


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

 **Max:** 35°C
Min: 24.2°C
RH: 56%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 35/24 °C

COVID-19 CUNT




CASES	DEATHS
(+87,066)	(+1,085)
43,63,843	73,894

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,392)	(+11)
TS: 1,45,163	906
(+10,601)	(+73)
AP: 5,17,094	4,560

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

 **2,76,39,033**
 **DEATHS**
8,99,172
 **COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES**
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Saptami till 2.04 am (Wednesday)
Star: Kritika till 11.12 am
Varjyam: 4.47 am to 6.32 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 11.49 am to 12.37 pm
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 20, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.03 am
Zohar: 12.23 pm
Asar: 4.34 pm
Maghrib: 6.28 pm
Isha: 7.37 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.03 AM
MOONSET TODAY 11.36 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 11.07 PM

COUNTER POINT



Replace my photo with Sushant's in the election poster!

BRIEF

Deepak Kochhar in ED custody

SHAHAB ANSARI
MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

The special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Tuesday remanded Deepak Kochhar, the husband of former ICICI Bank Chief Executive Officer Chanda Kochhar, to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till September 19. Holding that Kochhar's custodial interrogation is necessary in the money laundering case registered against him, judge Milind V Kurtadikar also rejected his request for allowing home food in the Enforcement Directorate custody.

■ Full report on Page 7

WORLD | 5

Stand-off between China and Australia over journalists



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SPORTS | 8

Elise in wonderland at US Open

TABLOID

Celebs take the 'high' route



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FIRST LAC FIRING IN 45 YEARS

Chinese Army attempts to occupy Indian peak, when opposed PLA troops fire in air to intimidate Indians

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

Tensions with China seem to be intensifying in Ladakh with the Indian Army saying on Tuesday that in a major escalation of the ongoing face-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Chinese troops fired shots in the air on Monday night to intimidate its soldiers after failing to capture an Indian position in the Chushul sector. This is the first time in 45 years that a shot has been fired at the LAC.

According to sources, on Monday night, Chinese troops, armed with guns and what looked like their traditional *guandao* weapon (a single-edge blade on the end of a pole), attempted to dislodge Indian troops from Mukhpari, one of the highest peaks in the Chushul sector.

Since Indian soldiers were on a height, they could see Chinese action and warned them to move back, and that's when they fired shots in the air.

Officials said some 30-40 PLA soldiers are involved in a direct face-off with Indian soldiers in the general area of Mukhpari. The situation in the area is tense and even a small incident can lead to a big escalation.

China, however, accused Indian troops of crossing the LAC and firing shots at Chinese border personnel.

"Through diplomatic and military channels, we have made stern representations asking the Indian side to stop its dangerous actions, immediately withdraw the people who crossed the line and discipline the frontline troops and those who fired the warning shots and make sure similar incidents won't happen again," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said at the ministry briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

The Indian Army dismissed Chinese allegations and Brigadier-level talks were held on Tuesday to try to de-escalate the situation.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the aggression shown by the Chinese Army. A series of other high-level meetings were held in New Delhi on the evolving situation in the Ladakh sector.

The period between



Chinese soldiers, armed with guns and *guandao*, a traditional weapon used in martial arts, arrive at Mukhpari and Rezang La on Monday before closing in on Indian posts along the Line of Actual Control.

Nepal copters active in China's support near U'khand border

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD SEPT. 8

Amid heightened tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), hectic activity by Nepal Army — particularly a sudden spurt in helicopter sorties around the Lipulekh pass on the border between Uttarakhand and Tibet Autonomous Region of China near the trijunction with Nepal — is being keenly watched by Indian agencies.

The increase in activity by the Nepal Army, around the time China is said to have deployed surface-to-air missiles and expanding its military base near Mount Kailash, not far away from the Lipulekh pass, suggests that Nepal could well be assisting China in the inhospitable mountain passes under the garb of constructing its own outposts along the India-



A Nepal Army helicopter (circled) is seen flying near the Lipulekh pass near the border trijunction between India, Nepal and Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

Nepal border, close to the hill state of Uttarakhand, where massive deployment of forces is underway.

Over the past couple of months, Nepal Army choppers have been seen undertaking multiple sorties — something which

sources describe as quite unusual — as the Himalayan nation has, more or less, left the people living on its border with India and China at the mercy of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. The PLA is said to be not only supplying food

and other essentials to the villagers but is also believed to be slowly taking control of certain areas inside Nepalese territory.

Informed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that while the annual trade at Purang town in Tibet — where traders from the three countries gather each year — had been suspended this year due to Covid-19, so also the Kailash Mansarovar yatra, the passes remained inaccessible for civilians.

This made the task of enhancing its military bases near Mount Kailash easier for the PLA. Satellite images show the deployment of surface-to-air missiles and the ongoing construction activity to expand the base. The pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar traverses the Lipulekh pass.

■ Page 2: PLA troops seen in Nepal Army fatigues

advantage to dominate the area and keep a watch on Chinese garrison.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar had said the situation is "very serious" and called for "very, very deep conversation" at a political level.

OGH's 2 PG doctors reinfected

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Two post-graduate doctors of the general medicine department of Osmania General Hospital have been reinfected with Covid-19 after 50 days.

Their RT-PCR tests returned positive. One PG doctor suffered from fever and sore throat and underwent treatment and isolation for a week at Nizam's

Institute of Medical Sciences (Nims). The other PG doctor suffered from severe symptoms of high fever, fatigue and cold and is undergoing treatment at NIMS.

The health department had earlier stated that doctors were studying two other cases of suspected infection. Before that, this newspaper had reported two cases of reinfection.

The two doctors who

were reinfected had tested positive for Covid-19 the first time in the second week of July. At that time, they suffered from mild symptoms and took hydroxychloroquine.

After returning to work, they suffered Covid-19 symptoms again and underwent tests and were found to be Covid-positive.

■ Page 2: Residual virus may trigger reinfection

Russia gets India, China to explore peaceful solution

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

Russia is encouraging India and China to talk to each other but is not playing the role of a mediator, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

Russian Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Roman Babushkin confirmed that Indian external affairs minister S. Jaishankar would be meeting his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Moscow, which is scheduled to take place on September 9 and 10.

Pointing out that both Asian neighbours have "strong armies and nuclear weapons", Babushkin said his country was quite concerned over the Sino-Indian border tensions.

Russia, which has close ties with both India and China, has emerged as a key player in persuading both Asian giants to engage in a dialogue.

Asked whether Russia was playing a mediating role between the two Asian giants, the Russian Deputy Chief of Mission said Russia did not want to mediate unless both sides want it.

"Russia ... enjoys good ties with India and China. We hope our Indian and

DELHI LASHES OUT AT CHINESE MEDIA REPORT ON DOVAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

India on Tuesday lashed out at reports in the Chinese state media, saying that comments attributed in those reports to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval were "false".

The minister of external affairs said, "These reports are completely false and are not based in facts. We urge the media to refrain from such speculative reporting."

Chinese friends will find a mutually acceptable solution through dialogue. We will be happy to see positive results," the senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

Opposing any escalation of Sino-Indian border tensions, Babushkin said, "We are encouraging the countries for dialogue to expand common ground ... We are supporting the principle of dialogue ... We would encourage every effort (for peace) ... Russia promotes a political solution and a diplomatic solution."

Five Indians found on Chinese side

New Delhi, Sept. 8: China's People's Liberation Army has confirmed that five youths missing from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by them and their handing over process to Indian authorities is being worked out, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday.

The five youths had gone missing on Friday from the Sino-Indian border in

Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. "PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have confirmed that the missing youths from the state have been found by their side. Further modalities to handover the persons to our authority is being worked out," Rijiju tweeted.

■ Full report on Page 4

REVENUE WING NEEDS REFORMS FROM THE TOP

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

If the revenue department has to be reformed, about which Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is genuinely concerned, the process has to begin from the top, said officials concerned.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, for reasons best known to him, is holding dual posts of Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) and head of the revenue department ever since he took up the top post in this January.

Earlier too, there was no regular CCLA after S.K. Joshi, who went on to become Chief Secretary. "It is like not posting the Director General of Police and leaving the entire force without a boss," a senior official pointed out referring to the void created in the revenue department in the recent past.

■ Page 2: Land use files turned into a cash cow

SON OF SOIL

Chief Minister calls Narasimha Rao architect of global India; MIM boycotts resolution over Babri

Assembly tells Centre to accord Bharat Ratna to PV

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

The Assembly passed a unanimous resolution demanding that the Centre honour former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao with the Bharat Ratna, posthumously.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao introduced the resolution in the House, demanding that the Centre make the announcement during the upcoming ses-

sion of Parliament. The Assembly also demanded that the Centre instal a statue of Narasimha Rao and keep his portrait in Parliament, besides renaming the University of Hyderabad after him.

The AIMIM boycotted the proceedings. "As Prime Minister, Rao failed to protect Babri Masjid from demolition & his communal politics is well known," the party said in a post on its Twitter handle.

Initiating the debate, the Chief Minister said Narasimha Rao an intellectual and linguist and had become synonymous with statesmanship.

"If Jawaharlal Nehru is the architect of modern India, Narasimha Rao is the architect of global India. He is the pride of Telangana and the first Prime Minister from south India. The state government has decided to honour him by celebrating his birth centenary

throughout the year. We also want the entire country to remember him and his contributions to the nation," the CM said.

Narasimha Rao was planning to retire and return to Hyderabad but took over the reins of the country during severe national and international crises under unprecedented circumstances.

■ Page 2: PV's reforms lifted crores of people from poverty

Shabbir makes fun of MIM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Former minister and Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir ridiculed the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) for boycotting the resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday,

seeking the Bharat Ratna for former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

In a statement, Shabbir Ali, a senior Congress leader, said, "The MIM should stop its dual standard on the issue of P.V. Narasimha Rao."

"Abstaining from the House cannot be called a

'boycott'. MIM MLAs should have participated in the proceedings. On getting their turn to speak on the resolution, they should have expressed their opposition to the resolution before staging a walkout. This is the standard legislative practice."

SHORT TAKES

CHANGE MINDSET
ON ORGAN
DONATION: V-PDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday urged people to come forward to pledge to donate eyes and called for a change in the mindset on organ donation. Addressing an online meeting of ophthalmologists, Nethra Rakshak and Cornea Andhatv Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (CAMBA) volunteers among others, the Vice-President said, “there is an urgent need to create organ storage infrastructure and expertise to conduct transplant surgeries at the local level.”

The event, the valedictory function of the National Eye Donation Fortnight-2020, also saw the Vice President praising all stakeholders for reducing the prevalence of blindness to 0.36 per cent. He asked voluntary organisations and private practitioners to consider eye care as a mission, adding that organ donation was one of the noblest causes.

PV'S REFORMS
LIFTED PEOPLE
FROM POVERTY

From Page 1

He said that Narasimha Rao had led a minority government for a full five-year term and introduced revolutionary economic reforms that revived the country's economy.

“PV left his mark by appointing a non-politician like Manmohan Singh as finance minister and successfully connected India's economy with the global market. His reforms changed the lives of the poor in India forever and improved the living standards of an average citizen. We are enjoying the seeds sown by him,” Chandrashekar Rao said.

The Chief Minister recalled the role played by Narasimha Rao in establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and his Look East policy which opened the doors for Asian countries like Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Lauding the land reforms of Narasimha Rao as Chief Minister of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh in 1972, he said that Narasimha Rao had set an example by handing over his own land of about 800 acres that were above the land ceiling limits to the state government.

Chandrashekar Rao spoke of the role of Narasimha Rao in establishing Navodaya Vidyalayas at national level and Sarvail schools in the state, abolishing the detention system till Class VII and establishing the Telugu Academy for development of the language. Narasimha Rao was also a pioneer in starting open jails.

Participating in the debate IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao said that in undivided Andhra Pradesh rule, the doyens from Telangana had been neglected. Only after the state formation could the TRS government honour the stalwarts of Telangana state.

Rama Rao said the state government was officially celebrating the birth anniversaries and honouring

Telangana stalwarts like Makhdoom Moynuddin, Kaloji Narayana Rao, and several others who were neglected in erstwhile AP. Ministers V. Srinivas Goud, A. Indrakaran Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod and Gangula Kamalakara and several MLAs spoke on the occasion. Following a request from the Chief Minister, Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy approved the unveiling of the portrait of the former prime minister in the Assembly.

No rush



The sub-registrar office at Ashoknagar wears a deserted look on Tuesday after the state government passed orders on Monday to stop the registration process.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Land use files turned
into a cash cow

Govt nod for change in land use gives rise to corruption

From Page 1

Kumar worked as special chief secretary, revenue, before taking up the top post of Chief Secretary and retained the crucial departments of land revenue, taxes, excise and stamps and registration, apart from the CCLA.

“It was projected that the Chief Minister wanted Kumar to be the head of revenue also to prepare the new legislation and maintain utmost

secrecy about the transition process,” sources said adding that it is to be seen if he relinquishes the crucial posts and appoints regular officers to closely monitor the implementation of the new legislation at least now.

According to sources, change of land use is a major activity which the powers-that-be had converted into a source of corruption.

The government has to

● **CONTRARY TO the previous practice of clearing files at regular intervals, the system has changed in the last five years and files are cleared selectively leaving rest to pile up, sources pointed out.**

give its consent to change the use of land from agriculture to non-agriculture. In view of rapid urbanisation, applications were filed

before the government in large numbers.

“Contrary to the previous practice of clearing files at regular intervals, the system has changed in the last five years and files are cleared selectively leaving rest to pile up,” sources pointed out.

The realty sector urged the Chief Minister to automate the change of land use as part of reforms and curb corruption at higher levels.

Govt submits site plan
of OGH campus to HCVUJJINI
VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

The Telanganana High Court adjourned hearing to September 24 on a batch of PILs, some of them seeking a direction to the government to construct a new multi-storey building to house the Osmania General Hospital as most of its buildings were in a dilapidated condition and others asking the government not to demolish the heritage structure.

Advocate General B.S. Prasad submitted a site

plan of the OGH, including details of the structures and vacant land on the campus, to a division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy. The bench directed him to furnish the copies to counsels of petitioners to enable them to argue their case. Justice Vijaysen Reddy asked the government why it was not contemplating constructing a new building to house the OGH on the 15 acres of open land/

The Chief Justice

observed that it will not be proper if a new multi-storey building is constructed just beside a dilapidated heritage structure. “It doesn't make any sense at all or, rather, such a new building will be unworthy when there will be old buildings in a dilapidated condition standing beside it,” he said.

When Sandeep Reddy, counsel for one of the petitioners, said construction of a new building should be taken up immediately, in view of Covid-19, the CJ said, it would take time construct.

Residual virus could be cause

From Page 1

Shocked, they were isolated and sent to NIMS for treatment where all government doctors are being treated. This time both of them were put on anti-viral medications.

The cases of reinfection are leading to worry and also the evidence presented in reinfection is showing the presence of low lev-

els of viruses.

Dr K.K. Aggarwal, senior cardiologist, explained, “The mildest of infections should leave at least a short-term immunity against the virus in recovered patients. It could be likely that those cases which are coming as reinfection actually had low levels of virus in the body when they were discharged from the hos-

pital. This could have led to the re-emergence of the disease.” Since healthcare workers are coming with these cases of reinfection, they are being noticed faster.

Experts state that they have to wait and watch as evidence for reinfection is not enough to confirm that after recovery there can be infection again within a short time.

11 more die of Covid-19
in state, toll rises to 906BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Deaths from Covid-19 in Telangana state crossed the 900 mark and stood at 906, with the state health department on Tuesday reporting 11 more fatalities from the disease. It also said there have been 2,392 new Covid-19 cases taking to 1,45,163 the total cases so far.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area had 304 fresh cases followed by Ranga Reddy district with 191, and Karimnagar district with 157 new cases.

● **THE GREATER Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area had 304 fresh cases followed by Ranga Reddy district with 191, and Karimnagar district with 157 new cases.**

The other districts to register more than 100 cases between Sunday and Monday evening were Mechal-Malkajgiri with 132, Khammam 116, Nalgonda 105, Nizamabad 102, and Suryapet with 101 new cases.

The department said 2,346

persons have recovered from the disease, taking the number of such cases to 1,12,587, but there were 31,670 active cases of which 24,579 were in home or institutional isolation.

As many as 60,923 tests were conducted and from these, 27,415 were on primary contacts of Covid-19 positive persons while 8,529 were on their secondary contacts. Of the 1,45,163 total cases so far, 1,00,162 people were found to be asymptomatic while 45,001 were found to be symptomatic, the department said.

DRUG RACKET
BUSTED, THREE
ARRESTEDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Three persons were arrested in a drug bust by the Excise Enforcement's Hyderabad team which also recovered some drugs from the gang. According to the Excise police, the three men were arrested at BK Guda in Ameerpet and 46 pills of Ecstasy, two grammes of MDMA and 10 grams of charas were recovered from them. Also seized were one car and a motorbike.

The arrested were identified as Pilli Manoj Kumar alias Banti, Mohit Sharma alias Monti, and Gariganti Naveen Raj. The three men had recently been to Goa where they stayed for five days and returned here to the city on Monday.

Acting on a tip off, the Excise police raided Banti's residence where they also found the other two men.

TIMS runs out of
gloves for staffBALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Government hospitals are learnt to be facing a shortage of surgical and examination gloves, a common but critical component of personal protection equipment for frontline healthcare staff battling Covid-19.

A notice posted at the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS), at Gachibowli, makes it clear that “surgical and examination gloves” are not available in Central Medical Stores.

It was learnt that medical staff asking for additional pairs of gloves to wear as per ministry of health guidelines, have been asked to make do with whatever was being given to them each day.

The logic of this argument, it was learnt, is that doctors, nurses and other medical staff at other government hospitals were making do with similar shortages and those at TIMS too should fall in line.

Explained one doctor: “The health guidelines with respect to treating Covid-19 patients are very clear. Two pairs of gloves must be worn, an inner layer of examination gloves that cover the hand up to the wrist and an outer layer of gloves that extend up to mid forearm. All that the staff here is being given is one pair of non-sterile examination gloves.”

TIMS, it may be recalled, is

● **ADVOCATE GENERAL B.S. Prasad said the ordinance which allows the government to make special provisions for deferment of pay and pensions has been approved by the Cabinet to be placed before the Assembly.**

● **He requested the court to adjourn the matter till the end of the ongoing Assembly session. The bench adjourned the hearing to October 1.**

BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

With city commuters now having access to Metro Rail services that began on Monday, TSRTC officials have said that they are waiting for a decision from the state government on resumption of bus services in the city.

“We are ready to start our services as soon as the government gives us the go-

ahead,” a senior Telangana State Road Transport Corporation official told *Deccan Chronicle* on Tuesday. It may be recalled that bus services in the city were suspended this May following the spread of Covid-19.

All necessary measures for safety of passengers under the Covid-19 pandemic conditions have been discussed in detail and put in place by the corporation.

RTC awaits govt nod
to resumes servicesBharat Ratna for PV: KTR, Bhatti
argue on talk-time in AssemblyS.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday took serious exception to the comments of Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka during a discussion on the Assembly resolution seeking the Bharat Ratna for former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The CLP leader, while supporting the resolution moved by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, described Narasimha Rao as a great statesman and a political stalwart.

When he was concluding his speech beyond the time allocated to him, Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy allowed a TRS legislator to speak before Mallu Bhatti concluded his speech.

Reacting to this, the CLP leader commented that the Speaker was always insulting and humiliating Congress members whenever they tried to speak on the people's issues. At this stage, Rama Rao intervened and said that the Assembly

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

TRS MLAs Balka Suman, the government whip, S. Saidireddy, D. Manohar Reddy and Harshvardhan Reddy on Tuesday alleged that Congress MLAs were playing cheap politics and misleading people with regard to conducting A s s e m b l y proceedings.

Addressing a press conference in Telangana Bhavan, they condemned the allegations of the Congress MLAs of not giving opportunity to

them to speak in the house.

The TRS MLAs said that the Speaker had cut the mike of CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka as he had exceeded the time limit during the debate on a resolution seeking the Bharat Ratna for former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

They said that the Speaker allocated 74 minutes to TRS and five minutes for the Congress depending on the strength of the party but the Speaker had allowed the CLP leader to speak for 10 minutes. Vikramarka tried

to speak some more time which is when the Speaker cut him off.

The TRS MLAs alleged that the Congress doesn't want Narasimha Rao to be honoured with the Bharat Ratna and that was the reason they were trying to politicise the issue.

They said that the Congress leaders will not gain anything attacking Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao with harsh words and people will give the Congress a befitting reply as they have already done in the elections.

time chart allocating time to each party based on its strength in the House, but the Congress leader had spoken beyond the time allocated to the party.

Stating that it is not proper for the CLP leader to attribute motives to the chair,

Secretary has issued the

PLA in Nepal Army fatigues seen

From Page 1

As tensions along the LAC in eastern Ladakh reached its peak post the violent clashes in Galwan Valley, sources said that, besides their own resources, the PLA is believed to be taking assistance from the Nepalese Army which, going by its recent aggressive posturing with India over Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, would be more than willing to extend all possible help.

“It is no secret that China has been occupying and taking control of areas inside Nepalese territory. It has also been extending support to the people living in the bordering villages in an attempt to win their confidence, which would lead to lesser dependency on India. Nepal assisting China directly or indirectly is not

TROUBLE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD

● **A diplomatic row erupted between India and Nepal after the Himalayan country claimed Kapalani and Lipulekh in their political maps. Later, Nepal also showed Limpiyadhura within its boundaries.**

● **The Lipulekh pass is used by pilgrims visiting Kailash Mansarovar.**

● **In June, Nepal Army chief General Purna Chandra Thapa visited Darchula where the Nepal armed police established an outpost.**

● **The KP Sharma Oli government had taken objection to India constructing a road to Lipulekh**

● **China is believed to have deployed surface-to-air missiles near Mount Kailash and construction work is going on to expand the military base.**

● **Reports suggest that China has been funding organisations in Nepal to instigate anti-India sentiment.**

surprising,” senior officials in the know of the developments, said adding that Nepal Army copters have been spotted repeatedly over Tinkar and Chhangru villages in Nepal beside the Lipulekh pass. Sources said that the helicopters have been transporting men and material.

The Tinkar valley is the de facto tri-junction between China, India and

Nepal and the Chinese-Nepalese boundary line starts where the watershed between Kali river and Tinkar river meet. Interestingly, traders from border areas of Nepal who take part in the annual trade in Tibet are given several “gifts” when they return to their villages after the six-month-long trade comes to an end while Indian traders are just ignored. There have

been multiple reports of PLA soldiers seen in Nepal Army fatigues.

Interestingly, ever since Covid-19 led to the closure of bridges between India and Nepal in Pithoragarh district, helicopter sorties carrying Chinese foodgrains were reportedly provided to the villagers who otherwise would have crossed over to India, earned their livelihood and bought ration.

IN BRIEF

BJP chief for Nizamabad today

Nizamabad: BJP state president Bandi Sanjay will visit Nizamabad on September 9. He will visit the historical Quilla (fort) and head to the barracks of the then district jail, where famous Telangana poet Dasarathi Krishnamacharya was imprisoned during the Nizam rule. The BJP is demanding the state government to celebrate September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day. As a part of this, the BJP chief has decided to visit Nizamabad Quilla. BJP district committee is marking arrangements for Bandi Sanjay's visit. The BJP state president will also interact with party activists in Armoor on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to district collector C. Narayana Reddy here on Tuesday urging the state government to celebrate Telangana Liberation Day as official programme. They also wanted the Telangana martyrs stories to be included in textbooks in the state.

PDS rice seized in Makloor

Nizamabad: Task Force police raided a house in Makloor on Tuesday and seized 35 quintals of rice meant for public distribution system. On a tip off, Task Force inspector Shakir Ali, along with his staff, raided the house and seized the subsidy rice, which was being readied to be shifted to black market. Two persons were also arrested during the raid. The arrested and the seized rice were handed over to Makloor police. A case was registered and investigation is on.

Scholarships to students

Nizamabad: Additional Collector B.S. Latha directed college principals in Nizamabad district to submit applications of students seeking scholarships immediately. She said that the scholarships should reach the students during the Covid-19 pandemic only and so asked them to expedite the process. "Negligence on the part of a few college principals has led to scholarships remaining pending in the district," she said. The Additional Collector conducted a tele-conference with social welfare, BC welfare, tribal welfare officials and principals of colleges on Tuesday. Latha said that applications of students should be verified with their Aadhaar card details and then submitted to the welfare departments immediately. If any college management fails to send the scholarship applications, new scholarships will not be sanctioned, she said. She also suggested the principals to submit utilisation certificates for disbursed scholarship amounts in their respective colleges.

EX-MUTAWALLI OF DARGAH ENDS LIFE BY SUICIDE

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

Moulana Mohamed Faisal Ali Shah, former mutawalli of Dargah Yousufain, was found in his house on Tuesday. It is suspected that he died by suicide. He was about 55. He is survived by his mother, wife and two daughters.

According to sources, a domestic help at his residence found the body in a drawing room and alerted Shah's mother and wife. Habeebnagar police was informed and they shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital for autopsy. The body was later handed over to the family. Further investigation is underway.

Habeebnagar police station house officer P. Shiva Chandra said Shah's wife Mehnaz Ali Shah had lodged a complaint regarding the death, in which she stated the victim was facing various health problems and was in financial crisis.

"We are investigating from various angles," the police officer added. Followers of the Moulana expressed doubts over his death and demanded a thorough inquiry.

The Wakf Board had suspended Shah on certain allegations in 2014, and he had been battling legally since then to retain his position. He knew Arabic, Urdu, English and Persian and was also considered an expert in antiquities and semi-precious stones. He was buried in the graveyard inside the dargah.



Moulana Mohamed Faisal Ali Shah

Feast time



Procession in the premises of Shrine of Our Lady of Health church celebrating Mother Mary feast at Masabtank on Tuesday. — R. PAVAN

Congress vows to fight against land grabbing

TRS Pinapaka MLA encroaches Congress office site

DC CORRESPONDENT KOTHAGUDEM, SEPT. 8

With the police foiling the indefinite hunger strike of Chanda Santosh Kumar, Congress in-charge of Pinapaka Assembly constituency, the Congress leaders and activists vowed to continue their fight against TRS MLA Rega Kantha Rao, who tried to encroach the Congress party office in Manuguru, till the end.

The Congress workers burnt the effigy of TRS in all Mandal headquarters in Pinapaka Assembly segment. The party cadre decided to continue the relay hunger strike in Manuguru and launch similar programmes in other mandals too.

Santhosh Kumar said,

■ The Congress workers burnt the effigy of TRS in all Mandal headquarters in Pinapaka Assembly segment

■ The party cadre decided to continue the relay hunger strike in Manuguru and launch similar programmes in other mandals too

"All the party men vowed to take the party office from the clutches of the TRS MLA. They are coming forward and supporting whatever the programmes the party is planning to organise. There is a sense of fear among the common public over what would happen to their property if there is no protection to the

office of Congress party which has 145-year history.

"The general public is also expressing solidarity to the Congressmen in this issue. It is a serious issue and we will not relent unless the TRS MLA leaves the office," he said.

Congress Manuguru Mandal president B. Gopi said, "The party men are determined to fight it out with the TRS MLA. The presence of common public at the relay hunger strike also exhibits people's anger over the episode."

Congress party leaders are considering the encroachment of the party office to expose the high-handedness of the TRS leaders and Chief

Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao. "The issue is a blessing in disguise to the Congress. It will help the Congress get close to the common people as they too are in a state of fear," a party leader said.

The Congress party is also planning to take the issue to even the villages in the Assembly segment and expose the land grabbing of the ruling party MLA.

DCC president P. Veeraiiah said that they will continue the fight till they would be able to hoist the Congress party flag atop the office building.

The building is in the name of the Congress party and every party worker has a right on it, he added.

Minister completes 1 yr, does tightrope walking

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, SEPT. 8

Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar has completed one year in office and it seems that it was not a cakewalk for him as he had to understand all the checks and balances in the party and government.

He could have understood that though he is a minister, he does not have a big role to play in taking decisions in the TRS government.

Further, the minister also has to maintain cordial relations with three bigwigs in the party including former minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, TRS parliamentary party leader Nama Nageswara Rao and former MP P. Srinivasa Reddy, which is no trivial task.

Ajay has chosen to serve the people and attend as many as government programmes as possible as it helps him to get closer to both the party as well as the party workers.

Tummala camp is always alert and ready to expose Ajay in case he makes a mistake. In the TRS rule, ministers cannot move freely even in his constituency without informing the concerned



Puvvada Ajay Kumar

■ Tummala camp is always alert and ready to expose Ajay in case he makes a mistake. In the TRS rule, ministers cannot move freely even in his constituency without informing the concerned

local MLA. With such restrictions in place, not many ministers show interest in visiting other constituencies than their native constituency.

Puvvada also is no exception to this rule and hence, he is focusing only on his Khammam constituency. He is working hard to complete his pet projects like tank bunds, central lighting, expansion of roads, setting up Rythu Aikya Vedikas in all villages and establish an IT hub in Khammam.

Even if he has to attend any programme in other Assembly segments, he is just a guest invited by the local TRS MLAs here. However, Ajay could move freely in three segments, Madhira, Bhadrachalam and Aswarapet where MLAs of the Opposition parties were elected.

Having taken a decision not to be a man of controversies in the first year itself, the minister had been focusing only on his work the whole time. He did not pick up any enmity with any other party leaders too during this time.

Ajay succeeded in giving some plum posts to his followers like SUDA chairman post to his childhood friend B. Vijay Kumar and Khammam farm market committee chairman post to Venkata Ramana.

Luckily, there is enough work to be done in the limits of Khammam Municipal Corporation. He visited every street in Khammam and knew the ground situation and problems of the people there which helped him help have good rapport with people in Khammam. This helped him in Khammam city alone but not in the entire district.

NGT serves notices to SCCL, TS government

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, SEPT. 8

The Chennai bench of the national green tribunal (NGT) issued notices to the Singareni Colliers company limited (SCCL), the union government of India, the Telangana state pollution control board (TSPCB) and the Khammam district collector, R. V. Karnan, over severe damage to 700 houses in NTR colony in Sattupallias part of a blasting in the JVR open cast mine.

The NGT asked them to appoint an expert committee to verify the allegations of petitioner, Banothu Nandu Naik,

■ The NGT asked them to appoint an expert committee to verify the allegations of petitioner, Banothu Nandu Naik, over the damage of houses due to the blasting in the open cast mine

over the damage of houses due to the blasting in the open cast mine. It directed the district collector to enumerate and assess the damage to the houses near the mine caused by the blasting.

It asked the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) and the TSPCB to take appropriate action on the violations following

the environment protection act, 1986. It ordered the setting up of a health centre at NTR nagar with-corporate social responsibility funds to provide free health services to the locals there.

The NGT asked the MoEF to file an action taken report on the violations recorded in the minutes of the forty-eighth meeting of the expert appraisal committee on June 13 and 14, 2018. Naik filed a petition on damage to the houses in NTR nagar and alleged that neither the SCCL management nor the state government have responded to the consequences of the blasting.



The Mandal president of the TRS, B. Thirupathi Reddy announcing suspension of MPP Lingala Malla Reddy from the party in a Mandal committee meeting that was held here in Ganneruvaram Mandal of Karimnagar district on Tuesday. — DC

Establish more Covid test centres: Collector

DC CORRESPONDENT SIRCILLA, SEPT. 8

Karimnagar district collector K. Krishna Bhaskar, on Tuesday, directed the officials to appoint required health staff on outsourcing basis apart from establishing some more Corona testing centres to the existing 16 in the district.

Speaking at a meeting with the officials of the health department at the collectorate, Mr Krishna Bhaskar ordered them to expedite the process of acquiring land for the construction of 300-bed super specialty hospital at the district headquarters for providing better medical

services to the people.

There are 60 beds in the area hospital and one more hall will be constructed to establish an additional five beds with oxygen supply and two Intensive Care Units (ICU) and other required medical equipment. A CT scan machine will be installed within 15 days in the government main hospital. In addition to the existing five dialysis machines, five more have been purchased to provide services to the patients suffering from kidney related issues, he said.

The collector informed that with an oxygen generator plant would be set up in the government hos-

pital with an investment of ₹30 lakh, apart from providing all kinds of medicines required for the patients suffering from various kinds of health complications worth ₹35 lakh.

He also directed the officials to take up repair works of PHCs which are in a pathetic state.

Additional collector R. Anjaiah, DM&HO Suman Mohan Rao, RDO Srinivas, medical superintendent Muralidhar Rao, district surveillance officer Meenakshi, district data manager Karthik, epidemiologist Anitha were among those who were present at the meeting.

RGIA IN HYD GOES ECO-FRIENDLY,

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

The Hyderabad International Airport campus will soon have neem, pongamia, bauhinia, acacia, pink tabebuia, gulmohar and jacaranda trees among others. Saplings were planted on Tuesday by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel posted at the airport, and would be maintained by the airport under the Telanganaku Haritha Haram. The chief guest for the event was TRS RS member Joginapally Santosh Kumar.

Participate in Fit India, stay healthy

DC CORRESPONDENT PEDDAPALLI, SEPT. 8

The central government introduced Fit India programme with an intention to keep every citizen in the country healthy and fit, said Assistant Commissioner of Police Umendar.

He was speaking after inaugurating 2K Run to mark the Closing Day ceremony of National Sports Day organised under the leadership of Fit India Coordinator of united Karimnagar district, Thagarapu Shankar at Singareni Jawahar Lal Nehru sports grounds in Godavarikhani of Peddapalli district.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Umendar said that people should focus on the upkeep of their health by

spending at least one hour daily on exercises. Through regular exercise one can keep not only their body fit but also keep the mind sharp and alert.

He expressed concern that many youth in Godavarikhani region were getting addicted to ganja and other vices that can lead to various health issues. In association with Fit India representatives, steps are being taken to wean away the youth from the vices by creating awareness about fitness and appealed to the people to participate in the Fit India movement.

CI Parsu Ramesh said that if people are fit, then the nation will be fit. Regular exercise will keep the body fit and also enable people lead an active life.

IMPART | KNOWLEDGE Youth completing B.Ed, D.Ed courses teach kids

Adivasi youth teaching children without online facilities

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, SEPT. 8

Educated Adivasi youth are helping the state government in imparting education to students of schools lacking facilities for online classes. Children, who do not have digital gadgets or TVs, are getting immensely benefited because of these youth.

Children are also showing

interest in getting taught by their own community people in their villages in the absence of opportunity to go to their school. There are 102 tribal ashram schools in ITDA, Uttnoor.

According to official sources, there are nearly 25,000 students belonging to government schools who do not have smartphones or TVs. There are also places where no signals are available for online classes through T-SAT. Officials

have identified 5,800 students who do not have access to online classes and have made alternative arrangements for them in Adilabad district.

Educated Adivasi youth who have completed their B. Ed and D. Ed courses but staying in their respective villages due to Covid pandemic are volunteering to teaching such children.

For example, Kumra Shankar of Bheemangutta is taking classes for chil-

dren of his village as also nearby villages for three hours every day. Most of these children would in normal circumstances go to primary schools in Sirpur (U) Mandal of Kumarambheem Asifabad district. Shankar said, "Children are responding well to the classes since I teach them in their mother tongue. About 15 children are attending classes in Bheemangutta of Sirpur (U) Mandal."

There are many educated youth like Shankar who are taking classes for children and saving their academic year during the epidemic. They have voluntarily come forward to teach the village children. Incidentally, Adivasi community leaders had begun special classes for children of their villages with the help of educated youth of their community much before state planned to start online classes.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad – 500 028		
NOTIFICATION FOR FINE ARTS AND DESIGN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION – 2020		
JNAFA University, Hyderabad is conducting Entrance Examination for Admission into the Four Year Degree in Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Design Courses, offered in the Constituent colleges for the Academic Year 2020-21.		
Eligible candidates who wish to apply may fill the application forms online for each course separately by visiting the University Website www.jnafa.ac.in or www.jnafaadmissions.com . Registration fee of Rs. 1,200/- (Rs. 600/- in case of SC/ST candidates) has to be paid online only. Kindly note that the application form and fee payment has to be submitted online only. The last date for online application & fee payment is 30-08-2020 (without late fee) and with late fee of Rs. 3,000/- up to 05-10-2020.		
Date and Time of the Entrance Exam		
Course	Date	Time
B.F.A (Applied Art, Painting, Sculpture & Animation)	18-10-2020	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
B.F.A (Photography)	19-10-2020	10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
B. Design (Interior Design)	19-10-2020	2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
For detailed information regarding eligibility, intake, fee, rules of reservation, time table, syllabus and model question paper etc., visit university website or contact 040-23319462.		
Note: This is only a Notification for Entrance Examination. Candidate has to fulfill the eligibility criteria laid down in the relevant G.O.s at the time of admission. Offline applications are not accepted. The dates of the Entrance Examination may change depending on the Covid-19 pandemic situation.		
No. JNAFAU/Adms/FADEE-2020/1/2020 dt: 08-09-2020		Sd/- Prof. M. Sitaramlakshmi Co-ordinator, Admissions

SHORT TAKES

3 ARRESTED FOR HOISTING ‘PAK FLAG’ IN J&K TOWN

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, SEPT. 8

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday claimed that they arrested three over ground workers of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) on charge of hoisting Pakistan's national flag in a township of northern Bandipore district of the Union Territory. It also claimed recovering a hand-grenade and other incriminating material from the trio.

A statement issued by the police here said that they registered an FIR and took up investigations after receiving information that some “anti-national elements” at the behest of local active LeT militants have hoisted Pakistani flag at the main marketplace in Hajin township of Bandipore “in order to create fear psychosis and incite anti-national feelings among the common people of the area”.

“During the course of investigation, officers learnt about the involvement of three individuals involved in the commission of crime. They have been arrested and identified as Mujeeb Shamas, Tanveer Ahmad Mir and Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh — all residents of Mir Mohalla Hajin,” the statement said.

BJP CHALLENGES NEELAM GORHE’S ELECTION

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

Shiv Sena legislator Neelam Gorhe was on Tuesday re-elected as the deputy chairperson of the Maharashtra legislative Council. However, the BJP has challenged the election in the Bombay High Court on the ground that BJP MLCS infected by Coronavirus were deprived of their voting rights.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Legislative Council Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar announced that Gorhe was elected “unanimously”. However, the BJP staged a walkout from the House stating that the election should not be held as the matter is sub-judice. Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena also appointed Gorhe as a spokesperson of the party.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had fielded Neelam Gorhe, while the BJP had nominated Vijay alias Bhai Girakar. However, the BJP has also approached the High Court seeking its intervention in the scheduling of the election.

MP BJP LEADER JOINS CONG AHEAD OF BY-POLLS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 8

Senior BJP leader Satish Singh Sikarwar on Tuesday joined Congress here dealing a jolt to the saffron party ahead of crucial by-elections to 27 Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, expected to be held by the end of October.

Sikarwar is most likely to be nominated as Congress candidate for the Gwalior constituency which is going to by-elections along with other 26 Assembly seats.

“Sikarwar was inducted in Congress along with 150 BJP cadres including two local sarpanches by former chief minister and Madhya Pradesh PCC president Kamal Nath”, a press release issued by the party said.

“I was fighting against the feudal force of the erstwhile Gwalior royal family of Scindia when I was in the BJP. But, the BJP's battle against the feudal culture in Gwalior has lost relevance after Scindia switched over to BJP from Congress. Hence, I quit BJP to join Congress to continue my fight against the feudal force in Gwalior”, Sikarwar told reporters.

Sikarwar had contested as a BJP candidate in Gwalior Assembly constituency in 2018 polls and lost to Munnalal Goyal who had then fought the polls as a Congress nominee. Mr Goyal quit Congress and joined BJP in March this year.

Nath said “Congress is now free of the influence of the (Gwalior) palace (following Scindia's exit from Congress).

Nath described Scindia and the latter's followers who quit Congress to pull down his government in March as ‘merchants of power’ and said “BJP has bargained with ‘merchants of power’ to assume power in MP”.

PLA confirms 5 missing youths found

Modalities to hand over youths to Indian authorities are being worked out, says Union minister Rijiju

New Delhi, Sept 8: China's People's Liberation Army has confirmed that five youths missing from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by them and their handing over process to Indian authorities is being worked out, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday.

The five youths had gone missing on Friday from the Sino-Indian border in the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

“China's PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have confirmed that the missing youths from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by their side. Further modalities to handover the persons to our authority are being worked out,” Rijiju tweeted.

Rijiju, the minister of state for youth affairs & sports, hails from Arunachal Pradesh and is an MP from the state.

The incident of five missing youths came to light when two members from their group, who had gone for hunting in the jungle together, returned home and informed the families of the five that they had been whisked away by the Chinese troops from Sera-7, an Army patrol zone located about 12 km further north of Nacho.

Nacho is the last administrative circle along the McMahon Line and is around 120 km from the district headquarters Daporijo.

Those who were allegedly kidnapped by the Chinese army have been identified as Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri.

On Monday, China brushed off questions over the whereabouts of the five youths and needed India, saying it has never recognised Arunachal Pradesh which it claims is part of south Tibet.

“China's position on the east sector of the China-India boundary, or Zangnan (the southern part of China's Xizang (Tibet)), is consistent and clear,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing, adding the Chinese government has never recognised the so-called Arunachal Pradesh”.

“I'm not aware of the



Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force lands amid border tensions with China, in Kishtwar district of Jammu on Tuesday.

— PTI

China talks of approaching harsh winter, hopes for disengagement

Beijing, Sept 8: As fresh border confrontation erupted between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh, China on Tuesday hoped disengagement can be achieved as soon as possible through mutual consultations, flagging approaching harsh winter.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian expressed this hope hours after India and China accused each other of firing in the air near the Pangong lake at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh on Monday.

The Indian Army said Chinese troops fired shots in the air and attempted to close in on an Indian position in eastern Ladakh on Monday as it rejected charges by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) that it transgressed across the LAC.

The remarks by the Army came after the PLA late on Monday night

alleged that the Indian troops crossed the LAC and “outrageously fired” warning shots near the Pangong lake.

The use of firearms along the LAC marks a serious escalation in border tensions as the previous instance of shots being fired at the de-facto border was in 1975.

Zhao spoke about disengagement when asked at a media briefing about restoration of the status quo by disengaging the troops. “You have a good wish. We all hope our troops get back to their camping area and there won't be any more confrontation in the border areas.

“You know that place has a very bad natural condition and it is above a height of 4,000 metres,” he added. “In winter this is not good for humans to live. So we hope, through diplomatic and military channels and through consultations on the ground

we can achieve disengagement as soon as possible and reach consensus.”

India has already called on China to work jointly for complete disengagement and de-escalation on the LAC, saying the future of the bilateral relationship is dependent on the situation along the border.

This is the first time in the four-month-long border standoff that China has officially acknowledged the harsh conditions of the mountainous Ladakh region in winter where the temperatures plummet to minus 30 degrees Celsius posing major health hazards to the thousands of troops mobilised by the two armies.

Reports from the area said both sides were making arrangements for a long drawn out faceoff especially at the Pangong lake area where the troops were positioned eyeball to eyeball with heavy weapons and armoury.

Echoing the PLA's comments, Zhao sought to blame Indian troops for firing warning shots first on Monday.

On the Indian stand that it was Chinese troops which took provocative steps first, he read out the statement of the PLA's Western Theater command spokesman alleging that Indian troops illegally crossed the LAC and outrageously fired warning shots on Chinese border patrol soldiers forcing them to take countermeasures.

“I also want to stress in this incident, the Indian side fired shots to the Chinese border troops first. This is the first time since 1975 that the tranquility is interrupted by the shots. And the Chinese side always stresses that both sides should peacefully settle our differences through dialogue and consultations. Confrontation won't benefit either, he said.

- PTI

RAFALE JETS TO BE FORMALLY INDUCTED INTO IAF TOMORROW

New Delhi, Sept. 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, his French counterpart Florence Parly and India's top military brass will attend a ceremony in Ambala airbase on Thursday to formally induct five Rafale fighter jets into the Indian Air Force, officials said.

Parly and Singh will hold talks in Ambala on ways to further deepen bilateral defence and security cooperation after the ceremony, they said.

The French defence minister is scheduled to arrive on Thursday morning and will depart late afternoon, the officials said.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 of the aircraft at a cost of ₹59,000 crore.

The jets, produced by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, are yet to be formally inducted into the IAF.

Ten Rafale jets have been delivered to India so far and five of them stayed back in France for imparting training to IAF pilots.

The delivery of all 36 aircraft is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.

A second batch of four to five Rafale jets are likely to arrive in India by November.

Farooq Abdullah hits back at Ram Madhav

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, SEPT. 8

A day after Bharatiya Janata Party's national general secretary, Ram Madhav, accused Farooq Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir's other regional mainstream leaders of “trying to inject a dangerous Islamist discourse into the state politics”, the latter on Tuesday hit back saying that it were the saffron party and its ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) which are paying communal politics and that the same will result into their extermination.

“If anybody is playing communal politics, it is the BJP and RSS. We never did it and they are playing it and this will drown them,” Abdullah said while speaking to reporters here after offering fateha prayers at the grave of his father and legendary Kashmiri leader Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah commemorating his 38th death anniversary.

He asserted that his National Conference (NC) party never played politics over religion. “NC never played politics over religion. That is our history. What was the motto of Sher-e-Kashmir (Sheikh Abdullah)? It was ‘*Sher-e-Kashmir ka kya irshad; Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Itehad* (what is the

command of Lion of Kashmir? The unity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs)”, he said.

He added that the reason behind Sheikh becoming instrumental in changing the name of J&K Muslim Conference to National Conference way back in 1938 was because he knew people from all faiths were part of the struggle against the autocratic rule in the princely state.

Madhav had in an article appearing in *Greater Kashmir* newspaper alleged that the NC leadership and other signatories of ‘Gupkar Declaration’ were ‘trying to take the people of Kashmir for a ride to chase a chimera’.

On August 4, 2019, a day before Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories, the leaders of the state's regional parties including NC and People's Democratic Party (PDP) and their allies in Congress and CPIM had met at Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road and signed a joined statement named as ‘Gupkar Declaration’ through which they vowed to protect the special status, identity and autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir and fight tool and nail attempts to split it up.



IN BRIEF

B'desh blast toll rises to 27

Dhaka: The death toll from a near-simultaneous explosion of six air conditioners in a mosque on the outskirts of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka rose to 27, with one more victim succumbing to his injuries, according to a media report.

A 30-year-old man died on Monday while undergoing treatment at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, the bdnews24.com reported. Another 10 people were battling for their lives at the hospital, it said on Monday. A gas leak in an underground pipeline caused the six air conditioners to explode almost simultaneously during Friday evening prayers on September 4 at the Baitul Salat mosque in the central district of Narayanganj.

Bruce Williamson dies of Covid

Los Angeles: Bruce Williamson, the former lead singer of the legendary vocal group *The Temptations*, has died at the age of 49 after a battle with Coronavirus. The singer passed away on Sunday at Mountain View Hospital in Las Vegas, his business manager, Anta Ealy, confirmed to *USA Today*. Williamson was diagnosed with Covid-19 in late August, weeks after having his gallbladder removed, Ealy added. Williamson's son Bruce Alan Williamson Jr took to pen an emotional tribute on Facebook. "There's no words in the world that can express how I feel right now. I love you Daddy. Thank you for being awesome, thank you for being loving, thank you for being Who You Are. I pray to God and we will meet again," he wrote on Monday. Original Temptation Otis Williams also remembered Williamson as "one of our brothers". "Once you are a Temptation, you are always a Temptation," he said.

Murderer sworn in as Lankan MP

Colombo: A Sri Lankan politician sentenced to death for murder was escorted out of prison on Tuesday to become the first convict to be sworn in as a member of parliament, to heckles from opposition MPs. Premalal Jayasekara from the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP) was convicted in August of murdering an opposition activist after opening fire at an election rally in 2015. But the 45-year-old's conviction and sentence came after nominations for the August 5 poll, meaning he could still contest the election and take up his seat. Jayasekara was a no-show when the current parliament held its first session on August 20 as prison authorities refused to let him out. However, he petitioned the Court of Appeal which on Monday held that he should be escorted from prison to exercise his rights as an MP. Opposition lawmakers wearing black shawls in protest heckled Jayasekara as he took the oath.

PAK MINE BLAST DEATH TOLL AT 19

Peshawar, Sept. 8: At least 19 people have been killed and dozens were battling for their lives after six units of the famed marble mines in Pakistan's Ziarat Ghar mountain collapsed, causing large boulders to fall on them, according to media reports on Tuesday.

The mines collapsed on Monday night, instantly killing 12 miners, the *Geo News* reported. The death toll rose after seven more succumbed to injuries at the District Mohmand Hospital. Majority of the deceased include labourers and few others who had gathered at the foothill in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Sati town near the Afghanistan border, about 85 km from provincial capital Peshawar. Mohmand District Police Officer Mohmand Tariq Habib told *Geo News* that 15 to 20 people are still buried under the rubble.

He said the rescue operations were hit due to darkness on Monday night and that heavy machinery had been mobilised on Tuesday for rescue operations. Deputy Commissioner Ifthikhar Alam said the death toll is expected to rise, according to the daily. Around 45 labourers were busy in excavation operations when the mine collapsed, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said nine people have been rescued, it reported.

Rescue Officer Bilal Faizi said most of the injured were in serious condition.



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (left) speaks during his interview with a group of Russian journalists in Minsk, Belarus, on Tuesday. — AP/PTI

Belarus Oppn activist resists push to leave country, nabbed on border

Kyiv (Ukraine), Sept. 8: A leading opposition activist in Belarus was held on the border Tuesday after she resisted authorities' attempt to force her to leave the country. Maria Kolesnikova, a member of the Coordination Council created by the opposition to facilitate talks with longtime leader President Alexander Lukashenko on a transition of power, was detained Monday in the capital, Minsk, along with two other council members.

Early Tuesday, they were driven to the Ukrainian border, where the authorities told them to cross into Ukraine. Kolesnikova refused, and remained on the Belarusian side of the border in the custody of the Belarusian authorities.

Two other council members, Ivan Kravtsov and Anton Rodnenkov, crossed into Ukraine.

The authorities have applied similar tactics to other opposition figures, seeking to end a month of demonstrations against the re-election of Lukashenko in a vote the protesters see as rigged, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger to Lukashenko, left for Lithuania a day after the August 9 vote, under pressure from the authorities.

On Saturday, a top associate of Tsikhanouskaya, Olga Kovalkova, moved to Poland after the authorities threatened to keep her



Maria Kolesnikova

in jail for a long time if she refused to leave the country. Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe against members of the Coordination Council that opposition activists set up after the election to try to negotiate a transition of power.

Several council members were arrested and some others called for questioning. Last week, Kolesnikova announced the creation of a new party, Together. She said the move will help overcome the current crisis, but the party founders' call for constitutional changes has stunned some other opposition council members, who argued that it could divert attention from the main goal of getting Lukashenko to step down.

Cheng — who conducted interviews with international CEOs for *CGTN's* Global Business and BizTalk shows — has not been seen in public since being held, although Australian diplomats in Beijing were able to speak to her on August 27.

"As long as foreign journalists obey the law... they have no reason to worry," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

Cheng is the second high-profile Australian citizen to be detained in Beijing after writer Yang Hengjun was arrested in January 2019 on suspicion of espionage. Earlier this year, Australia warned its citizens they faced the risk of arbitrary detention if they travelled to China. — AFP

China says Oz TV anchor detained

Beijing, Sept. 8: China said Tuesday that it had detained a high-profile Australian journalist working for its state media on "national security grounds". Cheng Lei's detention was a new blow to deteriorating relations between the two countries that have seen China warn its citizens of travelling to Australia and vice versa.

In the first comments on *CGTN* anchor Cheng Lei, held since August 14, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said authorities took "compulsory measures" against her on suspicion "of criminal activity endangering China's national security".

"The case is still in the process of investigation in accordance with the law," Zhao said, adding that her "legal rights and interests are all receiving full legal protection". He did not give further details of the allegations against her.

Cheng — who conducted interviews with international CEOs for *CGTN's* Global Business and BizTalk shows — has not been seen in public since being held, although Australian diplomats in Beijing were able to speak to her on August 27.

"As long as foreign journalists obey the law... they have no reason to worry," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

Cheng is the second high-profile Australian citizen to be detained in Beijing after writer Yang Hengjun was arrested in January 2019 on suspicion of espionage. Earlier this year, Australia warned its citizens they faced the risk of arbitrary detention if they travelled to China. — AFP

Last 2 Oz journalists flown out of China amid diplomatic standoff

Melbourne, Sept. 8: Two journalists from Australia working in China have been evacuated after they were questioned by Chinese police and were forced to seek refuge in Australian diplomatic missions in the communist nation amidst a diplomatic standoff between Canberra and Beijing.

Bill Birtles, the *ABC's* correspondent based in

CHINA DETAINS 23 IN CRACKDOWN ON INNER MONGOLIA PROTESTS

Taipei, Sept. 8: Police in China's Inner Mongolia region have detained at least 23 people following protests last week against a new policy that replaces Mongolian-language textbooks with Chinese ones in classrooms. The push to use the new textbooks, which started in other ethnic minority regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet in 2017, has prompted demonstrations and school boycotts by ethnic Mongolians in at least five cities and counties in Inner Mongolia.

The 23 detentions were across eight banners, the regional word for counties, according to an *Associated Press* tally of nine local police reports over the past several days. The reasons range from "organising and collecting signatures for a petition" to "picking quarrels and stirring up trouble". Others were for "flagrantly insulting a deceased former leader of the country" and "sharing videos in a WeChat group to obstruct the implementation of the national textbooks policy". WeChat is a popular messaging app in China. The local government is also exerting pressure in other ways.

Authorities in Zhenglan banner announced that they had suspended two members of the ruling Communist Party without pay for failing to carry out the policy. Police in Chifeng city said Monday they handed over Communist Party members, including two elementary school teachers, to a local party disciplinary committee for investigation. — AP

THE AUSTRALIAN Government has provided consular support to two Australian journalists in China to assist their return to Australia. Those Australians have now arrived in Australia. Our Embassy in Beijing and Consulate-General in Shanghai engaged with Chinese Government authorities to ensure their wellbeing and return to Australia,

MARISA PAYNE, Oz foreign minister

Beijing, and Mike Smith, the *Australian Financial Review's* (AFR) correspondent based in Shanghai, boarded a flight to Sydney on Monday night after they were questioned separately by China's Ministry of State security, the report said. They landed in Sydney on Tuesday.

With the two journalists moving out of China, Australia now has no accredited reporter left in the country for the first time since the mid-1970s. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne in a

statement on Tuesday said consular officials had provided support to the journalists. "The Australian Government has provided consular support to two Australian journalists in China to assist their return to Australia. Those Australians have now arrived in Australia. Our Embassy in Beijing and Consulate-General in Shanghai engaged with Chinese Government authorities to ensure their wellbeing and return to Australia," she said.

Seven uniformed officers simultaneously visited the homes of Smith in Shanghai and Birtles in Beijing on Thursday morning. Both journalists were told they were persons of interest in an investigation into Cheng who was detained last month, the *AFR* reported.

According to *ABC*, the reporters were told they were banned from leaving the country and needed to organise a time to be questioned over a "national security case". Birtles spent four days sheltering in Australia's Embassy in Beijing, while Smith took refuge in Shanghai consulate. — PTI

Trump supporters rally where far-right group member was shot

Oregon (US), Sept. 8: Hundreds of people gathered in a small town south of Portland for a pro-President Donald Trump vehicle rally — just over a week after member of a far-right group was fatally shot after a Trump caravan went through Oregon's largest city.

Later, pro-Trump supporters and counter-protesters clashed at Oregon's Capitol. Vehicles waving flags for Trump, the QAnon conspiracy theory and in support of police gathered about noon on Monday at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

The rally's organisers said they would drive to toward the state capital, Salem, and most left the caravan before that. A smaller group of members of the right-wing group the Proud Boys went on to Salem, where a crowd of several dozen pro-Trump supporters had gathered.

At one point Monday afternoon, the right-wing crowd rushed a smaller

Harris will never be Prez: Trump

Washington, Sept. 8: US President Donald Trump has slammed the "rhetoric" against the Coronavirus vaccine by Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and running mate Senator Kamala Harris, who he said would "never" be the president.

Trump was apparently responding to a *CNN* interview by Harris on Sunday, in which the vice-presidential nominee said she would not trust the president unless there was a credible source of information that talks

about the vaccine's efficacy and reliability. "She (Harris) is talking about disparaging a vaccine so that people don't think the achievement was a great achievement," Trump said at a Labour Day press conference at the White House on Monday.

"I don't want the achievement for myself. I want something (that's) going to make people better, that people aren't going to get sick with," he said. "That includes therapeutics, where we're doing equally as well." — PTI

group of Black Lives Matters counter-demonstrators, firing paint-gun pellets at them. There were skirmishes, and the Black Lives Matter group dispersed shortly after local police arrived on the

scene. Organisers of the earlier vehicle rally said they did not plan to enter Multnomah County, where Portland is located. Oregon City is about 32 kilometres south of Portland. — AP

LABOUR DAY: DON, JOE SPAR OVER ECONOMY

Harrisburg, Sept. 8: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and President Donald Trump spent Monday diminishing each other's credentials on the economy and understanding of the American worker as the presidential campaign entered its final, post-Labour Day stretch.

While workers live by an "American code", Biden said Trump "lives by a code of lies, greed and selfishness" as he met with labour leaders in Harrisburg. Trump, meanwhile, tried to put the halting economic recovery under the best light in a White House press conference where he said Biden and his mate, Kamala Harris, would "destroy this country and would destroy this economy". — AP

Stop interrupting witnesses, Assange told

London, Sept. 8: A British judge told WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday that his extradition hearing will proceed without him if he continues to speak from the dock and interrupt witnesses.

Vanessa Baraitser briefly adjourned the hearing at London's Central Criminal Court after Assange

interrupted defence witness Clive Stafford Smith, who was giving evidence. Assange's outburst couldn't be heard by journalists following proceedings by video link.

Assange is fighting an attempt by American prosecutors to extradite him to the US to stand trial on spying charges.

US prosecutors have

indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military documents a decade ago.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison. Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that

will stifle media freedom and put journalists at risk around the world.

Addressing Assange, the judge said: "You will hear things, no doubt many things, you disagree with during these proceedings." "If you interrupt proceedings it is open to me to proceed in your absence," she added. — AP

MONEY | MATTERS

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos tops table while President Trump is ranked 339th**7 Indo-Americans in Forbes' rich list in US**

New York, Sept. 8: Seven Indian-Americans have figured in *Forbes'* list of richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row. The 2020 *Forbes* list of 400 Richest People in America has been topped by Bezos, 56 who has a net worth of \$179 billion and has occupied the spot of the richest person in the US for the third year in a row. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Cofounder Bill Gates is ranked second on the list with a net worth of \$111 billion.

The richest people in the US saw their wealth swell despite the Coronavirus pandemic's devastated impact on the economy. "Pandemic be damned: America's 400 richest are worth a record \$3.2 trillion, up \$240 billion from a year ago, aided by a stock market that has defied the virus...Even in these trying times mega-fortunes are still being minted," *Forbes* said.

The list has seven Indian-Americans — cybersecurity tycoon ZScaler CEO Jay Chaudhry, Founder and

Chairman of Symphony Technology Group Ramesh Wadhvani, cofounder and CEO of online home goods retailer Wayfair Niraj Shah, Silicon Valley venture capital firm Khosla Ventures founder Vinod Khosla, Managing Partner of Sherpa Ventures Kavitar Ram Shiram, Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal and Workday CEO and Cofounder Anel Bhursi. Rounding out the top five on the list are Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on the third spot with a net worth of

\$85 billion, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, ranked 4th and with a net worth of \$73.5 billion and chairman, chief technology officer and co-founder of software giant Oracle Larry Ellison, ranked 5th with a new worth of \$72 billion.

President Donald Trump is ranked 339th on the list with a net worth of \$2.5 billion. Chaudhry, 61 is ranked 85th on the list with a net worth of \$6.9 billion. Wadhvani, 73 has been ranked 238th on the list and has a net worth of

\$3.4 billion. His Symphony Technology Group brings in \$2.5 billion in annual revenues and Wadhvani combined nine of his companies that were AI-focused into a new group called SymphonyAI in 2017.

On the 299th spot is Shah, 46, who has a net worth of \$2.8 billion. Khosla, 65 is ranked 353rd with a net worth of \$2.4 billion. Khosla cofounded computer hardware firm Sun Microsystems in 1982 and spent 18 years at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

before launching his own fund. On the 359th spot is Shiram, 63, who has a net worth of \$2.3 billion.

Gangwal, 67 is ranked 359th on the list and has a net worth of \$2.3 billion. On the 359th spot is Bhursi with a net worth of \$2.3 billion. Bhursi is CEO of business software firm Workday, which he cofounded with Dave Duffield, the founder of PeopleSoft. Bhursi started his career in the early 1990s at business software firm PeopleSoft, where he rose to become vice chairman. — PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

9 SEPTEMBER 2020

KCR's land revenue law may well be momentous

If bureaucrats and officials don't find ways to scuttle the intent and objectives of the sudden, disruptive land legislation Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao sprung on the state, it has built in within its scope ability to reform and impact and set a benchmark so momentous that it would be chronicled someday as one of India's most important legislations. The legislation is momentous, epic, but the asterisk (with a conditions apply warning) is rather crucial — if the bureaucracy, higher and lower, don't succeed in sabotaging Mr Rao's dream, as they are often wont to do.

As most Indians know, land revenue is one of the most brazenly corrupt functions of all governments and administrations: nowhere in our national democracy is Article 14 followed to its finality — land registrations don't discriminate against any Indian based on gender, region, religion, caste or economic strata — everyone pays a bribe while buying or selling a land. Almost no one's land is safe either. No criminal or political goon in any area can grab or illegally occupy anyone else's land to make a claim based on the proviso of "possession" without the connivance of officials of the land department.

Records of ownership and transfer are fraught with such complex conditionality and local variances, if one wishes to truly experience a slice of the medieval ages, one can try to buy, sell or seek a migration of purpose of land.

Mr Rao wishes to change all that, starting with abolishing and removing the village revenue officer (VROs). In an announcement on Monday that was styled to draw parallels with Narendra Modi's "surgical strike" swiftness, Mr Rao decided to order all VROs to hand over all land documents to tahsildars, who would henceforth likely register all agriculture land while sub-registrars will handle non-agriculture land.

Mutations will be hassle-free with a single website, named Dharani, will handle all land records and transfers.

In the past, in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, late chief minister N.T. Rama Rao tried to revolutionise land administration and abolished the Patwari system, which earned him huge political goodwill, but the deeply entrenched Patels/Patwaris of Telangana region managed to embed themselves back into the system with a new nomenclature — VROs.

India's current land system was largely conceptualised and designed by Sher Shah Suri, which Mughal emperor Akbar modified and named the mansabari system, which, with a few changes, lasted the British era and thrived with very few amendments in Independent India.

Can Telangana state set a new benchmark in high quality transformation of a vexatious branch of administration and enable our experiencing a basic economic right in a manner befitting the 21st century? Will Mr Rao's political determination and foresight be able to withstand the pressures of not just the displaced VROs, but an entire powerful corrupt ecosystem — land mafia, politicians, local goons, officials, touts and "dispute settlement" lords?

Will Mr Rao deliver a reform that will make history hail him as a great reformer or will he succumb before forces within his own party and government to hijack it remains to be seen.

But for once, there is hope.

Come clean on economy

The galloping number of Coronavirus infections, the disastrous performance of the economy and the worrying developments on the border call for a national consensus so that India can take them on effectively. And a lasting consensus can be built only on facts. The onus is on the government to feed the people with them.

Unfortunately, the government seems to have little plan to brief the people about the tough challenges the nation faces. The spite with which the ruling party replies to the legitimate questions posed to it is both unheard of and uncalled for. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, MP, has been asking the government on how it plans to mend the economy, which, he says, tanked because of the wrong policies of the government, including demonetisation and what he calls the faulty implementation of GST. The government can very well explain to him, and the nation, how those measures helped the economy. Instead, they have resorted to ad hominem attacks on Mr Gandhi. When told that the new tax regime systematically killed the small scale sector, the BJP's response was that Mr Gandhi had to apologise to the Supreme Court in the past for "one of his lies". This is unacceptable.

The nation is witnessing a strange economic phenomenon where the people find it difficult to make ends meet; it's day-to-day subsistence for them, while a handful of corporate honchos go on accumulating wealth. The loss of more than two crore jobs during the pandemic is sure to exacerbate the situation.

It's not just Mr Gandhi who has expressed disappointment at the way the government responds to the crisis; eminent economists such as Dr Raghuram Rajan have demanded course correction. The BJP and the ruling dispensation cannot go on evading the tough questions; shooting the messenger does not kill the message.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

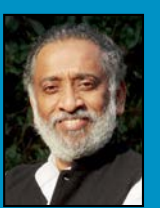
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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Civil servants under watch for corruption

Transparency and weeding out corruption is a big theme with the Modi sarkar, and it has doggedly pursued this goal despite push-back from the babus. Last year, the government endorsed lists of dozens of officers of the IRS and IT services accused of corruption, sexual harassment and other charges.

The campaign continues. Now, as part of weeding out inefficient and corrupt babus, the Modi sarkar has again reiterated that Central ministries and departments must constantly update the list of officers who have completed 30 years of service. Besides, the register of officers with "doubtful integrity" will be regularly reviewed and updated to help identify babus who can be prematurely retired from service. Sources say that the department of personnel and training (DoPT) issued a letter to this effect on August 28.

Apparently, the names of such officers will be forwarded to the

respective review committees on a routine basis. Cases about the IAS, IPS, IFS and Railway cadre babus will be considered by the respective secretary of DoPT, ministry of home affairs, ministry of external affairs and Central Railway Board, respectively.

Will corrupt babus get the message?

CBDT CHIEF GETS EXTENSION
 The chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Pramod Chandra Mody, got his term extended by six months ending February 28, 2021. A retired 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Mr Mody was slated to retire on August 31. His predecessor Sushil Chandra (now Election Commissioner) too got an extension in May 2017, which was considered a rare exception at that time. Now with Mr Mody's continued tenure, it seems to have become a norm.

The virtually last-minute announcement has finally ended

the hectic speculation in babu circles about the government's plans. Since the beginning of August, the Board has been led by two retired IRS officers, Mr Mody and member Sushil Kumar Gupta. According to sources, there was a keen tussle between the two seniormost babus for the top slot. Finally, it appears that the government decided to go with a tried and tested hand than opt for a new face.

Mr Mody's extension also puts paid to the hopes of Seema Khorana Patra and Prabhash Shankar who were next in line in seniority to have a go at the top post.

RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL?
 Shah Faesal's brush with politics in Jammu & Kashmir turned out to be short-lived. The erstwhile IAS topper had made headlines last year when he announced he was quitting the civil service to protest the situation in Kashmir. He founded a political party Jammu & Kashmir People's

Movement (JKPM). Now, more than a year later, he has left his own party and indicated that he might return to the service.

According to sources, the government has not accepted his resignation of January 2019, pending investigation into some of his posts on social media. Apparently, before quitting politics Mr Faesal contacted top officials in the home ministry, and if we believe the rumours, even national security advisor Ajit Doval, before announcing his decision.

Those in the know say that since the government has not accepted his resignation, the door is open for his re-entry into the IAS. However, he will have to withdraw his resignation first.

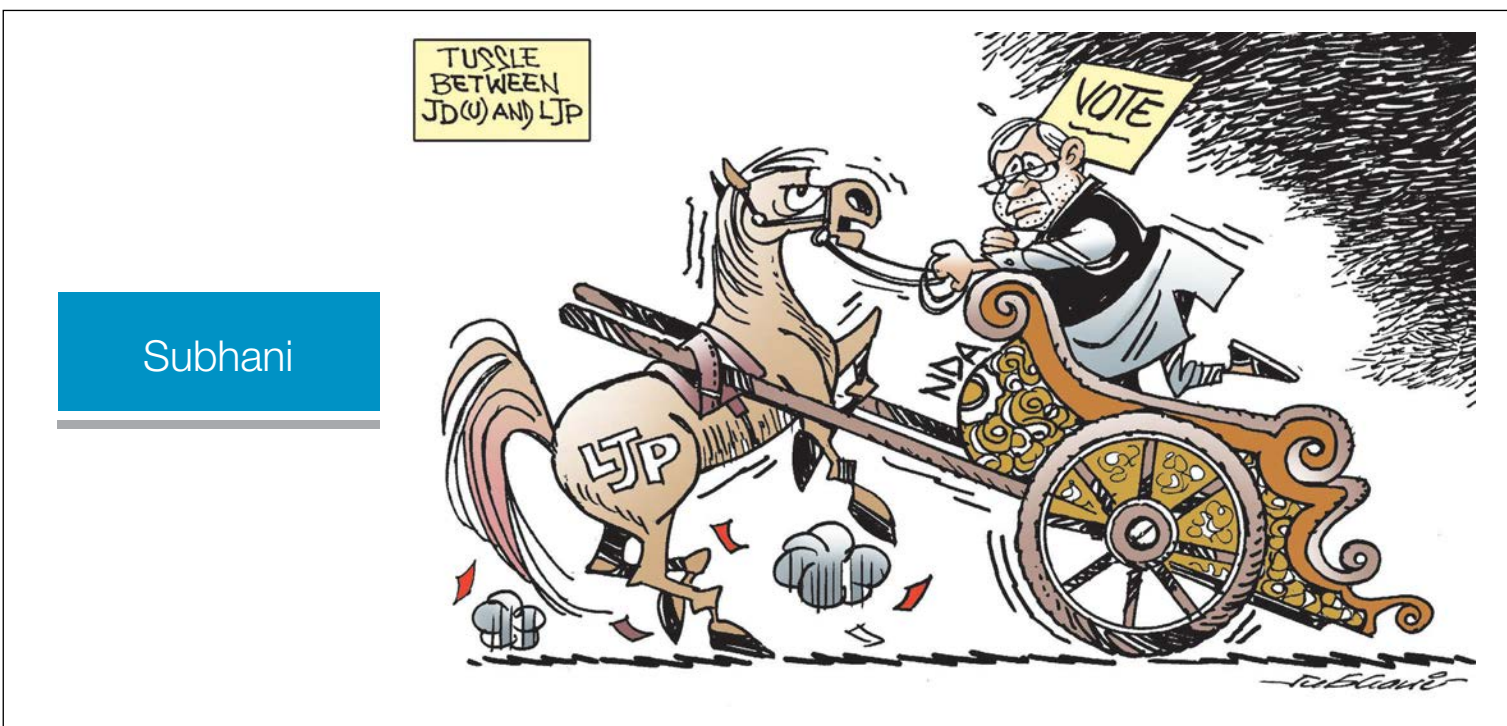
The website of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) still shows Mr Faesal as a serving officer, even though he plunged into politics for a year and a half. Since his resignation has not been processed, Mr Faesal can still withdraw his resignation. But

more likely the final say in this matter may be a political one than an administrative decision.

BABUS MUST BE 'KARMAYOGIS'
 The Modi sarkar has now added "Karmayogi" to the government's expanding lexicon of buzzwords. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to "Mission Karmayogi", a skill-building programme for civil servants. It has been touted as the "biggest human resource development reform in the government".

According to C. Chandramouli, secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, babus will have to be "imaginative and progressive, energetic and enabling, transparent and tech enabled, and constructive and creative" to face modern challenges. But, all that it sounds like is a fancier word for good old "training".

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](#). Let's multiply the effect.



Subhani

Understand the politics behind China tensions



N.V. Subramanian

Politics governs relations between all countries. Military power and diplomacy subsume within politics and cannot be a substitute for politics. This understanding is completely missing in India's negotiation of the ongoing border crisis with China in Ladakh. In contrast, every Chinese action is mediated by politics.

Why have the Chinese suddenly shown a hard side towards India? Unless China's political objectives which led to the border action are clearly understood, it will be of little help to apply purely military and diplomatic solutions to it. Politics has to be met with politics, which this writer has been reiterating from the first days of the Galwan Valley clash.

Before Galwan, there was no history of comparable violence for decades. Both sides patrolled to their respective perceptions of the Line of Actual Control, the de facto border between India and China. Transgressions, tensions and rival claims were handled peacefully by the two armies and by the two nations' diplomats. China always restored the status quo.

Why are the Chinese so adamant about holding on to new territories now? There's a definite trust deficit with the current political leadership. The Army remains the same. The diplomatic institutions have not changed. Only political attitudes, ideologies and the consequent thrusts have changed. Indian politics has changed. The Chinese are responding to that change.

The Chinese have responded to a similar political change even earlier. In the late 1990s, they hardened their stance towards the Atal Behari Vajpayee government for having justified India's

1998 nuclear tests on the grounds of the threat posed by China. Pakistan and China have been extra close ever since, although Vajpayee had tried to undo the damage with China. Vajpayee's Lahore initiative was also aimed at weakening the China-Pakistan nexus. He did not fancy a two-front war.

The past six years have been a process of unlearning Vajpayee's lessons. Pakistan-bashing brings handsome electoral dividends. It was why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected with a bigger majority in 2019. Then on August 5 the same year, the Lok Sabha saw unfettered revanchism about wresting Aksai Chin from China. The same day, the Chinese protested against the change in Ladakh's status to Union territory, but were completely ignored.

They kept on protesting. The deadly Galwan incident and the preceding tense days took the establishment and "strategists" by surprise. They had forgotten the Chinese protests. Galwan was thought to be a local incident, neither cleared by the Central Military Commission nor the higher authorities in Beijing, which admits of complete ignorance about the inner workings of China.

China is a highly political nation. Every organ and institution of the State, including the powerful military, subsumes within politics, which is solely represented by the Chinese Communist Party and its (current) leader Xi Jinping. Every decision that China takes is political. The Galwan incident was political, although the instrument was military.

The most worrisome aspect of tensions is the zero political trust between India and China. This was not the case before May 2014. Tensions have geographies like bodily diseases. The ten-

sions currently are located in eastern Ladakh. Over-analysing the location and ignoring or underplaying the politics is perilous. Suppose the tension shifts to the eastern sector. Will the emphasis shift to the new location, neglecting politics once again? Will eastern Ladakh be forgotten in the panic about a new area of tension?

Sadly, China does not trust the current leadership in New Delhi. After India's self-admitted "pre-emptive action" in eastern Ladakh in August-end, the conflict risks have risen. China has withdrawn peace guarantees. To the Line of Control (with Pakistan) is joined the entire Line of Actual Control in military tensions. Vajpayee's strenuous efforts to prevent a two-front crisis by building independent relations with both Pakistan and China have now been completely undone.

Since India has an elected government whose character surfaces China's worst instincts, politics has no chance unless New Delhi is willing to try. India has to hold a frank political dialogue with China to understand the root cause of tensions. A resolution will not come from military-to-military talks and narrow diplomacy or armed posturing. Frank political discussions may concern India's perceived drift towards the United States against Beijing; the August 5, 2019 action and the statement on Aksai Chin in the Lok Sabha; India's counter action in Doklam, in the disputed Bhutan-China region, and so on.

The political idea is to turn the clock back to the pre-May 2014 period, when relations were even with China. A two-front

conflict is always a nightmare. A shattered economy, record unemployment, a drifting neighbourhood, peaking Covid-19, the world's disinterest in Sino-Indian troubles, the growing internal divisiveness, and much wrong elsewhere makes accommodative and assuaging politics imperative over military machismo and sterile diplomacy.

Understandably, India does not trust China any longer. But before May 2014, the same adversary was trusted to the extent that the LAC was considered peaceful, compared to the LOC. What changed? A nationalist government came to power in India entrenched in revanchist ideology.

It is also true that Xi Jinping in 2018 was confirmed China's President for life. He is only second to Mao Zedong to get an interminable tenure. Xi shuns Deng Xiaoping's policy of rise by stealth. He is determined to consolidate China's leading position in the world and gather up recalcitrant territories.

At the same time, Xi's hard line has been exacerbated by the boorishness of US President Donald Trump, who has accelerated America's decline. He is the Boris Yeltsin to Mikhail Gorbachev-Barack Obama. Should Joe Biden be elected in November and he sensibly normalises relations with China, India shouldn't be left stranded with no doors open with Beijing for rapprochement.

Dependence on a professional military and career diplomats can only take a nation state so far. States are not built around such people but constituted by politics mediated by citizens. Vajpayee knew that well.

Two courses are open now. There is Vajpayee's way of securing India by politics, which is remarkably Bismarckian. The other way is defiantly blundering along with an adversary most unsuitable for any kind of experimentation.

The writer is an analyst and journalist based in New Delhi

LETTERS

LAW OF THE LAND

I congratulate Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar for his courage to change the revenue law. Since decades the revenue department and its offices has been in the grip of corruption and corrupt officials. By abolishing the VRO system, I am sure there will be transparent and corruption-free services relating to land issues. I request the Chief Minister to check the GHMC which is filled with corrupt persons.

Annapurna Putcha
Hyderabad

KCR IS LIKE NTR

The initiatives taken by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao such as passing a resolution in the Assembly to confer the Bharat Ratna on former prime minister late P.V. Narasimha Rao and the abolition of the VRO system reminds us of the legendary NTR who also wanted PV to be the first PM from the south and had not put up any candidate against him to get elected as MP from Nandyal. NTR, too, abolished the Patel-Patwari system due to corruption. Rao like NTR had shown the statesmanship by putting the state first than party and honesty over the corrupt revenue system.

T. Kailash Ditya
Hyderabad

UNFORTUNATE

I am greatly shocked and disheartened with the news of sons throwing out their aged mother in my beloved and progressive state of Telangana (*Sons throw out 84-year-old mom, DC, Sept. 7*). I request the Chief Minister, NGOs, social activists and others to launch a widespread awareness campaign so that such incident do not take place.

Dr Shankar Chatterjee
Hyderabad

Pan AM Boeing blown up in Cairo

CAIRO, Sept. 8
 A Pan American Airway Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet, hijacked yesterday by Arab Commandos while en route from Amsterdam to New York was blown up at Cairo airport early today shortly after landing and disembarking its 152 passengers and 18 crew. Nothing was left of the machine but a smoking mass of twisted metal witnesses said. Two gun shots were heard soon after the plane had landed. It had arrived here from Beirut.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,365.35	-0.14
Nifty 50	11,317.35	-0.33
S&P 500*	3,361.59	-1.91
Dollar (₹)	73.59	-0.32
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.58	0.41
Euro (₹)	86.97	-0.11
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,989.122	0.23
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.14	-1.87
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.056	0.063
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.667	0.056

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Over 42 cr poor given ₹68,820 cr under PMGKY

The finance ministry said more than 42 crore people have received Rs 68,820-crore assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. As per the latest data, Rs 17,891 crore has gone towards payment of first instalment of PM-Kisan. Under the scheme, 8.94 crore beneficiaries got Rs 2,000 in their accounts. Also, Rs 30,925 crore was credited to 20.6 crore women Jan Dhan account-holders in 3 instalments of Rs 500 each.

Railways generate over 8L man-days under Garib Kalyan



The Railways have generated more than 8 lakh man-days of work in six states under a scheme launched in June this year, the ministry said. The Garib Kalyan Rojar Abhiyaan was launched with an initial funding of Rs 50,000 crore. The Railways are executing various works under it, including construction of approach roads for level crossings, development and cleaning of silted waterways, trenches and drains, etc.

Japan's economy shrinks 28% in second quarter

Japan's economy shrank at a record rate in the April-June quarter, worse than initially estimated. The Cabinet Office said Japan's seasonally adjusted real GDP contracted at an annualised rate of 28.1 per cent, worse than the 27.8 per cent figure given last month. Other data showed cash earnings improving somewhat, and consumer spending and other business activity is expected to rebound.

Samsung to create 5G infra for Verizon

Samsung Electronics Co will develop 5G network infrastructure for Verizon Communications under a \$6.65 billion deal. The contract runs through 2025, according to a Samsung corporate filing. Samsung and Verizon have worked together before. In 2018, Samsung technology was behind a 5G home service that Verizon offered to customers in some US states. China's Huawei Technologies wasn't in the running for the contract.



■ Pain may persist for power, infra firms Small gains for large sectors from recast

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

The guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India based on K.V. Kamath committee recommendations may help bail out borrowers in real estate, traders, hotels/restaurants sectors, but resolving stress in lumpy power and infrastructure sectors through this mechanism would be a challenge without economic revival, say analysts.

The Kamath committee, which suggested restructuring of Covid-stressed corporate loans across 26 sectors, identified five key ratios with different limits across sectors to be used as the threshold in implementing a resolution plan. According to the panel, sectors affected by Covid-19 account for Rs 38 lakh crore of banking sector debt, forming 37 per cent of the total banking system debt.

A one-time restructuring, including loan moratorium extensions, for stressed companies and individuals could delay or help moderate the bad loan (NPA) pain in the near to medium-term for the banking sector.

Anand Dama, banking analyst at Emkay Global, said, "We believe that the current corporate one-time restructuring framework for only standard cases with maximum tenor extension of two years in identified stressed sectors... (due to) limited time period, upfront heavy provisioning requirement,



stringent financial thresholds for eligibility and supervisory mechanism is far better than corporate debt restructuring which was extensively used to suppress NPAs and had a success rate of as low as 15 per cent. We believe that the restructuring mechanism may help the stressed borrowers mainly in real estate, traders, hotels/restaurants, etc., but resolving stress in lumpy power/infra sector through this mechanism will be challenging without economic revival and sectors specific packages/initiatives by the government."

Niranjan Hiranandani, president, ASSOCHAM, said, "No doubt, the threshold for five ratios that banks need to monitor while putting a resolution plan for the stressed borrower will bring transparency and efficiency, but the whole gamut depends on the recovery path for each of the sectors." However, the two years' time frame to achieve the threshold for all the ratios may not be sufficient for highly stressed companies," he said.

"Among banks, the total exposure toward the key troubled sectors forms 15-31 per cent of the total fund-based exposure. Overall, we believe this is a prudent attempt by the expert," said Alpesh Mehta, analyst at Motilal Oswal.

The RBI on Monday has announced a resolution framework for accounts adversely impacted by Covid-19. The K.V. Kamath panel has identified 26 sectors that have been impacted by Covid-19 with varying severity—mild, moderate, and severe. It also suggested financial parameters based on leverage, liquidity, and the debt serviceability of the company and thus identified five key ratios in considering a resolution plan—(a) total outside liability / adjusted tangible network (b) total debt/Ebitda (c) current ratio (d) debt service coverage ratio, and (e) average debt service coverage ratio.

The borrower's resolution plan would be prepared based on pre-Covid-19 performance, and the Covid-19 impact on 1HFY21 financials would be used to project future cash flows.

PUBG set to return sans Tencent

New Delhi, Sept. 8: PUBG Corporation, the unit of a South Korean company behind Player Unknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), will no longer give Tencent Games the rights to publish its popular mobile game in India, it said in a blog. The company's announcement came a week after India banned the game along with 117 other Chinese-origin apps.

"Moving forward, PUBG Corporation will take on all publishing responsibilities within the country," the company said, adding that it was exploring ways to provide gaming experience to Indian users in the future.

It was not immediately clear if the move would spur Indian authorities to revoke their ban.

Tencent, which ran the franchise in India, confirmed that PUBG Corp would take on the responsibilities of publishing the mobile game in India.

"Our existing cooperation with PUBG Corporation in global markets other than India is not affected," Tencent said in a statement.

The ban on PUBG in India, the game's biggest market by users, has shocked and angered gamers.

Seizing the opportunity, an Indian firm and a Bollywood actor are together planning to launch a locally made tactical mobile game by the end of October.

— Reuters

StanChart fined ₹100 cr for Fema violation in TMB deal

SUVASHREE GHOSH & ANTO ANTONY
SEPT. 8

India's anti-money laundering agency fined Standard Chartered Plc Rs 100 crore (\$13.6 million) for breaking foreign exchange rules when it worked on the takeover of a local bank, marking one of the country's biggest penalties imposed on an overseas lender.

An eight-year probe found that Standard Chartered violated the so-called Foreign Exchange Management Act when it worked with a group of investors to buy a stake in Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd in 2007, according to an August order from India's enforcement agency that was seen by Bloomberg.

"Senior officials at Standard Chartered saw an investment in TMB shares as an opportunity that might ripen into an eventually larger ownership for the bank," Sushil Kumar, the enforcement agency's special director, said in the order.



A representative for the British lender confirmed receipt of the order, adding that the bank was evaluating it and so unable to comment further.

Standard Chartered -- India's largest foreign bank by branches--also acted as a custodian for shares on the deal, according to the order. Tamilnad Mercantile was fined almost Rs 17 crore for similar charges, the order said.

A spokesman at Tamilnad Mercantile declined to comment, while the Enforcement Directorate didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The case dates back to about 13 years ago when Tamilnad Mercantile transferred 46,862 shares to overseas investors, including GHI Ltd, Swiss Re Investors, FI Investments and Cuna Group, without seeking permission from the Reserve Bank of India, according to the order. Some of those shares were then transferred to Sub-Continental Equities Ltd, an affiliate of StanChart in April 2008, without the central bank's permission, it said.

The transfers were done through escrow accounts with StanChart, which acted as a transaction agent and a lender to one of the investors on the deal, the order said.

"Standard Chartered through its affiliate Subcontinental was a proposed and eventually an actual investor in TMB shares to be purchased through the escrow agreement arrangements," Kumar said.

— Bloomberg

Govt to sell 15-20% stake in IRCTC

New Delhi, Sept. 8: The government plans to sell about 15-20 per cent stake in IRCTC via offer for sale (OFS) and would like to complete the transaction in minimum number of tranches.

Last month, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) had invited bids from merchant bankers by

September 10 for managing the sale in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC).

However, it did not disclose the quantum of stake on offer in the Request for Proposal.

Following this, a pre-bid meeting was held on September 4 with potential bidders. Dipam has now posted

its response to the queries raised by potential bidders on its website.

To a query on intended stake dilution, it said, "The indicative percentage is 15 per cent to 20 per cent. The exact details will be shared with the selected merchant bankers." The government currently holds 87.40 per cent stake in IRCTC. — PTI

INDIA'S HIRING OUTLOOK BLEAKEST IN 15 YEARS: SURVEY

New Delhi, Sept. 8: India is witnessing the weakest hiring sentiment in 15 years with just 3 per cent companies planning to add staff in the next three months, a survey of over 800 employers said on Tuesday.

According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey, that covered 813 firms across India, Indian employers report cautious hiring plans for the final quarter of 2020.

As per the survey, 7 per cent of employers anticipate an increase in payrolls, 3 per cent forecast a decrease and 54 per cent expect no change. Once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation, the outlook stands at 3 per cent, it said.

"Hiring sentiment is the weakest since the survey began 15 years ago, remaining relatively stable when compared with the previous quarter, but declining by 16 percentage points in comparison with this time one year ago," the survey said.

The strongest hiring pace is recorded in the small-sized organisations followed by the medium-sized and large-sized firms. From a region perspective, north and east regions indicate a more positive outlook compared to the west and south, the survey said.

"Post the 'right sizing' exercise aligning themselves to the current market demands, organisations are now looking at improving productivity, new forms of employee engagement, getting furloughed employees back and implementation of technology," said Sandeep Gulati, group MD of ManpowerGroup India.

The survey said nearly 44 per cent of employers reported that they may return to pre-Covid-19 hiring within the next nine months whereas 42 per cent are unsure about returning back to normalcy from the hiring perspective.

About 42 per cent companies suggest they plan to bring them back furloughed employees with reduced hours. — PTI

Fitch, Sachs cut FY21 India growth estimates

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 8

Sensing deeper trouble for India's economy, global rating agencies Fitch Ratings and Goldman Sachs on Tuesday projected the country's annual GDP to contract by 10.5 per cent to 14.8 per cent, significantly below their earlier forecast.

While Fitch revised down its gross domestic product estimate for India to -10.5 per cent for this fiscal, sharply from its earlier projection of -5 per cent, Goldman Sachs went a step ahead and forecast a 14.8 per cent contraction in India's economic growth, revising down its earlier estimate of 11.8 per cent contraction.

Fitch said the imposition of sporadic shutdowns has disrupted economic activities across the country.

"India imposed one of the most stringent lockdowns worldwide in 2Q20 (April-June) and domestic demand fell massively. Limited fiscal support, fragilities in the financial system, and a continued rise in virus cases hamper a rapid normalisation in activity," Fitch said.

"All the indicators, be it mobility or consumption, are pointing towards a 'much weaker' economic recovery," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist, Fitch Group, adding, "We have slashed our GDP forecast for this fiscal year to (-) 10.5 per cent, a huge revision of (-) 5pp compared to the June Global Economic Outlook (GEO)." "A host of indicators across the majority of GEO economies point to a faster sequential increase in GDP in 3Q20 to date than we were previously anticipating," it said.

Goldman Sachs analysts believe the economy will contract 13.7 per cent for the September 2020 quarter and 9.8 per cent for the December 2020 quarter.

"Our estimates imply that real GDP falls by 11.1 per cent in 2020, and by 14.8 per cent in FY21," they said.

The revised projections come within days of government data showing that GDP shrank by a steep 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21. Economists said the growth numbers for Q1 could be revised lower later after data from the informal sector is accounted for.

SHAHAB ANSARI
MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

The special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Tuesday remanded Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, to the Enforcement Directorate's custody till September 19. The Kochhar's custodial interrogation is necessary in the money laundering case registered against him, observed the court. Judge Milind V. Kurtadikar

also rejected Kochhar's request for allowing home food in the ED custody.

Additional solicitor general (ASG) Anil Singh appeared before the court via video conferencing on behalf of the ED, seeking Kochhar's custody. He said Kochhar is not cooperating in the money laundering investigation, relating to a Rs 300-crore loan given to Videocon International Electronics Ltd (VIEL) in 2009.

According to the prosecution,

ICICI Bank sanctioned this loan while Kochhar's wife (Chanda Kochhar) was the chairperson of the sanctioning committee.

The probe agency has claimed that in this case the Kochhars received bribe instantly. The remand application of the ED read that the next day of receiving the loan amount on September 8, 2009, VIEL transferred Rs 64 crore to the NuPower Renewables Ltd (NRL), which is managed, owned and controlled by Deepak Kochhar.

RIL unveils details of O2C biz spinoff plan

New Delhi, Sept. 8: Reliance Industries Ltd's new oil-to-chemical business unit will hold its oil refinery and petrochemical assets and retail fuel business but not upstream oil and gas producing fields such as KG-D6 and textiles business, the firm said, detailing hiving-off plans.

RIL has started work on hiving off the oil-to-chemical (O2C) business into a separate unit for a possible stake sale to companies such as Saudi Aramco.

Reliance O2C Ltd will house oil refining and petrochemical plants and

manufacturing assets, bulk and wholesale fuel marketing, and RIL's 51 per cent interest in retail fuel joint venture with BP of the UK, according to the Scheme of Arrangement.

The O2C unit would also house RIL's Singapore and the UK-based oil trading subsidiaries and marketing subsidiary, Reliance Industries Uruguay Petroquimica SA.

It would also house Reliance Ethane Pipeline Ltd that operates a pipeline between Dahej in Gujarat and Nagothane in Maharashtra as well as 74.9 per cent stake that RIL

holds in the joint venture with Sibur.

RIL's very large ethane carriers, gas pipelines such as one that transports coal-bed methane from its CBM blocks, overseas oil and gas asset holding company Reliance Industries (Middle East) DMCC, and domestic exploration and production assets would not form part of the O2C unit, it said.

Also, RIL's textiles business as operated out of the Naroda site, Baroda township and land, including cricket stadium, Jamnagar power assets, and Sikka Ports and Terminals

Ltd would also not be part of the O2C unit.

RIL values the O2C business at \$75 billion and has been in talks with Saudi Aramco for sale of a 20 per cent interest.

"The nature of risk and returns involved in the O2C business are distinct from those of the other businesses of RIL and the O2C business attracts a distinct set of investors and strategic partners," the company said.

RIL said it has been exploring various opportunities to bring in strategic/other investors in the O2C business. — PTI

Mutual fund NFOs play on diversification theme

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, SEPT. 8

Diversification is the theme playing out in the mutual fund industry to attract old and new investors in uncertain times.

Multi-asset funds or global equity exposure is the current buzz in the industry.

Recent new fund offerings by Axis Mutual Fund (Axis Global Equity Alpha Fund of Fund), Nippon India MF (Nippon India Multi-Asset Fund), SBI Mutual Fund (SBI Magnum Children's Benefit Fund) and Mirae Asset Mutual Fund (Mirae Asset Equity Allocator Fund of Fund) offer diversification, breaking new grounds in terms of the asset allocation-mix offered in a single mutual fund, compared to the past NFOs.

This is happening at a time when retail investors have started booking profit in equity mutual funds and seeking to play safe in a volatile market conditions as even debt funds are not considered safe for capital protection these days.

"As you don't know what will happen tomorrow to one asset class, asset allocation has become very important as the proverb goes 'do not put all your eggs in one basket,'" said Ashwin Patni, head-products and alternatives, Axis Asset Management Company.

Allocation to global equities can improve the risk-return profile of Indian investors because of diversification benefits, according to Axis Mutual Fund.

India has around 5,000



companies listed on the stock exchange but accounts for only about 3 per cent share of world's market capitalisation. Axis Global Equity Alpha Fund of Fund will invest in Schroders Global Equity Alpha Fund to provide geographical diversity to Indian investors looking to have exposure in global stocks

listed in the US and other developed markets.

Nippon India Multi-Asset Fund is investing across five asset classes—domestic equity (50 per cent), international equity (20 per cent), commodities (15 per cent) and fixed income (15 per cent).

Diversification within the same asset as well helps in portfolio diversi-

fication and hedge against inflation/geopolitical risks, according to Nippon India Mutual Fund.

SBI Magnum Children's Benefit Fund will invest in equity & equity-related instruments, including equity ETFs with a minimum of 65 per cent going up to 100 per cent, debt, including debt ETFs and money market instruments up to a maximum of 35 per cent, in REITs & InvITs up to 10 per cent, and up to 20 per cent in Gold ETFs.

Mirae Asset Equity Allocator Fund of Fund will invest in Nifty-50 ETF, Nifty Next 50 ETF, and Midcap150 ETFs, providing investors some protection from current market volatility as the exposure would be quite diverse to large and mid cap stocks.

VACCINE-MAKERS PLEDGE NOT TO RUSH TO MARKET

NAOMI KRESGE
SEPT. 8

Drugmakers racing to produce Covid-19 vaccines pledged to avoid shortcuts on science as they face pressure to rush a shot to market. In a public letter, the companies agreed to submit the vaccines for clearance only when they're shown to be safe and effective in large clinical studies. The CEOs of nine frontrunners for a coronavirus inoculation signed the pledge: AstraZeneca, BioNTech, GlaxoSmithKline, J&J, Merck & Co, Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer and Sanofi.

"In the interest of public health, we pledge to always make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals our top priority," they wrote. —Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Coach Poonia is Covid positive

New Delhi: Dronacharya awardee athletics coach and former international hammer thrower Virender Poonia has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to a hospital in Jaipur. The 47-year-old Virender is the husband of Olympian discus thrower and sitting Rajasthan MLA Krishna Poonia. He is now admitted to the Railway Hospital in Jaipur. He, however, said he is doing "fine".

"Last week I had body pain and sore throat and so I went for Covid-19 testing and it turned out to be positive. The result came on Saturday," Virender said. "Today is the fourth day (after testing positive) and I am alright. There is still body pain and sore throat but I am hoping to get better."

Virender, a Railways employee, won a bronze in hammer throw in the Asian Junior Championships in 1992 and finished fourth in the 1998 Asian Senior Championships. He was Krishna's coach when she won the discus throw gold medal in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. He received the Dronacharya Award in 2012. — PTI

Ailing Ali asked to stop training

New Delhi: Promising India defender Anwar Ali has been asked to stop training as his latest medical reports are being sent to the Asian Football Confederation, months after being diagnosed with a congenital heart condition, which has put a question mark on his career.

One of the impressive performers of the 2017 U-17 World Cup at home, Anwar underwent blood tests, a CT scan and an MRI at a top private hospital in Kolkata last week, the reports of which had been sent to the All India Football Federation's medical committee.

"His reports have been sent to the AFC and till a final decision is taken, he has been asked to stop practice. A decision on his future in football should come by this weekend," I-League chief executive officer Sunando Dhar said. The centre-back's career has been left hanging in the balance ever since he was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition last year. — PTI

Italy edge Dutch, Norway win big

Paris: Nicolo Barella extended Italy's two-year unbeaten run as he scored the winner in Monday's 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands in the Nations League while Erling Haaland netted twice for Norway in a 5-1 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

Roberto Mancini's Italy saw their record 11-match winning streak end with last week's draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina but got the best of the Netherlands in Amsterdam courtesy of Inter Milan midfielder Barella's header in first-half stoppage time. "It was a great performance by the entire team, we played with personality. We earned a great result and we are all happy, especially with the performance," said winger Lorenzo Insigne. "We could have scored more goals and killed the game but we still earned the three points. That is what counts most." — AFP

Clippers out-gun Nuggets, in lead

Miami: Paul George scored 32 points and the Los Angeles Clippers turned up the heat defensively on Monday in a 113-107 win over the Denver Nuggets for a 2-1 lead in the NBA Western Conference semifinals. Kawhi Leonard added 23 points, 14 rebounds and six assists for the Clippers, coming up big on both ends of the floor as Los Angeles powered to the finish in the see-saw battle. Denver, blown out in game one but coming off a convincing game-two victory, led 78-68 midway through a third quarter. — AFP

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US OPEN TENNIS

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Elise in wonderland

Mertens sends 2nd seed Sofia packing, Serena advances

New York, Sept. 8: Serena Williams battled into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Monday as top men's seeds Dominic Thiem and Daniil Medvedev sailed through to the last eight at Flushing Meadows.

After Williams kept her bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title alive, second seed Sofia Kenin was sent crashing out in the last 16 by Belgium's Elise Mertens.

Kenin, the highest seeded player left in the tournament and winner of the 2020 Australian Open, was bundled out of the last 16 6-3, 6-3, in 1hr 14 mins by Mertens.

Mertens, the 16th seed, will now play Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the quarter-finals.

Kenin, who had not lost a game in her first three

rounds, never got her service game together against Mertens.

The 21-year-old Moscow-born player won only 56 percent of first serve points compared to 75 percent for Mertens.

Unseeded Azarenka came from a set down to oust 20th seed Karolina Muchova 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in 2hr 30min.

Earlier, Williams had to summon up every last ounce of strength to depose 15th seed Maria Sakkari in three hard-fought sets.

The 38-year-old American needed almost two and a half hours to dislodge her 25-year-old Greek opponent 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 inside an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

The American will play Tsvetana Pironkova for a place in the semi-finals

BOPANNA-SHAPOVALOV OUSTED FROM US OPEN

New York, Sept. 8: The Indian challenge came to an end at the US Open with the quarterfinal loss of Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov in the men's doubles event here.

Bopanna and Shapovalov lost 5-7, 5-7 to Dutch Jean-Julien Rojer and Romania's Horea Tecau in the last-eight match which lasted one hour and 26 minutes on Monday.

Bopanna and Shapovalov lost their serve once in each set and could not convert the only break chance that came their way in the second set.

It was Bopanna's best performance at a Slam since he made the quarterfinals at both the US Open and the French Open in 2018. — PTI

after the Bulgarian ousted France's Alize Cornet in another draining three-setter.

'ABSOLUTELY UNREAL'

Pironkova, playing her first tournament in three

years after a lengthy break in which she gave birth to her son, prevailed 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 at the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"It's absolutely unreal, I really can't believe it,"

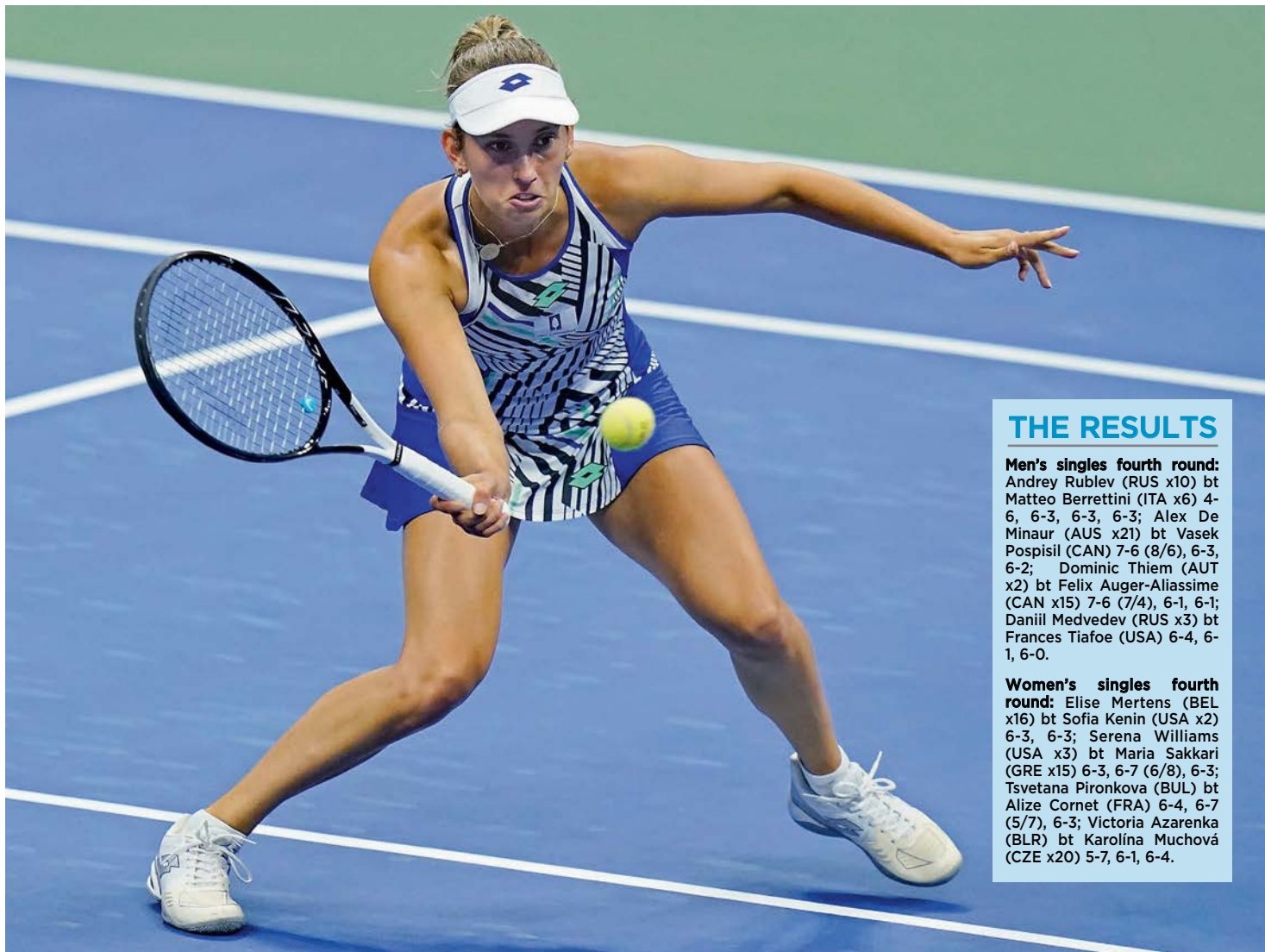
said Pironkova, whose last tournament appearance before this year's US Open was the 2017 Wimbledon championships when she exited in the second round.

In the men's draw, second-seeded Thiem raced into the round of eight with a three-set demolition of Canadian rising star Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Thiem dismantled the 20-year-old 15th seed 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1 in 2hr 7min.

He will play Australia's 21st seed Alex de Minaur for a spot in the semi-finals after the Australian breezed past unseeded Canadian Vasek Pospisil 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-2, in 2hr 17 min.

Third seed Medvedev blew away unseeded American France Tiafoe 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 in only 1hr 38 min. — AFP



Elise Mertens of Belgium plays a shot en route to her 6-3, 6-3 win over Sofia Kenin of the United States in their US Open women's singles fourth round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Monday. — AP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles fourth round: Andrey Rublev (RUS x10) bt Matteo Berrettini (ITA x6) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; Alex De Minaur (AUS x21) bt Vasek Pospisil (CAN) 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-2; Dominic Thiem (AUT x2) bt Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x15) 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) bt Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

Women's singles fourth round: Elise Mertens (BEL x16) bt Sofia Kenin (USA x2) 6-3, 6-3; Serena Williams (USA x3) bt Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3; Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) bt Alize Cornet (FRA) 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3; Victoria Azarenka (BLR) bt Karolina Muchova (CZE x20) 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Roland Garros to allow spectators

Paris, Sept. 8: Spectators will be allowed at the French Open this month despite the growing number of coronavirus cases in the country, organizers said.

Organizers unveiled the health protocols for the clay-court grand slam, which will take place at Roland Garros in western Paris from September 27 after being postponed from its May start due to the pandemic.

"Since the international circuit restarted, Roland Garros will be the first tournament with the privilege of hosting an audience," French Tennis

Federation president Bernard Giudicelli said on Monday.

In accordance with the latest government guidelines capping attendance to 5,000 people in regions such as Paris, the federation has scaled down its plans.

The federation wanted to welcome 50% to 60% of capacity, the equivalent of about 20,000 fans per day. Instead, Roland Garros will be divided into three zones based on the three main courts, with 5,000 people each for the Philippe Chatrier and Suzanne Lenglen courts. — AP

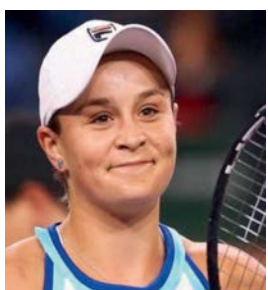
No Barty at French Open

Sydney, Sept. 8: World number one Ashleigh Barty announced Tuesday she will not defend her French Open crown, citing the coronavirus fears that also prompted her and several other top players to withdraw from the US Open.

The Australian, who claimed her maiden Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2019, said it was a "difficult" decision but the health of her family and team came first.

"Last year's French Open was the most special tournament of my career so this is not a decision I have made lightly," she said on social media.

"There are two reasons



Ashleigh Barty

for my decision — the first is the health risks that still exist with Covid.

"The second is my preparation, which has not been ideal without my coach being able to train with me due to the state border closures in Australia."

Barty is based in

Brisbane while her coach, Craig Tytzer, is in Melbourne and unable to travel as the city battles a significant second-wave virus outbreak.

She announced in late July that she would sit out the US Open, currently underway in New York, with defending men's champion Rafael Nadal and world number two Simona Halep among those who also opted out because of the pandemic.

At the time, Barty was still monitoring the situation with the French Open, which is due to start on September 27, but said Tuesday her withdrawal was the latest development in "a challenging year for everyone". — AFP

MANKADING | IN IPL

Ponting speaks in Ashwin's support

Dubai, Sept. 8: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting says he is on the "same page" as off-spinner R. Ashwin regarding running out non-strikers for backing up too far before a ball is delivered.

Ashwin, who was in the spotlight last IPL after dismissing Jos Buttler during a Kings XI Punjab versus Rajasthan Royals encounter, did something that his current IPL coach didn't endorse.

However, Ashwin and Ponting have had an open discussion here over the mode of dismissal and by the former Australian captain's own admission, they have reached a common ground.

"He (Ashwin) made me get on a podcast with him when I first arrived here to have a good open chat about it," Ponting told 'Cricket.com.au'.

"I think we're both on the same page. He feels he did everything in the rules and laws of the game and he's absolutely right," Ponting said.

In fact, Ponting found logic in Ashwin's rationale. "He's saying, 'What if it's the last ball of the IPL, what if I'm bowling and the batting teams needs

● **Ashwin and Ponting have had an open discussion over the mode of dismissal and by the former Australian captain's own admission, they have reached a common ground.**

two runs to win and the non-striker is charging halfway down the wicket? What do you expect me to do?"

"There's an argument there as well, but as I said to him, I would expect that he would hold on to the ball and not Mankad and tell the batsman to stay in his crease next time and see if he's good enough to try and close the game out for us."

Ponting however, made it clear that there is no place for "cheating" which is the case when non-strikers tend to back up too far. "It shouldn't get to that stage anyway, batsmen shouldn't be cheating. That's what batsmen are doing, batsmen are actually cheating by trying to steal a yard or two here or there. It's something that needs to be addressed," he said. — PTI

YUVRAJ EYES A STINT IN BIG BASH LEAGUE

Melbourne, Sept. 8: Flamboyant Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh, who retired last year, is eyeing a stint in the Big Bash League and Cricket Australia is trying to help him find a team, a media report has said.

No Indian player has ever featured in the BBL as the country's cricket board (BCCI) doesn't allow active players to take part in overseas league.

The 38-year-old Yuvraj had retired from international and domestic cricket last year, clearing the decks to ply his trade in foreign leagues across the globe.

According to a report in *Sydney Morning Herald*, Yuvraj's manager Jason Warne of W Sports & Media has confirmed that Cricket Australia was trying to find a franchise that would be interested in the former Indian all-rounder. "We're working with CA to try to find him a home," Warne said on Monday. — PTI

150-160 is handy, says RCB coach

Dubai, Sept. 8: A score of 150 to 160 will be a competitive one in Dubai or Abu Dhabi track, reckons RCB coach Mike Hesson, who is happy to have identified his team's designated death bowlers, an area that has let them down during earlier Indian Premier League seasons.

The length of side boundaries are bigger in grounds like Abu Dhabi and that will bring down the average team total. "Here 150-160 will be good scores in some grounds and it will be different. Chinnaswamy (in Bengaluru) is a great batting wicket, smaller boundaries and scores (team totals) are (on) higher (side)," Hesson told RCB's YouTube channel.

He said that on certain grounds, spinners will come in handy, especially when the surface is a bit skiddy. "On certain grounds yes. It depends, like Abu Dhabi, seamers had played a big role there and probably (the pitch) doesn't (offer) spin as much as the other two

grounds (Dubai and Sharjah). It does skid. We need the ability to adjust to conditions on the day as well," Hesson said.

"Bowling at the death in Abu Dhabi will be quite different from bowling at Chinnaswamy. The lengths you bowl and we have identified our death bowlers," Hesson said.

RCB has failed to make it to play-offs since their 2016 final appearance and Hesson said that there has been a holistic review of the situation. "We spend a lot of time in reviews and we addressed where we are strong, whom we need to retain, what gaps we need to fill. We spent a huge amount of time identifying who those players were, more importantly what their roles were," he said.

Although he didn't name Chris Morris, Hesson hinted that the South African's inclusion certainly provided RCB with a potent death overs bowling option. "We have got some experienced players in that space," Hesson said. — PTI

Every brand may have a 'Dhoni' living inside it



Dr Raj Mohan Tella
Guest Column

In trying times like these, does greatness matter? Does it really elevate us and set the course of our lives or for that matter of brands and businesses on an ascendant? The context is the great Dhoni and the call is to all those brands, which want to build greater affinity with their stakeholders. Unravelling Dhoni may actually lead us to find out what is it that brands can imbibe from his actions and exploits.

I turn to the philosopher Peter Koestenbaum to unbundle the Dhoni magic. Koestenbaum states that there are four ways or dimensions of a leader — vision, reality, ethics and courage in his Leadership Diamond Model.

To begin with visioning, which simply means to think big and new. You would recollect how Dhoni envisioned a young and energetic team way back in 2008, while setting into

motion the gradual phasing out of established seniors. I am not suggesting that a business phase out veterans, but am only drawing the focus to the necessity of a vision for the enterprise. When businesses have a vision or a well-articulated destination, then everyone and all the energies of a business are focused to achieving that.

Next comes reality, which means responding to facts without illusions. If you are a Dhoni follower, you would recognise the great's cricketing brain, where every decision of his was based on homework, facts and an intuitive capability of marrying all the pointers to conceptualising out of the box

● **Risk and return are linked; we know that from economics. But when you blend it with self-belief then the chances of triumph seem far greater. We saw that in Dhoni.**

moves. To succeed, brands too have to rely on facts; research and understanding of audience needs, map trends, develop customer affinity and blend all of these to trigger those unique marketing/branding victories.

Then comes ethics — sensitivity and empathy. Which player doesn't vouch for learning from Dhoni? You would have

seen him interacting with the juniors in the team, guiding the bowlers from behind the wicket and leading the way by example.

For brands listening can be core strength. The more they listen to their audiences, the sharper their insights. Customers, influencers, social media advocates, suppliers, vendors, employees and more — giving them an ear and empathising with them only makes a brand and the leadership more sensitive to the existing and emerging needs.

Koestenbaum's last dimension is courage. Greatness is about the ability to act, initiate and risk. You and I know that one innings, which won India,

the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2011 was a play of Dhoni's courage and planning. But in contrast, how many times have you seen a brand take that risk and come across as being courageous amidst marketing challenges. Risk and return are linked; we know that from economics. But when you blend it with self-belief then the chances of triumph seem far greater. We saw that in Dhoni. In today's times, you can see it in some brands and businesses. Especially, in the ones who are successfully raising investments both from India and abroad.

So the next time you think of Dhoni or want to build a great brand, put the four Koestenbaum

dimensions to play. There is a good chance you will embark upon a journey of useful change and repurposing. Begin by asking fundamental questions and what could emerge is the presence of one or two dimensions and not all four of them in your brand. Then the task is cut out. Engineer the missing dimensions into your business environment and thinking. For I believe that every business and brand may have a 'Dhoni' living inside them. You could give it that winning nudge towards greatness.

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