

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 31.7°C
Min: 20.7°C
RH: 71%
Rain: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 32/219C

COVID-19 CUNT

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

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

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

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,34,66,557
DEATHS
10,04,613
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Aswiniya Shuddha Trayodasi till 10.34 pm
Star: Satabhisham till 12.48 am
Varjyam: 6.30 am to 8.14 am
Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.19 am; 10.53 pm to 11.42 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 11, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.06 am
Zohar: 12.16 pm
Asar: 4.26 pm
Maghrib: 6.13 pm
Isha: 7.20 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.06 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM
MOONSET TODAY 3.53 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.51 PM

COUNTER POINT



Please vote for me!

IN BRIEF

J&K to ease domicile rules

New Delhi: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the Jammu and Kashmir administration has agreed in principle to amend rules for ease in the issuance of domicile certificates. This will particularly facilitate issuing domicile certificates to children producing a Permanent Resident Certificate of either of the parents, he said. After discussion with #Jammu Kashmir LG Sh Manoj Sinha & CS Sh Subrah-manium, the UT Govt has agreed in principle to amend/modify rules for ease in issue of #Domicile Certificate. Formal orders being issued soon,” Mr Singh said in a tweet.

Nawaz Sharif's brother arrested

Lahore: Pakistan's Leader of the Opposition and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif was arrested on Monday after the Lahore High Court rejected his bail plea in a Rs 7 billion (\$41.9 million) money laundering case. Shahbaz, the younger brother of former PM Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from the court's premises, where a large number of PML-N workers gathered ahead of the hearing. The country's anti-graft body National Accountability Bureau took him to its Lahore's detention centre and will produce him to the accountability court for his physical remand. — PTI

WORLD | 5

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



SPORTS | 8

Wawrinka packs off Murray from Paris

TABLOID

Women power for powerful men?



Unhealthy food puts more Indians at risk of diabetes

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

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

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

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

A report prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s

Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has found that 97.1 per cent in the rural sector and 68.8 per cent in urban region are eating more than the recommended levels of cereals in their daily diet.

The level of good-quality protein from legumes, pulses, nuts, milk and milk products was only five per cent in rural areas and 18 per cent among the urban population.

There are less than 66 per cent who are eating proteins but the quality is not up to the mark or the daily intake is not as required, according to the 24-hour intake study.

Cereal consumption needs to be brought down to 40 per cent, pulses and legumes to 11 per cent, milk and milk products to 10 per cent, meat, poultry,

fish to six per cent and nuts and oil seeds to eight per cent, according to the recommendations of 'My Plate' by NIN.

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

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

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

UPSC TELLS SC PRELIMS CAN'T BE DEFERRED

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Monday told the Supreme Court that it is not possible to further postpone Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination that is scheduled to be held on October 4 even as the court gave it a day's time to file an affidavit stating its position.

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

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

Centre drops offset clause from deals

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top MP cop beats up wife

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 28

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

it a ‘family dispute’. “I have not committed any crime. This is a matter between me and my wife. If she is not happy with me, then why is she living with me? Why is she spending my money and going on foreign trips,” the police officer asked reporters.

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

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

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

CRICKET | THRILLER

Utility cricketer surprised all with his run riot

A match too good to be true

R. MOHAN | DC CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

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



Rahul Tewatia

Kings XI Punjab by suddenly connecting virtually every ball to spank five sixes in an over.

The watchdog app surveilling unusual betting patterns in IPL 2020 may

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

game were, however, left shaking their heads in disbelief at the fluctuating fortunes and the improbable becoming reality as 86 runs were taken in four overs for Royals to win a ‘lost’ game. Was it just the Kings XI captain K.L. Rahul’s inexperience showing in bringing on pace against a swinging bat and making it easier for it to connect? Tewatia had scored eight off the first 20 balls he faced and even commented on “the worst 20 balls he had ever faced.”

■ Page 8: Tewatia turns game on head

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

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

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

Speaking at a district-wide review of all municipalities with ministers and MLAs at Pragathi Bhavan,

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

“This would enable the states to bypass the unacceptable anti-farmers’ provisions in the three draconian agricultural laws including the abolition of MSP and disruption of APMCs in Congress-ruled states. This would also alleviate the farmers from the grave injustice done by the Modi government and BJP,” Venugopal said in the statement.

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

On Monday morning, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi claimed that the new laws were a “death sentence” for farmers who-

burning of the tractor, accusing it of playing “drama” aimed at publicity and “misleading” farmers. “The Congress shamed the country today,” Union minister Prakash Javdekar said.

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

The Congress along with Opposition parties and farmers’ organisations held demonstrations against the laws across the country. Farmers in Punjab continued their ‘rail roko’ agitation for the fifth day and announced

● **THE MINISTER** said there are more land-related disputes in urban areas than in the villages. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the officials in recording of land data.

● **Rama Rao** said large-scale relief had been provided through G0 58 and 59, especially to those who have been residing on government land.

Rama Rao requested them monitor the recording of non-agricultural properties on the Dharani portal.

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

with the officials in recording of land data.

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

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

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



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

— PTI

that the protest will be extended till October 2.

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

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

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

TRS MAKES MLC GRADUATES POLL PRESTIGE ISSUE

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, SEPT. 28

Why is the TRS taking the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduate MLC elections seriously? Nine MLAs and transport minister P. Ajay Kumar have started to woo graduate voters in Khammam and Bhadradri. Party leaders are urging new graduates to enrol in the voter list.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao became keen on graduate and teacher constituencies only after the victory of the Congress in Karimnagar.

■ Full report on Page 3

OPPN LEADERS JOIN TRS AHEAD OF MLC BYPOLL

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY, SEPT. 28

In the backdrop of by-election to the Nizamabad MLC post, elected representatives from various opposition parties are gearing up to join the ruling TRS.

Polling and counting of votes are slated for October 9 and 12, respectively. Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC), Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) leaders, municipal councillors and corporators from Congress, BJP and independents are joining TRS.

■ Full report on Page 3

■ Full report on Page 3

SHORT TAKES

CCMB TO STUDY HOSP AIR FOR COVID PRESENCE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

NEW AGRI ACTS A BIG DISASTER: CONGRESS

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, SEPT. 28

District Congress Committee president Naini Rajender Reddy along with several Congress leaders met the Warangal Urban district collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanth and handed over a memorandum demanding the withdrawal of the new Agriculture Acts.

Mr Hanumanth said, “Even the BJP’s ally the Shiromani Akali Dal, and as many as 18 Opposition parties have been opposing the farm bills, but the Central government acted unilaterally.

The Narendra Modi-led BJP Government is more concerned about the profits of the corporate sector than the farmers. The agriculture bills will push the agriculture sector into shambles as they undermine the food security system. Especially for the small and marginal farmers as corporate companies like Adani, Ambani, and Walmart and other would rule the roost,” Rajender said.

PD ACT INVOKED AGAINST TWO OFFENDERS

Peddapalli: The Sultanabad police under the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate on Monday registered Preventive Detention (PD) Act against two habitual offenders who indulged in several burglary and vehicle lifting cases and for creating fear and panic among the people and farmer community.

The accused were identified as Gottemukka Praveen (30), resident of Gandhinagar and Bodeme Odelu (25) resident of Gadimahall of Sultanabad of Peddapalli district. Sultanabad CI Mahendar Reddy served detention notices.

TS rejigs plan to bring Godavari water to city

Keshavapuram reservoir size halved, to save private land

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

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

The original plan was to have a 10 tmc ft reservoir to hold water drawn from the Kondapochamma Sagar of the Kaleshwram lift irrigation scheme. The water would be sent via a treatment plant to Ghanpur from where it would be linked to the Godavari water scheme in Hyderabad. Now, the government will store 5 tmc ft at Keshavapuram, and the other 5 tmc ft will be piped directly into Ghanpur using a 3.5-metre diameter pipeline. The change has reduced the project cost that was estimated at ₹4,777.59 crore in 2017 to ₹4,369.37 crore. According to highly placed sources in the municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department, the plan is to draw 30 tmc ft water for the city from the Godavari basin. Accordingly, a scheme is in place to draw 10 tmc ft from the Sripada Yellampalli barrage to the city.

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

Centre: Shift trees from site to forest

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) has asked for land-for-land compensation in exchange for the clearance given to use 1,235 acres of forests to build the Keshavapuram reservoir in Medchal-Malkajgiri district to supply drinking water for the city.

The Centre has asked the state government not to chop trees in the forests.

The state government has to translocate the trees at its own cost and

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

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

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

Eighty-seven per cent of the land belongs to the government, endowments and forest departments. The remaining 13 per cent belongs to private persons.

This would cost ₹3,363.37 crore. For the remaining water, it suggested constructing another pipeline from Kondapochamma Sagar, running parallel to the existing Godavari pipeline, which would cost ₹1,006 crore. The government released an order, No 129, February 29, 2020, approving this.

According to the 2017 proposal, the project required 1,585 acres of government land, 1,235 acres of forest land, 185 acres of endowments land, 1,100 acres of land from private pattadars. The redesigned proposal requires 269 acres of private land, saving the government from acquiring, and paying for, compensation for 850 acres of

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

As per the 2017 proposal, the project was divided into seven components. The project envisages a 3.6-metre diameter 18.2-km pipeline from Kondapochamma Sagar (Pamulaparthi) to the Keshavapuram reservoir. The water from there will flow to a treatment plant at Bommarasipeta, four km away, by a three-metre diameter pipeline.

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

In the last two components, water will be supplied to Keshavapuram by constructing a bund from Ghanpur. Asked why treated water was proposed to be sent back to the Keshavapuram reservoir, an MA&UD official said he was not supposed to disclose any information. The city will get 10 tmc ft of water and any queries about the project will be addressed by the state government.

The 2020 version of the project runs on similar lines except that the Keshavapuram reservoir capacity has been reduced to 5.04 tm ft. Additionally, a 3.6-metre diameter pipeline will be laid from Kondapochamma Sagar to Ghanpur reservoir. A 80 million litres per litre reservoir would be constructed at Ghanpur.

53.1% urban India suffers from abdominal obesity

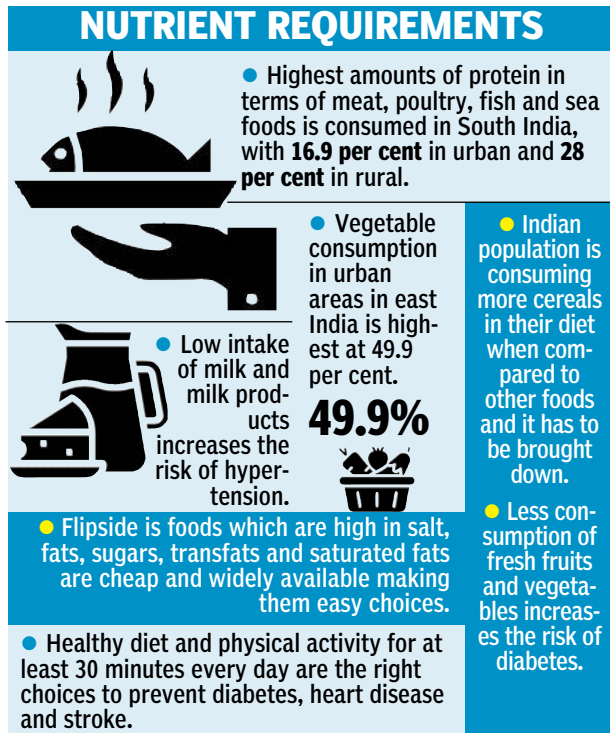
KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Congmen protest farm Acts, arrested

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

Several Congress leaders, including AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore, TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy and CLP leader Bharti Vikramarka were taken into custody at the Dilikusha guest house here on Monday when they tried to reach Raj Bhavan.

They were on their way to meet Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and submit the memorandum addressed to the President as part of the nationwide protest against the farm Acts. The police took them to the Goshamahall police station and released them in the afternoon.

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

UTTAM KUMAR said Everyone knows that the TRS is a secret ally of the BJP. It has supported every law introduced by the BJP government in the last six years. KCR’s government has all along been anti-farmer.

country.

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

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

Stating that the TRS government was not opposing the new farm Acts with honesty, he alleged, “Everyone knows that the TRS is a secret ally of the BJP. It has supported every law introduced by the BJP government in the last six years. K. Chandrashekar

Rao’s government has all along been anti-farmer.”

He said that the NDA government had passed the three contentious Bills in the Rajya Sabha by smothering democracy and violating established Parliamentary practices.

Stating that the new laws would ruin the agricultural sector, he alleged that the Centre was acting as an agent of corporate entities and not as representatives of the people. The TPCC chief alleged that the Chandrasekhar Rao government was trying to sabotage the nationwide protest of farmers. Instead of cautioning farmers about the ill-effects of the new farm laws, TRS ministers are organising tractor rallies in favour of the new Revenue Act, he said.

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

TRS leader faces rape case

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

Just about a week after a Telangana Rashtra Samiti’s GHMC corporator was arrested for assaulting a woman over a parking dispute in Serilingampally, another TRS leader, Bathuku Madhusudhan alias Madhu Yadav, has been arrested under the Nirbhaya Act for abetment to suicide and for violations of laws on child labour.

According to Shamshabad deputy commissioner of police N. Prakash Reddy, Madhusudhan was a rowdy sheeter in the Moinabad police limits and an accused in three land dispute cases. Madhusudhan, 44, has been remanded to custody and lodged in the Central Prison at Cherlapally, the

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

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

TRS leader raped and then killed her elder sister and made it appear like a suicide. DCP Prakash Reddy said the police will make “efforts to ensure a speedy trial and conviction and also invoke the PD Act against the accused.” He said Madhusudhan had “briefed victim’s sister to say to police that her sister has suffered with stomach ache and unable to bear it had committed suicide.”

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

Decrease in Covid cases as tests drop

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PCB clearance made compulsory for eateries

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

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

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

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

This applied only to restaurants or banquet halls having large premises. The new guidelines bring small-

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er establishments into the PCB ambit.

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

When it comes to water pollution, officials would check whether the eatery or banquet hall has the requisite methods to

prevent water pollution.

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

GULF RETURNEE DROWNS WHILE TAKING SELFIE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 28

In a tragic incident, a Gulf returnee accidentally drowned in the left canal of the Ramadugu project in Dichpally mandal on Sunday. The body was fished out on Monday.

According to sources, Chintolla Naveen, 26, of Suddulam village recently reached his native place from one of the Gulf countries. After completing his quarantine period, he went for a swim in the Ramadugu project canal. He reportedly slipped and drowned while taking a selfie. Police rushed to the spot and fished out the body. Dichpally police registered a case and investigation is on.

8-YEAR-OLD GIRL FALLS INTO WATER PIT, DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 28

A girl who fell in a water pit at Seethampet under Chintakani mandal on Monday died.

Bindu, 9, and Apoorva, 8, fell in the water pit and drowned. Their parents P. Prabhakar and his wife noticed them and pulled them out, but by then Bindu had died and the condition of Apoorva was critical.

Apoorva was later shifted to a hospital in Khammam where her condition is now said to be stable.

TAGS CALLS FOR BANDH IN AGENCY AREAS

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, SEPT. 28

The Telangana Adivasi Grijana Sangham (TAGS) affiliated to the CPM has given a call for a bandh on September 29 in the agency area demanding the restoration of GO 3 and making it an Act.

The Sangham state secretary Thodasam Bheem Rao said the GO 3 promised 100 per cent reservations to local Adivasis in teacher jobs but the Apex Court scrapped it.



TRANSCO ASST. ENGINEER ELECTROCUTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 28

N. Sridhar, an assistant engineer in the Transco was electrocuted while repairing a 220 KV sub-station in Manuguru on Monday.

Sridhar had climbed to the sub-station using a ladder to carry out repairs along with another lineman. While the repair work was being done the power was switched on. Due to the rains, the rope ladder on which he was standing was wet and he got electrocuted and fell to the ground. Transco officials are investigating the incident.

IUML CONDEMNS RAPE, MURDER OF MINOR GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 28

The Indian Union Muslim League condemned the rape and murder of a minor girl in Himayatnagar village in Vikarabad district. IUML MP PK. Kunhalikutty, IMUL Telangana state general secretary Abdul Gani said that a fair enquiry should be conducted on the incident and strong action should be initiated against the accused.

They alleged that the accused is using his political influence to convert the issue into suicide. The victim along with her sibling work as housemaids in the home of the accused, they said.

They urged home minister Mahamood Ali and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to give justice to the family of the victims. Mr Abdul Gani along with IUML leaders handed over a memorandum to district collector C. Narayana Reddy on Monday.

TRS keen to win Khammam graduate MLC elections

With Assembly polls in 2023, KCR does not want to give Opposition a chance

A. RAVINDRA
SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 28

Why is the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) taking the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduate MLC elections seriously? MLAs from nine Assembly seats and transport minister P. Ajay Kumar have started to woo the graduate voters in Khammam and Bhadradi districts. Party leaders are urging new graduates to enrol in the voter list.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was not keen on graduate and teacher constituencies elections when he assumed power in 2014. The party cadre and leaders were asked to vote for a good candidate among the contestants, with the eventual winner being considered as a TRS candidate. The victory of the Congress' T. Jeevan Reddy in the Karimnagar graduate constituency has apparently changed the opinion of the TRS chief.

The Opposition used the victory to claim that the CM's image was on the

wane. Despite successive victories in other polls, Rao does not want a similar claim made now.

"Winning by hook or crook in these elections is the new mantra of KCR", a party source said. Three and a half years are left for the 2023 Assembly elections and no chance should be given to the Opposition to raise their voices during the MLC elections, the source said.

It is learnt that sitting MLC Palla Rajeswara Reddy is not interested in contesting the seat as he feels that the situation is not in his favour. He is seen to have ignored graduates after his win last time. When lobbying began for the seat, the CM is reported to have remarked: "What is the hurry? This is time to commence the process of election and not time for the election."

Sources state that former MP Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy is ready to contest if the CM asks him to. Journalist P.B. Srinivas, working in T-Channel, eyeing the seat, has decided to meet the CM to discuss the issue.

Ahead of polls Opposition leaders jump ship, join TRS

NARENDER
PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY,
SEPT. 28

In the backdrop of by-election to the Nizamabad MLC post, elected representatives from various opposition parties are gearing up to join the ruling TRS.

Polling and counting of votes are slated for October 9 and 12, respectively. The Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC), Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) leaders, municipal councillors and corporators from Congress, BJP and independents are joining TRS. As per official voters list, TRS has 494 votes, followed by Congress 140, BJP 84, Independents 66 and MIM 28 in the undivided Nizamabad district. Reportedly, more than 100

● **AS PER THE** official voters list, TRS has 494 votes, followed by Congress 140, BJP 84, Independents 66 and MIM 28 in the undivided Nizamabad district.

● **REPORTEDLY**, around 105 opposition party leaders joined TRS and the voters' tally of the ruling party has reached 600 votes. Of the 824 votes, the share of TRS is at 75 per cent.

voters of different posts have joined TRS in the last few months.

Minister for Roads and Buildings, Legislative affairs and housing V. Prashanth Reddy and TRS MLAs are playing a key role in weaning leaders from other parties into the

TRS fold.

TRS MLC candidate K. Kavitha is hoping to get a majority in the by-election. Following her Lok Sabha setback, the party leadership is being extra cautious in the MLC by-poll towards which a coordination meeting was held in Hyderabad with the district MLAs in which Prashanth Reddy and Kavitha participated.

Interestingly, opposition party elected representatives are saying that they were impressed by the TRS rule. For integrated development of their respective municipal towns and villages, they are inching towards the ruling party.

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Above: The rescue team and officials of the police, revenue and fire department along with fisherman Ravi (yellow shirt) who was rescued in Veenavanka mandal in Karimnagar district on Monday. **Left:** Fishermen Tirupati and Srinivas who were struck in floodwater rescued.

3 fishermen stuck in floodwater saved

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 28

After struggling hard for more than five hours in the late hours on Sunday, the police rescued three fishermen who were stuck in the floodwater of the river Manair in Chelluru village, Veenavanka mandal, Karimnagar district, with the support of the rescue team of swimmers along with officials of revenue and fire department.

As many as 15 fishermen from Chelluru village went to fish in Manair. Due to the heavy rains over the past few days in the district and with copious inflows into the river Manair, the floodwater levels increased suddenly on Sunday evening.

Noticing the heavy flow of floodwaters, around 12 of the fishermen came out of the river by the evening at around 5.45 pm. But when the other three, Neduri Tirupati (25), Neduri Srinivas (27) and Neduri Ravi (30) were trying to come out, when the water levels suddenly increased and all three were stuck in floodwater.

The fishermen who came out informed the Veenavanka police who then conveyed the message to the officials of the revenue and the fire department. They rushed to the spot along with volunteers. Due to the heavy flow of water and darkness, they struggled to rescue the trapped fishermen.

As the floodwater levels increased, they informed the commissioner of police, V. B. Kamalasan Reddy, who later arranged special vehicles, boats and a rescue team to con-

● **AS MANY** as 15 fishermen from Chelluru village went to fish in Manair. Due to the heavy rains over the past few days in the district and with copious inflows into the river Manair, the floodwater levels increased suddenly on Sunday evening.

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duct immediate rescue operations of the three fishermen.

Using generators, drag-on lights along with other equipment, the rescue team, with the support of volunteers, first rescued Tirupati and Srinivas.

Meanwhile, after listening to Ravi's screams, who was hanging from a branch of a tree, the rescue team also saved him. All the three fishermen were shifted to hospital for treatment.

District collector, K. Shashanka and Reddy appreciated the rescue team along with the police officials police and revenue and fire department personnel who strove hard for more than five hours in the late night to save the lives of the fishermen and announced rewards for them.

KTR REVIEWS MUNICIPAL ISSUES

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 28

Minister for municipal administration and urban development K. T. Rama Rao on Monday said that a list of houses in the municipalities should be prepared for inclusion in the Dharani portal. Few houses were not included in the portal.

The minister conducted a review meeting with MLAs of various municipal areas in undivided Nizamabad district at Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Minister V. Prashanth Reddy, Government Whip Gampa Govardhan, Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan, urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta, Armoor MLA A. Jeevan Reddy, Bodhan MLA Shakil Amer, Yellareddy MLA J. Surender, DCCB chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy participated in the meeting.

Mr Rama Rao discussed the Dharani portal issues in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, Bodhan, Kamareddy, Armoor, Banswada and Yellareddy municipal towns.

Mr Rama Rao said that he would bring the issue to the notice of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

● **RAMA RAO** discussed the Dharani portal issues in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, Bodhan, Kamareddy, Armoor, Bheemgal, Banswada and Yellareddy municipal towns.



TRS activists and supporters from various parts of Adilabad assembly constituency came to Adilabad town and participated in a rally with bullock carts and tractors in support of the new Revenue Act on Monday.

Rally supporting new Revenue Act taken out in Adilabad

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, SEPT. 28

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) activists, leaders along with farmers supporting the party, took out a rally with bullock carts and tractors in support of the new Revenue Act on Monday.

Many farmers from various parts of the Adilabad Assembly Constituency, who are supporters of the TRS reached Adilabad town with their tractors and bullock carts to join the rally.

Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna garlanded the Telangana Thalli statue and praised the new revenue act passed by the Telangana government.

The TRS MLA are competing with each other in organising rallies in support of the New Revenue Act to enter the good books of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and minister for municipal administration and urban development K. T. Rama Rao.

Two days ago, minister for forest Allola



Jogu Ramanna who organised the rally rides a bullock cart along with his supporters.

Indrakaran Reddy participated in a rally taken out

in support of the new Revenue Act.



Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar inspects the works of the new rail over bridge in Kazipet on Monday.

New ROB at Kazipet to be completed by Dec. 31 next year

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, SEPT. 28

Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar on Monday inspected the ongoing works of the new parallel Rail over Bridge (RoB) in Kazipet.

He took stock of the progress of works from the site engineer and workers present.

Mr Vinay also spoke to the R&B officials over phone and asked them to ensure that works continue at a fast pace.

When the officials informed him about the delay in works near the St. Gabriel's school, he called up the district collector and asked him to take steps to solve the

problem.

"The state government is keen on the all-round development of Warangal. Due to the existing narrow bridge, traffic is thrown haywire causing inconvenience to motorists. The state government has issued the GO 539 to build the bridge and funds amounting to ₹78 crore have been released. We faced issues in regards to land procurement and permissions from the railways department but now the works will go on uninterrupted."

"As per schedule, the bridge should be completed by 31 December 2021 and there won't be any traffic snarls in the area," he said.

MAOIST BANDH PEACEFUL IN OLD WARANGAL

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, SEPT. 28

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

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

The CPM has earlier released a letter accusing the police of staging a fake encounter killing eight Maoists in the border areas of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Mulugu and Jayashankar Bhupalpally district police with the help of special party teams conducted combing operations in the affected areas.

Five special party police teams were called in to guard the agency areas near the Godavari river on the Chhattisgarh border side.

A tense situation prevailed in the agency areas due to the large presence of police personnel.

Vehicles coming from Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra were checked as Maoist leaders are likely to cross the borders.

Police forces are inspecting every vehicle moving in the agency areas of Eturnagaram, Mangapet, Vajedu, Venkatapur, Kannaugudem, Tadvai, and Mahamutharam in Mulugu district.

Additional police forces have been deployed at the Medigadda barrage, Annaram barrage, and Kanneppally pump house in Mahadevpur mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

TENSE SITUATION IN CHARLA AND DUMMUGUDEM MANDALS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 28

The pamphlets and wall-posters that showed up in Charla and Dummugudem mandals in Bhadradi district by Maoists and Adivasis backed by police have caused tension among the people. This incident and the recent encounter where five Maoist were killed, in the Chennaram forest area in Charla mandal has the people living in fear.

Maoists put out posters asking the people to get involved in the CPM week-long programmes organised on the party's 16th Inception Day. They asked the people to condemn the fake encounters by the cops.

Countering these posters, Adivasis backed by the police put up posters asking the Maoists, "Who is killing innocent Adivasis?" Several Adivasis were killed by the Maoists, under the pretext of them being informers. These posters appeared at the Anjubaka Cross Road and Dummugudem Cross Road.

Meanwhile, TRS leaders were asked not to stay in the villages at night as a safety measure. The Maoists are making efforts to enter the mandals to strengthen their base. The two mandals is important; as they cross the river Godavari from here to reach old Warangal district, which was once their stronghold.

SHORT TAKES

DASH WINS
SHANTI SWARUP
BHATNAGAR PRIZEAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASSAM GROUP
OPPOSES 25% NRC
RE-VERIFICATIONMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

WB GOVT REJECTS
RAJ BHAVAN'S
REQUEST

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

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

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

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

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

Covid suspect can take exam: SC

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

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

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

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

The bench also comprising Justices R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah said that the student shall ensure that a downloaded copy of this order should be presented before his Centre Superintendent as early as possible by any other non-symptomatic person. On such order being produced, the Centre Superintendent shall provide a separate room for applicant to appear in the examination.

Applicant shall enter into the centre after other candidates take entry and shall first leave the examination centre, it said. The top court said the Centre Superintendent may also request the Chief Medical officer of the District or Superintendent, Government Hospital to provide medical staff to render necessary assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

KERALA TO
HOLD ALL-PARTY
MEETING TODAYGILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPT. 28

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

The total cases reported in Keala so far are 1,79,922 of which 1,21,268 persons have recovered and 57,879 patients are currently under treatment in various hospitals across the state.

Meanwhile, the government decided to allow only a limited number of devotees to the Sabarimala shrine during the annual pilgrimage season including Makaravilakku. The CM said though notwithstanding the restrictions imposed on the number of devotees, all rituals and ceremonies at the temple will be held as usual.

India sees over 82k cases,
over 74,000 recoveriesDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

The total number of coronavirus cases in India crossed 60 lakh on Monday as 82,170 fresh cases were reported from various parts of the country.

India's total toll was 95,542 with 1,039 fresh fatalities in the last 24 hours.

At this rate, by Tuesday, India's death toll will cross one lakh.

As per union health ministry, India's total recoveries have crossed 50 lakh on Monday with 74,893 recoveries.

"With a very high number of Covid patients recovering every single day, India's steady trend of posting high levels of daily recoveries continues. India has witnessed a very high level of more than 90,000 recoveries every day in the recent past. The total recovered cases have outpaced active cases by more than five times. With the exponen-

tial increase in the recoveries, there is close to 100% increase in recovered cases in one month," health ministry officials said.

Among the new recoveries, 73% are being reported from ten states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala, Odisha, West Bengal and Punjab.

Maharashtra leads the tally with more than 13,000 new cases of recovered patients.

"The rise in total recovered cases from 1 lakh in June has been steep. The last 10 lakh recoveries were added in just 11 days," officials added.

Health economist Dr Rijo M. John said cases growth (1.5%) has decreased considerably over a week, 7-day average daily cases have shown some decline and is beginning to look up again.

He added that daily active cases are rebound-

ing after being negative for a few days.

"Although the country has a relatively low mortality rate at 1.57%, the variation across states is high. High mortality rates in states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Delhi are worrying. Many north eastern states and Kerala have very low mortality rates," John said.

He added that most states do not report test results by type of tests and there is considerable variation in the aggregate daily testing reported by all states together and that by the ICMR.

"51.7% of cases and 63.6% of deaths now come from top 50 districts. This share has consistently declined indicating the wider spread

Bengaluru urban, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Coimbatore, Indore, Jaipur etc. are all reporting new daily highs on an average," John said.

Custodial death sparks
tension in MP villageRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
CHOPAL, SEPT. 28

The death of a man, accused of theft in police custody in a village in Madhya Pradesh on Monday triggered tension in the locality.

The 42-year-old victim Rajpatti Kushwaha, resident of Simhpur village in Satna district, was hit by a bullet on his head fired from the service revolver of the in-charge of the local police station Vikram Pathak, while he was in the police custody.

He later succumbed to bullet injuries in the hospital, police said.

Satna district superintendent of police Riyaz Iqbal was transferred following the development, even as Pathak and a police constable Ashish Mishra were placed under suspension.

According to the police, Kushwaha was arrested late on Sunday night on charges of stealing jewel-

ry and a revolver from the house of a local villager two months ago.

He received bullet injury while he was in police custody.

He was rushed to a government hospital in Rewa where he succumbed to injuries.

The incident sparked tension in the village with locals staging demonstrations at the police station. The demonstration later turned violent with the people pelting stones at police.

Later, reinforcement rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

Mr Iqbal told reporters that the victim tried to snatch away the service revolver put on the table in the police station and was injured in accidental firing in the process.

Former chief minister leader Kamal Nath condemned the incident and demanded a high level inquiry.

FOR BIHAR
POLLS, CENTRE
DEPLOYS 30,000
SECURITYMENDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEROIN WORTH
₹25CR SEIZED
IN ASSAM

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

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

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

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

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

REAL | DRAMA

The court says the BMC's conduct while demolishing Kangana Ranaut's bungalow was 'fishy'

HC tells Raut, Ranaut to show guts to own their comments

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28

The Bombay High Court on Monday told Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and actor Kangana Ranaut to show guts to own up their comments made against each other on social media and public interviews.

The court's observation came after Mr Raut's counsel denied in the court that his client's comment "should be taught a lesson" was aimed at Ms Ranaut. The court also said that the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's conduct while demolishing Ms Ranaut's bungalow was "fishy".

A bench of Justices S.J. Kathawalla and R.I. Chagla continued to hear the writ petition filed by Ms Ranaut challenging the demolition of a part of her bungalow in Pali Hill in suburban Bandra by the BMC on September 9.

While arguing on behalf of Ms Ranaut, advocate Dr Birendra Saraf played a clip of a news interview where Mr Raut had

allegedly said that Ms Ranaut "should be taught a lesson". However, Mr Raut's counsel Pradeep Thorat argued that in the entire interview, the Sena leader had not referred to Ms Ranaut by name.

"If it is your stand that you (in the audio) have not called the petitioner a 'haramkhor', we will record it. Should we record your statement?" the court said, referring to an alleged comment Mr Raut made in the interview. "Don't run around the bushes... Have the guts

THE BENCH questioned the BMC's conduct and said that in Ms Ranaut's case, the civic body did not follow its own practice of attaching photos of alleged illegal constructions with its stop-work notices and waiting for some days before carrying out demolitions.

to say (before the court) what you have tweeted or told a news channel," the court said to both Mr Raut's and Ms Ranaut's

counsels. The bench also questioned the BMC's conduct and said that in Ms Ranaut's case, the civic body did not follow its own practice of attaching photos of alleged illegal constructions with its stop-work notices and waiting for some days before carrying out demolitions.

The judges were questioning the BMC's ward officer Bhagyawant Late under whose jurisdiction Ms Ranaut's property falls. During the questioning, the bench noted that in cases of similar illegali-

ties in buildings close to Ms Ranaut's, the BMC had waited for several days to carry out the demolition. Besides, in most other cases, it had attached photos of the alleged illegal constructions with its stop-work notices served to building owners, and in such cases, it did not often take the police along for demolition, it said.

However, when it came to Ms Ranaut's case, the BMC did not have any photos with digital date and time stamps of the alleged illegalities, and the demoli-

tion had been carried out in the presence of a huge police force just 24 hours after the stop-work notice was served to the actor, the bench noted. In its reply to Ms Ranaut's petition, the BMC had claimed to have demolished a similar case of illegality on September 8. But when the bench asked Mr Late for photos or records of the demolition, he said no such photos or documents existed. The ward officer said the BMC team had not taken the police along for the September 8 demolition.

IN BRIEF

Shooting outside strip club: 6 hurt

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

Romania mayor wins poll after death

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

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

A re-run of the election is now expected.

Deveselu previously hit the headlines in 2018 when a local farmer was ordered to move his flock of sheep because they kept triggering the alarm at a US military facility.

Writer Alexievich leaves Belarus

Minsk: Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich has left the country for treatment in Germany, her friend said Monday, after the Nobel Literature Prize winner faced official pressure for supporting the opposition. The 72-year-old author, who has been summoned for questioning by investigators after joining the opposition's Coordination Council, has gone to Germany for planned treatment, her friend Mariya Voiteshonok said. "She will return to Belarus in a month. She is not dropping her activities as a Coordination Council member," Voiteshonok said. She added that Alexievich also planned to visit Italy where she has been awarded a literary prize. The announcement of her departure comes as President Alexander Lukashenko has jailed or forced out most of the country's prominent opposition activists. Known for her Russian-language books with witness accounts of the Soviet era, including World War II and the Chernobyl disaster.

11 KILLED IN MEXICO BAR SHOOTING

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking at a news conference Sunday at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as "fake



Donald Trump

news" and maintained he has paid taxes, though he gave no specifics. He also vowed that information about his taxes "will all be revealed", but he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through.

In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, including the US House, which is suing to get Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

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

Trump paid just \$750 tax in 2016, 2017**President pocketed \$21.2 mn in state, local refunds**

Washington, Sept. 28: A *New York Times* report that President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income tax the year he entered the White House — and, thanks to colossal losses, no income tax at all in 11 of the 18 years that the *Times* reviewed, suggests why that might have been so. It reported that many of Trump's top businesses are losing money, even as those losses have helped him shrink his federal tax bill to essentially nothing.

The *Times* noted that Alan Garten, a lawyer for the Trump Organisation, said that "most, if not all, of the facts appear to be inaccurate" and asked for the documents on which the reporting was based, which the *Times* declined to provide to protect its sources. He then directly disputed only the amount of taxes Trump had paid.

Some key takeaways:
Trump paid just \$750 in taxes in both 2016, 2017.
The newspaper said

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Foreign visitors have helped support Trump's properties

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

The report illustrates just how much that spending has been: Since 2015, his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida has taken in \$5 million more a year from a surge in membership. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association spent at least \$397,602 in 2017 at Trump's Washington hotel. —AP

TAX CHARGES ADD FUEL TO FIRST DEBATE

Washington, Sept. 28: US President Donald Trump on Sunday faced allegations that he paid little or no income tax for years before he came to power, as his cloudy financial past stoked controversy ahead of the first election debate. The *New York Times* alleged the billionaire president paid just \$750 federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the White House, and no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he reported losing more money than he made.

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

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

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

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

Russia, China paid money to Biden son: Don

Washington, Sept. 28: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's son Hunter received a large sum of money from Russia and China, US President Donald Trump has alleged and said that the mainstream media is "underplaying" the story and keeping quiet on it.

"It's hard to believe, when you see the kind of money that he (Hunter) has made from China,

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

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

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

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

Despite such a damaging report being published,

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

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



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

Quarantine breach: Tougher UK fines in force**DUBAI TO RESTRICT NIGHTLIFE AMID COVID-19 INCREASE**

London, Sept. 28: People across England will be required by law from Monday to self-isolate if they test positive for the Coronavirus or face a £1,000 fine, which increases to £10,000 for repeat offenders. The government said that as the infection is now spreading rapidly again across the country, the tougher measures are aimed at ensuring compliance and reducing the spread of Covid-19.

"These new measures are about saving lives. Everyone must take personal responsibility and self-isolate if they test positive or if told to do so by NHS Test and Trace," said UK Home Secretary Priti

Dubai, Sept. 28: Dubai has announced new restrictions on nightlife to curb a rising tide of Coronavirus infections.

Dubai's tourism authorities have ordered all bars and restaurants in the city-state to stop serving and halt "entertainment activities" at 1 a.m.

Hotels will be restricted

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

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

The new rules are the first since restaurants and

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

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

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

The government said that employers who force or allow staff to come to work when they should be self-isolating will also be

liable for fines of up to £10,000, as a clear message that this will not be tolerated. Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and can show that they have lost income

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

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

Pak court stays release of Pearl murder accused**Money laundering case: Shahbaz held**

Islamabad, Sept. 28: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday barred the Sindh government from releasing British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides — the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench commuted the death sentence of 46-year-old Sheikh, who was convicted in the abduction and murder

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

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

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

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

tion, the Sindh government invoked the Maintenance of Public Order to keep the four convicts in jail. —PTI

COURT INDICTS ZARDARI, SISTER

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

550 Armenians killed in fight with Azerbaijan

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

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

Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan said Monday over 200 people have been wounded.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry claimed that Armenian forces started shelling the town of Tartar on Monday morning, while Armenian officials said the fighting continued throughout the

night and Baku resumed "offensive actions" in the morning.

The heavy fighting broke out between the two countries on Sunday morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war.

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

US: China using SCS outposts for control

Washington, Sept. 28: China is using its militarised outposts in the South China Sea as platforms of coercion to assert control over waters it has no lawful claim over, the United States has said, demanding President Xi Jinping to honour his commitment that these maritime constructions "would not target or impact any country". Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region which, in parts, is claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

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

White House Rose Garden, promised 'China does not intend to pursue militarisation' of the Spratly Islands, and China's outposts 'would not target or impact any country'.

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

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

DECCAN Chronicle

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Arbitrary tax policies harm India's image

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

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

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

Akalis out: What next for NDA?

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

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

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Subhani



Reforming bureaucracy: Many pitfalls lie ahead



Mohan Guruswamy

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

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

As required in a democracy, the administration is subservient to a government run by elected politicians.

They play havoc with civil service tenures. According to a study by S.K. Das, an IAS officer, the average tenure of a district officer is about seven months.

He or she invariably falls victim to the constantly changing and treacherous currents of an intensely competitive political system.

The lower and permanent bureaucracy has adjusted well to this essential change and has become a tool in the hands of the politicians. In fact, the lower bureau-

cracy has increasingly become the nursery for the new political class. Little wonder, no one gives a fig for our district officers any longer. But quite clearly, ordinary citizens are paying a heavy price for this. India still ranks among the bottom half of the United Nations' global Human Development Index.

Clearly, we need to restructure the government and the administration in each of India's 600-plus districts.

The district collector, like his Indian Civil Service predecessor, must become the executive head of the district with all branches of the government subject to his/her authority and power. This must particularly include the police. He/she must be redesignated as the commissioner and should be an officer with over 16 years of service, a mature and seasoned individual with the seniority and clout to exercise complete authority over the administrative apparatus.

This seniority will also give him/her the experience and guile needed to deal with the political system. Above all, the commissioner must have a fixed tenure of at least five years and a board consisting of elected representatives of the district as well as his/her administrative superiors must make the officer's selection to the position.

In the late 1980s, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was reportedly contemplating such a restructuring of the government.

No sooner had the word got around, the traditional politicians opposed it, as it would deprive them of much of their clout. Former deputy prime minister Devi Lal jeered that it would be a "PM to DM system" which would bypass all other

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

middle and upper income groups.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

FARM REFORMS

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

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

INDIA AT UN

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

K. Srinivasa Charyulu
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Charan Singh asked to resign

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 28.

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

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



Aakar Patel

Several NGOs trying to uplift India might be forced to shut

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

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

Even political parties managed to

get themselves off the hook on FCRA. In January 2013, a public interest litigation case was filed in the Delhi high court claiming that the BJP and the Congress had got donations from the same company, Vedanta/Sterlite, which were in violation of the FCRA Act. On March 28, 2014, the court held that the BJP and Congress were guilty of violating FCRA and asked the Narendra Modi government and the Election Commission to act against the two parties.

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

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

intent of the legislation. What has happened over the years is that the law has been turned around and instead of reducing foreign influence on politics, it has been made a weapon against non-profit organisations. No government has any fondness for the sector called civil society, but the BJP in particular is hostile to it. In 2016, The Economic Times reported a speech in Bhubaneswar that the Prime Minister made to put forth his views on the subject. Mr Modi offered no evidence for his accusation that NGOs were foreign agents, but was convinced that they were trying to topple his government.

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

had been about a 40 per cent cut in foreign funding for these groups.

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

I have worked in the sector for a few years and can say that it is filled with highly committed individuals who do the work in many sectors that the State in India simply cannot do. This is work that happens without a problem in large parts of the world and in all parts of the democratic world. The damage that is being done to the Indian NGO sector is being done in part because of the paranoia of the BJP that there is some sort of giant agenda behind organisations who do such work. Many of them are highly respected organisations around the world and the one that I worked for has won the Nobel Peace Prize. It is not in the interest of India or its people or even the government to persecute and harass these organisations.

Unfortunately that is what has happened and is happening and the reality is that many of them, already under assault from the State, will have to wind up operations and others will have to scale down.

India's civil society is full of motivated people and much of their work will continue because these individuals are not doing this work because of the money.

I have worked with people with a background in investment banking, law and of course the media who have chosen to work in an NGO for much less than in their corporate job. Such Indians will continue their work and it is a shame that they are being hindered.

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

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Sensex | 37,981.63 | 1.59 |
| Nifty 50 | 11,227.55 | 1.60 |
| S&P 500* | 3,352.21 | 1.63 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.78 | -0.21 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 94.50 | -0.54 |
| Euro (₹) | 85.85 | -0.05 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 50,449▼194 | 0.38 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 6.056 | 0.018 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 0.658 | -0.001 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 42.37 | 0.45 |

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Deadline for various schemes extended to Dec.

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

SBI rolls out festive offers for retail customers



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

Sebi slaps ₹20 L fine on Bonanza Portfolio

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

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

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



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

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced a rescheduling of this week's interesting meeting after the government failed to appoint external members to the monetary policy committee (MPC). The RBI in a statement said that new dates will be announced shortly without giving any reason for postponing the bi-monthly monetary policy review that was scheduled during September 29 to October 1. The terms of three external people on the six-member MPC ended last month, and they are yet to be replaced by the government. The rules of the panel require at least four members to be present at the meeting.

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



of four years. The terms of the previous external members—Pami Dua, Chetan Ghate, and Ravindra Dholakia—are unlikely to be extended as that can be done only through legislative changes to the Reserve Bank of India Act. The MPC came into existence in October 2016. Some economists pointed out that the move would create uncertainty at a time when the economy is facing its worst contraction while some downplayed the move.

"The government may have its own reasoning and we may have to wait and see what is its thinking (for delaying the appointment of the new members)," said an economist. "Postponing of the MPC meeting a week or two weeks later may not make a great difference to the current economic situation," said another economist.

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

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

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

ITI set to make 4G, 5G equipment

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

The country's potential to produce talent and software at large scale, coupled with geo-political scenario with China, presents a wonderful opportunity for India to indigenise technologies, Tech Mahindra network services CEO Manish Vyas told PTI.

In June, the company

signed an agreement with ITI for development of 4G and 5G technologies.

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

—PTI

Stocks rise on stimulus hope, unlock moves

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28

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

Sensex and Nifty-50 gained over 1.5 per cent, with the Sensex rising above 38,000 mark intraday and closing 592.97 points up at 37,981.63. The Nifty-50 gained 177.30 points to close at 11,227.55. Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "The global cues turned positive amid signs of China's economic recovery, given its upbeat

industrial data. Further, the hopes of a stimulus package announcement by the US government also kept the mood positive. On the domestic front, positive global cues, expectations of a stimulus package from the Indian government along with news flows around further opening up of the economy, cheered the market. Banking stocks gained on hopes that the government may infuse some capital into the sector in order to provide support to the banks over waiving interest rates on loans under moratorium."

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

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

Probe into dumping of API from China

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI SEPT. 28

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

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

This huge funding has helped India become the third largest tech startup ecosystem in the world after the US and China. As per the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, India has around 24,000 firms registered as startups. In recent years, the market has witnessed emergence of a large number of tech-based startups. Nasscom data shows that there are 8,900 to 9,300 tech startups in the country and the ecosystem is adding more than 1,000 every year.

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

Between 2016 and 2019, the startup ecosystem saw the emergence of 27 unicorns, or those with valuation of \$1 billion and more. Byju's, BigBasket, Delhivery, Flipkart, Hike, Makemytrip, Oyo, Ola, Paytm, PolicyBazaar, Quickr, Snapdeal, Swiggy, Udaan and Zomato are some of the PE-funded unicorns.

Analysts fear Lakshmi Vilas is heading Yes Bank way

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 28



- RBI appoints committee of directors to run the bank's operations
- Move comes after AGM votes out 7 directors, including promoters and RBI-appointed CEO
- Analysts fear deposit withdrawals could precipitate liquidity issues at bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of a three-member committee of directors to run the day-to-day functioning of cash-strapped Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The move comes after its shareholders voted out seven directors, including both its promoters and the newly RBI-appointed CEO S. Sundar, at its annual general meeting on Friday.

Analysts worry that the negative news around the bank could lead to an increase in deposit withdrawals, which may precipitate the liquidity issues at the bank, thereby requiring the RBI to impose a moratorium on the deposit withdrawals, further denting the depositor confidence in the banking system.

Depositor confidence which took a hit after the PMC Bank and Yes Bank crisis a year ago, has stabilised in the last six months, they said.

Bankers said that in the immediate term, the RBI will have to focus on ensuring that the liquidity in the bank remains sound and ensure a sustainable resolution for the bank in the long-term. They also pointed out that amalgamation with a big bank should not be preferred as it acts as a drag on the acquirer and creates uncertainty among the investors of the other banks.

"A resolution similar to Catholic Syrian Bank or Yes Bank will reinforce the confidence of investors and should be explored, whereby a strategic investor could be

inducted in the bank for a sustainable turnaround without impacting the other banks in the system," said a banker.

The three-member committee of directors (CoD) will exercise the discretionary powers of MD & CEO in the ad-interim, the bank said in a statement on Monday. The RBI on Sunday appointed the CoD composed of three independent directors—Meeta Makhan, Shakti Sinha, and Satish Kumar Kalra—and the committee will be headed by Meeta Makhan, the bank statement said.

The LVB annual general meeting outcome was unprecedented in many ways. According to Shriram Subramanian, founder and MD of InGovern Research Services, a proxy advisory and corporate governance firm, "Shareholders are increasingly demanding that directors be performing. We saw this last month when shareholders voted out an independent director who did not have sufficient attendance in Shriram Transport Company."

"The RBI will have to facilitate a quick merger or give approval for any new investor to stabilise

the bank," added Subramanian. The developments have unfolded when the Chennai-based bank is undergoing a challenging phase and is in talks for a merger with Clix Capital. The bank, meanwhile, said its liquidity position remains strong. The lender also said that it has a fully functional board despite the rejection of seven directors by shareholders.

The Tamil Nadu-focused bank was placed under prompt corrective action (PCA) by the RBI in September 2019 over high level of bad loans, lack of sufficient capital and negative return on assets for two consecutive years. Under PCA, banks are mandated to cut lending and focus on reducing the concentration of loans to certain sectors. They are also restricted from opening new branches and paying dividends. The bank's deposits declined 27 per cent to Rs 21,161 crore at the end of June on a year-on-year basis.

The Lakshmi Vilas Bank stock ended 5.21 per cent higher at Rs 20.20 on the BSE after dipping in early trade.

ATHER ENERGY UNVEILS SERIES 1 E-SCOOTER

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, SEPT. 28

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

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

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

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

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

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28



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

By the existing structure, SBI has four MDs, namely, Dinesh Khara, Arijit Basu, S.C. Setty and Ashwani Bhatia. Khara has been already named as the next chairman of SBI once incumbent Rajnish Kumar hangs up his boots on October 7. Once this post is filled up, the country's largest lender will fall short of one MD and another post will become vacant on Basu's superannuation in October end.

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

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

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

‘₹1 invested in Adani Ent. yielded 800-times return’

New Delhi, Sept. 28: A rupee invested in Adani Enterprises two-and-a-half decades back has given over 800-times return, Gautam Adani said as he saw his infrastructure conglomerate evolve into an integrated 'platform of platforms'.

Speaking at the JP Morgan India summit Adani said the seaports-to-airports-to-energy group's incubation model has created six publicly traded companies with thousands of jobs and unprecedented shareholder value.

"A one-rupee investment in Adani Enterprises (at the time of) our first IPO in 1994 has returned over 800x," he said. A college dropout, Adani, 58, started with trading in commodities and went on to build a conglomerate. "We basically build infrastructure that enables 'flow'—the flow of goods and materials, the flow of electrons, the flow of people, and the flow of data. This focus on helping build India's infrastructure forms the core of our philosophy," he said. —PTI

"For the sake of the fans of the GDP metric, let's look at some statistics. The

trillion. Projecting for another 30 years, in 2050 the global GDP is expected to be about \$170 trillion with India becoming the second-largest economy in the world," he said.

Adani said short-term setbacks due to a global crisis cannot be used to write off the country, as its fundamentals remain intact.

"The current focus on standardised GDP predictions as against truly understanding what a nation could look like over a decade has unfortunately become one of the primary elements for measuring the health of an economy. In my view, patience and long-term planning and most importantly, an alignment with the government's business agenda are what creates the greatest value," he said.

Adani said India needs \$1.5 to 2 trillion of capital over the next decade. —PTI

SHORT TAKES

SA domestic T20 League put off

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

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

"The impact of revised calendars for international cricket across all ICC Members and other T20 leagues, have had a knock-on effect on South African cricket scheduling. The Covid-19 restrictions and uncertainty around international travel, including the state of control of South African borders, as well as border control at the country points of departure of international players, also compelled CSA to make this rational decision," CSA's acting CEO, Kugandrie Govender said. — PTI

Arab club signs Israeli footballer

Dubai: An Arab club has for the first time signed an Israeli footballer, Diaa Sabia, less than two weeks after the UAE normalised ties with the Jewish state. Sabia, a 27-year-old Israeli Arab attacking midfielder with China's Guangzhou R&F, signed a two-year contract with Dubai's Al-Nasr, the club said in a statement Sunday.

The transfer reportedly cost more than 2.5 million euros (\$2.9 million).

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

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

Lahiri ends sixth at Dominica golf

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

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

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

TENNIS

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

FOOTBALL

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

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

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Editor: **Aditya Sinha**

RCB mum Indians

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Even James Pattinson

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI



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

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Devdutt Padikkal c Pollard b Boult 54, Aaron Finch c Pollard b Boult 52, Virat Kohli c Sharma b Chahar 3, AB de Villiers (not out) 55, Shivam Dube (not out) 27. **Extras: (lb-7, w-3) 10. Total: (for 3 wkts, in 20 overs) 201.**

FoW: 1-81, 2-92, 3-154.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-34-2, James Pattinson 4-0-51-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-31-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-42-0, Krunal Pandya 3-0-23-0, Kieron Pollard 1-0-13-0.

Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma (c) c sub (P. Negi) b Washington Sundar 8, Q de Kock c sub (P. Negi) b Chahal 14, S. Yadav c de Villiers b Udana 0, Ishan Kishan c Padikkal b Udana 99, H. Pandya c sub (P. Negi) b Zampa 15, K. Pollard (not out) 60, K. Pandya (not out) 0. **Extras: (w 5) 5. Total (for 5 wkts, in 20 overs) 201.**

FoW: 1-14, 2-16, 3-39, 4-78, 5-197.

Bowling: Isuru Udana 4-0-45-2, Washington Sundar 4-0-12-1, Navdeep Saini 4-0-43-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-48-1, Adam Zampa 4-0-53-1.

Super Over: Mumbai Indians (7/1) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore (11/0).

Pooran reacts in Nich of time

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

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

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

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

"(There) really is NO



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

question about it being THE best save, EVER. Fantastic work by @nicholas_47 who inspired the rest of the @lionsdenxip fielders to put on 1 of the best defensive fielding displays I have ever seen," Rhodes tweeted.

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

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

"No way, no way, no way. That is unbelievable! The save of T20 cricket ever; that is the best I have seen," Pietersen said.

The video of the spectacular effort lit up social media.

"Pooran save for the

boundary was inhuman extraordinary, he has redefined the human thinking capability, take a bow," said one Twitter user.

Another said: "Wowza, superman Nicolas Pooran".

Pooran's effort came after his eight-ball 25 with the bat as King's XI scored 223/2 after batting first in the match. — AFP

DELHI LOOK TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM

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

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

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

Self-belief behind Tewatia's high 5

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

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

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

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

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

Tewatia struggled to connect with the ball initially after he was sent at Steve Smith's fall ahead of the likes of Robin Uthappa. However, with he wasting the deliveries at the crucial juncture, pressure was building on Sanju Samson.

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



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

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

— RAHUL TEWATIA
Rajasthan Royals batsman

am better. The worst 20 balls I have ever played. After then I began to hit so I kept going. I will never forget this knock." — PTI

TEWATIA ASKED FOR 'PAT ON THE BACK' LAST SEASON

New Delhi, Sept. 28: Rahul Tewatia had to request for a "pat on the back" last year but this season he has earned it.

In a debriefing video of the 2019 season that has gone viral following his match-winning six-hitting spree on Sunday, Tewatia, who played for Delhi Capitals last year, can be seen walking up to head coach Ricky Ponting to remind the legendary Australian about his four catches in the win against the mighty Mumbai Indians.

Tewatia stops Ponting in his stride after he concludes his post-match dressing room speech, patting the likes of Rishabh Pant, Shikhar Dhawan,

Colin Ingram and the bowlers for their match-winning effort at the Wankhede Stadium.

With Tewatia yearning for recognition for his four catches, Ponting obliges by telling the entire squad, albeit in a lighter vein.

"Boys Tewatia took four catches and wants a pat on the back," Ponting tells the dressing room much to everyone's amusement and walks away with a grin on his face.

Axar Patel then chides Tewatia in lighter vein for asking for recognition. "Apne haq ke liye ladenge (I will fight for what I am owed)," Tewatia says at the end of the footage. — PTI

Coach confident of Rahul's IPL success

New Delhi, Sept. 28: "I always told Rahul (Tewatia) that he will have his day in the IPL and it would be because of his batting," the excitement and satisfaction was palpable in childhood coach Vijay Yadav's voice while talking about his ward's match-defining 31-ball 53 for Rajasthan Royals in an IPL encounter.

IPL throws up unlikely stars and Sunday was a "day of Rahuls" when the lesser known Tewatia from Haryana's Sihi village in Faridabad district stole the thunder from India star K.L. Rahul, striking five sixes in an over.

And icing on the cake was Royals Brand

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

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

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

BACH WARNS ITALY OVER GOVT MEDDLE

Rome, Sept. 28: Italy's Olympic team risks the humiliation of being placed on probation for the Tokyo Games if the country's sports minister does not back down amid a two-year-long dispute that amounts to government interference, IOC president Thomas Bach said.

Bach has taken issue with the Italian government's creation of a new organisation, Sport e Salute, that was created at the start of last year to run the country's sports finances, which were previously controlled by an arm of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI).

— AP

Tewatia turned the match on its head



R. Mohan
Line & Length

Rahul Tewatia's His flailing efforts to hit the ball were at one time so painful that his partner, the free striking Sanju Samson, had even declined a single in order to keep the strike.

Trolls were pouring their scorn on Tewatia but soon enough began targeting Kings XI Punjab for "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory." How many teams make 51 off the last three overs to win a game when chasing, even in a relatively small-

er ground like the Sharjah Stadium. Of course, we would have to forget all about past links of this venue to the betting maze of D-Company controlled cricket *satta* markets when Dawood Ibrahim had a private box in the pavilion stand for the elite.

The drama was far from over even after Tewatia's heroics. It appeared the chasers were losing their nerve on the threshold of victory.

Rajasthan Royals, a team once banned for two years from IPL because their

● **Fluctuations in form are the norm in T20 cricket, but was Kings XI Punjab guilty of a crucial tactical mistake by bringing on a pace bowler against Tewatia when the batsman showed no signs he could read spin at all?**

owner was betting on games, nearly made a hash of the final over when two were needed and one batsman was also bowled taking a wild swing. A final lofted hit settled the issue on a night of the big sixes as RR made the target, a task that their opponents had not managed against Delhi Capitals and then lost the Super Over.

Fluctuations in form are the norm in T20 cricket. But was Kings XI Punjab guilty of a crucial tactical mistake by bringing on a pace bowler against Tewatia when the batsman

showed no signs he could read spin at all? Rahul had not thought of spin even when runs were leaking in the field-restrictions overs.

And the Kings XI skipper had overs of spin in hand besides the pace of Sheldon Cottrell who panicked after bowling a couple of juicy length balls for the bits-and-pieces all-rounder to connect as he swung in an ambitious arc to the on side.

A shell-shocked Cottrell of the famous Territorial Army salute had given the game away by being taken

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

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

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

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

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

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