

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

## WEATHER

**Max:** 30.7°C  
**Min:** 21.6°C  
**RH:** 68%  
**Rain:** Nil

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 32/239C

## COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+71,704*)	(+712*)

60,53,010 95,162

\* Without Maharashtra tally covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,967)	(+9)
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TS: 1,85,833	1,100
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(+6,923)	(+45)
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AP: 6,75,674	5,708
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### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,31,99,123

**DEATHS**

10,00,556

**COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES**

213

worldometers.info/ coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana

**Tithi:** Adhika Ashwayuja Shuddha

**Star:** Dhanishta till 10.30 pm

**Varjyam:** Nil

**Durmuhurtam:** 12.30 pm to 1.18 pm; 2.53 pm to 3.41 pm

**Rahukalam:** 7.30 pm to 9 pm

**HJRI CALENDAR**

**Safar ul Muzaffar 10, 1442 AH**

**PRAYERS**

**Fajar:** 5.06 am

**Zohar:** 12.17 pm

**Asar:** 4.26 pm

**Maghrib:** 6.14 pm

**Isha:** 7.21 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 6.07 PM**

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM**

**MOONSET TODAY 3.00 AM**

**MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.12 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



**Want to see all your favourite heroines at one place? Go to NCB office**

## IN BRIEF

## Militants killed in J&K encounter

**Srinagar:** An unidentified militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday, police said. Acting on specific information about the presence of militants in the Samboora area of Awantipora in the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said. He said as the forces were conducting the searches in the area, the militants fired upon them. The security forces retaliated, ensuring an encounter. In the exchange of fire, a militant was killed, he said.

## Al-Qaeda terrorist arrested in WB

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested another person from West Bengal's Murshidabad district for his alleged involvement with a Pakistan-sponsored module of the al-Qaeda, a senior officer said on Sunday. The NIA arrested Shamim Ansari from his residence at Jalangi on Saturday, he said. "We have found his involvement with those arrested earlier. We have seized his mobile phone. He is being interrogated," he said. The agency had earlier arrested nine people for their links with the Pakistan-sponsored module of the al-Qaeda.

## WORLD | 5

**Pak to protect Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar's ancestral houses**



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## SPORTS | 8

**Bottas wins Formula One Russian GP**

## TABLOID

**Sindhu turns storyteller**



Vol. 83 No. 270 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

## Himayatsagar attracts visitors



People visit Himayatsagar, which is just four feet off the full tank level, on Sunday. The gates would be lifted to release the water from the lake when it is full.

■ **More reports on Page 3**

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## JEE DELAYED AT CENTRE, TCS STAFF BLAMED

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 27**

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced was conducted on Sunday amidst strict safety precautions for Covid-19. Close to 15,000 students from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh appeared for the exam, that went off without major glitches.

Out of 2.5 lakh candidates who qualified the JEE (Mains), only 1.6 lakh registered for JEE Advanced nationwide. This is a drop from last year, when 1.74 lakh students had applied.

Students noticed that the arrangements were a lot better than for the JEE (Mains) which was marked by alarming instances of violation of standard operating procedures.

However, at one examination centre in Medchal, the heavy downpour made things difficult since it resulted in technical glitches in the computer systems. This delayed the examination by at least half an hour. The first session started by 9.30 am and the second session by 2.45 pm, according to sources.

The sources said that another reason for the delay at this centre was because operators from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), that provides services for competitive exams, had arrived late, and the preparations took extra time. This also led to frustration among parents outside the centre, who had come to drop their wards.

The JEE (Advanced) results are expected on October 5, following which the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) will conduct the admission process to 23 Indian Institutes of Technology.

## Aspirants lobby for MLC tickets

**S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 27**

Lobbying by aspirants in the TRS for the two Legislative Council graduate seats has gathered pace after the Election Commission last week initiated the process to hold the elections in the first quarter of 2021.

Legislative Council government whip P. Rajeshwar Reddy represents the Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda seat and BJP leader N. Ramachander Rao the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar seat. Their six-year term ends in March next.

The TRS leadership is cautious in selecting the candidate for the Hyderabad seat in view of the defeat of G. Devi Prasad, a former TNGOs leader, in the 2015 elections.

Sources disclosed that though the name of Prasad is being discussed for the seat, the leadership is also looking at others. The name of Hyderabad mayor Bonthu Ram-

mohan is one of them. P.L. Srinivas, former MLA, is also an aspirant: He had lost the seat by 400 votes in 2007. He recently met city minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav to lobby for the seat.

For the Nalgonda seat, the party will again field Rajeshwar Reddy. On the Opposition side, Telangana Jana Samiti president Prof. M. Kodandaram is said to be eyeing the Nalgonda seat. There is speculation that the Congress will support him.

If that happens, the TRS may field either Deshapati Srinivas, lyricist and officer on special duty in the Chief Minister's Office, or Gorati Venkanna, a famous Telugu folk song writer and singer.

Sources said that several aspirants had met TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao seeking a ticket. He has not indicated his mind, sources said.

■ **Page 3: Speculation is on about nominated seats**

# India moves tanks to eastern Ladakh

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27**

Ahead of the harsh winter in Ladakh, the Indian Army has deployed tanks at forward areas like Chumar, Depsang and Chushul sectors to beat back any threat from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). The tanks include T-90 and T-72, which have the ability to operate at minus-40° Celsius temperatures.

The Indian Army has deployed T-90 tanks in the Depsang plains in Sub Sector North where Chinese troops are preventing patrols from Patrolling

Points 10 to 13. Apart from the tanks, BMP-2 infantry combat vehicles have been deployed at the Chumar-Demchok sector which is crucial for the defence of Ladakh.

The Depsang plains, situated at an altitude of over 15,000 feet, are flat and suitable for tank action. It is one of the critical points where a thrust by Indian tanks threatens Aksai Chin which was captured by China in 1962.

The Chinese Army too had brought forward their tanks near the Chushul sector earlier this month to put pressure on the Indian Army after it occu-

● **THE DEPSANG plains, situated at an altitude of over 15,000 feet are flat and suitable for tank action. It is one of the critical points where a thrust by Indian tanks threatens Aksai Chin which was captured by China in 1962.**

pied strategic heights on the south banks of the Pangong Tso on August 29-30.

Last week during the sixth round of Corps Commanders' meeting, India and China agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally chang-

ing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation.

However, no breakthrough could be achieved by India and China on the disengagement which means that both sides will keep their troops at the forward post in Ladakh sector during the winter.

According to Leh-based 14 Corps Chief of Staff Major General Arvind Kapoor, "The Fire and Fury Corps is the only formation of the Indian Army and also in the world to have actually deployed mechanised forces in such harsh terrain. The mainte-

nance of the tanks, infantry combat vehicles and heavy guns is a challenge in this terrain. To ensure crew and equipment readiness, adequate arrangements are in place for both man and machine." The 14th Corps is known as the 'Fire and Fury Corps'.

For winters, the Indian Army is using three types of fuels in these tanks which don't freeze in sub-zero temperatures and keeps them running.

Maj. Gen. Kapoor also said that the Army is logistically prepared in terms of tackling the harsh weather.

"The same story is about to repeat itself in 2020 — but only in extreme," Allianz Global said.

"For the moment, monetary policy has vaccinated financial assets against Covid-19. But we should not fool ourselves. Zero and negative interest rates are a sweet poison. They undermine wealth accumulation and aggravate social inequality, as asset owners can pocket nice windfall profits. It's not sustainable."

**ALLIANZ GLOBAL WEALTH 2020 REPORT**

Zero and negative interest rates are a sweet poison. They undermine wealth accumulation and aggravate social inequality, as asset owners can pocket nice windfall profits. It's not sustainable."

**ALLIANZ GLOBAL WEALTH 2020 REPORT**

fundamentals and soared by 25 per cent, lifting financial assets in the process: The asset class of securi-

## Allianz wealth report says Covid pandemic has made poor countries poorer

# Covid widens wealth gap between rich and poor

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 27**

At a time when the health and wealth of people are at risk due to Covid-19 pandemic across the world, a survey hinted at the widening gap between the rich and the poor because of monetary easing policy adopted by central banks around the world.

According to the Wealth Report 2020 released German multinational financial services company Allianz Global, the accommodative monetary policies are protecting the

wealth of the super-rich from the adverse impact of Coronavirus.

Never in the last ten years, there was such a big increase in wealth for the rich. "Worldwide, gross financial assets grew by 9.7 per cent in 2019, clocking the strongest growth since 2005," the report said.

"The year 2019 was marred by social unrest, escalating trade conflicts and an industrial recession. But as central banks reversed course and embarked on broad-based monetary easing, stock markets decoupled from

need more than ever structural reforms post Covid-19 to lay the foundations for more inclusive growth," the Allianz Global report said, adding that Covid-19 had plunged the world economy to its deepest recession in 100 years.

In 2019, the gross financial assets of households in North America and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand) — which are by far the richest — increased by a record 11.9 per cent each and toppled the regional growth league table dominated by Emerging Markets.

ers will now have the same freedom.

Protests by farmers against the laws continued on Sunday, with peasants in Punjab squatting on the Amritsar-Delhi railway track. Farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre's farm reforms would pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big companies. —PTI

## JASWANT SINGH, CO-ARCHITECT OF INDO-U.S. TIES, PASSES AWAY

**DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27**

Former Union minister Jaswant Singh, who held the major portfolios of finance, defence and external affairs in various stages in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government, passed away at the Army's R&R Hospital in New Delhi early Sunday morning after a cardiac arrest. He was 82.

The funeral took place at his farmhouse on the outskirts of Jodhpur on Sunday. The hospital said he was treated for sepsis with multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and the effects of severe head injury that he had suffered in 2014.

Jaswant Singh had accompanied three terrorists, including Jaish-e-Mohammed head Masood Azhar, released by the government to end the Kandahar hijack crisis in 1999. He has described the period as the "most demanding and emotionally a most draining period" of his life. He will be mainly remembered for his negotiations with the United States representative Strobe Talbott after India tested nuclear bombs.

■ **Page 3: Jaswant was expelled twice from BJP**



## SHORT TAKES

## STIR AGAINST FARM ACTS REACHES RURAL AREAS

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 27

Political parties, except the BJP, in Telangana state have intensified their agitation against farm Acts.

For the last few days, the TRS, Congress, CPI, CPM, CPI (ML) New Democracy and their frontal organisations staged agitations in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts. The protestors blocked National Highway 63 (Nizamabad-Jagdarpur) at Manikbhandar.

Farmers and agriculture workers associations demanded the immediate revoking of the three agriculture acts.

Opposition leaders said that the new acts would destabilise the minimum support price (MSP) for agriculture produce. The proposed agriculture reforms would benefit corporates but not the farming community, they said.

TRS party leaders highlighted the adverse impact on farmers in the country in general and in Telangana in particular. TRS MLAs, MLCs criticised the Centre's "anti-farmer" policies and demanded scrapping of the new Acts. They said that the MSP shield should remain for farmers.

On the other hand, BJP leaders welcomed agriculture reforms in the country. They celebrated the introduction of farm Acts about which the party leaders are trying to convince the people.

## MLA: SERIOUS IN IMPLEMENTING NEW REVENUE ACT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 27

To resolve the issues farmers faced in regards to their agriculture lands, the Telangana government introduced the new revenue act. We are determined to implement the act transparently, said Ramagundam MLA, Korakanti Chander Patel. Accompanied by Peddapalli MP, B.Venkatesh Netha Mr Chander Patel along with hundreds of farmers in tractors took out a rally supporting the revenue act in Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district on Sunday.

Earlier, thousands of farmers from Anthargam, Palakurthi and Ramagundam mandals took out a rally with tractors from their respective mandals to Jawaharlal Stadium in Godavarikhani.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Chander Patel said, The newly introduced revenue act is a historical one which will benefit the farmers. This act will rid the middlemen. The process of registration, issuing of passbook and mutation will all be done in a day."

Over the last 50 years, people are constructing houses in the Ramagundam industrial area which belong to the Singareni, NTPC and Zenco companies. Even though they have pattas, they were unable to get ownership of the land where they have constructed their houses, he said.

Through GO 76 people living in such places can get ownership rights of the lands on which they have constructed their homes and can sell them too, he said.

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Farmers protest against the Agriculture Acts at Narsampet in Warangal Rural district.

## Withdraw new Agri Acts: Farmers

## Narsampet MLA says it will weaken the entire agriculture market system

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 27

Farmers in the state are up in arms and furious at the Union Government got the passage of the three agriculture Acts - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation); the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services; Essential Commodities (Amendment). Even political parties, barring the BJP, have raised a unified voice against the bills.

Rythu Sangham Warangal Rural district general secretary Peddarapu Ramesh, opposing the Acts tooth and nail, stated that they were detrimental to the future interests of agriculture and demanded that they be called back.

Narsampet MLA Peddi

● **CONGRESS MLA Mulugu Dansari Seethakka said the Union Government monitored storage of essential commodities by putting a cap on the amount of stock allowed to be stored. Now the BJP government has removed the storage cap and it could lead to price rise.**

Sudharshan Reddy said the bills will hit the benefits that farmers are receiving through various state schemes.

"While the Telangana government is working towards the uplift of farmers, the Centre is breaking the back of farmers, who will now be susceptible to exploitation. It will water down the entire agriculture market system,"

he said.

Congress MLA Mulugu Dansari Seethakka said the Union Government monitored storage of essential commodities by putting a cap on the amount of stock allowed to be stored. "Now the BJP government has removed the storage cap and it could lead to price rise," she pointed out.

She also noted that if the government does not purchase crops as per MSP, traders will fix their own prices and exploit farmers.

CPI state secretariat member Thakkallapally Srinivas Rao called the Acts a conspiracy to fill the coffers of traders and middlemen. "The Acts also give the traders a free hand to hoard stocks which eventually will lead to black-marketing. Neither the producer nor the consumer would gain by the Centre's move," Rao said.



Farmers took out rally in Maripeda protesting against the new Agriculture Acts.

## Govt should continue with MSP structure: Farmers

A. RAVINDRA  
SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 27

Clueless about whether they will augur well for them or not, almost 90 per cent of farmers from Khammam district have started taking feedback about the pros and cons of the three farm Acts that have been passed in Parliament.

They hardly understand The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, The Essential Commodities Act (Amendment) Act and Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.

M. Sudhakar, a farmer from Manchukonda, said, "Efforts should have been made to spread awareness about the farm Acts before enacting them. There are not enough safety measures for farmers. If they feel that traders in farm markets are involved in any unfair practices, the farmers should complain to marketing officers in

● **MOST OF the farmers hardly understand these Acts and efforts should be made to spread awareness about these**

● **ABOUT 83 crore people, including 13 crore farmers and 70 crore farm labourers, are relying on agriculture in the country. How the new Acts will safeguard this population is the million-dollar question.**

the markets itself. However, with the new Acts, in case of any disputes, farmers would be required to go to a sub-divisional magistrate court, which is beyond the capacity of small farmers given the financial constraints."

C. Sridhar, a trader said, "Corporate companies used to rely on agents and brokers to lift produce from farmers. There will be no end to the exploitation in the new regime too.

The Act has not prescribed or specified that the contract price of the crop should be at least equivalent or above MSP".

It means the contractor or companies can pay whatever price they want to the farmer.

Contract farming has fetched very low rates compared to MSPs in government mandis.

About 83 crore people, including 13 crore farmers and 70 crore farm labourers, are relying on agriculture in the country. How the new Acts will safeguard this population is the million-dollar question.

A Laxmaiah, a farmer from Konigerla, said, "Lifting the ban on essential commodities is not a wise thing and the middle class will be hit as they have to pay more. The minimum support price structure should continue and companies should work under it."

Nelluri Bhadraraiha said "We hope that the three Acts should not be as traumatic as the experiences with regard to demonetisation and GST Acts."

## War of words on new farm Acts

PULI SHARATH KUMAR  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 27

Along with political parties, several sections of people in erstwhile Karimnagar district expressed split opinions on the new agricultural bills introduced by the Central government, even as farmers organised a nation-wide bandh protesting them.

While BJP leaders said that the new Acts will bring drastic changes in the agriculture sector and will become a boon for the farmers, Opposition parties have termed them as a death warrant and farmers' unions see the bills as unfair and exploitative.

The national general secretary of the BJP Kisan Morcha, P. Sugunakar Rao, welcoming the agriculture Acts said that they were introduced with an intention to change the fate of the farmers and to make them live with self-respect in society along with improving their economic standards.

When India got Independence, about 50 per cent of the nation's wealth was derived from the farming sector and through agricultural products. But in the present situation, even

● **EVEN THE Food Corporation of India (FCI) which is purchasing the produce from the farmers will also lose its shine with the new reforms brought in the farming sector.**

though more than 50 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture, their income is less than 15 per cent. Without development of the farming sector, the income of the farmer, and the nation's income, will not increase.

The Central government decided to bring all the small and medium scale farmers under one platform through the formation of farmers' producers organisations' (FPO) so that they can process, package and market their produce by themselves and can improve their economic standards, Mr Rao said, alleging that the Opposition parties are creating a scene without any proper knowledge.

They are alleging that the reforms are brought to support the corporate companies, Mr Rao said, adding

that the ruling TRS and Congress parties used the farmers as their vote banks but never bothered about their welfare and took hardly any steps for preventing farmer suicides.

Farmers should not believe the leaders of the TRS and Congress who are doing false propaganda about newly introduced agriculture bills, said Mr Rao. Both parties have deceived farmers on several occasions. They must support the decision of PM Narendra Modi as it is for their benefit.

Former chairman of the Jammikunta agriculture market committee T. Sammi Reddy alleged that the ill-effects of the new agricultural Acts will last for a longer period of time and the people will find it hard to buy agricultural products. The BJP government already handed over many government sectors to private organisations and now with new agriculture Acts, it is trying to hand over the farming sector too to them.

Keeping in view their best interest and to derive maximum benefits, corporate companies will now decide where and what kind of crops must be cultivated by

the farmers in the country following demand in the international market and will fix the prices themselves. Farmers will become slaves under multinational and big corporations and will be driven further into problems, said Mr Reddy, adding that at present, around 50 to 55 per cent of produce is brought to the agricultural markets.

"Already there is a system to sell their produce anywhere by the farmers, then what is the need to bring new agriculture Acts?" he asked.

The representatives of the All India Kisan Sangh Coordination Committee' (AIKSCC) alleged that only corporations will benefit with the new agricultural Acts and farmers will face a huge loss and will be driven further into more problems in the coming days.

Even the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which is purchasing the produce from the farmers will also lose its shine with the new reforms brought in the farming sector. The Central government did not discuss with the farmers unions before they introduced the agriculture Acts, they said.

## ACTS | IMPACT Farmers may sell produce without much benefit locally

## Transportation costs to rise further

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, SEPT. 27

The farmers (empowerment and protection) agreement on price assurance and farmer services ordinance, 2020, may result in a rise in transportation costs to get the produce to traders.

The farmers Acts claims to enable farmers to sell their produce to any traders from anywhere. But one has to calculate the transportation costs to be incurred by farmers if they want to sell the produce to traders in other states and also account for storage costs.

Already, many farmers who

are bringing their cotton or soya produce to the market yards in the vehicles are feeling the burden of transportation costs.

Sometimes, transportation costs are more when there was a delay in purchases at the market yard and farmers are forced to stay in the market yards longer to sell their produce. Farmers cannot go back to their villages and return to sell their produce in the market yards due to additional charges they have to bear for the vehicles they engage for transportation of produce.

Even today, many farmers wait in long queues for their turn to sell or unload their

produce brought in from the vehicle and daily vehicle charges double or mount if they stay back for few days at market yards to sell their produce.

It is said the traders themselves come down to farmers to purchase the produce and shift it to their destinations but it can't be happen every time over a period of time. In the initial days, the traders may come to farmers to purchase produce but situations may arise where farmers have to transport the produce to the traders bearing the transportation costs to get better prices. The prices the farmers get may not compensate for the transportation costs they bear.

Over a period of time, the farmers may feel the additional burden of transportation costs and sell their produce to local traders or to traders from outside at cheaper prices in order to clear stocks.

It is suspected that this is where traders will exploit farmers as far as offering a price for the produce in the near future. Sangepu Boranna, district president of Rythu Swarajya Vedika, said the bill will certainly cause huge losses to the farmer instead of bringing them a fortune as far as MSP and good prices for the produce is concerned.



Members of the AIKSCC along with left party leaders stage a dharna demanding that the Central government suspend the newly introduced Agricultural Acts in front of the collectorate in Karimnagar district.

— DC



## SHORT TAKES

## BATHUKAMMA SARIS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 27

The government will distribute Bathukamma saris to 4.75 lakh women in Khammam district during the Dasara festival. The officials have sent 3.48 lakh saris to the mandal headquarters for the programme. Every woman above the age of 18 and having her name on the white ration card will get a sari under the scheme.

The government has placed orders with the weaver societies in Sircilla and other districts. These saris come in more than 100 designs and different colours.

There are 4.04 lakh ration cards including 3.78 lakh food security cards, 26,951 Anthyodaya cards and three Annapurna cards in Khammam district.

There are 11.42 lakh beneficiaries in these cards.

The beneficiaries selected are as per the previous year's list. The highest number of beneficiaries are in Khammam Urban mandal with 77,274 followed by Khammam Rural mandal with

## 3 HELD FOR IPL CRICKET BETTING RACKET

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 27

The Task Force police took three persons into custody on Sunday for organising betting on the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) matches in Dubai.

According to the Task Force ACP Venkat Rao, three persons Shial Akhila and Jella Akhil organised cricket betting under the leadership of Sugala Akshaya Lingam. They make the payments and receipts through Google Pay and PhonePe accounts from their cell phones. They made 12 transactions with 12 persons worth of ₹2.10 lakh.

In a tip-off, the Task Force circle inspector Venkata Swamy, sub-inspector Prasad and constables Rama Rao and Kalinga Reddy took the three persons into custody and handed them over to the II-Town Police Station for further action.

## JASWANT WAS EXPELLED TWICE FROM BJP

From Page 1

His negotiations firmly established India as a strategic partner of the US.

Singh, who left the Army to join politics, was a member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha multiple times.

Singh had been associated with the BJP since its foundation in 1980. He was twice expelled from the party. The first expulsion was in 2009, after his book 'Jinnah — India, Partition, Independence' was seen as pro-Jinnah. He was back in the party fold 10 months later but was expelled again in 2014 when he defied party orders and contested from Barmer as an Independent after being denied a ticket.

A self-described liberal democrat with an aristocratic background, Jaswant, who often sported shoulder-flapped shirts, enjoyed a lot of clout during Vajpayee's rule.

Following Singh's death, President Ram Nath Kovind said the demise of the "veteran soldier, outstanding parliamentarian, exceptional leader and intellectual" was distressing. "He combined many difficult roles with ease and equanimity," the President said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Singh served India diligently and will be remembered for his unique perspective on matters of politics and society. "True to his nature, Jaswant Singh fought his illness with immense courage for the last six years," Modi said. The Prime Minister later spoke to Singh's son Manvendra to convey his condolences.

● **SINGH HAD** been associated with the BJP since its foundation in 1980. He was twice expelled from the party. The first expulsion was in 2009, after his book 'Jinnah — India, Partition, Independence' was seen as pro-Jinnah. He was back in the party fold 10 months later but was expelled again in 2014 when he defied party orders and contested from Barmer as an Independent.



The main road in Karimnagar city inundated on Sunday after the heavy rains that Karimnagar district received over the past two days.

## Heavy rains lash K'nagar, many areas inundated

17 gates of the Lower Manair Dam and 4 gates of MMD lifted

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 27

Heavy rains that lashed Karimnagar district from Saturday night to Sunday morning inundated low-lying areas. Roads were waterlogged, impeding the movement of vehicles.

Paddy, cotton and corn crops in the newly formed municipal corporations limits of Karimnagar and Ramagundam and in other municipalities were submerged.

The district recorded an

● **THE DISTRICT** recorded an average rainfall of 59.8 mm.

● **THE LMD** has 22.6 tmc ft water against its full capacity of 24.03 tmc ft and the respective figures of MMD are 25.04 tmc and 27.5 tmc ft.

average rainfall of 59.8 mm. Ganneruvaram, Chigurumamidi, Karimnagar rural Gangadhara, Choppadandi and Karimnagar city received heavy rainfall.

Officials released water by lifting 17 gates of the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) and four gates from Mid

damage to crops and properties in the villages.

Karimnagar Mayor Y. Sunil Rao and municipal commissioner V. Kranthi inspected the Smart City works in flood affected areas of Ramnagar, Housing Board Colony, Collectorate, Malkapur, Shiva Talkies road, Jyothinagar and Bhagathnagar.

They asked municipal staff to take adequate measures to ensure free flow of water in the drains to prevent inundation in low-lying areas.

## Min: Palle Pragathi helped control the spread of Covid-19

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 27

Because of the Palle Pragathi and Pattana Pragathi programs introduced by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the spread of seasonal diseases has decreased.

Coronavirus is also under control in the state, said panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao.

The minister was speaking to officials at Rayaparthi on the implementation and importance of the Palle Pragathi programme during a review meeting on Sunday.

He discussed the ongoing works and directed them to prioritise and complete them within the given time frame.

"Because of Palle Pragathi, villages have

turned clean, towns also

are cleaner now. Seasonal

diseases and even

Coronavirus is under control. The Palle Pragathi must remain a continuous process and cleanliness activities must go on," he said.

The minister asked for the Vyakunta dhamams to be used by providing all the facilities. He noted that the prakruthi vanams and the dump yards are still incomplete. He told the DPOs to monitor the management of nurseries from the ground level. Even the rythu vedikas meant for the benefit of farmers should be completed fast, he told officials.

Mr Dayakar Rao also gave suggestions to the officials regarding the construction of roads, drainages and double bedroom houses sanctioned under the panchayat raj, R&B, PMGSY, Local public representatives and officials were among others present in the review meeting.

## 2BHK houses are a symbol of self-respect for the poor: Minister

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, SEPT. 27

The state government has claimed that the beneficiaries of the 2BHK housing scheme in Khammam district will be getting property worth ₹15 lakh.

Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar said, "The Double bedroom homes is a symbol of the self-respect and self-pride for poor families."

The state government will not go back on allocating funds for the scheme though it is burdensome. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's aim is — the poor should live with respect in Telangana state, the minister added.

Beneficiaries selection happens through a lottery system in the presence of the people. The constructing of the 2BHK houses in Khammam is going on a war footing.

He inaugurated the 2BHK complex- 20x3 DBR houses in three villages costing ₹3.75 crores and handed

● **HE INAUGURATED** the 2BHK complex- 20x3 DBR houses- in three villages costing ₹3.75 crores and handed them over to the beneficiaries of Gandhipuram, Cheemalavarigudem and Kothathanda.

At Cheemalavarigudem in Karepalli mandal, he praised Cheemala Laxmi for giving her one-acre land for the housing scheme and felicitated her.

Referring to farming, he said that the government is giving priority to mechanisation in agriculture and various implements are given at subsidised rates. He gave tractors and farm implements to the farmers in Viswanathapalli.

## Tiger spotted



A tiger was sighted at the Mallannagutta forest area in Salugupalli village of Bejjur mandal in Kumarambheem Asifabad district on Sunday and created a panic among the locals. Bejjur mandal shares its borders with Maharashtra and tigers are found migrating into the old Adilabad district from the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in neighbouring Maharashtra. People of the bordering villages of Sirpur (T), Panchikalp and Bejjur mandals of Kumarambheem Asifabad district are scared of the movement of tigers. In the recent past, there have been incidents of tigers attacking humans in Maharashtra in Chandrapur and Yavathmal districts.

—PILLALAMARRI

## RAISING AWARENESS

## Health tourism need of the hour: GWMC commissioner

## World Tourism Day celebrated with yoga

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, SEPT. 27

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the district tourism department held a yoga session at the Haritha Hotel in Hanamkonda on Sunday.

Speaking at the event the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) commissioner, Pamela Satpathy said, "Protecting one's health is a priority today. The World Health Organisation has recognised India's Yoga and health practices as effective in treating several ailments. The tourism department's programme helps in promoting the importance of health tourism."

Along with Ms Pamela, district tourism officer M. Shivaji and local corpora-

● **A 15-DAY YOGA** and Pranayama training programme will be held.

tor Madhavi Reddy joined the programme and did some yoga asanas. District Tourism Officer (DTO) M. Shiva said that because of the Coronavirus pandemic, awareness programmes about health tourism are being held.

"A heritage walk at Khila Warangal will be conducted on Monday. We will also conduct online essay writing competitions on rural tourism as per the guidelines of the World Tourism Organisation's to promote rural tourism," he said. Yoga guru Srinivas said, "We will hold a 15-day yoga and

## Palla Rajeswara contesting to double his assets: TIP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 27

The Telangana Inti Party (TIP) founder president Cheruku Sudhakar came down heavily on Palla Rajeswara Reddy on Sunday, while addressing a meeting in Kothagudem. He asked the people to defeat Palla Rajeswara Reddy in the graduate MLC elections of Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduate constituency.

Cheruku Sudhakar said, "Palla Rajeswara Reddy, who was elected from the constituency as MLC earlier, however he turned out to be a 'currency counting machine' of

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao. How can such a person serve the people? The MLC is once again contesting to double his assets. Rajeswara Reddy never worked for a separate Telangana," adding that Rajeswara Reddy will soon be opening his private university in the state.

Sudhakar said, "If you send me to the Telangana Legislative Council, I will be the voice of the unemployed graduates and work for employment. I do not have any connection to any political party and will question the wrong policies of the Chief Minister."

He highlighted that there is widespread discrimination against the poor and weaker communities in Telangana. Though a Bhavan is under construction for each of these communities; they have no place in politics. All parties are fielding candidates from forward communities.

Except for the CM's family members, every individual including the unemployed youth, workers in small scale units and others are worried about the policies introduced by KCR. People must give their judgment, it will be an eye-opener to the Chief Minister.

## SPECULATION IS ON ABOUT NOMINATED COUNCIL SEATS

From Page 1

There much speculation over who will be nominated to the three Governor's quota seats. Party leaders believe that party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao would take a decision on the nominees after the Legislative Council election for the Nizamabad local authorities constituency is held on October 9, from where former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha is contesting.

The three seats fell vacant with the retirement of former minister Nayani Narasimha Reddy and Karne Prabhakar, Government Whip in the Council, and the disqualification of S. Ramulu Naik after he defected to the Congress in the run-up to the 2018 Assembly elections.

Karne Prabhakar is certain to be re-nominated, sources said. Narasimha Reddy, who was denied ticket during the Assembly elections, is expecting another term.

If Narasimha Reddy is dropped, Chandrashekar Rao may consider party general secretary Basavraj Saraiah from Warangal or former MP of Khammam Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to replace him, sources added.

Sources said that if Rajeshwar Reddy gets a second term at Nalgonda, Deshapati Srinivas could be sent to the Council through the Governor's quota.

TRS women wing head G. Sudha Rani, Devi Prasad and Gattu Ramachandra Rao are in the race for the third seat from the Governor's quota.

## CPI GETS READY TO INITIATE MOVEMENT AGAINST TRS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 27

The state secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Chada Venkat Reddy on Sunday called on party workers to study the various problems that persist under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits and prepare to initiate a movement against the TRS government.

A meeting was held with the leaders of the CPI city unit under the leadership of Kasireddy Manikanta Reddy at the Baddam Yellareddy Bhavan in Karimnagar district.

Attending the meeting as a chief guest, Mr Venkat Reddy said that lakhs of people living under KMC limits have no proper shelter, salaries are meagre and find it hard to nourish their children.

Before going to elections, the TRS promised the poor that it would allot 2BHK houses and is yet to fulfil it. He appealed to the party workers saying that to question the government, they must unite the poor from every colony and take up a massive movement against the TRS government.

"On several occasions, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has said that steps to develop the city will be taken as it is expanding. But there is no action plan yet.

Several roads and colonies in low-lying areas get inundated even with the light rains. The drains are overflowing. There are no signs of development in the villages present on the outskirts of the city," he said.

● **CHADA VENKAT REDDY** appealed to the party workers saying that to question the government, they must unite the poor from every colony and take up a massive movement against the Telangana Rashtra Samiti government.



Participants perform yoga asanas as part of the Heath tourism programme at the Haritha Hotel in Hanamkonda on Sunday.

— DC

Pranayama training programme to help fight long-term health issues." Kaloji Narayana Rao

University of Health Sciences PRO E.V. Kiranmayee, tourism DE Ekambaram, Haritha

Kakatiya manager Ashok Reddy, and Red Cross volunteers were present along with others.



SHORT TAKES

### 2.25 LAKH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN ASSAM

**Guwahati, Sept. 27:** A total of 2.25 lakh people in nine districts were affected and over 10,000 hectares of crops submerged on Sunday as fresh floods hit Assam, the state disaster management authority said. Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Majuli, West Karbi Anglong, Sivasaagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts have been affected, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said in its report.

Incessant rain in the last few days has triggered this year's third wave of floods in the state, claiming one life in Nagaon district on Saturday, it said. The fresh fatality has pushed the number of deaths in flood-related incidents in Assam this year to 118, the report said.

The number of affected people was 1.8 lakh on the previous day. Nagaon is the worst-hit district with 1.51 lakh affected people, followed by Morigaon (32,711), Dhemaji (16,792) and Dibrugarh (10,622), the report said. Human habitations and farmland in 219 villages in nine districts are submerged, it said. The mighty Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Neamatighat in Jorhat district and Tezpur in Sonitpur. A total of 43 relief camps have been set up in three districts so far, the report said. Road connectivity has been affected in Morigaon, Nagaon and West Karbi Anglong districts, it added.

### 21-YEAR OLD HELD FOR KILLING ROOMMATE

**New Delhi, Sept. 27:** The Delhi Police has arrested a 21-year-old man from southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area for allegedly killing his roommate whom he suspected of having a relationship with his niece, officials said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Suman, a resident of Tugalakabad village, they said. On September 17, after receiving information that a man was injured at Kangar Mohalla in Tugalakabad village, the police rushed to the spot and found him unconscious. Blood was oozing out from the man's nose and mouth and he was rushed to AIIMS hospital where he was declared brought dead, a senior police officer said. The deceased was later identified as Kamlesh (20).

In the autopsy report, the lacerated wounds was revealed as the cause of death. Thereafter, a murder case was registered at Govindpuri police station, police said. During investigation, the CCTV footage of the nearby area was analysed. "CCTV footage revealed that there was contradiction in the version Suman had given as he was seen entering and leaving the house at the time when the deceased was was reportedly killed. "Later, the accused admitted to killing Kamlesh with a pair of scissors while he was sleeping in his room," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) R. P. Meena said.

### 3 KILLED, 7 HURT AS VAN COLLIDES WITH BUS IN UP

**Kannauj, Sept. 27:** Three persons, including a seven-year-old boy, were killed while seven others seriously injured on Sunday evening when their van collided head-on with a bus in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, police said.

After colliding with the van, the bus fell in a roadside ditch. Eighteen passengers of the bus received minor injuries, the police said. According to Kotwali police station SHO, Vikas Rai, the accident took place on the GT Road at Jalalpur village of the district. The seven people, who were seriously injured, were in the van, police said.

Among the deceased, one was Ayush, the son of a man named Sonu, who was returning with his family members to Kanpur from Farrukhabad after attending the last rites of his brother-in-law. The van's driver Ajit Kumar (30) and Shakuntala (35) also died in the incident, police said. Three of the seriously injured, whose condition was critical, were referred to the Medical College and Hospital in Tirwa. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives, and directed that the injured persons should get adequate treatment, a statement issued by the UP government said on Sunday.

## Farmers will be masters of their produce: Modi

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27**

In the wake of protests from a section of farmers, particularly in states such as Punjab and from political parties in the Opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' address on Sunday strongly defended the farm Bills passed by Parliament, arguing that farmers can now sell their produce directly "anywhere and to anyone" without middlemen. Terming this "the foundation of their (farmers') progress", Modi said that this power has been imparted to all farmers "not only for marketing of the fruits and vegetables but whatever they are producing or cultivating in their fields — paddy, wheat, mustard, sugarcane — ...they have now got the freedom to sell where they can get a higher price according to their wish."

In a statement issued on Sunday, the government said, "He (PM Modi) shared the example of Kanwar Chauhan, a farmer from Haryana, who used to face great difficulties in marketing his fruits and vegetables outside the mandi (traditional market), but in 2014, fruits and vegetables were excluded from the APMC Act, which greatly benefited him. He formed a farmer producer's organisation and farmers in his village now cultivate sweet corn and baby corn and supply produce directly to Azadpur mandi in Delhi, to big retail chains and five-star hotels, which has substantially boosted

their income."

Modi said, "Even in this time of crisis, the agricultural sector has again shown its resilience. The agricultural sector of the country, our farmers, our villages are the very basis of Atmanirbhar Bharat. If they remain strong then the foundation of Atmanirbhar Bharat will remain strong. In the recent past, these areas have liberated themselves from many restrictions and tried to break free from many myths. I get many such letters from farmers. I've had a dialogue with farmer organisations."

The statement said, "The Prime Minister cited the benefits accruing to farmers due to exclusion of fruits and vegetables from APMC purview by sharing the example of Sri Swami Samarth Farm Producer Company Limited — a farmer producer's organization in Maharashtra. He noted that farmers in Pune and Mumbai are running weekly markets and selling directly without middlemen. He also talked about the Tamil Nadu banana farmer produce company, a collective of farmers, which purchased hundreds of metric tons of vegetables, fruits and bananas from nearby villages during the lockdown and supplied a vegetable combo kit to Chennai. He mentioned the Irada farmer producer group from Lucknow who, during the lockdown, procured fruits and vegetables directly from the cultivators' fields, and sold directly in the markets of Lucknow, free from the middlemen."

## Rahul Sinha revolts over BJP's new V-P

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, SEPT. 27**

Anger is brewing in the BJP in West Bengal after the promotion of two Trinamul Congress defectors, Mukul Roy and Anupam Hazra, in the saf-ron patry's rank and file at the cost of old-timers ahead of the Assembly election in the state.

On Saturday evening, Rahul Sinha, a party veteran, found his name dropped from the new list of national secretaries announced after the organisational reshuffle.

What infuriated him was the appointment of Hazra, known to be a follower of Roy who has been made vice-president, in his place from the state. Disappointed, Sinha revolted publicly. Tagging Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party and the Prime Minister he tweeted, "Served @BJP4India for 40 Years as the Warrior and today just to include @AITCOfficial Leaders, I have been asked to Left the Post of the Party. @narendramodi @BJP4Bengal (sic)."

The former state BJP president, who contested many elections but never won any, shared a video message but with a deadline. "The gift of serving the BJP is like this: I have to go away because a Trinamul Congress leader is coming. Nothing can be more unfortunate than this. I will not comment anything beyond this. I don't want to say anything in favour or against the gift that the party gave. I will state whatever I have

### BJP LEADER CALLS MAMATA BIGGER ENEMY THAN COVID-19

**DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, SEPT. 27**

Emboldened by his promotion in the BJP, Trinamul Congress defector Anupam Hazra on Sunday described West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the "bigger enemy than Covid-19." Triggering controversy, he also spoke about his wish to "hug" the Trinamul supremo if he would get infected by Covid-19.

Hazra said that the saf-ron party had stopped giving importance to the pandemic. He was appointed BJP secretary from West Bengal in place of party veteran Rahul Sinha on Saturday. On the sidelines of a BJP meeting at Baruipur in South 24 Parganas, Hazra said, "Our party's functionaries are fighting Mamata Banerjee who is a bigger enemy than Corona. So when they have felt they have done it without masks, we are not giving any importance to Corona in view of the present situation. I also have decided that if I get infected by Corona, I will hug Ms Banerjee first."

to say in the next 10-12 days and I will decide my future activities," he said.

RESCUE | MISSION

## Ship was carrying 905 tn rice and sugar to the African nation Coast Guard save 12 from sinking ship

**Ahmedabad, Sept. 27:** Twelve crew members of a cargo vessel sinking in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast have been rescued by the Coast Guard, officials said on Sunday.

Around 9 pm on Saturday, the Coast Guard received information that there was flooding onboard the vessel 'MSV

Krishna Sudama' around 10 nautical miles off the Okha coast.

The vessel had on Saturday started sailing from Mundra in Gujarat for Djibouti, carrying 905 tonne rice and sugar to the African nation, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

"Search and rescue was immediately commenced

### On the protest track



Farmers block railway tracks during Rail Roko Andolan against the Central government's newly introduced farm bills, at Devi Dass Pura village, 20 km from Amritsar, on Sunday.

— PTI

## India's Covid-19 cases surpass 60-lakh mark

### Country records single-day spike of 88,600 infections

**New Delhi, Sept. 27:** India's Covid-19 caseload sprinted past the 60 lakh on Sunday night, 12 days after it crossed the 50-lakh mark, while the total number of recoveries too surged to 50,02,959, according to data from states and union territories.

The Union health ministry data updated on Sunday 8 am showed a single-day spike of 88,600 infections, taking the country's Covid-19 tally of cases to 59,92,532, while the death toll climbed to 94,503 with 1,124 people succumbing to the disease in a day. However, by night, a PTI tally showed India's Covid-19 caseload at 60,66,061, death toll at 95,466 and recoveries at 50,03,084.

The tally has been compiled according to information provided by the states and union territories. India is in pole position in terms of the number of recoveries, followed by Brazil and the US, according to the Johns Hopkins University (JHU), which has been compiling Covid-19 data from all over the world. India is the second-worst hit nation in terms of Covid-19 cases after the US, while it is in the third spot in terms of fatalities globally after the US and Brazil, according

**New Delhi, Sept. 27:** Travellers from Dubai and the UK were primary sources of Covid-19 importations into India, according to an analytical study done by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi.

According to the research, which has been published in the Journal of Travel Medicine, Covid-19 got induced into Indian states mainly due to international travels.

The study has also found that infected cases from Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh played less role in spreading the disease outside their communities. Whereas infected people in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka played a significant role in

the local transmission, and some of them caused interstate transfer too.

"We tracked the spread of Covid-19 and its diffusion from the global to national level and identified a few super spreaders who played a central role in the transmission of the disease in India. The Covid-19 spread in phase one was traced using the travelling history of the patients, and it was found that most of the transmissions were local," Sarita Azad, Assistant Professor, IIT Mandi, said. "The research team has used the travel history of infected patients from January to April as the primary data source and a social network was created depicting the spread in the early phase of the pandemic.

The research found that the maximum numbers of connections were established from Dubai (144) and the UK ( 64)," she added. Azad explained that statistical metrics calculated from the data revealed that Dubai and the UK played a crucial role in spreading the disease in Indian states and were the primary sources of Covid-19 importations into India. "Dubai's eigenvector centrality was the highest that made it the most influential node. The statistical metrics calculated from the data revealed that Dubai and the UK played a crucial role in spreading the disease in Indian states and were the primary sources of Covid-19 importations into India — PTI

to JHU data.

The Union health ministry on Sunday said a total of 49,41,627 people have recuperated from coronavirus infection tak-

ing the national recovery rate to 82.46 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.58 per cent. There are 9,56,402 active cases of

Coronavirus infection in the country which comprise 15.96 per cent of the total caseload, the health ministry data showed. — PTI

## India-Denmark bilateral summit to be held today

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27**

India will host a virtual bilateral summit with Denmark on Monday at the prime ministerial level, the government said on Sunday. An MoU in intellectual property cooperation between India and Denmark will signed at the summit. Another major outcome will be Denmark joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA), New Delhi said.

al summit will give an opportunity to the two leaders to comprehensively review the broad framework of the bilateral relationship in the context of the time-tested friendly ties between the two countries and give broad political direction for a strengthened and deepened collaborative partnership on key issues of mutual interest."

The MEA said, "The India-Denmark bilateral relations are marked by

● **AN MoU** in intellectual property cooperation between India and Denmark will signed at the summit. Another major outcome will be Denmark joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA), New Delhi said.

regular high level exchanges and are based on historical links, common democratic traditions and shared desire for regional, as well as international peace and stability. ... Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Denmark has grown by 30.49 per cent from \$2.82 billion in 2016 to \$3.68 billion in 2019. Around 200 Danish companies have invested in India in sectors such as shipping, renewable energy, environment, agriculture, food processing, smart urban development. Several major Danish companies have built new manufacturing factories under the 'Make in India' scheme. Around 25 Indian companies are present in Denmark in IT, renewable energy and engineering."

## Ex- DGP Gupteshwar Pandey joins JD(U) ahead of Bihar polls

**NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, SEPT. 27**

Former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey joined the JD(U) in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at his residence in Patna on Sunday. After he took voluntary retirement last week, it was being speculated that he would join the JD(U). On Sunday, while talking to reporters, he said that his next political move depends on the party. "I have joined JD(U) and as a good soldier of the party I would like to wait for the instructions and advice of the top leadership", Pandey said.

Reports suggest that Pandey is likely to get a ticket to contest either the Assembly election from Buxar or the Valmikinagar Lok Sabha seat where a bypoll has been necessitated due to the death of JD(U) MP Baidyanath Mahto.

This is the second time he is trying his luck in electoral politics. In 2009 he had opted for voluntary retirement to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Buxar but returned to the service after he failed to get the ticket from the BJP.

"I have spent my life working for the people and will continue to serve them in future also. As far

### NCB WANTED ME TO IMPLICATE KARAN JOHAR: KHSITIJ PRASAD

**SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 27**

Executive producer Kshitij Ravi Prasad, who has been arrested by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a drugs case linked with the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has been remanded to police custody till October 3. According to his lawyer, when Kshitij was produced before the court, he alleged before the magistrate that he was tortured and pressurised and asked to name Karan Johar or some other top official linked with Dharma Productions.

Initially when Prasad's name cropped up it was said that he was an employee of Dharma Production, but Karan Johar denied it and said that he was not linked with his firm.

According to advocate Satish Maneshinde, Prasad was produced before magistrate through videoconferencing. At that time the lawyer informed the magistrate that Kshitij was harassed and blackmailed to make a statement as told by the probe officer. On his request the magistrate recorded the statement made by Prasad.

Prasad told the court that when NCB searched his house they found nothing objectionable. However, the officials still mentioned in the panchanama that his house was a "ganja joint" and at his wife's insistence they added the word "believed" to be a ganja joint.

He alleged that at the time of recording his statement, an NCB officer, despite his protests, inserted various patently false claims in his statement. The statement was not recorded as per Prasad's narration and language, he claimed.

According to the lawyer, Prasad alleged before the court that NCB officer had told him that since he was associated with Dharma Production, they would let him off if he implicated either Karan Johar, Somel Mishra, Rakhi and others alleging that they consumed drugs. However, he did not agree despite pressure being mounted on him as he did not know any of these people personally and didn't wish to implicate anyone, the lawyer said.

● **"I HAVE** joined JD(U) and as a good soldier of the party I would like to wait for the instructions and advice of the top leadership", Pandey said.

as my contesting elections is concerned it's the party which has to take a decision", Pandey said after joining the JD(U).

Political analysts are of the view that the JD(U) which draws its support from the OBCs and a large section of minority voters hopes to reach out to the Brahmin voters with the induction of Pandey. "He has been a competent officer and we saw how efficiently he handled communal and other sensitive issues. The party will benefit from his entry," JD(U) MP Lalan Singh said.

The Assembly election in Bihar for 243 seats is to be held in three phases beginning October 28 and the results will be declared on November 10.

Pandey had hit headlines by taking a strong stand on the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. He had criticised the Mumbai police in matters pertaining to the investigation. He had also stoked a controversy by saying that "Rhea Chakraborty doesn't have the stature (aukat) to comment on Bihar CM".



## IN BRIEF

**Lebanon shooting: 2 soldiers killed**

**Beirut:** Gunmen in a car opened fire on an army post in the Minyeh region of northern Lebanon Sunday, triggering a shootout in which two soldiers and one gunman were killed, the Lebanese military said. Another gunman fled to an unknown destination. An army operation is underway to arrest the fugitive and uncover the circumstances of the attack, the military said. The shootout occurred as the army was engaged in a heavy exchange of fire with a group of militants linked to Sunni extremists in northeast Lebanon, close to the border with Syria.

**16 killed in China mine accident**

**Beijing:** Sixteen people trapped in a coal mine in south-west China's Chongqing Municipality on Sunday were killed due to the presence of excessive levels of carbon monoxide, official media reported. The incident happened when the burning belts in the mine caused the carbon monoxide to exceed safety limit, trapping 17 people inside, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. A 75-member rescue team has entered the mine and 30 medical workers have rushed to the scene, it said. One person who survived the accident was rushed to the hospital, *CGTN TV* reported.

**15 perish in Pakistan inferno**

**Karachi:** At least 15 people were killed when a passenger van travelling in southern Pakistan crashed and caught fire. The van was carrying passengers from Karachi to Hyderabad city when it struck an object and careered off the road late Saturday. "The death toll has reached 15," Owais Shah, the transport minister of Sindh province, said. Five other people were injured, three of them critically. Most of the bodies were burned beyond recognition, said Faisal Edhi, head of the non-profit Edhi Foundation which runs the morgue the bodies were taken to. Investigators were looking to see if a natural gas cylinder aboard the bus had contributed to the inferno.

**Chinese soldiers' remains returned**

**Beijing:** The remains of 117 Chinese soldiers who died in the 1950-53 Korean War were returned to China on Sunday in an annual repatriation delayed this year by the Coronavirus outbreak. South Korea handed over the remains at a ceremony at Incheon airport outside Seoul, and a Chinese military transport plane flew them to Shenyang, a north-eastern Chinese city near the North Korean border. Chinese soldiers fought on the North Korean side against US-led forces in the South during the war on the Korean Peninsula. Most of the 117 remains were found in the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea.

**NORTH KOREA ACCUSES SEOUL OF INTRUSION**

**Seoul, Sept. 27:** North Korea accused South Korea of sending ships across the disputed sea boundary to find the body of a South Korean official recently killed by North Korean troops, warning Sunday the intrusion could escalate tensions. South Korea denied the accusation. "We urge the South side to immediately halt the intrusion across the military demarcation line in the West Sea that may lead to escalation of tensions," the official *Korean Central News Agency* said. "It arouses our due vigilance as it may lead to another awful incident." Along with its denial, South Korea proposed a joint investigation to resolve discrepancies in each country's account of the South Korean official's death last week. Officials in Seoul have said the 47-year-old was likely attempting to defect before North Korean troops aboard a boat fatally shot him and burned his body. According to Seoul, North Korea on Friday sent a message, including a rare apology by leader Kim Jong-un for the shooting death of the official, who was found floating on an object in its waters. It said its troops shot the official because he attempted to flee after refusing to answer to questions. It said North Korea maintained troops were unable to find the official's body and burned the object he was floating on in line with anti-Coronavirus rules.



In this image taken from a footage released by Armenian Defence Ministry on Sunday, Armenian forces destroy Azerbaijani military vehicle at the contact line of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan. Fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan has broken out around the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian Defence Ministry says two Azerbaijani helicopters have been shot down. Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan also said Armenian forces hit three Azerbaijani tanks. — AP

# Martial law in Azerbaijan as fighting erupts with Armenia

**Yerevan (Armenia), Sept. 27:** After fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out on Sunday around the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian Defence Ministry said two Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down, Azerbaijan on Sunday declared martial law and a curfew in capital Baku and several other cities, as fighting with Armenian rebel forces in Nagorno-Karabakh claimed military and civilian casualties on both sides. A top territorial official said 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded. "Martial law will be introduced as of midnight as well as a curfew from 9 pm to 6 am," in Baku, several other cities and districts that are close to the Karabakh frontline, presidency spokesman Hikmet

**RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS OVER KARABAKH, SAYS EU**

**Brussels, Sept. 27:** The European Union called Sunday for a halt to fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani separatists over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and an "immediate return to negotiations".

The worst clashes since 2016 broke out on Sunday between arch-foes Azerbaijan and Armenia, which have been locked for decades in a territorial dispute over the Armenia-backed breakaway region. "Military action must stop, as a matter of urgency, to prevent a further escalation," European Council president Charles Michel tweeted, calling for "an immediate return to negotiations". EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell stressed the urgency of relaunching negotiations over Nagor-

ny Karabakh under the auspices of the so-called "Minsk Group" led by France, Russia and the United States. "The European Union calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, de-escalation and for strict observance of the ceasefire," he said. A major conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia could draw in top regional players Russia and Turkey. — AP

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin also took to Twitter: "Armenia has violated the ceasefire by attacking civilian settlements ... the international community must immediately say stop to this dangerous provocation."

Stepanyan said the fighting on Sunday began

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# Police: One shot and killed, seven injured in Iowa

**Waterloo (US), Sept. 27:** Gunfire erupted early Saturday at a gathering of motorcycle clubs in Iowa, killing one person and wounding seven others, authorities said.

About 100 people were at the gathering inside a building in Waterloo when there was "some kind of confrontation shortly after 3 a.m.," Joel Fitzgerald, the police chief of the city about 145 kilometres northeast of Des Moines, said at a news conference.

Officers were nearby at a traffic stop when the shooting started, said Capt. Joe Leibold with the Waterloo Police Department. They arrived to find a chaotic scene, with people hurt and others fleeing the area, and they began administering aid as paramedics and firefighters pulled up. "It was a pretty dynamic scene," said Battalion Chief Ben Petersen with Waterloo Fire Rescue. "Coming into something like that, you are trying to size up the patients

**SHOOTING AT POLICE STATION: SUSPECT HELD**

**Los Angeles, Sept. 27:** A police officer was hurt in a shooting at a Los Angeles police station late Saturday, and a suspect is in custody, police said.

The Los Angeles Police Department said in a series of tweets that the shooting occurred at its Harbor Station.

The officer was taken to a hospital with an injury that's not considered to be life-threatening, the department said.

A suspect was in custody. Chief Michel Moore said in a tweet that the officer was stable.

and triage the scene." Eight people had gunshot wounds and one of them later died. — AP

# After Barrett nod, GOP invests \$10m in boosting Trump

**Washington, Sept. 27:** The Republican National Committee is putting Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation fight front and center with voters just weeks before Election Day.

The confirmation battle will be featured in a new \$10 million RNC digital ad campaign to encourage battleground state voters to return vote-by-mail ballots or go to the polls. The national party, in concert with President Donald Trump's campaign, is planning local events and protests across the country to support Barrett's confirmation as well.

The party is also incorporating Barrett's nomination into its scripts that staffers and volunteers use when calling or knocking on voters' doors, with a focus on social conservative Catholic and evangelical voters — particularly in swing states

like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Florida.

Filling the vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been an unexpected political opportunity for Trump, who won the White House in 2016 in large part because conservatives were animated around filling the seat opened by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. The RNC on Saturday unveiled a website, ConfirmBarrett.com, to allow supporters to contact lawmakers to urge them to put Barrett on the court. "With a full-throated effort from now until President Trump's nominee is confirmed, our teams will expose Democrats' partisanship, aggressively promote the qualifications of Judge Barrett, and use this issue to galvanize voters to the polls in November," said RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel. — AP

# Trump campaign sues to block mail-in ballot rule changes

**Raleigh (US), Sept. 27:** President Donald Trump's campaign committee and the Republican National Committee sued Saturday to block North Carolina election officials from enforcing rule changes that could boost the number of ballots counted in the presidential battleground state.

The Republicans' lawsuit claims a new system adopted by the State Board of Elections will allow for absentee ballots to be cast late and without proper witness verification, which invites fraud, coercion, theft, and otherwise illegitimate voting.

The elections board on Tuesday issued new guidance allowing mail-in absentee ballots with defici-

ent information to be fixed without forcing the voter to fill out a new blank ballot for November's general election.

The change means absentee voters who don't provide complete information on their envelope about a witness who saw them fill out the ballot won't have to complete a new ballot and locate another witness.

A voter will just have to turn in an affidavit confirming they filled out the original ballot.

North Carolina is one of eight states with witness and or notary public requirements for absentee ballots, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. — AP

**NATIONAL | TREASURE Dept of archaeology to fund repairs to heritage buildings of the Indian celluloid stars**

# Pak's KP govt to buy houses of Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar

**Peshawar, Sept. 27:** The provincial government in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has decided to purchase the ancestral houses of legendary Bollywood actors Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar to conserve the historic buildings which are in dilapidated condition and facing demolition threat.

The Department of Archaeology in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has decided to allocate sufficient funds for purchasing the two buildings, which have been declared as the national heritage and lie in the heart of Peshawar city, an

official said. An official letter has been sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar to determine the cost of both the historic buildings, where the two greats of Indian cinema were born and raised in their early days before the partition, said Dr Abdus Samad Khan, the head of department of archaeology. Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, is situated in the fabled Qissa Khwani Bazar. It was built between 1918 and 1922 by the legendary actor's grandfather Dewan Basheswarnath Kapoor. Raj Kapoor and

his uncle Trilok Kapoor were born in the building. It has been declared national heritage by the provincial government.

Veteran actor Dilip Kumar's over 100-year-old ancestral house is also located in the same locality. The house is in shambles and was declared as national heritage in 2014 by the then Nawaz Sharif government.

Khan said the owners of the two buildings made many attempts in the past to demolish them for constructing commercial plazas in view of their prime location but all such mo-

vements were stopped as the archaeology department wanted to preserve them keeping in view their historic importance.

However, the owner of Kapoor Haveli, Ali Qadar, said that he did not want to demolish the building and made many contacts with the archaeology department officials to protect and preserve this historic structure which is a national pride. The owner has demanded Rs 200 crore from the KP government to sell it out to the government. In 2018, the Pakistan government decided to convert the Kapoor Haveli



The houses of Dilip Kumar and (R) Raj Kapoor.



into a museum, heeding to a request by Rishi Kapoor who died this year in Mumbai. However, the announcement to this effect could not be materialised. — PTI



# DECCAN Chronicle

28 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Duplicitous government exposed on GST funds

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) that the Union government wrongly retained ₹47,272 crores of GST compensation cess that was collected specifically to compensate states for the loss of revenue in the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19 is a stinging rebuke of its financial management.

The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, guarantees all states an annual growth rate of 14 per cent in their GST revenue in the first five years of implementation of GST beginning July 2017. Should there be a shortfall, the Union government will compensate it from the GST Compensation Cess Fund, created by levying a cess on certain luxury and “sin” goods. The Act and the accounting procedure mandate that the entire cess collected during a year is credited to the Fund, a non-lapsable one which can be used only for the purpose for which it is created. For the financial year 2017-18, the government collected ₹62,612 crores as cess and transferred ₹56,146 crores to the Fund and for 2018-19, it collected ₹95,081 crores and transferred ₹54,275 crores. In effect, it retained ₹6,466 crores in 2017-18 and ₹40,806 crores in 2018-19. This is a violation of the law, the CAG said. Worse, the Centre transferred the money to the Consolidated Fund of India, thereby making it available for use for purposes other than what was provided in the Act. This has “led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year”, the report said.

The government has not officially responded to the CAG report but it has let it be known that the cess mess was not a diversion but a retention of funds. This is ridiculous. The Union government has no right over the funds; its job is to collect and distribute it as per the approved formula. By not following its own mandate, the government has defiled the law, the national consensus on GST and the legislative intention behind the constitutional amendment. That it got an opinion of the attorney-general in its favour is no matter of pride.

The GST was implemented with a number of noble and notable aims including making tax administration a smooth affair and plug leakage by creating a proper trail of goods and services from the first the point to the last. However, this tax reform took a heavy toll on the state governments’ finances as it took away their right to levy taxes and deposited them all with the Union government. The CAG report says the latter has failed to keep its part of the bargain.

It may be remembered that the states, fatigued by the long-drawn fight against pandemic Covid-19, have been knocking on the Union government’s doors for financial aid, including GST compensation. The government, which consumed the excess cess in the previous fiscal, took shelter behind “act of god” and shrugged its shoulders. This is gross, and strikes at the very root of the idea of constitutional democracy that India is. The earlier the government corrects itself, the better.

## Golden voice of SPB

A mellifluous voice that sang in innumerable Indian tongues has fallen silent but the songs of the polyglot playback singer will live on. The passing of S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, or just “SPB” in affectionate abbreviation, is just another tragedy caused by the shadow of the coronavirus Covid-19 falling on the lives of millions. The virus seems to have acted wilfully in the case of so many celebrated talents in the fields of music, performing arts and fine arts who have passed on in the last six months in which the pandemic has been raging globally. It is small consolation that their works will live on in music tracks, celluloid or video.

The outpouring of grief and the underlying affection for the charismatic singer illustrates the depth of his engaging personality who, as a public performer, was peerless in dealing with people in the film music industry. His greatness lay in his humane qualities and the manner in which he made everyone around him feel important and touched by playing a constructive part in the expression of his art. His fans, enraptured by the melodies he sang or the devotional songs he rendered in emotional asseveration of faith in a higher being, will immortalise his songs by playing them again and again.

Remarkably, in a career that began in 1966 and ended only on the day he was admitted to hospital in August 2020, the 74-year-old singer’s voice retained its richness, depth, range and timbre. His felicity in rendering his songs in concerts was phenomenal, making his shows a celebration of the artiste and his works while establishing a direct link with lovers of popular music. He never trained formally in classical music and still made his name reverberate nationally with his songs in *Sankarabharanam*, a movie that brought the vibrations of Carnatic music to the common man. Music has always had the quality of uniting Indians across the divides of a unique national diversity. SPB, who sang in 16 languages while capturing every nuance, was a true pan-Indian performer who lent his golden voice to matinee stars across the country.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA  
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patnam, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2553284/2553287; Telefax: 0866-2553234  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580  
**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904  
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**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580  
**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325  
**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552.  
**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
**Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloorkadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408  
**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph’s Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014  
**Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018  
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Subhani



## Govt didn’t bring Opp. on board on China question



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

It is unfortunate that Parliament ducked discussing the most serious National Security challenge that India faces since 1962 i.e. the stand-off in Eastern Ladakh and North Sikkim qua China. It is obvious that government would try and avoid answering the hard questions but the combined Opposition in both Houses should have pushed hard for a full-fledged discussion and not contented itself with a bland statement from the defence minister with some pro-forma clarifications in the Rajya Sabha and not even that in the Lok Sabha.

In fact, this writer wrote to the defence minister on September 16, 2020, urging that the government should suo-moto propose a discussion on the border situation for not only would it demonstrate the strength of our democracy but also convey our unequivocal national resolve expressed through the collective will of Parliament to the Chinese.

I reminded him that during the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict 165 Members of the Lok Sabha had participated in a discussion on the ongoing Sino-Indian war in the Lok Sabha and an equal number including former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in a concurrent discussion in Rajya Sabha. In fact, the day the Chinese invaded India on October 20, 1962, on the urging of Mr Vajpayee who was one of the MPs of a four-member Bharatiya Jan Sangh group in Rajya Sabha Nehru unhesitatingly summoned Parliament to meet on November 8, 1962.

A day later Mr Vajpayee took the floor. He commenced by fiercely critiquing the Nehru administration just as the Chinese were seizing the two crucial knolls — Green Pimple and Yellow

Pimple — thereby giving them a bird’s eye view of the 4 Dogra battalion HQ established at Walong on that very day.

Unconstrained by the consideration that the Indian Army was locked in a brutal battle with the Chinese trespassers he began up by highlighting the need for introspection especially with regard to the events leading up to the Chinese offensive all through the 1950s and early 1960s.

He demanded answers to some very uncomfortable questions — namely — why our army was not “in full force” in NEFA and why were they not battle-ready. He enquired why between September 8 when China’s bellicose intent started manifesting itself and October 20, when they struck, the Army had not mobilised itself in full force to preempt the belligerents. He insisted on clarity on the identity of those “eminentes” in both the civil and military establishment who had kept the dispensation in the dark and what action had been taken against them.

Mr Vajpayee intuitively understood that in a democracy we must state the truth howsoever uncomfortable it might be rather than brushing sensitive issues under the carpet. That is why 37 years later when the Kargil intrusion took place in April-May 1999, just one year after the highpoint of the Lahore bus ride, he had no qualms about telling the nation that he had been betrayed by the Pakistanis and they had captured key heights in Drass, Kargil and other areas overlooking National Highway 1-A that connects Srinagar to Leh. Similarly, during the December 1971 war for Liberation of Bangladesh, Late Mrs Indira Gandhi did not dodge Parliament.

Unfortunately, Mr Vajpayee’s successors lack the moral courage to be forthcoming on the latest Chinese transgressions. They hide behind the specious fig leaf of national security to avoid the hard questions labelling everyone who tries to hold their policies and personnel to account as anti national. Such is the paranoia of this government that all my questions — and there were only unstarred questions permitted in this session of Parliament addressed to the Prime Minister, defence, home and external affairs ministers on the Sino-Indian face-off — were disallowed on grounds of “sensitivity” despite having been balloted in the list of 230 questions that are supposed to be answered on any given day. This level of opacity only raises further misgivings that the government is attempting to hide the truth from the nation.

During both World Wars I and II, parliaments of democratic nations across the world regularly met to discuss the conduct and direction of war. Winston Churchill’s most famous speeches were made on the floor of the House of Commons during the duration of the Second World War.

The present mess that India finds itself in one is of its own making. India failed to read the Chinese intent. When India was busy playing the friendly neighbour the Chinese were preparing themselves for the confrontation.

China deceived India by making it complacent. The present confrontation shows that the 2018 Wuhan and the 2019 Mamallapuram summits were but a smokescreen. The lack of early detection of the Chinese activities on the LAC has intelli-

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s official statements of denying the transgressions have played to China’s advantage. It now accuses India of violating the LAC.**

gence, strategic and tactical failure written all over it. The Chinese know that the ruling party is heavily invested in maintaining its hyper-nationalist image. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s official statements of denying the transgressions have played to China’s advantage. It now accuses India of violating the LAC.

The ongoing stand-off does not seem to end anytime soon. Talks have been ongoing since May with a goal to disengage and to restore the status quo ante. However, the talks have failed because there is a differing understanding of what status quo ante means to the two parties. India wants a status quo ante as of the pre-April 2020 situation. However, the Chinese seem to prefer the pre-2019 situation before the revocation of the autonomous status of the region. Both the parties have dug into their positions, to deny the other any strategic advantage. Both the parties do not want the confrontation to turn into a full-fledged war; therefore, this would turn into a war of attrition that would further sap our already-weakened economy. The Chinese are taking advantage of the stand-off situation to rapidly augment their offensive capabilities along the entire LAC. The Chinese, by occupying and building infrastructure in the previously viewed “grey areas” by both the parties, have forced India to accept the Chinese claim line as the new normal through the force of arms.

Should any self-respecting nation tolerate this national humiliation, notwithstanding the obfuscation that the government is blatantly encouraging by running a Bollywood soap opera on what were till yesterday supposed to be news and current affairs dissemination outlets?

*The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.*

### LETTERS

#### INDIA IN UN

Being the largest democracy and associated with the UN for the past 75 years India’s claim to be a part of the decision-making team of the world body is legitimate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly raised the issue during his speech delivered at the UNGA debate (PM: India wants to be part of decision making at UN, DC, Sept. 27). It is however important to show the world that we are good at decision-making. Some decisions taken lately have, unfortunately, invited serious criticism from the world community. Convincing the world of our leadership potential necessitates putting our house in order first.

**M. Saleemuddin**  
Hyderabad

The PM has rightly questioned the UN for keeping India away from decision-making seat in the Security Council even though India is the largest democratic country in the world and had played great role in peace missions and contributed a lot to many countries in health and pharma sector for more than 70 years. The UN should go for changes in the Security Council which has five permanent and 10 temporary seats since its formation as now the number of countries has increased from 150 to 213. In fact India deserves a permanent seat with veto power than.

**T. Kailash Ditya**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

#### DECCAN Chronicle

#### ‘Sloganisation is dangerous’

NEW DELHI, Sept. 27  
Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, MP, today warned against the democratic institutions being misused by political leaders to inject fascist and dictatorial elements in the country’s body politic.

Speaking on “democratic life in India” at a seminar here this morning, Mr. Menon said “sloganisation” was one of the principal maladies of the Indian democracy. Unfortunately, “even Hitler achieved dictatorial powers in Germany through slogans promising everything to everybody” he added. — UNI

Sanju Verma



## Farm laws to end Arhatiya control, bring down prices

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which removes cereal, pulses, oilseed, edible oil, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities, was passed by the Rajya Sabha on September 22, 2020, to curb hoarding, artificial scarcity and trade cartelisation. Earlier last week, the Narendra Modi government also passed two historic farm bills, to defang APMCs and allow farmers to engage in contract farming, in the Rajya Sabha. The three bills had already cleared the Lok Sabha.

A beleaguered Opposition electorally vanquished by the Modi juggernaut, cried foul, alleging the bills were passed by only a voice vote in the Upper House. A voice vote is perfectly democratic and the deputy chair of the Rajya Sabha was within his rights to pass these bills with a voice vote.

Keeping the politics aside, the moot question is, will these farm bills help farmers? The answer is a resounding, “yes”. Do the farm bills remove MSP or public procurement? No, they do not.

The procurement process will continue as before. The minimum support price (MSP) payment to farmers for paddy rose by 2.4 times at ₹4.95 lakh between 2014 and 2019 under the Modi government, as against only ₹2.06 lakh crores under the previous Congress-led one between 2009 and 2014. The MSP to farmers for wheat increased by 1.77 times during 2014-2019, as compared to 2009-2014. For pulses, MSP payment of ₹49,000 crores to farmers was up by a massive 75 times. Payment to farmers for oilseeds and copra surged 10 times to ₹25,000 crores.

Do the farm bills dismantle the existing “APMC-Anaj Mandi” structure? No, they do not. The rights or livelihood of those associated with Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Mandis will not be encroached upon. However, it is a known fact that APMC structure has been inefficient, with farmers relying on APMC agents to help them sell their produce. In this system, while APMC agents walk away with hefty commissions, while the hapless

farmers make precious little. It is precisely to unshackle them from predatory agents and middlemen that the Modi government passed the farm bills.

APMCs will not be dismantled but they will certainly face stiff competition now from “Trade Areas”, which will be created and will exist alongside APMC Mandis. Farmers will be free to sell their produce to whomsoever they wish to, at a price they deem fit, in these “Trade Areas”. So let it be clear that it is not farmers who are protesting but middlemen and APMC Mandi owners who are upset because their monopoly has been broken. There will be no taxes by either the state or central governments on trade conducted in these “Trade Areas”, thereby reducing the cost of transaction in the entire food chain from farm to fork.

The farm bills also allow for contract farming, whereby farmers can enter into contracts, at a predetermined price, even before the crop has been harvested, with private companies, aggregators, food processors and exporters. This is

an unprecedented reform, as it allows farmers to lock in a good price for their harvest and insulates them from any post-harvest price volatility.

Is partial privatisation of agriculture good? Of course, it is. Who will pay for the insurance, cold storage, machinery and farm equipment when farmers enter into contracts with private players? The farm bills clearly state that these will be paid for by the counter-party and not the farmer. This will be a big relief for especially small and marginal farmers who can access superior farm technology and become agripreneurs without having to go out of pocket.

How will farmers negotiate with private entities that are supposedly equipped with more business acumen? Well, in Budget 2020, the Modi government announced the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). These FPOs are largely big groups of farmers who are brought together, as they will have better bargaining skills, rather than farmers operating as individuals. There are already

about 5,000 FPOs in India.

Why are protests largely from Punjab? Well, in Punjab, there are over 40,000 powerful arhatiyas or middlemen, with one lakh clerks working under them. Arhatiyas also double up as moneylenders to farmers. Under the existing system, in states like Punjab, APMC/Mandi fees come to around 8.5 per cent — a market fee of three per cent, rural development charge of three per cent and the Arhatiya’s commission of 2.5 per cent. The “Arhatiya” system is more influential in Punjab than elsewhere in India, and hence most protests are from this region. In FY20, 40,000 Arhatiyas in Punjab reportedly pocketed commissions worth over ₹1,600 crores.

Prime Minister Modi’s farm bills, however, seek to put money into the hands of farmers, something no political leader ever attempted before.

*The writer is an economist, chief spokesperson for BJP Mumbai and bestselling author of Truth & Dare — The Modi Dynamic.*



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	37,388.66	2.28
Nifty 50	11,050.30	2.27
S&P 500*	3,298.46	1.60
Dollar (₹)	73.61	0.39
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.01	0.03
Euro (₹)	86.01	0.19
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,551▼0.71	353
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.78	-0.16
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.038	0.046
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.659	-0.005

\* As of Friday/Saturday

## DPIIT spots 24 key sectors to boost mfg

The DPIIT has shared a list of 24 key sectors, including food processing, toys, furniture, agro chemicals and textiles, with respective ministries asking them to work on an action plan with a view to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a self-reliant country, an official said. The other sectors include organic farming, iron, aluminium and copper, electronics, industrial machinery, furniture, leather and shoes.

## Centre offers moong, urad at subsidised rates



The Centre has offered to provide processed moong and urad pulses from its buffer stock to state governments for retail sale at a subsidised rate in the current lean period in a bid to check any possible price rise, according to consumer affairs secretary Leena Nandan. Moong will be offered at Rs 92 per kg and urad at Rs 84-96 per kg, much lower than pre-valuing retail market prices, she said.

## HDFC Bank aims to rope in 20 mn small merchants

HDFC Bank is targeting a ten-fold increase in the number of small merchants it serves to 20 million in the next three years, sources at the lender have said. The bank started targeting merchants about 18 months ago with solutions on accepting payments, providing value-added services like creating a simple website for them, taking care of their inventory and lending based on cash flows, through a single app.

## Voda Idea starts upgrading 3G users to 4G

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) said it has started upgrading its 3G users to 4G in key markets. Further, VIL said it is in the best position to upgrade 2G customers also to 4G, but it will continue with basic voice based services to its 2G subscribers. "While the company will continue to offer basic voice services to its 2G users, 3G data users will gradually be upgraded to 4G...VIL has started informing its customers."



## ■ Accommodative stance, tweaks expected RBI may opt for rate status quo

FALAK NAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 27

Elevated retail and rising core inflation seem to rule out a rate cut on October 1 from the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India. However, the RBI would continue to emphasise its accommodative stance and keep doing tweaks to liquidity and regulatory operations to keep financial market conditions benign, said economists who now expect the central bank to cut rates only in December or in February policy.

The six-member MPC headed by RBI governor is scheduled to meet for three days, starting September 29. The resolution of the MPC would be announced on October 1. The RBI has cut the repo rate by 115 basis points since February.

While price stability is the prerogative of the MPC, the central bank is also juggling other policy priorities, with some of them running counter, such as managing the dollar deluge while ensuring currency stability; keeping bond yields low just as inflation plays spoilsport.

"The current elevated level of inflation, which is well above the RBI's upper bound of 6 per cent, suggests the MPC will pause again in October. However, given more durable damage to growth versus a more transitory shift in inflation, we expect 50 basis points in cumulative rate cuts in



total, with the next 25 basis points to be delivered at the December policy meeting," said Sonal Varma, chief India economist at Nomura.

The August CPI inflation stayed steady at 6.7 per cent year-on-year heading in a favourable direction, but still above the RBI's 2-6 per cent target range while growth has slipped quite sharply. Core inflation (ex-food and fuel) ticked up to 5.8 percent YoY compared to 5.7 per cent in July, with the core-core (core excluding transport and gold) witnessing a pullback. Rural and urban inflation also remained high, moving in lockstep in recent months, as supply hit impacted across geographies.

At 9.1 per cent in August, food inflation was the lowest since November 19. Inflation of pulses, cereals, meat, spices and milk showed softened inflation. While the liquidity situa-

tion is comfortable, bank credit growth has been negative.

The policy comes at the time when the term of three external members of the MPC ends in September, but a short extension of their term may be considered, according to media reports.

"High-frequency indicators (and staple food prices) along with rising number of infection cases necessitating regional movement restrictions suggests that September inflation is also likely stay firmly in the 6 per cent-plus terrain for a fifth consecutive month. Our evolving forecast trajectory points to shallow pullback toward the 4 per cent CPI target only in Q21. This lowers the odds of a rate cut in December, prompting us to revise our forecast to a pause in December and 25 basis points cut in 1Q," said DBS.

## All 4 labour codes to take effect by Dec.

Sept. 27: The government is aiming to implement all the four labour codes in one go by December this year and complete the final stretch of labour sector reforms, labour minister Santosh Gangwar has said.



Santosh Gangwar

Parliament in its just concluded session passed three labour code bills: the Industrial Relations Code, the Social Security Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

The Wage Code Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year. The labour ministry had circulated the draft rules on the Wage Code Bill last year but held back its finalisation and implementation. The ministry wanted to implement all the four codes and rules under those in one go as all of them are inter-linked.

Talking to PTI, Gangwar said, "Government is doing all efforts to complete the labour reforms by implementing the all four labour codes by December this year..." He further said "the rules under these legislations would be enforced at once".

—PTI

## ORIENT LAUNCHES DECORATIVE WATER HEATERS

Sept. 27:

Orient Electric Limited, part of the \$2.4 billion CK Birla Group, has announced the launch of its new range of decorative water heaters, with alluring designs and finishes.

The new models include Aura Neo Art instant water heater with designer marble finish and BE 5-star rated Evapro PC and Gusto Art storage water heaters flaunting distinctive designs.

The storage water heater have Ultra-Diamond Glassline tank for durability, Glassline coated heating element for better heating, Magnesium anode rod for enhanced tank life, PUF Insulation for better heat retention.

Salil Kappoor, Business Head, Home Appliances, Orient Electric, said, "Consumer's expectation about product functionality, reliability and aesthetics has increased manifold and thus we are routinely introducing products that address their evolving needs."



Salil Kappoor

## Business NOTE

## BPCL pays up for Videocon in Brazil

New Delhi, Sept. 27: State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) has been forced to pay for its defaulting partner Videocon Industries Ltd after it had relied on a rarely used model to acquire stake in five oil blocks in Brazil, sources said. In September 2008, BPCL and Videocon had formed a 50:50 joint venture to acquire a Brazilian oil exploration firm for \$283 million.

The two firms formed an incorporated joint venture IBV Brasil Petroleo Limitada to acquire Encana Brasil Petroleo Limitada from Canadian gas producers EnCana.

Sources said usually such acquisitions are done through unincorporated joint ventures but BPCL chose to form an incorporated joint venture.

Incorporated joint venture is organised as separate and distinct legal enti-

ty. And the entire entity is held in default if any one of the partners doesn't pay for its share of cost.

With bankrupt Videocon unable to pay its cash calls for exploration and development of the oilfields, IBV faced likelihood of a default and the risk of being booted out.

To save the day, BPCL infused \$53.98 million into IBV in 2019-20, resulting in its share in the JV rising to 55.13 per cent.

—PTI

## 'Medical tourism requires govt support'

New Delhi, Sept. 27: Apollo Hospitals Enterprise said India's medical tourism sector needs support from the government to get back on its feet after being severely impacted by the pandemic.

"The medical tourism sector came to a standstill due to the lockdown. This has impacted not just India but Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and other Asian countries also which have a thriving medical tourism sector", Apollo Hospitals Group joint MD Sangita Reddy told PTI.

While there is easing out of the lockdown, it will take government level discussions to help bring



Sangita Reddy

patients in for treatment, she added.

"For example, Malaysia has seen some patients coming in for open-heart surgery from Brunei as a direct result of government level discussions. Similarly, in India, there is a need for government support to ensure that medical value tourism in

India gets back on its feet," Ms Reddy said.

Medical value travel tourism is still nascent in India and holds great potential. Niti Aayog has identified medical value travel as one of the major growth drivers and a major source of forex earning, she added.

"As the world unlocks, we will see a gradual increase in patients, all taking due precautions, turn to India for their treatments. In a world where people have become increasingly cost-conscious, India offers a significant advantage with high quality, high value care," Ms Reddy said.

—PTI

## Dhanlaxmi needs course correction, Aibea tells RBI

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, SEPT. 27 SEPT

The banking sector's largest union, the All-India Bank Employees' Association (Aibea), has asked the central bank to effectively intervene in Dhanlaxmi Bank to prevent it from running into problems once again. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed its nominee G. Jagan Mohan as additional director on the board of the private lender and through him the RBI should actively intervene to oppose management decisions that can adversely impact the bank, C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary, Aibea told *Financial Chronicle*.

In a strongly worded letter to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, the union opposed management decisions to change



the business profile of the bank, opening of branches in northern India, and appointment of a large number of sales executives and senior executives on contractual and cost to company bases at much higher remuneration, which could adversely impact the bank.

"We strongly believe that RBI's role in the board of directors of the bank should be reviewed as otherwise RBI would become answerable if things go bad," wrote

Venkatachalam.

The 93-year-old Dhanlaxmi Bank (originally Dhanalakshmi Bank) is a small-sized private bank headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala. A few years ago, particularly during 2008 to 2012, the bank was facing multiple problems regarding its performance and made losses to the tune of Rs 850 crore during this period.

The letter said that after making losses for continuously for five years the bank is making profit for the last eight quarters. The profit for 2019-20 at Rs 65 crore was the highest since the bank's inception. However, in the beginning of this year, the top management has changed and "in the recent months we are concerned to observe that perhaps the bank is once gain heading in the wrong direction."

## TCS offers its hiring test to other firms

New Delhi, Sept. 27: Tata Consultancy Services has opened its National Qualifier Test (NQT) to corporates to help them in their fresher recruitment programmes. Till last year, the NQT was restricted to hiring for TCS.

NQT—conducted by TCS' strategic unit TCS iON—is a multi-level assessment to assess competence on core cognitive abilities required for entry-level jobs, industry-specific knowledge and insights, and specialisation on skills required for performing the job role.

Introduced in 2018, NQT

last year saw more than 3.6 lakh students participating from over 2,600 colleges.

"NQT will now be a common gateway test for several participating corporates for their fresher recruitment programmes. This standardised test will provide candidates with access to open positions at multiple corporates giving millions of young jobseekers an opportunity to work for India's top corporates," TCS iON global head Venguswamy Ramaswamy told PTI.

It will provide subscribing corporates with a well-

rounded evaluation of candidates' abilities, and access to quality talent across the nation at speed and scale, he added.

Apart from large groups, the company is also in touch with small businesses across 600 cities so that students from these locations can get the NQT score and smaller enterprises can hire local talent.

Young professionals with up to two years experience, and students from any stream, can apply for the test, conducted every quarter and the score will be valid for two years. —PTI

## I-T return: Scrip-wise details not needed for day trading

New Delhi, Sept. 27: The finance ministry said there is no requirement of scrip-wise reporting in the I-T returns form for day trading or short-term sale/purchase of listed shares.

Gains from share trading in case of stock traders or day traders is generally categorised as short-term capital gains or business income. This is because their holding period of shares/units in most of the cases is less than one year, which is a prerequisite for the gains to be categorised as long-term capital gains.

"...there is no requirement in the return of income for scrip wise reporting in case of short-term/business income arising from share transactions," the ministry said on Saturday.

The clarification comes amidst reports that stock traders/day traders are required to furnish scrip-wise details in the return of income for AY 2020-21.

The ministry further said that the Finance Act, 2018 allowed tax exemption to the gains made on the listed shares/specified units up to January 31, 2018, by introducing grandfathering mecha-



nism for computation of long-term capital gains for these shares.

The scrip wise details in the return of income for AY 2020-21 is required to be filled up only for the reporting of the long-term capital gains for these shares/units which are eligible for the benefit of grandfathering," the ministry added.

As the grandfathering is to be allowed by comparing different values (such as cost, sale price and market price as on January 31, 2018) for each shares/units, there is a need to capture the scrip-wise details for computing capital gains of these shares/units, it said.

The scrip wise details are not required in income tax return forms for AY 2020-21 for computation of capital gains/business income from shares/units which are not eligible for grandfathering.

—PTI

## DRAWNG | EYEBALLS

## US cosmetics giant pays Nasa \$128,000 for photo shoot in space

## Estee Lauder skin serum to show off in space station

KIM BHASIN &  
JUSTIN BACHMAN  
SEPT. 27

Estee Lauder Cos is sending its newest skincare formula into space, and it'll cost only about as much as paying a big influencer for a few Instagram posts.

The US cosmetics giant is spending \$128,000 for Nasa to fly 10 bottles of its skin serum to the International Space Station. Once there, astronauts will take pictures of Estee Lauder's Advanced Night Repair in the cupola control tower, which has panoramic views of the cosmos. The images

will be used on social media, with the company planning to auction one bottle off for charity when the items return to Earth this spring.

The global recession, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, has pushed brands to get more creative with their advertising because consumers are cutting back. Within beauty, several companies are spending less on traditional ads, while looking for new ways to break through the glut of content out there. In a press release, Estee Lauder highlighted it being the "first beauty



brand to go into space" as a means to tout its "skincare innovation."

The Northrop Grumman Antares rocket that will transport the skin serum as part of a supply run is scheduled to

launch on Tuesday night from Wallops Island, Virginia. The Cygnus cargo craft will then dock on the space station early Saturday.

Estee Lauder's push into micro-gravity is part of

Nasa's effort to commercialise low-earth orbit and make it a domain where private enterprise eventually does business as routinely as the government conducts spacewalks. Companies from Goodyear Tire & Rubber to Merck & Co have used space for research, and Nasa is hoping to expand its use, including private citizens visiting the space station.

"We need to expand people's perspective on what we can accomplish in space," said Phil McAlister, Nasa's director of commercial spaceflight development.

—Bloomberg

## Malabar Gold opens Khammam showroom

Khammam, Sept. 27: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country, has inaugurated its 13th store in Khammam of Telangana with a one-of-its-kind virtual store launch event.

Brand ambassador and actress Tamannaah virtual-ly opened the store along with Malabar Group chairman M P Ahammed and O. Asher, MD, Indian operations.

Shamlat Ahamed, MD, international operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds and Abdul Salam KP, group executive director,

Malabar Group and other senior management officials were also present at the virtual inauguration.

The store launch was preceded by a special preview sale which attracted encouraging response from the jewellery buyers. As part of the inauguration customer will get free silver equal to the weight of gold purchased. The offer valid up to October 10. Located at Wyra Road, Khammam, the showroom is a part of the global expansion plan of the jeweller. The store will offer a safe and hygienic retail environment to its customers.

## Business NOTE



## SHORT TAKES

## Chelsea stage superb fightback

**West Bromwich:** Chelsea staged a superb second-half fightback from three goals down as Tammy Abraham's last-gasp strike rescued a thrilling 3-3 draw against West Bromwich Albion on Saturday. Frank Lampard's side were torn apart in the first half as Callum Robinson's brace and Kyle Bartley's goal punished woeful defending. But Mason Mount reduced the deficit soon after the break and Callum Hudson-Odoi got Chelsea's second before Abraham equalised deep into stoppage-time.

On Sunday, Tottenham were denied by another controversial penalty given for handball deep into stoppage time as Callum Wilson's spot-kick snatched a 1-1 draw for Newcastle. — *AFP*

## Ramos snatches win for Madrid

**Madrid:** Sergio Ramos scored a late penalty as Real Madrid came from behind to scrape a 3-2 win against 10-man Real Betis, their first La Liga victory of the season.

Betis were ahead at half-time after two goals in two minutes from Aissa Mandi and William Carvalho overturned Fede Valverde's opener for the reigning champions. But Betis defender Emerson endured a nightmare start to the second half by scoring an own-goal.

VAR again intervened in Madrid's favour in the 82nd minute as Marc Bartra was adjudged to have cleared with his arm, leaving Ramos to chip in the winning penalty. — *AFP*

## James powers Lakers into Finals

**Miami:** The Los Angeles Lakers, fueled by a triple-double from superstar LeBron James, beat the Denver Nuggets 117-107 on Saturday to reach the NBA Finals.

With the win in the league's quarantine bubble in Orlando, the Lakers completed a 4-1 victory over the Nuggets in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals.

James scored 16 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers remained perfect in elimination games this post-season. Denver, already the first team to twice come back from 1-3 series deficits in the same playoffs, couldn't work the magic again.

James added 16 rebounds and 10 assists. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Mumbai Indians from 7:30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**England Women vs West Indies Women:** Fourth T20 from 10:30 pm on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Matches from 2:30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Fulham vs Aston Villa from 10:30 pm on Star Sports 3; Liverpool vs Arsenal from 12:30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**Italian League:** Bologna vs Parma from 12:15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## BASKETBALL

**NBA Eastern Conference Finals (Game 6 of best-of-7):** Miami Heat vs Boston Celtics from 6 am on Sony Six, HD

## WWE RAW

Bouts from 5:30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

## ROYAL TWIST

## RR record highest IPL rurchase, beat KXIP by 4 wickets

**Sharjah, Sept. 27:** Rajasthan Royals recorded the highest rurchase in IPL history to beat Kings XI Punjab by four wickets in a high-scoring encounter here on Sunday.

Put into bat, Mayank Agarwal smashed a 50-ball 106, while skipper K.L. Rahul cracked a 54-ball 69 as the duo stitched a 183-run opening stand off 99 balls to power Punjab to an imposing 223 for 2.

Sanju Samson then put on a lion-hearted effort with a 42-ball 85 studded with seven sixes and four boundaries, while Steve Smith scored a 27-ball 50 to keep RR in the hunt.

However, it was Rahul Tewatia, who turned hero when he smashed five sixes in the 18th over off Sheldon Cottrell to turn the match on its head. He scored a 31-ball 53 after struggling initially to take them to the brink of win.

Earlier, Agarwal outshone his captain Rahul with a maiden IPL hundred.

The duo just missed the record of highest opening wicket partnership in IPL history by a mere two runs when Agarwal was out in the 17th over after hitting 10 fours and seven sixes during his magnificent 50-ball knock.

Nicholas Pooran then hit 25 not out from just eight balls while Glenn Maxwell also remained unbeaten on 13.

Rahul was content to playing second fiddle to Agarwal though the KXIP captain also made some brilliant shots during his 54-ball knock studded with seven fours and a six, continuing his rich vein of form after his 132 not out against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Agarwal surged ahead of his captain by reaching his fifty (from 26 balls) in style with a six off Shreyas Gopal and followed it up with another maximum to bring up KXIP's 100 in the ninth over. — *PTI*



Rahul Tewatia of Rajasthan Royals plays a shot on way to his half-century against Kings XI Punjab in their Indian Premier League match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. — *BCCI*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	+1.100
Rajasthan Royals	2	2	0	0	4	+0.615
Kings XI Punjab	3	1	2	0	2	+1.498
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	0	2	-0.767
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	0	2	-0.840
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	2	0	2	0	0	-0.730

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

## SCORECARD

**Kings XI Punjab:** K. L. Rahul c Shreyas Gopal b Rajpoot 69, Mayank Agarwal c Samson b Tom Curran 106, Glenn Maxwell (not out) 13, Nicholas Pooran (not out) 25. **Extras: (b-1, w-8, nb-1) 10. Total: (for 2 wks, in 20 overs) 223.** **FOW:** 183-1, 194-2

**Bowling:** Jaydev Unadkat 3-0-30-0, Ankit Rajpoot 4-0-39-1, Jofra Archer 4-0-46-0, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-44-0, Rahul Tewatia 1-0-19-0, Tom Curran 4-0-44-1.

**Rajasthan Royals:** J. Buttler c Khan b Cottrell 4, S. Smith c Mohammed Shami b Neesham 50, S. Samson c Rahul b Mohammed Shami 85, R. Tewatia c Agarwal b Mohammed Shami 53, R. Uthappa c Pooran b Mohammed Shami 9, J. Archer (not out) 13, R. Parag b Ashwin 0, T. Curran (not out) 4. **Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-6) 8. Total: (for 6 wks, in 19.3 over) 226.** **FOW:** 1-19, 2-100, 3-161, 4-203, 5-222, 6-222.

**Bowling:** S. Cottrell 3-0-52-1, Mohammed Shami 4-0-53-3, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-34-0, J. Neesham 4-0-40-1, M. Ashwin 1.3-0-16-1, G. Maxwell 3-0-29-0.

## Warner hits out at SRH's batters

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 27:** Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner has criticised the below-par effort of his batsmen after they slumped to their second successive defeat in the ongoing IPL, saying poor application in the middle overs let the team down yet again.

Manish Pandey (51 off 38) and Wriddhiman Saha (30 off 31) failed to take on Kolkata Knight Riders' disciplined bowling in the middle overs to set a modest 143-run target after Warner chose to bat.

Coming in place of an injured Vijay Shankar, Bengal wicketkeeper batsman Saha was particularly slow to start with and wasted a lot of balls before being run out.

"We could have applied a bit more pressure on the bowlers and tried to hit more boundaries in that middle period," Warner said after the seven-wick-

**We could have applied a bit more pressure on the bowlers and tried to hit more boundaries in that middle period. I'm disappointed more about the dot balls we played — there were about 35-36 dot balls in the middle, which in T20 cricket is not acceptable. I think we need to change our mindset.**

— **DAVID WARNER**

Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner after losing the match against Kolkata Knight Riders

et loss to KKR on Saturday.

"I'm disappointed more about the dot balls we played — there were about 35-36 dot balls in the middle, which in T20 cricket is not acceptable. I think we need to change our mindset."

The dashing Australian opener said SRH were 20-30 runs short of what could have been a good score. "We were probably 20-30 runs short and then it would have been a good game. If you don't put the right total on board, it's going to be hard to defend."

But Warner defended the move, saying he wanted a "genuine batsman" to build a partnership

after his dismissal.

"You got to put a genuine batsman in, when I got out, we were trying to build partnerships. It's easy to say, send pinch-hitter in or what not, but you got to generate some momentum," he said.

"It's just unfortunate that they bowled well. They pulled their length back. We're unable to hit the boundaries. They executed well."

Warner looked in his elements in a 30-ball 36 before becoming spinner Varun Chakravarthy's maiden IPL victim.

"Obviously, it was a very poor and soft dismissal for myself. We just got excited, pressed the button and started going on," he said.

"I don't blame anyone. I take full responsibility for myself for not batting through the overs and getting a soft dismissal."

— *PTI*

## AFRIDI LAMENTS ABSENCE OF PAK PLAYERS IN IPL

**Karachi, Sept. 27:** Pakistan's former captain Shahid Afridi has rued the absence of top players from his country in a "big platform" like the Indian Premier League.

In a report published in the Pakistani media, Afridi said that the IPL is a big platform for any player to get exposure, gain experience and improve.

"The IPL is a big brand and I know that if our players like Babar Azam and others get a chance to play in it they would learn to play under pressure situations.

Unfortunately, due to the existing policies, our players are not getting that big platform," he said.

Pakistani players have not been part of the IPL since the first edition in 2008. — *PTI*

## MI test awaits Kohli's squad

**Dubai, Sept. 27:** Royal Challengers Bangalore would be looking to address their pace-bowling concerns when they face defending champions Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

RCB started on a winning note but then they collapsed against Kings XI Punjab, resulting in a humbling 97-run defeat.

After scores of 14 and 1, Kohli is due for a big one and would be itching to spend more time in the middle. Opener Devdutt Padikkal, who started his IPL career with a classy half-century, did not do much against KXIP and will be aiming for consistency.

Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch would be hoping to convert starts into match-winning performances while AB de Villiers will be expected to provide the late fireworks again with the lower-order not inspiring a lot of hope.

It is still not clear whether RCB will have the services of South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who sat out of the first two games due to a side strain.

In the bowling department, Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man with pacers, barring Navdeep Saini, leaking runs.

Dale Steyn and Umesh Yadav have proved expensive so far. The South African great is likely to retain his place in the playing eleven but the same can't be said about Yadav, who could make way for Mohammad Siraj.

England all-rounder Moeen Ali will be a welcome addition to the middle-order but with Josh Philippe keeping wickets regularly, he can only replace Steyn.

Mumbai Indians, who ticked all the boxes in their comfortable win against Kolkata Knight Riders, are unlikely to tinker with

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 25
- Rajasthan won: 16
- Punjab won: 9

## MEETING IN 2019

- Mumbai Indians beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 runs in Bangalore.
- Mumbai Indians beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets in Mumbai.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Virat Kohli, who scored 8,915 runs at an average of 40.89 in 268 innings of 283 innings, needs 85 runs to become first Indians and seventh batsman overall to complete 9,000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket.

- Rohit Sharma, who scored 689 runs at an average of 29.95 in 25 innings of 26 matches, is the second highest run-getter behind Mahendra Singh Dhoni (794 runs in 27 matches) against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

their team composition. The biggest positive is that skipper Rohit Sharma is back among the runs and looked in ominous touch against KKR, and so did Suryakumar Yadav.

The only change that the team can make is bring in Ishan Kishan in place of the bulky Saurabh Tiwary.

Apart from their batting prowess, Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard can jointly perform the role of an additional bowler, but MI coach Mahela Jayawardane has made it clear that they don't want to take any risks with Hardik, who is playing after a long break following a back injury. — *PTI*

## GILL HAILS CUMMINS' SUPERB COMEBACK

**Abu Dhabi, Sept. 27:** Young Kolkata Knight Riders opener Shubman Gill, who played an unbeaten match-winning knock against Sunrisers Hyderabad, hailed Pat Cummins for his strong comeback after the Australian pacer had a forgettable outing against Mumbai Indians in their opening IPL fixture.

The world number one Test bowler, who leaked in excess of 16 runs an over without any success against MI, smartly altered his length on Saturday to return with tidy figures of 1 for 19 as KKR restricted SRH to a below-par 142 for 4 here.

And then Gill made an unbeaten 70 off 62 balls to anchor KKR's chase.

"One odd day doesn't mean much to us and he (Cummins) bowled really well in this game," Gill said after helping KKR beat SRH by seven wickets to register their first win in IPL 2020.

Cummins, who was



Shubman Gill

bought by KKR for a record ₹15.5 crore, shared the new-ball with spinner Sunil Narine and castled an in-form Jonny Bairstow (5) with a delivery that sharply nipped back in.

"Pat is one of the best bowlers in the world right now. We had to start with Pat and Sunil," Gill said.

Gill said as an opener it's his duty to bat through the innings.

"I think as an opener, it's very important to stay there and it's your duty to see the team through," he said. — *PTI*

## Halep reaches second round, Venus bows out

**Paris, Sept. 27:** Top-seeded Simona Halep won 10 straight games in beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-0 to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday and extend her winning streak to 15 matches.

Halep won on her 29th birthday, but with minimal celebrations planned for the evening since the coronavirus pandemic means players stay locked inside the security bubble of their hotels.

Wearing thick black leggings and a long-sleeved pink jersey to combat the chilly conditions, the 2018 champion made a series of unforced errors and trailed 4-2. But then she found her range, clinching the first set with a hold to love and

## FRENCH | OPEN

sealing victory on her first match point when her Spanish opponent clipped a forehand wide.

Over on Court Suzanne Lenglen, U.S. Open runner-up Victoria Azarenka experienced a vastly different temperature to Flushing Meadows only two weeks ago.

The 10th-seeded Azarenka, who beat Danka Kovinic 6-1, 6-2, fumed when match officials didn't immediately send them back to the locker room during a rain interruption.

"I am going to get frozen," she complained.

"No. I'm not waiting here a couple of minutes because I'm cold. It's eight

degrees, eight degrees, I live in Florida, I am used to hot weather."

After the match, she said the conditions were risky.

She next faces Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, who won 6-4, 6-4 against American veteran Venus Williams. "Even on my really good shots she had a lot of amazing replies that just kind of came out of nowhere," Williams said.

Williams exited in the first round at Roland Garros for the third straight year and is 0-3 in Grand Slams this year following the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. Since the start of 2018, the seven-time Grand Slam champion has lost in the first round in seven of the past 11 major tournaments. — *AP*

## Bottas exploits Hami's troubles in Russia



Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas celebrates on the podium after winning the Russian Formula One Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit on Sunday. — *AP*

**Sochi (Russia), Sept. 27:** Valtteri Bottas took full advantage of a troubled day for his Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton to claim the ninth win of his career with a measured drive to victory in Sunday's incident-packed Russian Grand Prix.

The Finn swooped to take second place at the start and inherited the lead when the runaway series leader and six-time champion took an extended pit-stop to serve two five-second penalties for irregular pre-race practice starts.

A disgruntled Hamilton, aiming to win and equal Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Grand Prix triumphs, re-joined in 11th

place, but fought back to finish third behind Bottas and Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

His second win in Russia and second this season reinvigorated Bottas' challenge for the drivers' title and reduced Hamilton's lead to 44 points.

Sergio Perez came home fourth for Racing Point ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo, who had to take a five-second penalty for an infringement, and Charles Leclerc, who was sixth for Ferrari. Esteban Ocon was seventh for Renault ahead of local hero Daniil Kvyat and his Alpha Tauri team-mate Pierre Gasly and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

Hamilton did not want to talk about his penalty.

"It doesn't matter. It's done now. I'll take the points and move on, but congratulations to Valtteri," said Hamilton.

## STEWARDS ARE TRYING TO STOP ME: HAMILTON

Hamilton accused the stewards "trying to stop me" after he was handed two five-second penalties that wrecked his hopes of a record-equalling 91st victory.

The runaway series leader said the stewards' penalties, given to him for a minor infringement when he performed two pre-race practice starts, were excessive. — *AFP*

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