

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

## WEATHER

Max: 31.7°C
Min: 20.7°C
RH: 71%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Thundershowers likely.  
Max/Min temp. 32/21°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+84,942)	(+1,114)
61,37,952	96,276

[covid19india.org](https://covid19india.org)

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,378)	(+7)
TS: 1,87,211	1,107
(+5,487)	(+37)
AP: 6,81,161	5,745

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,34,66,557
DEATHS
10,04,613

[worldometers.info/coronavirus](https://worldometers.info/coronavirus)

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayan  
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha Trayodashi till 10.34 pm  
Star: Satabisham till 12.48 am  
Varjyan: 6.30 am to 8.14 am  
Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.19 am; 10.53 pm to 11.42 pm  
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR  
Safar ul Muzaffar 11, 1442 AH

PRAYERS  
Fajr: 5.06 am  
Zohar: 12.16 pm  
Asar: 4.26 pm  
Magrib: 6.13 pm  
Isha: 7.20 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.06 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM

MOONSET TODAY 3.53 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.51 PM

## COUNTER POINT



Please vote for me!

## IN BRIEF

J&K to ease  
domicile rules

New Delhi: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the Jammu and Kashmir administration has agreed in principle to amend rules for ease in the issuance of domicile certificates. This will particularly facilitate issuing domicile certificates to children producing a Permanent Resident Certificate of either of the parents, the minister said. "The UT Govt has agreed in principle to amend/modify rules for ease in issue of 'Domicile Certificate,'" the Union minister said in a tweet.

## CRICKET | THRILLER

Utility cricketer surprised all with his run riot

## A match too good to be true

R. MOHAN | DC

CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

The fairytale win for Rajasthan Royals on Sunday was almost too good to be true. The most creative scriptwriters would have struggled to string together a turnaround scenario like this in a T20 game in which history was made. The highest successful run chase in IPL was fashioned by a utility cricketer who could hardly get his bat to the first 20 balls he faced ball after being promoted as a kind of pinch hitter. Rahul Tewatia surprised Kings XI Punjab by suddenly connecting virtually every ball to spank five sixes in an over.



Rahul Tewatia  
The watchdog app surveilling unusual betting patterns in IPL 2020 may

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not have noticed suspicious gambling designs though the odds see-sawed dramatically towards the end. Otherwise, we would have known by now.

Page 12: Tewatia turns game on head



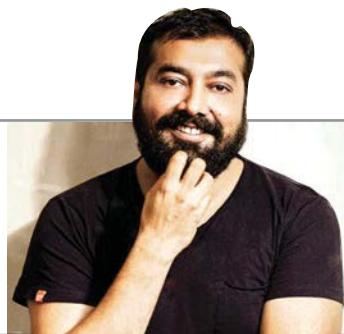
### WORLD | 8

Report claims Trump paid \$750 as income tax in 2 yrs



### SPORTS | 12

Wawrinka packs off Murray from Paris



### TABLOID

Women power for powerful men?

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Vol. 83 No. 271 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

## Unhealthy food puts more Indians at risk of diabetes

NIN study says Indians should cut down on cereals, eat more fruits, vegetables, nuts

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Indians are consuming more cereals compared to proteins, vegetables, fruits, milk and milk products, according to a report on dietary patterns and revised nutrient requirements released by health Union ministry on Monday.

Low consumption of fruits, milk and milk products is one of the factors for increased risk of diabetes and hypertension. Ten per cent of total calorie intake was from ready-to-eat foods like chips, biscuits, chocolates, sweets, juices and other highly processed foods.

A report prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has found that 97.1 per cent in the rural sector and 68.8 per cent in urban region are eating more than the recommended levels of cereals in their daily diet.

These are the recommended diets for people which will ensure proper energy levels and supplement vitamins, minerals and proteins for Indians.

NIN recommends state that dependency on carbohydrates has to be brought down and an increase in protein, vitamins, minerals and micro-nutrients in the body is imperative. The estimated energy requirements of Indians in different age-groups have been evaluated for the first time.

This is now the average index which will help to deal with obesity, malnutrition and aid in programmes of weight loss.

### UPSC TELLS SC PRELIMS CAN'T BE DEFERRED

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

China at Eastern Ladakh for ₹780 crore. It approved proposals for capital acquisitions of various equipment required by the armed forces at a cost of ₹2,290 crore.

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

Now, Indian defence forces will be able to lease assets without the need to own them to "substitute huge initial capital outlays". The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Monday approved the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 to make defence acquisitions simpler and faster and promote Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The DAC approved the purchase of the second batch of 72,000 SIG Sauer assault rifles from the US for frontline soldiers amidst tensions with

"The matter was considered and deferment was done. But it was realised that the deferment would completely hurt the process of the exam," UPSC lawyer Naresh Kaushik told a three-judge bench.

The petitioners have contended that the Civil Services (Prelims) is a recruitment exam, which is altogether different from an academic exam. In the event of its postponement, they said there was no question of loss of any academic session.

## Centre drops offset clause from deals

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

The defence ministry has done away with the offset clause in future defence deals involving government-to-government agreements and single vendors. The offset clause was seen to make the contracts costlier by about 10 per cent without resulting in significant transfer of technology to India.

Earlier, a controversy had risen when Dassault Aviation chose Reliance Defence as their offset partner which had no experience in the defence sector. In 2005, India adopted the offset policy for defence capital purchases. This meant that for all capital purchases above ₹300 crore made through imports, the foreign vendor was required to invest at least 30 per cent of the value of the purchase in India.

The DAC approved the purchase of the second batch of 72,000 SIG Sauer assault rifles from the US for frontline soldiers amidst tensions with

## Top MP cop beats up wife

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 28

In a shocking incident, Madhya Pradesh director general of police (prosecution) Purushottam Sharma was caught on camera brutally assaulting his wife when she confronted him for his alleged extra-marital affair.

His son, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, sent a video showing Sharma beating his

mother in their house to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan demanding action against him. Mr Chouhan took strong exception to the incident and relieved the police officer of his duty.

The state women commission has directed the government to take stringent action against the police officer for indulging in domestic violence.

Seasoned observers of the game were, however, left shaking their heads in disbelief at the fluctuating fortunes and the improbable becoming reality as 86 runs were taken in four overs for Royals to win a 'lost' game.

Was it just the Kings XI captain K.L. Rahul's inexperience showing in bringing on pace against a swinging bat and making it easier for it to connect? Tewatia had scored eight off the first 20 balls he faced and even commented on "the worst 20 balls he had ever faced."

not have noticed suspicious gambling designs though the odds see-sawed dramatically towards the end. Otherwise, we would have known by now.

## Congress tells states to negate 3 farm laws

Enact state laws under Article 254(2) to save farmers, says Sonia

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
with agency inputs

NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW,  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

In a move that has the potential of igniting a showdown with the Centre, the Congress on Monday advised states where it was in power to explore formulating laws which can negate the "anti-agriculture" laws passed by the NDA government at the Centre. The advice was given by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who asked "states to explore the possibilities to pass laws in their respective states under Article 254(2) of the Constitution.

In a statement, Congress general secretary organisation K.C. Venugopal said Article 254(2) allows state legislatures to pass a law to negate the anti-agriculture laws passed by Parliament that encroach upon state's jurisdiction under the Constitution.

"This would enable the states to bypass the unacceptable anti-farmers' provisions in the three draconian agricultural laws including the abolition of MSP and disruption of APMCs in Congress-ruled



Charred remains of a tractor that was set on fire near India Gate during a protest against the new farm laws, in New Delhi on Monday.

— PTI

states. This would also alleviate the farmers from the grave injustice done by the Modi government and BJP," Venugopal said in the statement.

The Congress has been spearheading the Opposition protest against the farmers' Bills both inside and outside Parliament.

"This would enable the states to bypass the unacceptable anti-farmers' provisions in the three draconian agricultural laws including the abolition of MSP and disruption of APMCs in Congress-ruled

sentences" for farmers whose voice has been crushed. "The agriculture laws are a death sentence to our farmers. Their voice is crushed in Parliament and outside. Here is proof that democracy in India is dead," he said on Twitter.

The party's youth wing took to the streets against the Acts and burnt a tractor at India Gate in protest. Delhi Police said that five people claiming to be mem-

bers of the Punjab Youth Congress have been detained. The BJP hit out at the Congress over the burning of the tractor, accusing it of playing "drama" aimed at publicity and "misleading" farmers. "The Congress shamed the country today," Union minister Prakash Javadekar said.

Page 2: Congress MP moves SC against farm laws

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**CCMB TO STUDY HOSP AIR FOR COVID PRESENCE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has taken samples from the air in hospitals and intensive care units to study for the presence of the Coronavirus.

The samples collected are being used to prepare models in laboratory which will help to predict what safety measures must be taken for health-care workers and patients. Similar studies are being performed in other countries to check whether Covid-19 is spread through the air.

With SARS-CoV-2 being known to survive in the air in closed spaces like public halls, malls and areas with central air-conditioning, air samples would be collected from those premises too.

Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of CCMB, said, "The study will be to assess the time that the virus stays in the air. This will give a clear picture of when it is being ejected from the body by the infected people and how much time it can survive in the air. Right now, it is being done hospitals. If we are allowed to check in public places, we will collect samples from there too."

**CONG MP MOVES SC AGAINST FARM LAWS**

From Page 1

Elsewhere, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said his government would approach the Supreme Court against the new laws and warned that Pakistan's ISI could exploit farmers' anger in the entire nation. Singh led a dharna against the recently passed agri-marketing bills at SBS Nagar district's Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh.

The Congress along with Opposition parties and farmers' organisations held demonstrations against the laws across the country. Farmers in Punjab continued their 'rail roko' agitation for the fifth day and announced that the protest will be extended till October 2. Protests were also held in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Gujarat, Goa, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, where the DMK and its allies, including the Congress, hit the streets.

Meanwhile, a Congress MP from Kerala, T.N. Prathapan, moved the Supreme Court, challenging the constitutional validity of new farm Acts. Prathapan, who represents Thrissur, alleged that the new Acts were violative of the right to equality (Article 14), prohibition of discrimination (Article 15) and right to life and liberty (Article 21).

The law, which provides for contract farming and was accorded presidential assent on Sunday, is "liable to be struck down as unconstitutional, illegal and void", Prathapan claimed.

**PROTESTS WERE** also held in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Gujarat, Goa, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, where the DMK and its allies, including the Congress, hit the streets.

# TS rejigs plan to bring Godavari water to city

Keshavapuram reservoir size halved, to save private land

## Centre: Shift trees from site to forest

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The state government has redesigned the 10 tmc ft Keshavapuram reservoir in Medchal-Malkajgiri district, bringing down the size to 5 tmc ft. The change is ostensibly meant to avoid acquisition of 850 acres of private land.

The original plan was to have a 10 tmc ft reservoir to hold water drawn from the Kondapochamma Sagar of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme. The water would be sent via a treatment plant to Ghanpur from where it would be linked to the Godavari water scheme in Hyderabad. Now, the government will store 5 tmc ft at Keshavapuram, and the other 5 tmc ft will be piped directly into Ghanpur using a 3.5-metre diameter pipeline. The change has reduced the project cost that was estimated at ₹4,777.59 crore in 2017 to ₹4,369.37 crore.

According to highly placed sources in the municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department, the plan is to draw 30 tmc ft water for the city from the Godavari basin. Accordingly, a scheme is in place to draw 10 tmc ft from the Sripeda Yellampalli barrage to the city.

For the remaining 20 tmc ft, the government decided to draw water from the Kondapochamma Sagar at Pamulaparthi. The job for designing the project was given to Wapcos, a unit of the Union Jal Shakti ministry. The agency reported that it

create an urban forest in either Siddipet, Medak or Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri districts.

The government has accordingly instructed the collectors of the three districts to identify land for the urban forest in eight weeks to begin work on the reservoir construction.

The Keshavapuram reservoir, which can hold 5.04 tmc water, requires about 3,500 acres.

Eighty-seven per cent of the land belongs to the government, endowments and forest departments. The state government has to translocate the trees at its own cost and

would involve huge recurring power cost, apart from others.

The government then asked Wapcos to formulate a scheme to draw 10 tmc ft each in two phases with two conditions: Water should flow from Kondapochamma Sagar by gravity (with no lift schemes being involved) and that acquisition of private land should be kept at a minimum.

The government released Government Order 273, dated October 24, 2017. Citing various issues, the project was redesigned by another agency which submitted a report to the government in 2019 recommending reducing the Keshavapuram reservoir capacity to 5.04 tmc ft.

private land. The government will use 335 acre assigned land for the project.

As per the 2017 proposal, the project was divided into seven components. The project envisages a 3.6-metre diameter 18.2-km pipeline from Kondapochamma Sagar (Pamulaparthi) to the Keshavapuram reservoir.

The water from there will flow to a treatment plant at Bommarasipeta, four km away, by a three-metre diameter pipeline.

The Bommarasipeta plant can treat 750 million gallons a day of water. Treated water will be pumped to the Ghanpur reservoir via a 10-km three-metre diameter pipeline from where it will be supplied to the Godavari water supply scheme in the city.

In the last two components, water will be supplied to Keshavapuram by constructing a bund from Ghanpur. Asked why treated water was proposed to be sent back to the Keshavapuram reservoir, an MA&UD official said he was not supposed to disclose any information.

The city will get 10 tmc ft of water and any queries about the project will be addressed by the state government.

The 2020 version of the project runs on similar lines except that the Keshavapuram reservoir capacity has been reduced to 5.04 tmc ft.

Additionally, a 3.6-metre diameter pipeline will be laid from Kondapochamma Sagar to Ghanpur reservoir. A 80 million litres per litre reservoir would be constructed at Ghanpur.

## RTC in top gear



After initially going near empty, the RTC buses are running to full capacity, as seen in Hyderabad on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

# Decrease in Covid cases as tests drop

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Telangana state on Sunday saw a significant drop in new Covid-19 cases at 1,378, while seven more persons lost their lives from the disease.

The dip in the cases from the 2,000s a day that has been the normal over the past few weeks had little to do with actual control of the disease but more to do with a drop in the number of tests that are conducted every Saturday and Sunday.

The total cases now stands at 1,211 while the toll has reached 1,107, the health department bulletin issued on Monday said.

**AGAINST THE** normal of around 50,000 tests a day, the department said between Saturday and Sunday, only 35,465 tests were performed. From these, results were awaited from 952 tests.

**THE TOTAL** cases now stands at 1,211 while the toll has reached 1,107, the health department bulletin issued on Monday said.

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Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area continued to have the most cases for a day with 254 and the second most cases for Sunday — 110 — was reported from Ranga Reddy district. Karimnagar district had 78 new cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri 73, Siddipet 61, Warangal-Urban 58, and Nizamabad had 55 new Covid cases.

There were 2,256 persons admitted to various government hospitals, and 3,363 in private hospitals receiving treatment for Covid-19, the department said.

There were 29,673 active cases, the department said adding that on Sunday 1,932 individuals were discharged. The Greater Hyderabad

# PCB clearance made compulsory for eateries

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

In a significant development, hotels, banquet halls, and eateries will have to take permission from the Pollution Control Board (PCB) before they are given the green signal to begin operations.

It was only earlier this month that the rules were made public on the TSPCB's website.

In general, marriage halls, party venues, and the likes end up creating water, air and noise pollution, solid waste problems, and cause public inconveniences due to lack of adequate infrastructure, the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said.

er establishments into the PCB ambit.

"We will impose the Prevention of Water and Air Pollution Act. The establishments will have to take our consent for the set-up. We will check for violation of laws," D. Narendra, a scientist with the PCB, told Deccan Chronicle.

This applied only to water pollution, officials would check whether the eatery or banquet hall has the requisite methods to

prevent water pollution.

"We will see how much wastewater is generated and how the entity is dealing with it. If they are not connected to the closest sewerage treatment plant, we will ask them to do so," he said.

For air pollution, the officials will check if all the kitchens have proper exhaust systems. "We will guide them on methods to prevent excessive fumes. We will check their diesel generator to ensure that it meets the CPCB norms," he said.

Also, the officials will check if there is sufficient parking space in the establishment. "If parking is not commonly possible, the banqueting area may be restricted and provision for parking has to be made within the units' premises," read the guidelines.

# 53.1% urban India suffers from abdominal obesity

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Abdominal obesity was highest in South India at 25.7 per cent, according to a report by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The report which recommended daily diets and tolerance diets for the Indian population also said 53.1 per cent of urban India suffers from abdominal obesity which is an alarming number.

The overall abdominal obesity in the country is 18.8 per cent.

It said that 22.2 per cent of the population in South India is overweight, against 16.6 per cent of India as a whole. Due to obesity, the prevalence of diabetes in South India is highest at 10.3 per cent. The overall prevalence of diabetes in the country is 25.4 per cent in urban areas and 7.4 per cent in rural areas.

In the last two components, water will be supplied to Keshavapuram by constructing a bund from Ghanpur. Asked why treated water was proposed to be sent back to the Keshavapuram reservoir, an MA&UD official said he was not supposed to disclose any information.

The city will get 10 tmc ft of water and any queries about the project will be addressed by the state government.

The 2020 version of the project runs on similar lines except that the Keshavapuram reservoir capacity has been reduced to 5.04 tmc ft.

Additionally, a 3.6-metre diameter pipeline will be laid from Kondapochamma Sagar to Ghanpur reservoir. A 80 million litres per litre reservoir would be constructed at Ghanpur.

Food consumption in urban areas present a challenge to doctors as the intake of fats is high among the population at 67.3 g and the people are inactive. Due to this reason, prevalence of

## NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS

Highest amounts of protein in terms of meat, poultry, fish and sea foods is consumed in South India, with 16.9 per cent in urban and 28 per cent in rural.

Vegetable consumption in urban areas in east India is highest at 49.9 per cent.

Low intake of milk and milk products increases the risk of hypertension.

Flipside is foods which are high in salt, fats, sugars, trans fats and saturated fats are cheap and widely available making them easy choices.

Healthy diet and physical activity for at least 30 minutes every day are the right choices to prevent diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Food consumption in urban areas present a challenge to doctors as the intake of fats is high among the population at 67.3 g and the people are inactive. Due to this reason, prevalence of

hypertension in urban areas is 34 per cent and diabetes is 28 per cent.

The NIN states that intake of protective foods like legumes, nuts, milk, vegetables and fruits must be

increased which will help achieve balanced diets. It is also important to eat locally grown, seasonal foods which will help in improving the overall health of the individual.

**TS stands second in police deaths due to Covid-19**

**Hyderabad, Sept. 28:** As many as 76,768 police personnel all over the country including paramilitary forces have tested positive for Covid-19 while 401 succumbed to the virus, according to a report by the Bureau of Police Research and Development.

Paramilitary forces such as the CRPF, CISF, BSF and NSG accounted for 15,318 infections with Central Reserve Police Force leading the table with 5,467 cases and 24 deaths.

A camera-based detection of mask violations was done at various locations in the city. The systems provided a heat map of violations to understand and assess the areas of non-compliance to enable initiation of corrective measures.

The city police used crowd analytics with CCTV footage to identify the public gatherings beyond per-

— PTI

# TRS leader faces rape case

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

official said. The victim in this case was a 20-year-old woman who worked in the TRS leader's house as a domestic help, along with her 16-year-old sister. Madhusudhan was arrested only after sustained protests by rights groups and political parties which also resulted in the police adding rape and abetment to suicide charges to the case.

The body of the woman was found in Madhusudhan's house on September 25. As per the complaint filed with the police by the 16-year-old sister, Madhusudhan was seen taking her sister into a bedroom in his house in Himayatnagar village in Moinabad on the night of September 24. The girl in her complaint alleged that the

Soon after the complaint was lodged, the police registered a case under IPC Section 354 (outraging modesty of a woman), and 306 (abettment to suicide). With pressure building from rights groups and Opposition parties to take strict action, the charges were altered to Section 306 (rape) from Section 354.



## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY (Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India)

Second Floor, Pragya Tower, Block 15, Zone 1, Road 1C, GIFT SEZ, GIFT CITY, Gandhinagar Gujarat-382355

File No. 38/IFSCA/Consultants/2020-21  
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Stream	Number of posts
Banking Regulations & Supervision	1
Foreign Exchange Management	1
Payment Settlement	1
Banking Operations & Development	1
Non-Banking Financial Companies	1
Economic Analysis & Policy	1

Stream
--------

## SHORT TAKES

## COPS SAVE MAN WHO JUMPED INTO LAKE

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Two policemen jumped into a lake at Turkayamjal and saved a man's life in Adibatla. Ramesh, a local resident, had tried to end his life in the lake.

Passersby who noticed this, informed a police patrol close to the spot and constable Satyanarayana and Home Guard Yaladri jumped into the lake and saved Ramesh. He was sent to hospital.

Police counsellors spoke with Ramesh and he was sent home in the morning after providing him breakfast, said Adibatla inspector P. Narendran.

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat appreciated Satyanarayana and Yaladri for their quick action.

A thirty-year-old autorickshaw driver with two children, four and two years old, Ramesh is a resident of Turkayamjal.

# Mir Alam building, built in 1889, brought down

Structure was not on heritage list; realtors mark out plots

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Foundation stone of the Salar Jung guest house broken during the demolition of the structure.

The Salar Jung guest house has been demolished to demarcate plots in a real estate development area. The stone of the inauguration of the Mir Alam tank bund, dated 1806, was broken into two pieces by workers.

The structure is not included in the list of heritage structures of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) but has heritage character as it was constructed in 1889.

The demolition of the structure and destroying of the inauguration plaque has angered heritage lovers. Dr

Mohammed Saifiullah, a pulled down for personal historian and heritage interest," he said, adding that though it was private lover, deplored the demolition of a structure of historical importance.

"Sadly, a structure of immense heritage and historical value has been

P. Anuradha Reddy

THE STRUCTURE is not included in the list of heritage structures of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) but has heritage character as it was constructed in 1889.

member of the governing council of the Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (Intach) also expressed her dissatisfaction over the demolition of the guest house and said they should have handed over the plaque to the Nehru Zoological park to erect it near the lake as it is associated with the history of the Mir Alam tank.

## Parental chaos at exam time



Parents, not students, create chaos at the Eamcet centre at Moula Ali by not maintaining social distancing and standing in the middle of road blocking the traffic causing inconvenience to commuters.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## 3 fishermen saved from floods by cops

PULI SHARATH KUMAR I DC  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 28

came out informed the Veenavanka police who called the revenue and fire departments. They went to the spot along with volunteers.

Due to the heavy flow of water and the darkness, they struggled to rescue the trapped fishermen.

Commissioner of police V.B. Kamalasan Reddy was informed and he arranged special vehicles, boats and a rescue team.

As many as 15 fishermen from Chelluru had gone fishing in Manair. Due to the heavy rains over the past few days in the catchment areas, the floodwater level increased suddenly on Sunday evening.

Noticing the heavy flow of floodwaters, around 12 of the fishermen came out of the river at around 5.45 pm. But the other three Neduri Tirupati (25), Neduri Srinivas (27) and Neduri Ravi (30), got stuck in the floodwaters.

The fishermen who

## GRAMODAYA TO LAUNCH TECH PLATFORM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce and Technology (GCOT) would be conducting a virtual conference from October 1 to 3 on launch of a technology platform for preparing village monographs and declaration for a new world order. It will also have an interaction with Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra awardees.

Those in attendance are expected to be Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Union minister of state for agriculture Kailash Choudhary, Nishtha Satyav, deputy country representative, UN Women - India and others.

GCOT is a not-for-profit social enterprise founded by the Osmania University Alumni. The aim of the NGO is to emancipate the life of rural dwellers. The sessions will be held between 4 pm and 8 pm.

## Chowmahalla palace to reopen on Oct. 3

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Chowmahalla palace will be opened for the general public from October 3. It was closed during the lockdown in the wake of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, several other historical places governed by the Archaeological Survey of India, including Golconda fort, have been reopened for tourists with the exception of Charminar which too is expected to be re-open soon.

Palace director G. Kishan Rao said that the reopening of the palace followed instructions of the state government. The entry fee is ₹50 per adult and ₹10 per child for Indians and ₹200 for a foreign tourist. An additional fee of ₹50 will be charged for the use of a still camera and ₹100 a

video camera.

Chowmahalla palace, built in several phases by the Nizams between 1857 and 1869, is known for its interiors as well as exteriors. Once spread over 60 acres near the Mecca masjid, the palace complex with its eight buildings is restricted to just about 12 acres now.

Right at the centre of the palace is Khilwat Mubarak, the seat of the rulers of the Asaf Jahi dynasty. This structure has a huge durbar hall with impressive pillars.

**PALACE DIRECTOR** G. Kishan Rao said that the reopening of the palace followed instructions of the state government. The entry fee is ₹50 per adult and ₹10 per child for Indians and ₹200 for a foreign tourist.

## Focus on safeguarding right to property: KTR

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The state government has been making sincere efforts to finding a permanent solution to the long-standing problems of people in urban areas and safeguarding their right to property, minister K.T. Rama Rao said on Monday.

Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) minister, requested ministers and MLAs to identify issues pertaining to land and residential properties owned by the people and other issues in all the municipal bodies and bring them to his notice for addressing them.

Speaking at a district-

wise review of all municipalities with ministers and MLAs at Pragathi Bhavan, Rama Rao requested them monitor the recording of non-agricultural properties on the Dharani portal.

The minister said there are more land-related disputes in urban areas than in the villages. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the officials in recording land data.

Stating that large-scale relief had been provided through Government Orders 58 and 59, especially to those who have been residing on government land for decades, Rama Rao said some issues still remain and the government will address them soon.

Rama Rao said that the state government had launched a 15-day programme for people to voluntarily register details pertaining to non-agricultural properties on the Dharani portal.

Ministers and MLAs brought up several issues facing the people in municipalities. They said they would prepare a list and submit it to Rama Rao by Tuesday evening.

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**SHORT TAKES****ICMR LAUNCHES PORTAL FOR COVID CASES**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The Indian Council of Medical Research on Monday launched portals for real-time data of Covid-19 cases and on Covid vaccines. The clinical registry of data will collect the number of cases across hospitals and help to assess the real prevalence of Covid-19.

With nine vaccine candidates for Covid-19 monitored by World Health Organisation, and Covaxin from India being one of them, data of the clinical trials will be available on the ICMR portal. The phases of clinical trials and its evaluation will be published once it is scrutinised by the scientific team.

**ANOTHER CRICKET BETTING RACKET BUSTED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The city police, on Monday, reported that they had busted yet another cricket betting racket, the seventh in the city since September 24.

On Sunday night, officials from the East Zone Task Force apprehended two cricket betting organisers Suresh Singh, and Musku Ajay Kumar who used to collect bets from punters known to them and those making bets online. The police seized ₹1.12 lakh and three mobile phones from the accused.

Suresh Singh makes his living from punting at the Hyderabad Race Club and with the IPL tournament starting in Dubai, he moved to organising bets on the cricket matches. For this purpose, he used two apps, Cricket Exchange and Cricket Live Guru, for collecting online bets.

**DELHI AIRPORT T2 OPERATIONS FROM OCTOBER 1**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

After six months of closure, domestic flight operations at Terminal 2 at Delhi International Airport Limited will begin from October 1. T2 will open with 96 air traffic movements (48 departures and 48 arrivals) per day and increase progressively up to 180 by the end of October.

The terminal will resume operations with IndiGo's 2000 series flights and operations of GoAir in the initial phase. Twentyseven counters have been created, and the first flight after reopening would be a Srinagar-bound Indigo flight.

Besides thermal scanning of passengers, about 10 e-boarding kiosks have been installed at the entry to establish a contactless process for boarding, apart from other features. Besides a host of measures, deep cleaning of 45,000 square meter terminal 2 is carried out 24x7.

**FIVE ARRESTED FOR SELLING 'HASHISH' OIL**

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Five persons have been arrested for possession and selling of 'hashish' oil in the city by Excise department officials.

The arrested were identified as A. Rajeeenth Kumar (25), C. Sai Kumar (22), S. Girish Kumar (24), Sanjay Sharma (23), and K. Niteesh Kumar (20). The officials said that two more persons, S. Vizram and Sai Reddy, who were yet to be apprehended, used to procure the hashish oil at ₹1,500 per five-gram bottle.

The five arrested men would sell the same for ₹2,500 each. Most of their customers used to make their purchases in Bowenpally, Suchitra, and in other areas of Malkajgiri.

According to a release from the Excise department, the accused were addicted to the drug and would previously buy it for themselves but got into peddling it to make money. The officials also seized one motorcycle, a scooter and mobile phones from the arrested men.

**ACCORDING TO** a release from the Excise department, the accused were addicted to the drug and would previously buy it for themselves but got into peddling it to make money.

**Protest against farm Bills**

Senior Congress leaders, including TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Telangana Congress in-charge and MP Manickam Tagore, MP Revanth Reddy, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, being arrested after they staged a protest against the new Agriculture Bills near Raj Bhavan on Monday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

**Congmen protest farm Acts, arrested**

**Party leaders allege that Telangana govt is anti-farmer**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

the Goshamahal police station and released them in the afternoon.

Later, speaking to reporters, Tagore found fault with Raj Bhavan for denying them an appointment. He said that the rules in Telangana state Raj Bhavan appeared to be different from the rest of the country.

Uttam Kumar Reddy criticised the Governor for refusing to meet the Congress delegation fearing the spread of Covid-19.

He alleged that the TRS lacks honesty and sincerity in opposing the new agricultural laws.

Stating that the new laws would ruin the agricultural sector, he alleged that the Centre

was acting as an agent of corporate entities and not as representatives of the people.

The TPCC chief alleged that the Chandrasekhar Rao government was trying to sabotage the nationwide protest of farmers. Instead of cautioning farmers about the ill-effects of the new farm laws, TRS ministers are organising tractor rallies in favour of the new Revenue Act, he said.

He announced that the Congress would organise protests across Telangana state on Gandhi Jayanti in protest against the new agriculture laws.

**MAOIST BANDH CALL PEACEFUL IN OLD WARANGAL**

**ANUDEEP CEREMILY | DC**  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 28

The state-wide bandh call given by the CPI (Maoist) on Monday had the police in an extra alert mode.

Vehicle checks in old Warangal district, especially in the agency areas of Mulugu and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts were carried out on Monday.

Police said Narasayya, a resident of Kattaropur Street, Karimnagar district, had died by suicide at a lodge in Nacharam in

Karimnagar for Narasayya's suicide and remanded them to custody. Two others are absconding.

Mohan Reddy was booked by the Karimnagar ACB and CID in the past for alleged money laundering and cheating.

When he raised the issue, Mohan Reddy had threatened him, Narasayya wrote.

Owing to the illegal transfer, he could not repay his debts.

Mohan Reddy was an assistant sub-inspector of police.

Along with Mohan Reddy, police arrested Chittumalla Srinivas and Kodithyalu Nagbhushanam in

Karimnagar for Narasayya's suicide and remanded them to custody. Two others are absconding.

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All the cases are pending.

It is learned that a suspect sheet was also opened against him in Karimnagar.

Hyderabad on August 28. In the suicide note, Narasayya had stated his plot had been illegally registered on the name of Mohan Reddy's wife. When he raised the issue, Mohan Reddy had threatened him, Narasayya wrote. Owing to the illegal transfer, he could not repay his debts.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

29 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Arbitrary tax policies harm India's image

A Hague-based international arbitration tribunal's decision to reject India's retrospective tax demand worth ₹20,000 crore against Vodafone Plc and term it as unfair should serve as a lesson to governments that seek to change the rules of the game arbitrarily. The tribunal's award underscores the importance of a stable and fair policy environment for investors. The case relates to the acquisition of Hutchison Whampoa's telecom interests in India by London-based Vodafone Plc by taking over a holding company based in the Cayman Islands, a noted tax haven. With Hutchison booking huge profits in the sale, the government had asked Vodafone to cough up the capital gains as it had failed to withhold money for tax from the payment made by Hutchison. Vodafone argued that Indian tax authorities do not have jurisdiction over the acquisition deal between two foreign companies involving the takeover of another foreign company. But the Indian argument, led by Pranab Mukherjee, the finance minister of the second United Progressive Alliance government, was that India had the right to demand tax as the underlying asset was in the country. The Supreme Court upheld Vodafone's argument as the Income-Tax Act, 1961 does not envisage such tax levy. But Mukherjee got the law amended in 2012 to allow taxmen to levy tax retrospectively from 1961.

Whereas the government was well within its rights to amend the law, it is the last thing investors would like. Instead of being a rare aberration, the midway policy change — either by executive order or legislation or judicial pronouncements — has become a norm in the country, reflecting poorly on the investor-friendliness environment in the country. Several sectors have borne the brunt of arbitrary policies in the country. The telecom sector, in particular, has ended up with a mountain of debt because of frequent interventions by the judiciary. Several infrastructure companies had become bankrupt when the governments did not meet their obligations on time. The government's sudden demand for switching over to electric vehicles was threatening to nullify thousands of crores invested by automobile companies in adding capacities. Such practices show that businesses in India can flourish until it has the blessings of the government — a scenario that is not very different from a banana republic.

In February 2014, before he became the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, as the Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate, had said that traders take more risk than soldiers. Though he retracted his statement immediately, Modi was speaking the truth, especially in India where an official can wipe out the entire wealth of a person with a mere stroke of a pen. However, his government also continued past mistakes and further consolidated the power of bureaucrats. Tax terrorism still continues with tax officials getting greater powers to meet the revenue estimates given in the Union Budget. It is high time the Prime Minister works towards providing a stable policy framework for businesses in the spirit of his 2014 statement. Otherwise, India will end up in the league of countries governed by ruling class plutocracy.

## Akalis out: What next for NDA?

The Shiromani Akali Dal's formal parting of ways with the BJP-led NDA late Saturday took no one by surprise: it was widely anticipated for some time, certainly after Harsimrat Kaur Badal, the lone Akali minister in the Narendra Modi government, quit the Union Cabinet in protest over the agricultural marketing bills passed in Parliament (amid much drama in the Rajya Sabha) a week earlier. The Akalis hadn't spoken out while this legislation was being discussed in Cabinet, and its change of stance gives rise to the suspicion they were driven to it amid the farmers' rising anger to protect their political base. While many commentators and Opposition parties noted the significance of the BJP's "oldest ally" walking out of the saffron alliance, there is little sign the BJP is all that unhappy, which has triggered speculation on whether it was SAD that decided to leave the alliance, or whether it was driven to do so by the BJP which was seeing it as an encumbrance. The NCP and Trinamul Congress, among others, hailed the Akalis' move, hoping it would be a nail in the NDA's coffin, generating talk about possible political realignments, but the Congress' Punjab unit had a different view. Punjab's PCC chief claimed the Akalis were "thrown out" of NDA and "staged a drama" to ensure its political survival.

Where does the BJP go from here? Some in the party wanted to break with the Akalis long back, thinking SAD was a millstone around its neck, and it can now seek more compatible partners, like the breakaway faction led by S.S. Dhindsa. On Sunday, Akali chief Sukhbir Badal said for many years the NDA all but ceased to exist, with the BJP disinclined to consult its allies. The ruling party, however, still needs allies to pass bills in the Rajya Sabha and govern several states. More important, it must sit down with the farmers and find solutions so their anger is defused, else it may start a bigger fire. The Punjab CM, among others, plans to move the Supreme Court over the "lethal" farm bills that got the President's assent Sunday, but the real solution must be a political one.

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Subhani



## Reforming bureaucracy: Many pitfalls lie ahead

Mohan Guruswamy



Six years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated a discussion under the aegis of the Niti Aayog on the reform of the bureaucracy. Sixteen years ago Dr Manmohan Singh too had said that his topmost priority was the reform of the bureaucracy. Little has happened. We haven't even had a decent and half-intelligent discussion about it. The object of concern clearly doesn't share the need to discuss its reform. The government is now a golden gated community and takes away as much as 11.5 per cent of the country's GDP for its own upkeep. And yet, the dil maange more!

The base of government is the district. A typical district officer is usually still in his twenties or early thirties. But unlike his Indian Civil Service predecessor (of the British Raj era), the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) district collector/magistrate or deputy commissioner has neither the unquestionable authority conferred either by racial exclusivity or superb education or social class, or all three, to dominate and control the lower bureaucracy.

As required in a democracy, the administration is subservient to a government run by elected politicians. They play havoc with civil service tenures. According to a study by S.K. Das, an IAS officer, the average tenure of a district officer is about seven months.

He or she invariably falls victim to the constantly changing and treacherous currents of an intensely competitive political system. The lower and permanent bureaucracy has adjusted well to this essential change and has become a tool in the hands of the politicians. In fact, the lower bureau-

Poor Dr Manmohan Singh had listed the reform of the bureaucracy as his first priority, but the politicians paid no heed to him, and hence the bureaucracy saw no need to take him seriously.

political structures. From the mid-1990s, even amidst the most severe economic downturns, one industrial segment has posted consistent and significant growth. This is the segment called the white goods sector, which accounts for consumer durables like refrigerators, washing machines and other home appliances.

This spurt coincides with the selective implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations. Apart from recommending whopping increases in salaries and benefits, the Pay Commission noted the low productivity and also recommended that the numbers employed in the government should be drastically slashed. Consequently, the wage bill of the Central government alone is now the second biggest item in the Union Budget after interest payments.

The state governments today now directly employ 7.5 million people in addition to the Central government, which gainfully or painfully employs about 3.3 million. Given the commonly high salary levels in the Central and state governments, one can easily compute the approximate cost of government by way of salaries alone.

In addition to this huge army of babus, the Centre and the states employ a further 6.3 million people in PSUs and departmental undertakings like the Indian Railways.

Local bodies like municipalities, zilla parishes and panchayats employ another 2.3 million.

This entire cohort of about 23 million people belongs to the 27.2 per cent who make up our

middle and upper income groups.

A look at the capital expenditure on account of "development" suggests that it costs the Centre and the states about ₹10 to give us a benefit of ₹1!

Revenue expenditure very simply means wages, utilities, fuel, repairs and maintenance, and chai-pani aur dawa-daru kharcha. So, the effective cost of government is almost 90 per cent of the cumulative receipts of which the Centre and the states collect as taxes from us and/or beg, borrow and steal for us. This is about a good one-third of our GNP, and growing!

However, the real slap in the face is that "public administration" is categorised as a part of the services sector for national income accounting, and the 14 per cent annual growth in the cost of government is what mainly accounts for the growth of this sector. Even in the time of the coronavirus pandemic, this sector is happily growing. The growth of the industrial sector is marginal, like that of the agricultural sector.

The burgeoning cost of government is our single major public policy issue. Yet, it is not debated at all. All parties go into a funk when they are confronted with these facts. Thus, for the BJP, once again it seems there are only two issues that really matter: Hindutva and the Ram Mandir. And as for the sycophants in the Congress, they are only concerned with the interim Congress president's two issues: Rahul or Priyanka.

Poor Dr Manmohan Singh had listed the reform of the bureaucracy as his first priority, but the politicians paid no heed to him, and hence the bureaucracy saw no need to take him seriously. Now it is Narendra Modi's turn.

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

## LETTERS

### FARM REFORMS

The need of the hour is to improve farmers' income and stop their suicide for which provision of water, uninterrupted electricity, quality seeds/fertilisers/pesticides, hassle-free loans, modern farming techniques are the basic requirements. What is the use of improving marketing facilities without increasing agriculture production in terms of quantity and quality? The Modi government should clear the apprehensions of farmers without acting in a hasty manner.

**Kshirasagara Balaji Rao**  
Hyderabad

### INDIA AT UN

When a handful of nations managed to get a place at the high table of decision-making in the UN it was not on the basis of their respective potential but only through the international clout they got by virtue of their economic and military strength. Are the present members at this high table expert and infallible decision-makers? Has not the US committed the blunder of creating the Frankenstein's monster called Osama Bin Laden? And China is committing the blunder of protecting the internationally recognised terrorist Masood Azhar with the ulterior motive of using him as a weapon against India. We, Indians must give a tilt to this power-blind and shameless international community.

**K. Srinivasa Charyulu**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

**Charan Singh asked to resign**

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 28. Political developments in the crisis ridden Uttar Pradesh took a dramatic turn this morning when leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Girdhari Lal staked his claim to form a Government following Governor B. Gopal Reddy's directive to Chief Minister Charan Singh to tender his resignation.

Mr. Girdhari Lal (Opposition Congress), as leader of the Opposition in Assembly backed by Jana Sangh and the Samyukta Socialist party said it was the "moral and constitutional duty" of the Governor to invite him to form a Ministry after the fall of the present Government.



Aakar Patel

## Several NGOs trying to uplift India might be forced to shut

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is a funny old piece of legislation. It appeared in India in 1976 as a law to prevent external interference in India's electoral process and democracy. It prohibited the receiving of foreign money by political parties and their candidates, journalists and newspaper publishers, judges, bureaucrats and members of Parliament.

In time, liberalisation meant that many of these categories could receive foreign money legally and the Indian government actively promoted the bringing in of such money. That, after all, is the foreign direct investment whose numbers this government is so proud of and speaks of regularly. For instance, the media, both print and television and certainly online (which is the most dominant form of media today), can not only receive foreign investment, it can be dominated by it. The largest media companies in India are Facebook and Google, which are entirely foreign owned and managed. Newspapers can receive equity investments from foreign firms as can news channels.

Even political parties managed to

get themselves off the hook on FCRA. In January 2013, a public interest litigation case was filed in the Delhi high court claiming that the BJP and the Congress had got donations from the same company, Vedanta/Sterlite, which were in violation of the FCRA Act. On March 23, 2014, the court held that the BJP and Congress were guilty of violating FCRA and asked the Narendra Modi government and the Election Commission to act against the two parties.

In December 2015, it was reported that the government was making amendments to the law that would get both parties off the hook. This happened in the 2016 Budget, when the definition of foreign source was changed, legitimising the donations received by the political parties. Unfortunately for the parties, this was done in a fairly slipshod fashion and so another amendment was passed in 2018 to again try and get the parties off. This finally happened in March 2018 through the amendment of a repealed law, an entirely farcical operation.

This is the background to the political side of the FCRA, which was the

intent of the legislation. What has happened over the years is that the law has been turned around and instead of reducing foreign influence on politics, it has been made a weapon against non-profit organisations.

No government has any fondness for the sector called civil society, but the BJP in particular is hostile to it. In 2016, The Economic Times reported a speech in Bhubaneswar that the Prime Minister made to put forth his views on the subject. Mr. Modi offered no evidence for his accusation that NGOs were foreign agents, but was convinced that they were trying to topple his government.

In the entire Modi era, the government has been trying actively to cut the size of the NGO sector. India has over 30 lakh such organisations, which range from neighbourhood associations to the most powerful NGO in the world, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The groups work on education, disaster relief, violence against women, public health, human rights, the criminal justice system, the environment, agriculture and so on. Between 2014 and 2018, a report estimated, there had been about a 40 per cent cut in foreign funding for these groups.

Yet another amendment made to the FCRA this month seeks to squeeze them further. This was introduced without any notice or consultation and passed without much debate. What it does is make it even more difficult for NGOs to function in India and in fact is an invitation for them to shut down.

I have worked in the sector for a few years and can say that it is filled with highly committed individuals who do the work in many sectors that the State in India simply cannot do. This is work that happens without a problem in large parts of the world and in all parts of the democratic world. The damage that is being done to the Indian NGO sector is being done in part because of the paranoia of the BJP that there is some sort of giant agenda behind organisations who do such work.

Many of them are highly respected organisations around the world and the one that I worked for has won the Nobel Peace Prize.

It is not in the interest of India or its people or even the government to persecute and harass these organisations.

Unfortunately that is what has happened and is happening and the reality is that many of them, already under assault from the State, will have to wind up operations and others will have to scale down. India's civil society is full of motivated people and much of their work will continue because these individuals are not doing this work because of the money. I have worked with people with a background in investment banking, law and of course the media who have chosen to work in an NGO for much less than in their corporate job. Such Indians will continue their work and it is a shame that they are being hindered.

Today India invites foreign investment in arms and ammunition and bombs and guns, and in alcohol and tobacco, and petroleum and pharmaceuticals and everything else that one can think of. But it restricts investment in India on health, education and people's rights. Something is very wrong with such a state of affairs.

**Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist**

**SHORT TAKES**  
**DASH WINS**  
**SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 28

Dr Jyotirmayee Dash from Jagatsinghpur district has won the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for 2020 in the field of Chemical Sciences.

Ms Dash's team works on new methodologies for synthesis of diverse molecules that can be used to study structure and function of therapeutic targets.

She will receive the award comprising ₹5 lakh from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a presentation ceremony by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at a later scheduled date.

Ms Dash became the first woman from Odisha to win the prize.

After pursuing MSc in Chemistry at the Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Dash did her PhD in synthetic organic chemistry from IIT Kanpur. She is currently associated with School of Chemical Sciences, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

Expressing happiness over her achievement, Dash said the prize will inspire her for further research in the field. Odisha Governor Prof. Ganesh Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik have congratulated Dash for the feat. Odisha governor Ganesh Lal also congratulated Ms Dash for her achievement.

**ASSAM GROUP OPPOSES 25% NRC RE-VERIFICATION**

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 28

A leading civil society group - the Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill - here on Monday said that they are opposed to idea of BJP-led alliance government for re-verification of 25 per cent names already included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

Claiming that Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and his deputy in the cabinet Himanta Biswa Sarma were in New Delhi seeking support of the Central government for re-verification of 25 per cent names in the NRC, the chairperson of the forum Hiren Gohain in a statement feared that re-verification of NRC at such large scale may provoke communal elements and lead to serious social disturbances in the state.

He, however, said that only a minor re-verification may be undertaken, if it is necessary, in an atmosphere of peace and transparency. The forum said that the recent New Delhi visit of the Chief Minister was said to be to discuss the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord but some other sources claimed that his visit was aimed at seeking nod of the Central government for 25 per cent re-verification of the NRC.

Admitting that final NRC may have some errors, the forum which was proactively involved in the anti-CAA movement said that the intention behind re-verification of NRC at such large scale was certainly not to ensure peace and harmony but the contrary.

**WB GOVT REJECTS RAJ BHAVAN'S REQUEST**

Kolkata, Sept. 28: The West Bengal government has turned down a request from the Governor's House to increase its budget allocation, a senior official said on Monday.

The governor's office had written to the state secretariat a couple of times in the recent past, seeking additional funds of ₹53.5 lakh to meet everyday expenses.

The state government, however, expressed its inability to allot more funds, claiming that it has adopted austerity measures amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The governor's office had sought additional funds of ₹53.5 lakh. As our state has adopted certain austerity measures to handle expenses during this pandemic, the request was turned down," the official at the state secretariat said.

Notably, the state finance department has slashed 50 per cent of the budget allotted to the Raj Bhavan, and set aside ₹16 crore for its expenditure in 2020-21 fiscal.

# Covid suspect can take exam: SC

Court says student can appear for the CLAT in a separate isolation room

New Delhi, Sept. 28: Hours before the scheduled start of Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)-2020 the Supreme Court allowed a suspected Covid-19 positive aspirant to take the entrance test in a separate isolation room.

The CLAT-2020 exam, an entrance test for the 22 National Law Universities (NLUs) for admission to LLB, LLB 5 year Integrated and LLM, courses was held at 2 pm on Monday.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, in the facts of the present case, we are of the view that the student Deepanshi Tripathi should be permitted to take his CLAT examination on September 28, 2020 in a separate isolation room to be provided by his Centre Superintendent.

The bench also comprising Justices R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah said that the student shall ensure that a downloaded copy of this order should be presented before his Centre Superintendent as early as possible by any other non-symptomatic person. On such order being produced, the Centre Superintendent shall provide a separate room for applicant to aspirants suffering from Covid-19 by not providing isolation rooms at the exam centres.

As per the latest order of the CLAT Consortium, the candidates who have tested positive for Covid-19 and are under medical surveillance will not be permitted to take the CLAT-2020 examination scheduled to be held on 28 September 2020.

The student in his application said, "The sudden change in the stand of the Consortium of National Law Universities has deprived the applicant of his fundamental right under Article 14 of India to be treated as an equal and be given opportunity to appear in the examination on September 28, 2020 which otherwise he was well entitled to like any other student."

Nearly 78,000 students of the Nagpur University in Maharashtra will appear for their final year exams online through a mobile app from October 1 in the wake of the pandemic, officials said. — PTI

The student has contended that although as per the admit card issued to him, Covid-19 symptomatic candidates will be allocated to isolated room, instructions have been issued by the Consortium of NLUs that candidates who have been tested positive and are under medical surveillance or in isolation will not be permitted to take the CLAT, 2020 examination.

The bench recorded that the student has already received admit card show-

ing his centre as ION Digital Zone IDZ Chitora Road, Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Shiksha Samiti at Gwalior. In his intervention application filed by the student, he said that he is aspiring to clear the CLAT exam and is holding a valid admit card for the CLAT Exam.

However, he is presently in isolation due to his being suspected of being Covid-positive. He is otherwise fine and is fully ready and prepared to give the CLAT-2020 examination scheduled to take place on September 28, he has said in his application.

On September 21, the top court had directed that for conduct of CLAT-2020 examination on September 28, taking all precautions and care for health of the students after following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The plea of Tripathi had sought clarification of the September 21 judgement on CLAT and order to the Consortium with regard to denial to appear in entrance examination to aspirants suffering from Covid-19 by not providing isolation rooms at the exam centres.

Applicant shall enter into the centre after other candidates take entry and shall first leave the examination centre, it said.

The top court said the Centre Superintendent may also request the Chief Medical officer of the District or Superintendent, Government Hospital to provide medical staff to render necessary assistance.

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Women wait in long queues to cast their vote at a polling station during Panchayati Raj elections, amid the ongoing pandemic at Jhala ki Chauki village near Beawar on Monday. — PTI

**KERALA TO HOLD ALL-PARTY MEETING TODAY**

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 28

With Kerala reporting a huge spike in Covid-19 cases, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has convened an all-party meeting on Tuesday to devise an effective strategy for dealing with the massive spread of infection in the exam centres.

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**FOR BIHAR POLLS, CENTRE DEPLOYS 30,000 SECURITYMEN**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

The Home Ministry has decided to deploy 300 companies, roughly 30,000 para-military security personnel, for the three-phase Bihar Assembly polls starting Oct. 27.

Since these are the first major elections being held during the Corona pandemic, all security personnel would be given special training in managing health protocols during elections and counting.

The Assembly elections in Bihar are scheduled to be held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and 7 while the results will be declared on November 10.

Following detailed consultations between the Election Commission and the Home Ministry, the poll panel decided to hold Bihar Assembly polls in less phases in order to minimise the movement of security personnel and ensure their safety along with that of other polling staff in wake of the Corona pandemic.

Since elections involve large scale deployment of security forces, all efforts have been made to minimise their movement over long distances. This is due to their fatigue as well as Covid-19. The number of phases to three due to this," a senior Home Ministry official said.

Also, for the first time all security personnel being deployed for polling duty will be briefed in details about all health protocols and safety measures that they will have to follow while on duty.

The security personnel will also ensure that the common people coming for voting also follow all strict health safety measures that have been laid down by the Health Ministry and the EC.

Both the Home Ministry and the poll panel are confident that they would be able to contain spread of Corona in Bihar during the elections.

**HEROIN WORTH ₹25CR SEIZED IN ASSAM**

Guwahati, Sept. 28: Over five kg of heroin worth ₹25 crore was recovered from Karbi Anglong district in Assam and one person held in this connection, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said on Monday.

The operation was part of the ongoing action against the drug smuggling activities in the state, he said.

The @karbianglongpol (Karbi Anglong police) on Sunday night seized a whopping 5kgs of Heroin at Assam-Nagaland border. Kudos to the team," the director general of police said, adding that this was the biggest blow to drug peddlers.

Ismail Ali, son of Akabor Ali, has been taken into custody in the case, he said.

The market value of 5.05 kg of heroin recovered is estimated at ₹25 crore, he added. — PTI

## Protests, rallies mark farmers' bandh in Karnataka, CM offers olive branch

**PARTS OF THE STATE, including the capital city, saw massive protests with public squares teeming with protesters. Tyres were set ablaze at some places to mark their opposition.**

**IN BRIEF**  
**Shooting outside strip club: 6 hurt**

**Detroit:** A shooting early Monday outside a Detroit strip club has left six people wounded, police said. A large group was outside the club on the city's west side shortly before 2 a.m. when at least one person opened fire, police said, citing preliminary information about the investigation. Details about what led up to the shooting were under investigation, police said. No arrests were immediately reported. Those shot were in their 20s, police said. Five were taken by medics to the hospital and another was transported by private vehicle. Two men were listed in critical condition, police said, and two men and a woman were in stable condition. The condition of another woman who was shot wasn't immediately known by police.

**Romania mayor wins poll after death**

**Bucharest:** A mayor in southern Romania grabbed a landslide election victory — despite dying of Coronavirus days earlier, local reports said. On Monday, Ion Aliman clocked up 1,057 of 1,600 votes cast in Deveselu municipality even though he died on September 17, reports said.

The ballots had already been printed at the time of Aliman's death and his name could not be removed, according to local officials. After the polls closed, local supporters flocked to his grave to "celebrate the victory". "We went to congratulate him," a Deveselu resident commented under a photo posted on Facebook that showed dozens of people with candles at the local cemetery.

A re-run of the election is now expected. Deveselu previously hit the headlines in 2018 when a local farmer was ordered to move his flock of sheep because they kept triggering the alarm at a US military facility.

**Writer Alexievich leaves Belarus**

**Minsk:** Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich has left the country for treatment in Germany, her friend said Monday, after the Nobel Literature Prize winner faced official pressure for supporting the opposition. The 72-year-old author, who has been summoned for questioning by investigators after joining the opposition's

Coordination Council, has gone to Germany for planned treatment, her friend Mariya Voiteshonok said. "She will return to Belarus in a month.

She is not dropping her activities as a Coordination Council member," Voiteshonok said.

She added that Alexievich also planned to visit Italy where she has been awarded a literary prize. The announcement of her departure comes as President Alexander Lukashenko has jailed or forced out most of the country's prominent opposition activists. Known for her Russian-language books with witness accounts of the Soviet era, including World War II and the Chernobyl disaster.

**11 KILLED IN MEXICO BAR SHOOTING**

**Mexico City:** Sept. 28: Guanajuato killed 11 people, including four women, early Sunday in a bar in the central Mexico state of Guanajuato. State prosecutors said the bullet-ridden bodies were found at a bar near the town of Jaral del Progreso. The area is near the border with Michoacán state, which has been a point of incursion for the Jalisco cartel, which wants to move into Guanajuato. Local media reported the four dead women may have been employed as dancers at the bar, located on the side of a highway. There was no immediate information on a possible motive in the attack, but it bore the signs of a drug gang killing. Guanajuato has been the most violent state in Mexico in recent years, but authorities had hoped the detention of a leader of a local gang on Aug. 2 would help stem the violence.

The detained leader of the Santa Rosa de Lima gang, José Antonio Yépez Ortiz, was better known by his nickname "El Marro," which means "The Sledgehammer." He had long fought a bloody turf battle with the Jalisco cartel, and authorities blamed him for much of the violence in the state.

While murders across the state dropped slightly to 339 in August from 403 in July, they may be rebounding in September as gang members fight to fill the vacuum left by Yépez Ortiz's detention.

# Trump paid just \$750 tax in 2016, 2017

**Washington, Sept. 28:** President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House, according to a report in *The New York Times*. Trump, who has fiercely guarded his tax filings and is the only president in modern times not to make them public, paid no federal income taxes in 10 of the past 15 years.



Donald Trump

The details of the tax filings published Sunday complicate Trump's description of himself as a shrewd and patriotic businessman, revealing instead a series of financial losses and income from abroad that could come into conflict with his responsibilities as president. The president's financial disclosures indicated he earned at least \$434.9 million in 2018, but the tax filings reported a \$47.4 million loss.

The tax filings also illustrate how a reputed billionaire could pay little to nothing in taxes, while someone in the middle class could pay substantially more than him. Roughly half of Americans pay no income taxes, primarily because of how low their incomes are. But IRS figures indicate that the average tax filer paid roughly \$12,200 in 2017, about 16 times more than what the president paid. The disclosure, which the *Times* said comes from tax return data it obtained extending over two decades, comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the first presidential debate Tuesday and weeks before a divisive election against Democrat Joe Biden.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as "fake news" and maintained he has paid taxes, though he gave no specifics. He also vowed that information about his taxes "will all be revealed," but he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through. In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, including the US House, which is suing to get Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

During his first two years as president, Trump received \$73 million from foreign operations, which in addition to his golf properties in Scotland and Ireland included \$3 million from the Philippines, \$2.3 million from India and \$1 million from Turkey, among other nations. He in 2017 paid \$145,400 in taxes in India and \$156,824 in the Philippines, compared to just \$750 in US income taxes. The *Times* said the tax records did not reveal any unreported connections to Russia. Trump found multiple ways to reduce his tax bills. He has taken tax deductions on personal expenses such as housing, aircraft and \$70,000 to style his hair while he filmed *The Apprentice*. —AP

## President pocketed \$21.2 mn in state, local refunds

Trump initially paid \$95 million in taxes over the 18 years it studied. But he managed to recover most of that money by claiming — and receiving — a stunning \$72.9 million federal tax refund. According to the Times, Trump also pocketed \$21.2 million in state and local refunds, which are typically based on federal filings.

Trump's outsize refund became the subject of a now-long-standing Internal Revenue Service audit of his finances.

The audit was widely known. Trump has claimed it was the very reason why he cannot release his returns. But the report is the first to identify the issue that was mainly in dispute.

As a result of the refund, Trump paid an average \$1.4 million in federal taxes from 2000 to 2017, the Times reported.

By contrast, the average US taxpayer in the top .001% of earners paid about \$25 million annually over the same timeframe.

Trump has financed an extravagant lifestyle with the use of business expenses

From his homes, his aircraft — and \$70,000 on hair styling during his television show *The Apprentice* — Trump has capitalised on cost incurred from his businesses to finance a luxurious lifestyle.

The Times noted that Trump's homes, planes and golf courses are part of the Trump family business and, as such, Trump classified them as business expenses as well. Because companies can write off business expenses as deductions, all such expenses have helped reduce his tax liability.

Many of President's best-known businesses are money-losers

The President has frequently pointed to his far-flung hotels, golf courses and resorts as evidence of his success as a developer and businessman. Yet these properties have been been draining money.

The *Times* reported that Trump has claimed \$315 million in losses since 2000 on his golf courses, including the Trump National Doral near Miami, which he has portrayed as a crown jewel in his business empire. Likewise, Trump International Hotel in Washington has lost \$55 million.

Foreign visitors have helped support Trump's properties

Since Trump began his presidential run, lobbyists, foreign governments and politicians have lavished significant sums of money on his properties, a spending spree that raised questions about its propriety and legality.

The report illustrates just how much that spending has been: Since 2015,

his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida has taken in \$5 million more a year from a surge in membership. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association spent at least \$397,602 in 2017 at Trump's Washington hotel. —AP

## TAX CHARGES ADD FUEL TO FIRST DEBATE

**Washington, Sept. 28:** US President Donald Trump on Sunday faced allegations that he paid little or no income tax for years before he came to power; as his cloudy financial past stoked controversy ahead of the first election debate. The *New York Times* alleged the billionaire president paid just \$750

federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the White House, and no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he reported losing more money than he made.

Trump, who immediately dismissed the accusations as "totally fake news," is readying to come face to face with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden at a live debate on Tuesday.

The Republican leader has broken with presidential tradition by refusing to release his tax returns, fighting a long battle in the courts and triggering speculation about what they might contain.

"First of all, I paid a lot and I paid a lot of state income taxes too... It'll all be revealed," Trump said as he shrugged off the Times story that cited tax data extending more than 20 years.

The paper said the records "reveal the hollowness, but also the wizardry, behind the self-made-billionaire image" of the president. —AFP

## Russia, China paid money to Biden son: Don

**Washington, Sept. 28:**

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's son Hunter received a large sum of money from Russia and China, US President Donald Trump has alleged and said that the mainstream media is "underplaying" the story and keeping quiet on it.

According to a Senate Republican report released last week, during Biden's tenure as vice president, Hunter, 50, received a \$3.5 million

from Russia, where the wife of the mayor of Moscow gives him three-and-a-half million dollars and nobody even has any question about it," Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Sunday.

According to a Senate Republican report released last week, during Biden's tenure as vice president, Hunter, 50, received a \$3.5 million

wire transfer from Elena Baturina, the widow of Moscow's former mayor Yury Luzhkov.

The report further alleged that Chinese nationals lavished Hunter and other members of the Biden family with money, giving Hunter and Biden's brother James credit cards for a \$100,000 international shopping spree.

Despite such a damaging report being published,

the mainstream media is "underplaying the story and keeping quiet on it," Trump said.

"If we had a media that was fair — even just reasonable — this would be the biggest story for years and years and years. Then you'd really be entitled to real Pulitzer Prizes, not the fake committee that gives you these fake awards," he told reporters.

—PTI

## 550 Armenians killed in fight with Azerbaijan

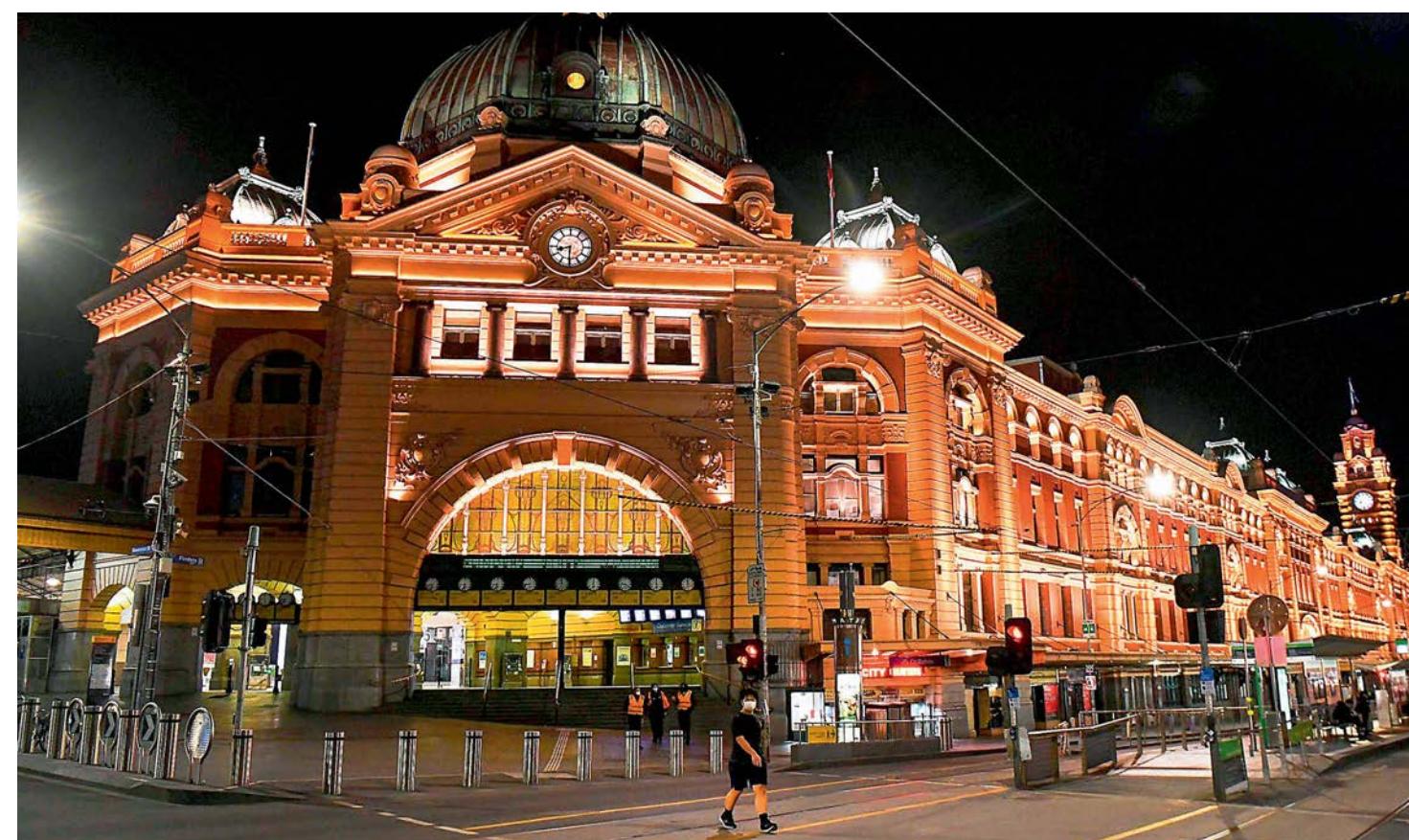
**Yerevan, Sept. 28:** Armenia and Azerbaijan forces kept fighting Monday over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh after hostilities broke out the day before, with both sides blaming each other for resuming the deadly attacks.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry told the Interfax news agency Monday that over 550 Armenian troops have been killed, a claim that Armenian officials denied. According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 31 servicemen have been killed so far.

Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannissyan said Monday over 200 people have been wounded. The heavy fighting broke out between the two countries on Sunday morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war.

It was not immediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides. Mostly mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh — a region around 4,400 square kilometres (1,700 square miles) or about the size of the United States state of Delaware — lies 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Armenian border. Local soldiers backed by Armenia also occupy some Azerbaijani territories outside the region.

—AP



People cross a street in Melbourne's central business district on Monday as five million residents in Australia's second biggest city emerged from an almost two-month overnight curfew as just five Coronavirus cases were recorded in worst-hit Victoria state. — AFP

## Quarantine breach: Tougher UK fines in force

### DUBAI TO RESTRICT NIGHTLIFE AMID COVID-19 INCREASE

by law to offering only delivery and room service after 3 a.m.

Authorities urged dining and drinking establishments to adhere to anti-virus protocols or face "consequential procedures and violations," including shutdowns and huge fines.

The new rules are aimed at ensuring compliance and reducing the spread of Covid-19.

Hotels will be restricted

Patel. "For those who fail to do so, the police will enforce the law. These new fines are a clear sign that we will not allow those who break the rules to reverse the hard-won prog-

ress made by the law-abiding majority," she said.

The government said that employers who force or allow staff to come to work when they should be self-isolating will also be liable for fines of up to £10,000, as a clear message that this will not be tolerated.

Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and can show that they have lost income

bars were allowed to reopen in July as Dubai, a top travel destination known for its lively nightlife, emerged from lockdown.

The United Arab Emirates has recorded more than 90,600 infections since the pandemic began, including over 400 deaths.

— AP

as a result of the compulsory quarantine, lasting around 14 days, will also be eligible for a new £500 Test and Trace Support Payment. The rules come in as infections continue to rise across the UK but only 18 per cent of people with symptoms of the deadly virus going into isolation, according to a study commissioned by the UK government.

These simple steps can make a huge difference to reduce the spread of the virus, but we will not hesitate to put in place further measures if cases continue to rise," he said. Local authorities will set up the Test and Trace Support Payment schemes. — PTI

China is using its militarised outposts in the South China Sea as platforms of coercion to assert control over waters it has no lawful claim over, the United States has said, demanding President Xi Jinping to honour his commitment that these maritime constructions "would not target or impact any country".

Instead the Chinese government backed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has pursued reckless and provocative militarisation of these disputed outposts, deploying anti-ship cruise missiles, expanding military radar with signal intelligence capabilities, constructing dozens of fighter jet hangars and runways capable of accommodating combat aircraft, Ortagus said.

"The CCP uses these militarised outposts as platforms of coercion to assert control over waters to which Beijing has no lawful maritime claim," Ortagus said. They serve as staging grounds for the hundreds of maritime vessels and China Coast Guard ships that regularly harass civilian carriers and impede legitimate law enforcement activities, offshore fishing, and hydrocarbon development by neighbouring states.

Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing and mineral exploration by neighbouring nations in recent years, saying the ownership of the resource-rich maritime territory belongs to China for hundreds of years. US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus on Sunday said five years ago on September 25, 2015 the Chinese President, standing in

## Pak court stays release of Pearl murder accused

### Money laundering case: Shahbaz held

in a money laundering case. Shahbaz, the Leader of the Opposition and the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from

the Lahore High Court's premises, where PML-N workers gathered ahead of the hearing in the Rs 700 crores (\$41.9 million) money laundering case. — PTI

### COURT INDICTS ZARDARI, SISTER

**Islamabad, Sept. 28:** An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former president Asif Ali Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur in a money laundering case. It comes just ahead of the planned protests next month by Opposition parties to demand the resignation of PM Imran Khan. — PTI

of Pearl in 2002, to seven years. The court also acquitted his three aides who were serving life terms in the case — almost

two decades after they were found guilty and jailed. Two days after the Sindh High Court overturned Sheikh's conviction, the Sindh government invoked the Maintenance of Public Order to keep the four convicts in jail. — PTI

**IN BRIEF**

**11-YEAR-OLD LEADS BEACH CLEAN-UP IN HK**

Hong Kong, Sept. 28: Lance Lau, an 11-year-old Hong Kong climate activist, has been called the Chinese territory's answer to Greta Thunberg. Outside the school gates, the bespectacled student would discuss issues, including Australia's recent bushfires to melting icebergs.

This week he was back after the school reopened, taking a stand outside the building before organising a beach cleanup as part of broader climate action by young people around the world. "If we don't take action now, humanity is just not going to exist very soon," he said. On weekends Lau goes to shopping malls with his mother to speak to residents and advocate for change.

"No one is too small to make a difference. We can all start taking action now." On a marshy beach opposite the city's international airport, groups of students wearing masks chanted and waved banners with "school strike for climate action". While the government has relaxed some Coronavirus measures, all public beaches remain shut.

**TRANSPLANTING CORALS TO SAVE TURKEY REEFS**

Ankara, Sept. 28: Transplanting coral is difficult work. "You only have 20 minutes to dive down 30 metres and transplant the coral to the correct part of the rock, where hopefully it will live for hundreds of years," explains Serco Eksiyian, one of a small group of volunteers who have taken on the huge task of saving the corals around the Princes' Islands (Adalar), a picturesque archipelago in the Marmara Sea about a 40-minute boat ride from Istanbul.

The Marmara Sea, made up of water from the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, is home to 24 Aleyonacea coral species whose existence is threatened by the onslaught of nearby property development. Among those disappearing are sea whips, sea pens, sea fans and some types of red and yellow soft corals.

Most of these corals you would never find outside of the Mediterranean basin. The further east you go, the more they move into deeper waters. It's miraculous that we are able to see them on the shores of the Princes' Islands," says Dr Eda Topcu, a marine biologist at Istanbul University and leader of the transplantation project. These corals, she says, are crucial for the survival of marine ecosystems as they provide safe spawning and nursing environments for aquatic life.

**SEEKING LEGAL DEFENCE FOR THE STARS**

Atacama Desert, Sept. 28: On the open expanses of Chile's high-altitude Atacama desert, bright stars pierce an ink-black firmament, a lure for stargazers looking for wonder and astronomers seeking signs of life on distant planets. Chile's arid northern deserts have attracted massive investment in telescopes in recent years and the country is home to nearly half the world's astronomical observatories. Now, under threat from light pollution coming from urban sprawl and development, Chile's environmental defenders are starting a fight to keep the skies dark, with legal muscle and new protections.

Cristobal de la Maza, superintendent of Chile's environmental protection body, said the agency was preparing legal suits against companies that skirt regulations, polluting the skies with artificial 'cold light' that dims the brightness of stars and planets.

Regulators have already filed charges against retailers Cencosud and Tottus, as well as the corporate building at BHP's Escondida, the world's largest copper mine.

A decision in the cases is pending. BHP and Tottus parent Falabella said in statements that they had presented corrective plans to the agency. Cencosud did not reply to a request for comment.

De la Maza said each of the companies was exceeding limits on light emissions, and that charges against other companies were pending. "We hope to file charges against other firms where we have detected infractions for quite some time," de la Maza said.

"We have been able to accelerate the sanctions needed to act as a deterrent."



Campaigners say the only long-term solution to the plastic waste crisis is for companies to make less and consumers to use less. — AFP

## World leaders take pledge to halt Earth's destruction

### Germany launches new search for nuclear waste storage site

**United Nations, Sept. 28:** World leaders have pledged to clamp down on pollution, embrace sustainable economic systems and eliminate the dumping of plastic waste in oceans by the middle of the century as part of "meaningful action" to halt the destruction of nature on Earth.

**Berlin, Sept. 28:** Germany has launched a new search for a site to store its most radioactive nuclear waste, eliminating a disputed site at a former salt mine that was earmarked decades ago and has long been a focus of protests. A report issued Monday by Germany's waste management organisation, or BGE, identified 90 areas covering 54% of the country's surface area as potentially geologically suited for a nuclear storage site. It kicked off what is bound to be a politically fraught process, with a final decision slated for 2031. The aim is to start using the selected site in 2050. Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan nine years ago, Germany decided to phase out its own nuclear power generation by the end of 2022. But the question of where to put the waste already generated has remained unresolved. Three years ago, parliament cleared the way for a science-based search for a site. Officials are seeking a safe home for a million years for some 1,900 containers of waste, which make up only 5% of Germany's total nuclear waste but 99% of its radioactivity, BGE chairman Stefan Stuett said.

"Germany's geology is so favourable, from north to south and east to west, that we can say with conviction that it will be possible to find the one site with the best possible security for the final storage of highly radioactive waste," Stuett added.

One site that won't be considered is the one that was earmarked by West German authorities in the 1970s—a former salt mine at Gorleben, in a sparsely populated area then located in an isolated corner of

**90 acres identified by Germany's waste management organisation as potentially geologically suited for a nuclear storage site**

**5%** of the total nuclear waste are in 1,900 containers for which German officials are seeking a safe home.

**EMMANUEL MACRON**, Angela Merkel, Justin Trudeau, Jacinda Ardern and Boris Johnson are among 64 leaders from five continents warning that humanity is in a state of planetary emergency due to climate crisis and the rampant destruction of life-sustaining ecosystems.

ments asking to address the event. "Science clearly shows that biodiversity loss, land and ocean degradation, pollution, resource depletion and climate change are accelerating at an unprecedented rate. This acceleration is causing irreversible harm to our life support systems and aggravating poverty and inequalities as well as hunger and malnutrition," the pledge reads. — Agencies

**Paris, Sept. 28:** Global governments and major polluters must take urgent action to develop technologies which can capture and store carbon emissions or it will be "virtually impossible" for the world to meet its climate targets, according to the International Energy Agency. The global energy watchdog said carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) projects should play a central role in meeting climate targets as one of four key pillars in

reducing emissions. Carbon capture, said the IEA, should sit alongside plans to electrify economies using renewable ener-

gy sources, replace fossil fuels with bioenergy and swap methane-rich gas for clean-burning hydrogen in factories, transport and homes. CCUS technologies typically trap the carbon dioxide produced by factories or fossil fuel power plants before they are emitted into the atmosphere where they contribute to global heating.

Once trapped, the greenhouse gas can then be piped into permanent underground storage facilities or sold to buyers who can use the carbon to manufacture plastics, boost their greenhouse crop yields or even make fizzy drinks.

Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, said the process is "critical" in the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy alternatives. "Without it, our energy and climate goals will become virtually impossible to reach," he said. The IEA also highlighted the "significant potential" of direct carbon capture schemes, which absorb carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere to create carbon neutral economies, but it warned that costs would need to come down.

The "slow start" for carbon capture projects means there are only 20 projects in commercial use worldwide.

— Agencies

## Oz begins disposal of 350 dead whales as rescue efforts end

**Sydney, Sept. 28:** Australian wildlife officials began disposing of hundreds of dead pilot whales on Saturday after concluding there was no longer any hope of rescuing any more. In Australia's biggest whale beaching, 470 whales were first spotted on a wide sandbank during an aerial reconnaissance of rugged Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania state on Monday.

After days of difficult and dangerous rescue attempts, Australia said they rescued 108 whales, with the rest now believed to have died. Rob Buck, Incident Controller and Parks and Wildlife Service manager, said 15 whales have already been disposed of at sea, but the operations to dispose of the remaining near 350

mammals was expected to take several days at least. "Collection and disposal is being undertaken with the assistance of aquaculture companies whose equipment and expertise on the harbour is essential for a timely and effective outcome," Buck said in an emailed statement. The bodies of the dead whales were being separated into

groups and enclosed with water booms to try keep them in one place and isolated from sharks and other predators. Most of the released whales, a gregarious species that lives in deep waters, were expected to "regroup" and recover from the traumatic event, officials said.

Whales are known to strand themselves on beaches across the world and they do so singularly or in groups. While individual strandings are mostly attributed to injury or sickness, it is not clear why exactly whales beach themselves in groups.

Even so, there are a few theories that might explain this behaviour. One reason could be that some whales follow schooling fish or other prey into shallow waters, which causes the

## Scientists find proof of two virus-eating microorganisms

**New York, Sept. 28:** Scientists have found the first compelling evidence that two groups of ecologically important marine microorganisms could be eating viruses—catching their "prey" and engulfing them, an advance that may lead to a better understanding of the flow of carbon through the microbial food web.

In the study, Stepanauskas and his colleagues sampled surface seawater from the Northwestern Atlantic in the Gulf of Maine in the US in July 2009, and the Mediterranean off Catalonia, Spain in January and July 2016. They used modern single-cell genomics tools to sequence the total DNA from 1,698 individual protists in the water, and found evidence of protists with or without associated DNA. The researchers explained that the associated DNA could be from symbiotic organisms, ingested prey or viruses or bacteria sticking to the protists' exterior.

The scientists explained that the predominant model of the role of viruses in the marine ecosystem is that of the "viral shunt", where microbes infected with viruses lose a substantial fraction of their chemicals back to the pool of dissolved organic matter.

However, the current

— PTI

## California wildfire forces evacuation of hospital, homes

**St. Helena, Calif. Sept. 28:** A wind-driven wildfire erupted on Sunday in the heart of northern California's Napa Valley wine country and spread across more than 1,000 acres (404 hectares), forcing the evacuation of several hundred homes and a hospital, authorities said. Fire crews were out in force, scrambling to fend off flames threatening neighbourhoods and vineyards in the northwest corner of the famed wine-growing valley, about 75 miles (120 km) north of San Francisco.

The blaze, dubbed the Glass Fire, broke out before dawn near Calistoga and raced toward the adjacent towns of Deer Park and St. Helena, with flames advancing to within a mile of the Adventist Health St. Helena medical facility. All 55 patients who were at the hospital at the time were safely evacuated by ambulance and helicopter over the course of five hours, beginning around 7 a.m. in the morning, hospital spokeswoman Linda Williams said.

"We had ambulances lined up from all over the Bay area," she said, adding that while the facility was surrounded by smoke, the skies over the hospital itself remained clear enough for helicopters to land and take off with patients who needed to be evacuated by air. It was the second wildfire-related evacua-

tion of the 151-bed hospital since August, coming on the heels of a massive cluster of lightning-sparked blazes that swept several counties north of the San Francisco Bay region. Some 600 homes were placed under evacuation orders, with residents of another 1,400 dwellings warned to be ready to flee at a moment's notice, according to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) spokesman Tyree Zander.

About 5,000 people in all were affected by evacuation notices, he said. By 1:30 p.m., flames stoked by winds gusting up to 50 miles per hour (80 kph) had scorched some 1,200 acres (485 hectares) of grassy rolling hillsides and oak woodlands, with zero percent containment, Zander said. The fire's cause was under investigation. There were no immediate reports of injuries, but a Reuters photographer in St. Helena saw a number of structures that had been burned.

The blaze erupted mid-day through the traditional grape-harvesting period in the Napa Valley, world renowned as one of California's premiere wine-producing regions. The area's 475 wineries account for just 4% of the state's total annual grape harvest but half of the retail value of all California wines sold, according to the Napa Valley Vintners trade group. — Reuters

## Carbon storage tech critical for meeting climate targets

**utie Williams, director of the process, said the** Glass Fire, broke out before dawn near Calistoga and raced toward the adjacent towns of Deer Park and St. Helena, with flames advancing to within a mile of the Adventist Health St. Helena medical facility. All 55 patients who were at the hospital at the time were safely evacuated by ambulance and helicopter over the course of five hours, beginning around 7 a.m. in the morning, hospital spokeswoman Linda Williams said.

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## Birds of a feather



Spotted owlets are seen on a tree branch in Kathmandu on Monday. — AFP

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	37,981.63
Nifty 50	11,227.55
S&P 500*	3,352.21
Dollar (₹)	73.78 -0.21
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.50 -0.54
Euro (₹)	85.85 -0.05
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,449 ▼194 0.38
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	6.056 0.018
IN 10-Yr bond yield	0.658 -0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	42.37 0.45

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

### Deadline for various schemes extended to Dec.

Providing relief to companies, the government has extended the duration of "several schemes" till December 31. The corporate affairs ministry has extended the Companies Fresh Start Scheme and the LLP Settlement Scheme, besides allowing companies to conduct EGMs and board meetings through video conference or other audio-visual means till end of this year. The earlier deadlines were to end on Sept. 30.

### SBI rolls out festive offers for retail customers



State Bank of India announced several festive offers for its retail borrowers, including 100 per cent waiver of processing fee for customers applying for car, gold, and personal loans through Yono. The bank is giving concessions up to 10 bps on interest rates for the customers based on their credit score and home loan amount. For car loan borrowers, it is offering interest rate starting from 7.5 per cent.

### Sebi slaps ₹20 L fine on Bonanza Portfolio

The Sebi slapped a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on stock broker Bonanza Portfolio Ltd for misusing clients' funds and securities, among other issues. The Sebi carried out a multi-theme inspection of books of Bonanza (noticee) during May-July 2018 and found that the broker misutilised client funds. It was observed that the misutilisation of the clients' funds by Bonanza is in the range of Rs 9.6 crore to Rs 45 crore.

### Housing sales in top 7 cities down 61% in Sept. qtr

Housing sales are estimated to have fallen 61 per cent year-on-year during July-September to 14,415 units, against 36,826 units, across seven major cities on lower demand, says property consultant JLL India. Housing sales are reported at 1,742 units in Bengaluru, 1,570 units in Chennai, 3,112 units in Delhi-NCR, 2,122 units in Hyderabad, 390 units in Kolkata, 4,135 units in Mumbai and 1,344 units in Pune, JLL said.

## Meet postponed; 3 members' term ends Oops! Truncated MPC can't meet

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced a rescheduling of this week's interest-rate meeting after the government failed to appoint external members to the monetary policy committee (MPC). The RBI in a statement said that new dates will be announced shortly without giving any reason for postponing the bi-monthly monetary policy review that was scheduled during September 29 to October 1.

The terms of three external people on the six-member MPC ended last month, and they are yet to be replaced by the government. The rules of the panel require at least four members to be present at the meeting.

The RBI is awaiting the government's decision on new external members to the committee. As per the RBI Act, external members of MPC have a tenure



of four years. The terms of the previous external members—Pami Dua, Chetan Ghate, and Ravindra Dholakia—are unlikely to be extended as that can be done only through legislative changes to the Reserve Bank of India Act.

The MPC came into existence in October 2016.

Some economists pointed out that the move would create uncertainty at a time when the economy is facing its worst contraction while some downplayed the move.

"The government may have its own reasoning and we may have to wait and see what is its thinking (for delaying the appointment of the new members)," said an economist.

"Postponing of the MPC meeting a week or two weeks later may not make a great difference to the current economic situation," said another economist.

The RBI is likely to maintain a status quo on rates as retail inflation continues to remain elevated beyond the tolerable limit.

However, the RBI would continue to emphasize its accommodative stance and keep doing tweaks to liquidity and regulatory operations to keep financial market conditions benign said economists.

The RBI has cut repo rate by 115 basis points since February last year. One basis point is one hundredth of a percent age point.

### ITI set to make 4G, 5G equipment

New Delhi, Sept. 28: IT company Tech Mahindra is in an advanced stage of sharing technology with ITI Limited and said the state-run electronics manufacturing entity will be ready to make 4G and 5G equipment in a few months, an official of the Mahindra group firm said.

In June, the company signed an agreement with ITI for development of 4G and 5G technologies.

"We are in the stages of exchanging design, starting to plan and also doing a couple of test runs and trials based on the technology that they are looking to manufacture," Vyas said.

—PTI

### Stocks rise on stimulus hope, unlock moves

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28

The broad-based rally in the market, led by the banks and financials sector, continued on Monday on expectations of the government announcing a stimulus ahead of the key festivals, further opening of the economy, postponement of a Supreme Court verdict in case relating to interest on loans during the moratorium period and positive global cues.

Sensex and Nifty-50 gained over 1.5 per cent, with the Sensex rising above 38,000 mark intraday and closing 592.97 points up at 37,981.63. The Nifty-50 gained 177.30 points to close at 11,227.55.

Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "The global cues turned positive amid signs of China's economic recovery, given its upbeat

industrial data. Further, the hopes of a stimulus package announcement by the US government also kept the mood positive. On the domestic front, positive global cues, expectations of a stimulus package from the Indian government along with news flows around further opening up of the economy, cheered the market.

Banking stocks gained on hopes that the government may infuse some capital into the sector in order to provide support to the banks over waiving interest rates on loans under moratorium."

The broader market outperformed the benchmarks with Nifty Mid-cap 50 up 3.63 per cent and Nifty Smallcap 100 up 3.58 per cent.

Reports saying the Maharashtra government may soon allow dine in services in Restaurants led to rally in hotel stocks.

### Engineering exports in August decline 18.7%

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

Increased demand for basic metals did not help the total exports of engineering goods, which once again declined in August after recording positive growth in July. Subdued industrial activity is still pulling down shipments of value-added products.

Overall engineering exports from India dropped by 18.73 per cent during April-August against the same period last year. In August, exports were down 8 per cent. Exports, which were down 63 per cent in April, have been improving month-on-month and had registered a positive growth of 9.6 per cent in July, as per the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India.

While some critical basic metal exports grew, 28 out of 33 product categories registered a year-on-year fall. Iron and steel saw a jump of 43.7 per cent to \$5.3 billion from \$3.7 billion



over the same period last fiscal. Likewise, copper and products witnessed a growth of 60.3 per cent from \$313 million to \$501.7 million.

Value-added products of iron and steel shipments saw a sharp drop of 29.7 per cent from \$2.9 billion to \$2.04 billion.

Exports of industrial machinery were down 47 per cent, IC Engines and parts 31 per cent, pumps 34 per cent, air conditioners and refrigeration 43 per cent and machine tools 34.5 per cent.

Shipments of motor vehicles and cars declined 56.5 per cent and two- & three-wheelers 46 per cent.

### Probe into dumping of API from China

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

The government has initiated a probe against alleged dumping of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) ceftriaxone sodium sterile by China.

Based on complaints by Nectar Life Science and Sterile India, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies has initiated an investigation against the imports of ceftriaxone sodium sterile, the API of cephalosporin antibiotic used for treating various infection and inflammatory conditions.

The applicants have contended that material injury is being caused to the domestic industry due to dumped imports from China and have requested for imposition of anti-dumping duty on the imports of the goods from that country, a notification by DGTR said.

The applicants have claimed that the goods produced by the domestic industry are identical to the subject goods exported to India.

According to them, Chinese producers are not able to demonstrate that their costs and price information are market-driven.

Dumping happens when a country exports an item at a price lower than prevailing in its domestic market.

"On the basis of the duly substantiated written application by the domestic industry and having satisfied itself, on the basis of the prima facie evidence submitted by the domestic industry, about dumping of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject country, injury to the domestic industry and causal link between such alleged dumping and injury ... the authority, hereby, initiates an investigation," the DGTR said in the notification.

India's geostrategic position and massive market size give it an edge over its global peers amid the fundamental political realignment of nations taking shape, he said adding opportunities for India are likely to accelerate on the other side of the pandemic.

### Startup space gets \$63 bn, 27 unicorns in five years

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

The startup ecosystem has raised \$63 billion growth capital between 2016 and 2020 and has spawned 27 unicorns.

"Of the total inflows, nearly half, or \$34 billion, came in 2019 alone and another \$17 billion in 2020 till May, according to the data collated by the Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association and Praxis Global Alliance.

This huge funding has helped India become the third largest tech startup ecosystem in the world after the US and China.

As per the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, India has around 24,000 firms registered as startups. In recent years, the market has witnessed emergence of a large number of tech-based startups.

Nasscom data shows that there are 8,900 to 9,300 tech startups in the country and the ecosystem is adding more than 1,000 every year.

Tech-enabled players continue to drive investors' interest and have dominated early stage funding.

Between 2016 and 2019, the startup ecosystem saw the emergence of 27 unicorns, or those with valuation of \$1 billion and more.

Byju's, BigBasket, Delhivery, Flipkart, Hike, Makemytrip, Oyo, Ola, Paytm, PolicyBazaar, Quickr, Snapdeal, Swiggy, Udaan and Zomato are some of the PE-funded unicorns.

### Analysts fear Lakshmi Vilas is heading Yes Bank way



RBI appoints committee of directors to run the bank's operations

Move comes after AGM votes out 7 directors, including promoters and RBI-appointed CEO

Analysts fear deposit withdrawals could precipitate liquidity issues at bank

inducted in the bank for a the bank," added Subramanian.

The developments have unfolded when the Chennai-based bank is undergoing a challenging phase and is in talks for a merger with Clix Capital.

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### ATHER ENERGY UNVEILS SERIES 1 E-SCOOTER

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, SEPT. 28

Ather Energy, the electric vehicle startup, has revealed the collector's edition of the Ather 450X scooter called 'Series1'.

The Bengaluru-based company has announced that the Series1 will be given only to the customers who pre-ordered the 450X scooter before its prices were announced on January 28.

While Ather 450X scooter was priced at Rs 1.59 lakh at Bengaluru showroom, a spokesperson at the company told PTI that Series 1 electric scooter would also carry the same price when it will be made available in November.

The company said that the deliveries of Series1 scooters will begin in all 11 cities —Bangalore, Chennai, Kozhikode, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Coimbatore, Delhi NCR, Kozhikode, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata.

### BBB to interview 15 for SBI MD post on Oct. 5

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

The government is likely to soon pick a candidate for the position of managing director (MD) in State Bank of India (SBI) out of 15 short-listed candidates. A government panel, Bank Board Bureau (BBB), will interview the candidates online on October 5, said a finance ministry source.

By the existing structure, SBI has four MDs, namely, Dinesh Khara, Arjith Basu, S.C. Setty and Ashwani Bhatia. Khara has been already named as the next chairman of SBI once incumbent Rajnish Kumar hangs up his boots on October 7.

Once this post is filled up, the country's largest lender will fall short of one MD and another post will become vacant on Basu's superannuation in October end.



"The BBB will soon appoint the vacant position of MD in the SBI. It has already selected 15 candidates for the interview from within and outside the SBI. Apart from seven internal candidates from the SBI group, there will be eight candidates from outside the group," the source told Finance Chronicle.

The eight non-SBI candidates short-listed for the interview are executive director rank officials. Besides, some of the internal aspirants from SBI who are throwing their

hats in the ring include Alok Choudhary (chief development officer), P.C. Kandpal (MD & CEO, SBI General), Sanjeev Naik (DMD) and Swaminathan (CFO), the source added.

The selection process is based on various parameters and most get eliminated in the final round. For example, four candidates from Central Bank of India had appeared for the ED post of PSU banks, but none could make it to the position. Similarly, nine candidates had appeared for the same interview from the bank a couple of years ago, but none of them was found eligible for the post of ED, the source said.

The BBB generally reviews both five-year internal performance appraisal of a candidate and performance in the interview, with both getting equal weight.

### Adani debunks GDP rhetoric, says India will be 2nd largest by 2050

New Delhi, Sept. 28: Billionaire Gautam Adani has debunked the analysts' narrow fixation on GDP numbers, saying fundamentals are intact and India will be the second-largest economy by 2050 and has an edge over global peers in terms of business opportunities.

Speaking at a JP Morgan India summit, the Adani Group chairman said the AatmaNirbhav Bharat programme will be a game-changer. "I will state without any hesitation that in my view, over the next three decades, India is the world's greatest business opportunity," he said.

India's geostrategic position and massive market size give it an edge over its global peers amid the fundamental political realignment of nations taking shape, he said adding

## SHORT TAKES

## SA domestic T20 League put off

Johannesburg: The Mzansi Super League (MSL), country's domestic T20 tournament, has been postponed to November-December next year due to logistical issues in wake of the raging COVID-19 pandemic, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said on Monday.

"Cricket South Africa (CSA) regrets to confirm that the 2020 edition of the Mzansi Super League (MSL) has been postponed to November-December 2021," the board said in a statement. The third edition of the T20 league was earlier scheduled to be played in the usual November-December window with the addition of two new franchises based in Bloemfontein and East London.

"The impact of revised calen-

dars for international cricket across all ICC Members and other T20 leagues, have had a

knock-on effect on South African cricket scheduling. The Covid-19 restrictions and uncertainty around international travel, including the state of control of South African borders, as well as border control at the country points of departure of international players, also com-

pelled CSA to make this rational decision," CSA's acting CEO, Kugandrie Govender said. — PTI

## Arab club signs Israeli footballer

Dubai: An Arab club has for the first time signed an Israeli footballer, Dina Sabia, less than two weeks after the UAE normalised ties with the Jewish state. Sabia, a 27-year-old Israeli Arab attacking midfielder with China's Guangzhou R&F, signed a two-year contract with Dubai's Al-Nasr, the club said in a statement Sunday. The transfer reportedly cost more than 2.5 million euros (\$2.9 million).

"Al-Nasr has completed the procedures with Dina Sabia ... in a contract that extends for two seasons after he successfully passed medical examinations this morning," it said in a statement.

Al-Nasr tweeted footage of Sabia wearing the number 9 jersey, dribbling and shooting in the emirate's Al-Maktoum Stadium. Sabia's move comes after the United Arab Emirates, of which Dubai is a member, signed a US-brokered accord to normalise ties with Israel on September 15, the first such deal with a Gulf nation. Sabia has scored 50 goals in 111 games in various competitions, including 24 in the 2018 season, and has 10 caps in the Israeli national team. — AFP

## Lahiri ends sixth at Dominica golf

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri shot a 2-under 70 on the final day to total 13-under for a T-6 finish at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, his best result in two years.

Lahiri felt confident even before he teed up this week, so much so that he did not book a return ticket home but instead booked himself on a charter to the next venue. Yet, he found himself four-over after the first three holes, before beginning a terrific fightback and finished T-6, his first Top-10 result since the T-10 in the Mayakoba Golf Classic in Mexico in November, 2018. He was also T-6 at WGC-Bridgestone in August, 2018. Hudson Swafford (69), who at one stage held four-shot lead managed to hang in and fend off Tyler McCumber (66), who played with Lahiri, to win the title. Swafford totalled 18-under, one ahead of McCumber, while Mackenzie Hughes (70) was third at 16-under.

Swafford's second PGA Tour win, the first since 2017, earned him 500 FedExCup points and entries to the Sentry Tournament of Champions, 2021 Masters Tournament, THE PLAYERS Championship and PGA Championship. — PTI

## Live on TV

**CRICKET**  
IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**TENNIS**  
French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

**FOOTBALL**  
Spanish League: Real Sociedad vs Valencia from 10.30 pm; Getafe vs Real Betis from 1 am (Wednesday) on LaLiga page on Facebook

**UEFA Champions League Play-offs:** Dynamo Kyiv vs Gent from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1; Ferencvaros vs Molde from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Omonia vs Olympiacos from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

# RCB mum Indians

ABD's knock powers Bangalore to down MI in super over

Dubai, Sept. 28: Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Mumbai Indians in a thrilling Super Over contest in the Indian Premier League on Monday after the match was tied during regulation 20 overs.

In the Super Over, Navdeep Saini conceded only 7 runs and RCB skipper Virat Kohli hit Jasprit Bumrah for a boundary off the final delivery to win it for his team.

Chasing a target of 202, Mumbai Indians managed 201 for 5 after Ishan Kishan (99 off 58 balls) and Kieron Pollard (60 off 24 balls) nearly pulled off an incredible chase but could manage 8 off the required 19 runs in the last over.

When RCB batted, half centuries from AB de Villiers, Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal propelled them to 201 for 3 after being put into bat.

De Villiers scored 55 off 24 balls while Finch (52 off 35 balls) and Padikkal (54 off 40 balls) also contributed handsomely.

For MI, Trent Boult got 2 for 34 and Rahul Chahar got the other wicket.

Earlier, it was De Villiers, who used all his might during the death overs to smash his way to an unbeaten 55 off 24 balls, taking the score past 200-run mark. His innings had four sixes and as many boundaries as the swift yet brutal assault of Jasprit Bumrah (0/42 in 4 overs) will be remembered for a long time.

Even James Pattinson

● It was AB de Villiers who used all his might during the death overs to smash his way to an unbeaten 55 off 24 balls, taking the score past 200-run mark.

(0/51 in 4 overs) received a lot of stick as two speed merchants accounted for 8 off the 10 sixes in the RCB innings.

The last five overs produced 78 runs with Shivam Dube scoring 27 not out off 10 balls.

While Australia's white ball skipper Aaron Finch scored 52 off 35 balls to get his team off to a flying start, the extremely elegant Padikkal upped the ante in the later half with some delightful big hits, scoring 54 off 40 balls. The duo added 81 runs for the opening stand.

Padikkal's innings was studded with five boundaries and two sixes and a good stand of 62 runs for the third wicket with De Villiers, who then provided the final flourish as he has been doing for years now. The tall upright Padikkal's second IPL half-ton will be remembered specially for two sixes off fast bowler James Pattinson. The first was when the left-hander rocked on the backfoot and punched it over mid-off and the next was a stand and deliver straight into the sight screen.

— PTI



AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore en route to his unbeaten 55 against Mumbai Indians in their Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday. — BCCI

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.100
Rajasthan Royals	2	2	0	0	4	+0.615
Royal Challengers Bangalore	3	2	1	0	4	-1.450
Kings XI Punjab	3	1	2	0	2	+1.498
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	+0.654
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	0	2	-0.767
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Sunrisers Hyderabad	2	0	2	0	0	-0.730

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

## SCORECARD

<b>Royal Challengers Bangalore:</b> Devdutt Padikkal c Pollard b Boult 54, Aaron Finch c Pollard b Boult 52, Virat Kohli c Sharma b Chahar 3, AB de Villiers (not out) 55, Shivam Dube (not out) 27. Extras: (lb-7, w-3). Total: (for 3 wkts, in 20 overs) 201.
<b>Bowling:</b> Trent Boult 4-0-34-2, James Pattinson 4-0-51-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-31-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-42-0, Kruna Pandya 3-0-23-0, Kieron Pollard 1-0-13-0.
<b>Mumbai Indians:</b> R. Sharma (c) c sub (P. Negi) b Washington Sundar 8, Q de Kock c sub (P. Negi) b Chahal 14, S. Yadav c de Villiers b Udana 0 Ishan Kishan c Padikkal b Udana 99, H. Pandya c sub (P. Negi) b Zampa 15, K Pollard (not out) 60, K. Pandya (not out) 0. Extras: (w 5) 5. Total (for 5 wkts, in 20 overs) 201.
<b>Bowling:</b> Trent Boult 4-0-42-0, Kruna Pandya 3-0-23-0, Kieron Pollard 1-0-13-0.
<b>Super Over:</b> Mumbai Indians (7/1) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore (11/0).

## Pooran reacts in Nich of time

Dubai, Sept. 28: Nicholas Pooran stunned the cricket world and social media with a gravity-defying piece of fielding to prevent a six on a record-breaking night in the IPL.

Pooran dived cat-like to grab the ball at full stretch six feet over the boundary before twisting in mid-air and backhanding it over the rope a split-second before he hit the ground.

The West Indian's acrobatics to deny Rajasthan Royals batsman Sanju Samson a six weren't enough, however, to stop his Kings XI Punjab side losing to the biggest run chase in IPL history in Sharjah on Sunday.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar called it "the best save I have seen in my life. Simply incredible!" — prompting thanks to the "#god-of-cricket" from Punjab's fielding coach Jonty Rhodes.

"(There) really is NO



Kings XI Punjab's Nicholas Pooran makes a gravity-defying save in their IPL match against Rajasthan Royals in Sharjah on Sunday.

question about it being THE best save, EVER. Fantastic work by @nicholas\_47 who inspired the rest of the @lionsdenkxip fielders to put on 1 of the best defensive fielding displays I have ever seen," Rhodes tweeted.

Former England batsman Kevin Pietersen, commenting on television, was blown away by

Trinidad-born Pooran's "unbelievable" exploit, which resulted in two runs being taken instead of six.

"No way, no way, no way.

That is unbelievable! The save of T20 cricket ever,

that is the best I have seen," Pietersen said.

The video of the spectacular effort lit up social media.

"Pooran save for the

## DELHI LOOK TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 28: Off to the best possible start with two wins on the trot, a confident Delhi Capitals will hope to keep the juggernaut rolling when they take on the winless Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Tuesday. Both sides have endured contrasting campaigns so far.

Delhi head into the game after two morale-boosting victories. The Shreyas Iyer-led side edged past Kings XI Punjab in a thrilling Super Over before thrashing Chennai Super Kings comprehensively to jump to the top of the points table.

On the other hand, SRH are the only side yet to register a win in the tournament, having lost both their games and David Warner and his men will be desperate to turn things around. — PTI

And icing on the cake was Royals Brand

— PTI

Ambassador Shane Warne's praise. "Firstly what courage and heart shown by Tewatia, especially after his poor start with bat, well done young man awesome," Warne summed it up in a tweet that Tewatia would remember for a long time.

Yadav, a former hard-hitting India wicketkeeper-batsman remembers a shy kid who came at his "Cricket Gurukul" in 1998-99 as an eight-year old.

"His father is a lawyer in a Faridabad court and they are a middle-class family. But what struck me was his family's enthusiasm even though he was a shy kid," Yadav remembers. — PTI

on favourite like the Kings XI tumbles, the bookies as well as online bookmaking and fantasy cricket firms are laughing all the way to the bank.

The point is cricketers cannot aid them in any way in this exercise of taking the punters for a ride. Did that happen in this game is a question IPL management has to answer.

After all, they are the ones who were sinned when the game was in disarray for bringing it into disrepute with owners betting enthusiastically on teams. The organisers might believe this game was a dream offering for cricket fans provided, of course, no room is left for suspicion over events being scripted.

for five sixes and only escaping with the fifth ball at which Tewatia, a player who had been traded out before being brought back into RR as an economical domestic recruit, swung and missed.

Cottrell's over-the-wicket left arm into the batsman line was the perfect gift for a left-handed batsman. And Rahul had overs of Murugan Ashwin in hand besides those of the sharp Mohammed Shami.

The T20 game is the perfect format to make fools of predictors and fantasy game players. The odds on events can change so rapidly as to leave only the bookies happy because the punters are so bewildered as to make bets at the right time at the wrong price on most matches or events. When an impossibly odd-

## Self-belief behind Tewatia's high 5

Sharjah, Sept. 28: Rahul Tewatia, who became an overnight star by smashing West Indian pacer Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes in an over, says his self-belief did not waver despite the "worst 20 balls" he ever played early in his roller-coaster knock.

His sensational effort helped Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab in an incredible IPL match on Sunday night. Early on his innings, he was struggling to put bat to ball.

"The dugout knows I can hit the ball long. I knew I had to believe in myself. It was a matter of one six," the 27-year-old Tewatia said after the Royals' 4-wicket win.

"Five (sixes) in the over, that is amazing. I tried to hit the leg-spinner, but unfortunately I couldn't. So I had to hit other bowlers."

He hit those big hits in the 18th over off Cottrell, four of them on the trot, to turn the match on its head after the Royals needed 51 runs from the last three overs.

Tewatia struggled to connect with the ball initially after he was sent at Steve Smith's fall ahead of the likes of Robin Uthappa.

However, with he wasting the deliveries at the crucial juncture, pressure was building on Sanju Samson.

Asked about it, the player from Haryana said, "Now I



Rahul Tewatia of Rajasthan Royals in action against Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Sunday. — BCCI

The dugout knows I can hit the ball long. I knew I had to believe in myself. It was a matter of one six.

— RAHUL TEWATIA

Rajasthan Royals batsman

am better. The worst 20 balls I have ever played. After then I began to hit so I kept going.

NBA PLAY-OFFS

HEAT COOL OFF  
CELTICS TO  
REACH FINAL

Miami: The Miami Heat poured it on in the fourth quarter to beat the Boston Celtics 125-113 on Sunday and book a NBA Finals showdown with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Heat, NBA champions in 2006, 2012 and 2013, reached the championship series for the sixth time in club history with a four games to two victory over the Celtics in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

When the finals start on Wednesday they'll be up against a Lakers team led by LeBron James — who reached the title series four times with Miami and won two titles before departing as a free agent in 2014.

Bam Adebayo scored 32 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by six with 9:18 remaining.

Midway through the fourth quarter Adebayo was fouled on a layup and made the free throw put the Heat up 101-100 and they wouldn't trail again. It was a vindication for the player who blamed himself for the team's failure to clinch the series at their first opportunity in game five.

Jimmy Butler added 22 points and eight assists and rookie Tyler Herro scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter for the Heat. Duncan Robinson and Andre Iguodala scored 15 points apiece and Goran Dragic added 13 for Miami. Herro contributed two baskets in a 9-0 scoring run that put the Heat up by 10 with 3:31 to play and Adebayo's pass set Butler up for a layup that made it 116-102 with 2:40 remaining. Fittingly, it was Adebayo who capped the scoring when he jammed in a reverse two-hander. — AFP

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## VARDY SINKS CITY

Jamie tricks as Leicester maul Manchester

London, Sept. 28: Jamie Vardy's hat-trick dealt an early blow to Manchester City's hopes of wresting back the Premier League title as they conceded three penalties in a 5-2 defeat to Leicester, while Newcastle's late spot-kick to snatch a 1-1 draw at Tottenham sparked fresh debate over the handball rule.

Leicester stormed to the top of the league, but had to come from behind to extend their perfect start to the season as Riyad Mahrez's stunning strike against his former club opened the scoring after just four minutes.

Vardy this time slotted low past Ederson and James Maddison killed off a jaded City with a sumptuous curling effort into the top corner.

Ake pulled a goal back six minutes from time from Mahrez's corner, but after Vardy had made way, another idiotic City challenge, this time from Benjamin Mendy allowed Youri Tielemans to score Leicester's third penalty.

City are reportedly close to signing Benfica centre-back Ruben Dias and the need for defensive cover was obvious as Vardy tore apart the experimental pairing of Eric Garcia and Nathan Ake.

Meanwhile, Tottenham find themselves already five points behind the Foxes and Everton at the top of the table after letting two points slip away from a dominant display against Newcastle.

Lucas Moura's predatory finish on 25 minutes was all Spurs had to show from a first-half where Newcastle's Callum Wilson's penalty was all that was needed to spoil the efforts of Tottenham and let the match end in a 1-1 stalemate.

— AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo (right) of Juventus scores an equaliser past Roma's Antonio Mirante (left) in their Italian League football match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on Sunday. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. — AFP

## Ronaldo's double saves Juventus

Rome, Sept. 28: Even on a night when Juventus was outplayed for long stretches, the nine-time defending Italian League champion managed to salvage a point in a 2-2 draw at Roma.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, including a second-half equaliser with a towering header after Juventus had been reduced to 10 men, while Jordan Veretout had a brace for Roma.

"We got back into it, even after the red card," Ronaldo said.

Veretout put Roma ahead in the 31st with a penalty following a handball from Adrien Rabiot, who was trying to block a shot from Veretout.

Ronaldo then equalised from the spot after Lorenzo Pellegrini used his arm to block the five-time Ballon d'Or winner. Veretout scored his second in first-half added time as Roma tore past Juventus' veteran but aging center backs Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini.

— AFP

## Messi, Suarez score for different teams

Madrid, Sept. 28: Luis Suarez quickly made an impact at Atletico Madrid. Former teammate Lionel Messi was his usual impressive self for Barcelona.

Suarez, who had his debut Sunday with Atletico after being told he was not wanted by Barcelona, scored twice and had an assist in the nearly 20 minutes he played in Atletico's 6-1 rout of Granada in the Spanish league.

Messi scored once and helped his team beat Villarreal 4-0 in its league opener under new coach Ronald Koeman.

It was Messi's first official game with Barcelona since the club denied his request to leave in the off-season.

Messi celebrated as usual after scoring from the penalty spot in the 35th minute at the Camp Nou Stadium. He later also played a role in the own-goal by Pau Torres before halftime, as the Villarreal defender tried to intercept a cross by the Argentine great. — AP

## Wawrinka packs Murray in Paris

Paris, Sept. 28: Roland Garros got underway in the "ridiculous" chill and damp of Paris on Sunday with Victoria Azarenka walking off court, complaining that it was "too cold" to play, before Stan Wawrinka brushed aside fellow three-time major winner Andy Murray 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 in the day's marquee clash.

"I should be analysing that hard and trying to understand why the performance was like that," said 33-year-old Murray.

On a grim day for Britain, ninth seed and 2019 semi-finalist Johanna Konta was knocked out by teenage sensation Coco Gauff.

The 16-year-old American, making her debut in the main draw having been the junior champion just two years ago, eased to a 6-3, 6-3 win despite serving up 12 double faults.

Top seed and 2018 champion Simona Halep swept into the second round with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Spanish world number 70 Sara Sorribes Tormo.

Playing under the roof, second-ranked Halep trailed 4-2 but claimed the final 10 games to progress in 82 minutes.

"The perfect present was that I won today," said Halep.

Another rookie winner was Sebastian Korda, the son of 1992 Roland Garros runner-up and 1998 Australian Open champion Petr, who saw off Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. — AFP

## SELECTED RESULTS

**Men's singles first round (number in brackets denotes seeding):** Hugo Gaston (FRA) bt Maxime Janvier (FRA) 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3; Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) bt Felix Auger-Alassime (CAN) x19 7-5, 6-3, 6-3; Jack Sock (USA) bt Reilly Opelka (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; Dominik Thiem (AUT) x3 bt Marin Cilic (CRO) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA) bt Michael Mmoh (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ) bt Fabio Fognini (ITA) x14 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-0; Pedro Martinez (ESP) bt Aleksandar Vukic (AUS) 7-5, 6-4, 6-0;

**Women's singles first round (number in brackets denotes seeding):** Bernarda Pera (USA) bt Cici Bellis (USA) 7-6 (7/3), 6-1; Katerina Siniakova (CZE) bt Lauren Davis (USA) 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Sara Errani (ITA) bt Monica Puig (PUR) 6-2, 6-1; Kiki Bertens (NED) x5 bt Katarina Zavatska (UKR) 2-6, 6-2, 6-0; Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Andrea Petkovic (GER) 6-3, 6-3; Christina McHale (USA) bt Karolina Muchova (CZE) x2 6-2, 6-4; Petra Kvitova (CZE) bt Oceane Dodin (FRA) 6-3, 7-5; Jasmine Paolini (ITA) bt Aliona Bolsova (ESP) 6-4, 6-3.



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