 hours ending Thursday evening giving a ray of hope to the efforts being undertaken to contain further spread of the pandemic.

The state's overall positive cases touched 6,54,385 on Thursday in which 5,79,474 have recovered, 69,353 remain active while the toll stood at 5,558.

With 1,095 fresh positive cases, East Godavari district continues to be the worst affected as its overall figure rose to 91,142 of which 11,395 are active cases.

As many 52 deaths were registered in the past 24 hours.

The Highest number of eight deaths was registered in Chittoor district, followed by six each in Anantapur and Guntur, five each in Prakasam, Krishna and Visakhapatnam, four in East Godavari, three each in Kadapa, West Godavari and Kurnool, two in Vizianagaram and one each in Nellore and Srikakulam districts.

## Yeleru waters submerge 30K acres of agri crops

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC  
KAKINADA, SEPT. 24

Surplus water from the Yeleru reservoir has inundated 30,000 acres of paddy and 1,000 acres of cotton. The reservoir is receiving heavy inflows from rivulets in the Agency area.

The officials are releasing about 10,000 cusecs of water daily to the canals, which submerged the paddy fields. According to sources, there were breaches to several canals in 47 places, including minor and medium canals.

Due to heavy rains in upstream areas, Sir Arthur Cotton barrage at Dowleswaram received heavy inflows and the irrigation officials opened the gates to allow nearly 4 lakh cusecs to flow to the sea on Thursday.

Head works executive engineer of Dowleswaram circle, Mohan Rao, said the upstream reservoirs were released surplus waters that they were releasing.

The farmers in the Yeleru area accused the government and irrigation officials of negligence resulting in the poor maintenance of the reservoir and its canals. They are incurring heavy losses and

● **DUE TO** heavy rains in upstream areas, Sir Arthur Cotton barrage at Dowleswaram received heavy inflows and the irrigation officials opened the gates to allow nearly 4 lakh cusecs to flow to the sea on Thursday.

● **THE FARMERS** drew water with great difficulty and completed transplantation.

● **YELERU RESERVOIR** executive engineer D. Ramgopal said that there were nearly 40 breaches identified in the reservoir, four breaches at medium canals and three at minor irrigation canals.

facing hardships during the rainy season due to this, they said.

"I invested ₹25,000 and completed transplantation 25 days back. For the last 15 days, the fields have been submerged," said a farmer at Gollaprolu.

Kasireddy Parameswara Perraju, former chairperson of the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), said that though the Yeleru reservoir was a boon to the farmers, due to the carelessness of the government and poor design of the Pithapuram branch

canal, it had turned into a curse. He said that the officials were not releasing water to the fields until the reservoir gets heavy inflows.

The farmers drew water with great difficulty and completed transplantation. Then, the officials discharged thousands of cusecs of water which submerged the fields, said Perraju, adding that the Suddagadda reservoir canals were 350 feet deep but due to lack of maintenance the depth had reduced to 50 feet. This is why surplus waters flowed into the fields.

The only solution to the problem is the second phase of the Yeleru reservoir modernisation programme, said Perraju.

Joint director of agriculture K.S.V. Prasad, said that the crops can't be revived as they were waterlogged for more than four days. He said that the enumeration process on crop losses is on.

Yeleru reservoir executive engineer D. Ramgopal said that there were nearly 40 breaches identified in the reservoir, four breaches at medium canals and three at minor irrigation canals. He said all the breaches can't be identified until the floodwaters recede.

## YSRC: Naidu plays immoral politics

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 24

YSR Congress on Thursday alleged that TD president N. Chandrababu Naidu, in his bid to divert attention from the Amaravati lands scam, had stooped to practicing immoral politics in the name of religion.

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, advisor to the government on public affairs, said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was not against any religion but Naidu was playing dirty politics.

He claimed that when Reddy went to the Tirumala temple during the TD regime, Naidu and other leaders did not ask for a declaration. Now, they were trying to create disturbance with ulterior motives.

Addressing a press conference here, Ramakrishna Reddy said that the Opposition parties were trying to defame the government by creating unnecessary disputes. The Chief Minister went to Tirumala

and took part in rituals duly following the traditions. He stated that an administrator will not be confined to a particular caste or religion and Reddy was a people's leader who is following in his father's footsteps.

Ramakrishna Reddy said that the recent attacks on temples were part of a conspiracy in which TD leaders are suspected of unleashing communal disharmony. He stated that the TD leaders are creating controversies in temples, not with faith in Hinduism but out of frustration for being out of power.

The Chief Minister is implementing welfare schemes to benefit down-trodden and weaker sections by fulfilling each and every promise made to them.

Ramakrishna Reddy said that the state government did not renege on its promise of welfare initiatives during the pandemic and actually had provided the assistance earlier than the deadline.

## 100 stray dogs killed, case filed

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 24

Help for Animals Society (HAS) on Thursday demanded stern action against the municipal staff for killing nearly 100 stray dogs in Purushottamapatnam of Chilakaluripeta municipality.

The society's members claimed that the staff had killed the dogs and dumped the carcasses in open areas, creating a threat to public health. HAS lodged a complaint with collector I. Samuel Ananda Kumar.

HAS convener A. Tejovanth, activist, N. Sarat, and others alleged that the mass killing of stray dogs continues unabated in various villages of Guntur district due to lack of awareness about laws and lack of sensitivity in dealing with street dogs.

They lamented that the local authorities were ordering the mass killing of street dogs and dumping them in open spaces. They

expressed fear that such open dumping will cause dangerous diseases.

The society's members said that it is disheartening that the bodies of nearly 100 dogs were piled up at dumping yards at Chilakaluripeta. They said they were repeatedly insisting that authorities sterilise dogs in the villages but were ignored. Instead, locals killing dogs once the population grows. They mentioned that killing is a violation of all animal protection laws and all Supreme Court verdicts. Higher authorities must create awareness so that it reaches the lower cadres.

The activists recalled that a year ago, in Tenali's Huffpeta village, over 75 dogs were killed and dumped but no action has been taken against the officials. HAS said the collector assured them that stern action will be taken after an inquiry into the mass murder.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
Short 'n' procurement NIT No. 27/EE/Div. 15/Sec bad Zone/GHMC/2020-21 Dated 24-09-2020					
Sl No.	NIT No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount	Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	Name & Address Office & Cell No.
1	NIT No. 27/EE/Div. 15/GHMC/2020-21 Dt. 24-09-2020	1 No. Civil Work	23.70 Lakh	Download Start date: 25-09-2020 at 3:00 P.M. Download End date: 28-09-2020 at 3:00 P.M. Bid Opening: 28-09-2020 at 3:15 P.M.	Executive Engineer- Divn.15, GHMC 9704456422
Further details can be seen at <a href="http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in">www.tender.telangana.gov.in</a>					
R.O No: 5334-PP/CL/Advt/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 15, GHMC					

## RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. Tender No.	Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1	14201151 / 16.10.2020	Liquid Argon Gas.	207859 CUM	261940/-
2	17201461 / 23.10.2020	Electro-Pneumatic Pressurised Flushing System for LHB Coaches.	3041 Set	1805140/-
3	17201460 / 20.10.2020	Set of SS Roof and End Wall Panels for LHB Parcel Van.	177 Set	881630/-
4	16190528 / 19.10.2020	Protective Clothing for Ladies Suit.	1) 612 Set 2) 2530 Set 3) 7044 Set	120090/-
5	17201433 / 19.10.2020	Set of Pillar Assembly for AC3TIES (EOG) LHB Coaches.	155 Set	677130/-
6	13205878 / 14.10.2020	Direct Part Marking Machine (Laser Based) MECH/M&P/3400/GM/10. (PL No. N6415378)	01 Nos.	54200/-
7	17201462 / 19.10.2020	Supply and Application of Set of SS Luggage Racks in LHB Parcel Van.	190 Set	499050/-
8	04201037 / 22.10.2020	110V, 120AH, VRLA. SMF Battery Set.	861 Sets	2000000/-
9	01201203 / 16.10.2020	Traction Center.	2364 Nos.	259260/-

(1) For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in> Drawings / Specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website : <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in> Class IIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in> (2) Tenders will close at 14:25 Hrs. on due date and tender will be opened at 14:30 Hrs. **Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 7** will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and **Tender Sr. No. 8 to 9** will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. Tenders will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala (3) For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

**PCMM**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
The following amendment is authorized against (1) **Tender No. 05201300. Description:** Set of front part and Mounting Arrgt. for LHB AC 3 TIER Garib Rath. **Due Date. Existing Entry :** 22.09.2020. **To be Read as:** 15.10.2020. (2) **Tender No. 17201354. Regarding:** Due Date & Quantity (PL No. 33557184). **Existing Entry :** 21.09.2020 & 1244 Nos. **To be Read as:** 12.10.2020 & 2126 Nos. (3) **Tender No. 12201159A. Description:** (i) IR-DRO Bio Digester Retention Tank with S-Trap for LHB Power Car. (ii) Retention Tank (LH) without Flushing Arrangement. (iii) Retention Tank (RH) without Flushing Arrangement. **Regarding:** Due Date. **Existing Entry :** 25.09.2020. **To be Read as:** 26.10.2020. **PCMM**  
**Notice No: G-122-01 / Store / 067 / 2020-21 Dated : 24.09.2020**

## OLD IS GOLD

Excavation at Mallikarjuna Swamy temple reveals unique structure

## Oldest Dyana Mandiram unearthed

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC  
KURNOOL SEPTEMBER 24

The oldest known structure of a Dyana Mandiram was unearthed at the B r a m a r a m a b a Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam of Kurnool district on Thursday when the officials were carrying out some work.

Recently some ancient copper and silver coins and a large number of copper inscriptions were found by workers after starting the

work. On Thursday, the dyana mandiram was found by workers, said temple executive officer K.S. Rama Rao. He said that it was clearly appeared as a temple structure. Based on the symbols found there, they confirmed it as dyana mandiram.

The workers informed the archaeology department, stated the executive officer. A detailed examination of the site will be made and steps taken to preserve it, he added.



This Picture shows the Dhyana Mandiram being unearthed at Srisailam on Thursday.

— DC



SHORT TAKES

DEEPIKA TO APPEAR BEFORE NCB TOMORROW

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

The NCB on Thursday questioned fashion designer Simone Khambata and Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager Shruti Modi in connection with the probe being conducted by the agency into an alleged Bollywood-drugs nexus.

An NCB official also confirmed that actor Rakul Preet Singh has acknowledged the summons sent to her to join the probe. Meanwhile, police personnel have been deployed outside the residence of Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone, who is expected to appear before the NCB on Saturday.

Rakul Preet Singh, and Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash will join the investigation on Friday, a source from the NCB said.

Simone Khambata, who was summoned by the NCB to join the probe, reached the agency's guest house in south Mumbai around 9.30 am, an official said. Her name cropped up in the questioning of some persons during the probe in the matter, he said. Rajput's former manager Shruti Modi also appeared before the NCB probe team on Thursday, the official said.

Actor Sara Ali Khan, who has also been summoned by the NCB, arrived in the city from Goa on Thursday. She reached Mumbai with her mother, actor Amrita Singh and brother, Ibrahim Ali Khan around 5pm and headed to their suburban Juhu residence.

FORMER DIG 'LINKED' TO SI EXAM SCAM

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 24

In a breakthrough in the sub-inspector recruitment examination, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam police raided the residence, hotels and multiple business establishment of a former DIG P.K. Dutta and recovered a large number of incriminating documents related to the leakage of question papers of SI examination.

Informing that CID sleuths got the clue from one of the candidates who procured the question paper of SI test a day before the examination, sources in the department told this newspaper that former DIG played a key role in leakage of question papers.

Refusing the divulge the names of beneficiaries, security sources said that former DIG who owns several hotels, bungalow and business establishments worth several hundred crore managed to escape the CID raids.

"We are searching his whereabouts as he was unreachable and his all mobiles are switched off," said the officers engaged in searching the premises for police officer.

The CID sleuths besides raiding Dutta's residence at Rupkonwar Path in Hengrabari for hours also raided his two hotels including Bhargav Grand near the Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) and another hotel in the Lokhra area of Guwahati.

RAHUL HITS OUT AT GOVT OVER LABOUR LAWS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

After the farm Bills, the Congress on Thursday trained its guns on the government over the three labour reform Bills passed by the Parliament alleging the laws would lead to exploitation of workers.

"After farmers, workers have been targeted, Exploitation of the poor, nurturing of 'friends', This is Modi ji's rule," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted in Hindi. He accused the government of having made "committing atrocities" against workers easier.

Mr Gandhi also took a dig at the PM over the first anniversary of the 'Fit India' Movement. "Modi government's priorities — Instead of talking to farmers and workers to find a solution to their problems, busy in PR," he tweeted, tagging a report on Mr Modi's interaction with fitness experts from across the world. Congress General Secretary in-charge of UP Priyanka Vadera also attacked the government asserting that the need of the hour was to ensure that everyone's livelihood was protected.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal witnesses turning of crop stubble (Paraali) into manure via bio-decomposer techniques, developed by the IARI Pusa in New Delhi on Thursday. He said there were obvious problems and loopholes in the farm Bills and the voting for their passage in Rajya Sabha was questionable and condemnable. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh was among the eight parliamentarians who were suspended for the remaining part of the Monsoon Session over unruly behaviour during the passage of the bills in the Upper House of Parliament.

# Umar Khalid gets support from Chomsky, Rushdie, Mira Nair

Over 200 educationists, filmmakers and authors demand release of young activist

**New Delhi, Sept. 24:** More than 200 educationists, filmmakers and authors, including Noam Chomsky and Mira Nair, issued a joint statement on Wednesday demanding the Centre free Umar Khalid arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

Besides Chomsky and Nair, the signatories include actor Ratna Pathak Shah, authors Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy, and journalist P Sainath.

"We call on the Government of India to free Umar Khalid and all those falsely implicated and unjustly incarcerated

for protesting against the CAA-NRC that denies equal citizenship rights and to ensure that the Delhi Police investigates the Delhi riots with impartiality under the oath they took as public servants bound by the Constitution of India," the statement read.

Khalid has been arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February this year.

"We stand in solidarity and outrage, with the brave young scholar and activist Umar Khalid, arrested in New Delhi on

● **KHALID HAS BEEN arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a case related to the communal violence in Delhi in February this year.**

September 14, 2020, under fabricated charges of engineering the Delhi riots in February 2020," the statement said.

The statement said that Khalid "used the passion of his commitment to his country, marshalled his education and his voice to join the movement for equal citizenship, against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)" which introduced religion as a

criterion for citizenship, and has no place in a secular nation.

The Delhi Police had on September 13 said it is investigating the role of all individuals who took part in the February riots and were behind the larger conspiracy of organising violence and inciting communal passion amongst communities.

Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava had last week said the force has collected documentary evidence, including scientific evidence, to support its case in connection with the riots. He said that the police have so far arrested 1,571 people irrespective of

their caste or religion and they are almost equally distributed among both communities.

Responding to former IPS officer Julio Ribeiro's letter in which he had questioned the Delhi police's investigation, Srivastava had said that there are several entities who have their reasons to weave a "web of deception" and push a "false narrative of bias and insensitivity" on the part of the police.

He said that police investigations in criminal cases are guided by facts and evidence, not by reputations and personalities. "Delhi Police are serving the oath and the

Constitution with conviction, integrity and sensitivity, without fear of any self-proclaimed true patriots or favour towards any class, creed or community," Srivastava had said in an email reply to Ribeiro.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between those supporting the citizenship law and those opposing it spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead.

The CPI also accused the Delhi Police of "trying to frame" in the riots cases political leaders and activists who are critical of the "anti-people policies" of the government.

## Protests over farm Bill in Kerala today

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 24

The members of Kisan organisations affiliated to Left parties mainly the CPM and the CPI will organize protests on September 25 to express solidarity with the nationwide agitation called by the Kisan Coordination Committee to oppose the farm Bills passed by the Parliament recently.

The Karshaka Sanghom, Kerala State Karshaka Thozhilali Union (KSKTU), AIKS and Kisan Sabha will be holding protest demonstrations at local level.

The leaders of the Left parties will address meetings of workers across the state.

"Our Kisan organisations have already launched a campaign. As part of it, we had organ-

ised programmes in 200 centres across the state on September 22. The campaign will be intensified from Friday," said LDF Convenor A Vijayaraghavan. The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday had discussed a proposal on challenging the farm Bills in the Supreme Court. The proposal is being vetted by the state law department.

The government says the Centre passed the Bills without even discussing with the states and it is against the federal principles.

Meanwhile, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar cited reports of various commissions and reported views of former prime minister Manmohan Singh and former agriculture minister Sharad Pawar, to assert that the three farm Bills are in line with their recommendations.

## SC refuses to entertain bail plea by Sudha Bharadwaj in Elgar case

**New Delhi, Sept. 24:** The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea seeking bail to lawyer and activist Sudha Bharadwaj, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Koregaon Bhima case being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

A bench comprising Justices U.U. Lalit and Ajay Rastogi dismissed as withdrawn the plea filed by Bharadwaj.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the activist has been in jail for over two years and charges have not been framed in the case.

Nothing has been recovered from the petitioner and no incriminating material found, she said.

Referring to her health condition, the lawyer said Bharadwaj is suffering from diabetes and other

comorbidities.

They are giving me medicine but several tests are required. Grant me interim bail. I will get diagnosed myself and thereafter surrender myself, she said.

The apex court noted that a bail plea is pending in the high court.

Grover said that she sought court's indulgence to get checked and the tests cannot happen in the jail hospital.

You have a good case on merits. Why don't you file a regular bail application, the bench said.

The court then said, "either you withdraw it or we will dismiss it, and suggested that a regular bail plea can be filed.

The plea was then withdrawn.

Bharadwaj, 58, had earlier approached the Bombay High Court seeking bail, saying that she

suffered from chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

She had said comorbidities put her at a higher risk of contracting coronavirus while at the Byculla women's prison where an inmate had tested positive for Covid-19 earlier.

The court, however, had noted the submissions made by the NIA and the Maharashtra government that the prison authorities were taking all precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and that they were providing necessary medical care to Bharadwaj for her comorbidities.

On August 21, pursuant to an high court order, the state government had submitted a report stating that Bharadwaj had been examined in the prison by a medical officer and that her health condition was

found to be "stable and satisfactory".

The report stated that Bharadwaj's vital health parameters were stable although she had been suffering from mild depression and had complained of body ache.

The state said that Bharadwaj had been given medication for dizziness and had been advised to continue medicines for her chronic conditions.

Bharadwaj has been lodged in the Byculla women's prison since September 2018 following her arrest in the case.

The case pertains to the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune district on December 31, 2017. It is alleged that speeches made by some activists at the conclave led to violence near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on outskirts of Pune city the next day. — PTI

## KASHMIRI LAWYER SHOT DEAD IN SRINAGAR

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 24

Kashmiri lawyer Babar Qadri was shot and critically wounded by unknown assailants in central Srinagar on Thursday evening. He was rushed to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The police said that 35-year-old Qadri who shot to prominence mainly due to his frequently appearing in prime time shows and debates on Kashmir on various TV channels was targeted by suspected militants in Srinagar's Hawal area.

"The gunmen believed to be terrorists shot him from point blank range, killing him instantly", said a police officer in-charge of the area.

He was, however, taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Confirming it, Medical Superintendent of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Dr. Farooq Jan, said Mr. Qadri had received a single bullet wound and was brought dead to the hospital.

Sometime ago, Mr. Qadri, father of two minor daughters, had launched a political party called All JK People's Justice Party and named himself as its president. Kashmir High Court Bar Association had suspended his membership for showing "indiscipline." Earlier this month, the bar council refused to revoke his suspension reportedly on technical grounds.

Reacting to it, Mr. Qadri had in a statement here said, "When I formed a 'Lawyers Club of Kashmir', I was accused of dancing to the tunes of Indian agencies and now when I work for unity and want to (re)join, the passage is blocked for me."

On Wednesday, he wrote on his Facebook wall "Bar needs a moderate, but intelligent leading group. We need good speakers, good debating persons who can talk on our behalf. We need a person who can confront a judge or an official of administration. Yes we got enough exploited by emotional blackmail, coercion and threats to life which was a norm that we were made used to. Now the change is on plate, go and have it. The traditional DOPE LAL-LAN should now be buried down alongside Covid 19".

Former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted, "The assassination of Babar Qadri this evening is tragic & I unequivocally condemn it. The sense of tragedy is all the more because he warned of the threat. Sadly his warning was his last tweet. @BabarTruth".

● **MR. QADRI, father of two minor daughters, had launched a political party called All JK People's Justice Party and named himself as its president.**

NEW | MODEL During the Bihar polls, the CRPF will be deployed in 70:30 ratio along with state police forces

## Internal security duties largely only for CRPF men

**New Delhi, Sept. 24:** The government is working on an "ambitious" plan to gradually withdraw border guarding forces like the BSF, the ITBP and the SSB from internal security duties in order to strengthen protection at various frontiers of the country, official sources said on Thursday.

They said the proposal was first discussed during a meeting of these forces chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah last year.

According to the proposal, accessed by PTI, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is working on a new "model" where the burden of internal security duties, including con-

duct of elections, will be largely borne by the country's largest paramilitary force, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The 3.25-lakh strong CRPF is already designated as the lead internal security force of the country.

Officials in the security establishment, quoting the proposal, said that a new experiment will be put in place during the forthcoming elections in Bihar and bypolls in some states where the CRPF will be deployed in a 70:30 ratio along with state police forces.

"The CRPF will be the overall security in-charge during conduct of polls. Border guarding forces

like the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force and the Sashastra Seema Bal will be gradually withdrawn from these duties," a senior official said.

"It is envisaged by the home ministry that these three forces will be taken off completely from rendering routine internal security duties like elections and law and order duties in aid to state governments over the next few years," the official said.

Every year, thousands of troops of these border forces are withdrawn from the Front and sent for conduct of elections apart from duties to strengthen law and order arms of var-

● **IT IS envisaged by the home ministry that the BSF, the ITBP and the SSB will be taken off completely from rendering routine internal security duties like elections.**

ious state police forces in view of the challenging internal security scenario in their domains.

The official said the border guarding forces have already been directed to strengthen security at their respective fronts including by operationalising more posts and reducing inter-border out post distance.

While the BSF is tasked with guarding sensitive international borders with

Pakistan (over 3,300 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km), the ITBP mans the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China while the SSB guards open Indian fronts with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km).

The Assam Rifles, under the administrative control of the MHA but manned by army personnel and officers, guards the border with Myanmar.

The home ministry has also directed the three border forces to create a team of their "young officers" who will traverse through the entire border area under their charge and bring to record the "smallest of security challenges" for discussion and resolu-

tion. The ministry has also proposed that a special cell be created in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to deal with border crime cases like cattle smuggling and check activities of smugglers, fake Indian currency notes operatives and corrupt government officers.

A team of officers of these frontier guarding forces has also been created with finding ways to ensure that migration of border population is stopped and they are provided work opportunities in their local areas, the officer said.

The ministry, as per the proposal, has also directed that a committee of offi-

cers headed by the Union home secretary should discuss development of new technology tools for border guarding in consultation with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Bharat Electronics Limited.

A specific mission has been made to find solutions, with help from agriculture experts, to check the menace of 'sarkanda' or elephant grass along the International Border with Pakistan.

The elephant grass aids terrorists to infiltrate, smuggle narcotics and dig tunnels as it cuts the line of vision of BSF troops who guard the area, the officer said. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## MANTRI SORRY FOR VIOLATING MASK GUIDELINES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 24

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra on Thursday conceded that he violated Coronavirus guidelines by refusing to wear a face mask in public and apologised for the 'mistake'.

Mishra who faced criticism from all quarters for his remarks, "I never wear a face mask in any programme," accepted that he should not have made such a statement at a time when the entire nation was struggling to cope with the health crisis.

Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to people to wear masks to protect them from Coronavirus, he added. "I will wear masks and I also appeal to the people to wear masks", he told reporters here.

On Wednesday, Mishra was seen without masks in various official programmes he had attended in Indore. Later, he told local reporters that he never wore a mask in any programme. "I never wear masks in any programme. So what", he told reporters in Indore.

Later, when his remarks threatened to snowball into a controversy, he clarified that he was suffering from a disorder which prohibits him from wearing a face mask.

## POACHER KILLED BY FELLOW HUNTERS

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 24

A poaching attempt turned lethal for a wildlife poacher after an 'accidental' shot from his associate's gun hit him in the head. The incident occurred in Andirakanch police station area under Kashiipur block in Rayagada district on Tuesday night, reports said on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Khageswar Jhodia, a resident of Kalijajodi village in the district.

Police recovered charred body of the deceased and arrested as many as 18 persons involved in an alleged murder, police informed.

According to reports, around 20 people of Kanchaguma and Kalijajodi villages under Andirakanch police limits had conducted an operation on September 22 to kill a wild boar that had reportedly been destroying crops in the area. Khageswar was also part of the team in search of wild boar.

Sources said that during the search of wild boar, a bullet accidentally fired from one of his associate's rifle directly hit his head and he died instantly.

Fearing police action, all the youths associated with him in the wild boar hunting mission, allegedly tried to dispose of the body hurriedly in consultation with other villagers by burning to hide the incident.

On being informed of the incident, the police reached the burial ground where the youths were cremating the body of the deceased.

The cops seized the half-burnt body and sent it for post-mortem. "As many as 18 persons have been detained and are being interrogated in connection with the death of Khageswar Jhodia," the police said.

## MINOR BOY BEATEN TO DEATH FOR STEALING ₹500

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 24

A minor boy was allegedly beaten to death for stealing ₹500 from a house in his neighbourhood at Kiapanaposi village in Mayurbhanj district, reports said on Thursday.

According to preliminary reports, the boy was on Tuesday evening thrashed by a woman and some others in his neighbourhood over suspicion that he stole ₹500. He was rushed to the nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

All though the woman reportedly confessed to her involvement in the attack, she feigned ignorance about the death of the boy.

From the circumstantial evidence gathered so far, the police suspect the boy had been killed. For further investigation, a forensic team was on Thursday deputed by the Karanjia police.

## Covid crisis far from over: Scientists

Noted epidemiologist says India has a hidden epidemic in many parts which have weak health systems

New Delhi, Sept. 24: From 500 cases to 57 lakh. Six months after a nationwide lockdown, Covid-19 is spreading fast across the length and breadth of India with more testing and developments on the vaccine front but no clarity on when the disease will be controlled, say scientists.

On March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day lockdown for the entire country, stating it was the only way to break the chain of infection. At the time, the number of people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus was a little over 500 and the death toll 12.

Six months on, India has the second highest number of cases in the world after the US with a tally of 57.32 lakh cases, 86,508 people testing positive in a day and a total of 91,149 fatalities, according to Union health ministry figures on Thursday.

As Covid-19 rages — and even laypersons get conversant with the complexities of RT-PCR tests versus the cheaper but not so reliable rapid antigen tests — US-based economist and epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan said there is a hidden epidemic happening even as the pandemic spreads.

He noted that the infection is spreading widely across all parts of the country, including into rural India, although the visibility is lower in places where testing is weak or inadequate.

"We will likely see some increases in states like UP and Bihar but only if RT-PCR testing increases. Right now, we have a hidden epidemic in many parts of the country which have weak health systems, the director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington said.

While the infection is spreading at a slower rate than if people were not taking precautions, it is definitely not under control, Laxminarayan added.

However, he expects the number of cases to start coming down in the next month or two as India approaches some sense of population immunity. As a substantial number of the population is infected and recovers from the disease, they are unlikely to spread the virus.

Given the precautions that are being taken both by the government and individuals, the epidemic has slowed down. This would mean that we would see a sustained plateau for a while before the cases start coming down, Laxminarayan said.

On March 23, a day before the Prime Minister announced the lockdown and two days before it came into force, India had tested 18,383 samples. Till September 22, this had gone up to at least 6,62,79,462 tests, both RT-PCR and rapid antigen.

The recoveries have gone up to over 46 lakh people,



Visitors get a selfie clicked at Bara Imambara in Lucknow on Thursday as the monument reopens after a gap of more than six months owing to Coronavirus related lockdown.

— PTI

pushing the national recovery rate to 81.55 per cent.

Immunologist Satyajit Rath sounded a note of caution and said India is still at the stage of spreading viral infection across communities.

With global, international travel as the point of origin, the infection was first established in urban high-density localities, and is now spreading from those into the rest of the country, at widely varied speeds, Rath, from the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi, said.

The infection has never really been under control in India, he said.

The early harsh prolonged lockdown somewhat delayed the large-scale establishment of the infection. But 'control' has never been a possibility. So we are certainly going to see growth in the infection numbers for quite a long while yet, Rath added.

Immunologist Vineeta Bal concurred with Rath, saying the Indian government did not learn much despite experiences from other parts of the world and announced complete draconian lockdowns that were extended for long periods.

Leadership in the country lacked in its vision and could not get a sense of the ground realities for poor people; or maybe did not care, Bal, from Pune's Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, said.

Because of major undermining of public health infrastructure for decades, our epidemic handling preparedness was very, very poor. That could have been the only justifiable reason for imposing the lockdown, Bal added.

Laxminarayan took a different view. He said there were many positives about the control strategy, including an early recognition of the threat faced by India, and an early lock-

down though the implementation and planning could have been much better.

The lack of early testing really cost the country. With better and more

expanded testing early on, that India was fully capable of, the lockdown could have been more targeted rather than been nationwide.

— PTI

## WFH: People complain of neck pain, backache

● HEALTH EXPERTS say this is due to improper sitting postures and people need to follow good ergonomics and working habits at home.

Pune, Sept. 24: With work from home becoming the new normal amid the Covid-19 pandemic, many people have started complaining of neck pain and backache while working for long hours and are seeking help from physiotherapists.

Health experts say this is due to improper sitting postures and people need to follow good ergonomics and working habits at home.

Employees of several corporate firms and industrial bodies have been working from home for nearly six months now since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country.

"Initially, work from home system brought cheers among employees. But, due to long working hours and improper sitting postures, many have started complaining of neck pain, backache and other issues," Dr Apurv Shimpi, head of the community physiotherapy department in Pune's Sancheti Hospital said.

He said the National Institute of Personnel Management's Pune Chapter, a body of HR professionals here in Maharashtra, approached the hospital to conduct physiotherapy sessions for

employees of Pune-based Kalyani Maxion Wheels Pvt Ltd, said though their firm is

into manufacturing, several employees are currently working from home and have been complaining of backache and neck pain.

"We asked our employees to take part in the physiotherapy session organised by NIPM and it turned out to be beneficial for them," he said.

Anita Perla, senior manager (human resource) at KSH Distriparks here, said she attended a webinar on physiotherapy arranged by the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture.

"Working from home is very different from working in an office. Infrastructure in the office is set up to support working conditions, but its not possible in a work from home set up. Hence, such sessions are important," she said.

Dr Sourabh Sane, a physiotherapist with city-based fitness startup HealYos, said they are teaching people how to set up a proper work station at home. "We guide them on what should be the ideal height of the laptop and their work screen. The table-chair arrangement should be such that the computer screen should be at the eye-level," he said.

Narendra Patil, HR head of Pune-based Kalyani Maxion Wheels Pvt Ltd, said though their firm is

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## IFFI postponed to Jan, to be held in hybrid format

New Delhi, Sept. 24: The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20-28, has been postponed to January 16-24 next year and will be held in a hybrid format that will be both virtual and physical.

Information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar said in a statement on Thursday that the decision to postpone IFFI was arrived at after he discussed the matter with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The I&B ministry officials said the decision was taken keeping in mind the Covid-19 situation.

"It has also been jointly decided to hold the festival from 16th to 24th January, 2021 at Goa as per the International Film Festival guidelines and protocols," Javadekar said.

"The festival will be conducted in a hybrid format i.e. virtual & physical format," he added in the statement.

All Covid-related protocols will be strictly enforced in accordance

with festivals convened recently in the international film festival circuit, the minister said.

IFFI's golden jubilee edition last year had seen a dazzling start with megastars Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth coming together for an inaugural ceremony that was steeped in nostalgia, music and entertainment.

Celebrated French actor Isabelle Huppert was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Renowned singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan had also enthralled the audience at the IFFI opening last year with a fusion performance.

About 250 films from various countries were screened at the premier movie extravaganza last year.

— PTI

## Kerala situation grave, warns CM

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 24

Kerala on Thursday reported yet another biggest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases as 6,324 new cases were registered even as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan warned that the state was gradually heading towards a grave situation.

The total number of cases in the state so far has gone up to 1,54,456 of which 1,07,850 have recovered including 3,168 on Thursday and 45,919 patients are under treatment in various hospitals across the state. The state reported 21 deaths taking the toll to 613.

Kozhikode surpassed Thiruvananthapuram as the district with highest number of cases. Kozhikode reported 883, Thiruvananthapuram 875, Malappuram 763, Ernakulam 590.

At present 2.12 lakh people were under observation in the state including 1.85 lakh under home/institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, a case was registered against Congress student wing state president. At his routine press conference here, the Chief Minister lashed out at the irresponsible behaviour of Opposition leaders in organising violent protests in total violation of Covid-19 safety norms.

The police has started a detailed probe into the matter.

KSU denied the allegation saying that it was a clerical error.

The Chief Minister said that 101 policemen who were deployed at the venues of Opposition protest were tested positive for Covid -19.

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## Recoveries outnumber fresh Covid-19 cases

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

More recoveries than fresh cases of Coronavirus continue to be recorded in the country even as the total number of cases crossed 57.32-lakh mark.

In the last 24 hours, while there were 86,508 new cases of Covid-19,

another set of 87,374 persons recovered at the same time. With this, the total number of recoveries in the country is now 46.75 lakh and the Recovery Rate is 81.55%. This is the sixth consecutive day when higher recoveries than fresh cases was registered.

"As India records more recoveries than the new

cases, the gap between recovered cases and the active cases is continuously widening. The recoveries

exceeded the active cases (9.66 lakh) by more than 37 lakh. This has also ensured that the active caseload accounts for merely 16.86% of the total positive cases. This has sustained on its steady declining path," Union health ministry officials said.

Nearly 74 per cent of the new recovered cases were found in 10 states and UTs. Maharashtra has maintained this lead with 19,476 cases (22.3%) for the sixth consecutive day.

Chambal region, said the state was looted during the 15-month-rule of Kamal Nath government.

"The 15-month-rule of Nath was marred by large scale corruptions. Nath destroyed Madhya Pradesh. He is a gaddar", Scindia told reporters at Rajpur in Ashok Nagar district in Madhya Pradesh where he addressed an election meeting of the party.

Scindia said no developmental works were undertaken during the rule of Kamal Nath government.

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## IN BRIEF

**Belarus: 360 more detained**

**Kyiv:** Over 360 more people have been detained in Belarus during protests against the country's authoritarian president, who was unexpectedly sworn in to his sixth term in office after an election the opposition says was rigged. Thousands of Belarusians took to the streets of the capital of Minsk and other cities on Wednesday evening, protesting the unannounced inauguration of President Alexander Lukashenko that took place in the morning. Police fiercely dispersed the crowds; in Minsk, officers used truncheons and water cannons, leaving dozens injured.

**HK activist Wong arrested**

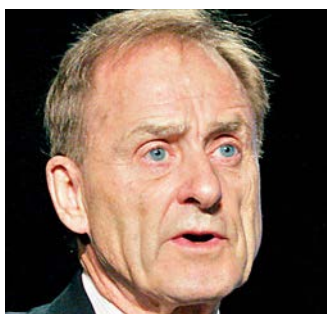
**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said he was arrested again Thursday for allegedly participating in an unauthorised assembly last October. Wong tweeted that he was arrested when he reported to the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's Central Police Station as part of a bail requirement. He said he was also accused of violating a pre-Coronavirus law banning the wearing of masks in public places on the pretext they obscure identity. Wong told reporters after leaving the police station that it is the third case against him. He vowed to continue to resist.

**Nobel prize cash raised to \$1.1m**

**Stockholm:** The cash envelope that accompanies each Nobel prize will be increased this year from nine to 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million), the Nobel Foundation said Thursday. "The work done in recent years to strengthen the Nobel Foundation's financial standing has made it possible to increase the prize sum," the foundation said in a statement. This year's prizes will be announced during the week of Oct. 5. The sum was reduced from 10 to eight million Swedish kronor in 2011, when the foundation launched a programme to improve its finances. Since the beginning of 2012, its investment capital has risen from just under three billion kronor to 4.6 billion.

**Oz beaching: 88 whales rescued**

**Canberra:** Authorities have rescued 88 pilot whales and are attempting to free 20 others that survived Australia's worst mass stranding, as crews prepare to remove 380 decomposing carcasses from the shallows of Tasmania state, officials said Thursday. Crews found the 20 whales that are still alive on the fourth day of the rescue operation, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Manager Nic Deka said. "Whenever we've got live animals that have a chance and we have the resources, then we'll certainly give in a go," Deka said. Almost 500 whales were discovered on Monday and Wednesday.

**JOURNALIST HAROLD EVANS DIES AT 92**

**New York, Sept. 24:** Harold Evans, the charismatic publisher, author and muckraker who was a bold-faced name for decades for exposing wrongdoing in 1960s London to publishing such 1990s best-sellers as "Primary Colors", has died, his wife said Thursday. He was 92.

His wife, fellow author-publisher Tina Brown, said he died Wednesday in New York of congestive heart failure. A vision of British erudition and sass, Evans was a high-profile go-getter, starting in the 1960s as an editor of the *Northern Echo* and the *Sunday Times* of London and continuing into the 1990s as president of Random House. Married since 1981 to Brown, their union was a paradigm of media clout and A-list access. A defender of literature and print journalism well into the digital age, Evans was one of the all-time newspaper editors, startling British society with revelations of espionage, corporate wrongdoing and government scandal.

# 2 Louisville officers shot & wounded

## Taylor shooting: Protests as cops not charged, 127 held

**Louisville, Sept. 24:** Police say two Louisville, Kentucky, police officers have been shot and wounded during protests over a lack of charges in Breonna Taylor's death. Police say they've made 127 arrests in Louisville, Kentucky. A police statement on early Thursday says some were arrested after damaging businesses and more were detained after jumping on city vehicles being used as barricades. Later, protesters who refused orders to disperse were arrested for curfew and unlawful assembly violations. Some businesses were looted early Thursday, including two City Gear stores and a pawn shop.

Interim Louisville Police Chief Robert Schroeder said Wednesday night that one person was in custody. He says one officer was alert and stable and the other is undergoing surgery but is also stable. He says the officers had gone to investigate reports of gunfire when they were shot. He says they're both expected to recover. The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor, a PoC woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend. The only charges were three counts of wanton endangerment against fired Officer Brett Hankison for shooting into a home next to Taylor's

● **LOUISVILLE'S POLICE** chief says a man has been charged in the shooting of two officers. Mayor Greg Fischer says one officer was treated and released with a leg wound. Another shot in the abdomen is doing well after surgery.

with people inside. Hours after a Kentucky grand jury brought no charges against Louisville police for the killing of Breonna Taylor and protesters took to the streets, authorities said an officer had been shot Wednesday night during the demonstrations expressing anger over the deaths of PoC people at the hands of police.

Several shots rang out as protesters in downtown Louisville tried to avoid police blockades, moving down an alleyway as officers lobbed pepper balls. People covered their ears, ran away and frantically looked for places to hide. Police with long guns swarmed the area, then officers in riot gear and military-style vehicles blocked off roadways. The condition of the officer is unclear, and police have not yet released more details. The FBI is still investigating potential violations of federal law in connection with the raid at Taylor's home on March 13.

— AP

# Bullying: Unicef's UK chief resigns

**London, Sept. 24:** Sacha Deshmukh, the Indian-origin chief of the UK arm of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), has resigned, months after taking charge of the post after raising bullying concerns against the UN charity's chair.

Deshmukh, who took over as the Executive Director of Unicef UK in April, is believed to have raised some concerns around bullying behaviour by a senior. "The board of trustees of Unicef UK announces with regret that it has accepted the

resignation of Executive Director Sacha Deshmukh. He will remain in post until the new interim leadership is announced. The search for a new Executive Director will start immediately," a Unicef UK statement said on Wednesday.

"In the meantime, the board has every confidence in the strengths of the existing executive team and the dedicated staff as a whole to take forward the charity with its work focused on improving the lives of the world's children," it said.

— PTI



Street vendors sit to protest against a crackdown on illegal street vendors, in front of the Mapo ward office in Seoul Thursday. They replaced protesters with teddy bears to avoid the violation of an ongoing ban on rallies with more than 10 people amid the Coronavirus pandemic. — AP

# Israel tightens 2nd lockdown over cases

**Jerusalem, Sept. 24:** Israel on Thursday moved to further tighten its second countrywide lockdown as Coronavirus cases continued to soar, ordering all nonessential businesses to close and requiring people to stay within 1,000 metres (yards) of their homes. Prayers during the ongoing Jewish High Holidays, as well as political demonstrations, would be limited to open spaces and no more than 20 people, and participants would have to remain within the restricted distance from home. The measures are set to go into force on Friday afternoon, as the country shuts down for the weekly Sabbath ahead of the solemn holiday of Yom Kippur on Sunday and Monday.

Even during normal tim-

es, Israel completely shuts down for Yom Kippur, with businesses and airports closed, roads empty, and even radio and television stations going silent.

The restrictions on demonstrations are subject to approval by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and the limits on both prayers and protests could spark a backlash.

An anti-lockdown demonstration was planned for later in the day in front of the Knesset.

Israel's politically influential ultra-Orthodox community has objected to limits on public prayer during the ongoing Jewish High Holidays, and opponents of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have accused the government of using the lockdown as a

cover to end weekly demonstrations against his handling of the crisis. — AP

**Poland reports daily rise after easing curbs**

**Warsaw, Sept. 24:** Poland was hit by a record daily rise in Coronavirus cases on Thursday attributable to increased direct contact between people after a lifting of restrictions, the health ministry said.

It reported 1,136 new Covid-19 infections, the biggest daily number since the start of the pandemic in March. The nation of 38 million people has registered 82,809 infections, including 2,369 deaths. Health ministry data showed the biggest rise in new cases in the south-east, though other regions also saw notable hikes. — Agencies

# SUNAK UNVEILS TOP-UP SCHEME TO SAVE CORONAVIRUS-HIT JOBS IN UK

**London, Sept. 24:** UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday unveiled a new Covid-19 emergency Jobs Support Scheme, which will see the government top-up wages of workers covering up to two-thirds of their hours for the next six months.

In a statement to the House of Commons on his "Winter Economy Plan", the Indian-origin finance minister reiterated his past message that he may not be able to protect every job and business suffering through the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown, but his new set of measures are intended to

provide "absolutely maximum support possible". — PTI

**UK volunteers may be injected with Coronavirus for vaccine trials**

**London, Sept. 24:** Scientists in the UK are moving towards what are being referred to as "challenge trials", which will involve healthy volunteers being deliberately infected with the Coronavirus to test whether a vaccine offers any protection in the first trial of its kind expected to be formally announced next week, according to a media report.

— PTI

# Peaceful power transfer: Don refuses to commit

**Washington, Sept. 24:** US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting.

Many American states

are encouraging mail-in

voting, citing the need to

keep Americans safe from

the Coronavirus pandem-

ic that has killed over two lakh people in the country. "Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy. "I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster..." Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the pres-

idential polls in November irrespective of the outcome. "We want to get rid of the ballots and we will have a very peaceful — there will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows it better than anybody else?" The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the president said as he refused to entertain any other question from the same journalist. — PTI

# Pak files money laundering case against Shahbaz

**Islamabad, Sept. 24:** The Pakistan government has filed a Rs 7 billion (\$41.9 million) money laundering case against the Leader of the Opposition Shahbaz Sharif and his family.

Shahbaz, 69, is the younger brother of former premier Nawaz Sharif. He served as chief minister of Punjab from 2008 to 2018. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Interior and Accountability Shahzad Akbar on Wednesday said that Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) PML-N President Shahbaz and his sons Hamza and Salman were involved in money laundering through fake accounts, but he (Shahbaz) always pretended to have nothing to do with their businesses, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

"The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has filed a case, accusing Shahbaz Sharif and his children of money laundering to the tune of over Rs 7 billion in a Lahore NAB court," he said. Akbar said the financial monitoring unit had detected 177 suspicious transactions of Shahbaz' family after which NAB started a probe.

— PTI

# GILGIT-BALTISTAN ASSEMBLY POLL ON NOV. 15

**Islamabad, Sept. 24:** Pakistan has announced that the once-postponed election for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on Nov. 15, amidst India's objection to Islamabad's moves in the strategically-located region. President Dr Arif Alvi issued an official notification on Wednesday to fix the date of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. "The president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce Sunday, the 15th Nov. 2020, as the poll day for the general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly in terms of Section 57(1) of the Elections Act 2017," the statement said.

India has told Pakistan that the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession.

— PTI

# N. Korea kills S. Korean official, burns body

**Seoul, Sept. 24:** South Korea said Thursday that North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the countries' disputed sea boundary. South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to apologise and punish those responsible.

North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties between the rivals — already strained amid a deadlock in

broader nuclear diplomacy — will probably suffer a further setback, observers say. According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorised fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters.

North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there on Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defen-

ce Ministry said. Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the ministry said.

Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and

other assets. It's unclear how he ended up in North Korea. But a defence official said the man might have tried to defect to the North, citing acquired information. He refused to elaborate. The official, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the South Korean official was wearing a life jacket and was on a small floating object when he was found in North Korean waters.

He said North Korea may have decided to kill him in line with its stringent anti-Coronavirus rules that involve shooting anyone illegally crossing the

border. Gen. Robert Abrams, the commander of US troops in South Korea, said last month that North Korea had put special forces along its border with China to keep smugglers out and that they had "shoot-to-kill orders in place".

North Korea has steadfastly said there hasn't been a single virus case in its territory, a claim widely disputed by foreign experts. Observers say a pandemic could cause devastating consequences in North Korea because of its broken public health care system and a chronic shortage of medical supplies. — AP

## CANINE | CARE

# Traveller directed to airport's health centre for a free virus test if animal signals +ve result

# The nose needed for this Covid test isn't yours, it's a dog's

**Helsinki, Sept. 24:** Travellers arriving at Helsinki's airport are being offered a voluntary Coronavirus test that takes 10 seconds with no uncomfortable nasal swab needed. And the test is done by a dog.

A couple of Coronavirus-sniffing canines began work at the Finnish airport on Wednesday as part of a pilot programme that aims to detect infections using the sweat collected on wipes from arriving passengers.

Over the past months, international airports have brought in various methods to detect the virus in trav-

ellers, including saliva screenings, temperature checks and nasal swabs. But researchers in Finland say that using dogs could prove cheaper, faster and more effective.

After passengers arriving from abroad have collected their luggage, they are invited to wipe their necks to collect sweat samples and leave the wipes in a box. Behind a wall, a dog trainer puts the box beside cans containing different scents, and a dog gets to work.

The dogs can detect a Coronavirus-infected patient in 10 seconds, and the entire

process takes a minute to complete, researchers say. If the dog signals a positive result, the passenger is directed to the airport's health centre for a free virus test.

**Why dogs?**

Dogs have a particularly sharp sense of smell and have long been used in airports to sniff out bombs, drugs and other contraband in luggage. They have also been able to detect illnesses such as cancer and malaria.

So in the middle of a pandemic, training dogs to detect Covid-19 became an obvious choice, said Anna

Hjelm-Bjorkman, a researcher at the University of Helsinki who is monitoring the trial.

And they seem to be doing the job, she said. In the first stage of the trial, the dogs could sniff out the virus in a person who is asymptomatic, or before the symptoms appear. They detected it at an earlier stage than a PCR test, the most widely used diagnostic tool for Covid-19.

In July, researchers at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover in Germany also found that with a week of training, dogs were able to distinguish saliva sa-

mples of people infected with Coronavirus from non-infected samples with a 94 percent success rate.

Dogs seem to not be easily infected with the Coronavirus, although they appear to have been in a few instances. Other animals like cats appear to be much more susceptible.

**How do they do it?**

The sniffer dogs, who are trained to recognize the virus's scent, detect it by smelling urine or sweat samples, according to the University of Helsinki's veterinary faculty. — Agencies



One of the dogs trained to detect the Coronavirus with its trainer at the Helsinki airport. — AFP



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	36,553.60	-2.96
Nifty 50	10,805.50	-2.93
S&P 500*	3,243.98	0.22
Dollar (₹)	73.89	0.43
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.05	0.85
Euro (₹)	86.18	0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,619.111	0.22
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.61	-0.16
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.992	0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.668	-0.008

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

Safety norms for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles notified

The government on Thursday said it has notified standards for safety evaluation of hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles. The ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification in this regard. This would facilitate the promotion of hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles in the country, which are energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, the ministry said in its statement.

ShareChat raises \$40 million from PE investors



Indian content-sharing platform ShareChat has raised \$40 million from investors including Twitter Inc and Lightspeed Ventures as it seeks to boost usage of its new short-video app, the company said on Thursday. The fund raising comes as Indian apps like ShareChat seek to tap more users after India several Chinese apps including TikTok following a border clash between the two countries.

Coal India floats tender for rail corridor project

Coal India Ltd on Thursday said two large value tenders have been floated to construct 135 km east-west rail corridor at an estimated cost of ₹4,970 crore in Chhattisgarh through an SPV. The railway line on completion will have capacity to evacuate 65 million tonnes of coal from the opencast mines of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. The development comes against the backdrop of CIL eyeing one billion tonnes of output by 2023-24.

Sebi issues rules for investment advisers

Sebi has come out with detailed guidelines for investment advisers asking them to ensure segregation of advisory and distribution activities at the client level. Sebi has fixed a cap on fee that investment advisers can charge from clients. An individual IA will apply for registration as non-individual investment adviser on onboard-ding 150 clients and IA will have to enter into an agreement with its clients.

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Sensex sheds 1,114 pts as virus fears renew

Investors lose ₹11.31 lakh cr in six days; gold at 2-month low

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

The Sensex and the Nifty plunged over three per cent on Thursday as a global sell-off over fears of a second wave of Covid-19 infections in major economies and monthly equity derivatives expiry triggered a broad-based selling in the Indian equity market. The Sensex closed 1,114 points down at 36,553, while Nifty-50 closed below 11,000 at 10,805 down 326 points. Since September 16, the 30-share BSE benchmark index has fallen by 2,749.25 points.

Investors lost approximately ₹3.75 lakh crore as BSE's market capitalisation fell below ₹150 lakh crore. In the last six days, investors have lost a whopping ₹11.31 lakh crore. Tracking weak global cues, market benchmark Sensex opened 400 points lower and saw a gradual fall to the day's low of 36,495.98 before the close. In the Sensex pack, 29 out of 30 blue-chip stocks closed in the red with only Hindustan Lever closing in the green.

Continued selling by the foreign portfolio investors and the lack of support from domestic institutional investors led to a free fall in the second half of the trading session with European market also opening in the red. Foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth ₹1,885.69 crore.

Gold also fell to a two-month low in the global market as the dollar extended gains and hopes for further US fiscal stim-

ulus faded. Silver plunged after entering a bear market. The US dollar rose for a fifth straight day. Among the sectoral indices, BSE IT index fell the most at 4.45 per cent after its recent surge on favourable second-quarter performance update by some IT companies. Other sectoral losers included BSE Bankex (-3.41 per cent), BSE Auto (-3.56 per cent) and BSE Metal (3.51 per cent).

Ajit Mishra, vice-president, research, Religare Broking, said, "The looming uncertainty over the stimulus package in the US combined with the issue of rising Covid-19 cases globally has raised concerns over the economic recovery. And, it may deteriorate further if the virus situation results in partial lockdown. Amid all, the Nifty is down by nearly six per cent this week so far and tested the crucial level of 10,800 too. However, there's no sign of respite from the banking index."

The broader market fall was as big as the large-cap stocks with BSE Mid-cap index down by 2.14 per cent and BSE Small-cap index down by 2.28 per cent.

Clueless Harley Davidson exits Indian market

Mumbai, Sept. 24: Harley Davidson Inc. is pulling out of India, another major setback to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to lure or retain foreign manufacturers in the midst of the nation's worst economic downturn in decades.

The motorcycle manufacturer will discontinue sales and manufacturing operations in India as part of broader additional cutbacks announced to employees on Thursday, according to a regulatory filing. Harley said it will dismiss another roughly 70 employees as part of its exit from the country and that its latest moves will boost restructuring expenses this year to about \$169 million.

Harley's decision comes weeks after Toyota Motor Corp. said it won't expand further in India due to the country's high tax regime. General Motors Co. pulled out of the country in 2017 while Ford Motor Co. agreed last year to move most of its assets into a joint venture with M&M

specifically mentioning the levies placed on Harley bikes. The Modi government has been trying to reverse the trend with a plan to offer \$23 billion of incentives to attract firms to set up manufacturing, people familiar with the matter said this month, including production-linked breaks for automakers. The programme is being spearheaded by the country's policy planning body and is similar to a scheme implemented earlier this year aimed at drawing businesses away from China.

Harley recorded its first quarterly loss in more than a decade for the three months ended in June and has been cutting hundreds of jobs under Jochen Zeitz, who took over as chief executive officer in May.

MARKET | DOMINANCE

San Francisco, Sept. 24: A group of Apple Inc's critics — including Spotify Technology SA, Match Group Inc and "Fortnite" creator Epic Games — have joined a nonprofit group that plans to advocate for legal and regulatory action to challenge the iPhone maker's App Store practices. Apple charges a commission of between 15 per cent and 30 per cent for apps that use its in-app payment system and sets out extensive rules that apps must comply with to

As world grapples with virus, Beijing readies for expo



Workers clean a Maserati Ghibli ahead of the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing on Thursday. Beijing is scheduled to host the auto show from September 26 to October 5 even as most of the world is still grappling with rise in Coronavirus cases.

Jobless rate rises as Centre turns stingy, private cos stop expansion

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 24

Labour participation rate and employment rate have taken a U-turn from the recovery that they had made since the lockdown. The government's focus on fiscal prudence and the private sector's disincentives have discouraged the labour market.

The average Labour Participation Rate (LPR) in the first three weeks of September was 40.7 per cent and 30-day moving average as of September 20 was 40.3 per cent. The LPR seems to have peaked

at 40.96 in the week ended August 16. Since then, the average LPR has dropped to 40.45 per cent for the period mid-August through mid-September, finds CMIE. A lower LPR indicates that people are so discouraged by the conditions that they prefer to sit out and not participate in the jobs market.

Besides the decline in the labour participation rate, there has been a fall in the employment rate. The employment rate had hovered between 39 and 40 per cent during 2019-20. The rate fell to 27.2 per cent in June but recovered

to 37.6 per cent in July. Then, in August it fell to 37.5 per cent. The trend in September is somewhat mixed.

The rate falls for a week or two before recovering a bit and then it falls again. But, each recovery has been lower than the earlier and the falls are steeper. "This negative trend in the employment rate since June 21 is a source of anxiety. At 37.5 per cent, the employment rate was nearly two percentage points lower than the average of 2019-20. And, the negative trend implies that it could fall further.

The two percentage point fall so far this year with a potential to fall further indicates that the recovery from the impact of the lockdown is incomplete," said Mahesh Vyas, managing director of CMIE.

"The government seems predisposed to fiscal prudence even during the extraordinary times of today. Given its reluctance to spend aggressively or indicate its intentions to spend, the private sector lacks business argument in favour of expanding or investing into capacity creation or creation of new jobs," he said.

No IBC proceedings for three more months

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

In an attempt to give more relief to stressed corporates due to Covid19 pandemic, the government on Thursday restrained insolvency proceedings against defaulting borrowers for three more months.

The relief would be available only those borrowers who have defaulted on their loan repayments on or after March 25, 2020.

In order to protect the companies who have been experiencing financial distress on account of the pandemic, the govern-

ment had earlier suspended invocation of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for a period of six months with effect from March 25, 2020.

Now the Narendra Modi government has decided to further extend the suspension for another three months until the last week

of December under the newly inserted Section 10A of the IBC.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016) [as inserted by Section 2 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Act, 2020 (17 of 2020)], the Central government hereby notifies further period of three months from the 25th September 2020 for the purposes of the said section," the government notification said.

On September 19 the Rajya Sabha passed the

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, which ensures that fresh insolvency proceedings will not be initiated against a company starting March 25. Earlier the period was for six months and now the amendment allows the government to extend this suspension for a maximum period of one year.

Any defaults, occurring on or after March 25, 2020, until the suspension remains in force, have been permanently excluded for the purpose of initiating insolvency proceedings.

Containerised exports may recover faster than imports

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 24

After a 30 per cent decline in the June quarter, containerised exports may see a V-shaped recovery, while imports may lag behind with an L-shaped recovery. Plastics and rubber, vegetables, pharmaceuticals and garments are supporting recovery in exports.

During the June quarter, containerised trade contracted by almost 30 per cent against the same quarter last year. Exports were down by over 24 per cent while imports suffered a greater shock with

a fall of almost 34 per cent as a sudden demand-shock has created an unprecedented distress in the global trade. However, as the economies are opening in a staggered manner, containerised trade has started showing signs of recovery, according to Maersk.

Commodities such as plastics and rubber have been in great demand and their exports, especially to China, have seen a tremendous growth, during the June quarter. Plastics are supported by the growth of end-user industries such as packaging, textile fibre and elec-

tronics. Tyre industry has not seen as much contraction and gives a boost to rubber exports.

Vegetable exports have also seen a rise, especially to markets in the Middle East. Vegetable exports to the UAE have more than doubled from 2019 levels.

Pharmaceutical exports are expected to grow around 10 to 12 per cent in the next couple of years.

However, containerised imports into India witnessed a steep decline across all commodities, except for chemicals, which form a very small portion of overall imports.

MAZAGON DOCK, UTI AMC IPOs TO OPEN ON SEPT. 20

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

UTI Asset Management Company and state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders announced initial public offerings opening on September 29.

UTI AMC IPO, priced in the band of ₹552 and ₹554 per share, aims to raise ₹2,160 crore at the upper price band.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has set the IPO price band at ₹134-145 per share and offers to divest equity holding in the company, constituting 15.17 per cent of company's pre-offer paid up equity.

App-makers want Apple to stop charging unreasonable fees for App Store

Apple critics join to fight App Store fees

CONCERTED FIGHT

● APPLE charges up to 30 per cent commission from app developers to host their mobile apps in iPhone's App Store.

● DEVELOPERS claim Apple is collecting exorbitant fee and joined hands to campaign against Apple's policies



include smaller firms such as Basecamp, Blix, Blockchain.com, Deezer, and Tile, along with devel-

opers from Europe including the European Publishers Council, News Media Europe and

Protonmail.

Sarah Maxwell, a representative for the group who previously worked at financial technology firm Blockchain.com and Hillary Clinton's campaign, said the group was founded out of "a lack of hope that things will ever change" and aims to recruit more developers.

"While it's great that we have the big names like Epic and Spotify in the group, we're not speaking just for them," she said.

Epic is suing Apple over antitrust claims in a US

federal court in California, while Spotify has filed an antitrust claim against Apple in the European Union. Maxwell declined to comment on how much funding the Coalition for App Fairness has raised and from whom.

The group on Thursday also laid out 10 "App Store Principles" it plans to demand, including that "No developer should be required to pay unfair, unreasonable or discriminatory fees or revenue shares."

— Reuters



## SHORT TAKES

## Bach backs Games without vaccine

**Tokyo:** Olympic boss Thomas Bach said on Thursday that the Tokyo Games could take place next year even without a Coronavirus vaccine, pointing to the success of the Tour de France.

Striking an optimistic note at a meeting with Tokyo 2020 organisers, he vowed to make the postponed event a triumph despite the uncertainties of the pandemic.

"We can see that sport is coming back slowly but surely, and that a number of big sport events have been successfully organised recently, including matches in different Japanese leagues," he said via videolink. "Also very complex events like the Tour de France and others, which showed to us and showed to the world that we can organise safe sport events even without a vaccine. But a vaccine and progress in rapid testing "would of course greatly facilitate" holding the event," added IOC head, Bach. — *AFP*

## Kazu sets record in Japan at 53

**Tokyo:** Japan's 53-year-old footballing golden oldie Kazuyoshi Miura, better known as King Kazu, won plaudits on Thursday for his latest record-setting appearance, but said he was disappointed he didn't score. Miura made history on Wednesday night in Yokohama FC's game against Kawasaki Frontale, when he became the oldest J-League first division starter in history.

"King Kazu once again wrote a new chapter in the history of Japanese football," the Nikkan Sports daily triumphantly declared. *Sports Nippon* said spectators were hard pressed to believe the "valiant performance" was by a 53-year-old.

Miura, who has been with Yokohama FC since 2005, was subbed after 56 minutes in a match which saw his side lose 3-2. — *AFP*

## Ibrahimovic tests positive for Covid

**Milan:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic tested positive for the Coronavirus on Thursday, and he reacted to the news as only he can.

The AC Milan striker said he was positive a day after testing negative for Covid-19.

"I tested negative to Covid yesterday and positive today. No symptoms what so ever. Covid had the courage to challenge me. Bad idea," Ibrahimovic wrote on Twitter.

Ibrahimovic will miss Milan's Europa League match against Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt on Thursday and the Italian League match at Crotone on Sunday. All Milan players underwent a second round of testing on Wednesday after defender Leo Duarte was found to be positive for Covid-19 following tests the previous day. — *AP*

## Tennis camp on Gandhi Jayanti

**Hyderabad:** The Hyderabad-based Academia Sports Village is conducting a tennis camp at their courts in Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club at Aziz Nagar on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, as a tribute to the Father of the Nation.

Overseen by ASV's regular coaches, the camp is open for players from five years to seniors. The camp will be held in two separate sessions — from 7 to 10 am and 1 to 3 pm.

All Covid-19 protocol guidelines will be strictly complied with and the playing surfaces duly sanitised before the commencement of the morning session. Participants will be given ASV T-shirts, masks and certificates at the concluding ceremony. For registrations, visit [www.sportsvillage.club](http://www.sportsvillage.club). Details can also be had on phone number 9963145592.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Chennai Super Kings vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

**ATP Hamburg European Open:** Quarterfinals from 3 pm on Sony Six, HD

## WWE SMACKDOWN

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

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## RAHUL RAPS RCB

## Punjab captain leads side from front with century

**Dubai, Sept. 24:** K. L. Rahul smashed his second IPL hundred to lead Kings XI Punjab to a comprehensive 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

Rahul, who was dropped by RCB skipper Virat Kohli twice, slammed an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls, highest score by an Indian in IPL history, to fire KXIP to 206/3.

In response, RCB were never in the chase and were bundled out for 109 in 17 overs.

Rahul, who was dropped in the 17th and then again in the 18th over by Kohli, played the role of sheet anchor. His innings was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock, he surpassed Rishabh Pant to post the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history.

Playing his 60th innings, Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach the 2000 IPL runs.

The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly.

Nicholas Pooran (17) and Glenn Maxwell (5) once again failed to make an impact as Shivam Dube (2/33) accounted for the duo. Karun Nair pitched in with an eight-



K. L. Rahul of Kings XI Punjab celebrates his century against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their IPL match in Dubai on Thursday.

— *BCCI*

● **Rahul, who was dropped by Virat Kohli twice, slammed an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls, highest score by an Indian in IPL history. His innings was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.**

ball 15.

The pace troika of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain.

All players wore black armbands to honour Australian cricketer turned commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday. — *PTI*

## WASN'T EASY TO PLAY LONG INNINGS: ROHIT

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24:** Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma admitted that sapping condition in the UAE makes it difficult to bat for long duration and that's the reason he felt a bit tired by the end of his match-winning knock against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Skipper Rohit starred with a 54-ball 80 to help defending champions Mumbai Indians to a 49-run win over KKR in their second IPL game.

"It is not easy to play long innings here. It takes a lot out of you to play in these conditions. Maybe I was a bit tired in the end and it was a lesson for us that one set batsmen needs to bat deep till the end," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We've seen it in the past and that's what I tried to do," he added.

While the heat and humidity made it difficult but it was imperative to bat as long as possible after a six-month break, Rohit said. — *PTI*

## Dads' army gears up for comeback against Delhi

**Dubai, Sept. 24:** Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL encounter on Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belter at Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

Dhoni had come in to bat at number seven, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the play backfired badly.

While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom

## NUMBERS GAME

**HEAD TO HEAD**  
Matches: 21  
Chennai Super Kings won: 15  
Delhi Capitals won: 6

## LAST YEAR

- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 6 wickets at Delhi
- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 80 runs at Chennai
- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 6 wickets at Visakhapatnam (Qualifier 2)

## FOR THE RECORD

- Shikhar Dawan, who scored a duck in the previous match, was the highest run-getter for Delhi Capitals last season. He scored 521 runs at an average

of 34.73 and a strike rate of 135.67 in 16 innings off as many matches. It was third time when he scored over 500 runs in an IPL season after 569 runs in 2012 and 501 runs in 2016.

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni will equal Suresh Raina's record of most matches in IPL by appearing in this match. Suresh Raina played 193 matches for Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Lions while Mahendra Singh Dhoni played 192 matches for Chennai Super Kings and Rising Pune Supergiant since 2008.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

For Delhi Capitals, winning a cliffhanger right at the onset would have given them a lot of confidence even though Ravichandran Ashwin's probable absence after a shoulder injury could force them to reshuffle

their bowling line-up.

Senior spinner Amit Mishra could be an option to partner Axar Patel in case Ashwin is unable to make it.

Talking of big hitters, Delhi has one too many in their line-up including the like of Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and last match's hero Marcus Stoinis. — *PTI*

## SCORECARD

**Kings XI Punjab Innings:**  
Lokesh Rahul not out 132, Mayank Agarwal b Chahal 26, Nicholas Pooran c de Villiers b Dube 17, Glenn Maxwell c Finch b Dube 5, Karun Nair not out 15. Extras: (B-2, LB-4, W-4, NB-1) 11. Total (for 3 wkts in 20 overs) 206.

**FoW:** 1-57, 2-114, 3-128. **Bowling:** Umesh Yadav 3-0-35-0, Dale Steyn 4-0-57-0, Navdeep Saini 4-0-37-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-25-1, Washington Sundar 2-0-13-0, Shivam Dube 3-0-33-2.

**Royal Challengers Bangalore Innings:**  
Devdutt Padikkal c Ravi Bishnoi b Cottrell 1, Aaron Finch b Ravi Bishnoi 20, Josh Philippe lbw b Mohammed Shami 0, Virat Kohli c Ravi Bishnoi b Cottrell 1, AB de Villiers c Sarfaraz Khan b Murugan Ashwin 28, Washington Sundar c Agarwal b Ravi Bishnoi 30, Shivam Dube b Maxwell 12, Umesh Yadav b Ravi Bishnoi 0, N. Saini b M. Ashwin 6, Dale Steyn not out 1, Y. Chahal lbw b M. Ashwin 1. Extras (LB-2, W-7) 9. Total (all out in 17 overs) 109.

**FoW:** 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-53, 5-57, 6-83, 7-88, 8-101, 9-106. **Bowling:** S. Cottrell 3-0-17-2, M. Shami 3-0-14-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-32-3, M. Ashwin 3-0-21-3, J. Neesham 2-0-13-0, G. Maxwell 2-0-10-1.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Delhi Capitals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.000
Chennai Super Kings	2	1	1	0	2	-0.145
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-2.500
Kolkata Knight Riders	1	0	1	0	0	-2.450

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

## DON'T JUDGE PAT AFTER JUST ONE GAME: DK

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24:** Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik finds it extremely "unfair" that his premier pacer Pat Cummins is being criticised after just one bad performance, that too when he played straight after completing his quarantine.

All eyes were on Cummins, this edition's highest paid overseas recruit and he was taken apart by Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma as he went for 49 runs in 3 overs during KKR's 49-run IPL defeat on Wednesday.

"It is very unfair to judge Cummins right now. He is just off quarantine. (It is) just at 3.30/4.00 pm when he got permission to come and play the match itself. We are just happy to have him and I don't think this is a game where we need to judge him at all," Karthik said.

The KKR skipper termed Cummins as a champion bowler who will eventually come good. — *PTI*

## Dean Jones passes away

## Aussie suffered a heart attack in Mumbai hotel

**Mumbai, Sept. 24:** Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday.

Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the Star Sports' commentary team for the Indian Premier League. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Jones played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

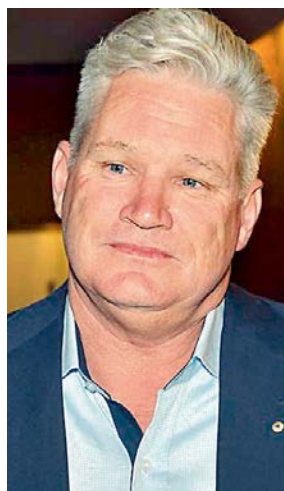
According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds. "Deano was standing in the hotel lobby and he suddenly collapsed. Brett Lee was standing by his side. Brett tried to revive him by applying CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) but he didn't respond. He was then taken to Harkisan Das Hospital in Girgaon where he was announced dead on arrival," said the source.

Jones' family is in Melbourne and the Australian High Commission is in touch with them.

A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over ODI 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundred and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will forever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test in Chepauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions.

There was an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting and so severely dehydrated he was that he had to be



Dean Jones

admitted to a hospital during the course of the Test match.

In ODI cricket and those numerous World Series Cup matches on Australia's Channel 9, Jones, clad in yellow jersey and the lips lined with zinc cream is still etched in memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

In ODI cricket, he would often charge down the track against fast bowlers and hit them over the infield. He played a match winning knock against India in the 1992 World Cup in Brisbane, a thriller that India lost by one run.

In his post retirement life he performed the role of a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in South Asia — India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular.

One of the Indian news channel named him "Professor Deano", a moniker that stuck with him and was also his twitter handle. — *PTI*

## CRICKET WORLD MOURNS DEANO

Absolutely heartbreaking news about Dean Jones passing away. A wonderful soul taken away too soon. Had the opportunity to play against him during my first tour of Australia. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to his loved ones.

— **SACHIN TENDULKAR**  
legend

He was simply just a good mate that always had my back. We'd stayed close post cricket and only talked this morning about a fun project that we were going to get involved in.

— **ALLAN BORDER**  
Former Australian captain

He was one of the most dynamic of cricketers. The way he used to go away from stumps and hit the ball over extra cover, all those were shots which were new in the 1980s, he was you would say pioneer of lot of those shots, pioneer of aggressive running between the wickets, and he was an outstanding fielder as well.

— **SUNIL GAVASKAR**  
Former Indian captain and commentator

Shocked to hear about the tragic loss of Dean Jones. Praying for strength and courage to his family and friends.

— **VIKAS KOHLI**  
Indian captain

I can't believe this news. So very sad to hear about this. Rip Deano, you will be missed.

— **DAVID WARNER**  
Australia's top batsman

Still in shock hearing the news of Deano's passing. Thoughts are with Jane and the family at this incredibly tough time. A great man with an amazing passion for the game.

— **AARON FINCH**  
Australia limited overs captain

## Havertz hat-trick in Chelsea win



Chelsea's German midfielder Kai Havertz (left) celebrates after scoring his team's fifth goal during the English League Cup third round football match against Barnsley at Stamford Bridge in London on Wednesday. Tammy Abraham, Ross Barkley and Olivier Giroud also scored a goal each for Chelsea in their 6-0 win. — *AFP*

## Tyler, hero in Miami's victory

**Orlando, Sept. 24:** Rising star Tyler Herro scored a career high 37 points and Jimmy Butler chipped in 24 as the Miami Heat seized command of their Eastern Conference final series with a 112-109 win on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old rookie Herro made five of 10 threes as Miami took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

"It is a good win for us. I feel good we are up 3-1 but we still have a lot of work to do," Herro said. "We put a lot of effort into preparing for game four and we got it done," he added.

Herro's point total is the second most in a playoff game for a player 20 or younger, behind only Magic Johnson who had 42.

**It is a good win for us. I feel good we are up 3-1 but we still have a lot of work to do. We put a lot of effort into preparing for game four and we got it done.**

— **TYLER HERRO**  
Miami Heat player after beating Boston Celtics

The win moved them to within one victory of an NBA finals berth which they will try to secure in game five on Friday.

"Not too many people get an opportunity to make it this far in the playoffs and be in a game like this, but for him it's another day in the office," said Butler of Herro.

"He's just going to keep playing basketball the right way," he added.

Goran Dragic had 22 points, and Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Miami, who rebounded from just their

second loss of the post-season in game three.

Jayson Tatum scored a team high 28 points, all coming in the second half, and Jaylen Brown had 21 for Boston, who were looking to win consecutive playoff games for the first time since the start of their second-round series against the Toronto Raptors.

Kemba Walker scored 20, Gordon Hayward 14 and Marcus Smart had 10 points and 11 assists.

The Celtics turned the ball over 19 times in the game.

Miami went on a 10-4 run at the end of the first half after Hayward hit a pair of free throws to tie the score 40-40 with 3:38 left in the second.

Herro nailed a three pointer with just over four minutes left in the fourth quarter to give Miami a 98-90 lead.

Brown made a three pointer and Smart dropped in a layup to get the Celtics within three, but Dragic and Butler each made baskets to pad Miami's lead.

Dragic responded from beyond the arc and Herro added a layup to put Miami up by nine with 56 seconds left in regulation.

Boston got within three again on a Brown three-pointer with 16 seconds to go, but free throws by Herro and Butler sealed the victory. — *AFP*