


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31.0°C  
Min: 22.2°C  
RH: 74%  
Rain: 1.6 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 31/22°C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES

DEATHS

(+81,272)

(+1,174)

62,19,224

97,450

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,072)

(+9)

TS: 1,89,283

1,116

(+6,190)

(+35)

AP: 6,87,351

5,780

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,36,81,525

DEATHS

10,08,501

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana

Tithi: Adhika Ashtayuja Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.27 am

Star: Purvabhadra till 3.14 am (Thursday)

Varjyam: 7.51 am to 9.37 am

Durmuhurtam: 11.42 am to 12.29 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 12, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.06 am

Zohar: 12.16 pm

Asar: 4.25 pm

Maghrib: 6.12 pm

Isha: 7.19 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.05 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM

MOONSET TODAY 4.43 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.27 PM

COUNTER POINT



I promise to get you the first dose of vaccine!

IN BRIEF

Venkaiah tests Covid positive

**New Delhi:** Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19 but is in good health, the Vice President Secretariat said. Naidu, 71, who is asymptomatic, has been advised home quarantine. “The Vice President of India who underwent a routine COVID-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health,” the Secretariat tweeted. His wife Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation, the tweet said. Some Union ministers have tested positive for Covid in the recent past.

You can't detain one forever: SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to respond to Ilitija Mufti's amended plea challenging the detention of her mother, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, under the J-K Public Safety Act, saying it cannot go on forever and “some via media” should be explored. A bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy granted 15 days to the UT to file response and asked as to what was the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the official law and whether the officials proposed to continue with the detention of Mufti.

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Walmart may invest \$25b in Tata Group's super app

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Schumacher's son a step closer to F-1

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## Glitch hits NTA, students unable to question key

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

On Tuesday, the last day to challenge the National Testing Agency's (NTA) NEET answer key 2020, several applicants and parents complained that they were unable to make the payment for questions they wished to challenge.

Students who wanted to register objections with the NTA to some questions in the NEET key, said they had been trying since the day before to make the payment, but the gateway kept blocking them.

Only some were able to get through after several attempts. Parents also raised concerns over the ₹1,000 per question processing fee charged by the NTA for raising objections to the answer key.

The NTA, in an official statement, had said that no challenge to the answer key would be entertained by them, without receipt of the processing fee.

Applicants complained that given the current situation of households due

● **STUDENTS SAID** that at least 4-5 discrepancies were spotted in the answer key this year, with incorrect answers to some questions and multiple correct answers in others.

● **THE NATIONAL Testing Agency**, in an official statement, however, had said that no challenge to the answer key would be entertained by them, without receipt of the processing fee.

to the lockdown, and the number of discrepancies in the answer key, such a huge amount was nothing short of looting the students.

Students said that at least 4-5 discrepancies were spotted in the answer key this year, with incorrect answers to some questions and multiple correct answers in others.

■ **Page 2: More mistakes in answer key this year**

## Pay 50% salary to teachers now: HC

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The Telangana High Court has directed the 138 technical education and pharmacy Institutions in the state to immediately pay 50 per cent of salaries to their employees that has been due from the Covid-19 lockdown in March.

Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili gave the order on a petition filed by the Telangana Technical Institutions Employees Association complaining that their members, who are working in private technical education institutions have not been paid their salaries and allowances since the lockdown.

While directing the colleges to submit their res-



● **WHILE DIRECTING** the colleges to submit their res-ponse, the court directed their managements to immediately pay 50 per cent of the salaries of the staff.

ponse, the court directed their managements to immediately pay 50 per cent of the salaries of the staff. The hearing has been adjourned for four weeks to give colleges time to file their response.

## India rejects China's LAC claim

MEA says India has never accepted China's unilateral definition of LAC

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India has never accepted the so-called Chinese unilaterally-defined 1959 version of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and therefore the “insistence of the Chinese side now that there is only one LAC is against the solemn commitments made by China” in previous agreements, New Delhi told Beijing on Tuesday, in the latest round of diplomatic sparring between the two sides.

India also said it was China which did not show any willingness after 2003 to pursue the then ongoing exercise by both sides “to clarify and confirm the LAC”. Stating firmly that China should “refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC”, India reiterated it was “the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the western sector (of the LAC), and has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo” in the Ladakh sector in the past few months.

## No war, no peace, IAF chief calls LAC situation uneasy

**PAWAN BALI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Tuesday that the present security scenario along the country's northern frontiers is at an uneasy no-war, no-peace status. The Air Chief Marshal was referring to the five-month-old military stand-off between India and China in Eastern Ladakh. “Our defence

forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware,” he said.

He pointed out that the Indian Air Force has responded to the situation rapidly and is fully resolved to counter any “misadventure” in the region.

“Airpower will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is, therefore, imperative that IAF obtains and maintains a technological edge over our adversaries,” he said.

The IAF chief said the recent induction of Rafale jets along with previous acquisitions of C-17 Globemaster aircraft as well as Chinook and Apache helicopters have provided the IAF with a substantial tactical and strategic capability enhancement.

Rafale jets have already flown sorties over the Ladakh sector and some other regions where they are expected to undertake operations.

**PG 4: JAISHANKAR TO VISIT TOKYO TO ATTEND QUAD MEETING**

The latest strong reaction from New Delhi followed reported remarks by the Chinese foreign ministry from Beijing on the LAC that was quoted in an Indian newspaper report.

Both nations have different perceptions of the LAC. According to reports, the

Chinese foreign ministry was cited as saying that China abides by the LAC proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to India's then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated November 7, 1959.

The external affairs ministry said: “India has never

accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side... In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003, but this

### Protest against atrocities



Police detain a Congress activist during a protest over the death of Dalit woman from Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, who was gang-raped on September 14, near Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

## Covid-19 eases, schools, theatres to reopen soon

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

State health authorities on Tuesday indicated that the day when cinema theatres, schools and colleges could reopen may not be far off in Telangana state.

“Ninety-eight per cent of facilities required for people to lead normal lives are already open. Educational institutions, cinema halls, and other public utility

places may be reopened as part of Unlock 4 from October 1,” Director of Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao, told reporters here.

“There is a near normal pre-Covid-19 atmosphere in Hyderabad and GHMC limits,” he said.

This return to normalcy, according to Dr Srinivasa Rao, was a result of the state government's efforts to combat and contain Covid-19 from even before

● **Telangana Director of Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao** said the Covid-19 case load was slowly dropping in the state and the positivity rate stood at four per cent.

● **In April, it was five per cent, in May 15 per cent, June 23 per cent, July, when the number of tests were increased, 13 and seven per cent in August.**

the disease made its first appearance in the state this March.

He said the Covid-19 case load was slowly dropping

in the state and the positivity rate stood at four per cent. In April, it was five per cent, in May 15 per cent, June 23 per cent,

July, when the number of tests were increased, 13 and seven per cent in August.

The state's pursuit of early testing, early diagnosis and early treatment, Dr Srinivasa Rao said, was the key to keeping Covid-19 fatalities low in the state. Against the all-India average of 1.57, the state's Covid-19 fatality rate stood at 0.59, he said.

Only 25.4 per cent of

Covid-19 beds in government hospitals in the state were occupied while in private hospitals it was 34.56 per cent of the available beds, he said.

The higher occupancy in private hospitals was on account of patients from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh coming to the state for Covid treatment.

■ **Page 2: Every bed will have oxygen, says DME**

## SEC PLANS E-VOTING IN GHMC POLLS

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 29

The State Election Commission (SEC) proposes to use e-voting for senior citizens, disabled persons and polling personnel for the GHMC. If it comes through, it will be the first time that e-voting has been attempted in India.

State Election Commissioner C. Parthasarathy said on Tuesday that since it is a unique system, “we are limiting it to a select group of voters.”

Explaining the process, Parthasarathy said that, if approved, the selected categories of voters will have to register for the e-voting option in advance with the returning officer concerned online. Each voter will be given an ID and a password.

On polling day, voter has to log in into the e-voting site, upon which a ballot paper will appear on screen. The voter should click on the preferred symbol and the vote is registered.

He said e-votes would be under the custody of the returning officer.

■ **Page 2: SEC seeks IT dept help on e-Voting**

## DUBBAKA BYROLL ON NOVEMBER 3

**Hyderabad:** The Election Commission said the bypoll for Dubbaka Assembly segment will be held on November 3.

■ **Full report on Page 2**

**DRUG | TRAIL**

**Ganja grown in Visakha Agency area is 3rd most popular and is supplied across country**

## Cannabis found with actors originates from Vizag agency

**K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC**  
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 29

The origin point of ganja, smoked by film stars and staff of Bollywood, Tollywood or others, lies in the Agency tracts of Visakhapatnam and border villages of Odisha. The psychoactive drug of this area is rich in quality and coveted throughout the country. Sources said Shilavathi, a variety of weed grown in the area, is highly popular among users.

Cannabis and other varieties of psychotropic drugs caught national attention after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and subsequent arrest of his co-stars and female friends from Bollywood.

Inside sources disclose that after MD, the most popular drug used by Bollywood actors is ganja, sold under code name Dubies. While cocaine, LSD and MD are imported or sourced from Goa and Bengaluru, ganja is mostly

● **Sources said Shilavathi**, a variety of weed grown in the Vishaka agency area, is highly popular among users across the country.

● **The crop is purchased for ₹2,000 a kilogram at the harvest point but gets sold between ₹40,000 and ₹60,000 in these cities.**

procured by agents from the Visakhapa agency area.

While ganja grown in Kulu and Manali in Uttarakhand is mostly converted into hashish or charas, the crop grown in Madhaya Pradesh and

Jharkhand is largely consumed locally and hardly crosses borders of these two states.

Under trial prisoners under remand in Visakhapatnam Central Jail hail from different parts of the

country.

They have disclosed during investigations over the years that the Vizag agency-grown ganja has been reaching every corner of the country, particularly top cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. The crop is purchased for ₹2,000 a kilogram at the harvest point but gets sold between ₹40,000 and ₹60,000 in these cities. “We have booked cases against people from

Mumbai and other cities. But it is difficult to conclusively say that the weed seized in Bollywood has originated from Vizag agency,” says Special Enforcement Bureau A. S. P. Ajitha. Sources say ganja grown in north-eastern states is also sold in Bollywood.

Junior artists and technicians from Hyderabad say it is ganja from Visakhapatnam agency that is mostly sold in Hyderabad.

Weed is grown over an extent of 10,000 acres in Vizag and East Godavari agency areas, particularly along the AOB (Andhra-Orissa Border), from which police and excise personnel largely keep away due to presence of outlawed Maoists there.

Vizag Rural police had seized 31,648 kg of ganja worth Rs. 6 crore in 2017, around 16,000 kg worth ₹3.2 crore in 2018, and 21,970 kg worth ₹4.19 crore in 2019, according to reports.



With enrolment of voters for the forthcoming election to the Hyderabad Ranga Reddy Mahabubnagar graduates MLC seat to begin on October 1, Rama Rao appealed to TRS leaders to encourage graduates to get themselves registered themselves in the voters list.



## OTHER STORIES

## SIX GANJA SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 29

Nizamabad police arrested inter-state ganja smugglers and seized 152 kgs dry ganja worth ₹16 lakh. They also arrested six persons and seized a car, a van, nine mobile phones and cash.

The arrested were identified as Abhijit Sircar, Rasamohan Sahoo, Jayadeb Biswas, Suparvat Roy, Pintu Sircar and Arjun Sircar of Malkangiri district of Odisha state.

A police team led by IV Town SI M. Laxmaiah noticed the accused during vehicle checking at Borgam (P) in Nizamabad. They found dry ganja packets inserted in the husk bags in the vehicles. The accused confessed that they procured ganja from one Keshab of Malkangiri and it would be handed over to Tushar Khan in Nanded district headquarters of Maharashtra state. Police arrested the accused and produced them in the court.

Additional DCP Usha Vishwanath Tirunagari, ACP G. Srinivas Kumar, town CI B. Satyanarayana and others were present.

## RMP DIES OF ELECTROCUTION, 2 OTHERS INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 29

Iluru Vasudeva Reddy, a registered medical practitioner in Gannavaram died due to electrocution at Thatipudi under Wyra mandal on Tuesday. Two other persons sustained injuries in the incident.

The incident took place when a lightning struck them when they were standing under a tree near Thatipudi. Vasudeva Reddy died on the spot.

The two injured persons were shifted to hospital in Khammam for treatment.

## FAKE JOB RACKET BUSTED, 3 MEN AND A WOMAN HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 29

The task force police along with One Town police officials on Tuesday busted a fake job racket run by a woman along with three other persons. They were cheating the unemployed youth on the pretext of offering them jobs in various government departments here in Karimnagar district.

Speaking to the press, Police Commissioner V.B. Kamalasan Reddy said that the woman who completed Medical Lab Technician (MLT) course was a native of Bellampally of Mancherial district. She is living alone in Karimnagar city.

To lead a luxurious life and to earn easy money she formed a fake job racket along with Kambala Rajesh, 41, Kusuma Bhaskar, 48 and Bhima Shankar 48, residents of Bellampalli town and began trapping people in the name of love and unemployed youth on the pretext of offering them jobs in government departments convincing them that she had good relations with higher authorities.

She collected ₹13.5 lakh from an unemployed youth of Sikawadi in Karimnagar city by convincing him that he would be given a job in government hospital in Warangal district along with a contract to run a canteen in that hospital.

The woman and her gang also collected ₹7 lakh from an unemployed youth, resident of Thurimala Nagar by giving assurance of allotment of a government job and ₹3 lakh from a youth who belonged to Godavarihan. In another case, by introducing herself as Nikitha Reddy to a youth, she collected ₹8 lakh by blackmailing him in the name of love.

The police registered cases under several sections against the four accused and seized ₹20,000, fake appointment letters and three mobile phones from their possession.

Mr Kamalasan Reddy appealed to the unemployed youth not to believe persons who offer them government jobs for money and asked them to convey the information to nearby police if they come across any such persons. If anyone tries to cheat innocent people on the pretext of offering jobs, then the PD Act will be invoked against them, he warned.

He appreciated the Task Force police team R. Prakash, K. Shashidhar Reddy, P. Karunakar, B. Swamy, Naresh Reddy, Narasaiyah and One town police officials Vijay Kumar and other police personnel who busted the racket.

## Adivasis denied of promised jobs, 2BHKs

## Cops arrest tribal leaders and demolish their hutments

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 29

Adivasis were promised double bedroom houses in the Prasanthi gram panchayat limits in Laxmidevipalli mandal. Allotment of the 2BHK houses was to be given before their hutments were to be removed. That was not done.

The Adivasis were promised employment by the Integrated Tribal Development Agency which asked them to hand over 100 acres of land being tilled by them to the government. ITDA officials ignored their promise.

Instead, revenue officials took the help of police who took into custody of all the elders including Adivasi leader Vasam Ramakrishna.

The police then demolished the huts. The children, who did not know the whereabouts of their parents, were frantic. They were shocked when



Children and women gather at police station in Kothagudem after the police arrested Adivasis and demolished their houses on Tuesday.

earth-moving machines and JCBs demolishing their homes, with a posse of police personnel watching.

The Adivasis now do not have their huts, 2BHK houses nor jobs.

The promise of 2BHK houses was made by

Chunchupalli mandal tahsildar Nagaraju. The government said it had allocated land at Palle Pragathivanam.

Adivasi leader Ramakrishna said, "We are being meted out injustice for the last three and a half decades. No official

had fulfilled his promise. In the present incident, the revenue officials did not followed any moral principles and demolished the homes by deceitful means. This is the state of affairs towards Adivasis who are called the original inhabitants."

## ARVIND: AGRI BILL BENEFITS FARMERS

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 29

MP D. Arvind said that the new Agriculture Bill would protect the interests of farmers in the country. He said that the minimum support price (MSP) will be continued and farmers can sell their produce across the country, he said.

Central government introduced the new Agriculture Bill to benefit the farming community in the country, he said. No state governments were allowed to collect taxes from the farmers, he explained.

Mr Arvind criticised that Opposition parties are trying to mislead the farmers on the new bill. There is no need to worry about the new law and it would give more benefits to the farmers in all states in the country, he said.

## Fake babas fleece villagers of ₹6 lakh

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 29

Fake babas are cheating superstitious villagers in Rajanna Sircilla district, taking advantage of their fears and precarious financial situation owing to downturn brought by Covid-19.

In last one week, several instances of such common hoodwinking or threatening villagers, both men and women, have come to light in Boppapur, Gollapalli and Venkatapur villages of Yellareddypet mandal in the district.

The tricksters largely target lonely women in their houses, strike up a conversation and plant fears that if their victims refuse to do their bidding, they or their family members would incur the wrath of evil forces. Threatening thus, they collect money from their victims, perform some *homams* and *pujas*, and walk away with money.

Four days ago, two fake babas dressed in the attire of saints reached Boppapur village in a car. Noticing a lonely woman in front of a house, they struck up a conversation and warned her that her household is about to be struck by evil forces. But the same can be prevented by conducting some prayers if she permits them to do so. Out of fear,

**POLICE APPEALED** to people not to believe such tricksters, who will chant mantras and cheat people even in these modern times.

the women parted with ₹17,000. The fake babas told her that they will conduct detailed prayers at their *ashram*, offered her a coconut and a lemon and left the place.

They subsequently went to another woman's house in the same village. They told her that she has been possessed by a devil, which may kill her if she does not get rid of it. The commen convinced her into parting with ₹25,000.

They then zeroed in on a beedi worker's house and threatened her that her entire family will face illness and severe financial crises, which can be prevented by conducting special prayers at her house, provided she pays them ₹5,000. When the woman went inside the house and informed her husband, he warned her against encouraging them. When she came out and rejected their offer, they sprinkled something mixed in water on her face. The woman thereafter paid ₹5,000 and participated in the *puja*. In the meantime, her husband reached home upon which, the tricksters threw the liquid on him too. Then, the husband too took part in the *puja* before the fake babas left.

Similarly, in Gollapalli village, other fake babas collected ₹1.5 lakh from a businessman after threatening him that he would face huge losses, which could be prevented through special prayers. This would also help the person become a millionaire. On receiving payment, the tricksters handed over him one *Dhan-Yantra*, asked him to place it at his workplace and left. In Venkatapur village, the commen collected ₹50,000 from a person who had constructed and moved into a new house. It is also learnt such fake babas have collected at least ₹6 lakh from about 15 people of these three villages.

When contacted, Yellareddypet circle inspector Bansi Lal said that they have not received any complaints about people getting cheated by fake babas. If anyone lodges a complaint, they are ready to take action against the commen.

He appealed to people not to believe such tricksters, who will chant *mantras* and cheat people even in these modern times. He asked people to contact police if they come across any fake babas.

## BJP LEADERS STAGE STIR AGAINST LAND REGULARISATION SCHEME

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 29

The rank and file of Bharatiya Janata Party staged dharnas and rallies at all mandal headquarters in Khammam district over issue of GO Ms. No. 135 by the Telangana government.

BJP workers led by BJP district president Gella Satyanarayana laid a siege at the office of Khammam Municipal Corporation, access to which was blocked by police.

He said the government order is aimed at looting people, though their financial condition is miserable because of Covid-19.

He maintained that CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao is being insensitive towards the plight of people and demanded that the government withdraw the draconian GO.

In Mudigonda, BJP activists led by party's SC Morcha spokesperson S. Nageswara Rao submitted a memorandum to the tasildar on the GO. He said the GO is nothing but an attempt of the government to exploit people. In Wyra, party town president Ele Bhadraraiha said the government is anarchic in bringing the GO, as lakhs of families are unable to pay even a single rupee.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE INAUGURATED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 29

Minister for forest Allola Indrakaran Reddy on Tuesday inaugurated newly constructed 30-bedded community health centre in Narnoor on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Indrakaran Reddy said he will try his best to recruit the required number of the medical staff at the Narnoor Community health centre and promised to allot an ambulance that was donated to KTR by him.

## Minister says new Revenue Act will solve land issues

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 29

The TRS government introduced the new revenue act to offer permanent solutions to several land issues in the state, said backward class welfare, food and civil supplies minister, Gangula Kamalakar, on Tuesday.

Speaking in a review meeting held here in Karimnagar, Mr Kamalakar said that providing property rights to the people who own the land by resolving all their land issues and preventing middlemen from cheating people, the new Revenue Act is not to collect more money from people.

The government is taking steps to resolve land issues on land which belonged to the endowment and Wakf board departments. With G.O 58 and 59, the government in the past regularised government lands and those which did not have any issues and is taking necessary measures to resolve other land issues too, Mr Kamalakar claimed.

The government is taking steps to solve title right issues. Title right will be given to those paying taxes to the government living on government lands in constructed



A mobile restroom vehicle flagged off on Tuesday.

houses for the past several years. The government is also taking steps to enrol non-agricultural lands within 15 days on the Dharani website that will be launched from Dasara, Mr Kamalakar added.

Inspecting the Yadradri model Miyawaki plantation project taken up by the police in the Karimnagar police commissionerate, Mr Kamalakar handed over 33 Hero duet two-wheeler vehicles to women police officers sanctioned by the state government, in association with the Bhardwaj Autotech Private Limited dealers.

Zilla parishad chairperson K. Vijaya, Manakondur MLA, Rasamai

**MINISTER** Kalamakar inspected the Yadradri model Miyawaki plantation project taken up by the police in the Karimnagar police commissionerate

Balakishan, City mayor Y. Sunil Rao, municipal commissioner, V. Kranthi, deputy mayor, Challa Swaroopa Rani, SUDA chairman G. V. Rama Krishna Rao, additional DCPs, S. Srinivas and G. Chandra Mohan, trainee collector, Ankith, and IPS officer, Rashmi Perumal, were present along with others.

## MUSQUITO | MENACE

## Incessant rains and piled-up garbage have caused the spread of seasonal diseases

## Dengue, malaria cases on the rise in Adilabad district

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 28

Dengue cases are on the rise due to major mosquito breeding due to stagnant water in erstwhile Adilabad district.

It is said that th health situation may deteriorate in the coming two months with more dengue and malaria cases.

Private hospital managements have started exploiting patients suffering from dengue just like with Covid-19.

It is high time that the

district administration creates an epidemic ward at RIMS, Adilabad to treat patients suffering from dengue and malaria.

The incessant rains have caused the spread of seasonal diseases and many people are falling sick with dengue and malaria in the Agency areas.

The medical and health department is now planning to create awareness among people about the breeding of mosquitoes due to stagnant water, fogging operations and clearing stagnant water in the villages to control the mosquito menace.

**AS MANY AS 77** dengue cases have been identified till now in 2020. The figures are collected only from the patients who came to government hospitals for treatment under 27 PHCs and UPHCs.

**OFFICIAL SOURCES** say that 427 dengue positive cases were reported in 2019 in Adilabad district.

quito menace.

The dengue cases are high in the Agency areas in the Indravelli mandal and Gudihathnoor and Uttnoor mandals and Adilabad town.

According to official

sources, as many as 77 dengue cases have been identified till now in 2020. The figures are collected only from the patients who came to government hospitals for treatment under 27 PHCs and UPHCs.

Official sources say that 427 dengue positive cases were reported in 2019 in Adilabad district.

Among the total 77 dengue cases, 14 were reported under Ankoli PHC, 12 under Gudihathnoor, seven under Pittabongaram, eight in Talamadugu and nine in the Adilabad town. Officials say that only four malaria cases were reported in Adilabad district in 2020 up to now.

Ten patients suffering from dengue fever are coming to each private hospital for treatment in the Adilabad town on a

daily basis. But, actually, dengue cases are four times the official figures in Adilabad district, while malaria cases are high in the Kumarambhem Asifabad district. It is found that there was a lack of coordination between the panchayati raj and health departments as far as controlling the mosquito menace is concerned.

Dengue and malaria cases are being reported for the last one month following the rains and their number increased in the last one week.

Medical teams compris-

ing ANMs and Asha workers were unable to visit many interior villages due to overflowing streams and rivulets and many villages were inundated in the floodwaters.

Villagers who fell sick due to dengue and malaria have remained in their villages following the heavy rains and many of them did not visit their nearest PHC for treatment.

The piled-up garbage in the villages and spreading foul smell after inundation in the flood water is also spreading seasonal diseases in the villages.



The cotton plant with cotton bolls about to burst.

seen applying a pesticide to the cotton plants grown up to the chest-level with cotton bolls about to burst.

Farmer, Anand Rao, of KB colony, Malebhorigam gram panchayat, Adilabad rural mandal said, "The incessant rains caused damage to the cotton bolls which are about to burst

with rainwater entering into the cotton bolls and such cotton bolls are turning black."

Already some farmers have started cotton-picking cotton where bolls had burst, especially in the red soil where cotton seeds were sowed a little early this kharif.



## SHORT TAKE

## 90 PER CENT STILL VULNERABLE TO CORONAVIRUS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The second sero-survey conducted by ICMR has found that one in 15 individuals, aged 10 years and above, were estimated to have been exposed to SARS-CoV2 till August 2020. According to ICMR, this shows that a considerable population is still susceptible to Covid-19.

While giving out the details of the survey, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said 6.6 per cent of the 29,082 people (aged 10 and above) surveyed between August 17 and September 22 showed evidence of past exposure to Covid-19 and 7.1 per cent of the adult population (aged 18 and above) also showed evidence of past exposure to it.

Dr Bhargava added that though lockdown, containment and behavioural change at population level have managed to check the potential spread of SARS-CoV2, the survey findings show that about 90 per cent of the population is still vulnerable.

The survey showed that urban slums (15.6%) and non-slum (8.2%) areas had higher SARS-CoV2 infection prevalence than that in rural areas (4.4%).

The second sero-survey was conducted in the same 700 villages and wards from 70 districts from 21 states, which were covered during the first survey.

The first sero-survey of May revealed that the nationwide prevalence of Coronavirus infection was only 0.73%.

The second survey further showed that there is a lower infection to case ratio in August compared to May, which reflects a substantial increase in testing and detection across India.

Meanwhile, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19, the Vice President secretariat said.

It said Naidu, 71, is asymptomatic and in good health.

"The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health," the secretariat tweeted. Naidu has been advised home quarantine. His wife Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation, the tweet said.

Decline in fresh cases of Coronavirus continued on Tuesday as 70,589 new patients were detected taking India's overall tally to 61.45 lakh.

In the last 24 hours, the number of deaths too came down to 776 from a thousand that was reported daily for the last several days.

India's total deaths now stand at 96,318, as per Union health ministry.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said considerable decline has been noted in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh but in Kerala cases are on the rise.

The health secretary also said that the government does not agree to the ₹80,000 crore figures put out by Serum Institute of India for the Covid-19 vaccines saying, "We have calculated the amount required in the meetings and currently, that amount is available with the government."

He added that a panel of experts on vaccine administration has met five times to work out the modalities.

## We want to bury them in our zameen: Kin of Shopian victims

Families of the 3 youths want bodies to be exhumed and handed over to them for burial

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
MODA KATHUNI (J&K),  
SEPT. 29

"My child was innocent. I'm completely shattered and broken. My heart is bleeding also because we couldn't bury him and our two other boys in our own zameen (soil)," lamented teary-eyed Shameema Akhtar while showing the photograph of her son Muhammad Imtiaz saved in her other son's mobile phone.

Imtiaz, 20, was among three youths from Rajouri killed in an alleged fake encounter by the Army in militancy-infested Shopian district on July 18, a day after the trio had arrived there to work in an apple orchard to earn living and then passed off as 'terrorists'.

J&K police say that they had provided sufficient time for identification of the corpses at the Police Control Room Kashmir at Srinagar. As no one came forward to claim the bodies and people also failed in identifying them, they were buried in a cemetery in the remotest Baramulla district, almost 250 kilometres from their home district in presence of a magistrate after conducting post-mortem and lifting DNA samples, the police said.

*Bahut zulum hova oss kay saath* (a great injustice was done to him), said Sabir Hussain, father of Imtiaz.

He revealed to this correspondent that his son had passed his Class 12th examination with good marks and was "very keen" to get admission in a good college either in Rajouri town, Jammu or Srinagar and in order to meet the expenses for his studies he went to Shopian to "earn some money".

Hussain said the other two slain youths Muhammad Abrar, 25, and Ibrar Ahmed Khan, 16, were his nephews (sagay bhanjaya).

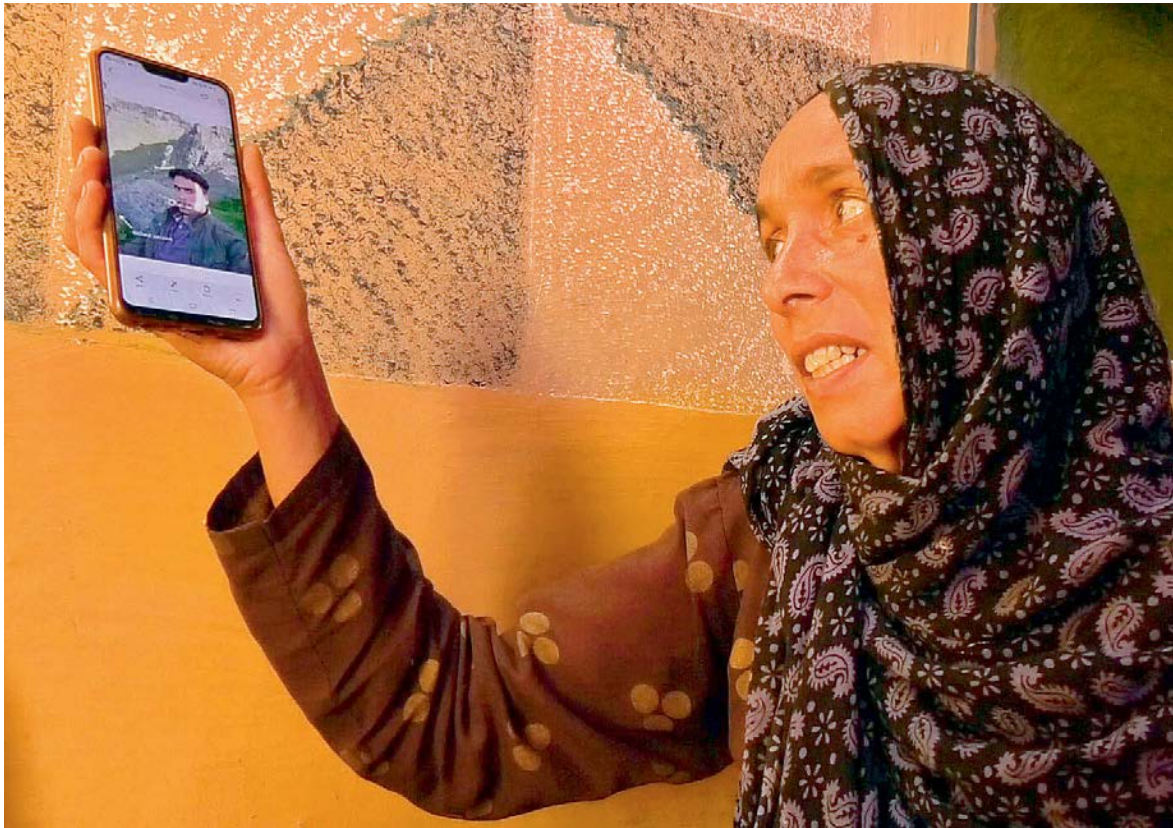
"You can understand we have been devastated," he said but added that he is quite confident that the Army "will do justice with us."

He and also his other son Muhammad Arif pleaded that since the Army has admitted that the three youths were killed by its men during a so-called operation in Shopian's Amshipora on July 18 and the J&K police have announced that the results of the DNA samples of their parents have matched those of the slain, their bodies should be exhumed and handed over to their families.

"We want to give them decent burials in our own zameen," said Hussain.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmiri range), Vijay Kumar, said in Srinagar last week, "We've received the DNA sample results of three families of Rajouri and these have matched with those of the three killed in Amshipora, Shopian on July 18. We will now take further course of action and complete the remaining formalities."

He added that a panel of experts on vaccine administration has met five times to work out the modalities.



Shameema Akhtar looks at the photograph of her son Muhammad Imtiaz saved in a mobile phone.

## Polls in PoK: India lodges protest

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with Pakistan against its attempt to conduct polls in November in the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), saying that these areas are an integral part of India and illegally occupied by Pakistan.

Amid reports that Pakistan plans to turn the Gilgit-Baltistan region into its fifth province, New Delhi termed Pakistan's action of conducting polls there as "cosmetic exercises intended to camouflage its illegal occupation".

In another development, India — at the "second Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism" held virtually — "highlighted that the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and 2016 Pathankot terror attack are yet to get

justice due to unwillingness and non-cooperative attitude of a particular country", a thinly-veiled reference to Pakistan.

In a statement, the MEA said, "We have seen reports regarding announcement of elections to the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' Legislative Assembly to be held on November 15, 2020. The Government of India has conveyed its strong protest to the Government of Pakistan and reiterated that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of so-called Gilgit and Baltistan are an integral part of India by virtue of its

accession in 1947. The Government of Pakistan has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it."

The MEA added, "The Government of India has also completely rejected the recent actions such as the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan (Elections and Caretaker Government) Amendment Order 2020' and continued attempts by the Pakistan establishment to bring material changes in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation. Action such as these can neither hide the illegal occupation nor the grave human rights violations of people residing in PoK territories."

initiated by it under the Army Act against them.

A night before the youths were killed, they had informed their respective families over the phone that they had reached Shopian where they had been hired by a local fruit grower to work in his apple orchard.

After their killing, the Army had claimed they were "terrorists" killed in an "encounter" with it.

The Army sources said that it has now begun a 'Summary of Evidence', a step before a possible court martial of its officers and men involved in the fake encounter.

During this process, all civilian witnesses would also be cross examined, the sources added.

There are reports that the police have detained for questioning two local residents who were working as "informers" for the Army and may have been involved in the Amshipora operation. The reports said that the duo is also likely to be called by the Army for cross examination.

While Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was in the Valley, its Srinagar-based 15 Corps issued a statement admitting that the three youths were killed by its men and that "disciplinary action" in being

identity i.e. Aadhaar cards?" He called for a judicial inquiry into the killings and strict action against the guilty.

"We also demand that an FIR be registered under relevant sections of the law against those who killed them," he added.

Lal Hussain, friend and cousin of Imtiaz said, "He and I would spend a lot of time together. He was a nice guy. I think someone had misled the Army by providing wrong information about him and other boys."

Watching out for his antecedents, Faiza Akhtar, the slain youth's neighbour said, "I never ever saw him indulging in any undesirable pastime. We are so sad that such a decent boy has been snatched from us and that too in such a cruel way."

While Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was in the Valley, its Srinagar-based 15 Corps issued a statement admitting that the three youths were killed by its men and that "disciplinary action" in being

nects Srinagar with Rajouri town, endorsed the demand that the mortal remains of the trio be handed over to them for burial in their native places "before these get decomposed further."

Said Ibrar's father Baga Khan, "We must get their bodies now...No one in the families could see their faces before they were laid in their graves. Justice must be done."

Irshad Ahmed, the village panch while endorsing the demand said that the Aadhaar cards and mobile phones of the slain youths may also be handed over to the families and the government should consider sanctioning ex-gratia relief to the families which live in "extreme poverty" besides a job for the next of kin.

Sarpanch of Dhar Sakri area, Aijaz Ahmed, questioned the Army's earlier claim that it had killed "unidentified terrorists" At Amshipora on July 17.

He asked, "How is it possible for any authority to say unidentified as all the three were carrying their

## SC: FOR HOW LONG WILL MEHBOOBA BE IN DETENTION?

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre far how long it was going to keep the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti under detention and can she be detained beyond one year under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The former J&K Chief Minister is in detention since August 5, 2019, under the draconian PSA for over a year after Article 370 conferring special status to J&K was abrogated.

Giving the Centre a week's time to respond to a plea by Iltija — daughter of Mehbooba Mufti — seeking immediate release of her mother, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul heading a bench also comprising Justice Hrishikesh Roy asked, for how long the detention will continue and under what orders and can detention be extended beyond one year.

Directing the next hearing on October 15, the court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre to address the court on two issues — what is the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the Public Safety Act and for how long Mufti will continue under detention.

Mehta, sought to justify Mehbooba Mufti's detention on the grounds of "public order".

Senior counsel Nitya Ramakrishnan appearing for Iltija told the court that Mehbooba has not been allowed to meet anybody including her family members and brother. She told the court that even ordinary prisoners are permitted to meet the visitors.

Mehbooba, heads the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which had formed the last government in alliance with BJP, which later broke the alliance.

Mehbooba Mufti was arrested along with former Chief Ministers — Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah — and other Kashmiri leaders on August 5, 2019.

While two Abdullahs were released in March, Mehbooba's detention was extended on May 5 for another three months but after the lapse of three months she has not been released.



There are reports that the police have detained for questioning two local residents who were working as "informers" for the Army and may have been involved in the Amshipora operation. The reports said that the duo is also likely to be called by the Army for cross examination.

While Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was in the Valley, its Srinagar-based 15 Corps issued a statement admitting that the three youths were killed by its men and that "disciplinary action" in being

all members of the Dalit community to take to the streets and demand death penalty for the guilty.

"The government should not test our patience. We won't rest until the culprits are hanged," he said as restless crowds milled around the complex. Azad held the state government "equally responsible" for her tragic death.

Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women BJP leaders on the issue and alleged that the state has become the "crime capital" of the country. The party also staged protests demanding justice for the victim at Vijay Chowk.

The party said its leaders P.L. Punia, Udit Raj and other leaders were detained at the Mandir Marg Police station for the protest. Congress leader

## AMNESTY HALTS OPERATIONS IN INDIA

New Delhi, Sept. 29: Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an "incessant witch-hunt" over unfounded and motivated allegations.

Amnesty India, in a statement, said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research work.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organisation to a grinding halt," it said. However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving foreign funds illegally.

In 2018, the Enforcement Directorate had carried out searches at the headquarters of Amnesty International in Bangalore. The raids were conducted for an alleged violation of the foreign exchange act.

There is no ED investigation against Amnesty International India Foundation, but against a private company linked to the NGO that allegedly received dubious export proceeds worth over ₹51 crore, government sources said.

The BJP alleged that Amnesty International is involved in "multiple illegalities" and it has no right to lecture on propriety. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, BJP leader Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said any organisation can work in India but it cannot violate the laws and regulations of the country.

—PTI

## JAISHANKAR TO VISIT JAPAN FOR QUAD MEET

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29

In a major move that will send a strong signal to China at a time of heightened tensions, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Japan on October 6 and 7 to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of the four-nation Quadri-lateral or Quad — the United States, India, Japan and Australia.

He will also hold individual bilateral consultations with each of the other foreign ministers.

But interestingly, a statement put out by the MEA made no mention of the word 'Quad'.

The MEA did say, however, that the foreign ministers of the four nations would "discuss regional issues and collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific apart from Covid.

## Daughter backs 'wife-beater' DGP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, SEPT. 29

Spouse of 'wife-beater' director general of police (prosecution) of Madhya Pradesh Purushottam Sharma on Tuesday, curiously, faced attacks from two fronts, from her daughter who called her mentally sick and from the media woman who accused her of encroaching upon her privacy by taking video of her house.

The top cop was placed under suspension by the state government on Tuesday evening.

The couple's daughter Diwanshi Gautam stoutly defended her father describing him a victim of marital conflict triggered by her mother. She also claimed that her mother was suffering from mental disorder.

In a letter to chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ms

Gautam said she as well as her father have been at the receiving end of her mother's abnormal behaviours. "My mother wanted to ruin me and my father", the letter said.

She said her mother once tried to set their house on fire and also kill herself.

She described her father as innocent and pleaded to the chief minister not to take any action against him over the viral video in which Mr Sharma was seen thrashing his wife in their government quarters here.

The DGP has been relieved of his duties after the video went viral on Monday.

In a related development, the media woman who was video-graphed along with the DGP in her house by Mr Sharma's wife on Monday lodged a complaint with the local police station demanding action against her for encroaching upon her privacy.

## ODISHA BABU ARRESTED FOR HARASSING WIFE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 29

A senior bureaucrat of Odisha was on Tuesday arrested for allegedly torturing his wife.

The accused identified as Sarat Chandra Bag was posted as Deputy Collector of Boudh district. Bag's wife complained that he was regularly beating her as she opposed his extra-marital affairs.

"My husband was having an extra-marital affair. I had caught him red-handed with another woman recently. When I confronted him over his affairs, he and his other associates brutally thrashed me and snatched my mobile phone," the wife told reporters in Jharsuguda.

She couldn't survive the night and died at 3 am, Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir quoted her family as saying.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital as well as in Vijay Chowk and in Hathras, about 180 km away.

## Dalit woman gangraped in Hathras dies

New Delhi/Hathras, Sept. 29: A 19-year-old woman, who was brutally gangraped in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district two weeks ago, died of her grievous injuries at a Delhi hospital on Tuesday, prompting outrage, protests and calls for justice.

Recalling the horrors of the Nirbhaya case, the Dalit teen was allegedly sexually attacked by four men on September 14 and referred on Monday to a Delhi hospital in an extremely critical condition with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue.

She couldn't survive the night and died at 3 am, Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir quoted her family as saying.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital as well as in Vijay Chowk and in Hathras, about 180 km away.

All sections of society, including politicians, sports and cine stars and activists, spoke out on Twitter and elsewhere to express their anguish and demand justice for her.

Cricketer captain Virat Kohli hoped that justice would be done to the Hathras gangrape victim saying that the incident "goes beyond cruelty".

"What happened in Hathras is inhumane and goes beyond cruelty. Hope the culprits of this heinous crime will be brought to justice. #JusticeForManishaValmiki," Kohli, who is in the UAE for the ongoing IPL, tweeted.

The four men alleged to be involved in the crime have been arrested and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code, according to the Hathras SP.

On September 14, the young woman had gone to

● THE DALIT TEEN was allegedly sexually attacked by four men on September 14 and referred on Monday to a Delhi hospital in an extremely critical condition with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue.

the fields with her mother and went missing soon after. She was found later, beaten and tortured, her tongue cut as she bit it when the accused attempted to strangle her, the SP said while giving details of the attack. A spokesperson at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Aligarh where she was first admitted said her legs were completely paralysed and arms partially paralysed.

Leading the protests outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad said he appealed to





## IN BRIEF

**UAE to send mission to moon in 2024**

**Dubai:** The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned mission to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said Tuesday, a new gamble in space by the oil-rich nation that could see it become only the fourth country to accomplish that goal. The announcement by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.

**Roadside bomb kills 14 in Afghan**

**Kabul:** At least 14 civilians, including women and children, were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb in central Afghanistan, officials said, as violence continues despite peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government. Seven women, five children and two men died when their vehicle detonated an explosive device in Daikundi province, interior ministry spokesman Tareq Arian said in a statement. Three children were also wounded, he added, blaming the Taliban for the blast. Nasrullah Ghorri — the spokesman for the governor of Daikundi — said the victims were traveling to a shrine when their minibus struck the bomb.

**Saudi breaks up Iran trained terrorist cell**

**Riyadh:** Saudi Arabia has said it arrested 10 members of a "terrorist cell," some of whom underwent military and explosives training at Revolutionary Guard camps in Iran. Tehran on Tuesday denied the charges. Saudi security authorities said weapons and explosives stored at a house and a farm were seized, but did not say where the raid or the arrests last week were carried out. "Competent authorities at the presidency thwarted a terrorist cell... whose elements received military and field training on how to make explosives, at the Revolutionary Guard's sites in Iran," the kingdom's State Security Presidency said late Monday.

**French envoy faces probe for 'stealthing'**

**Paris:** Paris prosecutors are investigating a French ambassador for allegedly not using a condom as requested during consensual sex, a practice known as "stealthing", a source close to the inquiry said Tuesday. The woman, 30, told police she had spent part of the night at the home of the 44-year-old envoy she met through a dating site. "They had met up several times without any sexual relations. That evening, they had consensual sex," the source said, confirming a report in French magazine *Le Point*. "She asked him to use a condom but realised during the act that the man was not wearing one," the source added. The woman filed her complaint three days later. The source did not identify the envoy by name, while *Le Point* said only that he is based in the Middle East.

**TEACHER GIVEN DEATH PENALTY FOR POISONING KIDS**

**Beijing, Sept. 29:** A kindergarten teacher in China has been sentenced to death for poisoning dozens of children in an act of revenge against a colleague that left one toddler dead.

A court in the central Chinese province of Henan said Wang Yun put sodium nitrite into porridge being prepared for her colleague's students, sickening 25.

The attack took place in March 2019 and left one boy severely ill for months before he died in January this year, according to news reports.

The Jiaozuo City Intermediate People's Court on Monday said Wang knew sodium nitrite was harmful but went ahead "with no regard for the consequences", leaving many innocent children in hospital.

News reports last year said the children began vomiting and fainting after eating their breakfast.

Kindergarten students in China are aged between three and six.

The death sentence was handed to Wang this week for the offence of using dangerous substances.

# Thousands flee California wine country fires

**San Francisco, Sept. 29:** Northern California's wine country was on fire again on Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to be evacuated. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state.

In Sonoma County, residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior living facility in Santa Rosa boarded brightly lit city buses in the darkness overnight, some wearing bathrobes and using walkers. They wore masks to protect against the Coronavirus as orange flames marked the dark sky.

The fire threat forced Adventist Health St. Helena hospital to suspend care and transfer all patients elsewhere. The fires that began Sunday in the famed Napa-Sonoma wine country about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Francisco came as the region nears

● **MORE THAN 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.**

the third anniversary of deadly wildfires that erupted in 2017, including one that killed 22 people.

Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history. "Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin evacuated her property in the Oakmont community

of Santa Rosa at about 1 am. She is rebuilding a home damaged in the 2017 fires. Gorin said she saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled early Monday.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

More than 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.

Many more residents have been warned that they might have to flee, even though winds eased significantly Monday afternoon, giving firefighters an opportunity to make some progress, he said. — *AP*



The Glass Fire slowly crests the ridge outside of Calistoga in Napa Valley, California. The wildfire went from 1,500 acres to more than 15,000 acres overnight as winds spread embers across the valley. — *AFP*

## First US Prez TV debate rolls

**Debate to offer platform for Don and Biden to outline their visions on US crisis**

**Cleveland (US), Sept. 29:** In an election year like no other, the first debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, could be a pivotal moment in a race that has remained stubbornly unchanged in the face of historic tumult.

The debate will offer a massive platform for Trump and Biden to outline their starkly different visions for a country facing multiple crises, including racial justice protests and a pandemic that has killed more than 2,00,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

The health emergency has upended the usual trappings of a presidential

campaign, lending heightened importance to the debate. But amid intense political polarisation, comparatively few undecided voters remain, raising questions as to how, or if, the debate might shape a race that has been defined by its bitterness and, at least so far, its stability.

Biden will step onto the Cleveland stage holding leads in the polls — significant in the national surveys, closer in the battleground states — but facing questions about his turn in the spotlight, particularly considering Trump's withering attacks.

And Trump, with only 35 days to change the course of the race, will have

● **"THIS WILL be the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic.**

arguably his best chance to try to reframe the campaign as a choice election and not a referendum over his handling of a virus that has killed more people in America than any other nation. "This will be

the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic.

"If Biden is unable to indict Trump for all that he has done, (that) would be profound failure. There is no spinning that away." The president's handling of the Coronavirus will likely dominate much of the discussion. The pandemic's force will be tangible as the candidates' podiums will be spaced far apart and the traditional

opening handshake scrapped.

And the debate could be shaped by an extraordinary confluence of other recent moments: the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, allowing Trump to nominate a conservative jurist to replace a liberal voice and reshape the high court for generations, and the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years. But the impact of the debate — or the two that follow in the weeks ahead — remains unclear. — *AP*

## Fighting rages in Nagorny Karabakh despite truce calls

**Berlin, Sept. 29:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged an immediate end to the fighting in the region of Nagorny Karabakh in phone calls with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, her spokesman said on Tuesday.

At least 95 people have been killed in the clashes that have been raging since the weekend, including 11 civilians, according to the latest available tallies.

"The chancellor urgently called for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the negotiating table," Steffen Seibert said.

Merkel spoke with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday and with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday, he added.

The so-called Minsk Group of mediators, led by France, Russia and the United States, "offers an appropriate forum" for dialogue, Merkel said in the calls.

The UN Security

● **YEREVAN AND BAKU have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorny Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up last July and in 2016.**

Council is due to hold emergency talks Tuesday behind closed doors on Nagorny Karabakh, diplomats said.

Yerevan and Baku have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorny Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up last July and in 2016.

The region declared independence from Azerbaijan after a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives.

It is not recognised by any country — including Armenia — and is still considered part of Azerbaijan by the international community. — *AFP*

## Rapid virus tests unveil as Covid deaths top 1 mn

**Geneva, Sept. 29:** Coronavirus tests that deliver results in 15-30 minutes are to be rolled out across the United States and in scores of poorer countries, as health authorities worldwide try to get a handle on a disease that has now killed more than a million people.

US President Donald Trump announced 150 million tests would be distributed in America, while the World Health Organisation said 120 million more would be available for the developing world at \$5 each as long as funding was secured.

The testing push comes as the virus shows no sign of receding, with infection numbers climbing rapidly in Europe again and governments there clamping down on movement in an attempt to curb the surge.

Paris, London and Madrid have all been forced to introduce controls to slow infections, and on Monday Dutch authorities became the latest to tighten curbs, while the Czech Republic and Slovakia said they were preparing to declare

## China enters global race to defeat virus

**Beijing, Sept. 29 :** A Chinese company is entering the global race to help defeat the Coronavirus, promising its testing machine will return results faster than a lab and more reliably than at-home screening kits.

The Flash 20 "is currently the fastest machine in the world for PCR tests for the Coronavirus", says Sabrina Li, founder of the company Coyote.

PCR tests are the industry standard and a major weapon against a pandemic that has now killed more than a million people and eviscerated the global economy.

As governments scramble to develop adequate response systems, Li is targeting global sales.

Already used at hospitals and airports in China, the contraption can process four samples in one go and deliver results in just half an hour.

It has been certified by the European Union and Australia, and Coyote is seeking similar status from the United States and World Health Organisation. Testing has been hailed as one of the best weapons to contain the pandemic and other researchers are also on the quest to find the fastest method. — *AFP*

a state of emergency. The WHO said its \$600 million scheme to roll out the quick diagnosis kits across 133 countries in the next six months would enable low- and middle-income nations to close the gap in testing with the

rich world. The kits are far faster, cheaper and easier to administer than regular standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) swab tests but are less sensitive and more likely to return false negatives. — *AFP*

## 7 lakh children in Syria risk hunger

**Beirut, Sept. 29:** An additional 7,00,000 children in Syria face hunger because of the country's badly damaged economy and the impact of Coronavirus restrictions, an international aid group warned on Tuesday.

Save the Children said the new figures mean that in the last six months, the total number of food-insecure children across the country has risen to more than 4.6 million.

After nearly a 10-year conflict that killed some 4,00,000 and displaced half the country's population, Syria's economy has been badly harmed by the war as well as by widespread corruption, Western sanctions and a severe economic and financial crisis in neighbouring Lebanon.

The local currency crashed in recent months making it more difficult for many Syrians to buy

food. The spread of Coronavirus in the war-torn country has worsened the situation.

Save the Children said an unprecedented number of children in Syria are now battling soaring malnutrition rates.

A recent survey conducted by Save the Children found that 65% of children "have not had an apple, an orange, or a banana for at least three months."

In northeast Syria, an area controlled by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, almost a quarter of children said they had not eaten those fruit in at least nine months, according to Save the Children.

Save the Children said parents have little choice but to cut out fresh food such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, relying instead on rice or grains for weeks. — *AP*



Shahbaz Sharif

## PAK'S OPPN LEADER SHARIF REMANDED

**Lahore, Sept. 29:** Pakistan's Leader of the Opposition and PML-N chief Shahbaz Sharif was on Tuesday sent on a 14-day physical remand by an accountability court in assets beyond means and money laundering case, a day after he was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Shahbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from the Lahore High Court's premises on Monday after the court rejected his bail application in the ₹700 crores money laundering case. — *PTI*

## POMPEO VOICES SUPPORT FOR GREECE, TURKEY

**Athens, Sept. 29:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support on Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are "at an all time high and getting stronger." "Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe," Pompeo said. "We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership." — *AP*

## ANIMAL WELFARE French govt to implement \$9.2 million package to help people working in circuses

# France to ban use of wild animals in circuses

**Paris, Sept. 29:** France's environment minister has announced a gradual ban on using wild animals in traveling circuses, on keeping dolphins and killer whales in captivity in marine parks and on raising mink on fur farms.

Barbara Pompili, France's minister of ecological transition, said in a news conference on Tuesday that bears, tigers, lions, elephants and other wild animals won't be allowed any more in travelling circuses "in the coming years."

In addition, starting immediately, France's three marine parks won't be able to bring in nor

breed dolphins and killer whales any more, she said. "It is time to open a new era in our relationship with these (wild) animals," she said, arguing that animal welfare is a priority.

Pompili said the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.

The ban does not apply to wild animals in other permanent shows and in zoos. Pompili did not set any precise date for the ban in travelling circuses, saying the process should start "as soon as possible."

She promised solutions

● **POMPILI SAID the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.**

will be found for each animal "on a case-by-case basis." The French government will implement an 8 million-euro (\$9.2 million) package to help people working in circuses and marine parks find other jobs.

"That transition will be spread over several years, because it will change the lives of many people," she said. — *AP*



A visitor takes a selfie with a camel during a circus performance at Bastille square in Paris. Frances environment minister announced on Tuesday. — *AP*



# DECCAN Chronicle

30 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Don't let political fight hurt interest of farmers

The repeated assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the continuance of the minimum support price for agriculture produce notwithstanding, the farmers' protests against the three new laws governing agriculture and markets show no signs of abating. It is in this background that Congress president Sonia Gandhi's direction to the state governments her party runs to enact laws that can circumvent the three laws — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 — gains significance. The Congress move shows the principal Opposition party has decided to take on the government politically and legally on an issue that can have nationwide appeal. Politically, it has thrown the ball in the court of the BJP's allies in National Democratic Alliance asking if they wanted to work against the interests of the farming community and risk their future. Experts are divided over the states' power to enact laws in the subject that can stand legal scrutiny but a stiff resistance by the Congress governments to the Modi dispensation could once again catapult the Congress into the centre of political activity, a role it abdicated long ago. Agriculture is on the concurrent list but "markets" are exclusively in the states' domain and hence the Centre is barred from legislating on them. It was this realisation that stopped the government from going ahead with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017, while they were challenged in the Supreme Court. This time around, the government did not interfere with the markets or mandis; instead, it removed their very raison d'être by allowing people to sell their produce wherever they want.

The state governments have economic reasons as well to fight the Centre as these laws will effectively choke and eventually stop a steady stream of their revenue as rents and taxes. A legal fight, and a possible win, could force the governments run by other parties also to follow the course, earning the Congress a decent political dividend.

The Congress has more reasons to invest in the agitation. It is not the first time a Central legislation has triggered widespread protest — those against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, are not that distant to fade away. But the government put up a resistance and defended it positions using many a card, including the communal one. But farmers as a class are unlikely to give in to such machinations as they feel a threat to their livelihoods. It is indeed wise for the Opposition to be seen on their side.

A protracted legal battle could imperil the interests of the farmer, who even otherwise feels he has little future in this country. If his interest, and the food security of the nation, are supreme, then the Union government which has committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022-23 should initiate a consultation process with the farmers, the Opposition, the state governments and other stakeholders to end the agitation and stop legal battles.

## Trump: Artful tax dodger

Long before he became President of the United States Donald Trump was among those thought to be famous for just being famous. He parlayed such fame into a path to the White House where he holds court while having paid less income tax in a year — \$750 in 2016 and 2017 — than a successful hairdresser would have. The ridiculously low taxes he paid or none at all in 10 of the last 15 years, as exposed by the *New York Times*, were made possible by a show of chronic losses, which betrays his pretensions to being a billionaire honcho. Mr Trump's tricks might not be unusual for real estate businessmen bilking the US tax system, but it becomes extremely worrisome considering he personifies conflict of interest. What the expose of chicanery in computing taxes means in politics — as he is in the thick of a re-election campaign and going into the first debate with Joe Biden — is it lays bare the myth of Donald Trump, 'The Apprentice' of the reality show. He may conveniently brush it aside as "fake news", which is what he dubs anything that goes against the grain of his presidential persona. The fear that the mountebank from a parallel universe who lives and thrives in an alternative reality may be a security threat as he owns responsibility for debts of \$400 million is just dawning on America. Curiously, the facts dug out may not be the decisive tipping point in the polls. Mr Trump's antics help show up the uber-wealthy as they are seen compulsively cheating on taxes through tax havens, rebates, refunds and handouts to kin, all by employing clever accountants and sharp lawyers. Most white and blue collar workers of the world have no such devices to deny Caesar his due even if the argument is stretched into saying a person may be considered smart if he can legally avoid personal taxes. Every US President since Watergate has made public his financial records, but not Mr Trump. It remains to be seen if his name is all that marketable anymore.

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ADITYA SINHA  
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR  
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DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

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**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burrupur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BNITC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552

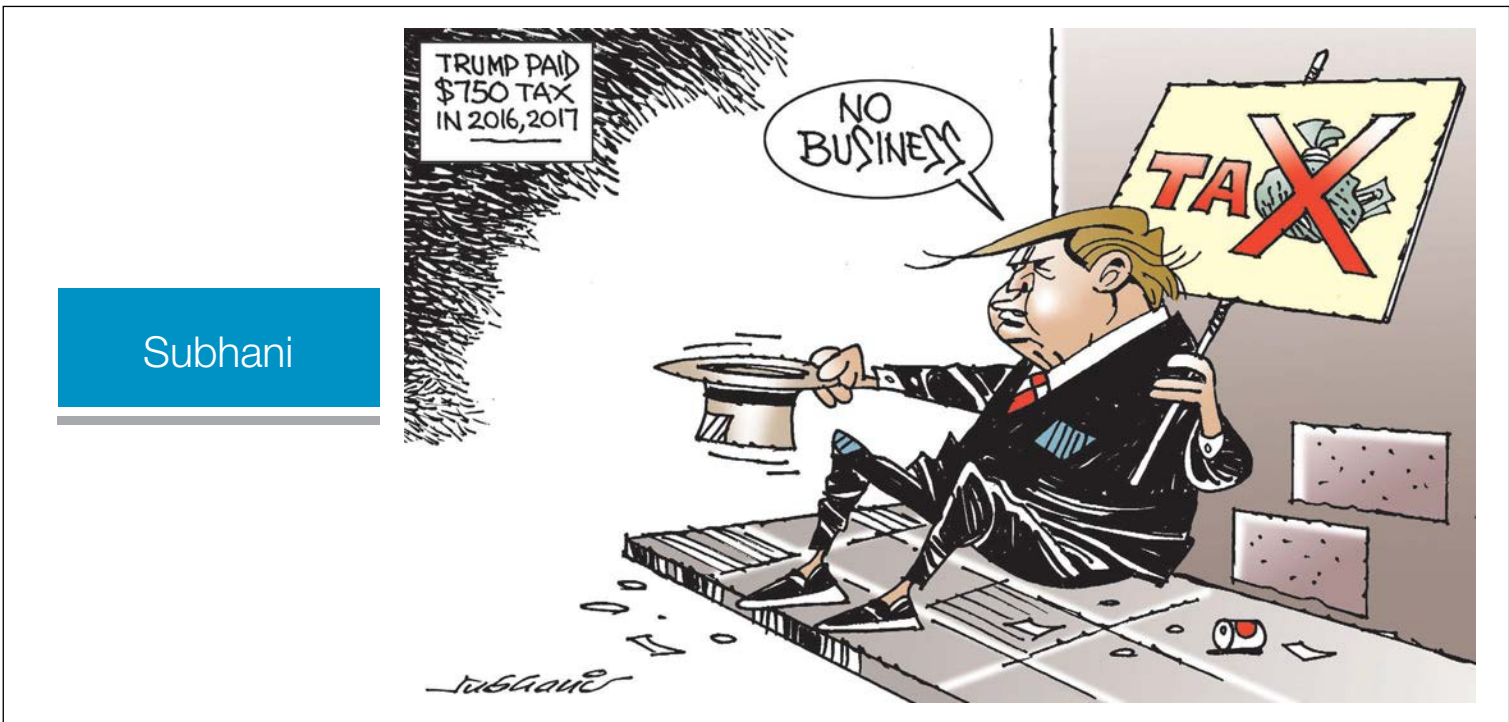
**Coinbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coinbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

**Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

**Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018

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Subhani

## Unlock 5.0: Woes will linger, support a must



Sanjay Kumar

The quarterly GDP growth figures for the first quarter of 2020-21 released couple of weeks ago revealed a dismal state of Indian economy, with a growth rate of -23.9 per cent. This GDP growth rate is at its lowest since the quarterly figures started releasing in 1996. This figure does not convey anything new; it merely provides an aggregate picture of economic hardship being faced by a large number of Indians in the big cities, small towns as well as in villages. This situation cuts across people employed both in the formal and informal sectors. Several reports indicate lakhs of people losing their jobs, and salaries being reduced in different proportions in different sectors due to lockdown as a result of Covid-19. What also indicates towards economic hardship being faced by a large number of people is the amount of money withdrawn by the people from their employer's provident fund (EPF). The labour minister informed the Parliament of about 39,400 crore EPF withdrawals during the period March-August 2020. While it is true that lockdown brought economic activity to a complete standstill having an impact on the daily lives of the people, there are evidences which suggest that the economy was not doing well even before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the lockdown. What the lockdown did was to make the economic condition of the people much worse than it was before.

The GDP figures are not surprising as the strict nationwide lockdown has brought the economy to a virtual standstill, many people losing their jobs, families having faced moderate to harsh eco-

nomic hardship. Analysis of the data collected from the survey conducted by Gaon Connection team and Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) amongst 25,371 respondents spread across 23 states and Union Territories helps us unravel this story. The data presents a grim situation. More than 78 per cent of those surveyed mentioned that their work had either completely (44 per cent) or largely (34 per cent) come to a standstill due to the lockdown. It is not surprising to note that a very large number of people suffered financially resulting in many families finding it much more difficult to make ends meet during the lockdown as compared to before the lockdown. It is important to note that a large proportion of households reporting a high difficulty in making ends meet even during pre-lockdown times indicate that a very large proportion of rural households were already suffering financially even before Covid-19 struck, and the pandemic-induced lockdown only exacerbated their economic woes. Even before the lockdown, 60 per cent people in rural India found it difficult to meet their daily needs, but their numbers increased to 73 per cent during the lockdown. It is evident that Covid-19 augmented economic hardship and severely impacted economic conditions across rural India. While the lockdown affected the work of people across class groups, the change in economic conditions was sharpest in the lowest strata. Unemployment continues to remain a major concern in rural India and the situation has been worsened by the return of migrants from urban centres — more than 77 per cent people

mentioned that unemployment was a severe concern in their respective village. While it is true that a large number of migrants have either returned or are planning to return back to the cities, there are still sizeable numbers of migrants who have stayed back in the villages at least for a few more months. The findings of the survey suggest 28 per cent migrants are not willing to return to the city, while another 16 per cent are unsure if they would return or stay back in their village and engage themselves in agricultural labour or MNRGA work.

The lack of steady income meant that the severe economic shock left many across the country in a precarious situation. Almost one-fourth of those surveyed (23 per cent) mentioned that they were forced to take additional loans or borrow money as they ran out of funds during the lockdown. A small segment of rural India faced a harsher situation and was forced to sell or mortgage assets to overcome economic woes.

The only saving grace for the economy seems to have been agriculture. Agriculture and allied activities still grew at 3.4 per cent during the contraction. The findings of the survey also suggest, due to lockdown, while there were delays in harvesting of crops, selling produce, and sowing the crop for the next cycle, the impact on the income of farmers was perhaps limited compared to what people working in other sectors had to face. More than half of farmers (58 per cent) reported that they got as much as the government rate for their produce.

The negative GDP growth reflects a sharp

**Almost one-fourth of those surveyed (23 per cent) mentioned that they were forced to take additional loans or borrow money as they ran out of funds during the lockdown**

contraction in private consumption. Declining incomes, and uncertainly about jobs and employment opportunities, was bound to have an impact on consumption patterns. A significant number of people were forced to reduce their expenditure on everyday household items during the lockdown. Almost 49 per cent people reduced expenditure on basic food items like atta, rice, grains, and pulses. Almost two-third (63 per cent) had reduced expenditure on processed items like snacks, biscuits, and sweets. Similarly, there was a decline in the consumption of FMCG goods as well. For instance, 56 per cent people reported lower household expenditure on personal care products like soap, shampoo, etc.

The declining income not only has an impact on current expenditure patterns, but also on future consumption. The uncertainties of jobs and anticipation of further reduction in salaries has led to a large number of people deferring their plans for buying expensive goods. They are also planning to reduce expenditure by not spending on items the use of which can be avoided. About 49 per cent and 57 per cent said that they would reduce expenditure on basic food items and personal care products, respectively.

While these findings are from a survey which was conducted only in rural India, it is unlikely that the situation would be vastly different in towns and cities. As Covid-19 related restrictions have eased across the country especially after Unlock 5.0, economic activity is gradually coming back on track. However, experts have alerted that economic recovery will remain slow. This makes it imperative for the government to continue taking steps for supporting citizens through various measures.

*The writer is a professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and a political analyst. Views expressed are personal.*

## LETTERS

### NUTRITION

Although I fully agree that low consumption of fruits, milk and milk products by a majority of Indians is one of the factors for the increased cases of diabetes and hypertension, the fact is that most of the people are unable to buy them (*Unhealthy food puts more Indians at risk of diabetes, DC, Sept. 29*). The gap between the poor and the rich must be reduced.

P.V. Tirumala Rao  
Hyderabad

### CASTE KILLING

The brutal murder of a 28-year-old Hyderabad interior designer, who got legally married with a woman aged 23 belonging to another caste was purely a case of caste killing. Both lived in the same locality and knew each other for eight years. This is the second and most unfortunate, unwarranted murder on similar grounds in Greater Hyderabad. To prevent these happenings from occurring, the police, government and the courts have to play a vital role to the maximum extent possible, to sustain the confidence kept on them by the people.

D.N. Rao  
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

### 3 commandments for smokers

HAMBURG, Sept. 29. "There is no such thing as a clean cigarette", according to tobacco experts who attended an international Congress here this week.

The mass media last week splashed the news that tobacco scientists were working on such a "healthy" cigarette which people could smoke without fear of cancer or heart ailments. Experts admitted that the latest type of filter tips could absorb as much as fifty per cent of the dangerous stuff. The new-type filters let through much more smoke so that the smoker finds more pleasure and less danger.

Tobacco researchers are already thinking of a future compulsory label on all cigarette packages saying "cancer-producing". The three commandments of the cigarette smoker, say the experts, should be "smoke fewer cigarettes, smoke only filter-tipped cigarettes and smoke no more than one half of each cigarette for "death sits in the butt." — PTI.

Kishwar Desai  
London Diary



## Lonely Gandhi at Westminster; 'working' hols the new mantra

As October 2 approaches, we had hoped that the situation in London would have improved, allowing us to at least have a ceremonial placing of flowers at the feet of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament Square — remembering him at the close of his 150th birth anniversary. The Indian high commissioner, Ms Gaitri Kumar, had also suggested that, if things improved, a few of us could gather there for a simple memorial. But it seems that now further restrictions have been announced, thanks to Covid. So we would request all those for whom it is possible to go individually to place some flowers as we cannot have any kind of formal ceremony.

Summer is behind us and the chill is settling in - bringing a fresh bout of coronavirus. In the past few years, Diwali in London had just begun to be popular, with people even celebrating at Trafalgar Square. But the year has trained us well in social distancing, meeting in bubbles, wearing masks and working from home, and so though we were prepared

for skipping the festival of lights — we thought we would at least celebrate Christmas, in a big way.

Now the infection is really serious. Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson was thinking of limiting gatherings to six including children. Now no one is sure. Plans to come back to office are shelved. Infections are running in four figures per week. And not only in UK but across Europe. Schools had just opened and now they face serious problems. The Conservatives never like to bring bad news especially shutting people indoors. But Boris has to deny his normally ebullient nature and be stern. There are rumours however that he escaped for a day to Perugia for a break with Carrie Symonds, and his newborn baby.

No one thought so but Covid looks like a long term guest who is loath to go away. All around hopes of getting back to normal are dashed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, who had been spending borrowed money like there was no tomorrow, was hoping to begin cutting back in his winter budget. But it

looks like he is still Superman coming to the rescue of the unemployed and the bankrupt. But even he has begun to pose for his Instagram photos in a sombre mood. The serious visage is necessary as the Chancellor will have to tell people that the easy borrowing cannot go on forever.

People are finding ingenious ways of coping. Now that going back to the office is less likely, they have realised that working from home need not mean your local home. Now you can book short or long holidays so you can work from Estonia or Anguilla or even Perugia if you want. It is all online so who is to know? There are new travel agencies who can fix you a place where your fancy takes you. So the new lifestyle mantra is to Work from the Holiday Home. Not WFH, but WFHH.

But there are sadder changes due to the virus. London has always been a global city not just for the rich tourist but even for the traders and the artisans. The first indoors shopping centre was built in Elephant and Castle a popular area with a bus terminus as

well as underground and surface railway stations in 1965. The centre had Latin American, West Indian, Turkish and many other nationalities running shops. Next to the three level shopping centre developed a further subterranean set of shops. This shopping centre is being demolished to the great sorrow of its cosmopolitan clientele. Yes, it wasn't very posh - but the messy complex was a part of London life. A new centre is promised but it will undoubtedly be much more upmarket. Incidentally the name Elephant and Castle is derived from a Spanish princess who visited London and stayed nearby. Infanta de Castile as she was called became Elephant and Castle in London-speak. All a part of London lore.

There was apparently a "clever" shooting of a kiss in Eastenders, the popular TV show - essential in Covid times where it looked like a kiss but obviously the lips of the two actors did not meet. The couple leant towards each other - though the actual act was hidden behind a pillar, so the audience could imagine the rest. I

found the excitement over this non-kiss quite funny - as Indian cinema had in the past invented a thousand ways to "show" a couple kissing or making love - right from them sinking behind a flowerbed, to being hidden behind a tree, to two flowers leaning towards each other, to two birds flying, or the camera shyly panning away when the lovers met... it was only in recent times that outright kissing became the norm. Now it seems that while some brave actors are washing out their mouths with sanitisers before and after a kiss, others are finding some euphemisms for it... they should just take look at old Indian films, and they will find a thousand ways in which couples can have assumed to have kissed, or made love, without any physical encounter.

Old Indian cinema has the answer for lovemaking in the time of Covid!

*Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.*



## quick BITES

| INDICATORS             |            | %      |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Sensex                 | 37,973.22  | -0.02  |
| Nifty 50               | 11,222.40  | -0.05  |
| S&P 500*               | 3,339.59   | -0.36  |
| Dollar (₹)             | 73.85      | -0.07  |
| Pound Sterling (₹)     | 95.10      | -0.63  |
| Euro (₹)               | 86.25      | -0.46  |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹)       | 51,367.663 | 1.29   |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)*  | 41.09      | -1.34  |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield    | 6.037      | -0.019 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.651      | -0.012 |

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

## RBI places its nominee on Dhanlaxmi board

Dhanlaxmi Bank said RBI general manager D. K. Kashyap has been appointed on its board for two years by the regulator. The bank did not disclose the reason for appointment of the RBI's nominee of its board with effect from Sept. 28. The RBI usually does not appoint its nominee on the boards of private banks unless there are exceptional circumstances to avoid any conflict of interest. Dhanlaxmi was put under the PCA in Nov. 2015.

## Swatch shuts some systems after cyberattack



Swatch Group shut down some of its technology systems after detecting a cyberattack over the weekend, the world's biggest watchmaker said on Tuesday. "Swatch Group confirms that it has identified clear signs of a developing cyber-attack on some of its IT systems during the weekend," the company said. The shutdown had affected some of its operations, Swatch said, without explaining more.

## Sebi to issue code of conduct for MF managers

Markets regulator Sebi decided to introduce a code of conduct for mutual fund managers, including chief investment officer of asset management companies (AMCs). In addition, AMCs have been allowed to become self-clearing member of clearing corporations for debt transactions. The chief executive officer will be responsible to ensure that the code of conduct is followed by officers.

## Sebi slaps ₹1 cr fine on Brickwork Ratings

The Sebi imposed a penalty of Rs crore on Brickwork Ratings India, for lapses while assigning credit ratings to non-convertible debentures of Essel Group companies. Brickwork also failed to review the rating of NCDs of Great Eastern Energy Corporation after another credit rating agency downgraded the NCDs in April 2017. Also, the regulator has found delay in recognising default of NCDs of Diamond Power Infrastructure.



## ■ Wealth of 828 equals a third of GDP India's wealthy got thrice as rich in 5 yrs

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Over the last five years, there were several stories about financial pain caused to the rich because of events such as black-money-busting demonetisation, anti-tax evading GST and a persistent fall in economic growth rate. Now here's a reality check: 828 super-rich persons commanding a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore have seen their wealth swelling three-fold in the last five years, according to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020.

The survey also claimed that the combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion, which is one-third size of India's GDP. This further widens the inequality in wealth between the super-rich and the poor.

Their combined wealth is more than the combined GDP of India's South Asian neighbours - Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

According to the World Bank's Gini Index, inequality has been rising since 1993, which portrays a sorry picture of economic reforms benefiting the rich more than the poor.

While the country's economic growth slowed last year, the cumulative wealth of the 828 super-rich has increased by 20 per cent or Rs 10 lakh crore compared to that of last year. However, the average growth in wealth

### SUPER-RICH LEAGUE

- Combined wealth of India's richest is \$823 billion
- Mukesh Ambani stayed top with a wealth of ₹6,58,400 cr
- Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot with ₹1,43,700 cr
- With ₹1,41,700 crore, HCL founder Shiv Nadar ranked third
- The list saw 162 new faces this time

among the 828 super-rich has remained nine per cent, suggesting few individuals in the super-elite club benefitting more than others.

"About 28 per cent of the upswing in wealth on the list has been bestowed by Mukesh Ambani, who saw meteoric success post diversifying from oil to telecom and retail. A further 21 per cent of the additional wealth has been generated by pharma, mainly on the back of the rise in healthcare spends and a realigned priority towards personal healthcare stimulated by the Covid-19," Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and chief researcher, Hurun India said.

With a wealth of Rs 6,58,400 crore, Mukesh Ambani continued to be the richest man in India. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic,

Ambani's wealth dropped by 28 per cent to Rs 3,50,000 crore and then, backed by a series of funding and strategic investments, his valuation registered a "V-shaped recovery" and increased by 85 per cent in four months.

With a wealth of Rs 1,43,700 crore, the Hinduja brothers occupied the second spot in the list. The brothers saw the valuation drop by 23 per cent due to a lacklustre performance of their flagship companies such as IndusInd Bank, Gulf Oil and GOCL Corporation. With Rs 1,41,700 crore, the founder of HCL, Shiv Nadar, ranked third, backed by a 37 per cent increase in HCL's share price.

The list saw 162 new faces, 76 per cent of which are self-made entrepreneurs. Their numbers in the list were up at 64 per cent, up from 54 per cent five years ago.

Backed by a stellar IPO of Happiest Minds, founder Ashok Soota debuted in the list with a wealth of Rs 3,700 crore. Route Mobile's IPO bestowed Sandipkumar Gupta and Rajdipkumar Gupta with a wealth of Rs 2,000 crore each.

Among the biggest gainers, Udaan co-founders and former Flipkart executives Amod Malviya, Sujett Kumar and Vaibhav Gupta had their wealth increase by 274 per cent. Chigurupati Krishna Prasad of Granules India saw the second fastest rise in wealth.

## Bid for Mahindra Thar hits ₹1.1 crore

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 29

In a first of its kind, Mahindra & Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, which started an online auction for the first unit of the all-new second-generation Thar SUV to donate the proceeds to fight the Covid pandemic, on Tuesday crossed the Rs 1.10-crore mark.

The company will match the amount raised at the auction and the entire proceeds will be donated to a charitable organisation supporting Covid-19 relief.

Tuesday was the last day of bidding.

While Mahindra did not officially announce the winning bidder, Aakash Minda from New Delhi had bid for Rs 1 crore early on Tuesday. Later Abhishek Datta from Medinapur raised it to Rs 1.07 crore mark. But with just a few hours to go, Arun from Chennai, surpassed that figure for the Thar No.1 at Rs 1.09 crore, industry sources said. But, finally, it was Aakash Minda who bid big in the final few minutes, taking the tally to Rs 1.11 crore.

M&M will announce the new Thar's price on October 2, which is Mahindra's 75th Founders' Day and the SUV is likely to be priced in the Rs 12-15 lakh range.

The winner of the auction can choose a charitable organisation from the three suggested.

## Retro tax: Cairn seeks \$1.4 billion from govt

New Delhi, Sept. 29: British oil explorer Cairn Energy Plc on Tuesday said it is seeking from the Indian government \$1.4 billion (about Rs 10,300 crore) in losses arising from the expropriation of its investments to enforce a retrospective tax demand.

In its half-yearly earnings statement, the company said it expects an international arbitral tribunal to shortly give a decree on its challenge to the government seeking Rs 10,247 crore in retrospective taxes.

"The main evidentiary hearing of Cairn's claim under the (UK-India Bilateral Investment) Treaty took place in August 2018 in The Hague with a final hearing in December 2018," the firm said. The tribunal, it said, has indicated that "it expects to be in a position to issue the award after the end of the summer of 2020."

Cairn said it is seeking "full restitution for losses of more than \$1.4 billion resulting from the expropriation of its investments in India in 2014; continued attempts to enforce retrospective tax measures; and the failure to treat the company and its investments fairly and equitably."

This is the second most high profile retrospective tax litigation. Last week, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's efforts to claim Rs 22,100 crore in past taxes from Vodafone Group were in breach of fair treatment under the bilateral investment protection pact between India and the Netherlands.

## Agarwal looks to raise \$5 bn to join PSU sale

NISHANT KUMAR & DINESH NAIR SEPT. 29

Commodities tycoon Anil Agarwal is seeking at least \$5 billion for a fund targeting companies being sold off by the Indian government, marking a return to the strategy that made him wealthy.

Agarwal is targeting \$1 billion or more in an initial round of fundraising for the proposed India Direct Investment fund, according to people familiar with the matter, asking not to be identified because the plans are private. He is already scouting for targets and could spend nearly \$10 billion on the first few acquisitions, one of the people said.

The billionaire is working with London-based Centricus Asset Management Ltd on the fund, which will have a 10-year life span and use a private equity-type strategy, according to



Anil Agarwal

another person. He plans to buy companies over a five-year period and then boost their profitability before seeking an exit, the person said.

Agarwal, the founder of Vedanta Resources Ltd, is raising capital from international investors to buy stakes in government companies being sold under India's Rs 2.1 lakh crore (\$28 billion) divestment programme. The fund will also target companies being restructured under the country's bankruptcy rules.

—Bloomberg

tion pact between India and the Netherlands.

Cairn, which gave the country its biggest oil discovery, received a notice from the income tax department in January 2014, raising a preliminary assessment of Rs 10,247 crore tax liability relating to the group reor-

ganisation done in 2006.

Alongside, the department attached the company's near 10 per cent shareholding in its erstwhile subsidiary, Cairn India.

Cairn Energy had in 2010-11 sold Cairn India to Vedanta.

—PTI

## Walmart may invest \$25 bn in Tata Group's super app

Bengaluru, Sept. 29:

Walmart Inc is in talks with Tata Group for a potential investment of up to \$25 billion in the Indian salt-to-software conglomerate's new "super app", a newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to ongoing discussions between the two companies, the super app could be launched as a joint venture between Tata and Walmart, leveraging on the synergies between Tata's e-commerce business and Flipkart, Walmart's e-commerce unit, according to the report.

The news comes as Reliance Industries Ltd, controlled by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, raised over \$20 billion from investors, including Facebook, Alphabet's Google, KKR & Co and Silver Lake Partners, by selling stakes in its digital business Jio Platforms.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported that Tata Group is in discussions with potential investors about stakes in its new

digital platform.

The Walmart investment could touch \$20 billion to \$25 billion eventually for a large stake in the proposed super app that will be hosted under a Tata Sons unit.

The super app, which is scheduled to be launched in India in December or January, will bring together Tata's consumer business under one channel offering a wide range of products in the retail space.

Tata's consumer businesses include watch and jewellery brand Titan and fashion retail chain Trent. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Tata Steel gained more than 1 per cent each on Tuesday.

If the Walmart deal goes through, it will top its investment in Flipkart, for which the US-based company paid \$16 billion for a 66 per cent stake.

The report in *Mint* newspaper said Walmart had hired Goldman Sachs as the banker for the proposed deal.

—Reuters

## Amazon ups festive wager with ₹1,125 crore funding

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Building a war chest ahead of the festive season, US-based e-commerce giant Amazon has infused fresh capital to the tune of Rs 1,125 crore into its India unit Amazon Seller Services. Having pumped in Rs 2,310 crore into the same entity in June, the global e-tailer has already infused around half a billion dollar into its Indian business this year.

Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited, Singapore and Amazon.com Inc Limited, Mauritius have pumped in Rs 1,125 crore into Amazon Seller Services, regulatory documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler, showed. Amazon Seller Services allotted equity shares to these entities for the transaction on September 17.

Having pumped in fresh capital of Rs 2,310 crore in June, Amazon has infused a total of Rs 3,435 crore into the India business. This is half of the Rs 7,000 crore, or \$1 billion, announced by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos in

January to help bring small and medium businesses online.

This will help Amazon take on Flipkart as well as Reliance Industries owned JioMart during the festive season. Both entities are well-funded for the festive season. In July, Flipkart had announced that it had received funding of \$1.2 billion from investors led

by parent Walmart.

JioMart has no dearth of funds. The Jio platforms have raised around \$10 billion in a few rounds of funding.

The festive days are going to be crucial for e-tailers as the industry watchers have been predicting a notable growth in e-commerce sales despite the overall gloom.

## E-comm to create 3 L jobs

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 29

Back-end infrastructure creation by e-commerce companies prior to festive month will create three lakh new temporary and permanent jobs. This will be driven by an estimated 1.8 times jump in shipments compared to last festive season.

E-commerce players are increasing their physical infrastructure and hiring more people before the festive month. RedSeer Consulting says this will create 300,000 new jobs.

Amazon has ramped up its delivery infrastructure and added tens of thousands of delivery partners to the network to serve the rising customer demand for the festive season. The company has added close to 200 delivery stations, including those operated by delivery service partners across the country.

Flipkart too had said it would help generate over 70,000 direct and lakhs of indirect seasonal jobs, including delivery executives, pickers, packers and sorters.

## Maruti picks 5 more startups under MAIL programme



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, SEPT. 29

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Tuesday said it has short-listed five new startups as part of its third cohort of the Mobility and Automobile Innovation Lab (MAIL) programme to promote innovation in the mobility space.

The startups chosen are Clean Slate, Peer Robotics, Vicara, Hyper Reality and Urja.

Maruti, which sells one out of two car bought in the country, is now engaged with 14 startups under the MAIL programme in the last 18 months.

Maruti's MAIL initiative supports startups by co-creating innovative business solutions. The programme was launched to nurture innovation in the automobile and mobility sector in partnership with GHV Accelerator in January 2019.

The initiative aims to create an environment to nurture, foster and guide the early-stage startups, the company said in a statement.

"The five startups of cohort 3 underwent an extensive shortlisting process that included screening and pitch sessions."

"Clean Slate Technologies, a startup from Bengaluru, stood as the winner of the programme, followed by Peer Robotics from Gurgaon as 1st runner up and Vicara from Bengaluru as the 2nd runner up," the company said.

These startups will now engage with Maruti Suzuki for paid projects and also will be entitled to other benefits associated with the programme.

### PLAY | BY RULE

## Googles billing system takes 30% cut on payments made within app

# Play billing must for selling via app: Google

New Delhi, Sept. 29:

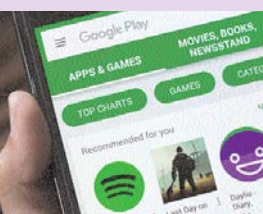
Google on Tuesday said apps that choose to sell digital content through its Play Store have to use Google Play billing system and pay a percentage of the in-app purchase as fee.

The tech giant—which was recently embroiled in a controversy after blocking Paytm app for a few hours—said while the policy for using Google Play's billing system for in-app purchases of digital goods has been in existence, there was a need to clarify it. "Today, we are clarifying a Play billing policy, which has been long standing and existing... Recent incidents and otherwise have shown us that clarifying policies and applying them equitably

and equally is very important for the ecosystem...every developer that chooses to sell digital content through Google Play will use Play billing," Google director-business development, games and applications Purnima Kochikar told reporters in a virtual briefing.

This would mean that developers will have to start using Google's billing system that charges a 30 per cent cut on the payment made within the app, starting September 2021.

Any app that chooses to offer in-app purchase of digital goods like unlocking additional features or buying tokens to power up a game character or paying for songs, will be



required to use Google Play's billing system.

However, physical goods (like ride hailing services) or paying for content subscription via the developer's own website will not require Play billing.

For developers who already have an app on Google Play (which has over 2 billion monthly active users) and require technical work to integrate with Play billing system, the company will

provide time until September 30, 2021 to complete the updates.

Kochikar said about 97 per cent of the developers seem to understand and comply with this policy, but did not name those who were non-compliant.

Both Google and Apple have drawn criticism from many developers over the high fees they are charging. As per reports, Spotify, Match Group (which runs Tinder) and Fortnite developer Epic Games had announced they were joining a non-profit coalition 'App Fair Alliance' to pressure Apple to change its stance on fees.

Kochikar said Android allows developers to distribute their apps via

third party stores. "You can also distribute your apps to the web, there are multiple ways. So, if an app is distributed through a third-party store or through the web, Play policy does not apply...It's all about openness," she said.

Third-party app stores include the likes of Galaxy Store (Samsung) and Indus App Bazaar. Kochikar said developers can communicate with their users about pricing and alternative ways to pay beyond their app via email or other channels.

"They will not be able to use other billing when they are selling digital content through the Play Store. They have multiple store options," she said.

—PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Battery-powered masks for players

**New Delhi:** Claiming to be the best in ensuring optimum oxygen for the wearer, battery-operated masks designed by an IIT-Kharagpur alumni will be put on trial for India's Olympic-bound athletes by the IOA to assist their intense training. The IOA has tied up with IIT Kharagpur's Piyush Agarwal, who currently owns a startup 'PQR Technology Private Limited' and has got government funding under the 'KAWACH Mask Project'. His start-up is currently attached with IIT Delhi. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said that the battery-operated masks, which cost around ₹2200 each, will be trialled first on a few Olympic-bound athletes. If they don't face any breathing issues and after approval from the IOA Medical Commission, the masks will then be used by all the Olympic-bound athletes and others. "I was initially very guarded about resumption of training by athletes but since they have started training and we don't know when this pandemic will end, we have to think about the best way possible and this idea of masks which seems safe for intensive training struck us," Mehta said. — PTI

## Schumacher son is closer to F1

**Maranello, Italy:** Michael Schumacher's son, Mick, will have an official Formula One drive during a race weekend for the first time next week at the Nurburgring, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari said on Tuesday. Schumacher gets the practice drive in an Alfa Romeo on Oct. 9 on his home track in Germany as a member of Ferrari's young driver program, taking over Antonio Giovinazzi's car for the first session of the weekend. "I am overjoyed to get this chance in free practice," Schumacher said in a statement. "I'm going to prepare myself well, so that I can do the best possible job for the team and gain some valuable data for the weekend." The 21-year-old Schumacher leads the Formula 2 standings after winning races in Monza and Sochi. He won the European Formula 3 championship in 2018 and tested a Ferrari F1 car in Bahrain in April 2019. — AP

## Pliskova ends Sherif dream run

**Paris:** Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a Roland Garros second round clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday. Pliskova squandered eight set points in the opening set as world No. 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead. However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4. Latvia's Ostapenko, the world 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1. Having supplanted Kevin Anderson as South Africa's No. 1, Lloyd Harris is a man on a mission — to take tennis to the football strongholds of his country's townships. Harris won his opening match 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) against Alexei Popyrin of Australia. — AFP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**Australia Women vs New Zealand Women:** Third T20 from 9.15 am on Sony Six, HD

**England Women vs West Indies Women:** Fifth T20 from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

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

## FOOTBALL

**Spanish League:** Huesca vs Atletico Madrid from 10.30 pm; Real Madrid vs Real Valladolid from 1 am (Thursday) on LaLiga page on Facebook

**Italian League:** Benevento vs Inter Milan from 9.30 am; Lazio vs Atalanta from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2

**Champions League Play-offs:** Midtjylland vs Slavia Praha from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

## WWE NXT

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

## BASKETBALL

**NBA Finals (Game 1 of best-of-7):** Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six

## RED HOT SUN

Hyderabad beat high-flying Delhi for first win of season

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 29:** Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs for their first win in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday. Kane Williamson, playing his first game of the season, smashed 41 off 26 balls after SRH were put in to bat. Openers David Warner and Jonny Bairstow made 45 and 53 respectively as SRH scored 162 for four in 20 overs.

In response, Delhi Capitals ended at 147 for seven in 20 overs with Rashid Khan taking three wickets.

Earlier, Bairstow smashed two fours and one six in his 48-ball 53 and shared two crucial partnerships — 77 off 57 balls with David Warner (45 off 33) for the opening stand and 52 off 38 balls with Kane Williamson (41 off 26) for the third wicket.

Making his IPL debut, Jammu and Kashmir's Abdul Samad (12 off 7) blasted a four and six in his useful cameo.

Warner and Bairstow were circumspect with the pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada (2/21) and Anrich Nortje maintaining their line and length.

The result was Sunrisers could only score 38 in the power-play, which yielded just two fours and a six — all hit by Warner.

Bairstow picked his first boundary in the seventh over, launching a slog sweep for a six off leg-spinner Amit Mishra (2/35). The duo tried to make up for the lack of boundaries on the slow track with their excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Warner sent one straight over Ishant's head for his second six and then picked a four off Mishra with a reverse sweep but the



Rashid Khan of Sunrisers Hyderabad celebrates the wicket of Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer in their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. — BCCI

spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

Mishra returned to dismiss Manish Pandey (3) before Sunrisers crossed the 100-mark in 14th over.

Playing his first match

of the season after recovering from an injury, Williamson smashed two fours in the 16th over to take SRH to 128 for two. Bairstow reached his fifty off 44 balls before holding out to Nortje in the 18th over. Williamson too was dismissed in the last over. — PTI

## SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** David Warner c Pant b A. Mishra 45, Jonny Bairstow c Nortje b Rabada 53, Manish Pandey c Rabada b A. Mishra 3, Kane Williamson c Axar b Rabada 41, Abdul Samad (not out) 12, Abhishek Sharma (not out) 1. **Extras: (lb-4, w-3) 7. Total: (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 162.** **FoW:** 77-1, 92-2, 144-3, 160-4. **Bowling:** Ishant Sharma 3-0-26-0, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-21-2, Anrich Nortje 4-0-40-0, Marcus Stoinis 3-0-22-0, Amit Mishra 4-0-35-2, Axar Patel 2-0-14-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** P. Shaw c Bairstow b Kumar 2, S. Dhawan c Bairstow b Rashid Khan 34, S. Iyer c Abdul Samad b Rashid Khan 17, R. Pant c Garg b Rashid Khan 32, S. Hetmyer c Pandey b Kumar 21, M. Stoinis lbw b Natarajan 11, A. Patel b Ahmed 5, K. Rabada (not out) 15, A. Nortje (not out) 3. **Extras: (lb-2, w-5) 7. Total: (for 7 wks, in 20 overs) 147.** **FoW:** 1-2, 2-42, 3-62, 4-104, 5-117, 6-126, 7-138. **Bowling:** B. Kumar 4-0-25-2, K. Ahmed 4-0-43-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-29-1, Abhishek Sharma 4-0-34-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-14-3.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

| Teams                       | P | W | L | N/R | Pts | NRR    |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Rajasthan Royals            | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0   | 4   | +0.615 |
| Delhi Capitals              | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0   | 4   | +0.483 |
| 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 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | -0.228 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0   | 2   | -0.767 |
| Chennai Super Kings         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0   | 2   | -0.840 |

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

## JAYAWARDENE FAITH IN SENIOR LEGS BACKFIRED

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Mumbai Indians' decision to not send Ishan Kishan, who is striking the ball hard and clean, to bat in the Super Over surprised many but their head coach Mahela Jayawardene defended the tactic saying they had faith in their experienced players to do the job.

It was wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan, who with his blistering knock of 99 runs brought Mumbai back in a stiff 202-run chase along with Kieron Pollard (60).

However, the match had to be decided via Super Over, where the defending champions opted to send Hardik Pandya with Pollard.

The strategy backfired as all they could manage was only seven runs off Navdeep Saini and lost the match to RCB.

Jayawardene said, Kishan felt tired after giving his all during the contest.

"If anyone could see, he (Kishan) was very tired at that moment and we were thinking that we probably need a couple of fresh guys who can go and hit the ball," he said.

"It is quite easy to say in hindsight this and that, but Polly (Pollard) and Hardik had done the job in the past in those Super Overs, two experienced guys who are capable of doing that."

"So you take a chance on these calls and it could have gone either way. If we had 10-12 runs anything could have happened," explained the coach.

Jayawardene had to admit that seven runs were too small to defend even for a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah. — PTI

## Captain Kohli all praise for Saini's Super Over heroics

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Reining in the batsmen like Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya in a Super Over is no mean task and Royals Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli was quick to acknowledge a job well-done by his pacer Navdeep Saini.

Saini conceded only seven runs in the Super Over to decisively tilt the match against Mumbai Indians on Monday after both the teams finished with the score of 201 in regular contest.

"Outstanding Super Over from him (Saini), bowling against Hardik (Pandya) and Kieron Pollard. I think the longer boundary helped him gain some confidence with his yorker, because he has got the pace and then he was using the wide yorker well too," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"The guys showed real good composure to get



Navdeep Saini

these two points in the bag and very crucial points at early stages of the tournament," Kohli added.

The India skipper also praised young wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan and Kieron Pollard to bring Mumbai back into the game.

"It was such a roller-coaster of a game. We bat-

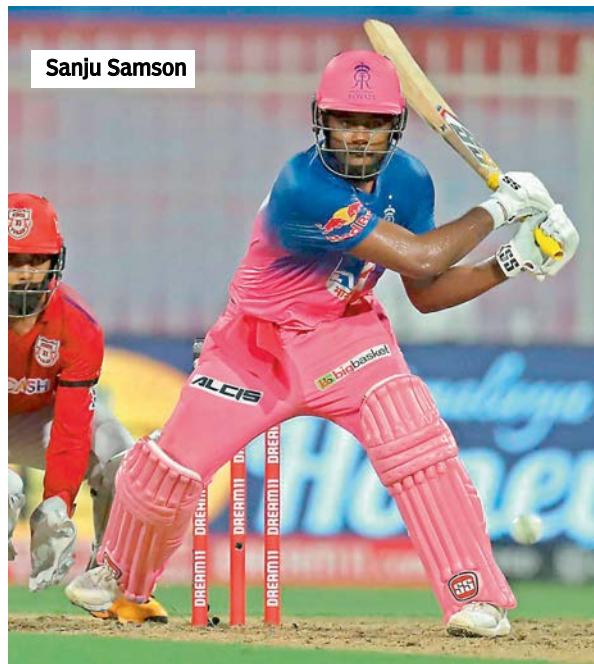
ted well in the first innings to get us past 200 and then the start of bowling was outstanding. They played well in the middle overs, waited for the dew to kick in. Pollard and Ishan to bat the way they did was outstanding to keep them in the game," he said.

According to Kohli, fielding is something that his team needs to work on.

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma conceded that RCB controlled nerves better than his team.

"Nothing to take away from RCB. They stuck to their plans, although we put them under pressure, they held their nerve more than us. It was a great game of cricket, we were not in the game at all when we started with the bat."

"But great innings by Ishan (Kishan) there to get us back in the game and then Polly (Kieron Pollard) was brilliant as usual," Rohit said. — PTI



## Tewatia, Samson threatens for KKR

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Kolkata Knight Riders will have to bat out of their skin to stop a marauding Rajasthan Royals when the two teams clash in an IPL match at the Dubai International Stadium here on Wednesday.

Having started off as underdogs, the Royals have taken the IPL by storm, chasing down the highest tournament total 224 against Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

In two wins from two matches, the Royals have got past the 200-mark with ease. In their success, they have found two stars in Sanju Samson and Rahul Tewatia, who have outshone marquee players.

In his second coming at the Royals, little known Haryana all-rounder Tewatia has got instant stardom for his 31-ball 53 against KXIP, which helped the side chase down a record 224 with three balls to spare against KXIP.

But the season so far belongs to Samson — the wicketkeeper from Kerala. Boasting of the season's highest strike-rate of 214.86, Samson has two successive half-centuries that has once again put him in contention for a longer rope in the Indian team as a keeper-batsman.

Skipper Steve Smith has been ever reliable, striking two half-centuries, while opener Jos Buttler will be waiting to explode.

To match or even surpass the Royals, KKR have the biggest stars in Andre Russell to go along with

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 20
- Kolkata: 10
- Rajasthan: 8
- Tied: 2 (Rajasthan Royals won both tied matches against Kolkata Knight Riders in Super Overs.)

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders beat Rajasthan Royals by 8 wickets in Jaipur.
- Rajasthan Royals beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 3 wickets in Kolkata.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Sanju Samson scored 159 runs at an average of 79.50 and a strike rate of 214.86 with two fifties in two innings in this IPL.

- Eoin Morgan, who smashed 297 sixes in 278 innings of 292 matches, needs just three sixes to become the 20th batsman to complete a triple century of sixers in Twenty-20.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

reigning World Cup winning English skipper Eoin Morgan, one of the best in limited-overs cricket.

Having started off with a familiar defeat to Mumbai Indians in their opener, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a determined show to bounce back against a sloppy Sunrisers Hyderabad. — PTI

## MARSH IN LIMBO AFTER HIS SCANS LOST IN UAE

**Dubai, Sept. 29:** Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is unaware of the extent of his injury, which ruled him out of the Indian Premier League, as the reports of the scans performed on his right ankle went missing in the UAE.

This was confirmed by the cricketer himself on Tuesday.

"We don't really know what happened with the scans over in the UAE. Cricket Australia haven't been able to get their hands on them so it's bit of a weird situation," Marsh told reporters during a virtual press conference.

Marsh, who twisted his ankle while going for a

drive in his franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad's season opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore, is currently undergoing a 14-day quarantine in a Perth hotel.

The injury cut short his outing in the remainder of the lucrative T20 league.

"Hopefully I'll go for another scan at some point this week, if I can get clearance, and then we'll be a lot clearer on what we're dealing with."

"It's one of those frustrating injuries. I've been through a few now so I think I know how to deal with it. I moaned and groaned for about 48 hours in the UAE," Marsh said. — PTI

## Klopp wowed by Reds' early surge

**Liverpool, Sept. 29:** Jurgen Klopp said on Monday that he has been blown away by the standards Liverpool have set at the start of their Premier League title defence after coming from behind to beat Arsenal 3-1 at Anfield.

Goals from Sadio Mane, Andy Robertson and Diogo Jota saw off the Gunners, who had won their opening two league games of the season.

While Manchester City, Chelsea, Manchester United, Tottenham and now Arsenal have all lost in the opening three weeks of the new campaign, Liverpool have taken maximum

points to lay down an early marker that they remain the team to beat in the Premier League this season.

"It's really early in the season and with this performance it is absolutely 'wow'," said coach Klopp.

"From the first second, (it was) dominant against a team in form. We had to be careful like hell of the counter-attacks. The football we played was absolutely exceptional. About this game tonight, there is nothing bad to say," he added.

The outcome of the match could have been very different, though, had Mane not

## THE RESULTS

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fulham                               | 0 |
| Aston Villa                          | 3 |
| (Grealish 4, Hourihane 15, Mings 48) |   |
| Liverpool                            | 3 |
| (Mane 28, Robertson 34, Jota 88)     |   |
| Arsenal                              | 1 |
| (Lacazette 25)                       |   |

escaped with just a yellow card for an elbow on Kieran Tierney after just three minutes.

Arsenal followed the game plan that had brought them two victories over

Liverpool in recent months as they dropped deep then looked to play around the Reds' press when in possession.

However, unlike when they met at the back end of last season's Premier League when Jurgen Klopp's men had already won the league or the Community Shield in August, Liverpool were far sharper in pulling the Gunners out of position.

The only time Arsenal did manage to pierce the Liverpool press before half-time, they opened the scoring completely against the run of play.

— AFP



Liverpool's Diogo Jota (centre) is congratulated by teammate Fabinho after scoring his team's third goal against Arsenal in their English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool on Monday. Liverpool won 3-1. — AP