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## Trump to name judge for US Supreme Court

## 16th straight pole vault win for Duplantis

Kundu floodwater flows on the causeway near Nemalladinne village of Peddamudium mandal of Kadapa district on Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

■ **Page 2: Four gates of Buggavanka opened**

■ **Page 2: Local streams overflow due to rains**

Amit Malviya will continue to head the party's IT cell.

■ Full report on Page 5

Speaking to media per-

Sullurpeta legislator Kileveti Sanjeevaiah was also present with the Minister.

Officials from the legal metrology department, along with representatives from oil companies like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL, original equipment manu-

- Most fuel-dispensing machines are manufactured by GVR.

So far, the authorities have completed inspection of nearly 150 fuel-dispensing machines and booked cases in Guntur, Chilakaluripeta, Chittoor, Anantapur and other areas in the state.

## Page 2: Power switched off to evade inspection



## IN BRIEF

## AVANTI: WILL MAKE AP INTERNATIONAL TOURIST HUB

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 26

The government is very keen to develop the state as an international tourist hub, and various programmes are under designing promoting the tourist culture in the state, said minister for tourism M. Srinivasa Rao.

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the minister convened a media conference on Saturday and detailed about the government's priorities.

There are plenty of strong tourist promotional attractions in the state including longest coastline, beautiful beaches, forest, hillocks and many mythological importance temples in the state. Considering the potentiality of the resources, the government has decided to promote adventure tourism, temple tourism, and also holiday spending tourism in the state.

The government has also decided to invite the entrepreneurs towards the promotion of the tourism sector across the state. As a part of the programme, the government has inked MoUs for the construction of 12 new star hotels under public and private partnership.

## CII MEET ON 'BIZ SUSTAINABILITY IN NEW NORMAL'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 26

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a conference on Industrial Safety with the theme focusing on 'Business Sustainability in New Normal' through a virtual platform on Saturday.

Speaking at the inaugural session, chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust K. Rama Mohana Rao, stated that Covid-19 has adversely impacted the economic activities across the globe and India is no exception.

The Indian economy is set to grow in the next year, and the industrial activities would increase and likely to become more dynamic with the anticipated flow of FDI in the country.

The initiatives, including Atma Nirbhar Bharat, would help in the growth of MSMEs and industrial safety attains importance, he added.

## CONGRESS PLANS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AGRI BILLS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, SEPT. 26

The APCC working president Tulasi Reddy said that Congress had planned a nationwide campaign seeking the withdrawal of agricultural bills. He said the Congress leaders would march on September 28 and then submit a memorandum to the Governor in Vijayawada.

"On October 2, we are celebrating Gandhi and Shastri birthdays by announcing to hold dharnas in all district assembly constituencies in the name of Kisan-Mazdoor Bachao Diwas demanding withdrawal of bills. He said there would be a state-level Kisan Sammelan program on October 10 in Eluru. Tulasi Reddy said a signature collection drive would be held from October 2 to 31, after which copies of the signatures would be submitted to the President.

## KONDREDDI WINS CHAIRMAN ELECTION FOR VIJAYA DAIRY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

YSR Congress leader Kondreddi Ranga Reddy retained the post of Chairman for Vijaya Dairy in Nellore for the third time successively in the election held on Saturday.

Interestingly, a group YSR opposing Ranga Reddy in YSR Congress backed the TDP candidate Kota Chandrasekhar Reddy. Still, a majority of the voters (Presidents of Milk Societies) across the district rallied behind Ranga Reddy.

While Kondreddi Ranga Reddy bagged 86 votes, TD nominee Kota Chandrasekhar Reddy secured 32 votes. Sources in YSR Congress said that a majority of the voters are in favour of YSR Congress, but the group politics led to a diversion of the votes to the official candidate.

Meanwhile, party leaders congratulated Ranga Reddy for his success.



Road connectivity from Old Amaravati to Capital Amaravati, Mangalagiri and Vijayawada was cut off due to overflowing of Kondaveeti Vagu at Pedamaddur on the Vijayawada-Velagapudi-Tullur-Old Amaravati route on Saturday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

## Rains devastate Nandyal, Kundu adds to woes

Chama canal in Nandyal town inundated many colonies

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC  
KURNOOL SEPT. 26

Heavy rains lashed Nandyal division in Kurnool district. The Chama canal in Nandyal town inundated many colonies and people are drowning in waters. Maddileru and Paleru vaagu are swollen flooding the bridge. The district administration is on alert to reach out to devastated areas.

180.06 mm of rainfall has been recorded in Bandi Atmakur mandal followed by Uyyalawada with 158.6mm and Allagadda received 146.0mm from Friday night to Saturday morning.

In Nandyal division, many villages are cut off. There is no transportation between Allagadda and Ahooblam, Mahanandi to Nandyal and Kolimigundla to Jammalamadugu and Tadipatri.

Early in the morning, three on duty forest watchers were trapped in flash floods at Pangidi vagu base camp in the deep forest near Velugodu. On receiving a rescue call, the fire unit of Atmakur rescued them with ropes and lifebuoys, said district fire officer Sreenivasa Reddy.

In Nandyal at Pedda Kottala village, stranded villagers were rescued by tractors.

With constant rains, FC Faram village in Mahanandi mandal was fully submerged with floodwater and water entered into houses and in at least 10 villages, including Nandyal town, several houses in low-lying areas were submerged by rainwater for a few hours.

Passersby, motorists and other transport vehicles are facing lots of problems due to submerging of roads with floodwater in almost all towns and villages in the Nandyal division.

Many agricultural water tanks and streams have overflowed. With overflowing floodwater, road links to various villages in Nandyal, Allagadda, Rudravaram, Atmakur, Kothapalli, Nandikotkur, Sirivella, Bandi Atmakur were snapped. The district administration is keeping a close watch on the situation, especially in Nandyal division.

Rescue operation teams led by the fire, police and revenue departments were pressed into the field to vacate flood-affected victims. Reddy said that teams have conducted rescues of the low-lying parts of the worst-affected areas in the district.

## Nandyal MP assures all help to flood-hit

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, SEPT. 26

It literally rained misery on Nandyal town and scores of villages on the banks of river Kundu in the Nandyal division on Saturday.

As much as 10,000 cusecs of Krishna river floodwater flowed into Kundu river through Pothireddypadu head regulator on Saturday morning though by evening the flow came down to 1500 cusecs.

Nandyal MP Pocha Brahmanad Reddy said flood-affected people were being evacuated.

Some engineers told

Deccan Chronicle that since irrigation minister Anilkumar Yadav was keen on lifting as much of Krishna flood as possible to fill Somasila reservoir, excess water was released into Kundu river.

Kundu Porata Samiti convener Venugopal Reddy said, "there is no one listening to our cries. Our fate is sealed and our farmers have to suffer in silence."

Mr Bramhanada Reddy who went around the flood-affected areas had hard time pacifying the people venting their anger over the hardships they were facing.

## Chief whip cautioned people, officers on rains

NAGESWARA RAO  
BALLEDA I DC  
KADAPA, SEP 26:

Government Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy advised people and officials to be vigilant, particularly in the low-lying areas. He directed the Irrigation DE to immediately repair Kanchalamma Gandhi and Ramapuram supply channel and dangerous ponds and pits.

Expressing concern at the damage to crop yields, Srikanth Reddy asked the Joint director of agriculture to support farmers by providing crop-damage compensation and insurance. Officials said the government would take steps to register crop damage compensation if more than 33 per cent of the cultivated crop was damaged. Srikanth Reddy directed the officials to prepare farmers for Rabi crop.

## CROPS SUFFER MASSIVE DAMAGE

FROM PAGE 1

Vajrakaru mandal revenue and police authorities rushed the spot and cleared traffic. A large number of lorries and other vehicles were stranded for many hours. Similarly, the main road was blocked due to heavy flowing of the channel near Tadipatri and access was cut between Guntakal and Tadipatri. A traffic jam at least two kms long resulted.

Existing groundnut and ragi crops suffered massive damage in many parts of the district. Heavy rainfall inundated the outstanding crops in Uravakonda, Guntakal, Tadipatri and Madakasira areas, sources said.

District collector, G. Veera Pandian, has directed officials to caution people to be alert as there may be chances of the floodwater entering villages.

Irrigation tanks in the district received constant flows due to overflowing of channels in many parts. Water tanks and reservoirs also received heavy water due to the rains. Rainfall in the district was recorded 146 mm as against an average of 23 mm on Saturday. Peddavadugur mandal received the highest rainfall of 70.4 mm and more than 30 mandals received more than 20 mm rainfall. After many years, Anantapur district witnessed excess rainfall.

Constant inflows continued in the Tungabhadra reservoir. The reservoir saw more than 30 thousand cusecs inflows and similar outflows towards AP.

Pandian ordered officials to be alert all the time, monitor the flood situation, alert people in river bank villages, visit affected villages.

## FOUR GATES OF BUGGAVANKA OPENED

FROM PAGE 1

He said the inflow into the project was so high that they could release water into the lower reaches of the Cheyzeru River as a precautionary measure. Jammalamadugu legislator Dr Sudheer Reddy visited the flood affected areas in the town, where the DSP office, bus stand and RTC depot are all inundated. RTC bus stands at Pulivendula, Kadapa, Badvel and Porumamilla were also badly affected. It was ditto with the low-lying areas in Kadapa city.

As Buggavanka reservoir filled beyond full capacity, officers raised all four gates and released water downstream. They alerted people living in the surroundings of Buggavanka canal.

With 15.5 tmc ft of water in Gandikota reservoir and inflow of about 6000 cusecs, officials released 5000 cusecs water to Mylavaram reservoir.

According to official records, nine mandals had witnessed more than 10 cms rainfall, and the district average was 7.1 cms.

## LOCAL STREAMS OVERFLOW DUE TO RAINS

FROM PAGE 1

Further, the local streams of Naguleru, Yerravagu overflowed due to incessant rains at Dacheppalli, Gurajala, Karampudi and other mandals in Guntur district.

The low-lying areas of Bapatla, Kollipara, Rompicherla, Savalyapuram Mandals are inundated and paddy and red chilli fields were submerged in Guntur district.

Meanwhile, the Guntur municipal corporation commissioner, C. Anuradha, inspected Sarada colony, Reddypalem, Buccaiah Thota, Old Club road, RTC bus stand road, Collector road, and Brodipet and directed the officials to take steps to avoid waterlogging in low-lying areas. She said that the sanitary, health and engineering departments are coordinating with each other to clear drains.

they cannot issue a notification.

NTR University of Health Sciences registrar Dr K. Sankar said, "Once we get directions from the state government, we will issue notification for counselling and start first year MBBS and BDS admissions."

At present, AP is having nearly 6,500 first year MBBS seats for admission and the fee structure for convener quota (A) is ₹10,000; ₹13.5 lakh under category B and ₹67.5 lakh under category C or NRI quota. There are nearly 1,740 first year BDS seats

## Jagan to launch YSR Jala Kala scheme tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

All set for the launch of YSR Jala Kala, another of Navaratnalu of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday. Under the scheme, the government will drill borewells free of cost for farmers.

During his marathon padayatra, Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy responding to the financial difficulties faced by farmers to dig borewells, promised to find a way out.

The free borewells scheme will benefit three lakh farmers and the government has earmarked ₹2,340 crore for the scheme.

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the scheme on Monday at the CM camp office at Tadepalli through online. The free borewell scheme is expected



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

to bring under cultivation additional five lakh acres in the state.

The officials stated that according to the scheme norms, a farmer should possess a minimum of 2.5 acres and maximum of five acres, to be eligible for the benefit under the scheme. Those not meeting the criteria can team up with others to get a free borewell. Farmers can apply for free borewells at village secretariat or online.

The application will be forwarded to the mandal

parishad development officer (MPDO) for approval after the panchayat secretary concerned inspects and certifies the claim. The sanction of borewell will be conveyed to the farmer by the village secretariat. The government has developed a special software for the YSR Jala Kala.

Minister for rural development and panchayat raj Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said YSR Jala Kala was symbol of Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy's commitment to the welfare of farmers. He said the government would take steps to dig borewells where groundwater is available with the help of technology. Permission would be given for drilling borewells only at such places where groundwater availability is confirmed by hydrogeological and geographical survey reports.

## Botsa asks Naidu why he is against Vizag as capital

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Minister for municipal administration, Botsa Satyanarayana, came down heavily on Telugu Desam chief, N. Chandrababu Naidu, for trying to create a wedge among people in the name of caste and religion for political gains.

Challenging Naidu to reveal the reason behind opposing Vizag as executive capital, Mr Satyanarayana challenged TD leaders to stop going to the court for stay orders and come clean by accepting investigations into the Amaravati land scam.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, Mr Satyanarayana said that Mr Naidu has been following the BJP agenda and thus trying to create communal disputes. He claimed that there was no benefit to the state or to the public from Mr Naidu's agitations and suggested that he go for apubic mandate instead. He said that the entire state had witnessed the Chief Minister, Y.S. Jaga Mohan Reddy, visit Tirumala and take part in the religious

activities with fervour and respect.

Mr Naidu has been opposing the development of the north Andhra region and objecting to Visakhapatnam being executive capital, while the Chief Minister is aiming to develop all the three regions equally, Mr Satyanarayana said and added that Mr Naidu tried to give away the most expensive lands to the Lulu and Adani groups.

The development of Visakhapatnam took place during the period of Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy. Mr Satyanarayana said, criticising the TD leaders for spreading false propaganda on investments coming to Visakhapatnam.

Asking the TD leaders to stop going to the court for stay orders in the Amaravati land scam, Mr Satyanarayana stated that only those who are guilty fear the law. Yet they cannot escape the inevitable.

He said that Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy is committed to public welfare and people are not going to fall for the cheap tricks of Mr Naidu and the TD.

## Power switched off to evade inspection

From page 1

Tampering with the motherboard and display board is done in such a way that once the power is switched off, the electronic circuit boards go back to factory settings once they are switched on.

The authorities had observed in some cases that whenever the officials went for inspection, those running the fuel stations used to switch off power to evade inspection and when officials insisted on inspection, they switched on the power, resulting in the tampered equipment going back to factory settings, showing no sign of any fraudulent practice.

Legal metrology authorities are holding talks virtually with the manufacturers of fuel dispensing machines asking them to periodically upgrade the

technology being used in their machines to make them tamper-proof while the top brass from oil companies are also being asked to keep check on the credentials of employees working with them.

They also advise consumers to be more vigilant while filling up the tanks of their vehicles to find out any fraudulent practice and are to check fuel in five litre measures to find any short delivery.

Legal metrology controller, Dr M. Kantha Rao, said, "We have initially targeted 300 fuel dispensing machines most vulnerable for tampering and, so far, have completed nearly 150 inspections. The rest will be inspected by the end of September. We will ensure that all machines are tamper-proof soon so no consumer gets duped with short delivery of fuel."

## YSRC DESTROYING PORT CITY, SAYS AYYANNA PATRUDU

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Telugu Desam senior leader and former minister Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the YSRC government for 'disregarding' the development and welfare of the people of North Andhra region.

He accused the Jagan regime of attempting to take away the properties of Andhra University, which he said, stood as a symbol of pride of the local people for many decades.

Mr Ayyanna Patrudu alleged that the deployment of three-tier security at the CR Reddy Bhavan on the AU campus was part of the greater conspiracy on the part of the government to take over the administrative building of the university with total disregard for the future development of the campus.

"Ever since he came to power, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has been pursuing a single point agenda to destroy the port city and North Andhra region. Ruling party leaders took control of thousands of acres of lands. Capital shifting is part of YSRC's plan to tighten its grip over North Andhra," he said.

## PURANDARESWARI, SATYA KUMAR IN NADDA'S NEW TEAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Two BJP senior leaders from AP have found a place in the national executive committee formed by BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday. D. Purandareswari, senior leader and former Union minister, has been appointed national general secretary and senior leader Y. Satya Kumar as secretary.

Two prominent leaders from AP, general secretaries G.V.L. Narasimha Rao and Ram Madhav, have been dropped.

AP BJP president Somu Veerajugongratulated both of them and wished that they should work to strengthen the party at the national level under the leadership of Nadda.

DELAY | IMPACT Students may move to TS, Karnataka or elsewhere for admission under categories of B and C

## Counselling for medical admission: Onus on state govt

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Although the national agency has released the answer key for NEET UG-2020, admission for first year MBBS and BDS courses may be delayed by NTR University of Health Sciences as it awaits two orders from the state government pertaining to the process for admission counselling and for fixing the fee in Andhra Pradesh.

Based on High Court's directions to the state government to constitute a high-level commit-

tee to work out modalities for conduct of counselling in various government and private colleges, the state government constituted a six-member committee with NTRUHS registrar Dr K. Sankar as its convener.

The committee submitted its report to the health special chief secretary Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy, recommending a series of measures, including amendment of certain provisions in GO No 111. It is after higher education department's clarification that a new GO would be issued with regard to modal-

ities for conduct of foolproof counselling.

Similarly, the AP Higher Education and Regulatory and Monitoring Commission is also supposed to fix fee for the first year MBBS and BDS courses for the academic year 2020-21 and the state government after approving the recommendations, has to issue an order.

University authorities say that unless the state government fixes the process for conduct of counselling for admission and also fee structure by issuing government orders,

they cannot issue a notification.

NTR University of Health Sciences registrar Dr K. Sankar said, "Once we get directions from the state government, we will issue notification for counselling and start first year MBBS and BDS admissions."

At present, AP is having nearly 6,500 first year MBBS seats for admission and the fee structure for convener quota (A) is ₹10,000; ₹13.5 lakh under category B and ₹67.5 lakh under category C or NRI quota. There are nearly 1,740 first year BDS seats

available and the fee structure is ₹10,000 for convener quota (A); ₹3.5 lakh under category B and ₹17.5 lakh for category C or NRI quota.

Meanwhile, the NTA, in its release, mentioned that the NEET (UG)-2020 was held on September 13 and advance answer keys for candidates for all the sets (E1-E6, F1-F6, G1-G6, H1-H6) were being uploaded.

The candidates are expected to be ready for challenges of Draft Answer Keys, which would be published shortly. University authorities main-

tain that once the NTA releases a nationwide merit list, each state would prepare their own merit list and award ranks. However, 15 per cent of seats in the state would be filled up based on the national level merit list while the remaining will be filled by the state merit list.

Sources from the university caution that if there is a delay in issue of two GOs, the admission procedure will be delayed forcing a section of students to move to Telangana, Karnataka or elsewhere seeking admission under categories of B and C.



## SHORT TAKES

## COP FELICITATED FOR COMMITTED DUTY AMIDST RAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

The photos and video clip of a constable discharging his duty standing on the road in a heavy rain went viral on social media platforms on Saturday. A police constable of the Hanuman Junction police station D. Srinivas was appreciated by the state home minister Mekathoti Sucharitha and DGP Gautam Sawang for his commitment and dedication. Constable Srinivas was discharging his duty at the busy Hanuman Junction main centre on Friday evening while suddenly there was a heavy downpour. Despite the heavy rain, the constable was directing the traffic on the busy Vijayawada - Visakhapatnam national highway. The photos and video of the constable on duty during heavy rain went viral on social media.

The home minister and the DGP appreciated the police constable Srinivas through social media, while the SP felicitated the constable with a shawl and presented a cash reward.

## GUTKA WORTH OF ₹25 LAKH SEIZED, THREE ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Three people were transporting the gutka stocks illegally from Tumkur of Karnataka in a lorry. The police arrested the trio and seized the illegal supplies worth ₹25 lakh in Tenali on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference in Guntur, Guntur rural SP Vishal Gunni said that the police seized ₹25 lakh worth of 70 gunny bags gutka and a lorry at Municipal Market centre of Tenali in Guntur district. The police arrested three accused Madhav Rao, lorry driver Mohammad Eezad and lorry cleaner Mohammad Saleemuddin. The police found illegal stocks of V-1 company gutka packets.

Mr Vishal warned that the police would take stern action against illegal transportation of the banned tobacco products.

## SWEEPER TRIES TO END LIFE OVER HARASSMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, SEPT. 26

A young woman, Lakshmi Prasanna, who was working as a sweeper at Vempalle Government Hospital, tried to commit suicide. The family members say that Lakshmi swallowed sleeping pills after being harassed by the hospital supervisor Sudarshan. She was shifted to Kadapa RIMS hospital for treatment.

The Vempalli Police Inspector Venkateswarlu speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* said that at present the victim was undergoing treatment at the Kadapa government general hospital.

The police took an oral statement about the issue, and are yet to take a written complaint. According to the doctors, she is out of danger. "When we get a written complaint from the victim, we will take the accused into our custody," the police said.

## LORD MOUNTS ON SARVABHOOPALA VAHANAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

On the penultimate day of annual brahmotsavams on Saturday, Lord and Goddesses were mounted on finely decorated Sarvabhoopala Vahanam.

The mighty wooden chariot procession has been witnessed in the form of Sarvabhoopala Vahanam with lord Malayappa and His consorts seated elegantly to bless devotees.

Given the Covid-19 restrictions, TTD observed both the golden and wooden chariots with Sarvabhoopala Vahanam.

The event took place in Kalyanotsava Mandapam between 7 and 8 am. TTD Trust Board Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, EO Anil Kumar Singhal, board members and others were also present.

● The mighty wooden chariot procession has been witnessed in the form of Sarvabhoopala Vahanam with lord Malayappa and His consorts.

## Fans circulate Balu songs on social media

Song glorifying Kakinada and Rangaraya Med college

VADREVVU SRINIVAS | DC  
KAKINADA, SEPT. 26

The legendary playback singer S.P. Bala Subrahmanyam's death has evoked nostalgia among legion of his fans here about two songs he sang glorifying Kakinada and Rangaraya Medical College, the alma mater of some of his friends from Nellore.

The song written and composed by Eemani Satyanarayana Murthy, praises history of Kakinada, its culture and landmarks.

The singer had sung the song when he came to Kakinada to anchor a musical show of a TV channel.

The nostalgic fans are circulating the song on social media as a mark of respect to the singer.

SPB also sang another song on how Rangaraya

## SPB award, statue demanded

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

Jana Sena has demanded that the state government institute an award in memory of the playback singer SPB and install his statue at one of the impor-

tant junctions at Nellore.

After paying floral tributes to the portrait of the ace playback singer here on Saturday, Jana Sena leader Kethamreddy Vinod Reddy said that Balasubrahmanyam was pride of Andhra Pradesh

and it's the responsibility of the government to instal his statue at Nellore. He said an award like NTR National Award should be instituted in the name of the singer to honour talented people in the field of music.

Medical College gave thousands of doctors to the society. According to sources, many of the friends of SPB from Nellore studied in Rangaraya Medical College and the singer in his younger days used to come to meet them. The admiring friends even established Manjula Arts, where they used to stage plays and rehearse during their student days.

"SPB was closely associ-

ated with our family as my father P. Gangadharam founded "Gangadharam Orchestra" and SPB frequently came to our house and participated in our concerts," said P. Satish.

Another song flooding social media is on Adikavi Nannayya University. The students and teaching staff are sharing the song sung by SPB on social media.

Apart from the private songs, another famous

melodious number from SPB now doing the rounds on social media is 'Vedamla Ghoshinche Godavari, Amaradamala Ninadinche Rajahmaendri..', written by famous lyricist late Arudra for the film 'Andhra Kesari'.

Another memory left behind by SPB for his fans is his visit along with his family to 'Gou Sala,' run by eminent spiritual speaker Chaganti Koteswara Rao.



Wife Savitri performs rituals as her daughter Pallavi and son Charan mourn near legendary playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam during his funeral at his farmhouse in Thamaraiakkam of Thiruvallur district. — PTI

## SPB laid to rest with state honours

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

Versatile singer, actor and music composer S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, who was a "singing moon" to millions of fans, was laid to rest at his farm house near Chennai on Saturday with a 24-gun salute by Tamil Nadu police.

After the singer's son S.P. Charan performed the last rites amid Vedic chants by priests, the 'Last Post' was played by a police band and 24 personnel in ceremonial attire gave a gun salute with three volleys.

SPB's body, glasses on and smeared with "Thiruneeru" (sacred ashes) on the forehead and draped in a silk dhoti was lowered into a deep pit and buried as chants of "SPB Pugazh Onguga" (Live long SPB's fame) rent the air.

The singer was buried as per his wishes, said to have been expressed by him to his family years ago, that he should be buried though cremation is the Telugu Brahmin tra-

dition. Flower petals were showered on the body and crystal salt strewn inside the pit before its closure.

With policemen, their rifles tucked under their arms marching along, the body was brought on a traditional hay lined bier to the final resting place on the verdant premises from a "pandal" earmarked for people to pay homage and perform rituals. The farm house at Tamaraiakkam in nearby Thiruvallur district was teeming with his fans, well-wishers and celebrities for the funeral since early morning and 500 police personnel were deployed to regulate the crowd.

Tamil Nadu culture minister K. Pandiarajan, Andhra Pradesh irrigation minister Anil Kumar Yadav, matinee star Vijay, film directors Bharathiraja, Ameer, music composer Devi Sri Prasad, singer Mano, actor Arjun and comedian Mayilsami were among the celebrities who turned up to pay their last respects.

Though police had initially said only about 150

people would be allowed to pay homage, more and more men and women trooped to the singer's idyllic farm house to pay homage.

Before becoming ill, he recorded a zestful opening song for the under-production Rajinikanth starrer Annaatthe, a D Imman musical and it turned out be his last song in his career that spanned over five decades. Imman said: "I feel so blessed that his last song was in my music. Such a cultured and affectionate man, there is no replacement for him. We miss him."

Bharathiraja said SPB has no death and continued to live through his songs. The 74-year-old singer earned a variety of sobriquets from his fans like "Padum Nila," "Isai Megam" (music cloud that showered songs), "Gaandha kuralan" (Man of a magnetic voice) for his mellifluous voice.

SPB was admitted to MGM Healthcare here on August 5 after he tested positive for coronavirus.

The health condition of the singer, who presented only mild symptoms during admission deteriorated on August 13 night and he was put on life support and moved to the ICU.

Soon he was on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), a heart, lung assistance machine) as well besides the ventilator.

On August 20, when he remained critical, SPB's long time friend and legendary Tamil filmmaker Bharathiraja gave a call for a mass prayer and it evoked a tremendous response with people from all walks of life including celebrities and the general public coming together to pray for his early recovery.

A video clip of him rotating a device as part of physiotherapy also went viral following his death. Early this month, the hospital had said that his condition warranted an extended stay requiring ECMO and ventilator support. He was declared extremely critical on September 24 and he passed away on Friday.

## Civils aspirants from AP want to keep a 'watch'

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Candidates from the State appearing for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations-2020 are urging Union Public Service Commission, which conducts them, to direct officials from the State to grant them permission for wearing ordinary wristwatches during exams in order to keep track of time.

They are lamenting that although the Commission allows simple wristwatches, and which is followed by other states, in Andhra Pradesh, officials were denying the facility.

Stated for October 4, around 30,199 candidates from the State are writing

the prelims in 68 test centres spread across Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Anantapur and Vijayawada. Many of the aspirants are recounting the bitter experience they faced after being denied permission to wear normal wrist watches.

Candidates like N. Chandram, S. Venkat and others from Krishna and Guntur said that time-management was crucial during Prelims, where a second can alter the prospects of making the grade. They said that wall clocks are available in only a handful of test centres.

UPSC instructions are: "Use of normal or simple wrist watches by candidates is allowed inside the

examination rooms/halls. However, use of watches fitted with any special accessory that might be used as communication device or smart watches is strictly prohibited and candidates are not allowed to take such watches into the examination rooms."

They stated that some candidates have opted for centres in other states earlier but now because of corona and non-availability of transportation facility, they were compelled to appear in their home state.

They appealed to the government to instruct local examination authorities to allow simple wrist-watches during the exam time.

## East Godavari continues to lead in Covid-19 cases

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

Andhra Pradesh has crossed the one lakh mark of conducting Covid-19 tests per one million population by testing 1,03,442 samples in the last 24 hours.

Tamil Nadu tested 89,747 samples followed by Kerala with 73,818, Telangana with 69,767 and Karnataka with 67,447 samples tested for one million people.

The state health authorities in their Covid-19 bulletin here on Saturday reported that out of 75,990 samples tested, 7,293 new Covid-19 cases have been found, scaling up the tally to 6,68,751.

The state also registered 57 deaths of Covid-19 patients, taking the death toll to 5,663.

Out of 55,23,786 samples tested for Covid-19 so far in the state, 5,97,294 patients have been discharged after recovery, while 65,794 patients are active with the virus.

Among new Covid-19 cases, East Godavari continues to lead with 1,011, followed by 975 in

Chittoor, 922 in West Godavari, 620 in Prakasam, 537 in Kadapa, 513 in Anantapur, 466 in Nellore, 450 each in Krishna and Visakhapatnam, 444 in Vizianagaram, 393 in Guntur, 306 in Srikakulam and 206 in Kurnool.

East Godavari leads the state also in the highest number of total Covid-19 positive cases with 93,184, followed by 63,504 in West Godavari, 59,243 in Chittoor, 55,729 in Anantapur, 55,456 in Kurnool, 52,709 in Guntur, 50,493 in Nellore, 49,039 in Visakhapatnam, 46,063 in Prakasam, 42,389 in Kadapa, 38,090 in Srikakulam, 33,803 in Vizianagaram, 26,154 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery from Covid-19 infection, however, is good in East Godavari with 81,821 patients getting discharged after recovery, followed by 57,199 in West Godavari, 52,991 in Anantapur, 52,863 in Kurnool, 52,053 in Chittoor, 47,573 in Nellore, 46,089 in Guntur, 44,491 in Visakhapatnam, 38,623 in

Kadapa, 35,123 in Prakasam, 33,617 in Srikakulam, 29,101 in Vizianagaram, 22,855 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

In terms of daily deaths of Covid-19 patients, Prakasam registered the day's highest with 10 followed by eight each in Chittoor and Kadapa, six in Krishna, five in Visakhapatnam, four each in East Godavari and West Godavari, three each in Guntur and Nellore, two each in Anantapur and Srikakulam and one each in Kurnool and Vizianagaram.

Among cumulative deaths of Covid-19 patients, Chittoor had the highest number at 633, followed by 514 in Guntur, 507 in East Godavari, 474 in Anantapur, 459 in Kurnool, 455 in Prakasam, 440 in West Godavari, 439 in Nellore, 424 in Krishna, 419 in Visakhapatnam, 365 in Kadapa, 318 in Srikakulam and 216 in Vizianagaram.

State health authorities have discharged 9,125 Covid-19 patients after recovery from various hospitals in the state.

## PROCUREMENT OF CROP FROM OCTOBER 1

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, SEPT. 26

The Joint Collector G. Lakshmisha instructed the Agriculture department officials to procure the agriculture products through Village Agriculture Assistants from October 1. Speaking in a district-level procurement committee meeting through video conference with agriculture officials on Saturday, Dr Lakshmisha said that the agriculture officials should take steps to give a remunerative price without incurring any loss to the farmers for their produce. He said that special attention should be paid in Y. Ramavaram, Mare-dumilli, Jagampet and other mandals where maize crop is cultivated on a large extent. The e-crop mapping was

## TTD TO PRESENT COW TO SHIRDI UNDER 'GUDIKO GOMATHA' SCHEME

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

As part of TTD's ambitious 'Gudiko Gomatha' programme, board chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy said he will present a cow to Shirdi Samsthan.

"With the blessings of the presiding deities of both the shrines, I am confident that the protec-

tion and promotion of indigenous cows will be taken forward," Mr Subba Reddy explained.

During an interaction with visiting Shirdi Samsthan team at Tirumala on Saturday, he said that they launched the unique programme in 35 temples in AP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

## SHIRDI TO WORK WITH TTD TO END FAKE TEMPLE WEBSITES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

To put an end to the devilous operations of fake websites, the authorities of Shirdi Sansathan have proposed to TTD that the names of official websites of all Hindu temples in the country should be displayed on prominent tem-

ple websites for providing accurate and authentic information to pilgrims.

The delegation of Shirdi Samsthan is in Tirumala for an on-site study of the darshan management and other arrangements by TTD in compliance with Covid-19 norms prescribed by Central and state governments.

## NIT FORMER STUDENTS PRESENT ICU BEDS TO RIMS, ONGOLE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, SEPT. 26

Former students of National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal donated 10 ICU beds and five hospital beds to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Ongole on Saturday.

Collector Pola Bhaskar, who was an alumnus of

NIT, Warangal, appreciated the students for their laudable gesture.

The old students belonging to the Vijayawada chapter expressed happiness over presenting the beds through former NIT student, Pola Bhaskar.

They said they had decided to present useful material to the hospitals during diamond jubilee celebrations of NIT.

## PROTEST OVER PATIENT'S DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ANANTAPUR, SEPT. 26

A tense situation prevailed at Srinivasa Nursing Home on Saturday after relatives of a woman staged a protest over the negligence of doctors.

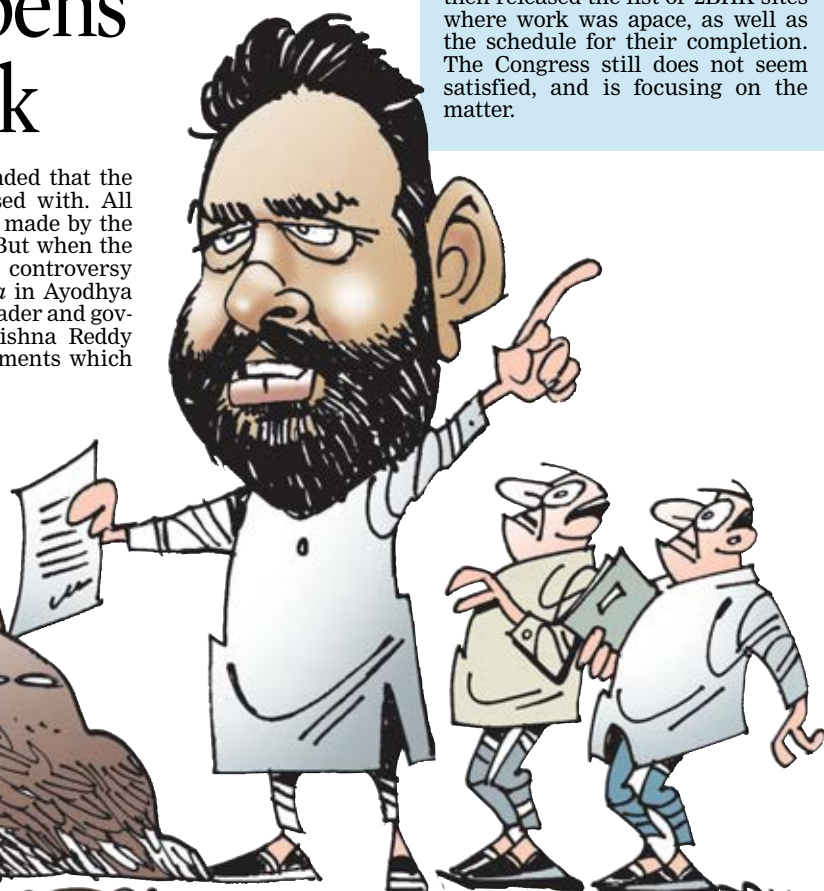
Radha, 32, of Sripuram in Singanamal mandal admitted with hypo thyroid-related problem a few days ago. The hospital authorities conducted throat surgery for the patient and she died during the surgery. The couple had four children.



**I**t appears that almost all leaders in the Telangana state Congress are convinced that the construction of double bedroom houses is the only issue for them to corner the TRS in the elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. For the past two months, one leader after another has been raising up the issue. First, TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy dared the TRS to prove that it has given double bedroom houses to at least 1 per cent of the applicants in the GHMC. If the TRS could prove it, he said, the Congress would not contest the elections. There was a padayatra by an MP on the matter amid almost daily statements. Then CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka accepted the challenge of the ruling party and accompanied minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav to some 2BHK house sites, but left the tour midway and accused the TRS of hoodwinking the people. Talasani then released the list of 2BHK sites where work was apace, as well as the schedule for their completion. The Congress still does not seem satisfied, and is focusing on the matter.

party to beat the BJP with. Telangana state farmers have been dependent on borewell-based agriculture for decades, though the new irrigation projects of the TRS government have changed the situation somewhat. The state provides un-metered 24x7 free power to

turned controversial, Nani demanded that the system of declaration be dispensed with. All through, not a single attempt was made by the party leadership to rein in Nani. But when the minister dragged Modi into the controversy and asked the PM to perform *pooja* in Ayodhya afresh along with his wife, party leader and government adviser Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy hurried to disown Nani's comments which he declared as unwarranted.

[illegible]

**BLONDIE**  
by EVAN DORGAN and JOHN HARBACE

1. Blondie, Dagwood, and Honky are talking. Blondie says: "I KNOW! I'M ON MY WAY!"

2. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "MADE IT WITH SECONDS TO SPARE!"

3. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! DEAD DOGS GO TO HELL! I'M GETTING RESTLESS!"

4. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! I DON'T HAVE MY LUCKY PEN!"

5. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! I BET I LEFT IT TO WASH THE DRESSER!"

6. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "NOT HERE!! I CAN'T GO TO WORK WITHOUT MY LUCKY PEN!"

7. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! DID YOU FIND YOUR LUCKY PEN, DEAR?"

8. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "NO! I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR IT WHEN I GET BACK HOME!"

9. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! HONKY! GOOD LUCK TODAY, HONKY!"

10. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "YOU KNOW, YOU MADE IT WITH ONLY TWO SECONDS TO SPARE THIS TIME!"

11. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "THAT'S BECAUSE I'M WEARING MY LUCKY PEN!"

12. Blondie is running down the stairs. She says: "HONKY! HONKY! HONKY!"



IN BRIEF

CONG LAUNCHES ‘SPEAK UP FOR FARMERS’ DRIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI SEPT. 26

After the farm Bills were passed in the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament, the Congress plans to mobilise public support against these Bills. The party has already written to the President not to give assent to these Bills.

The Congress on Saturday launched a ‘Speak up for farmers’ campaign on social media protesting the farm Bills, with Rahul Gandhi urging people to raise their voice against what he described was the Narendra Modi government’s ‘exploitation’ of farmers.”

“Let us raise our voices together against the atrocities and exploitation of farmers by the Modi government,” Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

“Join the Speak Up For Farmers campaign through your video,” he said, tagging a video in which the party called for the withdrawal of the Bills.

The Congress has already launched its nearly two-month-long “mass movement” against the government for passing “anti-farmer and anti-poor” Bills during the monsoon session of Parliament. The party will also collect two crore signatures from protesting farmers against the proposed laws.

NCB GRILLS DEEPIKA, SARA AND SHRADDHA

SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

The NCB grilled actor Deepika Padukone for around five hours on Saturday in connection with the drugs angle involving Sushant Singh Rajput suicide probe. The agency also interrogated actors Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan who were summoned at the NCB’s zonal office in Ballard Pier. The officials have also placed Kshitij Ravi Prasad, former employee of Dharma Productions, under arrest after the officials found marijuana from his Versova residence.

Deepika arrived at the guest-house located at Colaba’s Radio Club area at around 9.50am and was allowed to leave around 3.50pm. The officials stated that while she accepted the chats on narcotics, many of her answers were unsatisfactory. The investigators stated that she may be summoned again for questioning if need be.

The investigators will now dig deeper into the details shared by Deepika, whose chats with her manager Karishma Prakash asking for hash were found by the investigators.

Karishma was also present for questioning and after they were interrogated individually, the officials also grilled them jointly on certain crucial questions.

Separate teams simultaneously questioned Sara and Shraddha at the zonal office after the duo reached there at 1 pm and noon respectively. The officials said Sara was allowed to leave at around 5.30 pm and Shraddha followed around 5.55 pm.

While the agency came across chats of Sharadha asking for CBD oil (which is prescribed drug), whereas, eye-witness reports had claimed Sara having visited Rajput’s farmhouse at Lonavala where liquor and alleged drug parties took place.

The officials arrested Kshitij formerly associated with Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions after the NCB allegedly recovered marijuana from his Versova residence.

FSSAI mulls mandatory fortification of edible oil with vitamins A and D

New Delhi, Sept. 26: Food regulator FSSAI is considering making it mandatory for edible oil manufacturers to fortify cooking oil with vitamins A and D, which help in boosting immunity.

“FSSAI is considering to make it mandatory to fortify edible oil with vitamins A and D so that people of India can enjoy better immunity with good health,” FSSAI CEO Arun Singhla said.

He was addressing a national webinar on edible oil fortification, organised

● **VITAMINS A AND D strengthen the immune system, which is critical in times of Covid-19 pandemic.**

by the Food Fortification Resource Centre under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in association with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, a statement said on Saturday. Fortification of edible oil will ensure that people belonging to different socio-economic strata have easy access to forti-

fied edible oil across the country, Singhla said.

“India has a very high burden of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies. A huge population in our country suffer from deficiency of vitamins A and D. Lack of these vitamins in our body can have adverse impact on morbidity, mortality, productivity and economic growth,” the statement said.

Vitamins A and D strengthen the immune system, which is critical in times of Covid-19 pandemic, it added. To facilitate the

industry, Singhla said FFRC will also provide the necessary technical support required to enable fortification of edible oil.

At present, 69 per cent (7.94 million tonnes/annum edible oil) of packaged edible oil sold across pan-India is fortified, the statement said.

Citing the example of Rajasthan, where fortification of edible oil is being done since 2011, Vij said there is a substantial reduction in vitamin A deficiency among children (10-19 years) in the state. — PTI

China asks ISI to up violence in Valley

China wants focus to be shifted from stand-off along LAC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

NIA detains another terror suspect

With three top security officials — chiefs of Army, Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force — visiting Jammu and Kashmir in the last 10 days, security grid in the newly created Union Territory is on maximum alert amid specific Intelligence reports that China had asked Pakistan ISI to further intensify violence in the Valley.

Intelligence agencies have already given specific inputs to the BSF, the CRPF and the Army as to how China wants Pakistan-based ISI to foment further trouble in the Valley to shift focus from the ongoing standoff in the Ladakh sector.

Army chief M.M. Naravane, BSF DG Rakesh Asthana and CRPF chief A.P. Maheshwari during their visit to J&K in the last few days held exhaustive security review sessions to further strengthen the anti-infiltration grid along the International Border and the Line of Control.

Intelligence reports also point towards a possibility that major attempts could be made by terror launch pads close to the border to push in both militants and large-scale weapons before the onset of winters in the Valley.

Sources in the security establishment claim that following the increased deployment and vigilance along the Indo-Pak border, terror organisations have not been very successful so far.

Officials claimed there was a clear nexus between the Pak backed terrorists and Chinese security forces evident after the

**PRANMOY BRAH-MACHARI & RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
**BERHAMPUR/KOLKATA**  
**SEPT. 26**

A week after arresting nine alleged Al Qaeda members, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has detained one of their aides for his questioning, again from Murshidabad.

The suspect, Shamim Ansari (25), was picked by the NIA with the help of the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans during a raid at his home at Nawdapara village in Jalangi late on Friday night.

He is a close associate of Al Mamun Kamal, one of the nine arrested last week.

NIA sources claimed that Kamal’s confession of Shamim’s links with him led to the raid and detention.

A villager of Nawdapara Shahajahan Mondal said that Shamim was close to Kamal and he was very religious like the latter. Both often used to collect money from the

villagers, he added.

The NIA has learnt Shamim had also helped Kamal set up his Madrasa privately in the village with a plan to radicalize young minds.

It is now grilling Shamim for his association with Kamal. Shamim earlier worked in Kerala as a mason’s helper. He, however, returned home last year and started working as a labourer in a local jute storage, said his mother Magfara Bewa.

“A team of BSF jawans and cops in plain clothes whisked away my son from our home in just ten minutes. They did not tell us anything when I asked them why they were forcibly taking away my son,” she said.

The team also seized several booklets from Shamim’s room but did not reveal what they were about, said his wife Chandtara Bibi.

BSF DIG (Murshidabad) Kunal Majumdar said, “The BSF neither arrested nor detained anyone. Our force was deployed and provided security only during the raid.”

recovery of some Chinese made weapons in the Valley like Norinco/EMEI Type 97 NSR rifle and Norinco QBZ 95 rifle. These weapons are often used by the Pakistani security forces which clearly reveals a direct link between Chinese forces and Pak based subversive groups.

“All possible arrange-

ments have been made both along the border and within the Valley during the visit of these three senior officials. We are confident that a foolproof security environment will continue in J&K in the coming months and we will deal successfully with this Pakistan-China nexus,” a senior security official added.

MILITANT AIDE LINKED TO LeT ARRESTED

Srinagar, Sept. 26: Security forces nabbed a militant associate linked to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in Jammu and Kashmir’s Kupwara district and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession on Saturday.

Based on a specific input, a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the orchards of village Mandigam Kralgund in the north Kashmir district’s Handwara, a police spokesperson said.

During the searches, a militant associate identified as Akeel Ahmad Parray, a resident of Mandigam Kralgund, was arrested, he said.

Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from his possession, he added.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Parray is an active militant associate linked to proscribed terror outfit LeT, the spokesperson said.

A case has been registered and investigation has been initiated, he said.

On Friday, two militant commanders of LeT were killed in an overnight encounter with security forces in Anantnag district. — PTI

● **Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the arrested militant associate’s possession.**

Mammoth loss



Villagers sprinkle lime and salt powder on the carcass of a wild elephant which was buried by the forest department officials after it died due to electrocution at a village in Rani Reserve Forest on the outskirts of Guwahati on Saturday.

— PTI

In Nadda’s reshuffled team, Raman’s adversaries dropped

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC**  
**BHOPAL, SEPT. 26**

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has retained former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh as one of his 12 deputies in his newly constituted team.

Significantly, two senior BJP leaders of Chhattisgarh, Saroj Pandey and Ram Vichar Netam were dropped from their respective posts of national general secretary and president of Scheduled Tribe wing of the party, done on Saturday.

Both the leaders are considered Mr Singh’s adversaries.

“The reconstitution of the national party in which Mr Singh’s two key adversaries have been phased out, has indicated that Mr Singh may be asked to lead the party in Chhattisgarh in the 2023 assembly elections,” a senior BJP leader told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted.

PM: India wants to be part of decision making at UN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for urgent reforms in the United Nations saying the world and its dynamics has changed today completely as compared to 1945.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through virtual mode, the PM said that India wants to be part of the decision making team on the high table of UN and there is a rising concern if the reform-process of UN will ever reach its logical conclusion.

“Reform in the responses, in the processes, in the character of the United Nations is the need of the hour. It is a fact that the faith and respect that the United Nations enjoys in India are unparalleled. But it is also true that the people of India have been waiting for a long time for the completion of the reforms of the United Nations. Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion. For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?” PM said.

He added that India has

● **THE WHOLE world is fighting the global pandemic of Corona for the last 8-9 months. Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response?**

**NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister**

worked its way up to be self-reliant and an active member of the UN.

“In the changed circumstances of the post-pandemic era, we are moving forward with the vision of a self-reliant India. A self-reliant India will also be a force multiplier for the global economy...When we were strong, we did not trouble the world; when we were weak, we did not become a burden on the world. How long would a country have to wait particularly when the changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world,” the PM said.

Mr Modi said that the international community today is faced with a question whether the character of the UN, constituted in the prevailing circumstances of 1945, is relevant even today?

“If we assess the last 75 years of the United

Nations, we see several achievements. But at the same time, there are also several instances that point to a serious need for introspection for the United Nations. One could say that we have successfully avoided a third world war, but we cannot deny that there have been several wars and many civil wars. Several terrorist attacks shook the world and there have been bloodsheds... Were the efforts of the United Nations sufficient during those times or are these efforts adequate even today? The whole world is fighting the global pandemic of Corona for the last 8-9 months. Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response,” the PM said.

Mr Modi underlined that India has always thought about the interests of the whole humankind and glimpses of this philosophy can be seen in its Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy and in India’s approach towards the Indo Pacific region.

Talking about the pandemic, he said that India’s vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help humanity in fighting the crisis.

KERALA CROSSES 7,000-MARK IN DAILY COVID CASES; ACTIVE CASES 52,678

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 26

Kerala on Saturday recorded the highest single day spike in Covid-19 cases with 7,006 cases even as 3,100 persons recovered from the infection.

Of the new cases 6,004 contracted the infection through contact, source of infection among 664 per-

sons is not known yet, 68 infected persons came from abroad, 177 from other states and 93 health workers also got infected.

The state has so far reported 1,67,939 cases of which 1,14,530 persons have recovered and 52,678 are under treatment at various hospitals across the state.

Kerala’s figure of 50,000 plus active cases is the fifth highest in the country.

POST-CBI PROBE, CPM PLANS CAMPAIGN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT. 26

A day after CBI registered an FIR and began probe into irregularities connected with Wadakkancherry Life Mission Project, the ruling CPM has decided to launch a massive state-wide counter-campaign from September 27 to oppose what it calls the BJP-RSS plan to use central agencies for destabilizing the LDF Government in Kerala.

CPM state secretary Mr Kodiyeri Bala-Krishnan told mediapersons that after coming to power at the Centre, the BJP had used central agencies to topple elected governments of opposition parties.

The CBI probe into Life Mission alleged irregularities smacks of a similar intervention in Kerala.





## DECCAN Chronicle

27 SEPTEMBER 2020



Sheebani Sethi

Off the beaten track

## No country for young women

**P**redictably, with the farmers' protests gaining momentum and the parliamentary process in shambles, new names have emerged in the so-called Bollywood drug mafia investigation, and some anchors who had jumped the gun now get to shrilly gloat on national TV.

Equally predictably, the named are young women. Some, conveniently, happen to be middlingly successful 'nepo kids'. One, a self-made superstar, made a five-minute non-speaking cameo appearance at a den of anti-national urban naxals, aka one of the finest universities in India.

The only male public figure named so far is SSR, making one wonder if "Justice For Sushant" means tarnishing his memory and legacy. India hates its young women.

In a country which 'worships' women as goddesses, it is the young girl who invites rape by wearing jeans and eating chowmein, the young woman who invites a (dis)honour killing by daring to love a man of her choice, the young wife who invites domestic violence by not worshipping sufficiently abjectly at the altar of her husband and in-laws.

In a city named after Mumba Devi, a single woman who enters into a romantic relationship is called anything from a whore to a home-wrecker, whilst a man is the innocent victim of her wiles, even when he is married and knowingly cheats. The actor wife is blamed when a cricketer has a bad match. Women who dare to express contrarian opinions are subjected to disgusting trolling and rape threats.

A young woman who facilitated the procurement of a negligible amount of weed for her boyfriend is denied bail and continues in jail in horrific conditions on the filsiest of charges, whilst a middle-aged man-child who has admitted to taking pretty much every drug ever invented, is celebrated in a movie in which he is played by a younger man-child. [Out of curiosity, how does one drug a grown man with weed without his knowledge and consent? Sprinkle it on his *rajma-chaawal* instead of *kasoori methi*?]

The flipside of this narrative is that our god-like *raja betas* appear to have no noticeable degree of agency, choice, sense, responsibility or self-control. It is a mystery why Indian men don't find this insulting.

For millennia, Indian women have been designated as the 'honour-keepers' of patriarchy (i.e., keep your legs and mouths shut). Often it is women who normalise and enforce misogyny. Recently, some of these "princesses of patriarchy" are being styled as feminists. Ladies, you aren't.

Feminists are not victims. They believe that all genders are equal, and every individual has a right to their own choices and opinions, without inflicting them on others. They disagree with a person without insulting them. They don't judge or insult a woman because they don't agree with her. They understand the concept of consent. They don't use rape references except when discussing actual rape. They believe that a woman can be a home-maker or the CEO of a company, as long as it is HER choice. They don't hate men, or women. They don't have to be women.

So, no. You aren't feminists. Not when you play the victim card, selectively outrage on behalf of some women but slut shame others, are self-confessed addicts but derogatorily call others 'druggies', make accusations but withhold 'proof', complain (rightly) about the abuse you receive but abuse others with abandon, have different standards for different people depending on your whims. You are high-priestesses of hypocrisy.

Here's an example of how feminism works:

A prominent Bollywood male is the subject of recent #MeToo allegations. The timing of these is as suspect as the demolition of the illegal parts of an actor's office (the tasteless and tone-deaf rape analogy that followed notwithstanding).

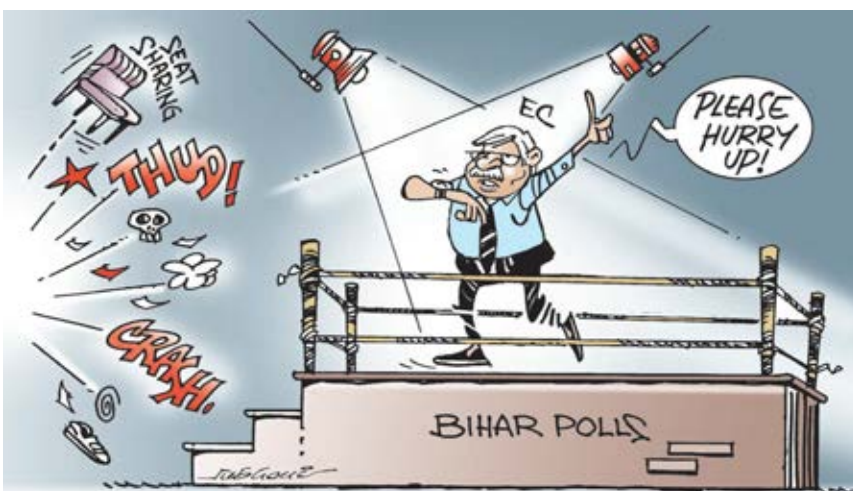
As a feminist, I say that every such charge should be investigated, and both sides heard equally. Also, if a charge is found to be trivial and baseless, there should be legal consequences for the accuser. Misusing and trivializing legal protections given to women (like dowry, domestic violence and sexual harassment laws) is an insult to the countless, voiceless women who truly need them, and to the women and men who have fought for centuries, often at huge personal risk, so that Indian women may enjoy a modicum of equality with their male counterparts.

True gender equality in India is still a long way away. So I urge the self-styled feminists to put their money where their mouths are, with objectivity, compassion, respect and non-partisanship, and help us achieve it. Otherwise India will continue to be no country for young women. And, given the recent, disgusting trolling of trail-blazing doyennes of Bollywood, no country for middle-aged or old women either.

The Indian ideal is Sati, not Kali. We forget that both, that all our deis, are avatars of the same supreme Goddess.

*Sheebani Sethi is a cat-parent, reader, Trekkie, feminist, humanist, lawyer.*

Subhani



## Covid shadow at UN-75: Some lessons for India



K.C. Singh

**C**ovid-19's shadow looms over the 75th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly this year. The high-level segment began September 22, with virtual speeches delivered to a near empty hall. Customarily, the first speaker was Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, followed by US President Donald Trump. The US presidential election is just days away, the outcome of which is critical for America and indeed the world.

For India, the anniversary has little cause for celebration as China, a UN Security Council permanent member, ignoring its Charter commitments, is attempting by force to alter the status quo at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the UNGA Saturday evening. The 2020 theme is: "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism". This sounds unrealistic, the world being caught between the pandemic and the rise of nationalist-populist leaders in almost all major powers, other than perhaps Germany. It's therefore important to study what they had to say.

President Trump, days from a tough November 3 election, was naturally more geared to a domestic than global audience. Incidentally, he spoke as Bob Woodward's book *Rage*, based on extensive interviews including with the President, reached bookshops. Pulling no punches, Mr Trump called the pandemic the "invisible enemy" and "China virus". He likened US mobilisation to that during World War II, having already cost over 200,000

dead, 40 million jobs and an economic slowdown nearing recession. The \$2.2 trillion stimulus may leave behind rolling deficits. Mr Trump sought accountability from those who "unleashed the plague". While China, he alleged, locked down domestic travel, it kept international flights open, and delayed sharing sharing that the disease was communicable person-to-person and by asymptomatic individuals. Woodward recounts Mr Trump's discussion with advisers whether China, realising the likely damage to its economy, allowed international travel and thus the pandemic's spread, to level the playing field with the developed world. Mr Trump then fielded the usual claims about US economic and military growth under his watch and a swipe at the UN that it must focus on "real problems" to be effective. The US, he claimed, led in protecting human rights, which sits poorly with his handling of the Black Lives Matter protests. When Woodward pushed with: "I'm asking whether you can understand the plight, struggle, pain of people?" The reply, more dodge than revelation, was: "I'm somebody that likes to get things done rather than talk." Mr Trump cited his "America First" invocation, encouraging others to the same. It summed up his anti-multilateralism at the citadel of global governance.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was happy to fill that gap. He repeatedly referred to the pandemic, on the defensive after the US onslaught. He pledged the virus must be defeated, but must not be politicised, nor nations stigmatised. He sought "macro policy coordination" between major economies

to enable global recovery. He then waxed eloquent about helping the developing world, especially Africa, which for China is a crucial market and source of raw materials. Chinese companies control mines from Congo to Chile and Australia, cornering minerals needed for solar panels, electric vehicles, etc. The pandemic, Mr Xi argued, should teach there is no escaping inter-dependence and respect for each country's "independent choice of development path and model". He countered the crescendo for "decoupling" from China by seeking an open multilateral trading system with WTO as its cornerstone. On climate change, he promised carbon neutrality in China by 2060. Of course, he ignored that China's installed capacity for polluting thermal power is half the world's total. Even new Belt and Road Initiative projects have a mix of thermal and hydro power units. Reaffirming faith in global governance, he promised China will never seek hegemony. The speech will leave most of China's neighbours astounded at the gap between his words and China's actions.

Interestingly Russian President Vladimir Putin contested America's claim of stabilising West Asia and the Gulf by "peace deals". He said as the world changes so must the UN, but undermining it may collapse the "architecture of international organisations". In the Mideast, he sees foreign interference, not democracy and reform, with the vacuum filled by extremists, leading to an illicit trade in arms and oil. He undercut Mr Trump's sim-

**For India, the anniversary has little cause for celebration as China, a UNSC permanent member, ignoring its Charter commitments, is attempting by force to alter the status quo at the LAC in Ladakh**

plistic conclusion that splitting and realigning parts of the Islamic world with Israel and against Iran and its Shia national-allies would buy peace.

Amid this dissonance among major powers Pakistan's PM Imran Khan addressed the UNGA. He tried linking the UN's 75th anniversary as a time to recall fascism's defeat in Europe and focus on contemporary neo-fascism by the RSS and the BJP government in India. From that it was an easy path to claiming repression in Kashmir, and the breach of real and imaginary past UNSC resolutions. While he focused on the flow of illicit funds of Pakistan's politicians to developed nations, with his political rivals in mind, there was no mention of Pakistan's funding non-state actors and its travails with the Financial Action Task Force. His angst is understandable as the big powers aren't interested in Pakistan's Kashmir laments, except China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may take the high road and leave Indian diplomats to respond. He will no doubt seek UNSC reform, support equitable globalisation, as India needs investment to create employment, reiterate India's commitment to the Paris climate change accord and, like China, offer help to developing nations in fighting the pandemic. The post-pandemic world has conflated with the post-Trump world. Woodward's final words on Mr Trump are that his oversized personality and lack of trust in experts led to "the undermining or attempted undermining of so many American institutions. The failure of calming, healing voice. The unwillingness to acknowledge errors...". Facing a recalcitrant China, angry farmers up in arms and a swirling Covid, India's government should draw a lesson from this.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.*

## LETTERS

### CARING FOR FARMERS

Even before the two farm Bills became laws, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy ordered procurement of grain (*Officials asked to procure every grain from farmers, DC, Sept. 26*) through Rythu Bharosa Kendras. RBKs are the same as APMCs. Such action should be emulated by all other states to thwart the apprehensions created due to new laws.

**K. Nehru Patnaik**  
*Visakhapatnam*

### DEATH OF BIRDS

It is hurting to note that hundreds of Pelicans from Siberia were found dead in and around Chellamannaiduvalasa of Vizianagaram district (*Siberian pelicans found dead in AP, DC, Sept. 26*). Even though locals suspect pesticide poisoning may be the reason, there is an urgent need to find out the real reason. As the matter is connected with thousands of tourists, the government must act quickly and positively.

**Bommadevara.Sitapati Rao**  
*Vijayawada*

### FEET OF CLAY

All of us idolise Sunil Gavaskar for his cricketing skills, his in-depth knowledge of the game and his fluent commentary. However, he has put his foot in his mouth by unnecessarily linking the bad patch of Kohli's IPL performance with his better half, Anushka. She was justifiably annoyed with Gavaskar's wicked humour and gave him a piece of her mind. Instead of an apology, Gavaskar justified his comments and said he was not against Anushka. Being a part of the gentleman's game, Gavaskar should not cross Laxman rekha with his unsavoury comments. Game is bigger than the individuals.

**Parthasarathy Mandadi**  
*Tirupati*

### Jordan King forms new Government

AMMAN, Sept. 26  
Jordan's King Hussein, under heavy verbal fire from fellow Arab leaders and continued demands for his overthrow from the Palestinian guerrillas, today announced a new Government to try to end the "black troubles" in his embattled country.

The 13-man Cabinet is headed by a Palestinian civilian politician, Mr. Ahmed Toukan, and contains at least five Palestinians and six army men.

It replaces the military Government, the King set up on September 16, the day before the King's army

launched its assault on the guerrillas. Its head, Brigadier Mohammed Da'oud, also a Palestinian, resigned on Thursday.

The King's mandate to Mr. Toukan charged him to try to return life in the country to normal and end hostility between Palestinians and Jordanians.

But in Damascus a guerrilla spokesman said the new Government would not change their attitude "so long as the Royal Regime exists and the real criminals, first and foremost King Hussein are in power."

## Out overnight, eight safe from loneliness, C-virus and hunger pangs

### WhatsApp smarts

**T**he eight Opposition MPs who were suspended by the Chair in the Rajya Sabha for creating a ruckus over the farm Bills and did a subsequent 24-hour sit in, formed a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with one another. The WhatsApp group's name: "eight and safe". The only one of the eight MPs who made friends with the rest was TMC MP Dola Sen, a trade unionist MP. Congress MP Rajeev Satav, whose birthday coincidentally was on the day of the dharna, also got to cut his cake once the cameras left. Congress leader Digvijaya Singh spent the longest time hanging around with the protesting MPs. He was the first to arrange for dhoklas and sandwiches for the eight. Food came in plenty, with many leaders across the Opposition parties pitching in. The eight remained safe, too.

### Priyanka's karmabhoomi

**R**ahul Gandhi skipped the monsoon session of Parliament and probably many within and outside the Congress did not

miss him either. In his absence, Priyanka Gandhi has been taking centre stage. There is buzz that Priyanka may go for a darshan at Pithambara Peeth at Datia in Madhya Pradesh, where crucial Assembly byelections will be held. The Gwalior-Chambal and Bundelkhand region of the state shares boundary with Uttar Pradesh which has been Priyanka's "karmabhoomi" of sorts.

### Post for Dr Kafeel

**P**riyanka was photographed with Dr Kafeel Khan who was acquitted by the High Court recently after a prolonged period of harassment and imprisonment by the Yogi Adityanath regime. Priyanka reportedly wants Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to accommodate Dr Kafeel as an assistant professor in Rajasthan. Gehlot is in a dilemma. He does not want to say no to Priyanka but he is wary of any kind of communal backlash in his state.

### Azad reconciled

**G**hulam Nabi Azad, who has virtually been singled out among the G-23 dis-



By WAQYANAWIS

senters within the Congress, is almost certain that he is not returning to the Rajya Sabha. So, a day before the monsoon session ended a week ahead of schedule, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister got a chance to speak. Instead of beginning with the topic Azad, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, opened his speech by saying that if the Covid pandemic continues and the winter session is postponed, this may be his last speech in the Rajya Sabha. Congress insiders say Azad's term is ending in February 2021 and he has no chance to return simply because there are no vacancies. However, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is all set to continue in spite of becoming Bengal party chief. Apparently the party leadership wants him to go to West Bengal in a position of power and the floor leader's position gives him that political heft, they argue.

### Best woman in the job

**T**he BJP Parliamentary Board is set to be expanded in view of some vacancies.

Many are eyeing the singular woman's slot. Ironic as it may sound, some leading lights of the BJP women parliamentarians reportedly draw comfort from the poor state of economy in the context of parliamentary board vacancy.

In their wisdom, prospects of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman making the cut have receded due to the minister's inability to accelerate the economy.

### Hairy superstition

**W**hy is Prime Minister Narendra Modi not trimming his beard? A personal choice seems to have become a subject matter of intense speculation and discussion. Some think it may have to do with a *mannat* [a secret special prayer] where the seeker often stops trimming hair. Going by this view, the Prime Minister is seeking divine help and wishing for a Coronavirus-free India at the earliest.

*The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power*



## IN BRIEF

## Pair charged for WH attack plot

**San Antonio:** Federal authorities have arrested two men on terror charges for allegedly plotting to bomb or shoot up sites including the White House and Trump Tower in New York City in attacks inspired by the Islamic State group. Jaylyn Christopher Molina, of Texas, and Kristopher Sean Matthews, of South Carolina, are both charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation. They were arrested in different states last week. The pair had discussed travelling to Syria to fight with the Islamic State group.

## S. Korea tells North to probe shooting

**Seoul:** South Korea said Saturday it will request North Korea to further investigate the killing of a South Korean government official who was shot by North Korean troops after being found adrift near the rivals' disputed sea boundary while apparently trying to defect. Seoul could also possibly call for a joint investigation into Tuesday's shooting, which sparked outrage in the South and drew a rare apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Kim was quoted as saying he was "very sorry" over what he described as an "unexpected, unfortunate incident" in a message sent by Pyongyang's United Front Department.

## Lebanese PM designate resigns

**Beirut:** Lebanon's prime minister-designate resigned Saturday amid a political impasse over government formation, dealing a blow to French President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to break a dangerous stalemate in the crisis-hit country. The announcement by Moustapha Adib nearly a month after he was appointed delays the prospect of getting the foreign economic assistance needed to rescue the country from collapse. Adib said he was stepping down after it became clear that the kind of Cabinet he wished to form was "bound to fail" The French leader has been pressing Lebanese politicians to form a Cabinet made up of non-partisan specialists.

## Astronaut to cast vote from space

**Atlanta:** Nasa astronaut Kate Rubins told *The Associated Press* on Friday that she plans to cast her next vote from space — more than 200 miles above Earth. Rubins is just outside Moscow in Star City, Russia, preparing with two cosmonauts for a mid-October launch and a six-month stay at the International Space Station. "I think it's really important for everybody to vote," Rubins said. "If we can do it from space, then I believe folks can do it from the ground, too." Most US astronauts live in Houston. Texas law allows them to vote from space using a secure electronic ballot.

## PARK AFTER POC WHO RESISTED SLAVERY

**Paris, Sept. 26:** The city of Paris inaugurated a public garden Saturday honouring a woman who fought for the liberation of slaves on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. Mayor Anne Hidalgo also announced plans to erect a statue to the woman, Solitude, at the site in northeastern Paris. It will be the city's first statue honouring a PoC woman. Amid global protests against monuments to white men linked to colonialism or the slave trade, French leaders have resisted taking down statues but pushed instead to design new monuments to more diverse, lesser-known historical figures. Solitude was born around 1772 to an African slave who was raped by a white sailor on the ship bringing her to the Antilles, according to newspaper *Le Monde*. She won her freedom after the French Revolution, but then Napoleon reinstated slavery in French colonies and Solitude joined Guadeloupe's resistance movement, according to city hall. Napoleon's forces arrested a then-pregnant Solitude, and sentenced her to death. She gave birth on Nov. 28, 1802, and was hanged the next day. France abolished slavery again in 1848. Guadeloupe remains part of France, and saw protests earlier this year against racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's death in the US.

## 2 mn Covid deaths possible, WHO warns

**Geneva, Sept. 26:** Coronavirus deaths could more than double to two million without collective action against the deadly pandemic, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned, as Australia's prime minister urged any nation that develops a vaccine to share it with the rest of the world.

The number of cases worldwide has soared past 32 million, with deaths approaching one million, the global economy devastated, and major cultural and sports events disrupted. But despite the pandemic showing no signs of slowing, Japan's new prime minister Yoshihide Suga struck a defiant note Friday, saying his country was determined to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"One million is a terrible number and we need to reflect on that before we start considering a second million," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters on Friday when asked how high the death toll could go. "Are we prepared collectively to do what it takes to avoid that number?"

"If we don't take those actions... yes, we will be looking at that number and sadly much higher." The pandemic has spurred worldwide efforts to develop a vaccine to help defeat



Protesters gather in Trafalgar Square in London on Saturday, at a "We Do Not Consent!" mass rally against vaccination and government curbs designed to fight the spread of the Coronavirus, including the wearing of masks and taking tests for the virus.

Covid-19, as well as efforts to try to ensure fair and widespread distribution. "Whoever finds the vac-

cine must share it... This is a global responsibility and it's a moral responsibility," Australian Prime

Minister Scott Morrison said Friday in a message to the United Nations General Assembly that

was held virtually. "Some might see short-term advantage or even profit, but I assure you...

humanity will have a very long memory and be a very, very severe judge." — *AFP*

## Trump may announce Amy Barrett for court

## Appeals court hears fight over Don tax returns again

**Washington, Sept. 26:** President Donald Trump is expected to announce Saturday that he is nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as he aims to put a historic conservative stamp on the high court just weeks before the election. Trump said Friday he had made up his mind and it was "very exciting," without giving away the name, aiming to maintain some suspense around his personal announcement. But the White House indicated to congressional Republicans and outside allies that the pick was Barrett. "Well I haven't said it was her, but she's outstanding," Trump said of the Indiana federal judge. Conservative groups and congressional allies are laying the groundwork for a swift confirmation process for her, even before Trump makes the selection official in a Rose Garden ceremony Saturday evening.

They, like the president, are wasting little time moving to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, organising multi-million-dollar ad campaigns and marshalling supporters both to confirm the pick and to boost Trump to a second term. The likely shift in the court's makeup — from Ginsburg, a liberal icon, to an outspoken conservative — would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

Ever the showman, Trump remained coy about his choice Friday evening as he returned from a campaign swing. When asked whether lawmakers were being told it was Barrett, Trump responded with a nod on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, before replying, "Is that what they're telling you?" "You'll find out tomorrow," he went on to say, flashing a wide smile. "Look, they're all great. It could be any of one them."

**New York, Sept. 26:** A federal appeals court tested the waters on a potential compromise, but didn't immediately rule Friday after arguments in President Donald Trump's long-running fight to prevent a top New York prosecutor from getting his tax returns — a battle that seems destined to return to the Supreme Court.

A Trump lawyer argued that a subpoena for the records is overly broad but balked when an appellate judge suggested the court might be able to alleviate that concern by limiting the scope of documents

being sought. Trump's lawyer, William Consovoy, signalled they will be satisfied only if Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. is barred from getting all of the requested records. Consovoy is seeking to have the case sent back to a lower court that last month rejected his attempt to quash the subpoena, arguing that judge erred in his ruling. If the three-judge panel refuses to put a hold on the enforcement of the subpoena, Trump's lawyers will be forced to ask the Supreme Court to prolong the legal fight.

The high court, which ruled 7-2 against the president in July, is down to eight justices after the death last week of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The matter may not be fully resolved before the November election. Trump's lawyers appealed to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals after a district court judge last month rejected their renewed efforts to invalidate a subpoena that the Vance's office issued to Trump's accounting firm as part of a grand jury investigation into his financial and business dealings. — *AP*

## PREZ: DOCUMENTS REVEAL RUSSIANS INTERFERED IN 2016 POLL FOR DEMS

**Washington, Sept. 26:** US President Donald Trump has alleged that a new set of documents have revealed that Russians interfered in the 2016 presidential elections on behalf of his then rival and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. The alleged Russian interference in US elections in 2016 was one of the major topics for the Opposition Democrats in the first three years of Trump's presidency and also became the basis of the failed impeachment proceedings against him.

"I've been tarred with this horrible witch hunt for four years. And I didn't do it. Think of it. What would my numbers be, if I didn't go through almost four years of a Russian witch hunt that turned out to be just the opposite. They were the ones involved with Russia," Trump said while addressing a Republican campaign rally in Newport, Virginia on

Friday. "A new trove of documents ...now prove that Russia interfered in 2016. Unfortunately, it was on behalf of Hillary Clinton, not Trump. They interfered with disinformation," he said.

Trump alleged the 2016 presidential elections were interfered by the Russians on behalf of rival Clinton's campaign. "The newly released text messages make 100 per cent clear. The FBI knew that Democrats purchased Russian disinformation targeting me, your favourite president, which then formed the basis for the witch hunt," he said as he praised several *Fox News* anchors for standing by him during those days. Trump also accused the Democrats and the Russians of spying on him and his campaign. "It was a whole big disinformation campaign," he said amidst cheers and applause from his audience. — *PTI*

## HEBDO STABBING: SEVEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

**Paris, Sept. 26:** Seven people were in custody Saturday after a stabbing outside the former Paris offices of satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, including the suspected assailant, authorities said.

Counterterrorism authorities are investigating what authorities called an Islamic extremist attack linked to *Charlie Hebdo*, which lost 12 employees in an al-Qaida attack in 2015. The weekly, which routinely mocks religious and prominent figures, recently republished caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that outraged Muslims. The suspected assailant in Friday's stabbing had been nabbed a month ago. — *AP*

## Ukraine crash: Toll climbs to 26

**Moscow, Sept. 26:** Searchers combing the area where a Ukrainian military aircraft crashed found two more bodies on Saturday, bringing the death toll to 26. One person survived.

The plane, a twin-turboprop Antonov-26 belonging to the Ukrainian air force, was carrying a crew of seven and 20 cadets of a military aviation school when it crashed and burst into flames Friday night while coming in for landing at the airport in Chuhuiv, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of the capital Kyiv. Two people initially survived the crash, but one later died in a hospital. No cause for the crash has been determined. Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared Saturday to be a day of mourning for the crash victims and ordered that flights of An-26 planes be halted pending investigation of the crash cause. Zelenskyy, who visited the crash area on Saturday, called for a full assessment of the condition of the country's military equipment and said he wanted an official report on the crash by October 25.

The An-26 is a transport plane used by both military and civilian operators. Nearly 1,400 of the planes were manufactured from 1969 to 1986, according to the company's website. The age of the plane that crashed Friday was not immediately reported. — *AP*

## US to restrict Chinese journos' stay to 90 days

**Washington, Sept. 26:** The Trump Administration is seeking to restrict the stay of journalists from China in the US to just 90 days with the provision of another extension for a similar duration, according to a federal notification.

The move came amidst worsening of bilateral ties over a range of issues like the Coronavirus pandemic, trade, Beijing's increasing grip on Hong Kong and alleged human rights abuses against minorities in the Xinjiang province.

The proposal of the Department of Homeland Security is part of the fixed time limit on visas of students, researchers and foreign journalists in the US. While the time limit for foreign journalists in general has been restricted to 240 days and another extension of a similar period, those for a journalist from China

would be issued a I visa by the United States just for 90 days, as per the federal notification issued on Friday. Stake holders have 30 days to respond to the federal notification before it can be enforced.

Foreign nationals travelling on a passport issued by China or Hong Kong would be issued I visa — which is the category for a foreign journalist — may be admitted until the "activities or assignments consistent with the I classification" are completed, not to exceed 90 days, the notification said. Passport holders from Macau Special Administrative Region have been given exception. The extension for Chinese journalists is also for 90 days only. Foreign journalists and their dependents would have to leave the country immediately on expiry of their I visa or denial of their extension application. — *PTI*

## TERROR, N-TRADE PAK GLORY FOR 70 YEARS: INDIA

**United Nations, Sept. 26:** The "only crowning glory" that Pakistan has to show to the world for the last seven decades is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade, India said in a scathing response on Friday slamming Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's "incessant rant" and "venom" in the UN General Assembly. "This august forum witnessed a new low on its 75th anniversary. The leader of Pakistan today called for those who incite hate and violence to be outlawed. But as he went on, we were left wondering, was he referring to himself?"

First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Mijito Vinito said, making India's Right of Reply. The rebuttal came after Khan spoke about India's internal affairs, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Vinito walked out when Khan started his usual "diatribe" about India.

"This hall heard the incessant rant of someone who had nothing to show for himself, who had no achievements to speak of and no reasonable suggestion to offer to the world. Instead, we saw lies, misinformation, war mongering and malice spread through this Assembly," the Indian diplomat said.

Slamming Pakistan for its record as a nation, Vinito said, "The only crowning glory that this country has to show to the world for the last 70 years is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade." — *PTI*

## Youth: Act to halt catastrophic climate change

**Brussels, Sept. 26:** United under Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, young people rallied worldwide on Friday to demand urgent action to halt catastrophic climate change, in their first global protest since the Coronavirus crisis began. With wild weather wreaking havoc across the world - from fires ravaging the US West, to abnormal heatwaves in the Siberian Arctic and record floods in China — organisers said their aim was to remind politicians that, while the world focused on

Covid-19, the climate crisis was more acute than ever.

Demonstrations were planned in more than 3,100 locations, though with pandemic-related curbs limiting the size of gatherings, much of the action shifted online. In Stockholm, Thunberg and a handful of members of her group, "Fridays for Future", assembled outside parliament with signs bearing slogans including "Stop Denying the Climate Is Dying". "We need to treat the climate crisis as a crisis. It's just as simple as that."

● **PARTICIPANTS WERE asked to post pictures on social media and join a 24-hour global Zoom call — though mass gatherings were held in countries, including Germany.**

The climate crisis has never once been treated as a crisis and unless we treat it as a crisis we won't be able to, so-called, "solve" it," she said.

Organisers said turnout was expected to be far smaller than the global climate

strikes held one year ago, which drew more than six million people. Participants were asked to post pictures on social media and join a 24-hour global Zoom call — though mass gatherings were held in countries. In Berlin, police said nearly 10,000 people took part in demonstrations. Protesters cycled in groups to the Brandenburg Gate, where they sat in face masks, observing social distancing and chanting: "Strikes in school, university and companies." — *Reuters*



People march in Buenos Aires to join the "Fridays for future" climate emergency movement, launched by Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg. — *AFP*



SHORT TAKES

Djokovic braces for unhappy Nadal

Paris: Novak Djokovic will renew his love-hate relationship with Roland Garros in the knowledge that it is himself rather than seemingly unsettled 12-time champion Rafael Nadal who could pose the greatest threat to winning a second Paris title and 18th Grand Slam crown. The only man to beat Djokovic in 2020 is Djokovic after the Serb's hair-trigger temper prompted a sensational disqualification from the US Open. Federer will miss the French Open as he rehabs his injured knee. Former champion Simona Halep arrives as the player to beat in a women's draw missing title holder Ashleigh Barty and recent US Open winner Naomi Osaka, two of the world's top three. Serena Williams can never be discounted as she launches another bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles crown here. — AFP

Bruno penalty hands Man U win

Brighton: Bruno Fernandes scored a penalty, awarded on a VAR review after the final whistle had blown, as Manchester United rode their luck to register their first Premier League points of the season with a thrilling 3-2 win at Brighton on Saturday. The Seagulls hit the woodwork five times and thought they had earned a deserved point when Solly March headed home to equalise in the 95th minute. However, Neal Maupay's handball was penalised by referee Chris Kavanagh after he had blown for full-time and Fernandes converted from the spot in the 100th minute. Pre-season hopes that United could mount a title challenge to their biggest rivals Liverpool and Manchester City dissipated after a dire display in losing 3-1 to Crystal Palace last weekend. — AFP

Hamilton takes Russian GP pole

Sochi, Russia: Runaway Formula One series leader Lewis Hamilton emerged from a "horrible" red-flagged qualifying session at Sochi on Saturday with a stunning pole position for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix. The Mercedes six-time champion clocked a best lap in one minute and 31.304 seconds to outpace Max Verstappen of Red Bull by half a second. His Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas was third-quickest with Sergio Perez of Racing Point sharing the second row. Hamilton is bidding to claim his fifth win at the Sochi track where Mercedes have dominated winning all six races since 2014. If he translate pole into victory, he will equal Michael Schumacher's career record of 91 Grand Prix wins. — AFP

Celtics rally to beat Miami Heat

Miami: The Boston Celtics roared back in the second half to beat the Miami Heat 121-108 on Friday to stay alive in the NBA playoffs. Jayson Tatum scored 31 points and Jaylen Brown added 28 as six Celtics players scored in double figures and Boston cut the deficit in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals to three games to two. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 23 points, who are trying to reach the NBA finals for the first time since 2014. With their season hanging in the balance, the Celtics exploded for 41 points in the third quarter. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports 2, 3, Select 2

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Manchester City vs Leicester from 9 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Spanish Premier League: Atletico Madrid vs Granada from 7.30 pm; Barcelona vs Villarreal from 12.30 am (Monday). All matches on LaLiga page on Facebook

Italian League: Napoli vs Genoa from 6.30 pm; Roma vs Juventus from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2

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SUPER SHUBMAN

Gill's unbeaten 70 helps KKR beat SRH by 7 wickets

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 26: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday. Opting to bat first, Sunrisers Hyderabad scored 142 for four with Manish Pandey making a 38-ball 51 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. In reply, KKR chased down the target of 143 with two overs to spare. Shubman Gill top-scored with an unbeaten 70 off 62 balls while Eoin Morgan added an unbeaten 42 off 29 balls. Earlier, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a disciplined effort with Pat Cummins brilliantly spearheading the attack to restrict Sunrisers Hyderabad to a modest 142 for four. Having drawn flak for bowling

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c and b Chakravarthy 36, Jonny Bairstow c Cummins 5, Manish Pandey c and b Russell 51, Wriddhiman Saha run out 30, Mohammad Nabi (not out) 11, Abhishek Sharma (not out) 2. Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-3) 7. Total: (for 4 wickets, in 20 overs) 142. FoW: 1-24, 2-59, 3-121, 4-138. Bowling: S.P. Narine 4-0-31-0, P.J. Cummins 4-0-19-1, Shivam Mavi 2-0-15-0, Kuldeep Yadav 2-0-15-0, C.V. Varun 4-0-25-1, K.L. Nagarkoti 2-0-

17-0, A.D. Russell 2-0-16-1. Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubman Gill (not out) 70, S. Narine c Warner b Ahmed 3-0-28-1, T. Natarajan 3-0-27-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-23-0, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-11-0. FoW: 1-6, 2-43, 3-53. Bowling: B. Kumar 3-0-29-0, K.K. Ahmed 3-0-28-1, T. Natarajan 3-0-27-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-23-0, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-11-0.

short against Mumbai Indians, the IPL's most-expensive overseas buy returned tidy figures of 1/19, while spinner Varun Chakravarthy (1/25) outfoxed the

dangerous David Warner to derail SRH early on. Pandey returned to form at No. 3 with a 38-ball 51 and along with Wriddhiman Saha (30 off 31



Shubman Gill of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. — BCCI

Dhoni asks team to up the ante

Dubai, Sept. 26: Two consecutive defeats have left Chennai Super Kings reeling and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is contemplating rejigging the combination, saying they are lacking steam and need to come back with a clearer picture for the next IPL games. CSK, one of the most dominant teams in the history of IPL, have lost two of the three games they have played with the latest being a 44-run thrashing at the hands of Delhi Capitals. "I don't think it was a good game for us. There was no dew, but the wicket did slow down. We are

We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team balance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game.

— M.S. DHONI  
Chennai super Kings captain after losing the match against Delhi

CSK COACH RUES MISSING KEY PLAYERS

Dubai, Sept. 26: Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming has admitted that his side were "a little bit muddled" at the moment and they need a clearer strategy going ahead after suffering two losses in three matches in the Indian Premier League. Fleming also rued the missing of some key players that he said has affected the team combination. "Well, we're a bit muddled at the moment. We're missing some key players, and we're trying

lacking a bit of steam in the batting and that hurts. The run rate keeps on mounting after such slow starts and adds pressure, we need to figure that out," Dhoni said after the match against Capitals on Friday night. "We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team bal-

ance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game." Rayudu, who struck a brilliant 48-ball 71 in CSK's five-wicket win over MI in the tournament-opener, missed the next two games due to a hamstring injury. The CSK captain expressed hope that Rayudu will be available

in their next game. "That will give us the room to experiment with an extra bowler perhaps. There are quite a few things we can think about. We are one batter extra to start off, so the players need to step up," Dhoni also asked his bowlers to pull up their socks after two ordinary outings. — PTI

SHAW 'STICKS TO PLAN' TO DELIVER WINNING KNOCK

Dubai, Sept. 26: Young opener Prithvi Shaw, who starred in Delhi Capitals' win over Chennai Super Kings, says his plan was to play along the ground and avoid "silly mistakes" after failing to make an impact in the first match. Shaw was dismissed for five in DC's campaign opener against Kings XI Punjab but the 20-year-old made amends with a fluent 64 off 43 balls on Friday. "My plan was to play my natural game but play the shots along the ground, last game we saw there were some silly mistakes and it was not working for me or the team," Shaw said. Shaw shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan. "CSK has some good pace bowlers. I was able to time the ball and get some gaps. As the spinners came on, even if we are 40/0, it doesn't matter, I knew me and Dhawan could pace our innings after the powerplay," he said. — PTI



Buttler boost for Rajasthan

Sharjah, Sept. 26: Sanju Samson will like to continue his dream form while the presence of Jos Buttler puts Rajasthan Royals on even keel with Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game which promises to be yet another six-hitting contest. Coming into the match after morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.

Buttler, who missed the first match due to quarantine rules as he reached the UAE separately with his family, is expected to open alongside Yashashvi Jaiswal while Steve Smith will take David Miller's position in the batting order. Tom Curran and Jofra Archer will again complete the four-player overseas quota. "I am excited to play my first game, it was great to be back in training with the boys, there's a great vibe around the team so I'm really looking forward to taking the field," Buttler said on the eve of the match. "The atmosphere and energy around the squad is fantastic, obviously lots of confidence after that first game. The training has been very energetic, guys are lively and enjoying

● Coming into the match after morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.

each other's company. So expecting a really tough match against Kings XI," Buttler said. K.L. Rahul plundered a record 132 not out off just 69 balls to lead KXIP to a 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore. He did get reprieve twice when his opposite number Virat Kohli dropped a couple of sitters. Rahul, one of the cleanest hitters of the ball, notched up the highest score by an Indian in IPL history and he would like to continue in the same vein on a ground which has short boundaries on all sides. The young Samson, on the other hand, made a mincemeat of the Chennai Super Kings bowlers, hitting nine sixes in his 32-ball 74 before Jofra Archer joined the party with a four-six burst in the final over in the match played here on Tuesday. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

● Matches: 18

● Rajasthan won: 10

● Punjab won: 8

● Tied: 1 (KXIP beat Rajasthan in Super over after match ended in a tie.)

MEETING IN 2019

● Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 14 runs at Jaipur.

● Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 12 runs at Mohali.

FOR THE RECORD

● Jos Buttler, who scored 859 runs at an average of 47.72 and a strike rate of 153.94 in 21 innings off as many matches, has the second best strike rate behind Yusuf Pathan (161.24) for Rajasthan Royals in IPL.

● Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten 132 in the previous match was the highest score for Kings XI Punjab and fourth highest ever in IPL.

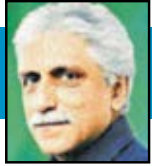
— S. PERVEZ QAISER

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.100
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	0	0	-0.767
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	2	0	2	0	0	-0.730

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

Stuttering starts put Dhoni, Kohli under huge pressure



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

All of gloom descended on the IPL — in fact the entire cricket world — with Dean Jones's passing away in Mumbai. He was part of the Star Sports experts commentators team, and by all accounts looked to be hale and hearty till the sudden cardiac arrest. I got to know Jones a bit during his playing days — having covered the Tied Match at Madras in 1986 in which he scored a magnificent 210 — and a great deal more as commentator,

especially when we worked together during the Indian Cricket League in 2007-8. The last time we had an extended conversation was in 2015-16 when I travelled to Adelaide for the first-ever day-night, pink ball Test, between Australia and New Zealand. We were staying in the same hotel and would invariably meet at breakfast. One morning, I asked him to describe his crick-eting journey. "I could play a bit, I can talk a lot, hope-fully that leaves something

for posterity to remember me by," Jones replied. Who knew the end was so near? That he died in the saddle', pursuing his life's abiding passion, is per-haps some solace. Meanwhile, the first week of the IPL has been completed. Going by early trends, this edition too promises to be a bumpy roller-coaster ride for all teams, with dramatic ups and downs. There is too much cricket remaining in the tourna-ment and detailed analy-ses at this juncture would be presumptuous. Instead, I'll spotlight some out-standing performances and some failures from the pool of Indian players in the IPL. K.L. Rahul, Sanju Samson, Rohit Sharma and Prithvi Shaw have

been the outstanding bats-men so far. Rahul's blazing century helped Punjab wallop RCB, and was redemption for his team missing out on a win in the first match against Delhi. Prithvi Shaw, so often the despair of his captain and fans because he throws his wicket away with the bowl-ing is at his mercy, came up with a splendid, match-winning half century against Chennai. Rohit, after a stutter against Chennai, came into his own against KKR as only he can, taking a heavy toll of all bowlers, including Pat Cummins, the world's no.1 Test bowler and the most expensive overseas player in the tournament at ₹15.5 crore. The T20 format can be brutally cruel to even the best.

My best innings so far, however, is Sanju Samson's bazooka 74 off 32 balls which devastated CSK. Samson's potential has never been doubt, but his temperament was suspect, which contributed incon-sistent performances and saw him in and out of the Indian team. With this innings, he not only helped Rajasthan — without Stokes and Butler — stun Chennai, but made a statement that he is going to seriously compete with Rishabh Pant for M.S. Dhoni's place in India's T20 and ODI teams. Among bowlers, Mohamed Shami has bowled at hot pace, getting swing and seam movement to harry batsman. He is at the peak of his prowess, and a potent weapon for

Punjab. India hopeful Navdeep Saini has looked sharp and penetrative for RCB. Leg spinners are to the fore among spinners. Most successful has been Yuzvendra Chahal, befud-dling batsmen with his shrewd mix of leg-breaks and googlies. Rahul Tewatia has done the star turn for Rajasthan, but the most impressive has been Punjab's 20-year-old Ravi Bishnoi who has the redoubtable Anil Kumble as coach and mentor, a huge advantage. Which brings me Virat Kohli and M.S. Dhoni, invariably always in the news, the latter even more after he announced his retirement from interna-tional cricket. Both started with victories, but after

that have been nonde-script, as captains and batsmen and are under severe pressure. Kohli has flopped in both matches RCB's played, which is unusual, but also troubling for his team. With other topnotchers Finch and de Villiers not striking big either, RCB are not getting the scores to support the excellent Chahal and Saini. For Dhoni, the problem's bigger, and does not have to do with his batting po-sition as is being widely debated. CSK's overall bat-ting and bowling is floun-dering, there is a shortage of power hitters, few bowl-ing options since Watson and Jadhav are not bowl-ing. In an ageing team, particu-larly, these issues become even more detrimental.

