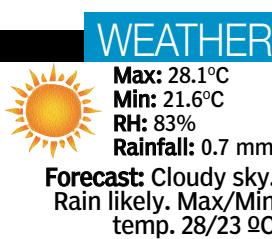


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

**WORLD | 8****Resistance to Lanka Constitution change****SPORTS | 12****Hamilton wins chaotic Tuscan F1 race****TABLOID****The wheels of change**

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**COVID-19 COUNT**

| CASES                      | DEATHS   |
|----------------------------|----------|
| (+93,215)                  | (+1,140) |
| 48,45,003                  | 79,754   |
| covid19india.org           |          |
| STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS |          |
| (+2,216)                   | (+11)    |
| TS: 1,57,096               | 961      |
| (+9,536)                   | (+66)    |
| AP: 5,67,123               | 4,912    |

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 2,91,07,971                    | DEATHS |
| 9,26,910                       |        |
| COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES    | 213    |
| worldometers.info/ coronavirus |        |

**ASTROGUIDE**

|   |
|---|
| Sarvari; Dakshinayana                                   |
| Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Dwadasi till 1.25 am (Tuesday) |
| Star: Pushyami till 3.45 pm                             |
| Varjyanam: 3.47 am to 5.18 am (Tuesday)                 |
| Durmuhurtam: 12.36 pm to 1.24 pm; 3.02 pm to 3.50 pm    |
| Rahu Kalam: 7.30 am to 9 am                             |
| HIJRI CALENDAR  |
| Muharram 25, 1442 AH                                    |
| PRAYERS   |
| Fajar: 5.03 am  |
| Zohar: 12.22 pm   |
| Asar: 4.33 pm   |
| Magrib: 6.26 pm   |
| Isha: 7.34 pm   |
| SUNSET TODAY 6.18 PM                                    |
| SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.04 AM                                |
| MOONSET TODAY 4.05 PM                                   |
| MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.38 AM                               |

**COUNTER POINT**

Our young MP is asking if there will be any debate on Kangana and Rhea?

**IN BRIEF**  
**DGCA clarifies on 'no photo' order**

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA "clarified" on Sunday that passengers can take photos and videos inside flights but can't use any recording equipment that creates chaos, disrupts flight operations, violates safety norms or is banned by the crew members. On Saturday, the regulator had said that a scheduled flight will be suspended for a period of two weeks if anyone is found taking photographs inside the plane. — PTI

**SON OF SOIL****Raghuvansh was known as poor man's leader****Father of MNREGA dead****NAYEAR AZAD | DC**  
PATNA, SEPT. 13

Former Union minister and veteran Bihar politician Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, under whose stewardship of the rural development ministry the MNREGA was launched by the Mammotha Singh government, passed away on Sunday. Singh, a long-time friend and associate of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, had resigned from the party on Thursday.

He was 74 and is survived by two sons and a daughter. His wife had died earlier. The body of Singh will be cremated with full state honours at Hasansar Ghat

ing post-Covid complications and suspected pneumonia. On Friday, he was put on a ventilator in the ICU.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said while the National Advisory Council chaired by Sonia Gandhi gave MGNREGA an initial design, it was Singh who during his tenure as the rural development minister took it forward, giving it final shape and piloting it through the Union Cabinet and Parliament.

"He also played a key role in launching new pension schemes for the aged, disabled and widows. He was a powerful speaker in

the states' share of revenue collected under GST.

Mr Birla told reporters after the meeting the leaders of all parties had assured their support for the smooth functioning of the House.

Parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi along with two ministers of state Arjun Ram Meghwal and V. Muraleedharan also attended the meeting.

Mr Joshi said the government was ready to discuss all issues that will be decided at the Business Advisory Committee.

Mr Joshi said the floor leaders will again meet on Tuesday to deliberate upon the agenda for the Parliament session.

Asked if the government was ready for a discussion on the standoff between India and China at the Line of Actual Control, Mr Joshi said a decision will be taken keeping in mind the country's national security and strategic interests.

Sources said the Lok Sabha will be adjourned briefly on Monday as a mark of respect to former President Pranab Mukherjee and a sitting MP who died recently.

After that, the House may take up discussion on two Bills which have already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. — PTI

Parliament who earned the respect of one and all by his transparent sincerity and integrity," Ramesh said.

The veteran socialist leader was associated with Lalu Prasad since 1977. He was an MP from Vaishali for four consecutive terms.

In his constituency, Singh was popularly known as "a poor man's leader".

Singh had created a stir in Bihar politics recently by sending a handwritten resignation letter to the RJD chief from hospital.

Sources he was peeved over his marginalisation in the party.

"He also played a key role in launching new pension schemes for the aged, disabled and widows. He was a powerful speaker in

**Page 4: Leaders condole Raghuvansh's death**

on the banks of the Ganga, about 15 km from his village Shahpur in Vaishali district.

Singh had tested positive for Covid-19 in June and admitted to the AIIMS in Patna. He was shifted to the AIIMS in the capital follow-

**Osaka victorious in US Open**

Naomi Osaka of Japan kisses the trophy in celebration after winning her women's singles final match against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus at the US Open in New York City on Saturday. ■ Full report on P12

**Shah admitted to AIIMS again**

Hospital claims it's routine health check-up

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13

Two days ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, Union home minister Amit Shah was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) late on Saturday night, nearly two weeks after he was discharged from the same hospital.

The 55-year-old minister was admitted to AIIMS at 11 pm on Saturday. He was earlier admitted to the hospital for post-Covid care on August 18.

A statement from the AIIMS said on Sunday: "Amit Shah was discharged from AIIMS after post-Covid care on August 30. As per advice, he has been admitted for a complete medical check-up before the Parliament session for 1-2 days."

The 55-year-old leader had tested positive for the Coronavirus on August 2. At that time, he was taken to private hospital, Medanta, in Gurgaon. On August 14, he had tweeted that he would be in home isolation for a few more days on the advice of his doctors.

Shah was admitted to the AIIMS on August 18 after he complained of "fatigue and body ache". He left the hospital 13 days later, after the doctors said the home minister had "recov-

ered."

The day Shah was admitted to Medanta Hospital for Covid-19 on August 2, India had 11.87 lakh cases. The country now has 48.45 lakh cases as on Sunday night. The number of new cases is approaching the one-lakh mark a day.

While Shah is the most high-profile patient, several VIPs have contracted the disease. It has claimed the lives of two UP ministers, including ex-cricketer Chetan Chahan.

The monsoon session begins on Monday with Covid safety measures in place. With 200 out of 785 MPs above 65 years of age, and at least seven ministers and two dozen MPs recovering from Covid-19, the pandemic has cast a shadow over the proceedings.

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

approach, the ministry said recovered patients should follow the advice of their doctors on medications and lifestyle changes. They should have their first follow-up visit (physical/telephonic) within seven days upon recovery, and discharge if admitted to hospitals, "preferably at the hospital where he/she underwent treatment."

Further follow-up visits could be to the nearest qualified allopathic or Ayush practitioner/medical facility of other systems of medicine.

The patients should look out for any recurrence of symptoms and seek medical advice if such symptoms surface.

India has about 35.5 lakh recovered patients. It was likely that Covid-19 patients who experience acute illness, may continue to report wide variety of signs and symptoms including fatigue, body ache, cough, sore throat, difficulty in breathing, etc.

As of now there is limited evidence of post-Covid-19 abnormalities and further research is required and is being actively pursued, the ministry said.

**ON THE RECOVERY PATH**

- Ayush Kwath (150 ml, 1 cup) daily
- Samshamani Vati twice a day 500 mg or Giloy powder 1-3 gm with lukewarm water for 15 days
- Ashwagandha 500 mg twice a day or Ashwagandha powder 1-3 grams twice daily for 15 days
- Gargling with turmeric and salt;
- Chyawanprash one teaspoonful daily in morning.

**NEPAL TRIES TO CLAIM 3 VILLAGES**

■ The Nepal government is sending feelers to people living in three villages in Uttarakhand to switch sides

REPORT ON PAGE 7

**Thinking about a Diesel Car?**

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# Roads in a mess, mute vendor loudspeakers

## On the street

Pushcart vendors use loudspeakers, disturb sleep

Pushcart vendors are making announcements on loudspeakers to sell their products in the colonies and lanes, creating a nuisance for the residents. Many IT professionals live in our area who work in different shifts and most of them are working from home presently. Many senior citizens who are on sedatives are waking up without completing their sleep due to the announcements which is deteriorating their health. I request the authorities concerned to take the action to stop this menace.

Sajid Khan  
Arvindnagar Colony, Shaikpet

Include properties purchased prior to 1983 in new portal

The encumbrance certificate is a prerequisite document to ascertain the ownership of immovable property before effecting sale or purchase. It is noticed that encumbrance certificates in respect of properties purchased before 1983 are not available on the Telangana registration department portal. On enquiry at a Mee Seva centre, I was told that the EC pertaining to the properties purchased prior to 1983 has to be obtained manually from respective sub-registrar's offices. This is a causing lot of hardship to the citizens. The government is therefore requested to incorporate details of properties purchased prior to 1983 in the upcoming Dharani portal.

Dinanath S.  
Hyderabad

GHMC, correct errors in tax and penalties, please

We are owners of the property bearing 8-2-120/86/9/3/FF-1, Banjara Hills (PTIN 1190800921). On May 30, we received intimation from the tax inspector regarding tax arrears from 2016. We immediately offered to pay the arrears and requested reduction in penalty and interest but they did not agree and we paid ₹2,04,953. On July 31, the GHMC announced a scheme of 90 per cent waiver of penalty for defaulters. According to the scheme, the person who is not paying tax is getting benefit and the person who is paying tax is burdened with interest penalty. I request the GHMC to look into the matter and adjust the penalties paid after March 31, 2020 with future taxes.

Ismail Ajani  
Banjara Hills

Water Board built bill counter on temple land

A piece of land admeasuring 500 square lands (Plot No. 36, Survey No. 176, Maruthinagar, Kothapet), owned by our family, was donated by my late father during the 1980s to the Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy temple under the aegis of the Sringeri Mahasamsthanam by executing a gift deed by us later. A part of the land has been encroached upon by the HMWS&SB by constructing a bill collection room with an unused and dilapidated water tank. It is learnt that the board intends to expand the site with additional construction. Several representations made by the temple management with our help to the government have not yielded results. A writ petition is pending with the High Court on the matter since 2015. May I expect the attention of the minister concerned at least now?

V. Lalitheswara Raju  
Hyderabad

**Dear Readers,** We at Deccan Chronicle request you to kindly send all your complaints, issues, grievances, feedback and suggestions to our government and all its departments by writing to Speak Out, the voice of the people, to our email ID [DCSpeakOut@gmail.com](mailto:DCSpeakOut@gmail.com)

— Editor

## Ride at your own risk



An open manhole right in the middle of the VST Road, Hyderabad, poses danger for motorists. The danger cone and other debris put around it to warn motorists is also causing inconvenience for motorists. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Widen road for easy free left turn near DD Hospital crossroads

There is a traffic chaos at Vidyanagar/Adikmet crossroads near DD Hospital. The road is narrow and it is difficult to take a left turn towards Adikmet as motorists who want to go straight towards Osmania University occupy every inch of the road at the red signal, and leave no space for those who want to take the free left turn. The road will have to be widened. The traffic policeman posted at the junction does not ensure the free left. My earlier request to the all the concerned authorities and *netas* have, alas, gone in vain.

B. Ramarao  
Nimboliadda, Kacheguda

## GHMC, clear drainage and fix road on Himalaya hotel stretch

Before the construction of the main road from Bazaar Ghat cancer hospital to Himalaya hotel, large drainage pipes were laid on the pavement. It was hoped that due to the installation of the larger pipelines, there would be no more drainage issues. Sadly, the drainage lines were not laid and the road was not built. Because of this, dirty

water flows on this road every week. GHMC officials are not tired of repeatedly cleaning the drainage manhole. How many times have they cleaned this drainage line? The neighbouring traders suffer daily due to the dirty water. I request the GHMC to fix this road.

Syed Shamsuddin Maghrabi



Cattle regularly blocks the road at Safilguda. The traffic police and the civic authorities must take action to remove them and make it easy for vehiclists. — A.H. KHAN, Hyderabad

## Water always stagnates at Old Alwal

The problem of water stagnation is recurring in the area as people wash their cars with water pipes, wasting hundreds of litres of water. This is causing water stagnation on the road and inconvenience to other pedestrians. The stagnated water also makes it a perfect breeding place for mosquitoes and it also attracts pigs. Water Board must act.

Noel. G. Nogueiro  
Old Alwal



## Meghadri road stretch in bad shape

The road from Meghadri Heights to Hanuman temple gate has been damaged since the last one year and it is only getting worse due to this year's monsoon rains. How much longer will the citizens have to wait for measures to be taken?

Wg Cdr Satinder Singh (Retd)  
Secunderabad

Road near Madina Dairy Farm needs immediate attention

The road near Madina Dairy Farm, New Mallepally, was dug up for civic works last year. Eight months have passed but the road reconstruction work has not been completed. As a result, residents and commuters are facing inconvenience due to the risk of accidents. I request the concerned authorities to take corrective action promptly.

Syed Sadiq Jafar Hussain  
Mallepally



## CC road at Kasturbanagar dug up 2 years back, not repaired

I am a resident of Kasturbanagar main road, Moula Ali. The CC road here was badly damaged by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board two years ago during some work but it has still not been repaired. We have followed it up with many local leaders, the corporator and the MLA but the road has not been repaired. We request the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation to resolve the issue immediately.

Sanjeev, Mouali Ali



## Finish pipe work, repair West Marredpally police station road

The busy but narrow main road opposite the West Marredpally police station was dug up a few weeks ago to lay pipelines but the road has not been restored till date. It has been left in a terribly bad condition which can result in a serious road accident. The damaged condition of the road is hampering the free flow of traffic. The authorities concerned must restore the road to its original condition.

V. Lakshman  
West Marredpally



## POWER BILL

TSSPDCL revise, issue fresh bills

This is to bring to the notice of the chairman of the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited my problem with the billing. My meter (USC NO. 10131433) is residential category 1A, and the consumption of units is below 200. But the bill I got in September reads category B1, which is erroneous. This is happening repeatedly. I have given a written complaint in this regard to the assistant engineer at the AC Guards office two months back but to no avail. I request the officer concerned to immediately revise the bill to category 1A and issue a fresh bill.

Khaizar Hussain  
Red Hills

## Stop power cuts in Red Hills

With rising mercury, frequent power cuts have become a problem for the residents in Red Hills. Completing daily chores in the warm weather has become a challenging task. Despite several complaints, the authorities are not paying heed to our problems. With no predictable pattern of power disruption, families having children and elderly people are facing a harrowing time. Due to the long power cuts, people are finding it difficult to sleep at night. I request the authorities to look into the matter.

Mohd Yaseen Raja,  
Red Hills

## Meter fixed, no power, but got big bill

Following our complaint regarding high electricity charges in Speak Out (*Power dept issues bill of ₹24,226, please resolve, Aug. 24*), the electricity department gave a new meter, but it has not been fixed yet nor has the connection been provided. Because of this, we are having to work in the darkness in the premises. Meanwhile, a Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited technician visited our godown and issued an electricity bill for ₹29,587, which earlier was ₹24,226. Once again we want to raise our voice to the government through Speak Out.

S. Ramesh  
Ph: 7901453767

## I got add-on charges to my power bill

My electricity bill is for 168 units for August and as per tariff the energy charges worked to ₹628. But the TSSPDCL has levied ₹840 as energy charges and raised a bill for ₹910 with add-on charges.

R. Umamaheswararao  
Dwarakamainagar Colony, Vanasthalipuram

## TRANSPORT WOES

### State must start buses

The government has been relaxing Coronavirus lockdown conditions. Except for senior citizens and children below the age of 10 years, all restrictions have been lifted even though Covid-19 had not been contained. I appeal to the government to start operation of city bus services with all Covid-19 containment protocols. The buses must provide 50 per cent seat reservation for senior citizens, physically handicapped, etc.

B. Rajendra Prasad  
Income Tax Colony

## SHORT TAKES

TWO PERSONS  
ATTACK CPI OFFICE,  
LEADER'S CARSANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

Two unidentified persons attacked Makhdoom Bhavan, the state CPI office at Himayathnagar, and damaged the car of party state secretary Chada Venket Reddy that was parked there on Sunday evening. The office and the vehicle sustained partial damage.

Sources said the duo entered the party office on a two-wheeler at about 6.30 pm and started hitting the car with a stick and stones. They also damaged the office and fled. CPI leaders who rushed to the place of incident condemned this attack. They said those who are involved in this attack should be punished. The police has started investigations.

CITY COPS ARREST  
9 FROM MP FOR  
DUPING RESIDENTT.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

The Rachakonda cybercrime cell arrested nine persons in Madhya Pradesh for cheating a city resident, and brought them to the city on transit remand. The accused were identified as Shivshankar Athiya, Abhishek Soni, Abhilash Choudary, Rohit Jain, Bhavesh Baragi, Vinek Pateriya, Athar Hayat, Atul Pateriya and Rahul Soni.

Vanasthalipuram resident Nuthakki Koti Siva Kakani Sudhakar had lodged a complaint that some persons had contacted him over mobile-phone and offered him huge profits within four to six months if he invested in the stock market through Top Global Research Company, Bhopal. Sudhakar told the police transferred ₹9.6 lakh to the company but did not get the promised returns.

LEADERS CONDOLE  
RAGHUVANSH'S  
DEATH

From Page 1

In June he had stepped down from the post of RJD national vice-president over Tejashwi Yadav's decision to induct his rival Rama Singh into the party. Rama Singh's entry into the party was postponed after Lalu Yadav intervened.

Sources aware of the development said Singh "was upset and hurt after Tej Pratap humiliated him for opposing the party's decision to induct Rama Singh".

"After the demise of Karpoori Thakur, I stood behind you for 32 years. But not anymore", Singh had written, adding that he had received love and support from the party leaders and workers.

After Singh's death, Lalu Prasad in a tweet said, "I had asked you not to go anywhere. But now you have gone so far. We will miss you".

Tejashwi Yadav in his statement said that "his presence used to inspire the party. After my father was sent to jail we used to look towards him but now he has gone."

President Ram Nath Kovind termed the passing away of the former Union minister as tragic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his death had left a deep void in Bihar and national politics.

Mr Modi also referred to the "churning" that the departed leader faced in his last days indicating his disenchantment with his party the RJD and its leader Lalu Prasad.

"An inner 'manthan' (churning) was going on in him during his last days. He remained true to the ideology he believed in. In the recent past, he had been in the news. He was obviously in a state of inner turmoil since it had no longer remained possible for him to be by the side of his old associates. Finally, he gave expression to his feelings through the letters he wrote from the hospital bed," he said.

## NEET confusion



Left: Students who came to appear for the NEET at the Vidyodayini College of Information Technology, Survey No-21, RCI Main Road, Mallapur, Balapur mandal, had a tough time when they found the centre closed and they were asked to rush to other centres. Students had to rush to colleges in Gachibowli and Rajendranagar to give their exams. Right: An official checks a water bottle being carried by a student before allowing her inside the NEET centre at Secunderabad Public School.

— GANDHI / DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Safety protocols were not violated at NEET centres

From Page 1

## From Page 1

This happened even though her registration form clearly mentioned the name of that institute. The student has registered a police complaint demanding that she be allowed to take the test again or be allotted a medical seat.

Elsewhere, learning from their mistakes and violation of safety protocols witnessed during JEE Mains, state authorities strictly implemented guidelines set for conduct of the NEET exams across all centres in the state.

Still, there were instances of social distancing norms being violated on

hicle to SRR Thota UPHC where she got her rapid antigen test (RAT) done.

The test gives a result in half-an-hour. The UPHC doctors issued a report of negative result and Vaishnavi was rushed to the examination centre, just in time.

"Even though I had mentioned that I have

recovered from the virus and completed the quarantine period, the authorities did not listen to me," Vaishnavi said.

"What if I was indeed still positive for the virus? Would I not be allowed to appear for the exam? There should have been special arrangements for positive students and those

still under quarantine period. With no such arrangements how can the authorities stop me from appearing for the exam," the student asked.

"I have studied hard for two years with an aim to crack this exam but because of such rules, it would have all gone to waste," Vaishnavi said.

## Cops help out student in need of test

## From Page 1

The shocked student and her parents were left with no alternative but to go searching for an urban primary health centre (UPHC) where she could be tested.

The Mills Colony police who were present there helped Vaishnavi by taking her in their patrol ve-

re to SRR Thota UPHC where she got her rapid antigen test (RAT) done.

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## TRS protests Kishan holding meet

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

TRS MPs B. Venkatesh Netakhani and Manne Srinivas Reddy and government whip T. Bhanu Prasad on Sunday took exception to not being invited to the review meeting on the Ramagundam Fertilisers and Chemical Ltd, which was taken up by two Union ministers including G. Kishan Reddy.

Alleging that the protocols were not followed by the Centre during the review meeting, they said that Kishan Reddy should answer why the local MP was not allowed into the meeting as per protocol and despite the state government having an 11 per cent share in the factory.

Charging the Union ministers with "speaking lies", Venkatesh said

that they had stated that the Centre had supplied 6.25 lakh tonnes of urea out of the 13 lakh metric tonnes allotted to the state, but it had not released even 1.17 million tonnes. He asked the Union ministers to state how many jobs had been given to the people of the state from among the 800 openings at the Ramagundam factory. Referring to the allegation of Kishan Reddy

that the TRS activists led by the Peddapalli MP had prevented him during his visit to the Ramagundam Fertilisers unit, Venkatesh said that villagers from two nearby villages had protested against the pollution caused by the factory, and they had participated in the meeting on their behalf. He alleged that the BJP cadre had tried to attack them.

Astrologers said on Sunday morning, Sun entered Leo, Moon Cancer, Jupiter Sagittarius, Saturn Capricorn, Mars Aries and Mercury Virgo, with all planets being in different houses of Veena Yoga. The celestial phenomenon will end when the moon leaves the sign of Cancer passing through the Gandanta zone on Tuesday.

Various sections of people in erstwhile Karimnagar district offered special prayers on Sunday morning with six planets aligning on the day.

A message that went viral on social media said that it is a highly auspicious occasion not to be seen again in 200-300 years.

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## Flood threat haunts Nandyal

D. SIVA RAMI  
REDDI | DC  
KURNOOL, SEPT. 13

Heavy rains pounded the Nandyal area for 24 hours even as a flood threat started at town. While Mahanandi received 14.8 cm of rain, Nandyal received 12.6 cm.

The Kundu river is carrying 20,000 cusecs of water,

Heavy rains at Mahanandi are ringing alarm bells around Nandyal, where canals submerge low-lying areas. Officials have sounded an alert.

The Paleru river and Chama Kaluva are also swelling. People are worried that the situation may worsen if rains continue till Monday morning.

Floodwater breached several local rivers, causing snapped road links at various places in the district on Sunday, particularly in the Nandyal revenue division.

There was a near-flood situation in several colonies. Srisailam, Nandyal, Allagadda, Banaganapalle, Pathikonda and Nandikotkur Assembly segments have been affected and many agricultural water tanks and streams were overflowing.

Nandyal tahsildhar Ravi Kumar along with his staff and police personnel visited the low-

lying areas and asked people to shift to safer areas. He sounded high alert in the low-lying areas on the banks of Kundu river.

Locals rescued two youth at Yellavathula village in Rudravaram Mandal from a local stream but their bike was washed away in the floodwater.

Transmission links were struck for three hours on the Gajulapalli to Mahanandi road, Sivapuram to Kothapalli road, Guvvalakunta to Kothapalli road, Velugodu to Nandyal road because of overflowing causeways.

Meanwhile, a post stating that TTD has released a notification for recruiting security guards became

online for their darshan and collect tickets that will be sent by e-mail on payment. Only subsequently, the devotees realise they have been scammed.

The TTD has identified over 20 fake websites and has filed police complaints, which are under investigation.

In a statement on Sunday, TTD vigilance officials stated that in spite of repeated appeals, some devotees are still becoming victims of scammers.

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**IN BRIEF**  
Meet on inter-state  
bus service

**Adilabad:** The heads of APSRTC and TSRTC will meet in Hyderabad on Tuesday to thrash out contentious issues that have been hindering the resumption of inter-state bus services despite the lifting of lockdown restrictions. AP has expressed willingness to cut down its services while asking the Telangana state to increase its operations so as to bring parity. In the first phase, AP said it would operate 72,000 route km and requested TS do the same.

**250 STUDENTS DUPED BY JOB FRAUDSTERS**

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

As many as 250 students who were hoping to land jobs in the aviation industry after receiving training at a private aviation academy in the city found their dreams grounded when it was found that the institution was not recognised to offer such education. According to Malakpet inspector K.V. Subba Rao, the students joined Fortune Flyers Aviation Academy at Moosarambagh, Malakpet, as it had promised 100 per cent job placement. Each student paid ₹90,000 as course fee, he said.

The fakery indulged in by the institute came to light when the students attended job interviews on Friday and were told that Fortune Flyers Aviation Academy was not registered and did not have any recognition from certifying agencies. This rendered the certificates they were issued upon completion of their courses useless, the police officer said.

When the trainees went to question the institution, they found it closed with a 'to-let' sign hanging on the building gate. "A case has been registered and we are investigating," Subba Rao said.

**7 ARRESTED IN BUSINESSMAN MURDER CASE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

The murder of a businessman last Tuesday at Shivrampally has been solved by the Rajendranagar police, who announced the arrest of seven persons in connection with the crime.

According to the police, the seven men were directly involved in the killing of Mohammad Jaweed, a businessman. The prime accused, 36-year-old Syed Irfan, ran a footwear shop and used to operate a chit fund. He owed ₹5 lakh to a woman who was known to Jaweed.

Irfan, who was under pressure from Jaweed to repay the woman, had made a payment of ₹3 lakh but said he could not repay the balance as his business had suffered a loss following a fire in his shop.

When Jaweed did not relent, Irfan planned to have Jaweed killed, the police said.

On Tuesday night, Irfan, accompanied by six others, went to Aramgarh Road where Jaweed was getting his vehicle repaired. There they attacked Jaweed with sharp weapons and killed him, the police said.

All the seven accused were arrested on Sunday and remanded to custody. Six others, in addition to Irfan who were arrested are: Mohammed Attaullah, 23, an accused in a previous murder case, Mohd Waseem, 24, Ashraf Ali, 21, Kishan Rao, 24, Shaik Khaled, 23, and Mohd Ziauddin, 24, the police said.

**LOW PRESSURE**

**Telangana witnessed good monsoon this year**

**Heavy rainfall in state likely**

**T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

The state can expect thunderstorms again, along with heavy to very heavy rainfall till Thursday, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), has said.

IMD meteorologists have said that the expected weather pattern over the next few days follows the formation of a low-pressure zone over the west central Bay of Bengal.

The IMD said thunderstorms accompanied by lightning was very likely to occur at isolated places over

# KCR wants Pembarthy gold plating for Yadadri

**Follow Agama Sastra norms, traditions, CM tells officials**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has asked for a "spectacular spiritual look" to the Laxmi Narasimha Swamy temple complex at Yadadri, on the completion of its ongoing renovation works.

Rao instructed principal secretary, finance, Ramakrishna Rao over phone to release ₹75 crore in the next three weeks for the works. The Chief Minister visited the Yadadri temple complex, had darshan of the deity and offered special pujas on Sunday. Later, he inspected the renovation works for about six hours. He instructed the temple authorities that the renovation has to strictly be in accordance with Agama Sastra guidelines and traditions and there should not be any lapses as the temple had to sustain for decades.

The Chief Minister told officers to take special interest in creating infrastructure, keeping in view the requirement for several pujas and services conducted for the presiding deity. He suggested development of the temple ring road in the shape of a necklace with walking and cycling tracks, all-round greenery and illumination.

Rao wanted in Yadadri to review the ongoing temple reconstruction work. On his way back, asked his vehicle be stopped after he spotted a troupe of rhesus macaque monkeys by the roadside. He got down from the car and proceeded to feed them bananas. The fruits were being carried in his vehicle.

Monkeys are considered holy, particularly around pilgrimage centres and as representatives of Lord Hanuman,



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao feeds bananas to monkeys while returning from Yadadri on Sunday.

## CM takes steps to reduce man-monkey conflict

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

A troupe of monkeys that live on the hill upon which the under-renovation Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy temple sits in Yadadri, received a special treat on Sunday. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao stopped after seeing the monkeys gathered by the roadside and fed them bananas.

Rao was in Yadadri to review the ongoing temple reconstruction work. On his way back, asked his vehicle be stopped after he spotted a troupe of rhesus macaque monkeys by the roadside. He got down from the car and proceeded to feed them bananas. The fruits were being carried in his vehicle.

Monkeys are considered holy, particularly around pilgrimage centres and as representatives of Lord Hanuman,

the monkey God. Incidentally, Hanuman is also the 'Kshetra Palaka' or the protector of the temple and its surroundings. The original renovation and reconstruction plans for the temple at Yadadri also involved installation of 108-foot tall Hanuman statue.

While monkeys that have made their homes around temples or in temple towns usually do well for themselves, thanks to pilgrims who feed them, in other parts of the state troupes of marauding monkeys in several districts have been causing untold troubles for villagers. It was to take care of the problem of feral monkeys that the government in 2016 announced a monkey capture and rehabilitation programme.

A rescue centre has been constructed at Chincholi near Nirmal town where the plan was to sterilise them before releasing back in the open. Though the centre, that can house 200 monkeys at a time in four compartments that can hold 50 of the animals each, has been built, it is yet to become functional. "There are some issues relating to procurement of equipment and other facilities that is holding it up from beginning operations," a forest department official said.

The Chief Minister has been a passionate advocate of planting fruit-bearing trees in forest fringe areas to encourage monkeys to return to the wild. Where there are no natural forests, the plan was to develop 'monkey food courts' with various species of fruit trees that the monkeys would find attractive and eventually leave human habitations and thus reducing monkey-man confrontations in the state's villages and towns.

to the devotees from the bus stand to the temple.

He asked the authorities to engage goldsmiths from Pembarthy for providing gold cover to the temple tower (Rajagopuram) and the main gates.

Stating that Yadadri was famous for Satyanarayana Swamy Vratham, he told the officials to create facilities to

ensure that 4,000 devotees could perform the vratham at one go. He called for parking lots that could accommodate 5,000 cars and 10,000 two-wheelers.

## NOW, GREEN CORRIDOR FOR OXYGEN TANKS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

Telangana state against the draconian Nizam is one of the momentous episodes in the history of Indian freedom struggle, said Reddy. The movement was led by leaders from different walks of life, including P.V. Narasimha Rao, Marri Chenna Reddy, Swami Ramanand Tirtha, Doddikomaraiah, Chakali Ilamma, Komaram Bheem, Vademataram Ramachandra Rao Narayan Rao Pawar and others.

The proposed centre would document the struggle and the contribution of the people and depict all the important episodes during the Telangana liberation movement in a manner that makes younger generations realise the significance of the movement and sacrifices of the leaders and inspire them.

The states, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana state, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, were told this during a videoconference on Sunday by Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal. The conference discussed ways to ensure adequate oxygen at all healthcare facilities in these seven states and unrestricted intra- as well as inter-state movement of oxygen.

The states were advised to remove any restrictions on movement of medical oxygen between states, ensure facility wise/hospital wise oxygen inventory management and advance planning for timely replenishment so that there are no shortage, pay bills to oxygen suppliers on time, and improve power supply to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to oxygen manufacturing units.

The states were told that oxygen cylinders that are sent for refilling must be properly disinfected before being dispatched to medical oxygen manufacturers.

The Conference discussed ways to ensure adequate oxygen at all healthcare facilities in these seven states.

# TS records 2,216 new Covid cases, 11 deaths in 24 hours

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

Telangana state registered 2,216 new Covid-19 cases, and 11 deaths from the disease in 24 hours beginning 8 pm, on Friday, the state health department has said.

In its Covid-19 bulletin issued on Sunday morning, the department said the new cases and deaths have taken the total Coronavirus infections to 1,57,096 and fatalities to 961.

According to the bulletin, 1,24,528 persons have recov-

ered and, as on Friday evening, 31,607 Covid-19 patients were being treated in hospitals, or were in home or institutional isolation. Of the 52,617 tests conducted in the same 24-hour period, results for 2,345 tests were awaited.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, comprising mostly Hyderabad city, recorded 341 new cases, followed by Ranga Reddy district with 210, Medchal-Malkajgiri with 148, Nalgonda with 126,

Khammam with 119, Karimnagar with 105, and Warangal Urban district with 102 new cases. The bulletin said 2,725 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment at government hospitals while another 4,208 were in private hospitals.

As many as 909 patients in private hospitals were in ICU wards either on ventilators or on mechanically assisted breathing while this number in government hospitals was 670, the bulletin said.

## 600 KG GANJA SEIZED, FIVE ARRESTED

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

Five persons were arrested and 600 kg of ganja was seized on Sunday by Excise and enforcement officials near Zaheerabad.

Of the arrested men, four — Manchendar Digambar Pawar, Sathish Manik Rao, Sheik Afzal, and Ameer Azeed Shaikh — belonged to Maharashtra while the fifth, Bantha Jaipal, is from Nagulgidda village in Sangareddy district of Telangana state, the officials said.

The group was transporting the ganja, packed into 300 packs of 2 kg each dried ganja, that were hidden under a load of coal in a lorry, the officials said.

The seizure was made after the vehicle was intercepted at a dhaba at Bidar crossroad near Zaheerabad. The inspection followed a tip off about the ganja consignment.

The officials said the ganja was being taken to Maharashtra from the Andhra-Odisha border.

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY

(Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India)

F.No.25/IFSCA/Vacancy notification/2020-2021 September 3, 2020

### VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India established by an Act of Parliament to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centres in India.

2. The Authority has initiated a one-time special recruitment drive for recruitment of Assistant Managers (Officer Grade A) from amongst candidates appeared in the Interview of Civil Services Examination-2019 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission(UPSC).

3. Details of posts and eligibility criteria are as under:

| S. N | Name of the post                    | Number of posts               | Eligibility   | Age limit   |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1.   | Assistant Manager (Officer Grade A) | 10 (UR-6, OBC-2, SC-1, EWS-1) | Candidates who appeared in the Interview of Civil Services Examination-2019 conducted by UPSC | As per UPSC norms for Civil Services Examination-2019 |

4. The candidates willing to apply for the above posts are requested to refer [www.dea.gov.in](http://www.dea.gov.in) for detailed vacancy notification, service benefits and the eligibility criteria in terms of age, qualification and experience etc.. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 30.09.2020 by 6.00 PM. For any query, please contact at 07961708432.

Officer on Special Duty  
For and on behalf of Chairperson  
International Financial Services Centres Authority  
davp 15228/11/0002/2021



## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY

(Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India)

F.No.24/IFSCA/Vacancy notification/2020-2021 September 7, 2020

### VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India established by Act of Parliament to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services and financial institutions located / performed in the International Financial Services Centres in India. The Authority invites applications from eligible Indian citizens for filling up of following posts on Direct Recruitment / Deputation / Contract basis. The place of posting is at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

| S.N | Name of the Post                         | Stream                           | Posts | Payscale           |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 1.  | Executive Director                       | Banking & Financial Institutions | 01    | Rs. 120500-3500(2) |
|     |  | Insurance Operations             | 01    | -127500 (3 Years)  |
| 2.  | Chief General Manager (Officer Grade F)  | Capital Market Operations        | 01    | Rs. 101900-3000(4) |
|     |  | Banking & Financial Institutions | 01    | -113900 (5 Years)  |
|     |  | Insurance Operations             | 01    |                    |
|     |  | General                          | 01    |                    |
| 3.  | General Manager (Officer Grade E)        | Capital Market Operations        | 01    | Rs. 72800-2250(1)- |
|     |  | Banking & Financial Institutions | 01    | 75050-2400(2)-     |
|     |  | Insurance Operations             | 01    | 79850-2500(3)-     |
|     |  | Fund Management Services         | 01    | 87350-3000(5)-     |
|     |  | Development, Regulation & Legal  | 01    | 102350 (12 Years)  |
|     |  | General and Finance & Accounts   | 01    |                    |
| 4.  | Deputy General Manager (Officer Grade D) | Capital Market Operations        | 01    | Rs. 68500-2150(2)- |
|     |  | Banking & Financial Institutions | 01    | 72800-2250(6)-     |
|     |  | Insurance Operations             | 01    | 86300 (9 Years)    |
|     |  | Fund Management Service          | 01    |                    |
|     |  | Development, Regulation & Legal  | 01    |                    |
|     |  | General and Finance & Accounts   | 01    |                    |
|     |  | IT                               | 01    |                    |
| 5.  | Asst. General Manager (Officer Grade C)  | Capital Market Operations        | 03    | Rs. 49000-1750(3)- |
|     |  | Banking & Financial Institutions | 02    | 54250-1900(2)-     |
|     |  |                                  |       |                    |

# DECCAN Chronicle

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

## It's status quo once again for Congress

The latest recast of the Congress leadership by its president Sonia Gandhi seems to be in line with the saying "the more you change, the more you remain the same". The party has chosen to return to ad hocism, a strategy which has helped it float at many critical times but weakened it every time. Ms Gandhi, who returned to her post after being 'interim president' for a year, has picked the same people who have been at the helm of the party all these years, to assist her. The Congress Working Committee (CWC), once the most powerful political forum in the country, sees no change that reflects the changed political reality of the country.

The exercise comes in the background of 23 senior party leaders writing a letter to Ms Gandhi demanding that the party have a full-time president who can inspire the party cadre, more freedom to state units and election to the state units. It is to the credit of Ms Gandhi that she has included some of the letter writers, including veteran face Ghulam Nabi Azad and Jitendra Prasada, members of the CWC. She, however, dropped them from the new arrangement which will advise her on "organisational and operational" matters. That articulate faces of the party such as Dr Shashi Tharoor, who has been an effective voice of the party within Parliament where it is a famished lot, and outside has not been accommodated in any of the new committees, is a signal that the rebels will find it tough to go further up in the party hierarchy if they raise their voice for more democratisation. The party seems to have no plans to brook dissidence if it is aimed at its first family.

It is disappointing that the grand old party of Indian politics has chosen to ignore the signals that emanate from the ground asking it to reinvent itself and be the bulwark of resistance to the right wing politics that is bent on undoing every single block with which the republic is built. Instead of looking for fresh faces that can inject new enthusiasm into the minds of the party workers whom one would be able to find in every village, the choice of leadership has remained a game of musical chairs.

A series of challenges of unprecedented magnitude and reach, each one with a firepower that can seriously damage its future, faces India and the government and the party that leads it have conveniently chosen to ignore each one of it. It is estimated that India will have the most number of Covid infections by mid-October. The economy has been in tatters and the pandemic has pushed it further down. The border issue is far from over, though the determined efforts of the Armed Forces have been able to checkmate the enemy at the border. The country deserves an Opposition which can hold the government accountable to Parliament and the people, and the Congress has the leading roles in ensuring it. A vibrant and elected leadership alone can ensure it.

## Vilification campaign

It turned out to be a false alarm. First, a tweet by the Swaraj Abhiyan leader and then a clarification issued by Delhi Police have confirmed that Yogendra Yadav, Sitaram Yechury, Jayati Ghosh and Apoorvanand have not been arraigned as accused in a supplementary chargesheet filed in connection with the death of a 17-year-old in the February riots in Delhi. It does raise a few uncomfortable queries, though, pertaining to both the source and the process resulting in the misleading news flash by the agency.

The leaders and activists, however, have been named in unauthenticated disclosure statements obtained by police from the accused and which form part of the chargesheet. It is not admissible in court but can form the basis of legal action against these individuals should there be found, or concocted, corroborative evidence. *Prima facie*, the allegation against them is about "provoking and mobilising" the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in Jaffrabad on February 22. But since they were perfectly within their rights to criticise and rally public opinion against CAA, it is no more than the government's political position on the matter. "Maligning the image of the government", to quote from the second chargesheet, is no offence under the law.

The Delhi Police investigation into the riots has been loudly condemned by this newspaper for being shoddy in the extreme and ideologically charged. The original chargesheet was against Pinjra Tod members Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, and Jamia Millia Islamia's Gulftisha Fathima. Incredible though it may appear to be, they are now being accused of instigating an unknown person to shoot Amaan, the 17-year-old riot victim. Curiously or not, Kalita and Narwal have written, "I refuse to sign", in some pages of the statements in the new chargesheet.

Recently, hearing a bail plea by her, the Delhi High Court held that there is no evidence against Kalita of participating in any conspiracy. Clearly, these new "revelations" strategically hyped by the police is part of its partisan agenda to discredit the anti-CAA movement, discourage new participants and intimidate, harass and harm the protesters.

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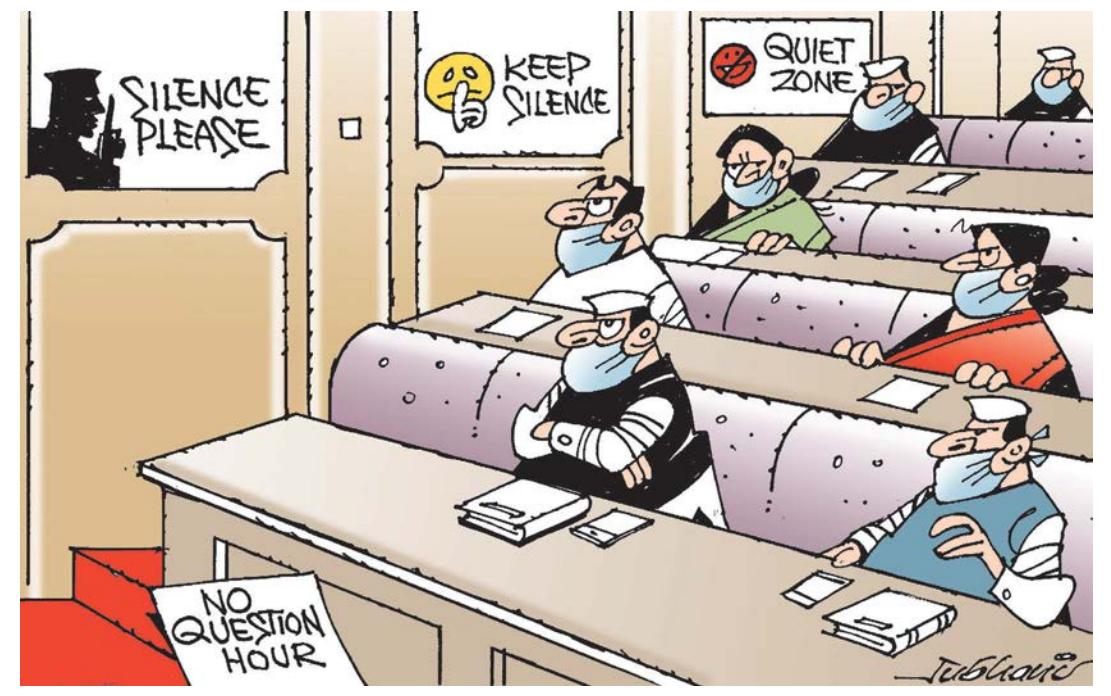
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Subhani



## Staring at Dragon's eyes: India must stay on guard



Ruchi Ghanashyam

The fire that was lit by the Chinese in the Galwan Valley on June 15 continues to smoulder in eastern Ladakh. The worst incident of violence on the India-China border since 1967 claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers. Several weeks later, many efforts to resolve the situation are yet to yield the desired results. India has demanded China restore the status quo, while China blames India, claiming sovereignty over the area.

This is the second India-China standoff in recent memory. The tussle between the two militaries in Doklam in 2017 is still fresh in our memory. The Chinese attitude towards India has been evident for years, if not decades. Covert Chinese backing for anti-India groups in the Northeast has been known for long. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, its tight embrace of Pakistan, including support at the UN for Pakistan-based terrorist Masood Azhar, are mirrored in its ant-India activities elsewhere in our neighbourhood. Each of India's neighbours is vulnerable to Chinese stratagems: Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives or Bhutan.

China's aggressiveness isn't restricted to India's neighbourhood. Its activities in the South China Sea have alienated much of Southeast Asia, and raised alarm bells in several Western capitals. Its bellicose approach to Taiwan hasn't gone unnoticed in Washington or elsewhere. Even worse is its approach towards Hong Kong, where it is systematically undermining the "One country, two systems" principle, which was the basis for the governance of Hong Kong and Macau since they became China's

Special Administrative Regions in the late-1990s. Britain has taken the lead to speak out against the draconian security law that China imposed on Hong Kong in July.

Human rights violations across China are another issue that bothers the West. The heavy-handed tackling of unarmed protesters in Hong Kong was brought into the world's living rooms by international TV channels. The treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang province has alarmed not only the West but also Central Asia.

China has demonstrated a voracious economic appetite. Of late, it has increasingly given direct loans and trade credits to developing nations, much beyond their capacity to pay back. One report claims it has given \$1.5 trillion in such loans and credits to over 150 countries, and more than 50 developing nations owe more than 15 per cent of their GDP to China. It eyes the assets of nations unable to service their debts, though the Chinese media denies this.

China's approach to trade is no less aggressive. The United States and China are engaged in what is described as a trade war, while European and other countries are concerned over China's single-minded approach. Chinese companies like Huawei and many Chinese apps are increasingly attracting greater scrutiny. India, too, has taken action to ban several of these apps. While disliking China's political and economic approach, most countries have looked the other way due to their growing dependence on Chinese finance and investments. The tipping point may have been reached as the world struggles to cope with the human and economic impact of the coronavirus that has brought most developed countries

virtually to their knees. India faces a challenge from China on its borders. It also has an opportunity to engage with a world that is increasingly uncomfortable with China's actions. The engagement among the "Quadrilateral" (India, Australia, Japan and the US) has been revitalised. It is time that the "Quad" is expanded to include Britain, that has a direct interest in Hong Kong and is a long-time maritime power. In addition, Britain has a good understanding of this region. France can similarly bring greater depth to this initiative. Closer coordination between the Quad and Southeast Asia must also be on our agenda. Our engagements shouldn't be limited to the Indo-Pacific; strengthening ties with Central Asian nations should also be an important objective.

These efforts shouldn't be seen or projected as "anti-China", and such coordination is vital to maintain secure and peaceful maritime movement in the Indo-Pacific. It could benefit development of the "blue economy", studying the impact of climate change and disaster relief and management. Our engagements with the Quad also shouldn't be seen as a panacea for our border problems with China. We must resolve the current situation with China through dialogue, but our engagement with China must firmly convey our resolve to defend our sovereignty. India's preference for peace should not be mistaken for military inability or unwillingness. This "red line" must be understood by the Chinese.

Within the bounds of this position, the creativity of our diplomats and policymakers can try and find a solution that is acceptable to both sides and which the Chinese leadership can take back to their people

**The Chinese seem to have opened too many fronts. Despite its strength and power, China today seems to have few friends in the world.**

without appearing to have surrendered or backtracked.

In war and diplomacy, it is always advisable not to open too many fronts simultaneously. The Chinese seem to have opened too many fronts. Despite its strength and power, China today seems to have few friends in the world. It's efforts to encircle India may have had dubious success, but its own overambition, bordering on arrogance, has led to the near encirclement of China itself.

Is it an arrogant misjudgement on China's part, which made it supremely confident of handling such widespread unhappiness of its actions across the globe? Somehow, it's difficult to accept that Chinese policymakers could have been so naive. Some blame internal struggle and dissonance within the Chinese leadership for the current overstretch. Others point to the centenary of the Communist Party of China next year and the desire of the leadership in Beijing to deliver the Chinese vision of itself as a great superpower at this important landmark.

Covid-19's appearance as China is preparing to deliver this vision; its actions in Ladakh and other places while the rest of the world is preoccupied with the Wuhan virus could be a coincidence, unless the macho Chinese behaviour in Ladakh and south of its borders is aimed at diverting the attention of its own people.

China is busy spreading its wings. From Hambantota to Gwadar, from Djibouti to Greece's Piraeus Port, and now its efforts to establish its footprint in the islands of southern Italy, combined with its increasing assertiveness in Hong Kong, the South China Sea and Ladakh, paint a picture of a China that has decided its time has come. India must remain on guard, both militarily and diplomatically. When it comes to the crunch, our battles are our own!

*The writer is a retired IFS officer who recently served as India's high commissioner to Britain*

## LETTERS COVID CASES

It is alarming that 40 per cent of Indian population is already exposed to Covid-19 (*Up to 130 cases are missed for every +ve test, DC, Sept. 12*). We should not be content with just testing and treating those infected. Concrete steps must be taken to control and arrest the rising number of positive cases and deaths. Neither Central nor state governments appear to be acting in this direction.

**S. Nageswara Rao**  
Hyderabad

## IMPRESSIVE CARTOON

DC cartoons are very impressive. Saturday's cartoon presented the true position of the Grand Old Party. Kudos to the cartoonist.

**Vikram Vivaan Raj K.N.**  
Hyderabad

## HATS OFF TO KCR

The efforts of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for more than three years to bring out the new Revenue Act and survey of lands should be appreciated. He is crusading reforms, doing justice to victimised *pattadars* and punishing the corrupt revenue system. The survey will separate the real *pattadars* and land-grabbers like milk and water and a conclusive title will be given.

**T. Kailash Ditya**  
Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### PM: Strong Centre alone can meet challenges

**KASARGOD, SEPT. 13**

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said today that the many difficult problems facing the country could be solved only if the Centre is able and strong and there is peace."

Addressing her first election meeting soon after arrival here this morning of a three-day tour of Kerala, Mrs. Gandhi said the people of Kerala were educated and intelligent.

They should take into account all prevailing factors before taking a decision in the coming elections.

"We are today engaged in the great task of reconstruction of India. In that I hope you and I have to play our part," Mrs. Gandhi said. Mrs. Gandhi said that some parties were talking in terms of fighting against the Centre.

**Kishwar Desai**  
London Diary

**Apocalypse just around corner, Rule of Six can't ward it off**

two sections of society who will always appreciate WFH are women and authors. For once I am in the winning team — being a woman and an author!

But meanwhile, we are now seeing The Return of Carona in the UK. This is a horrifying sequel to the first act. Covid cases are doubling every week and the dreaded R number is 1.7. As it happens, schools are starting again and within a fortnight universities will reopen. The government already looks indecisive as it did last April. Now it keeps on changing its mind as frequently as the weather changes. Can we blame them? There is no ready-made solution — and even those subjects which may have a solution such as Brexit are being tossed around. I always think of Boris as a "jolly" leader who somehow thinks that if you remain optimistic the problem will disappear. But Brexit plus Carona equals Chaos. Right now, the country looks unprepared for

the apocalypse round the corner.

But when in doubt invent a new rule! Rule Britannia! A new rule says that only six persons can gather together indoors or outdoors. So all those restaurants and pubs which did a roaring trade in the summer will be back under wraps. Offices were about to reopen and London transport would have carried more passengers on the underground. But now this has been put under a cloud. Of course before it comes into effect on Monday the weekend will be full of crowded beaches, pubs and restaurant. The stiff upper lip of the quietly obedient Briton is nowhere to be found, and instead we see lips firmly wrapped around beer glasses.

Indeed one argument is that it was the haste with which the government relaxed the lockdown to help the economy that may have caused the resurgence of the infection. For the first time since he became Chancellor, Rishi Sunak is

being questioned about the wisdom of his Eat Out to Help Out Policy which gave customers price cuts in restaurants for each meal they had on selected days of the week. And the opening of the pubs would have added to the return of Covid. But as often happened since the epidemic started, scientists, civil servants, politicians have not agreed on anything. "The Rule of Six" sounds suspiciously like a Sherlock Holmes mystery — and possibly will remain one.

Of course football resumed this weekend but without spectators just as it was during the last season. People will still watch it online and at least there will be something to talk about on Monday morning when they meet their mates or crowd out the phone lines of radio talk shows. The English male talks more about football than any other topic over the weekend — before the match on Saturday and then after final whistle and over the entire weekend

ending at Monday lunchtime.

But what about theatre? How many of us are prepared walk into a theatre to watch a play about Covid-19? At least it will be a live performance with properly socially distanced seating. Well, some people have done exactly that because Ralph Fiennes is enacting the role of a Covid patient at a time the government dithers over the next step, at the Bridge theatre. The playwright of *Beat the Devil* is David Hare — who apparently did get the infection — and then was inspired to write the play. Perhaps it is a great idea to stage this monologue — but honestly, even though the combination of Fiennes and Hare are dynamite, right now a monologue on Covid is the last thing I need.

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

**SHORT TAKES**  
**WB: BJP WORKER FOUND HANGING FROM TREE**

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, SEPT. 13

A BJP worker was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Hooghly of West Bengal on Sunday morning. Ganesh Roy, the deceased, was a booth level worker of the party. The body, with legs bent and apparently touching the ground almost, was found hanging from a tree, one and half km away from his home. A noose was tied around the neck of Roy.

The police later recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. Roy's family members said that he went out of home at Khanati village in Goghat on Saturday afternoon but he did not return. According to them, he was murdered by the Trinamul Congress which they claimed was threatening him with dire consequences before the Lok Sabha Elections last year.

Echoing their state BJP president Dilip Ghosh also accused the ruling Trinamul Congress of killing Roy in cold blood and then hanging the body to pass it as a case of suicide.

**ARTISAN OFFERS TO MAKE DURGA IDOL AT ₹101**

PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC  
BERHAMPORE, SEPT. 13

At a time when many Durga Puja organisers in West Bengal are facing difficulty to collect donations to organise the biggest festival of the state, due to financial crunch amid Covid-19 pandemic, a Berhampore-based artisan has dropped his remuneration to ₹101, perhaps the lowest amount, for idol making. Kanchan Karmakar, the reputed idiomaker said he would take the amount as his fee from the Berhampore Indraprastha Women Durga Puja Committee.

Asked about his decision, he said, "I have been working as a sculpture for the last 45 years. My creations were sent to the US, Europe and the Middle East earlier. But this time I am making an idol of Goddess Durga of clay for our local organisers all of whom are women. Since they have no funds due to this pandemic, they can not afford to pay for a Durga idol. So they decided to not organise the Durga Puja this year. I then reduced my fee as a token price to help them continue with their puja and bring happiness in our locality."

Chhanda Dutta, one of the puja committee organisers, said, "We are indebted to Kanchana for his good effort. Now we can organise our Durga Puja despite many odds. Due to the pandemic situation we failed to collect big amount but he generously supported us. The price of his idol can be anything around ₹50,000! But, he dropped the price for us."

**YECHURY NAMED IN DELHI RIOTS CHARGESHEET**

New Delhi, Sept. 13: The CPI(M) on Sunday criticised the government over the reference to its leader Sitaram Yechury and some civil society members in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police which cites statements from some accused to say that they mobilised anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protesters.

"The CPI(M) condemns this obnoxious action by the Delhi Police to further the narrative of its political masters and urges the government to desist from such acts of criminalising peaceful political protests," the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Politburo said in a statement.

The reaction came a day after it was reported that the names of CPI(M) general secretary Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh and Delhi University professor Apoorvanand figure in the supplementary chargesheet in the February riots cases, allegedly for "provoking and mobilising" anti-CAA protesters.

The Sunday statement by the Politburo said it was "shocked by the brazenness with which the Delhi Police, acting under Home Minister Amit Shah, has tried to implicate prominent political leadership, academics, cultural personalities and activists in connection with the horrific communal violence in North East Delhi in February".

# Nepal trying to stake claim on 3 villages in U'khand

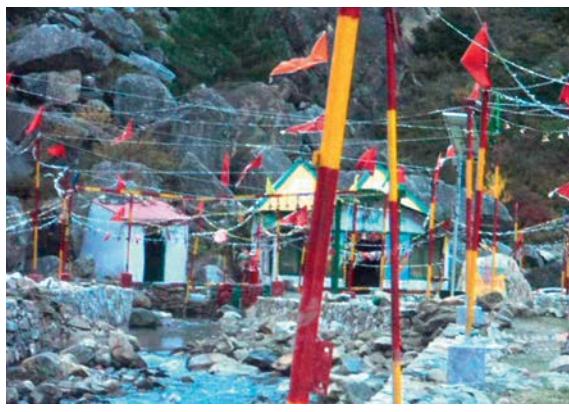
VIKRAM SHARMA | DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

tonnes of money, land and houses along with Nepalese citizenship — most of which is believed to be funded by China.

Sources in the know of the Nepalese "operation" told *Deccan Chronicle* that for the past few days, "agents" working for the Nepal government have got in touch with people residing in Kuti, Nabbi and Gunji villages — located a few kilometres from Kalapani territory in Pithoragarh district — asking them to consider shifting loyalties to Nepal.

The locals of these three Indian villages, located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, who share a 'roti-beti' relationship with the people of Darchula in Nepal, are getting multiple calls from people on the other side asking them to consider the "irresistible" offer.

Information reaching Indian agencies is that the agents have been either



Temple at Kalapani.



One of the bridges between India and Nepal in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

— DC

been making calls directly to the villagers, claiming to be their "well-wishers", or taking the other easy way of making the locals of Darchula speak with their friends and relatives in the three villages.

Since decades, people on both sides have remained in constant touch with each other, hopping in and out of Indian territory everyday as they either have business links or relatives on the other side.

Many Indian girls have married into Nepali families in Darchula and elsewhere in Nepal.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, India-Nepal border has been sealed for the last few months. People on both sides communicate with each other using

Nepal Telecom SIM cards.

With the frequency of such calls increasing by the day — which has now become point of discussion in the three villages — the villagers are contemplating writing to the Centre that there is no question of shifting loyalties and that they firmly remain with India.

Many of them even held

tions earlier that Nepal might resort to such moves, especially after it claimed Kalapani to be its territory, the attempts at wooing with the villagers with land, money and Nepalese citizenship has increased manifold even as tensions between India and China along the LAC is at an all-time high.

For quite some time now, Nepal has left the people in its border villages along the tri-junction between India, China and Nepal at the mercy of the People's Liberation Army of China which supplies food and essentials to the villagers to win them over, even as the Chinese Army has been steadily taking control of certain areas inside Nepalese territory.

In May, Nepal triggered a diplomatic row with India after it claimed Kalapani and Lipulekh in its political maps. Later, it showed Limpiyadhura within its boundaries.

# Sena targets Akshay Kumar for silence on Kangana row

Is Mumbai only to make money for them, Sena MP questions Bollywood

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 13



Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut during a meeting with Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Sunday.

— PTI

## Will face all political storms, fight Covid, says Thackeray

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 13

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday assured that he would fight with Coronavirus infection as well as all political storms in the state. While addressing the people through social media, Thackeray announced to start a campaign 'My Family, My Responsibility' from September 15.

Meanwhile, calling Chief Minister's address a big disappointment, the BJP said people were expecting him to explain the government's roadmap to tackle rising number of cases and deaths due to Covid-19. Despite the worsening situation in the state, the Chief Minister was seen only praising himself, the opposition party said.

They want to win elections in Bihar by backing Kangana. For this, it is okay for them to insult Maharashtra. Not a single Marathi Union minister in Delhi has felt bad about Maharashtra's insult, he said.

The reaction came a day after it was reported that the names of CPI(M) general secretary Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh and Delhi University professor Apoorvanand figure in the supplementary chargesheet in the February riots cases, allegedly for "provoking and mobilising" anti-CAA protesters.

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## ASSEMBLY | POLLS

## PM inaugurates 3 petroleum sector projects, gives big thumbs up to Nitish

# Modi hails Bihar as 'powerhouse of talent'

Patna, Sept. 13: In the run up to the Assembly polls in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated three petroleum sector projects, gave a big thumbs up to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and reached out to voters, calling the state a "powerhouse of talent".

Modi's praise of alliance partner Kumar came weeks ahead of the elections that are likely to be held in October-November, as he dedicated three petroleum projects worth nearly ₹900 crore to peo-

ple. These included a gas pipeline that extended from Durgapur in West Bengal to Banka in Bihar. Banka was also the beneficiary of an LPG bottling plant while another such unit is located at Harsiddhi in East Champaran district.

"I had the opportunity of flagging off the work on extension of the gas pipeline a year-and-a-half ago. I am delighted to see its completion. Nitish ji has played an important role in ushering in this change in the state," Modi said.

In his trademark style, the Prime Minister began his speech with a few sentences in Angika, the dialect spoken in Banka and adjoining districts.

He marvelled at the gas pipeline project which was no mean feat as it involved working across a stretch of nearly 200 km of difficult terrain dotted with many rivers, dense forests and hills.

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"I would like to use the

terms gas-based industry and petro-connectivity, which may sound very technical but actually impact the lives of the common people," he said, addressing the function virtually from the national capital.

Just imagine what would have been the situation if people were to keep venturing out in search of wood and other fuel for cooking their meals.

The need is no longer there thanks to schemes like the Ujjwala Yojana which has ensured that LPG reaches households

of the poorest of the poor, he said while talking about the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Prime Minister recalled how people would queue up in front of the residences of MPs for a cooking gas connection from their quota. "There was a time when having an LPG connection was a luxury not many could afford," he said.

Launching a veiled attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who he did not mention by name, Modi said Bihar has come out of an era when rail, road and

internet connectivity were made light of and people used to say of what use roads are for those who walk on their feet.

He said Bihar, like the rest of eastern India, never lacked *samarthyā* (potential) and *samskruthā* (natural resources) but suffered for want of political will and faulty priorities.

Being a land-locked state, Bihar was obviously at a disadvantage when it came to availing petroleum projects. All that is going to change, the Prime Minister said.

Nagpur, Sept. 13: A sub-adult male tiger was found dead in Umred Paani Karhandla wildlife sanctuary in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, a forest official said on Sunday.

The carcass of the two-year-old big cat was spotted by forest staff during patrolling in Kuhi wildlife range, Field Director, Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra), Ravikiran Govekar said in a release. "The dead tiger was one of three sub-adult cubs of female tiger T17," it said.

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## TIGER FOUND DEAD IN MAHA SANCTUARY

Deoria case: CBI to file chargesheet against 4 babus

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13

cial irregularities against the Deoria-based NGO — Maa Vindhayasini Mahila Evam Balika Sanrakshan Griha, senior public servants of the revenue department of the state kept on releasing funds to the shelter home. The accused NGO was running the shelter home," sources said.

The central probe agency will mention names of at least four senior public servants and others in its chargesheet, that will be filed very soon, they added.

The CBI had registered two FIRs against Girija Tripathi and Superintendent Kanchan Lata Tripathi of the Maa Vindhayasini Mahila Evam Balika Sanrakshan Griha, Deoria in connection with the case.

# Odisha minister admitted to hosp.

AKSHAY KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 13

Odisha textiles, handlooms and handicrafts minister, Padmini Dian, and her husband, Sadashib Dian, and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha member, Ramesh Chandra Majhi, who tested positive for Coronavirus earlier last week, were on Sunday shifted to a Covid-19 hospital in the state capital after they complained of difficulty in breathing.

Dain, her husband, son and nephew tested positive for the virus on September 3, following which they were under home isolation.

When the minister and her husband faced difficulty in breathing late on Saturday evening, they were shifted to a Covid-19 hospital at Jeypore in Koraput district and later sent to SUM Covid-19 hospital in Bhubaneswar.

The Nabarangpur MP who was also under home isolation from September 4, was shifted to another Covid-19 hospital here.

On Sunday, Odisha reported 3,913 new Covid-19 cases to go past the 150,000-mark for the total number of Coronavirus cases detected in the state since the outbreak of the disease this year.

Of the total 3,913 cases reported in the last 24 hours, 2,348 cases were detected from various quarantine centres while 1,565 are local contact cases.

## Odisha minister admitted to hosp.

after developing breathing difficulties.

Another minister, Ranendra Pratap Swain, has been admitted to SUM Covid-19 hospital after his swab reports returned positive.

Till date, 18 MLAs, including Bhubaneswar (North) legislator, Susant Rout, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA, Ananta Narayan Jena, Berhampur MLA, Bikram Panda, Chandbali MLA, Byomakesh Ray and Khandapara MLA, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik have tested positive for the virus.

Six ministers, including Sushanta Singh, Tukuni Sahu and Arun Sahoo have contracted the virus.

On Sunday, Odisha reported 3,913 new Covid-19 cases to go past the 150,000-mark for the total number of Coronavirus cases detected in the state since the outbreak of the disease this year.

The Nabarangpur MP who was also under home isolation from September 4, was shifted to another Covid-19 hospital here.

Being a land-locked state, Bihar was obviously at a disadvantage when it came to availing petroleum projects. All that is going to change, the Prime Minister said.

## IN BRIEF

**Swiss cops break up party**

**Geneva:** Police in the Swiss capital Bern said they used water cannon and rubber bullets to disperse a crowd of mostly young people holding an illegal "street carnival". Several hundred people gathered late Saturday in the northeast of the city around cars blaring music and floats. A huge banner in French read "Street Carnival", according to a photo on [aurka.com](#), the website of a Swiss photographer who specialises in demonstrations and street art. Police said they intervened when those taking part began heading toward the city centre and throwing bottles and stones at officers. It was not immediately clear why the gathering was deemed illegal. Demonstrators "set up barricades and set off fireworks", a police statement said.

**Vatican: Return to in-person Mass**

**Vatican City:** The Vatican has said it was "necessary and urgent" to return to in-person Masses as soon as anti-Coronavirus measures permit. The head of the Vatican's liturgy office, Cardinal Robert Sarah, on Saturday said in a letter to bishops conferences that virtual liturgies, while useful, were no replacement for the real thing. He said physical presence by the faithful in churches was "vital, indispensable, irreplaceable". While some Catholic priests claimed Coronavirus lockdowns that shuttered churches infringed on religious liberties, Pope Francis has adhered to Italy's strict lockdown. He halted all public Masses at the Vatican, live-streamed his morning liturgies during the peak of Italy's outbreak, and at one point even admonished priests who balked at the measures for their "adolescent resistance". The Vatican said on Saturday that Francis had approved Sarah's letter to bishops conferences.

**Protest outside Netanyahu house**

**Jerusalem:** Thousands of Israelis demonstrated outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence in central Jerusalem late Saturday, demanding he resign over his trial on corruption charges and what is widely seen as his mishandling of the Coronavirus pandemic. With Israel reporting record levels of new Coronavirus cases each day, the country appears to be headed toward a nationwide lockdown this week ahead of the Jewish New Year. Saturday's demonstration came a day after Israel announced an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Bahrain, the second Arab country to normalise ties with Israel in under a month and just the fourth overall. But the surprise announcement had little effect on the thousands of demonstrators gathering outside Netanyahu's residence every Saturday throughout the summer to protest his corruption trial, handling of the health crisis and the resulting economic pain.

**PHILIPPINES DEPORTS U.S. MARINE**

**Manila,** Sept. 13: A US Marine convicted of killing a Filipino transgender woman was deported Sunday after a presidential pardon cut short his detention in a case that renewed outrage over a pact governing American military presence in the Philippines.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton left a message to President Rodrigo Duterte and to the family of Jennifer Laude, who was convicted of killing in 2014 after finding out that she was a transgender in a motel northwest of Manila. The message's content will be released after his departure, his lawyer, Rowena Garcia-Flores, said. Philippine immigration officers and American security personnel escorted the 25-year-old Marine from his cell in the main military camp in metropolitan Manila to the airport, where he boarded a military aircraft.

Ahead of the flight, he was subjected to a Coronavirus test, which turned negative, immigration spokeswoman Dana Sandoval said. "He's been successfully deported," Sandoval said. On Monday, Duterte granted an "absolute and unconditional pardon" to Pemberton in a move that caught many by surprise.

The Philippine leader has long been a vocal critic of US security policies while reaching out to China and Russia.

**Marching on in Minsk**

Opposition supporters parade through the streets during a rally to protest against the presidential election results in Minsk on Saturday. Belarusians have been demonstrating against the disputed re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko for a month, with more than 100,000 people flooding the streets of Minsk for the four straight weekends.

— AFP

**Afghan peace talks: The hard work begins****Search on for lasting ceasefire after decades of fighting****AFGHAN RESOLUTION IS THE KEY TO REGIONAL PEACE, SAYS IMRAN**SHAFAQ ALI | DC  
ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 13

Doha, Sept. 13: Peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators get down to business Sunday, with the search for a lasting ceasefire one of many key issues up for discussion.

"This could be one of their ideas or one of their demands," said Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation.

A slick opening ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha on Saturday saw the Afghan government, and allies including the United States, call for a ceasefire.

But the Taliban, who have fought a guerrilla campaign against both since they were forced from power in 2001, did not mention a truce as they came to the negotiating table.

The head of the peace process for the Afghan government suggested to AFP that the Taliban could offer a ceasefire in

exchange for the release of more of their jailed fighters.

Negotiations will be arduous and messy, delegates warned during the opening ceremony, and are starting even as deadly violence continues to grip Afghanistan.

"We will undoubtedly encounter many challenges in the talks over the coming days, weeks and months," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said as he called for the warring sides to "seize this opportunity" to secure peace.

— AFP

**2 L.A. DEPUTIES SHOT, HUNT ON FOR ATTACKER**

Compton (US), Sept. 13: The shooting of two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies in an apparent ambush prompted a manhunt for the shooter, reaction from the President and protests outside the hospital where the wounded deputies were being treated Saturday night in California.

The 31-year-old female deputy and 24-year-old male deputy both underwent surgery Saturday evening, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said in a late-night news conference. Both graduated from the academy 14 months ago, he said. The deputies were shot while sitting in their patrol car at a Metro rail station and were able to radio for help, the sheriff said.

Villanueva expressed frustration as he urged people to pray for the officers.

It sparked thousands of reactions, including from President Donald Trump, who responded, "Animals that must be hit hard!"

— AP

**Lens on foreign journos if giving 'slanted view' of Oz**

Melbourne, Sept. 13: Foreign journalists working in Australia will come under the scrutiny of federal agencies if they provide a "slanted view" of the country, interfere with its democracy or steal the intellectual property, a senior minister warned on Sunday, amidst a diplomatic standoff with China.

In a Facebook post, the Prime Minister reiterated the determination that Pakistan will continue to remain in full support and solidarity with the Afghan people as they march forward in this consequential journey for peace and development.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak

said Pakistan was committed to bring peace in Afghanistan. He termed resumption of intra-Afghan dialogue a good omen for the region.

He said peace in Afghanistan is vital for the prosperity of Pakistan. Speaking about the national issues, the Defence Minister said the country had come out of the financial crisis and now the government had focused provision of relief to the people.

Pervez Khattak said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan will honour all pledges made with the people.

— PTI

**Lanka Constitution Amendment faces internal resistance**

Colombo, Sept. 13: The Sri Lankan government's proposed 20th Constitution Amendment has faced internal resistance from within a faction of the ruling SLPP parliamentary group itself, ahead of its inclusion in Parliament's order paper, the party members said on Sunday.

The government on Sept. 2 gazetted the 20th Constitution Amendment draft, the new proposed legislati-

on that would replace the 19th Amendment introduced in 2015 that curtailed the powers of the President and strengthened the role of Parliament. The 19A was seen as the most progressive pro-democracy reformist move since Sri Lanka came to be governed under the all-powerful executive presidency in 1978.

It depoliticised the government administration by ensuring the indepe-

dence of key pillars such as the judiciary, public service and elections.

The 20th Amendment proposes to restore full legal immunity to the President, removing the provisions made in the 19A to take legal action against the President. The office of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in a statement on Saturday night said that a nine-member ministerial committee has been appoi-

nated to review the 20A in its present form and, if needed, a fresh gazette will be issued.

Ever since the ruling SLPP's own parliamentarians and the party's allies

have been publicly expressing unhappiness over its certain provisions, the party members said. If the 20A is implemented in its present form, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

will be the hardest-hit as his current powers as the premier would be diminished with his younger brother and the President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, assuming full executive power, they said.

Moreover, Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is also a two-time president, will not be able to contest for the presidential election again as the two term bar has been retained in the 20A draft,

the party members said. The draft legislation was to be placed in Parliament's order book this week for debate and adaptation. However, it faced internal resistance from within a faction of the SLPP parliamentary group.

And now, with Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is also the leader of the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), appointing a committee, this process could be delayed.

— PTI

## FILM FEST

**Hungarian Kornel Mundruczo's 1st English foray *Pieces of A Woman* is set in Massachusetts****And the Oscar goes to... 'Princess' Vanessa Kirby**SUPARNA SHARMA | DC  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13

what we see, how, when, and for how long.

No matter how well one of them does, creating that magic depends on what everyone does. Hungarian director Kornel Mundruczo's first English language film, *Pieces of A Woman*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (Tiff) on Saturday, strives for that kind of brilliance and achieves it in a bravura sequence that comes barely six minutes into the film and goes on for almost 24 minutes.

Based on a screenplay by Kata Webber, *Pieces of A Woman* is set in Massachusetts and eventually decides

sets, US, where Martha (Vanessa Kirby), a slim, chic executive, and her construction worker husband Shaun (Shia LaBeouf) have planned a home birth for their first child. They have bought a baby-friendly car, a room with a crib is ready, and the midwife has been booked. September 17. There is slight chill in the air. Winter is coming. And so is the baby.

Cine matographe Benjamin Loeb's long, intimate sequence, shot by a hand-held camera, stays with Martha for the entirety of the birth of her baby. It starts with mild contrac-

tions, her water breaking, the contractions increasing and a replacement midwife turning up.

In this sequence, where there are few, carefully-concealed cuts, the camera stays close to Martha as a helpless Shaun tries his best to be of some use. It zooms in when Martha needs a hand to squeeze and

steps back as she gets delirious with pain and says she smells something rotten. We feel as if we too are attached to her bobbing around Martha gently in amniotic fluid along with her baby. Your hair will stand on its end when Martha screams in pain, her veins popping out as she tries to push the baby out.

This visceral look at what child birth entails for a woman, eager and desperate to eject a piece of herself, is just the beginning of change — of Martha's body and emotions.

Vanessa Kirby, most well-known for playing Princess

Margaret in Netflix's *Crone*, is stripped of all veneer of glamour and even dialogue in *Pieces of A Woman* as she has to first let a child rip through her and then cradle a tragedy that keeps taking her apart, bit by bit.

Kirby carries this destruction, this loss in her body, in her silence, in her inability to tolerate even the most loving and benign of touches. They all feel as if they are taking a bite of her broken pieces. While Martha is pretending to live, a media and court room drama is playing out. But Martha is keeping everything and everybody at an arm's

length. Her mother, Elizabeth (played with flinty self-assurance and infuriating interference by Ellen Burstyn) won't have it. In the film's second most powerful scene, Elizabeth tells her own story, and the film again takes Martha apart so that she can piece herself back together.

Though it's too early to tell, but for now my prediction is that the next Oscar for best performance female will go to Vanessa Kirby. And I won't be surprised if Ellen Burstyn stands smiling next to her, holding her own golden knight.

tiff

**China calls HK people held at sea 'separatists'****US threat to world peace: China min**

Beijing, Sept. 13: The 12 Hong Kong people arrested at sea by mainland authorities last month were separatists, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry said on Sunday, in response to her US counterpart's characterisation of the arrest as a deterioration of human rights.

The comment came a day after relatives of the detainees held a news conference in Hong Kong demanding the urgent return of the 12 who were intercepted by the Guangdong coast guard on Aug. 23 on a boat bound for Taiwan.

Donning masks and hats to shield their identities, they made their first public appeal for help and information on their relatives' plight, pleading for them to be allowed to consult lawyers appointed by their families and not the Chinese government and to be allowed to call relatives in Hong Kong.

US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus tweeted on Saturday that their arrest was "another example of the deterioration of human rights in Hong Kong", and called on mainland authorities to "ensure due process".

The arrests came about two months after the mainland government imposed a security law on the special administrative region following months of pro-democracy demonstrations.

China's Hua Chunying responded in another tweet. "Seriously? Fact check: The 12 people were arrested for illegally crossing the

border of the international order and the destroyer of world peace," he said. US actions in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries over the past two decades have resulted in the deaths of more than 800,000 people and displacement of millions, Qian said.

"Rather than reflecting on itself, the US issued a so-called report that made false comments about China's normal defence and military construction," he said in the statement. "We call on the US to view China's national defence and military construction objectively and rationally, cease making false statements and related reports, and take concrete actions to safeguard the healthy development of bilateral military relations."

The report examined the PLA's technical capabilities, doctrines and the ultimate aims of China's military buildup.

"Many years of evidence shows that it is the US that is the fomenter of regional unrest, the violation of

border. The investigation is ongoing, it said.

"Police will protect the legitimate rights and interests of criminal suspects in accordance with law," the police said.

The relatives on Saturday said they had been given no information on the allegations.

— Reuters

**Blair, Major call for boycott of Johnson's Brexit bill plan**

London, Sept. 13: Britain's former prime ministers from rival parties, Tony Blair and John Major, united on Sunday to call on members of Parliament to boycott Prime Minister Boris Johnson's proposed law aimed at overriding parts of the Brexit divorce agreement.

Ahead of the Internal Market Bill coming up for debate in the House of Commons on Monday, Major as a member of Johnson's own Conservative Party and Blair from the Opposition Labour Party warned that what is being proposed by the prime minister is "shocking" and has wide-ranging ramifications on all future trade negotiations, not only with the European Union (EU) but with other nations.

"The overt repudiation of the treaty — by seeking to override unilaterally the provisions agreeing to the application of certain EU rules to Northern Ireland — strikes at the very heart of the withdrawal agreement," the duo wrote in a joint article for *The Sunday Times*.

If the government has concerns about specific parts of the withdrawal treaty, there are ready mechanisms within it to resolve them amicably; in the first instance by negotiation between the UK and the EU and, if that fails, through independent arbitration. It has chosen to ignore these options.

TONY BLAIR AND JOHN MAJOR, Britain's former PMs

"If the government has concerns about specific parts of the withdrawal treaty, there are ready mechanisms within it to resolve them amicably; in the first instance by negotiation between the UK and the EU and, if that fails, through independent arbitration. It has chosen to ignore these options.

The Bill focuses on the Northern Ireland Protocol — the part of the Brexit divorce designed to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland. If it became law, it would give UK ministers powers to modify or "disapply" rules relating to the movement of goods between Britain and Northern Ireland that will come into force from January 2021, unless the UK and EU are able to strike a trade deal ahead of that.

— PTI

the party members said. The draft legislation was to be placed in Parliament's order book this week for debate and adaptation. However, it faced internal resistance from within a faction of the SLPP parliamentary group. And now, with Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is also the leader of the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), appointing a committee, this process could be delayed.

**IN BRIEF**  
**China bans Malaysia horses**

**Beijing:** China has banned imports of horses and other equines and their products from Malaysia, following an outbreak of African Horse Sickness in the Southeast Asian country. China will also strengthen elimination of insects that might carry the disease on transportation vehicles coming from Malaysia, the General Administration of Customs said in a statement published on its website on Saturday. China said in April that it was testing horses in its border areas after the deadly disease was detected in Thailand.

**11 perish in Nepal landslide**

**Kathmandu, Sept. 13:** A massive landslide triggered by torrential rains in central Nepal has killed at least 11 people, including seven women, and left 20 missing, an official said on Sunday. The landslide swept away some 15 houses in Birkharka area of Barhabe Rural Municipality in Sindhupalchowk district, 120 kilometres east of Kathmandu, on Saturday night. A security team comprising the Nepal Army and Nepal Police personnel have been dispatched to the incident site for carrying out search and rescue operation, the official said. The bodies of 11 people, including seven women, have been recovered from the site and search operations have been going on to rescue the missing people, according to the home ministry. The landslide occurred due to incessant rainfall in the area for the past couple of days. Some 247 houses have been identified as risky due to landslide in the area which lies near Nepal-Tibet border. The incident occurred as the government failed to act promptly despite the local residents demanding that they be shifted to safer areas.

**Rains claim 300 lives in Pakistan**

**Islamabad:** Over 300 people died and 239 others were injured in rain-related incidents in Pakistan in the last over two months since the monsoon began in the country, the national disaster management agency has said. Every year, Pakistan struggle to cope with the annual monsoon deluge and other rain-related incidents which cause huge loss of life and properties. The monsoon season runs from June-July through September. Monsoon rains are lashing Pakistan at a time when authorities are trying to contain the spread of the Coronavirus, which has infected over three lakh people and caused 6,377 deaths since February when the country reported its first case. Seasonal torrential rains have claimed 310 lives — 135 men, 107 children and 70 women, the National Disaster Management Authority said. Sindh is the worst affected province with 136 fatalities, followed by 116 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16 in Punjab, 21 in Balochistan, 12 in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and 11 in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Express Tribune reported.

**GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE NEEDED: DALAI**

**Washington, Sept. 13:** Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama called on world leaders Saturday to join forces in fighting climate change.

"Now we should pay more attention about global warming," the exiled leader said in a video message to a virtual meeting of Group of Seven parliamentary leaders.

The session was hosted by the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, a longstanding advocate for the Himalayan region.

National leaders have been meeting less frequently with the Dalai Lama due to pressure from China.

In his video address, the Dalai Lama said people today have more of a sense of shared interest in saving the planet. "If you look (at) past history, too much emphasis individual nation, individual religion, including colour," the 85-year-old Buddhist leader said, according to a statement from the International Campaign for Tibet. "So it creates a lot of problem. Basically, you see, they are selfish, self-centered attitudes," the 1989 Nobel peace laureate said.

Climate change is affecting some of the world's least powerful people, the Dalai Lama added. "Due to global warming, too much rain some area. Some area dry. So these people suffer," the Dalai Lama said.



Fire damage is seen in Mill City, Oregon, United States. Diminishing winds and rising humidity helped firefighters battling deadly blazes in Oregon and California, but with dozens of people still missing, authorities in both states feared that the receding flames could reveal many more dead across the blackened landscape. — AP

## Better weather helps in fire battle

### Smoke chokes West Coast as wildfire deaths keep climbing

**Salem (US), Sept. 13:** Diminishing winds and rising humidity helped firefighters battling deadly blazes in Oregon and California, but with dozens of people still missing, authorities in both states feared that the receding flames could reveal many more dead across the blackened landscape.

Oregon's emergency management director said officials were preparing for a possible "mass fatality event", and the state fire marshal was abruptly placed on administrative leave. More than two dozen people have died in wildfires in California, Oregon and Washington. The White House announced that President Donald Trump would visit California on Monday for a briefing on the fires.

The same smoke that painted California skies orange also helped crews corral the state's deadliest blaze of the year by blocking the sun, reducing temperatures and raising humidity, officials said.

At least 18 people have been killed in recent blazes in California. Oregon authorities have not released an exact death count, but at least eight fatalities were reported from the fires that have taken a toll from one end of the state to the other. Gov. Kate Brown said Friday that tens of thousands of people had been forced to flee their homes.

Scores of people were missing in Jackson County in the southern area of the state and in Marion County east of Salem, the state capital, Brown told a news conference.

What else can go wrong?" lamented Danielle Oliver, 40, of Happy Valley, southeast of Portland. The death toll from the fires in California, Oregon and Washington stood at 31 and was expected to rise sharply.

Most of the fatalities were in California and Oregon. Oregon's emergency management director said officials were preparing for a possible "mass fatality event" if many more bodies turn up in the ash. And the state fire marshal resigned after abruptly being placed on administrative leave.

The state police superintendent said the crisis demand-

ed an urgent response that required a leadership change.

Oliver has an autoimmune disorder that makes her vulnerable to wildfire smoke, so she agreed to evacuate.

She was nervous about going to a shelter because of the virus, but sleeping in a car with her husband, 15-year-daughter, two dogs and a cat was not a viable option.

The temperature checks and social distancing at the American Red Cross shelter helped put her mind at ease.

Now the family waits, hoping their house will survive. She has previously experienced homelessness.

— AP

including the suburbs of Portland. More than 40,000 Oregonians have been evacuated and about 500,000 are in different levels of evacuation zones, having been told to leave or to prepare to do so, Brown said.

The governor dialled back a statement late Thursday by the state Office of Emergency Management that said a half-million people had been ordered to evacuate statewide.

Scores of people were missing in Jackson County in the southern area of the state and in Marion County east of Salem, the state capital, Brown told a news conference.

For people already enduring the coronavirus pandemic, the resulting economic fallout and political tensions evident in the Black Lives Matter protests and far-right counter protests, the fires added a new layer of misery.

"What's next? You have the protests, Coronavirus pandemic, now the wildfires.

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"I'm a little bit exhausted that we have to continue to debate this issue. This is a climate damn emergency. This is real and it's happening. This is the perfect storm," Newsom, 52, said as he stood on charred, smoky mountain terrain near Oroville in Northern California.

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## quick BITES

| INDICATORS             | %                |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Sensex                 | 38,854.55        |
| Nifty 50               | 11,464.45        |
| S&P 500*               | 3,340.97         |
| Dollar (\$)            | 73.53 -0.09      |
| Pound Sterling (\$)    | 94.32 1.30       |
| Euro (\$)              | 87.06 0.17       |
| Gold (10gm)* (\$)      | 52,452 ▾191 0.36 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)*  | 39.83 0.00       |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield    | 0.669 0.00       |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.674 -0.010     |

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

## Banks sanction ₹1.63 lakh cr to 42 lakh MSMEs

The finance ministry said banks have sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1.63 lakh crore to more than 42 lakh business units under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector. Of this, over Rs 1.18 lakh crore has been disbursed to 25 lakh enterprises, till Sept 10. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs 20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package.

## ICAI seeks more time to file FY19 GST returns



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has written to the GST Council seeking deferment of the 2018-19 GST annual return filing deadline by three months till December 31. The last date for filing the annual return for 2018-19 for GST-registered taxpayer is Sept. 30. In its representation to the GST Council, the ICAI said majority of the offices are working only partially due to the pandemic.

## FPIs pull out ₹3,510 crore from equities in Sept.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) turned net sellers in Indian markets by pulling out Rs 2,038 crore so far in September as they turned cautious in view of rising Indo-China tensions and weak global cues. According to the depositaries data, a net Rs 3,510 crore was withdrawn from equities while Rs 1,472 crore was pumped into debts by them between September 1 and 11.

## Covid cases account for 11% of health claims

Treatment for Covid-19 accounted for as much as 11 per cent of the total health insurance claims paid by insurance companies during the first five months of the current financial year, says a Policybazaar.com research. It said 89 per cent of health insurance claims during April 1 and August 31 were for other major illnesses, including cancer, heart problems, kidney and treatment.

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## Govt wants to expand domestic market Foreign listing to be tied to local listing

ADITYA KALRA, ADITI SHAH & ABHIRUP ROY  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI,  
SEPT. 13

Indian companies that list overseas will have to later launch on a domestic bourse under policy changes being considered by government officials, sources told Reuters, a move that global investors fear will harm valuations.

India said in March it would allow local firms to directly list abroad to better access foreign capital for growth, but the rules have yet to be decided. Currently only certain types of securities such as depository receipts are able to be listed in foreign markets, and only after the companies go public in India.

The new policy aimed at helping local firms achieve better valuations, could be a shot in the arm for Indian unicorn start-ups valued at over \$1 billion and Reliance's digital unit which is eyeing a US listing after raising over \$20 billion from global names like KKR & Co.

But in recent weeks Indian officials told global investors and companies in meetings they were considering mandating a secondary listing for local companies on Indian bourses after they list abroad, five sources said.

The time period under consideration for such a requirement ranges from six months to three years, sources said.

A separate senior regulatory source in India said "dual listing was being



considered by the (finance) ministry for sure," but a final position on the matter has not been reached.

Japan's SoftBank and an Indian payment firm it backs, Paytm, as well as Reliance and US-based Sequoia Capital have conveyed to the government the secondary listing provision risks splitting trading volumes, hurting long-term valuations and raising compliance needs and costs, the sources added.

"To require companies to subsequently list in India will make these rules meaningless," said a senior executive from a global venture-capital firm.

SoftBank and Sequoia have invested in various Indian firms like ride-hailing company Ola and hospitality firm Oyo. Foreign listings could provide exits for such investors at higher valuations but also allow Indian firms, especially from the tech sector, to access specialised investors abroad who can better value their companies.

The rules are being drafted by the finance and corporate affairs ministries,

in discussion with the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India, and will be finalised in coming weeks.

Currently, Indian companies can list locally and then access foreign equity capital through instruments like American depository receipts (ADRs), a route used by Infosys and ICICI Bank.

India is concerned that the upcoming policy change will mean that companies hunting for higher valuations through access to a wider group of investors, would choose to only list abroad, the sources said. That risks hitting the growth ambitions of Indian capital markets and depriving local investors of the wealth-creation opportunity.

"The government needs to balance Indian aspirations so that (domestic) investors can invest in these companies," said Siddarth Pai, founding partner at investment firm 3one4 Capital. "This is a trailblazing endeavour; if India plays its cards right."

—Reuters

## Dilip Buildcon in talks to sell 7 highway projects

New Delhi, Sept 13: Highways builder Dilip Buildcon Ltd (DBL) is in talks with large global financial investors to sell seven of its road projects.

The company that claims to be India's largest road construction company currently building 16 per cent of all National Highways, has already sold five of its projects to Cube Highways.

"After the successful transaction of selling HAM portfolio with Shrem group, we have sold yet another portfolio of 5 HAM projects to Cube Highways, focusing on the efficient use of equity," DBL said in its annual report.

It had won 12 HAM (hybrid annuity mode) projects in 2018-19.

The company is in talks with few "large global financial investors," in this regard, it said. "We will continue to emphasise on improving the Return on Equity by exploring possibilities for monetising the remaining 7 HAM projects out of the 12 we had won in FY19, for which we are in talks with a few large financial investors," it said.

To fuel highway projects, the government had earlier approved HAM under which it provides 40 per cent of the project cost to the developer to start work while the remaining investment is made by the developer.

—PTI

## Non-tariff steps affect all Indian products: UN

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 13

Non-tariff measures like technical barriers to trade (TBT) and export-related measures affect all the products exported out and imported into India, finds a study by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

A total of 4,618 non-tariff measures (NTMs) have been issued by 17 Indian ministries and institutions. China has issued 7,332 NTMs, Australia 1,897 and Japan 1,278,

which has 100 per cent NTMs, followed by vegetable products (99.72 per cent) and animals and animal products (99.56 per cent).

As many as 7,557 products have four different NTMs and more. The product groups that mostly have four or more NTMs are textiles (88.9 per cent), machinery/electricals (80.4 per cent) and chemicals and allied industries (57.5 per cent).

Although the current database for NTMs with respect to India is relatively comprehensive, it requires regular updates to capture the impact on international trade, value chains, and business models, finds Unctad. Indian laws are often amended and continuously reviewed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Finance to ensure that India's trade practices and policy are fair, inclusive, profitable and feasible.

Such measures have been largely issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Both these ministries account for 63.6 per cent of total NTMs in India.

Animal and animal products, food, vegetables and chemicals mostly have SPS measures. Of all the product groups, food-stuff is the product group,

## NVIDIA NEARS \$40 BILLION DEAL TO BUY CHIPMAKER ARM

DINESH NAIR,  
LIANA BAKER & IAN KING  
SEPT. 13

Nvidia Corp is nearing a deal to acquire SoftBank Group Corp's chipmaker Arm Ltd, according to people familiar with the mat-

ter, an acquisition that would extend its reach into mobile devices.

A transaction could be announced as soon as this week, said the people. The companies have been discussing a deal that would value Arm at about \$40 billion in cash and stock, two of the people said.

The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday that a deal worth more than \$40 billion could be sealed early this week. Nvidia and Softbank represeclined to comment. —Bloomberg

## Tyre-maker ATG to invest ₹1,240 cr at Vizag plant



Mumbai, Sept. 13: Off-highway tyre-maker Alliance Tire Group (ATG), owned by the Japanese major Yokohama Group, is setting up its third plant in the country in Visakhapatnam with an investment of \$165 million (around Rs 1,240 crore).

The proposed plant will add over 20,000 tonnes per annum (55 tonne per day rubber weight) capacity to the 2.3-lakh-tonne annual production from two India plants and will be commissioned by the first quarter of 2023. The plant will generate around over 600 new jobs, adding to its 5,500-strong headcount, Nitin Mantri, chairman of Yokohama India and director of ATG, told PTI on Sunday.

ATG has one plant at Dahod in Gujarat with an annual capacity of 1.3 lakh tonne (360 tonne per day) and another at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu with an annual capacity of 1 lakh tonne. The group has a 45,000-tonne plant in Israel as well where it has its main R&D centre. The TN facility has an R&D centre.

These two plants produce all the three key off-highway tyre brands, of ATG Alliance for agricultural machinery, Galaxy for construction & industrial machinery, and Primex for forestry machinery. Over 90 per cent of the production is exported to over 120 countries.

Mantri said they were looking for a suitable location for the third plant for almost three years now and had identified Vizag before the pandemic broke out.

From a demand side we see one of the best farming seasons ahead here and forestry is also doing well globally. Only construction is down. —PTI

## Sebi clarifies on multi-cap MF asset allocation framework



New Delhi, Sept. 13: Regulator Sebi on Sunday said that mutual funds have many options to meet with the requirements of its circular pertaining to asset allocation framework for multi cap schemes based on the preference of their unit holders.

In a press release, the markets watchdog clarified that apart from rebalancing their portfolio in the Multi Cap schemes, mutual funds (MF) could inter-alia facilitate switch to other schemes by unit holders, merge their Multi Cap scheme with Large Cap scheme or convert their Multi Cap scheme to another scheme category, for instance, Large cum Mid Cap scheme.

The clarification came after the regulator tweaked asset allocation framework for multi cap mutual funds through a circular issued on Friday, requiring them to invest a minimum of 25 per cent each in Large, Mid and Small Cap stocks, and giving flexibility to the fund manager with the balance 25 per cent.

In its latest press release, Multi Cap schemes had

flexibility in terms of allocation to Large, Mid and Small Cap stocks but it was observed that some Multi Cap Schemes have skewed portfolios, with over 80 per cent of investment in large cap stocks akin to Large Cap schemes, and some Multi Cap schemes have near zero or insignificant asset allocation to small cap companies.

Therefore, in order to achieve the objectives of True to Label and Appropriate Benchmark, need was felt to review the scheme characteristics of Multi Cap schemes and take necessary steps to clearly distinguish Multi Cap schemes from other category of schemes, Sebi noted.

"In order to diversify the underlying investments of multicap funds across the large, mid and smallcap companies and be true to label, it has been decided to partially modify the scheme characteristics of multicap fund," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had said in its circular on Friday.

Multi Cap schemes had

decline in international passenger demand in July



demand was down 92 per cent in July. The planes that were flying were typically about half full, according to the International Air Transport Association. It's also not clear to what extent the premium mar-

ket, which IATA says generated 30 per cent of airlines' international revenues in 2019, can recover. Many grounded business travellers have become accustomed to video conferencing rather than making visits in person, and a global recession threatens corporate budgets.

IAG SA, owner of British Airways and Iberia, said in July that leisure demand will recover before corporate travel, and this "structural change" in the market will lead to new cabin layouts.

On a conference call, IAG chief financial officer Stephen Gunning said British Airways retired its Boeing 747s early partly because they had so many premium seats.

Virgin Australia

Holdings Ltd chief executive officer Paul Scurrah said at a conference this month that business travel would rebound slower than the overall market as some companies maintain work-from-home policies. Qantas Airways Ltd CEO Alan Joyce was optimistic that demand would fully recover, but not until 2023 or 2024.

Low-cost airlines such as Ryanair Holdings Plc and EasyJet Plc, largely catering to short-haul leisure travellers, are likely to bounce back faster than airlines with a bigger international focus. UBS Group AG analysts led by Jarrod Castle said in a report last month.

According to Volodymyr Bilokach, a lecturer in air-transport management

at the Singapore Institute of Technology, a single business class seat that lies flat needs to generate at least four times the profit of an economy seat to justify all the space it takes up in the plane.

Some airlines will use the pandemic to permanently downgrade their offerings in premium cabins to save money, said Jeremy Clark, who runs Malaysia-based JC Consulting, which advises carriers on catering and service.

"There will still be airlines that recognise the value good food and service bring to their brand in return for the relatively small cost of providing it," said Clark. "We're human beings. We like to be spoilt."

—Bloomberg

## How flying business class feels more like economy now

ANGUS WHITLEY &  
ANURAG KOTOKY  
SEPT. 13

Forget the flute of chilled Moet & Chandon before takeoff, mid-flight gin and tonics and a roaming dessert trolley after dinner. Flying business class isn't what it used to be.

Efforts to minimise human interaction and reduce the risk of infection are taking the shine off the most expensive seats onboard commercial aircraft. Gone are the multi-course banquets and warm personal service, once the hallmarks of carriers like Singapore Airlines Ltd and Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. These days, what's left of premium-grade travel is functional, hygienic and closer

to cattle class – only with more legroom. The limitations are one more headache for an industry grappling with a near-total collapse in demand and follow years of luxury oneupmanship among carriers in a contest for the most profitable passengers.

Suddenly, it's harder to tell airlines apart when you're up the pointy end. That's making it tougher to win top-paying customers, and risks pushing some to the back of the plane.

"When you strip away the food and service, it's just a mode of transport to get from point A to B," said Lim, a 38-year-old food and beverage consultant.

Some overseas routes have resumed, but traffic worldwide has barely started to creep back. International passenger

travel, which IATA says generated 30 per cent of airlines' international revenues in 2019, can recover. Many grounded business travellers have become accustomed to video conferencing rather than making visits in person, and a global recession threatens corporate budgets.

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Virgin Australia

## SHORT TAKES

## Chennai FC rope in Fanai &amp; Reagan

**Chennai:** Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC on Sunday announced the signing of defenders Lalchhanmawia Fanai and Reagan Singh ahead of the Indian Super League season starting in November. The 31-year old Fanai, who hails from Mizoram, and the 29-year old Reagan from Manipur have joined Chennaiyin on free transfers, a press release from the club said.

"Chhantea (Fanai) and Reagan (Singh) are important additions to our squad in the key full-back positions. They bring valuable experience of playing in the ISL and will have a vital role to play in our efforts to push for success in the upcoming season," CFC head coach Csaba Laszlo said.

Towering left-back Fanai said he was delighted to join CFC and was excited about working with Laszlo.

"I am very happy to join one of the most successful clubs in the ISL," Reagan said. — PTI

## Rivera wants to lead East Bengal

**Kolkata:** Mario Rivera, who guided East Bengal to a second place finish in the last I-League wants to be back at the helm, even as former Serbian international Risto Vidakovic's name is doing rounds for the chief coach's post.

East Bengal are yet to finalise their head coach following their acquisition by Shree Cement who will make an ISL bid for the upcoming season.

"I receive many messages every day from East Bengal fans asking me to come back but at this moment nothing is closed," Rivera said.

Rivera was brought in as a replacement for the famed Spaniard after they started off the New Year with a hat-trick of losses, including a 1-2 derby debacle. East Bengal have recently appointed AFC Pro Licence holder Francisco Bruto Da Costa as their assistant coach as they are yet to name the chief coach. — PTI

## Virtual Marathon kicks off on Dec. 1

**Coimbatore:** The eighth edition of the Coimbatore Marathon will be a virtual month-long event owing to the prevailing pandemic situation and will be held in December, the organisers said on Sunday.

The theme for this year's event being organised from December 1 to 31 is 'Run Smart', they said.

"We are very excited to present this virtual edition of the marathon and ensure continuity of the event for the benefit of all stakeholders," Coimbatore Marathon Race Director Ramesh Ponnuswamy said.

"Since the event is a virtual one, we are not constrained to conduct it on a specific date and time," he added.

The premier event, for the cause of cancer patients, is expected to attract more than 25,000 participants from all walks of life across the world and registration for Coimbatore Marathon 2020 Virtual Event is now open.

Participants can register through [www.coimbatore-marathon.com](http://www.coimbatore-marathon.com). — PTI

## SEVEN COVID+VE AHEAD OF ASIAN LEAGUE

**Kuala Lumpur:** The resumption of the AFC Asian Champions League has taken a setback with seven positive results returned from Covid-19 tests conducted on all the participating teams in the West Asian 'hub' of Qatar.

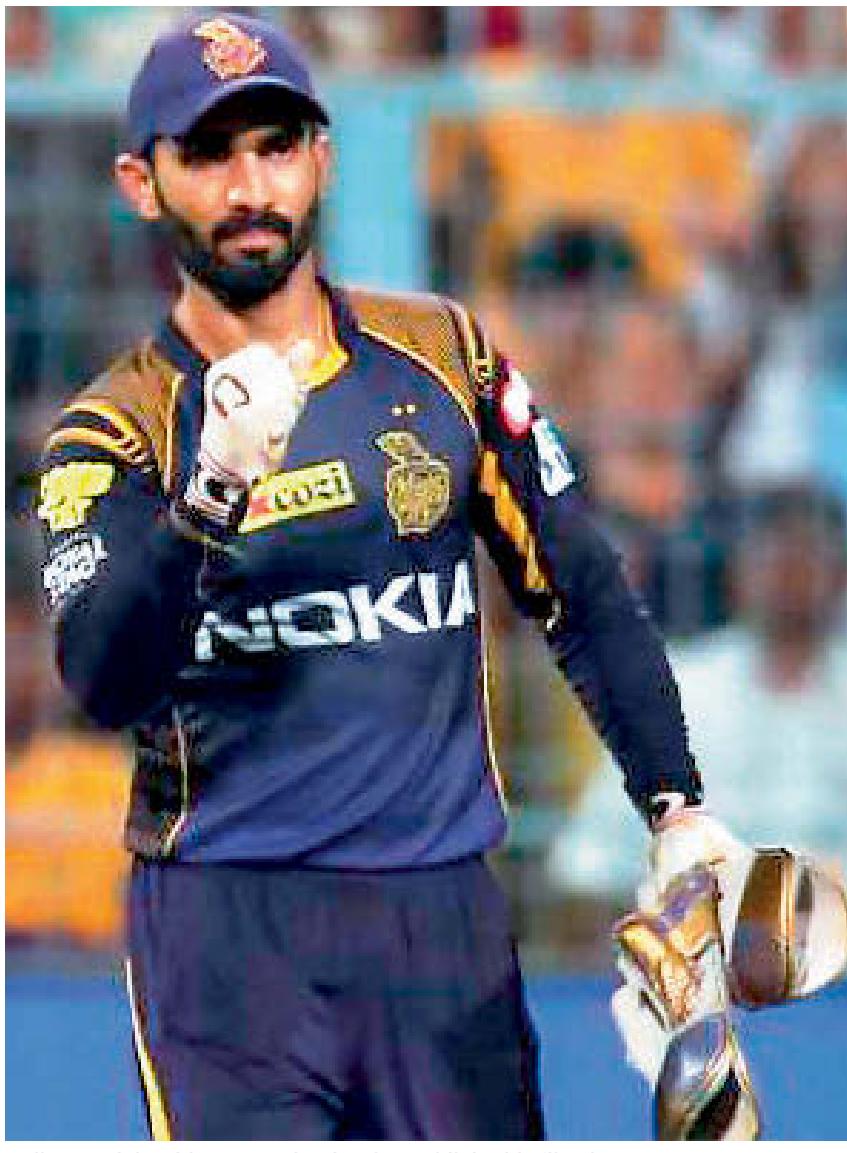
The Asian Football Confederation confirmed on Saturday that five players and one official from Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal and one player from Qatari side Al Duhail had tested positive for Coronavirus.

Competition in the western zone restarts Monday with clubs from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan meeting in the regional 'hub' of Qatar, where all of the games will take place. "Those who tested positive are under medical supervision in a quarantined environment as required by the safety measures and Covid-19 protocols put in place for the tournament," the AFC said in a statement Saturday.

The AFC had also previously revealed that United Arab Emirates team Al-Wahda will be unable to travel to Qatar after several members of the club tested positive for COVID-19. According to tournament rules, Al-Wahda will have to forfeit all group games. — AP

## KKR BANK ON DK

## Karthik has task cut out as Knights skipper



Kolkata Knight Riders' captain Dinesh Karthik in this file photo.

Narine and Pat Cummins. The fourth will be a choice between England white ball captain Eoin Morgan or his junior teammate Tom Banton.

Rising star Shubman Gill, who also batted up and down in another debatable decision of 2019, may finally be designed to his favourite opening slot with either Sunil Narine or BBL sensation Banton partnering him.

That sums up KKR's loaded batting lineup which will complement a heavy pace artillery, spearheaded by Aussie superstar Cummins to form the main strength of the side.

Karthik will be surrounded by cricketing brains all around him with the 2019 England World Cup winning skipper as his deputy, and New Zealand great Brendon McCullum as the head coach. — PTI

The three of the four first choice foreigners are likely to be Russell, Sunil

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## UAE match-fixers bear ICC's brunt

**Dubai, Sept. 13:** The ICC on Sunday provisionally suspended UAE cricketers Amir Hayat and Ashfaq Ahmed on match fixing charges.

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) had suspended opener Ashfaq during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier in October last year but no formal charges were laid as it waited for investigations to get over.

Hayat, a medium pacer has played 9 ODIs and 4 T20Is while Ashfaq has represented the country in 16 ODIs and 12 T20Is. "The players have 14 days from 13 September to respond to the charges. The ICC will not make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage," ICC said in a release.

Amir and Ashfaq have been charged under article 2.1.3 and four other from 2.4.2 to 2.4.5 of ICC's anti-corruption code.

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## SHORT TAKES

## Sree's spot-fixing ban comes to end

New Delhi: India pacer S. Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing came to an end on Sunday, concluding a seven-year punishment that was originally meant to be for life and was aggressively contested by the flamboyant bowler.

The 37-year-old has already made it clear that he intends to resume at least his domestic career at the end of the ban and his home state Kerala has promised to consider him if he manages to prove his fitness.

"I'm completely free of any charges now and nothing will gonna represent the sport I love the most. I will give my very best to every ball I ball even (if) it's just practice," he tweeted on Friday, a couple of days before the end of his suspension.

"Just have another 5 to 7 years max to give it all I've got now and I will give the very best to any team I play," he added.

However, with the Indian domestic season postponed at present due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it remains to be seen when exactly Sreesanth is able to make a comeback if Kerala decides to give him a chance.

— PTI

## Handball prez suspends secy

New Delhi: In an internal power tussle in the Handball Federation of India, its president M. Ramasubramani on Sunday suspended secretary general Anandeshwar Pandey, who deemed the action as "illegal".

Pandey is also treasurer of Indian Olympic Association. Ramasubramani confirmed that he has suspended Pandey as there were multiple complaints against him from the members but did not provide further details. "Yes, I have suspended him. I have got many complaints against him,"

Ramasubramani said.

He did not respond when asked about the nature of complaints and the reason for suspension of Pandey.

Pandey, on the other hand, has shot off a letter to Ramasubramani, stating that his action was "illegal and unconstitutional". — PTI

## Messi plays 45 mins in friendly

Madrid: Lionel Messi started and played 45 minutes in Barcelona's first pre-season friendly on Saturday as Ronald Koeman showed no hesitation in reintegrating the Argentinian.

Barca beat third tier side Gimnastic Tarragona 3-1, with Ousmane Dembele opening the scoring on his first appearance since November.

Antoine Griezmann and Philippe Coutinho then each scored penalties, either side of Javier Bonilla pulling one back for the visitors.

But Messi's return at the Johan Cruyff Stadium was perhaps the biggest plus for Koeman, who was taking charge of his first game since being appointed coach last month. — AFP

## Honda riders slip in Misano

Misano Adriatico, Italy: Despite flashes of promise throughout the weekend, the Repsol Honda Team left the first of two races in Misano unrewarded despite efforts of Alex Marquez and Stefan Bradl.

Putting a difficult Saturday behind him, Alex Marquez showed his maturity as he approached Sunday with an open mind. A strong performance in morning Warm Up, ending ninth and only 0.321 off the fastest time set by Takaaki Nakagami, proved there was promise in his race pace. A steady start as the lights went out saw Alex make up a handful of places early, the MotoGP rookie spending much of the race working on getting past Petrucci. Matching the speed of the leaders during the closing stages, Alex was forced to settle for 17th. Takaaki Nakagami took top Honda honours in ninth, his sixth top 10 finish in this season.

## Live on TV

FOOTBALL  
English Premier League: Brighton vs Chelsea from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

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# NAOMI AGAIN!

Osaka beats Victoria to win second US Open crown

New York, Sept. 13: Japan's Naomi Osaka came from a set down to beat Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to win the US Open on Saturday and clinch her third Grand Slam title.

Osaka, the fourth seed, overcame her unseeded opponent 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 inside a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows.

It brought 22-year-old Osaka's haul of tennis major trophies to three after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.

"I didn't really enjoy that. It was a really tough match for me," Osaka said following her 1hr 53min victory.

Azarenka, 31, sprinted to the first set in just 26 minutes, dominating Osaka with an 88 percent success rate on her first serve.

The Japanese was uncharacteristically sloppy, hitting a whopping 13 unforced errors.

Azarenka then went 2-0 ahead in the second set before Osaka fought back to break her opponent's serve twice and take a 4-3 lead.

The momentum had quickly swung in Osaka's favor and she broke a third time to take the match to a deciding set.

"I just thought it would be very embarrassing to lose this in under an hour so I just have to try as hard as I can and stop having a really bad attitude," said Osaka, explaining the turnaround.

Osaka enjoyed the first breakthrough of set three in game four when she broke Azarenka's serve to take a 3-1 lead. Azarenka then blew a golden opportunity to get back into the match, wasting three break points as Osaka recovered from 0-40 to hold for a 4-1 lead.

Azarenka saved four break points to make it 4-2 as she battled to keep the contest alive.

When she broke Osaka in game seven, the set was back on serve.

But Osaka immediately

Naomi Osaka of Japan returns the ball during the US Open women's singles final against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Saturday. Osaka won 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. — AFP

broke back after Azarenka pushed a forehand wide to leave herself the opportunity of serving for the match and title. On Osaka's second championship point, Azarenka found the net.

When she broke Osaka in game seven, the set was back on serve.

**'THIS WAS FUN'**

Azarenka, a two-time

Grand Slam champion, was playing in her first tennis major final since losing the 2013 US Open to Serena Williams.

The last few years of the former world number one's career have been disrupted, firstly by injury then by a custody battle over her son, born

in December 2016.

But she enjoyed a fairytale run in New York, clinching the Western & Southern title before reaching Saturday's US Open final, where she lost for the third time.

"It's been a long road of getting here, but this was fun," she added. — AFP

## Mayhem at Mugello as Hami clinches 90th race

**Two spectacular multi-car collisions brought Tuscan Grand Prix to a chaotic standstill and reduced the field to just 13 of the original starters.**

centration that's needed during that time, it was really, really hard."

Hamilton, 35, is now on 190 points, some 55 ahead of Bottas and is also on course this season to equal Schumacher's record of seven world titles after claiming his sixth win in nine races this year.

"It was all a bit of a daze," said Hamilton to Sky Sports.

"It was incredibly tough today... All the those restarts, the con-

Alex Albon finished third, claiming his first podium finish for Red Bull, after a thrilling drive to compensate his team for the early exit of Max Verstappen in the first of two multi-car collisions in a race of three Safety Car interventions. The race took two hours and 25 minutes to complete, with the spells behind the Safety Car adding up to 76 minutes.

Two spectacular multi-car collisions brought Sunday's Tuscan Grand Prix to a chaotic standstill and reduced the field to just 13 of the original starters, but despite all the carnage no driver was injured.

— AFP



Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning the Tuscan Grand Prix at the Mugello circuit in Scarperia, Italy, on Sunday. — AP

## Has SASCOC decision put SA cricket in jeopardy?



Hemant Kenkre

Silly Point

T here are a few days to go before the grand entertainment of cricket hits Indian television screens. As teams are preparing for the Indian Premier League (IPL) that kicks off on September 19, an important bit of news did not find much space among the reams being written about the blue ribbon tournament run by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

A few days ago, South Africa's Olympics body South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) asked key members of Cricket South Africa (CSA) to step down from their posts and took over the administration of cricket in the country. To CSA, which has been in the deep end with allegations of corruption, racism and many other evils, SASCOC's directive has dug the hole deeper, casting a pall of gloom for cricketers and fans in the country.

Even as the 10-odd South African (SA) cricketers are busy shaking the rust, caused by a long absence of competitive cricket, in the Arabian desert for the IPL,

the question on the minds of their colleagues who are not as lucky is a terrible one directly concerning their future. South African cricket in the recent past has undergone turmoil, losing much talent, thanks to the Kolhapur ruling which hit their country the hardest.

SASCOC's decision now puts a cloud over the future of SA cricket on the whole depending on which way the International Cricket Council (ICC) will interpret it. According to an article in the ICC constitution, cricketing matters of each member country must be handled autonomously only by the board without interference from the government or other public or quasi-public body. The debate whether SASCOC's ruling constitutes government

interference or not is something which ICC's legal team must be pondering over at this point in time.

SASCOC has strongly denied that their directive constitutes meddling by the government and stressed that it has not acted under any kind of directive from the country's rulers and is a completely independent act.

While the legal eagles will be busy trying to decide SASCOC's stand, it will be pertinent to note that there is a precedent of familiar cases that have happened in the past.

SA's neighbours, Zimbabwe, were suspended by the ICC in July last year for alleged intrusion by their government in Zimbabwe Cricket's (ZC) affairs. Thus the country became first full member

of the ICC to be banned from playing any form of cricket. A similar fate was suffered by Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN), an associate member and a rising force in the Subcontinent. Both countries were brought back into the ICC fold in October 2019.

According to their website, SASCOC is the Sports Confederation for all Sports Federations in the Republic of South Africa, and of course, is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC), amongst others. The latest media release by them confirms that CA is its member and is required to comply fully with their constitution.

SASCOC claims that it has acted in good faith, and in the best interests of the sport.

What then constitutes 'government interference' in the constitution of the ICC? If an association has members of that country's ruling party on their board, will their opinion or acts be defined as those suggested by the government?

In the case of Pakistan Cricket Board, their country's head of state automatically becomes their patron-in-chief. When Imran Khan, the current head takes a call on cricketing matters will it be termed as one taken by an eminent cricketer (their most successful cricket captain) or the head of their government?

Closer to home, though the committee formed under Retd. Chief Justice R. M. Lodha did not stop politicians from holding posts in the BCCI, the Supreme Court (SC) suggested a ban on government servants and ministers donning the role of cricket administrators. Laws are meant to be laid and enforced for the betterment of the populace, in this case for the game to prosper.

From an ICC perspective, for now, SASCOC's action will cause furrows among their legal team and the country will be under close scrutiny.

It will be prudent for ICC to take a look at their constitution and come out with clear guidelines which leave little room for doubt for their members, going forward. They could well consider the statement of Chief Justice T. S. Thakur who had said: "Politicians as a category cannot be barred. There is a politician in everyone."

## DDCA removes Justice Verma as its Ombudsman

New Delhi, Sept. 13: The Delhi & Districts Cricket Association on Sunday removed Justice (Retd) Deepak Verma from the post of Ombudsman during its Apex Council meeting, held virtually, and reinstated Justice (Retd) Badar Durrez Ahmed.

Justice Verma is also the Ombudsman of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and Apex Council felt that the one person can't hold the same post in two different state units.

All 11 members of the Council, including three government nominees, attended the meeting where it was "unanimously decided" to reinstate Justice Ahmed as Ombudsman.

"The decision (to replace Ombudsman) was unanimous. All his decisions were arbitrary without any consultation with the Apex Council. There were legal fees running into crores and support staff weren't being paid," a member of the Apex Council said on the condition of anonymity.

"We have appointed Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed. He has given his consent. The decision will be ratified at the next AGM," he added.

It was also learnt that Saurabh Chaddha was appointed legal counsel of the DDCA.

However, all these appointments can not last more than a month as DDCA needs to hold election by October 30 and a change in regime will mean new policy decisions.

### Support Staff Issue

Most of the members of the support staff associated with various Delhi teams (age group, women, men) have finally been paid 50 per cent of their contract amounts, including Ranji team's former coach K. P. Bhaskar.

Bhaskar's original contract was for ₹30 lakh provided the team qualified for the knockouts. Since Delhi didn't qualify for the knock-outs under his coaching, he was supposed to be paid ₹24 lakh. ₹12 lakh has already been paid. In the next few weeks, we hope to clear the entire amount," a senior official, who is dealing with players' payment informed.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores his side's fourth goal against Leeds United in their Premier League match at the Anfield Stadium in Liverpool on Saturday. — AP

## Super Salah seals it for Liverpool

London, Sept. 13: Mohamed Salah hit a hat-trick as Liverpool kicked off their Premier League title defence with a thrilling 4-3 win against Leeds on Saturday.

Just 48 days after last season's delayed conclusion, the Premier League returned with a bang as Liverpool and Leeds served up a feast of goals to open the 2020-21 campaign.

Liverpool didn't have it all their own way as Leeds came from behind three times before Egypt forward Salah finished them off with two minutes left.

Leeds fashioned a stunning equaliser in the 12th minute when on-loan Manchester City midfielder Jack Harrison cut past Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez before drilling a superb low finish into the bottom corner.

Leeds are back in the top-flight for the first time in 16 years and Marcelo Bielsa's team deserve credit for putting Liverpool under enough pressure.

Salah won a fourth-minute penalty when his shot hit Leeds' debutant Robin Koch on his outstretched arm and he dis-

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