

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Vol. 83 No. 258 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

aparnaconstructions.com

**Exclusive Dog Park
for your lovely pets!**

Aparna Kanopy Marigold offers an exclusive Dog Park for fun-filled walks and playtime with your beautiful pet!

99482 23129 / 70953 33335

**APARNA KANOPY
Marigold**
Value Apartments @ Gundlupochampally, Kompally
2, 2.5 & 3 BHK Apartments

Sizes: 1250 - 1980 Sft.

TS RERA: P02200001827

Current Price: **₹4049*/Sft.**
Price w.e.f. 1st Oct 2020: **₹4299*/Sft.**
BOOK TODAY

Now with
A.P.P.C.
Aparna Price Protection Cover

APARNA
Lead the future

WEATHER
Max: 29.4°C
Min: 21.6°C
RH: 74%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 29/22 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+94,709)	(+1,308)
50,17,884	82,088
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+2,058)	(+10)
TS: 1,60,571	984
(+8,846)	(+69)
AP: 5,83,925	5,041

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,95,69,312

DEATHS
9,35,137

COUNTRIES WITH CASES
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrpada Bahula
Chaturdasi till 7.52 pm
Star: Magha till 12.15 pm
Varjyam: 7.26 pm to 8.52 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11.46 am to 12.35 pm
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 28, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.04 am
Zohar: 12.21 pm
Asar: 4.32 pm
Maghrib: 6.24 pm
Isha: 7.31 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.04 AM
MOONSET TODAY 5.43 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.42 AM

COUNTER POINT



We tested positive?
It's a conspiracy by
the Opposition!

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 3
**TRS corporator assaults
girl over parking**

TS HC refuses to stay physical mode exams

**Court says policy decisions aren't subject to
judicial review; okays supplementary exam**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Satisfied with the assurance of the Telangana government, the college education wing, and the universities in the state, which submitted that they will take the necessary precautions and arrangements to conduct the UG and PG courses' final semester examinations in physical mode, the Telangana High Court refused to interfere with the decision taken by the government in holding the examinations through physical mode as it is the policy decision taken by the government. It observed that such policy decision cannot be subjected to judicial review.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy was dealing with two PILs filed by

THE COMMISSIONER of college education informed the court that autonomous engineering colleges and autonomous degree colleges would be given freedom to hold the examinations in online or offline mode

Balamuri Venkata Narsing Rao, the president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and Garib Guide, a voluntary organisation, seeking postponement of the examinations or seeking direction to conduct the examinations through the online method in view of a steep spike in Covid-19 cases.

Following the court's direction seeking clarity on the mode of the examinations to be conducted, the commissioner of college education on Tuesday submitted that the

government has taken a policy decision that autonomous engineering colleges and autonomous degree colleges would be given freedom to hold the examinations in online or offline mode, but all affiliated engineering and degree colleges will hold examinations in physical mode.

The bench recorded the undertaking of the government that it will hold advanced supplementary examinations for students who could not attend the exams because of the pandemic. However, the court declined to give orders to the government on a specific time to conduct the supplementary examinations, as it was to be decided by the government, based on the feasibility.

It asked the state to hold the supplementary exams within a reasonable time, after declaring the results of regular examinations.

Apex court slams TV show, calls for media standards

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that targeting a community in television programmes does no credit to democracy and is a disservice to the nation and ordered a TV channel not to telecast the remaining five episodes of its programme "UPSC Jihad". Observing that candidates from the Muslim community were appearing like any other aspirant and journalists have no "absolute" freedom to do or say anything, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said, "As the Supreme Court of the nation, we cannot allow you to say that Muslims are infiltrating civil services. You cannot say that the journalist has absolute freedom of doing this."

Describing India as a melting pot of different civilisations and cultures, Justice Chandrachud, heading a three-judge bench also comprising Justice Indu Malhotra and Justice K.M. Joseph, indicated that they may set-up a committee of five

THE THREE-JUDGE bench indicated that they may set-up a committee of five people, also having a former CJI and an eminent person from media, to lay down standards of broadcasting.

people, also having a former Chief Justice of India and an eminent person from media, to lay down standards of broadcasting. He said that the committee would comprise "eminent and unbiased" people.

The four episodes of the TV programme, projected as an "investigative" story, have already been telecast on September 11, 12, 13 and 14. The remaining five episodes were to be telecast in succession on a daily basis.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, was lukewarm to the suggestions by the court.

**Page 7: Did I&B ministry
apply its mind, asks SC**

DROP LAW ON ELECTRICITY, TS TELLS CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution demanding that the Centre withdraw the draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2020. The bill envisages, among other things, an end to subsidies and cross-subsidies for the consumers.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao moving the resolution in the House termed the Bill as draconian and against the federal spirit that is envisaged by the Constitution.

Speaking on the proposed Bill, he said that the Centre introducing the Electricity Bill 2020 amending the Electricity Act 2003 and the proposed amendments were detrimental to farmers.

He said the Bill will put the lives of farmers and consumers in danger and the Centre is trying to snatch away the autonomy of state governments over the power sector.

**Page 4: TS doesn't
want to burden farmers**

China doesn't accept LAC, border row persists: Singh

Rajnath warns China for stepping up its presence along LAC

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

In what is being seen as a veiled warning to China amid repeated border violations by its troops, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that India was prepared to deal with all contingencies though it remained committed to peaceful resolution of the situation.

Making a statement in Lok Sabha, Mr Singh said the border issue with China remains unresolved as China, historically, "does not recognise the current boundary".

He said that difference in perception has led to the face-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"We do remain committed to the peaceful resolution of the current situation. At the same time, the House can be assured that we remain prepared to deal with all contingencies," the defence minister said.

Asserting that the Indian Army has inflicted heavy



STATUS QUO ANTE NEEDED

WE MADE it clear to the Chinese side, both through diplomatic and military channels, that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categorically conveyed that this was unacceptable

RAJNATH SINGH,
Defence minister

losses on the Chinese side during the clash with the PLA at the Galwan Valley on June 15, Mr Singh said since April there has been a considerable build-up of troops and armament by the Chinese side in the border areas adjacent to eastern Ladakh.

In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of Indian troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off, he said adding that in mid-

May, they made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of western Ladakh.

"This included Kongka La, Gogra and North Bank of Pangong Lake. These attempts were detected early and consequently responded to appropriately by our armed forces."

"We made it clear to the Chinese side, both through diplomatic and military channels, that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categori-

cally conveyed that this was unacceptable," Mr Singh said.

Opposition Congress walked out of the House after the defence minister's statement as it was not satisfied with it and wanted to ask certain questions which was disallowed by Speaker Om Birla.

The party has been repeatedly demanding that the government explain the "real situation" in Ladakh. The MPs staged a walk-out when the Speaker refused to allow the party's leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to speak. Congress MPs later staged a protest outside the House near the Gandhi Statue outside Parliament.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is currently abroad, tweeted: "It is clear from the statement of the Defence Minister that Modi ji misled the country on Chinese encroachment. Our country has always been, and will remain, with the Indian Army."

LOWEST PRICE

Offer valid ONLY TODAY

Our stores are OPEN with safe & sanitised experience

₹19
Market Price: ₹47/kg

Onion 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹29
Market Price: ₹70/kg

Tomato Hybrid 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹25
Market Price: ₹60/kg

Potato 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹99
Market Price: ₹199/kg

Apple Shimla 1 kg

₹39
Market Price: ₹44/kg

Sona Masoori Rice 1 kg

₹69
Market Price: ₹110/kg

Tur Dal 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹29
Market Price: ₹42/kg

Sugar Loose 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹145
MRP: ₹230

SPAR Whole Wheat Atta 5 kg

₹106
MRP: ₹131

Gold Drop Oil 1L
* 3L per customer

₹139
Market Price: ₹210/kg

Chicken Skin Off 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

₹499
Market Price: ₹720/kg

Mutton Curry Cut 1 kg
* 2kg per customer

All offers also available on sparindia.com

NOW SHOP ONLINE!

sparindia.com

Your Hypermarket at Home!

Also download SPAR INDIA Mobile APP

SHOP Online for ₹999 & Get ₹101 OFF

USE Code : SAVE101

Valid till 16th September - Offer valid only on web & app

Vasavi Eden Square Mall, Secunderabad
Paradise Mall, Nacharam | SLN Terminus, Kondapur
The Forum Sujana Mall, Kukatpally
Sarath City Capital Mall, Kondapur

SPAR Hypermarket

COVID | FALLOUT Recovered patients in AP seek ₹20,000 for plasma

Poor sell plasma for survival

SAMPATH G.
SAMARITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 15

Financial hardships are forcing some plasma donors to demand more money from Covid-19 infected patients in several parts in Andhra Pradesh.

In a recent case at Indian Red Cross society's (IRCS) blood bank in Nellore, a voluntary donor expressed his interest to donate his plasma and when the authorities informed him that he would get ₹5,000 as a financial incentive announced by the state government for

THOUGH THE Andhra Pradesh government has announced a financial incentive of ₹5,000 for a plasma donor, there is no clarity as to who should release that amount in most districts.

donation of plasma, the donor asked for more money claiming that he was poor.

However, the IRCS authorities informed him that they were unable to pay extra. He donated the plasma. As the IRCS authorities were discussing that,

the family members of a Covid-19 patient arrived seeking plasma of a specific blood group matching the one donated. The donor overheard it and approached the family members claiming that they were going to be given the plasma donated by him and he wanted more money. The family members refused to pay more and alerted the IRCS authorities who in turn admonished the donor and sent him home.

In another case in Visakhapatnam, a senior government official was infected with Covid-19 and

was in need of plasma. The health authorities identified a suitable donor and asked him whether he could donate plasma as his blood group matched the official's. The donor reportedly asked for more money, claiming financial hardships in his family due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Though the government has announced a financial incentive of ₹5,000 for a plasma donor, there is no clarity as to who should release that amount.

**Page 2: Middlemen make
moolah in plasma 'trade'**

SHORT TAKES

BROKERS MAKE MOOLAH IN PLASMA 'TRADE'

From Page 1

Plasma therapy is absolutely free for Covid-19 infected patients taking treatment in government hospitals but in the case of IRCS blood banks, they are charging ₹14,000 for 400 ml plasma which comes in two units of 200 ml each. Permitted private blood banks are also charging ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 for 400 ml of plasma.

On the other hand, some middlemen with access to a list of Covid-19 infected and recovered patients and registered donors of plasma, are arranging plasma donors for patients especially in notified Covid-19 hospitals and charging more money.

It depends upon the demand and supply for the day. Some corporate hospitals too are offering 'good commission' to middlemen who can arrange the donation of plasma of specific blood groups.

ICRS blood bank chief medical officer at Nellore. Dr Yashovardhan said, "We are allowing only voluntary donors of plasma and the donated plasma is being offered to the required patients following the government fixed cost only as we have to collect and process it before transfusion to the patient."

Meanwhile, Covid-19 infected patients are seeking intervention of the state government to arrest misuse of plasma donation by some middlemen for monetary gain.

● **SOME MIDDLEMEN** with access to a list of Covid-19 infected and recovered patients and registered donors of plasma, are arranging plasma donors for patients especially in notified Covid-19 hospitals and charging more money.

● It depends upon the demand and supply for the day. Some corporate hospitals too are offering 'good commission' to middlemen who can arrange the donation of plasma of specific blood groups.

INTER-STATE BURGLAR, WIFE ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Cops of LB Nagar CCS along with Ibrahimpatnam police of the Rachakonda police commissionerate have arrested an inter-state burglar Katti Ravi Kumar along with his wife and recovered 40 tolas of gold ornaments and property document of a 100 sq. yard plot all worth ₹16 lakh.

Ravi, an habitual offender, is a resident of Shiva Sanjeevaiah colony of Narsaraopeta in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.

He started committing offence at a very early age and was previously arrested and sent to jail several times.

He used steal bikes and other property by carrying out a recipe of the colonies along with this wife both in Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh.

NEW POLICE STATIONS IN TS SOON: MINISTER

Hyderabad, Sept. 15: Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali said on Tuesday that attempts were being made to set up new police stations in the state police stations.

"The process of building new police stations has already begun and the Director-General of Police Mr Mahendar Reddy is looking into it," he said in reaction to a question on the traffic situation in the Medak district during Question Hour in the Telangana Legislative Council.

He said there were no traffic police stations in 11 new districts, including Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Kumuram Bheem, Narayanpet, Kamareddy, Jogulamba Gadwal and Mulugu. "The police department uses law enforcement resources and directs the police to regulate traffic where there is no dedicated traffic police," Ali said, adding that the necessary steps would be taken to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

"We will also deploy additional police at busy junctions to control traffic," he said when MLC Seri Subash Reddy told the Minister of the problems faced by motorists in Medchal and Kompally due to the lack of availability of traffic police and signal lights. —INN

TS records 2,058 new Covid infections, 10 more deaths

Out of 1,60,571 cases so far, 1,12,400 are asymptomatic, says health dept

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Telangana state recorded 2,058 new Covid-19 cases taking the total Coronavirus infections so far to 1,60,571 even as the number of deaths from the disease reached 984 with the health department reporting 10 more fatalities.

The department, in its Covid-19 bulletin on Tuesday, said the state had 30,400 active cases as on Monday 8 pm. It said 2,180 persons had recovered between Monday and Tuesday evenings taking the number of people discharged or considered recovered so far in the state to 1,29,187.

Of the total 1,60,571 cases so far, 1,12,400 have been asymptomatic while 48,781 have had symptoms of the disease, the department said. It also revised its percentages of asymptomatic and symptomatic cases so far to 70 and 30 respectively from 69 and 31.

It may be recalled that until the break-up of asymptomatic and symptomatic cases was included in the Covid-9 bulletin, the government had been claiming that anywhere from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the people catching the virus in the state were asymptomatic.

Meanwhile, 277 more residents of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits were declared as Covid-19 positive by the department. This number was 143 for Ranga Reddy, 135 for Karimnagar, 108 for Warangal Urban, 106 for Siddipet, and 103 for Khammam districts. New cases in their nineties were recorded in Medchal-Malkajgiri (97), and Nalgonda (96) districts.

● **277 MORE** residents of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits were declared as Covid-19 positive by the department.



A large number of patients lines up at the NIMS Hospital for medical tests without following the social distancing norms, in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — P. SURENDRA

Docs in a fix over no mandatory Covid test in emergency cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

A Covid-19 test for emergency procedures being rendered non-compulsory has led to confusion among doctors across the country who state that it will harm the healthcare workers and doctors more than anyone else.

With the exposure rate of these sections high in hospitals attending to emergency patients, not knowing their status is going to increase the risks.

On a question in the Rajya Sabha about the need for tests results being mandatory in government hospitals, it was stated that health is a state sub-

ject but the central government has advised states that a Covid-19 test is not mandatory for emergency procedures. This advisory is for both government and private hospitals.

Dr Sanjiv Singh Yadav, state secretary of Indian medical association, Telangana says, "There are two ways in which it is being seen. The patient and family will be reluctant as they do not have any symptoms on the basis of which to conduct the tests. But for the healthcare workers and doctors being close to the patient in emergency care is exposing themselves. Despite wearing personal

protection equipment, doctors and healthcare workers are getting infected and many have died. Young doctors and healthcare workers have died. For this reason, tests are important and it will be the doctors and hospitals which will have to convince patients and their families to do the test."

Most private hospitals are not taking in patients for procedures without tests results. The tests are mandatory as, accordingly, patients are shifted to Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 wards.

Dr Kiran Madhala, senior government doctor, explained "Tests can be done after admission also

as the results take time. The Indian council of medical research guidelines state that no patient must be kept on hold even during emergencies for lack of Covid-19 tests results. They have specifically pointed out birthing as these procedures cannot be delayed. In these cases, the tests results affirmed later will help doctors and healthcare workers to take the required protection and medication to safeguard the patient and themselves." With the death of healthcare workers and doctors, alertness and fear are making it important to be on guard before treating patients.

EIGHT ORGANS OF BRAIN DEAD PERSON DONATED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Organs of 36-year-old Kanumuri Seetharamaraju, who was declared brain dead, were donated under the Jeevandan Scheme of the government. A resident of Kukatpally, Seetharamaraju had met with an accident in Solapur, where he was working. He was rushed to Hyderabad for treatment and was undergoing treatment at Global Hospitals. Seetharamaraju could not recover and was declared brain dead on Monday. His wife Naga Swetha and family members agreed to donate his two kidneys, liver, heart, lungs and cornea under the government's Jeevandan scheme. Hyderabad Traffic Police provided a green channel for transportation of the live heart from Global Hospital, Lakdikapul, to Care Hospital, Banjara Hills. The stretch of 3.6 km was covered in just four minutes - leaving Global at 9.32 p.m. and reaching Care at 9.36 p.m.

Army attempts to seal roads draw flak

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Residents of Secunderabad have grown tired of army authorities' repeated attempts to curb their movement by sealing off roads and thoroughfares.

This, after they got wind that the state government would be constructing an alternate road to travel from the north eastern part of the city. Even though the 'alternate road' proposal has been

doing the rounds for several years now, it is yet to strike the right chords.

"We think that it could be a part of the state government's idea of having link roads. However, these alternative roads have to cater to all the areas, and not just Malkajgiri. It must be used by people of Kapra, Yapral, Sainikpuri, and other areas in the north-eastern part of the city," CS Chanrasekhar, secretary, Federation of North-Eastern Colonies of Secunderabad (FNECS)

● **EVEN THOUGH** the 'alternate road' proposal has been doing the rounds for several years now, it is yet to strike the right chords.

told *Deccan Chronicle*.

He said if the roads are to be usurped by the army, then they must give back the same amount of land for developing alternate roads. "They cannot close 20-odd roads and give one alternate route," he added. Officially speaking, the

question of having alternate roads is a long-drawn battle, for which places were already identified.

"Laying new roads is not just about identifying new areas. There are other issues like the monetary compensation that has to be given to the army, and who would do it. The second issue was that they want an alternate piece of land-matching with what they are parting," said Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) vice-president, Ramakrishna.

Domestic workers' protest on Sept. 24

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Domestic workers and their unions in Telangana have called for a protest on September 24 in response to the nationwide protest call to highlight their problems during the ongoing Parliament session. Domestic workers will also try to meet Members of Parliament and urge them to enact comprehensive legislation for them.

As per Telangana Domestic Workers Union data, there are around 10 to 12 lakh domestic workers in Telangana of which five to six lakh are based in Hyderabad. Their national body is keen to classify them as essential workers.

The major demands include a comprehensive legislation, transfer of cash to vulnerable domestic workers as mandated by Disaster Management Act and implementation of urban employment

guarantee scheme, according to Sr Lissy Joseph, secretary of Telangana Domestic Workers Union.

Domestic workers are among the worst hit by Covid-19 as many employers have removed them from service. They have neither been shown any alternative livelihood nor have been given any compensation.

According to the Telangana Domestic Workers Union, the government failed to provide

recognition to domestic workers, who paid a heavy price during the lockdown.

Vijaya Lakshmi, a domestic help living at Dammaiguda, said "in the surrounding areas, there are around 5,000 domestic workers. We have thrown out as the employers feared that we could carry the disease to their homes. No compensation has been given to us and we have been jobless since the time the pandemic broke."

SOS | FROM GULF

Many arrested for signal crossing, vegetable and water sale

TS workers in Saudi jails seek help

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, SEPT. 15

Around 450 Indian workers are in Jeddah jail for the last four months. Migrant workers belonging to various states, including Telangana, landed in the jails for petty crimes. The victims urged their respective state governments and Ministry of External Affairs for their release and safe return to their native places.

In a video clip received by *Deccan Chronicle* on Tuesday, the inmates explained their woes.

According to them, a majority of migrant workers were imprisoned for signal crossing, vegetable and water sale and lockdown violations. Due to ignorance of local laws, the migrants had committed petty crimes in Saudi Arabia and landed in jail. A similar plight is being faced by migrant workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia, they said in the video.

With no money, they are unable to get legal aid in Saudi Arabia. Neither getting work nor able to



Indian workers in Jeddah jail in Saudi Arabia.

return home, they have been in jail for the last four months. "We are the sole bread-

winners of our families and they are nearing the brunt back", they lamented. Incidentally, those

from Pakistan, Bangladesh and others are being released in a phased manner, while Indian workers are left to languish, they said.

The migrant workers mostly belong to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

"We appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure our safe release by taking up the issue with Saudi Arabian authorities", the workers pleaded.

Antibody may reduce Covid reinfection risk

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Antibody memory in the cells of those infected with Covid-19 will be long-lasting and natural immunity in the population is going to protect them from the disease according to an immunity study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The path of immunity has been discussed in detail as it was found that there is an early decline of antibodies in the population. But this neutralising effect is not a concern as the memory in the cells ensures protection from the disease, say researchers.

Dr Narahari B., senior government doctor, explained, "After every acute phase of infection, there is a reduction in the antibody levels. But the memory is maintained in the plasma cells and the antibody is secreted. The antibody response to an infection is from this pool of long-lasting memory in the cells."

With cases of re-infection being noted across the world, the natural immunity built up after the first infection will help to fight the virus is the conclusion of scientists and treating doctors.

With more and more people recovering from the disease, resistance has been created and that will help to recover.

CCMB, CSIR PACT TO DEVELOP VACCINE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Vaccines to protect against SARS Cov 2 are being developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Aurobindo Pharma Limited. An agreement to this extent has been signed between CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Aurobindo Pharma.

Three CSIR labs, including CCMB Hyderabad, Institute of Medical Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh and Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata are developing vaccine candidates using different technology platforms.

Aurobindo will undertake clinical development and commercialisation of the vaccines. Aurobindo, through its US subsidiary Auro Vaccines, is developing a recombinant vesicular stomatitis vaccine delivery platform.

Experts predict that within a few years SARS Cov 2 will become endemic like previous Coronaviruses and become another common cold virus.

TS has 1,782 ICU beds for Covid, says Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

The Central Government on Tuesday said that Telangana state has a total of 1,782 dedicated Covid-19 beds in intensive care unit (ICU) wards in the state's hospitals. Union minister of state for health Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday in a written reply to a question that this was as per information provided by the state on the Covid-19 Portal as on September 14.

The number of dedicated Covid-19 ICU beds in the state, as per the data uploaded by the state, covers both government and private hospitals, Choubey said. Data provided by Choubey in Parliament, however, is at variance with the information released by the state government through its daily Covid-19 bulletins for the state.

As per the latest bulletin on Tuesday, for data pertaining up to 8 pm on Monday (September 14), the state government-run hospitals alone have 1,222 ICU beds equipped with ventilators and Continuous Positive Air Pressure (CPAP)

machines. The bulletin also says that in addition to the 1,222 ICU beds in 42 government hospitals, the 204 private hospitals in the state which have been permitted to treat Covid-19 patients, have an additional 2,129 ICU beds equipped with ventilators and CPAP machines.

As per Telangana's official Covid-19 bulletin, which the state health department says is released in the 'High Court Format' - providing details as directed by the Telangana High Court - the state, as on September 14, had a total of 3,351 ICU beds in its Covid-19-designated hospitals in the government and private sector.

The Centre, however, on Tuesday said the state has only 1,782 dedicated Covid-19 ICU beds. In the same bulletin, the state also says in a table titled 'Details of Infrastructure/Bed Government', that the state has 2,251 ICU beds. However, this table does not make it clear if this figure pertains to the total ICU beds available in government hospitals or if the reference to this figure is about infrastructure available for managing Covid-19 patients.

AIIMS Bibinagar starts RA testing

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, has started Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) from Tuesday to diagnose cases of Covid-19. RAT is a relatively economical and faster method of diagnosing Coronavirus, providing good sensitivity and very good specificity.

Maximum duration for interpreting a positive or negative test through this process is just 30 minutes. Beneficiaries include family members of Covid positive patients, those who have come in contact with them, patients with co-morbidities, and those with symptoms.

Executive director Dr Vikas Bhatia said the Department of Microbiology at AIIMS, in collaboration with Telangana state government, has made all necessary arrangements with a designated sample collection room and testing area.

A maximum of 50 tests per day will be done for the present, which will be increased in future, if required. Patients can use the Covid testing facility from Monday to Saturday between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Patients will, however, have to register their names one day in advance (from 10 am to 4 pm) through helpline number 08685295050. They should get their Aadhaar card along with them at the time of testing.

SHORT TAKES

TALKS ON TS, AP
BUS SERVICES
PUT OFFDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Negotiations between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over coming to an agreement on allowing their respective state-owned passenger bus services to operate in the other state, have been put off for a few more days here on Tuesday.

A meeting was held between the managing directors of APSRTC and TSRTC where the two sides discussed modalities on working out a plan on the number of routes the two states can allow each other to operate - AP in Telangana and vice versa.

TSRTC, it was learnt, proposed that any such agreement must be on equal terms and suggested that AP allow TSRTC to operate an equal number of routes, over an equal number of kilometres that APSRTC runs in Telangana. Following this proposal from TSRTC, the APSRTC officials are learnt to have sought a few days before getting back on TSRTC's proposal.

APSRTC currently operates on 71 routes in Telangana, while TSRTC operates on 28 routes in Andhra Pradesh.

HCU ASKED TO
RESCHEDULE ITS
ENTRANCE TESTS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Telangana State Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar has requested University of Hyderabad (UoH) to reschedule its entrance examinations for P.G., M. Phil and PhD admissions.

In a letter to the university vice chancellor, Vinod Kumar said a large number of degree and PG students from all Telangana universities are appearing for their end-semester and final year examinations scheduled from September 22 to October 13.

He said any move of UoH to conduct entrance examinations during these days will adversely impact careers of students who are aspiring to take admission into the University of Hyderabad.

He said that he had received several representations stating that the UoH is planning to conduct its entrance examinations from September 24 to 26 and the National Testing Agency (NTA) is also conducting UGC NET examinations from September 24. He pointed out that conducting entrance exams on the same dates will impact MPhil and Ph D applicants also.

The planning board vice chairman said University of Hyderabad has been established after a long-drawn struggle for a separate Telangana movement and as part of six-point formula and Article 371 (D). He told the vice chancellor that the university has to keep the interests and avenues of Telangana students in view whenever it plans to conduct entrance examinations in future.

Vinod Kumar made it clear that any attempt to undermine future prospects of students of the state will not be acceptable and shall be viewed seriously by policy makers, stakeholders and intellectuals from Telangana.

● **IN A LETTER** to the university vice chancellor, Vinod Kumar said a large number of degree and PG students from all Telangana universities are appearing for their end-semester and final year examinations scheduled from September 22 to October 13.

TRS corporator assaults
girl over parking issue

Nagender Yadav threatens her using his official position

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

When requested to remove his wrongly parked car on the road blocking access to her home, TRS corporator Ragam Nagender Yadav, in a fit of rage, assaulted 20-year-old girl Ananya Kurikala. The incident occurred a few days ago but came to light on Monday when the frightened family, after being coerced into "compromise" on the matter, registered a complaint with Chandanagar police station.

A Bachelor of Fine Arts student in photography from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU), Ananya reached home in her Renault Duster (TS-07 EH 6598), but found the corporator's car, a Toyota Fortuner (TS-07 GK 99) blocking the way to her house, Villa No. 18, Lakshmi Vihar Phase-2, Nallagandla, Lingampalli.

Nagender Yadav, corporator in GHMC representing the ruling TRS party, refused to entertain her request. Instead, he advised Ananya to park her car somewhere and take the car home the next day, saying, "Am I a driver? My driver will come tomorrow. You park here and walk home."

What happened next, in which Ananya's firm politeness and Nagender Yadav's arrogance can be witnessed, are clearly captured on the video that Ananya recorded of the entire incident on her phone as a precautionary measure. Nagender Yadav tried to intimidate and



Screengrabs of TRS corporator Ragam Nagender Yadav assaulting Ananya Kurikala after she requested him to move his car. (right) A file photo of Ananya.

threaten her, reminding her not to forget who he was and what his position is. After a while when neighbours intervened and requested, the corporator's son arrived and removed the car.

However, after 15 minutes, the angry corporator, attired in vest and shorts, returned and started making a scene. He put his VIP car siren on and argued that Ananya must remove her car as an ambulance is on the way to Villa No. 17 in which relatives of the corporate live. While the siren continued blaring, the scowling threatened the girl of teaching her a lesson. The corporator got enraged and hit the girl when Ananya objected to his words while filming the whole scenario. The frightened girl took time to collect her wits and called 'SHE patrol' team, which responded immediately to the call and arrived at the scene.

Seeing the police arrive, the corporator went off into his home for the night. The next day, the "society" advised the family to "arrive at a compromise" and "not make a big deal of it".

Shailaja Karanam, education consultant and a relative of the assaulted girl, said, "We are shocked to see a ruling TRS party leader showcasing such arrogance and violence against women. Even more shocking is how other residents are trying to pressure us saying if we make an issue of it, the corporator could stop works on roads or water supply or even removal of garbage. Would they have sought a compromise if their own daughter or sister was attacked?"

When *Deccan Chronicle* contacted him, corporator Nagender Yadav said, "I am a landlord who owns a villa, while they are tenants. I never tried to hit

her... I was only trying to remove the mobile in her hand with which she was filming me. If she got hit accidentally, it was not my intent. I respect good women. But these girls smoke, drink and party late at night with several boys."

The corporator defended his action saying ever since he had objected to their "obscene loud parties", the two sisters had begun a conspiracy "with the help of the BJP to defame his spotless character and destroy his political career of over 30 years."

"I will also register cases against her... a big deal," said Nagender Yadav.

Subsequently, Ananya took to social media highlighting her plight even as several "fans of Nagender anna" started trolling her. One of them wrote, "Anna hit you with one hand. I will hit with both. You look like a **tch."

Govt Doctors' Assn seeks
in-service quota in stateDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

The Telangana Government Doctors' Association, DH wing, on Tuesday sought the implementation of in-service quota in the state.

In support of its demand, a delegation from the association met with director of medical education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy and submitted a memorandum demanding implementation of in-service quota for government doctors who are working in rural, tribal, and urban areas on the frontlines in the battle against the Coronavirus pandemic in the state.

Police said Eshwar Dileepji Solanki and Harish Ram Bhai Patel came to Hyderabad on Monday in Mahindra Scorpio to collect the cash from Dinesh and Giri. They collected the ₹3.75 crore cash on Tuesday and were proceeding to Solapur in the two vehicles when they were intercepted.

Their interrogation revealed that all of them are working for P. Vijay & Company, whose head office is at Mumbai. The owner of this company is Kamlesh Shah, a native of Ahmedabad. The company has a branch on Road No.12, Banjara Hills in Hyderabad.

Addressing the concluding session of a two-day review meeting on Tuesday, she said as of now 35.267 crore plants

● **THE DEMAND** comes in the wake of the state government's decision to address the shortage of specialist doctors to tackle Coronavirus emergencies.

The demand comes in the wake of the state government's decision to address the shortage of specialist doctors to tackle Coronavirus emergencies. The delegation, in its submission, sought implementation of 50 per cent quota for filling up the specialist vacancies from among in-service doctors both in the clinical and non-clinical sides. The delegation also sub-

mitted a Supreme Court order to the Director of Medical Education on this subject.

Earlier, the Association, led by its president Dr Lalu Prasad Rathod, had met with Health Minister Etala Rajendar and sought implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment in Telangana.

Among those who met with Dr Ramesh Reddy on Tuesday were Dr Rathod, the Association's working president Dr Kalyan Chakravarthy, state secretary general Dr Dean Dayal, state treasurer Dr Prashanth, Dr Pallam Praveen and Dr Ajmira Ranga.

21 lakh hectares of forest
to be restored: PCCFDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) R. Shobha said the Forest Department is aiming to restore close to 21 lakh hectares of forest area in the state.

Addressing the concluding session of a two-day review meeting on Tuesday, she said as of now 35.267 crore plants

have been planted. This year's target is to take up plantation over 2.10 lakh acres of forest lands in 920 blocks.

"Rehabilitation works in all forest blocks have been implemented one hundred percent to increase greenery and forest density in the state. We must fence the boundaries of the forest lands and provide thorough protection for them to prevent any animal or

human migration into them," she underlined.

The PCCF asked the officials to plant suitable greenery in open areas of their respective forest areas. This, she suggested, could be done by removing unwanted shrubbery and weeds. To curb the spread of wildfires, she asked ground-level officials to detect the cause for these fires and take preventive measures.

NO CLARITY ON
REOPENING OF
SCHOOL IN TS

Hyderabad, Sept. 15: Minister of Education P. Sabitha Indra Reddy said on Tuesday that there was no clarification as to when the schools will be reopened in the state.

"There are guidelines on the reopening of schools from September 21. But it could take some more time as we have to operate in compliance with the guidelines of the central and state governments," she said, referring to a question on e-learning in the Telangana Legislative Council during Question Hour.

Responding to the questions raised by the participants, she said that the parents were also not interested in sending their children to school in the light of the situation of Covid-19. "We agree that at least 50% of teachers should first attend school on September 21 and that parents' consent will be obtained to allow their children to attend school," the Minister said.

She said that instructions were given to private school administrators not to raise further fees from their parents because of the situation of Covid-19. "We have given memos to a few schools for ignoring our request and also seeking clarification from them," the Minister said.

According to the Minister, as many as 67.57 lakh students, including primary, middle school, graduate and engineering students, were promoted as there was no space for Covid examinations. The educational institutions were closed on 16 March as a result of the pandemic.

— INTV

OU, UoH, JNTU
exams from todayHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Around 2.5 lakh students across Telangana will appear for their final semester exams beginning today (September 16), to be conducted by Osmania University, JNTU and University of Hyderabad.

Responding to the Telangana High Court's order to give clarity on the mode of conducting PG and UG exams, the state government on Monday had said that the autonomous universities and colleges are free to conduct either online or offline (physical) examinations, while affiliated engineering colleges and degree colleges cannot have online examinations.

While UoH finalised a method for conducting the last semester exams in a pen and paper online mode test, students of JNTU and OU will have to go to the exam centres to take the regular exams amidst the ever-increasing Coronavirus scare.

TSICHE chairperson, Prof. Papi Reddy, confirmed that these exam centres will follow the revised Covid-19 guidelines for conducting exams. Earlier the exams for Osmania university were scheduled from September 15. However, due to the ongoing court case over exams, the university informed the students on September 12 that they have been postponed by two days, to September 17, said a student.

● While UoH finalised a method for conducting the last semester exams in a pen and paper online mode test, students of JNTU and OU will have to go to the exam centres

He further added that even though the UGC has instructed to hold all final semester exams by September 30, these were not strict guidelines and that exams could stretch to the first week of October. Osmania university, for example, will hold exams for courses like M.Sc. and M.Com at a later date, the schedule for which has not yet been decided, according to the varsity authorities.

Students are however, still opposed to the idea of taking physical mode exams during a health emergency that has killed thousands across the country. Students say that they are forced to take the exam in such dire times only so that they don't lose out on a year of education.

"We don't want to risk our lives in any manner but we don't have a lot of choices in front of us. It is either to expose ourselves and our families to the deadly infection or risk our careers. Therefore, we have decided to attempt the exam so that we are eligible for another opportunity," said a student from Osmania University.

Universities have provided an option for students to re-appear for the final semester exams in October.



Swiggy employees stage a protest demanding payment of weekly schemes and incentives, in Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

— P. SURENDRA

Swiggy workers go on strike,
demand revised chargesDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Eighty restaurants in the city were affected as delivery executives of Swiggy went on strike.

Restaurants in Gachibowli, Hi-tech, Madhapur, Himayatnagar, Secunderabad, Malkajgiri, Uppal, Mehdiapatnam and Tolichowki areas were most affected as maximum food orders are processed from these areas.

An approximate 3,000 delivery executives are on strike and they have decided to continue as their meeting with

● **THE DELIVERY** executives also stopped third party companies from picking up orders from restaurants.

Swiggy was not fruitful. Bike rallies and protests were noted outside major restaurants from where more than 100 orders are processed. The delivery executives also stopped third party companies from picking up orders from restaurants.

The Indian federation of app-based transport workers (IFAT) claimed that the Swiggy model of paying low to delivery execu-

tives and charging high for delivery charges from customers is hurting them the most. National general secretary of IFAT, Shaikh Salauddeen, said, "We were called for a meeting at Madhapur police station and the company executives have noted our grievances. We want them to act on them and give us our due."

The strike is not only hurting the company; delivery executives are losing their earnings. "We want our charges to be revised like earlier times and all of us must be given our due," said Salauddeen.

TS COPS TO IMPLEMENT
HRMS FOR BETTER
MANAGEMENTDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

The state police will implement an automated Human Resources Management System (HRMS) for effective management of its 80,000 personnel and to improve public services provided by the police department. Announcing this here on Tuesday, Telangana Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy said the system, developed by the Centre for Good Governance, will cover everyone in the department from the field level staff to the person holding the DGP's position. He was addressing a video conference on the

subject that was attended by senior police officials.

The new system, he said, was developed after a careful study of the existing human resource management systems in other government departments in the state. The new system, he said, will cover appointments, service registers, attendance management, leave registers, absentions, and performance by individuals and rewards for deserving employees.

It will also monitor training requirements, in service learning needs, management of the workforce, petitions and various applications from the police personnel, he said.

ANIMAL | PLANET

With no visitors zoo using time to improve conditions in cages and enclosures

Nehru zoo elephants to get wooden toys

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Elephants in the Nehru Zoological Park will soon get some new toys to play with. The zoo, according to its director N. Kshitija, is in the process of getting some very large wooden balls for its five elephants. "This is part of our enrichment programme for our animals," she told *Deccan Chronicle* on Tuesday.

A prototype of the new toy, incidentally has been tried and tested by three energetic tiger cubs over the past few months. And apparently,

they have approved it for use by other inmates of the zoo.

Items such as wooden balls that the cubs played with in their crawl with their mother keeping a watchful eye over them, provide the animals ways to keep themselves engaged. In the open enclosures some have culverts for the animals to walk under and explore. For the monkeys, it is the swings that serve this purpose, Kshitija said.

Asked how the animals have been coping with the absence of visitors who would throng the zoo in their thousands every day,



Tiger cubs seen with their wooden ball on the side in Nehru Zoological park.

● **A PROTOTYPE** of the new toy, incidentally has been tried and tested by three energetic tiger cubs over the past few months.

she said the animals appeared to have gotten used to being by themselves now. Initially, when the lockdown was imposed after the outbreak of Covid-19, some of the animals would rush towards them when zoo officials and staff went around their daily rounds. "Now, they have gotten used to the peace and quiet. We have to

see how they react once the zoo is allowed to open," she said.

Kshitija said that the zoo has been using the down time without visitors not just to improve conditions in the cages and enclosures but also by getting in touch with other zoos and finding out about diet regimens for various animals. "We have been comparing our animal diets with those being provided in other zoos and are in the process of making improvements where needed by studying how the other zoos have been taking care of their animals," she said.

SHORT TAKES

TTD CHAIRMAN
SEEKS WAIVER ON
GST ARREARSAVINASH
P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, SEPT. 15

TTD Trust Board chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy met Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman at New Delhi on Tuesday and sought her support to resolve certain issues related to the disposal of demonetised currency and waiving of GST arrears to be paid by the temple body to the AP Special Protection Force (SPF).

According to a statement released by the TTD, the chairman sought the Union minister to address the issue of ₹49.70 crore worth demonetised currency notes, which has been piled up in the TTD's locker since 2016, and also requested her to waive the outstanding arrears of GST to the tune of ₹23.78 crores, payable by the TTD to the SPF.

In the representation handed over to the finance minister, Subba Reddy stated that the TTD has been utilising the services of the AP SPF since 1998, which has been providing security cover to temples under the TTD. In 2019, the TTD has received a communication from the DG of SPF that the temple body has to pay ₹22.27 crore arrears towards service tax.

He pointed out that the TTD has availed a relief under the Union government's Sabka Vishwas Scheme, 2019, and recently made a payment of ₹4.31 crore to the SPF. The SPF DG, however, again sent a communication to the TTD, requesting the temple body to pay ₹23.78 crore including ₹13.63 crore towards outstanding GST dues for the period between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2017 along with the interest amount of ₹10.14 crore up to June 30, 2020. Placing all the facts, the chairman appealed to the Union finance minister to waive the pending dues of GST.

In another representation to the Union finance minister, the chairman underlined that the temple management had stopped accepting the demonetised ₹500 and ₹1000 currency notes at its counters, duly following the guidelines of the RBI and the Central government, post demonetisation announcement on November 8, 2016. Many devotees, however, continued to offer in the hundi in the form of demonetised currency, even after the deadline ended.

On the other hand, several banks in which the TTD has been maintaining its accounts and parked thousands of crores of corpus funds, have also stopped accepting the demonetised currency from the TTD.

AP TO START
NEW EDU POLICY
NEXT YEARDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 15

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that Union government's New Education Policy 2020 of 5+3+3+4 was accepted in principle and would be implemented from the academic year 2021-22.

He held a review meeting on the NEP at the CM camp office here on Tuesday and instructed the officials to prepare SOPs for utilizing the services of village/ward secretariats in the education sector and also to design the required app for the same.

He further instructed the officials to prepare a plan to introduce Pre Primary 1 and 2 curriculum before students join Class 1 for solid foundation course.

He said that appropriate textbooks should be printed and training programmes designed for teachers to implement the new national education policy. The officials concerned should inspect schools and colleges to ensure their compliance with the minimum standards. "Educational institutions which do not meet the required standards should be closed immediately and permission should be given for their reopening only after they have achieved those standards again."

The officials said many modules proposed in the NEP-2020 were already being implemented in the state. The government already set up 1261 Gurukul schools for SC, ST, BC and minority communities, 352 Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas (KGBVs) for girls and 672 Bhavita Kendras for the disabled. "Two commissions have been set up in the state to monitor standards in school and college education, while NEP has envisaged one commission," they said.

TS doesn't want to burden
farmers, KCR assures House

Centre introducing new Electricity Bill to benefit private players, feels CM

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday said in the Assembly, "It appears that the Centre is bringing the new Bill to benefit private players in the power sector. Earlier when we sought some power projects for Telangana, the Centre had pressurised us to give projects to private companies. But we did not buckle down."

"I am placing on record and assuring the people of Telangana that as long as the TRS is in power we will not allow any private company for power generation and we will not give permission to private players to produce a single megawatt," the Chief Minister said.

Stating that the Bill mandates installation of metres to agriculture pump sets, he said that currently there are about 26 lakh agriculture pump sets in the state and over ₹750 lakh would be required to install

CM: Old bills to be monthly

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday assured the Assembly that the power charges for the lockdown period will be collected from the consumers on a monthly slab system.

The Chief Minister made this announcement responding to the request from the Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka during the short discussion on power sector achievements, Electricity Bill 2020, of the Centre and Fire mishap in Srisailem Left Bank Power House in the Assembly.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab. The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

He said meter readings were not taken for the three months due to which all the bills charged at higher slab.

The Chief Minister assured that he will immediately order the TSSPDCL to charge the bills on monthly slab for the three months.

The CLP leader told

the Chief Minister that consumers were worried with cumulative bills charged at higher slab for three months of March, April and May and he also received ₹55,000 power charges for the three months of lockdown period.

Demand for Liberation Day



Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha staged a torch rally demanding Telangana Liberation day to be officially held on September 17, at Tank Bund on Tuesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Tributes paid to dead
in Srisailem accidentDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15:

The Telangana Assembly on Tuesday paid rich tributes to the engineers and staff of Srisailem Left Bank Power House who have lost their lives in the recent fire mishap.

While paying condolences to the families of 7 engineers and staff of TS Genco and two employees of a private firm during the short discussion on the power sector and fire mishap, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said, "It is painful that we have lost 9 people in the mishap. We appreciate their courage to protect the Nation's wealth without caring about their lives till their last breath. People will not forget their sacrifice."

Offering his condolences to the families of the deceased, the chief minister said that the state government will extend the necessary

support to the family members of the deceased.

Congress legislature party leader Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, MIM MIA Ahmad Pasha Quadri also paid their condolences to the families of the victims.

Vikramarka asked the government to constitute a high-level committee with experts to study the reasons for the accident and suggest measures to prevent such mishaps in the Power House in the future. Earlier, initiating the discussion power sector, G. Jagadish Reddy, Energy Minister said that Telangana will soon emerge as the top power producing State in the country with installed electricity generation capacity expected to touch 27,603 MW.

He told the House the installed capacity of Telangana was a mere 7,700 MW at the time of

State formation in 2014 and within six years of State formation, Telangana had proved that it not only had enough power to provide round the clock, free and quality power to its farmers.

He said that Telangana also augmented its power generation capacity contrary to what naysayers had to say at the time of bifurcation of the State.

He pointed out that "there were power holidays during the days before bifurcation. Industrialists organised dharnas demanding regular supply of power reflecting the pathetic situation. Farmers had only 2 hours of supply that too at nights, and low voltage plagued the agriculture sector. There were crop failures leading to suicides." He claimed that per capita consumption of the state has reached 1306 units.

ARMED | STRUGGLE Party leaders pay tributes to Anaberi Prabhakar Rao

CM ignores people's movement: CPI

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 15

Chief minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, is ignoring the Telangana people's armed struggle movement during which thousands of people lost their lives fighting against feudal landlords, alleged the state secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Chada Venkat Reddy here on Tuesday.

As part of the 74th anniversary of the Telangana armed movement, Reddy, along with CPI party leaders, paid floral tributes to the statues of Anaberi Prabhakar Rao

who lost his life in the movement and that of Baddam Yella Reddy, who gave a call for armed movement here in Karimnagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Reddy said that the Communist party leaders, Ravi Narayana Reddy, Baddam Yella Reddy and Magdum Moinuddin, had given a call for armed struggle in the year 1947, on September 11, against the Nizam kings, the Razakars, Deshmukhs and police which continued until September 17, 1948.

The credit of the redistribution of around 10 lakh acres of land to the poor goes to communist

party leaders. With the sacrifice of around 4,500 people in the movement who fought against the Nizams, the Hyderabad state was able to merge with the Indian union.

Rao has recollected the movement on several occasions, during the separate Telangana movement. He even lauded the sacrifices of leaders who lost their lives during the armed struggle movement in front of lakhs of people

in several public meetings. Rao even criticised the rulers of the previous government for not celebrating September 17 as Liberation Day officially, Reddy pointed out.

Alleging that the backward class minister, Gangula Kamalakara, promised the people of Karimnagar that the area which at present surrounds the statue of Anaberi Prabhakar Rao will be developed beautifully to remember his sacrifices for Telangana region, Reddy said Kamalakara has reneged on his promise and insulted the great leader.

The BJP party is trying to give the wrong defini-

tion to the armed struggle movement, said Reddy. Then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, created a panic situation in Hyderabad state using military and police forces.

It is the responsibility of the state government to include the Telangana people's armed struggle movement in the school syllabus so that the people of present and coming generations will come to know about the actual history of the armed struggle movement, said Reddy, adding that the state must establish a smriti vanam in the name of the martyrs of the armed struggle movement in Hyderabad.

He further said, "We will also consider suggestions from legislators to develop cycling tracks and skating rinks in urban parks."

He also assured the House that open gyms and public toilets are being developed in GHMC parks based on availability of space.

He stated that rain water harvesting structures and water sumps are being developed in parks to provide necessary water to plants. He announced that a new policy will be brought out soon to reuse water treated by Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) for watering plants.

He further said, "We will also consider suggestions from legislators to develop cycling tracks and skating rinks in urban parks."

He also assured the House that open gyms and public toilets are being developed in GHMC parks based on availability of space.

He stated that rain water harvesting structures and water sumps are being developed in parks to provide necessary water to plants. He announced that a new policy will be brought out soon to reuse water treated by Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) for watering plants.

Satavahana varsity to
have a VC after 5 yrsDC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, SEPT. 15

The more than five-year wait for a regular Vice-Chancellor and permanent teaching and non-teaching staff at Satavahana University in Karimnagar district would end soon.

This assurance was given by Education minister, P. Sabitha Indra Reddy during the Assembly session on Tuesday. She also assured that the government is to appoint full-fledged VCs for universities in the state.

Even though the state government announced notification for recruitment of vacant posts, University Grants Commission (UGC) has put a hold on recruitment process in its order issued on May 5 in 2018.

A report by the special committee appointed by the state government on June 15 of this year has helped clear all hurdles and the recruitment process has also been okayed, she stated.

Satavahana University established in 2008 has 160 degree and PG colleges affiliated to it. However, presently there are only 120 colleges, including 17 degree, five welfare, two aided and 96 private colleges.

The varsity has had regular VCs only twice-Md. Iqbal Ali from July 28, 2008 to July 27, 2011 and K. Veera Reddy from April 19, 2012 to April 21, 2015. At present, the HMDA (Hyderabad Municipal Development Commissioner) Commissioner, T. Chiranjeevulu is the in-charge VC of the university.

TEACHER ENDS
LIFE BY SUICIDE AT
COVID HOSPITALK.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT. 15

A retired government teacher, being treated for Covid-19 in Pradhama hospital in Vizag city, committed suicide by hanging himself with a wire in the hospital on Tuesday evening.

The deceased was identified as J. Narasimha Murthy, a native of Srikakulam district. The police said that Murthy was under treatment for the virus for the past few days.

Recently, he came to know that his wife and son also tested positive for the virus. He was disappointed that they too were infected by the virus.

Murthy took the extreme step and did not leave any suicide note for us to ascertain the real reasons why, the MVP Colony police said.

● THE POLICE said that Murthy was under treatment for the virus for the past few days.

OBITUARY



Sri. N. Raghavan
(1935-2020)
Advocate, Jeera, Secunderabad, attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 11.09.2020
Wife - Smt. Prema Raghavan
R. Narayanan, Vasumathi
S. Gopal, Kalyani
N. Srinivasan, Chitra
Contact: 040 - 27530706

OBITUARY



VUPPALA AMARNATH
Ex Corporation Maharaipur
Expired on Tue 15th Sept 2020
"Your Memories are now our Treasure"
Grieving Family:
Uma Devi (Wife)
Shashank & Karthik (Sons)
Deepa & Bhavana (Daughters-in-law)
Smaran & Vaan (Grand Children)
Mobile: 9849001611
(CA-3420)

3rd Death Anniversary

DARAPUREDDY JAYALAXMI
Retired Estate Officer-AP Housing Board
"Gone is the face we Loved so Dear,
Silent is the face we Loved to Hear"
We deeply cherish your memories
Your thoughtfulness, hard work and
high spirits will always be
remembered by us.
Inserted by : D. Nagendra, D. Vinod Kumar,
D. Pramod Kumar & Family Members
8885522255, 9703610361, 9985242527

22nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



GADDAM LAXMIAMMA YADAV
Expired on 16.9.1998
Inserted by:
Sons: Sudershan, Sathyannarayana,
Nandu, Mahesh, Late Ramesh, Devender
Daughters: Pramila,
Shyamala, Sukanya
& All Gaddam Families
Ph: 9290608707
(S/2021/D00575)

1st Death Anniversary



Late Shri B. Abeeya Raju
Retd. RBI employee
DOB: 26.08.1942 DOD: 16.09.2019
We miss you every moment in our life,
your presence continues to surround
us, in our hearts, you are always there.
Inserted by: Family Members
9885245245 9948227755, 9989803030

1st Death Anniversary



EDLA PAUL CHRISTOPHER
S/o Late Mrs. & Mr. Edla Daniel
DOB: 25.07.1956 DOD: 16.09.2019
One year passes by, but your memories
remain in our hearts forever
Inserted by: Family Members
9391292738

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



ALLUGADALA SRINIVAS BABIAH
S/o A.K. Babiah & A.B. Muniamma
Senuu you are always in our hearts and
thoughts, love you Murna.
Inserted by: YOUR LOVED ONES
Ph: 9866746814

16th ANNIVERSARY



Sri GANJI NARSING RAO Garu
D.O.B: 10-12-1949 D.O.D: 25-12-2004
S/o. Late Sri. Ganji Satyanarayana Garu
Today, it has been 16 Years and not a day has
passed without your sweet loving and everlasting
memories. You are eternally present amongst us and
are our constant source of inspiration and strength.
Sons: Ganji Kiran, Ganji Kishore,
Daughter: A. Rupa,
Son-in-law, Daughter-in-law,
Grand Children, Grand Daughters

SHORT TAKES

40 PEOPLE STUCK IN NALLAMALA FOREST RESCUED

**NAGESWARA RAO
BALLEDA | DC
KADAPA, SEPT. 15**

As many as 40 people, who went to Bhyrava Swamy Temple located inside the dense Nallamala forest, 25 km away from Vanipenta Tanda in Midukur mandal, got stranded in the forest for 42 hours following rains and breakdown of their tractors. Bonga Srinivasulu of village Bonga Srinivasam near Agaraham area of Khajipeta village in Kadapa district, with 39 of his relatives and friends, left in two tractors at 3 a.m. on Sunday for the Bhyrava Swamy Temple to conduct the tonsure ceremony of his five-year-old grandson Devansh and one-year-old granddaughter Lasya at the temple. The two tractors reached Vanipenta Tanda around 5 am and were to cross two rivulets on the way. They crossed the first rivulet successfully through there was some water flowing in it. When they reached the second rivulet, they found there was no water but the road was very slushy due to the stagnant water. When they tried crossing it, one of the tractors got stuck in the mud. Though they tried to pull it out the tractor, it remained stuck.

The villagers then left the tractor there and majority of them boarded the other tractor and reached the Bhayrava Swamy Temple. The others reached the temple by walk. The tonsure ceremony of the kids was completed and they started back around 9 p.m. When they reached the rivulet, they found 4 feet of water flowing into it. When they tried to cross it, the second tractor too got stuck in the rivulet.

AP'S COVID-19 DEATH TOLL CROSSES 5K

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 15

Andhra Pradesh's death toll of Covid-19 infected patients has crossed 5k mark with 5,041 patients succumbing to the virus so far. The state registered 8,846 new Covid-19 cases taking its tally to 5,83,925 with 69 deaths in the last 24 hours. The state's Covid-19 bulletin reported that out of 70,511 samples tested, 8,846 individuals have been found infected with coronavirus. Out of 47,31,866 samples tested so far, 4,86,531 patients have been discharged from hospitals after recovery, while 92,353 patients are still active with the virus.

East Godavari continues to lead the state with the highest number of new infections at 1,423, followed by 979 in Prakasam, 955 in West Godavari, 820 in Nellore, 678 in Srikakulam, 661 in Kadapa, 641 in Guntur, 574 in Visakhapatnam, 572 in Chittoor, 532 in Vizianagaram, 398 in Krishna, 314 in Kurnool and 299 in Anantapur.

In terms of cumulative confirmed Coronavirus infections, East Godavari has been affected badly with the highest number of 79,643 cases, followed by 52,520 in West Godavari, 52,280 in Kurnool, 50,718 in Chittoor, 50,088 in Anantapur, 46,645 in Guntur, 44,950 in Nellore, 44,912 in Visakhapatnam, 37,865 in Prakasam, 33,425 in Srikakulam, 37,152 in Kadapa, 28,959 in Vizianagaram, 21,873 in Krishna, 2,461 from states and 434 from other countries. The rate of recovery of Coronavirus-infected patients has been good in East Godavari at 67,180, followed by 47,977 in Kurnool, 46,166 in Anantapur, 42,959 in West Godavari, 42,231 in Chittoor, 40,029 in Nellore, 38,997 in Guntur, 38,565 in Visakhapatnam, 31,524 in Kadapa, 26,852 in Srikakulam, 23,821 in Prakasam, 18,708 in Vizianagaram, 18,627 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Prakasamsaw the death of 10 Covid-19 infected patients, followed by Chittoor with nine, six each in Anantapur, East Godavari and Krishna, five each in Kadapa and Visakhapatnam, four each in Guntur, Nellore, Vizianagaram and West Godavari and three each in Kurnool and Srikulam.

Chittoor continues to lead the state with the highest number of cumulative deaths of Covid-19 infected patients to the tune of 543, followed by 469 in Guntur, 464 in East Godavari, 425 in Kurnool, 420 in Anantapur, 398 in Nellore, 396 in West Godavari, 389 in Prakasam, 368 in Visakhapatnam, 357 in Krishna, 315 in Kadapa, 293 in Srikulam and 204 in Vizianagaram.

The state health authorities have discharged 9,628 Covid-19 patients as they recovered from various hospitals in the last 24 hours.

Floodwater released



Nearly four lakh cuses of floodwater was released from the Prakasam Barrage into the sea at Vijayawada on Tuesday following heavy rains.

— C. NARAYAN RAO

CBI asked to probe AP fibernet 'scam'

Govt to h
MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 15

The Andhra Pradesh government had asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a probe into the alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹2,000 crore in the functioning of the AP State Fibernet Limited from 2014 to 2019.

The cabinet sub-committee constituted to probe the alleged irregularities nailed the role played by Vemuru Hari Krishna Prasad, then technical adviser to the state and close associate of then Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu and then minister for technology, N. Lokesh. Evidence gathered by the cabinet subcommittee indicated that Prasad, as a member of committees which processed the tenders, illegally facilitated the award of most of the high value tenders to M/s Tera software limited (TSL) to which he and his family members are closely associated and further to sister concerns of TSL.

N. Lokesh played an important role in the signing of an MoU between DoT, Bharat broadband network limited (BBNL), Government of AP and APSFL for Bharathnet Phase-II, violating norms.

The panel found that without the required administrative approval either from the government of Andhra Pradesh or from the government of India, the project work of BBNL Phase-II costing ₹14-10.10 crore was allegedly awarded at an excess quote of 11.26 per cent over the estimates in violation of tender procurement guidelines. The APSFL gave the operation and maintenance work of 13 districts to TSL at ₹2,44,01,865 a month, till the finalisation of the tender process for project maintenance. TSL, which had prior knowledge of the maintenance cost since it executed the first phase of the work and was looking after the operation and maintenance work by the time of filing tenders, quoted the amounts with that

experience and became the L-1 bidder. APSFL had given clear undue advantage to TSI.

By showing utter disregard of the guidelines laid down by the chief vigilance commission, the tender was awarded to TSL for laying the optical fiber network without considering the serious allegations against TSL by some of the co-bidders.

It was found that the work of the project monitoring agency (PMA) was awarded to M/S Gemini communications ltd, by cancelling the earlier awarded tender for the same work, in which M/s Merax technologies private limited stood as L-1, surpassing some of the crucial tender conditions and relaxing others.

The committee found that on the matter of procurement of set top boxes (CPE boxes) and the empanelment of its suppliers, the APSFL held negotiations with all four bidders and the procurement order was split and distributed among the four bidders against norms.

COPPER PLATES, SILVER COINS OF 1450 AD FOUND IN SRISAILAM

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, SEPT. 15

Renovation works at Ghanta Marham, an ancient structure at Sriraisailam, have yielded three ancient copper plates belonging to 1450 A.D. and written in Kannada.

Oriya and Nagari scripts. The plates bear a record of endowments made during those times to Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy at Srisailam. The copper plates stacked together found along with 245 silver coins and a copper

coin, mention the exact day and time of inscription, said Srisaillam temple executive officer K. S. Rama Rao. The coins, however, are of recent origin, as they bear insignia of Edward The Kind and other princes, the EO clarified.

Last week too, 29 copper plates were found at the same site. Five of the plates so far found belong to 1450 AD. It is believed there is a chance of finding hidden treasures stashed in walls of the ancient complex.

 **भारतीय प्रतिष्ठुति और विनिमय बोर्ड**
Securities and Exchange Board of India
SEBI Bhavan II, Plot No. C-7, "G" Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra(E), Mumbai - 400051

NISM **National Institute of Securities Markets**
An Educational Initiative by SEBI


Empanelment of Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) invites applications from eligible persons to be empanelled as Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs) to conduct Investor Awareness Programs.

Details regarding selection criteria, application form, etc. are available on the website <https://www.sebi.gov.in/>, <https://investor.sebi.gov.in> and NISM website <https://nism.ac.in>.

Last date for submission of application is October 16, 2020.

Investor Awareness Division, OIAE



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER PANCHAYATH, RAJ REGION NIZAMABAD
"e Procurement Tender Notice Date: 11.09.2020"

The following e-auction is scheduled from **Di. 11.09.2020** @ e-procurement platform by the Regional Officer Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad for the following works.

Sl. No.	Bidding Date	Package Name	Remarks	Bidding Time	Bidding Location
1	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-1	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-1-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
2	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-2	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-2-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
3	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-3	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-3-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
4	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-4	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-4-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
5	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-5	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-5-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
6	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-6	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-6-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
7	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-7	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-7-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
8	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-8	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-8-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
9	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-9	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-9-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
10	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-10	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-10-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
11	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-11	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-11-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
12	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-12	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-12-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
13	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-13	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-13-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
14	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-14	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-14-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
15	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-15	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-15-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
16	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-16	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-16-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
17	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-17	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-17-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
18	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-18	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-18-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
19	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-19	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-19-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
20	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-20	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-20-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
21	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-21	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-21-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
22	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-22	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-22-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
23	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-23	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-23-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
24	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-24	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-24-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
25	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-25	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-25-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
26	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-26	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-26-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
27	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-27	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-27-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
28	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-28	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2020/21)-TSSOT/NGN-28-SR-02-Comd)-grade 3 to contain via Ethnoid camp Palkur and	10:00 AM	Regional Office Panchayath, Raj Region Nizamabad
29	11.09.2020/21	TSSOT/NGN-29	PMKVY-B (Basis: (2		

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA Principal Chief Materials Manager Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 Mail ID : salenr365@gmail.com						
No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme- 2020-21				Dated. 11.09.2020		
<u>e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. OCTOBER/20</u>						
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Including Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Auction programme is as under :-						
<u>e-AUCTION Schedule for October, 2020</u>						
S. No. Depot/Divisions conducting auction	1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4th round	5th round	
1 DY.CMM/AMV/LKO 0522-2451257	06.10.2020	13.10.2020	20.10.2020	27.10.2020	--	
2 DY.CMM/SSB 011-27015387	07.10.2020	14.10.2020	21.10.2020	28.10.2020	--	
3 DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388	05.10.2020	12.10.2020	19.10.2020	26.10.2020	--	
4 Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	05.10.2020	12.10.2020	19.10.2020	26.10.2020	--	
5 Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	07.10.2020	14.10.2020	21.10.2020	28.10.2020	--	
6 Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	01.10.2020	08.10.2020	15.10.2020	22.10.2020	29.10.2020	
7 Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	01.10.2020	08.10.2020	15.10.2020	22.10.2020	29.10.2020	
8 Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	06.10.2020	13.10.2020	20.10.2020	27.10.2020	--	
1. E-Auction will be held from 12:00 AM on wards as per above programme 2. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in . 3. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. In this regard details are available at ireps 4. To register for in e-auction, purchasers need to visit website ' www.ireps.gov.in '. In case any difficulty in registering purchasers may contact Dy. CMM/S&P						
(Perhlad Singh) Dy. CMM/S&P						

Pampa reservoir gets more inflows

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, SEPT. 15

Pampa reservoir at Annavaram in Sankhavaram mandal of East Godavari received heavy inflows due to heavy rains on Tuesday.

The reservoir received 1400 cusecs of waters and the officials discharged 800 cusecs of waters into the sea by lifting three gates out of its five gates as the water levels in the reservoir reached 104 feet. Assistant engineer, A. Srinivasa Kumar, said due to excess water from upstream rivulets, water was discharged.

Government of Telangana

Revenue (LA) Department

Gazetted Office of the Mandal Revenue Officer, Gadwal.

Lr. No. E/964/2020

Dated:- 25-08-2020

Gazette No. 01/2020D

Dated:- 25-08-2020

As per Rule 19(1) of 2014 Telangana State Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act and Section 11(1) of 30/2013 Act. Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.

FORM-6

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

An extent of Ac 2.09-1/2 Guntas of land which is shown in the following schedule which is located at Pulikal and Rajapuram Villages of Jeelma Mandal of Joglemamba Gadwal District is required for the public purpose i.e. Reconstruction of High Level Bridge across River Thungabhadra near Nagaladine Village on Adoni-Gadwal Road in Km. 50/2-10 in Kurrol District which land is required for Acquisition and satisfied by the District Collector, Jogulamba-Gadwal District. Exemption is given Under Section 10(A) (Act No. 21/2017) of Telangana Revised Land Acquisition Act 2016. Hence, this notification was issued for the Lands which noted in the Annexure for the Construction of High Level Bridge there is no necessity for verification and enquiry.

SCHEDULE

Village: Pulikal and RajapuramMandal: jeeljeDistrict: Jogulamamba-Gadwal

Sl No	Sy.No/S.D.No	Patta / Nam/Others	Land Acquisition, Auction/Anti/Thari	Prop osed extant for Land Acquisit ion Ac.Cent/Gu ntas	Name of Pattadar, Enjoyer and Other Persons having any Rights	Boundaries				Trees	Structures		
						N	S	E	W	Details of Trees	No. of Trees	Category	Extent
1	309	Patta Dry/Khuski	1/2 cents	0.08	1. Baarki Ramudu (Baarki Adivanna) 2. Baarki Ravi (Baarki Adivanna)								
2	310	Patta Dry/Khuski	0.08		1. Kurva Chinnna Yollappa (Narsappa) 2. Telgu Dhanwadla Paramesh (Naganna) 3. Telgu Dhanwadla Maaremma (Bheemanna) 4. Telgu Dhanwadla Gopal (Timmalaiah) 5. Tappanna Yellamma Sadpi Chinna Narsappa (Others) 6.Telgu Shakuntala (Telgu Venkatesh) 7. Telgu Dhanwadla Venkatesh (Ramanna)								
3	312	Patta Dry/Khuski	1.28		1. Jamnanna (Kishtappa) 2. Suresh (Kishtappa) 3. Jamnanna (Pedda Kishatanna) 4. Mupati Ajay Kumar Reddy MG Rameshwari (Tirumal Reddy) 5. Mupati Bhimeswarar Reddy (Narsireddy) 7. Mupati Rangia Reddy (Narsireddy) 8.Kaatipaapala Krishna (Ramanna) 9. Maheswaram (Krishna) 10. Chakali Narisimulu (Hanumannna) 11. Kummani Rangannna) 12. (Kummara Ranganna) 13.Buddanna (Kistanna) 14. Kaapa Mangamma (Gopal Reddy) 15. Bhsukar (Pedda Kishtanna) 16. Mupati Veera Reddy (Narsireddy) 17. Chakkai Govindamma (Ranganna) 18,Katiipaapala Krishna (Ramanna)								
4	634	Patta Dry/Khuski	0.13		1. Telgu Tikka Ramudu (Durgani Narsanna) 2. Kurva Ranganna (Maalappa) 3. Krishnamma Boya Kodanduram Govindu) 4. Kurva Mallesh (Malappa) 5. Kumnari Siddama (Ramappa) 6. Kurva Narisimulu (Maaialappa) 17. Telgu Ranganna (Durganni Narsanna) 8. Telgu Remanna (Durgani Narsanna)								
	Total Extent		2.09-12 guntas										

Under Rule 19 (1) of 2014 of Telangana State Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act. Under Section 11(1) (30/2013) of 2013 Act in Land Acquisition, Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act. This matter is informed to all the concerned individuals and issued this notification.

District Collector Jogulamba-Gadwal District pleased to support Mandal Revenue Officer, Gadwal and his staff to enter into Land for Survey and other works. Powers are given with all rights which are noted in Section 12 of the such Act. Land plan is kept in the office may inspect in any working day during office working hours.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, don't do any transactions i.e. sale ,hire etc. in the concerned declared land of schedule without the permission of the District collector for such intimation was made .

Under Section 15 of the Act if any concerned persons having objections or reasons may be raised in this proposed Land Acquisition within 60 (Sixty) days may be submitted their notices to the Mandal Revenue Officer, Gadwal.

Sd/- Gazetted &Mandal RevenueOfficer, Gadwal

Sd/- Collector & District Magistrate,Jogulamba-Gadwal District
RO No: 579/LA-PP/Advt/Pub/2020-21

DECCAN Chronicle

16 SEPTEMBER 2020

A gross misuse of anti-terrorism laws

It's a paradox that citizens in nations that proclaim themselves to be democratic do not get their democratic rights expanded as time goes by but those sitting in positions of power get theirs. People who have been worst victims of governmental excesses never bother to scarp systems once they come to power; they would instead use them effectively to strangle their opponents. India is now witnessing such a paradox. The Delhi police last Sunday arrested Umar Khalid, a former student leader of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for 'inciting violence' during the Delhi riots, and got him remanded to its custody for 10 days. It is understood that he has been booked under, apart from various sections in IPC including murder and attempt to murder, the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, which would ensure that he remained incarcerated for a long time without bail.

The police action comes close on the heels of it filing a chargesheet in connection with the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, in which it included the names of CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, economist and academic Jayati Ghosh, Delhi University professor Apoorvanand and documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy. They are purported to have "encouraged" anti-CAA protests. Given the way the Union government uses the legal process to engage people who are ideologically opposed to, as is seen in the case of Bhima Koregaon case, it is not long before all those whose names are mentioned in the chargesheet will find themselves behind bars. What makes it interesting is that it happens on the watch of people, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who cut their teeth in politics fighting the excesses of Emergency.

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is going a step further and introducing a parallel system to ensure law and order. Personnel of the newly formed Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force can "without the prior permission of any magistrate and without any warrant, arrest any person". This is a dream project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath! The government clarifies that the provisions are similar to the ones that govern the functions of the Central Industrial Security Force.

None has a doubt that governments need powerful legal tools to tackle terrorism. But in India, tools such as UAPA are used more to rein in political opponents, apart from persecuting the most vulnerable sections of society such as Dalits, tribals, minorities and other marginalised sections of society, than taking on terrorists. The Allahabad High Court had to recently intervene to ensure liberty to doctor Kafeel Khan after it found that there was little reason to slap sections of the National Security Act, 1980, on him. The Public Safety Act, 1978, of Jammu and Kashmir is being used to smother popular politicians of the Union territory.

"The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened," former US president John F. Kennedy once reminded his countrymen. Time Indians woke up and kept the wolf from the door.

Govt's utter callousness

The opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session, held under extraordinary circumstances as the country nears five million Covid-19 cases, made it quite evident why the Narendra Modi government was so keen to avoid answering members' questions on the floor of the House. In reply to a written question by a BJD member, labour minister Santosh Gangwar said the government had "no data" on how many guest workers had died or were injured on the long trek back home in the lockdown months. While the minister acknowledged over one crore such workers had walked or otherwise travelled to their home states after the nationwide lockdown was imposed with just four hours' notice, he also said in response to another question that the Centre had no information on how many had lost their jobs, as "no such survey has been conducted by the Centre". This of course begs the inevitable question: Why not? It is utterly shameful that India's government could display such a callous, unfeeling attitude towards its own people — the minister could get away with it only because the response was laid on the table of the House, and he didn't have to face supplementaries afterwards, as would have been inevitable if he was speaking on the floor. Did the government think if it didn't keep count, the deaths — perhaps in thousands — hadn't happened?

The mass movement by India's guest workers, with searing images of people battling the police, sometimes being sprayed with insecticide, often being huddled together in quarantine shelters, was one of the defining global images of Covid-19's impact. It was possibly the largest migration in India's history since the 1947 Partition. The entire world saw how people were collapsing on their way home, fighting exhaustion and sheer hunger, with many losing their lives. But the government, in an extraordinary lack of empathy, apparently didn't feel the need to record these deaths. Was it because it didn't want to be held responsible, as of course it was, for people losing their lives due to official callousness. Was it because it didn't want to be liable for compensation? The answers are overdue.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patnamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-255234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.13A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kalloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014
Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax: 0495 4019 018
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



Subhani

Export agro-produce to sow seeds of prosperity



V. Vijayasai Reddy

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce recently came out with its report on the promotion of India's agricultural and marine exports. A closer reading of the report quantifies extent of fall of Indian agro and marine exports. It highlights problems faced by Indian exporters. Most export items have plateaued, others have been experiencing a negative growth. Some are falling due to availability of cheaper and better alternatives in international markets, others are negatively affected due to low or lack of quality production in India.

The report, beyond outlining problems, also suggests how to address these issues through direct intervention or sometimes through innovative solutions, such as "export only" tobacco farms and promotion of international marketing.

India is exporting a very small percentage of total agricultural products produced in quantitative terms. In 2018-2019 we exported just 0.2 per cent of our wheat, 1.3 per cent of our fruits and vegetables and 1.25 per cent of our pulses. Export of agricultural commodities, with an exception to rice, is less than two per cent of the total production with no significant increase for the last three years, despite India being one of the largest producers of these commodities.

It is not a case that productivity of our soil needs to increased manifold so even after feeding our population we have a large surplus to export. India is already producing enough surplus, therefore, factors like

inefficiency in supply chain, infrastructure development and a higher value addition for promoting agricultural exports is needed.

India needs to leverage newly created goodwill in central Asian countries into trade benefits to augment agri-exports of wheat and rice. We must also work towards market exploration of new emerging trade destinations of Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines for Indian rice.

On marine exports, the report says there was a 5.8 per cent decline in value of marine exports during the April-December period and a 12 per cent quantity decline. Marine produce should be a profitable venture because of the sheer number of people dependent on it, especially in coastal states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The parliamentary committee opined that special focus should be given to production, marketing and export of shrimp, which fetches a comparatively high price in the international market, especially the United States.

There is huge potential in export of tuna, which, if caught in a certain manner with proper "know-how", can fetch a 15 per cent higher revenue. A scheme has to be devised by the Central

India needs to leverage newly created goodwill in central Asian countries in order to create trade benefits to augment the agri-exports of wheat and rice

India is the third largest exporter of tobacco. With thousands dependent on its farming for their livelihoods, steps should be taken for exportable surplus production

Institute of Fisheries Technology for promoting tuna production and export.

Marine export is an infrastructure-heavy sector, right from maintaining a cold chain of export items to ensuring proper storage and packaging.

We lost over a quarter of our total marine production was lost due to factors related to poor or non-existent infrastructure. The potential of marine export is being hampered by inadequate post-harvest infrastructure and dilapidated fishing harbours. Government must prioritise upgradation of infrastructure facilities and modernization of fishing harbours to augment marine production and export. Centre must ensure upgradation of two fishing harbours at Kochi and Nizampattanam at the earliest.

Spices, for centuries, have been closely associated with Indian cultural traditions, preservation, medicine, cooking habits and embalming. Spices have been our historical basis of trade with the world, from Egypt to Persians or Europeans.

It is not surprising that India is the largest producer, exporter and consumer of spices in the world. India accounts for 47 per cent in quantity and 43 per cent in value of global spice trade. Total production of spices, cultivated in all states, was 9.2 million tonnes in 2018-19. Of this, India exported over one million tonnes (12 per cent of total production), while rest is domestically consumed.

We must ensure that spices with lesser exportable value are not

given undue importance at the cost of other more significant spices like cardamom and chilli.

A controversial but important agricultural produce dealt was tobacco. India produces about 800 million kilos of various types of tobacco every year, mostly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. India is the third largest producer and exporter of tobacco in the world, which earned India over ₹6,000 crores in foreign exchange. The land under tobacco cultivation in India has come down considerably. With thousands of tobacco farmers dependent on its farming for their livelihoods, steps should be taken for exportable surplus production to enable farmers to earn income without affecting health of our country.

A step could be to have 'export only' tobacco farms for promoting cultivation of tobacco, specifically for export and look at China, world's largest consumer of tobacco for trade.

The Agricultural Export Policy in 2018 envisaged ways to double agricultural exports by 2022 from present \$30 billion to \$60 billion. We can achieve it because India has an advantage of huge landmass and varied climatic conditions and is a global leader in producing cereals, fruits and vegetables, spices and milk, but our share in international trade is very low (2.2 per cent). We must have several ministries like commerce, agriculture, shipping, food processing, finance and external affairs work closely on "mission mode" to achieve the target. Exports shall be key to doubling income of the farmers and in making India a \$5 trillion economy.

The writer is parliamentary party leader of the YSR Congress Party, and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

LETTERS

GREAT LOSS

It is sad that Dr Raghuvansh Pratap Singh, former Union minister and leader of the RJD, passed away due to Covid-19 related ailments (*Mathematician who found formula to help poor, DC Sept. 15*). He was an architect of MNREGA which is providing employment for millions of rural poor. He was an ideal parliamentarian. The country has lost a good leader and a well-wisher of the poor.

Dr O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

BUILDING PERMITS

The common problem by builders is that they occupy roads in one form or the other. (*Assembly clears law to ease building permits, DC, Sept. 15*). In the plan a red zone may be created to indicate pavement. The height of the building can be counted from underground cellars, not from ground level. Demolition clause should be applicable to all types of plots. Builders must understand the Rule Book.

R. Pratap Narayan,
Hyderabad

No doubt the TS government has done a good job by bringing in a new Bill to ease building permissions. But mere passing of the law is not sufficient unless the government implements it in letter and spirit. Despite strict rules in the past illegal constructions have come up in our city leading to narrowing of lanes and parking.

Wasim Ahmed khan
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Giri: Writers must strengthen democracy

By a staff reporter
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 15
Describing men of letters as the conscience of the nation, President V.V. Giri today exhorted writers and artists to strengthen the forces of democracy in our country and to create an atmosphere conducive to national development.

"Literature and art should serve as a uniting instrument and instil in our people a social responsibility and a commitment to national development," the President said. Mr. Giri made these observations while inaugurating the decennial celebrations at Ravindra Bharathi.

Bela Bhatia



Lockdown for some, lock-up for the others

It is obvious that the threat of the Coronavirus, a communicable disease, is worst in places of high population density. The prison is one such place. About half a million persons are incarcerated in more than 1,300 jails scattered all over India. More than two thirds are undertrials.

While most prisoners are charged under some section of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), many are also incarcerated under "special laws". Some, like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 (UAPA), are all-India laws, but many states also have their own special laws, such as the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act 2005 (CSPSA). Large numbers of undertrials have been incarcerated under these laws as part of the so-called war on terror, without due process.

Most of them are ultimately acquitted. For example, in the Jagdalpur central jail of Bastar subdivision in Chhattisgarh, the conviction rate is less than three per cent. Meanwhile, however, these undertrials often remain in prison for as long as seven-eight years or even more, because court trials are notoriously slow. Those who are convicted are unable to appeal with ease because the high court is too far and the lawyers are too expensive.

In any case they would be joining a long waiting list since the high court is currently attending to its backlog of pending cases (the last time I enquired, it was hearing cases filed in 2012).

As a human rights lawyer in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Sessions courts in Bastar, I have witnessed the anguish and frustrations of undertrials and their families whose cases do not move for years. These "Naxali cases" may be under various sections of the IPC as well as under the UAPA or CSPSA. Many undertrials are prima facie innocent villagers who were picked up after a Maoist action in or around their villages (e.g. an IED blast or attack on a contingent of security forces). Sometimes, a single incident involves many accused. Most of them are not named in the FIR because habitually the FIRs of such incidents are made out against known Maoist leaders or cadres of the area, plus "unknown persons". So these are the unknown persons who, after being picked up when they were sleeping, in the market or forest, or attending to other needs like a visit to the hospital, get labelled as "Naxali" for many years, until their trial is over.

There are many such cases involving a group of villagers. A particularly star-

ting example is that of 120 villagers who were arrested from various villages in Sukma district after the Burkapal incident in which 25 CRPF were killed by the Maoists in 2017. That incident is being tried in the NIA court in Jagdalpur and it is still at the initial stage of framing charges.

The UAPA and other special laws like CSPSA are called black laws because the crimes they seek to cover could be dealt with under IPC and because these laws give special, unaccountable power to the police. It is only high-profile cases like those of Binayak Sen, Varavara Rao and others incarcerated in the Bhima Koregaon case that attract national or even international attention. While this attention is justified, most people do not realise that thousands of powerless, impoverished people face similar or worse injustice. These people remain invisible, while their families, fleeced by local lawyers, are forced to sell their land, trees or part with their savings to get them out of jail. No campaigns are organised for these people because they are largely invisible to the public eye. It does not require much intelligence to see that this is the way in which the state troubles ordinary people to get back at the Maoists. For every actual Maoist,

dozens of ordinary villagers get caught in this vicious web of harassment, lies, revenge and ruin.

In "Naxali" cases, bail is routinely denied in the sessions and NIA courts. As per procedure, it is only after a bail is refused there that the accused can approach the high court for bail. In reality, as explained earlier, that option can be exercised by only a few. Bail is even more elusive during the lockdown, when its importance for the life and safety of the prisoner is greater than ever. They remain stuck in prison with mounting fear that the virus will get them as Covid-19 cases spread in Chhattisgarh prisons. Ever since the lockdown started, family members and lawyers of the prisoners have also been denied "mulakat" (visits). There was a time, in the past few months, when the jails were not even accepting parcels from the families for the inmates.

In March 2020, the Supreme Court ordered state governments to consider releasing selected categories of prisoners during lockdown under parole or bail. In Chhattisgarh, however, only a small minority of prisoners (barely 20 per cent) have been released. Chhattisgarh jails are among the most crowded in the country.

More humane provisions are needed

for prisoners, including political prisoners and those charged under special laws. For example, the 120 people charged in the Burkapal case could easily be in their villages (and report to the local thana if required) during this period. They are likely to be safer in the villages, where the density of population is far less. Likewise, it is not clear what the state gains by continuing to incarcerate the disabled professor G.N. Saibaba, 81-year old Varavara Rao, now ill, or others in the Bhima Koregaon case. All these individuals have been working in full public view for decades and could be allowed to stay at home.

Ultimately, we need to do away with these authoritarian special laws. They have no place in a democracy. Greater attention should be paid to the rights and wellbeing of prisoners during the pandemic, the end to which is nowhere in sight. As far as bail is concerned, it is time to return to the principle underlined by Justice Krishna Iyer in a Supreme Court judgement in 1977: "The basic rule may perhaps be tersely put as bail not jail."

Bela Bhatia is an independent researcher and human rights lawyer based in Bastar, south Chhattisgarh

SHORT TAKES

US SPL ENVOY ON AFGHANISTAN MEETS EAM

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

The United States Special Representative on Afghanistan Reconciliation, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, was in New Delhi on Tuesday for a brief visit during which he met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla were also present during the meeting.

This was the fifth visit of Khalilzad to India since January 2019. He had last visited India on May 7, 2020.

According to sources, the conversation focused largely on the Intra Afghanistan peace talks and how India can play a major role in the region once United States security forces start withdrawing from war-torn Afghanistan.

Having watched the Afghanistan-Taliban talks from the sidelines so far, India has for the first time taken active participation in the Intra-Afghan Negotiations (IAN) held in Doha on September 12 where Jaishankar addressed through video conferencing.

RAILWAYS TO RUN CLONE SPL TRAINS FROM SEPT. 21

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

Considering the huge demand for travel on specific routes, Ministry of Railways has decided to run 20 pairs of 'Clone Special' trains from September 21, 2020.

These 'Clone' trains will run on notified timings and will be fully reserved trains with limited halts.

These Clone Special trains will be in addition to special trains which are already in operation.

Railway officials said these 19 pairs of 'Clone Special' trains will run by utilising Humsafar rakes while one pair Lucknow-Delhi Clone special will run as Jan Shatabdi Express.

Fare of Humsafar rake will be charged as Humsafar trains and for Janshatabdi rake, fare will be charged as Janshatabdi Express.

The ARP (Advanced Reservation Period) will be 10 days for these trains. These trains will be primarily three AC and will have speed higher than the existing special trains.

"Clone trains have not been operated by the Indian Railways in the past. These trains will be operationalised on the routes having high patronage and demand. The clone trains being proposed, are based on the patronisation of already operating Special trains with limited stoppages and faster transit time," officials said.

ODISHA SCRAP DEALER HELD IN FRAUD CASE

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 15

Odisha police on Tuesday arrested a scrap dealer, who was earlier convicted by the Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Kolkata in a fraud case, and produced him before the district Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court at Jajpur.

The Kolkata court had convicted the dealer in December, 2017 hearing a petition filed by one Champa Nandy.

As per information, accused Partha Sarathi Biswal (46) of Kamalpur village in the district ran a private firm Aditya Scrap Private Ltd in Kolkata with investment from different people. Champa Nandy had reportedly invested over ₹3.5 crore in the company with promise of lucrative return. When the woman did not get any return, she demanded the accused for a refund. However, Biswal failed to fulfill his commitment.

Following this, Nandy moved the Metropolitan Magistrates Court in 2011. On December 21, 2017, the court declared Biswal guilty and sentenced him to one year of imprisonment. The court also directed him to return the whopping amount of money to the woman.

Challenging the conviction, Biswal moved the higher court. However, the higher court upheld the lower court's decision and asked Odisha police to arrest Biswal issuing a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him on February 9, 2019.

RS passes Aircraft Amendment Bill 2020

Civil aviation minister says the issue of privatisation of airports should be seen in a historical context

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

Parliament on Tuesday passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which seeks to improve India's aviation safety ratings and provide statutory status to regulatory institutions, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). The Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in March, was passed by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha.

Introducing the Bill, which also seeks to

increase the fine for violations from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore, Civil Aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri said amendments were necessary as tremendous growth in civil aviation has thrown many challenges such as saturated airport capacity, lack of trained manpower, limited manpower capabilities, while adding that these are "happy challenges". The proposed amendments follow the 2012 and the 2015 audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation that had indicated the need to give statutory recognition to these agencies.

However, some members,

also including Congress's K.C. Venugopal, accused the government of privatising airports in the name of development and also centralising powers in its hands.

In his reply to the debate, Puri said the issue of privatisation should be seen in a historical context and noted that country's largest airports Delhi and Mumbai were successfully privatised in 2006 under a previous political dispensation, and proceeds from the process have resulted in getting resources to develop airport infrastructure in the country.

On the Congress' charge of allotting six airports to one group, Puri said the

Delhi and Mumbai airports account for 33 per cent of air traffic and earnings while the six airports that were awarded in 2018 together account for only nine per cent of traffic and earnings.

"In terms of six airports being given to one entity, let me just place it in perspective. When these two airports in Delhi and Mumbai were privatised all subsequent efforts at privatisation contained a stipulation to the effect that prior experience was necessary.... So, we fell into a trap of our own making and not by this government and I don't want to make it as a political point," Puri said.

Oppn members criticise privatisation of airports

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Some Opposition members in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday accused the government of privatising airports in the name of development and also centralising powers in its hands. Participating in the discussion on 'The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020' that seeks to improve India's aviation safety ratings and provide statutory status to regula-

tory institutions, including the DGCA, members of the Congress and Left, besides some other parties alleged monopolisation of airports in the hands of one entity. However, the BJP claimed the government's objective is to expand the aviation sector and create the infrastructure to make air travel safer and accessible for all. Congress member K.C. Venugopal demanded a

probe into the privatisation of six airports alleging violation of rules and corruption, a charge denied by BJP member G.V.L. Narasimha Rao who said there is complete transparency under the Modi dispensation. Initiating the debate, Venugopal alleged that the government was promoting crony capitalism by privatising airports in the name of developing them. — PTI

7.5% quota for govt medical students Bill passed by TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 15

A Bill to provide 7.5 reservations for students studying in government schools in admissions to undergraduate courses in medicine, dentistry, Indian medicine, and Homeopathy was passed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday.

Moved by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the Bill provides for preference for students of government schools who have qualified in NEET.

To a query raised by DMK MLA R. Masilamani if social justice will be followed in admission for the 7.5 per cent seats, Palaniswami said the 69 per cent reservation that was given to the state by the late J. Jayalalithaa

would continue and be applicable in this also.

He said that law was to enable poor and rural students to get admission in the various medical courses. As of now students from government schools who get admission in medical courses account for just one per cent and hence the 7.5 per cent quota will ensure that 300 students benefit out of it, Palaniswami said.

The bill was framed after a commission headed by former High Court judge P. Kalaiyarasan gave its recommendation, he said.

With the opening of the 11 new government medical colleges in the state, the number of students who would benefit from this quota would further go up, he added.

Sasikala may be released on Jan. 27

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
BENGALURU, SEPT. 15

Late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, serving a four-year-term in a corruption case here, may be released from jail next January provided she paid the fine amount of ₹10 crore, Karnataka prison department has said in response to an RTI query.

Sasikala, lodged at the Parappana Agrahara Prison here, was convicted and sentenced in February 2017 in the ₹66 crore disproportionate assets case.

"As per prison records, convict prisoner number 9234 Sasikala's probable date of release is January 27, 2021, provided in default fine amount is paid as awarded by the honourable court," Superintendent of Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara R. Latha said in his response to an RTI query by activist T. Narasimha Murthy on September 11.

Latha added Sasikala's "probable date of release" would be February 27, 2022 if the fine is not paid. The officer explained the probable date of release may vary if Sasikala

SASIKALA'S COUNSEL EXPRESSES HOPE

Bengaluru: Sasikala's counsel has expressed hope of her early release, possibly by the end of this month, citing remission for good conduct.

As per norms, three days of remission for good conduct is available for every month in jail and so far, she has completed 43 months, making her eligible for a reduction of 129 days in prison. She will have to pay ₹10 crore to walk out of prison on January 27, 2021, else spend another 13 months behind bars. After the Supreme Court restored the trial court judgement in toto against Sasikala and two of her close relatives in the disproportionate assets case, (V.N. Sudhakaran and J. Elavarasi), she surrendered before the court in Karnataka on February 15, 2017, and has been lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail.

Her two relatives are also undergoing 4-year simple imprisonment. utilises a parole facility.

GOLD | SCAM | Oppn workers, police engaged in pitched battles demanding minister's resignation

No need for Jaleel to resign, says Pinarayi

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPT. 15

Workers of the Opposition Congress-led UDF and the BJP were engaged in pitched battles with the police in Capital city and many parts of the state on Monday, demanding the resignation of higher education minister K.T. Jaleel.

Opposition parties have been up in arms against Jaleel after the minister was questioned by ED in connection with the allegations regarding aid sought from the UAE consulate during Ramzan in

violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (accepting foreign aid without Centre's permission), diplomatic baggage used to bring copies of Quran and gold smuggling, accused Swapna Suresh's role in arranging the flood relief kits.

The epicentre of the Opposition agitation was the state secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram where agitators had gathered since morning holding demonstrations, protests and marches.

A march led by Youth Congress workers to the Secretariat turned violent

when agitators tried to remove the barricades put in front of the main gate.

Police used water cannons to disperse the protesters and resorted to a mild lathicharge in which many Congress workers including K.S. Sabarinathan MLA were injured. The police also used stun grenades to disperse agitators.

The agitation led by Youth Congress state president Shafi Parambil MLA continued for a couple of hours turning the city centre into a battle zone.

The Youth Congress protest march was followed by a march of the

BJP and the Yuva Morcha. The police used force to force against agitators.

Similar agitations took place in Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargod, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Wayanad.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has defended Jaleel saying he has committed no wrong.

He said the Opposition was resorting to violent agitation on a baseless issue, to create law and order problems in the state.

He said that there was no precedent of a person

resigning on the basis of questioning by an agency. In this case the agency has received some complaints and they wanted certain clarifications from the minister.

"There is no allegation against Jaleel. The Opposition is trying to cook up a story. As far as the gold smuggling case is concerned, some of the accused have been caught and the investigations are on to get others who are involved."

The Chief Minister said the Opposition was trying to link the Quran issue with the gold smuggling case.

"On what basis are they raising such allegations and demanding the minister's resignation?" he asked.

There is no need for him to resign on such baseless allegations.

The Chief Minister said there should not have been a controversy over getting copies of Quran from the UAE consulate.

Jaleel is minister of Wakf and distribution of Quran is normal during Ramzan period when zakat is given.

The Chief Minister said people of the state will reject the Opposition stand on the issue.

● AT LASALGAON APMC auctions started at a price of ₹2,200 per quintal, a figure that angered farmers.

Nashik, Sept. 15: Farmers in Nashik's Lasalgaon area, home to among the largest onion markets in the world, and some other trading spots in the district on Tuesday took to the streets in protest against a ban on export of the kitchen staple.

At Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), Asia's biggest onion market, auctions started on Tuesday morning at a price of ₹2,200 per quintal, a figure that angered farmers who claimed the ban on exports was bringing down rates in the domestic markets.

On Monday, rates were 1,100 per quintal on the minimum side, ₹3,209 on the maximum end and ₹2,950 on an average, but the decision to ban

exports brought down the price to ₹2,700 per quintal hours later, protesting farmers said.

The Union government on Monday banned the export of all varieties of onions with immediate effect, a move aimed at increasing availability and checking price of the commodity in the domestic market.

"The export of all varieties of onions is prohibited with immediate effect," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

The DGFT, an arm of the commerce ministry, deals with exports and imports-related issues. — PTI

Tuesday morning at a price of ₹2,200 per quintal at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC).

Speaking with The Asian Age, all India Kisan Sabha Maharashtra's general secretary Dr Ajit Navale alleged that owing to the upcoming Bihar

election, the farmers are being sidelined.

The farmers of Maharashtra and the country have been betrayed by the Central government.

The high onion prices are undesirable for any government seeking re-election.



Labourers sort onions at a market in Karad on Tuesday.

— PTI

Sharad Pawar urges Centre to rethink ban on export of onions Nashik farmers stage protests

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, SEPT. 15

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday urged the central government to rethink over its decision to ban the export of onions. He said such a decision will help Pakistan and other countries. The Maharashtra Congress unit will stage a protest on Wednesday across the state over this decision. Meanwhile, All Bharatiya Kisan Maha Sabha said that the central government has betrayed the farmers of the country by this move.

The NCP chief met Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal with a demand to reconsider its sudden decision. Pawar informed that Goyal has assured him that the government will rethink the decision if there is consensus among the ministries of commerce, finance, and consumer affairs on the issue. In a series of tweets, Pawar said that the central government has abruptly announced a ban on export of onions. This has led to strong reactions from the onion growing belt in Maharashtra. Therefore, the representatives of various political parties contacted and requested him to convey their demands to the central government. "To address this issue, I met Union Minister of Commerce and Industry

Piyush Goyal (@PiyushGoyal) today and apprised him of the plight of onion growers. I pointed out to him that these onion growers are mainly small land holders and Jirait farmers (sic)," Pawar tweeted.

In another tweet, he said, "I also brought to his notice that onions are in good demand internationally & we have been exporting onions consistently. But a sudden decision to this effect by the central government is a major blow to India's image as a reliable exporter of onions in the international market (sic)."

In the wake of the decision, there is a possibility that India may emerge as an "unreliable supplier" of the commodity internationally, Pawar said, adding that the move will benefit nations like Pakistan and others. In another tweet, Pawar said Goyal told him that the proposal to ban the export was moved by the Union consumer affairs ministry based on the rising prices of the commodity.

Agitations took place in Munge, Pimpalgaon, Nampur and Umrane markets and protesting farmers stalled auctions under way for some 10,000 quintals that had arrived, and also tried to stop traffic in the vicinity, including on the Mumbai-Agra Highway that skirts past Umrane.

The auctions started on

DID I&B MINISTRY APPLY ITS MIND, ASKS SUPREME COURT

From Page 1

"We have to see if there was a need for laying down such standards of broadcasting," Mehta said.

Referring to the September 9 notification of the Information & Broadcasting ministry asking Sudarshan TV to adhere to the programme code failing which it will be acted against and Section of 6 of the Cable Television (Network) Rules that prohibits attack on religion and communities, Justice Chandrachud asked the Solicitor General that after the notification there were broadcasts from September 11 to 14. "Did the ministry apply its mind to those programmes," the judge asked the S-G.

The Solicitor-General said, "I need to take instructions."

While the court was primarily focusing on the visual media, given its reach and people's inclination to watch them, the Solicitor General sought to broaden the scope of the hearing and took the court to the portals and blogs which were writing and saying "nefarious" things having serious ramifications.

Pointing to the "critical qualitative" difference in different platforms, Justice Chandrachud said, "Law has not to be for everything to regulate something" thereby suggesting that just to regulate visual media it is not necessary that there should be law to regulate every platform. Justice Chandrachud said that it is difficult to regulate the internet as it is based overseas but something that is based within the country and beams here can be regulated.

INDIA COVID COUNT INCHES CLOSER TO 50L

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

With close to 84,000 fresh cases, India on Tuesday moved closer to the mark of 50 lakh overall cases of Coronavirus. Till Tuesday morning the tally, as per Union health ministry, was over 49.30 lakh while total number of deaths went past 80,000 with 1,054 new fatalities due to the virus.

However, the recoveries too have been equally high with more than 38.59 lakhs patients cured, taking the recovery rate to 78.28 per cent. According to Johns Hopkins University data India has the highest recoveries in the world, followed by Brazil, the United States, Russia, Colombia and South Africa.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan the no. of active cases (9,90,061) are only one-fifth or 20 per cent of the total cases (38,59,399) and there are 14 states and union territories where the number of active cases are less than 5,000.

SHORT TAKES SOLDIER KILLED IN PAK FIRING ALONG LoC

Jammu, Sept. 15: An army jawan was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured on Tuesday after Pakistani troops fired with small arms and shelled mortars along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The Indian Army launched a befitting retaliation to the Pakistani firing and shelling in Sunderbani sector, they said.

"Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars. Some injuries have been reported (on our side)," a defence spokesperson said based on preliminary information.

However, official sources said three army personnel, including an officer, were injured in the incident and later one of the soldiers succumbed to the injuries.

The officer, along with another soldier, is undergoing treatment at the military hospital, the sources said.

The Pakistani army has also suffered casualties in the retaliatory action but details are awaited, the sources said.

MILK, NOT EGGS IN ANGANWADI DIET, SAYS CHOUHAN

Bhopal, Sept. 15: Milk and not eggs will be given to children at 'anganwadis' in Madhya Pradesh to tackle malnutrition, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan clarified on Tuesday.

Women and child development minister Imarti Devi had said earlier that eggs will be distributed at anganwadis (government-run child care centres) in the state.

"We will distribute milk to malnourished children. Not eggs but milk will be given to the children. We will start a campaign (against malnutrition)," Chouhan said. He had taken a stand against distribution of eggs to children at schools and anganwadis during his previous tenure as chief minister too, citing concerns of vegetarian parents.

He was speaking after inaugurating an exhibition on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark the latter's birthday at the state BJP office here on Tuesday. The BJP is observing a "service week" to mark Modi's birthday from September 16 to 23. Informing that the state government will also observe a "week for the poor" during this period, Chouhan said the distribution of milk at anganwadis will start from September 17. Various welfare programmes for the poor would be organised every day during the week, he informed.

Two weeks ago, Imarti Devi had said in Gwalior that to eradicate malnutrition, eggs would be served to the children who opt for them, besides fruit. Devi had started distribution of eggs in some tribal-dominated blocks when she held the same portfolio under the previous Cong-govt.

'WON'T ALLOW MEKEDATU DAM CONSTRUCTION'

Chennai, Sept. 15: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami on Tuesday assured the state Assembly that the government would not allow construction of a reservoir across river Cauvery at Mekedatu in Karnataka.

When DMK deputy leader Duraimurugan raised reported efforts by Karnataka to persuade the Centre for early approval to build a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu, Palaniswami said the Supreme Court's judgment on the Cauvery issue is clear.

As per the verdict, the "water due for Tamil Nadu should be fully released. Not only that, the water shall not be blocked or diverted," the Chief Minister said.

Karnataka's repeated bid to bring up the Mekedatu proposal for discussion in the Cauvery Water Management Authority was halted in view of staunch opposition from Tamil Nadu, he said.

"A case related to this is in the Supreme Court. I would like to convey categorically to the deputy leader that the Tamil Nadu government would never allow them (Karnataka) to construct Mekedatu dam," he asserted. Also, Palaniswami said the Supreme Court's judgment would help establish Tamil Nadu's rights in the issue.



Alleged drug peddler Suryadeep Mehrotra friend of Showvik Chakraborty, accused in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, is taken by Narcotics Control Bureau officers for medical examination at Ballard Estate in Mumbai on Tuesday. — PTI

Jaya slams Ravi Kisan, Ranaut for anti-film industry 'blabber'

Urges govt to stand by the industry as it 'always comes forward' to help

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

Angry over vilification of the film industry over the ongoing probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case and alleged link to the drug cartel, actor-politician Jaya Bachchan on Tuesday hit out at fellow-actor and Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kisan and Kangana Ranaut for their act of "Jis thaali me khaate hain usi me chhed karte hain (Bite the hand that feeds you)."

Referring to the Narcotics Control Bureau's investigation into the late actor's death, Kisan on Monday alleged in the Lok Sabha that drug addiction prevailed in the film industry and the Union government had to take strict action against those involved and curb the menace.

Jaya Bachchan did not name anyone in her Zero Hour mention in the Rajya Sabha and asked the government to stand by the entertainment industry because it "always comes forward to help the government."

"Film industry supports them if there is a national calamity, gives money and extends services. And I think it is very important that the government must support this industry and not kill it just because there are a few bad sheep. Jaya Bachchan, Actor-turned-politician

industry and called it a gutter, apparently referring to Ranaut's recent remarks.

Outside Parliament, Kisan said he expected Bachchan to support what he had said as not everyone in the industry consumes drugs but those who do are part of a plan to finish the world's largest film industry.

Later, the House saw TMC member Shantanu Sen, through a Special Mention, urging that instead of 'social distancing' as one of the guidelines against Covid-19, usage of 'physical distancing' or any other term as the existing words were promoting social stigma of Coronavirus patients and their families.

Agreeing to the suggestion, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said an appropriate term should be used and suggested "safe distancing."

September 14. The examinees were asked "is the BJP victory in 2019 general elections an endorsement of the common man's trust in the Narendra Modi government? Explain."

Another question was "what may be the three reasons that the Congress could not get an expected victory in the 2014 and 2019 general elections? Explain in detail with examples."

"Can a one-party system be implemented in the country? Explain in the backdrop of the present situation," were some of the other questions in the paper. — PTI



FILM INDUSTRY supports them if there is a national calamity, gives money and extends services. And I think it is very important that the government must support this industry and not kill it just because there are a few bad sheep.

JAYA BACHCHAN, Actor-turned-politician

industry and called it a gutter, apparently referring to Ranaut's recent remarks.

Outside Parliament, Kisan said he expected Bachchan to support what he had said as not everyone in the industry consumes drugs but those who do are part of a plan to finish the world's largest film industry.

Later, the House saw TMC member Shantanu Sen, through a Special Mention, urging that instead of 'social distancing' as one of the guidelines against Covid-19, usage of 'physical distancing' or any other term as the existing words were promoting social stigma of Coronavirus patients and their families.

Agreeing to the suggestion, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said an appropriate term should be used and suggested "safe distancing."

September 14. The examinees were asked "is the BJP victory in 2019 general elections an endorsement of the common man's trust in the Narendra Modi government? Explain."

Another question was "what may be the three reasons that the Congress could not get an expected victory in the 2014 and 2019 general elections? Explain in detail with examples."

"Can a one-party system be implemented in the country? Explain in the backdrop of the present situation," were some of the other questions in the paper. — PTI

September 14. The examinees were asked "is the BJP victory in 2019 general elections an endorsement of the common man's trust in the Narendra Modi government? Explain."

Another question was "what may be the three reasons that the Congress could not get an expected victory in the 2014 and 2019 general elections? Explain in detail with examples."

"Can a one-party system be implemented in the country? Explain in the backdrop of the present situation," were some of the other questions in the paper. — PTI

Film industry all praise for Jaya for raising issue in House

Mumbai, Sept. 15: Rajya Sabha MP and veteran actor Jaya Bachchan on Tuesday came in for fulsome praise from many of her colleagues in Bollywood for raising her voice in the House against those defaming the Hindi film industry.

While the Producers Guild of India as well as Anubhav Sinha, Farhan Akhtar, Sonam Kapoor and Tapsee Pannu were among those who lauded Bachchan, actor Kangana Ranaut put out a caustic tweet criticising her for the speech.

Ranaut, in the news for her provocative comments, has claimed the movie mafia is behind actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death and called Bollywood a "gutter". Bachchan said the entertainment industry provides direct employment everyday to five lakh people.

"I was really embarrassed and ashamed that yesterday (September 14) one of our members in the Lok Sabha, who is from the industry, spoke. I am not taking names. It is a shame," Bachchan said in a clear reference to Kishan's statement on the alleged Bollywood drug cartel.

Sharing her speech, filmmaker Anubhav Sinha wrote on Twitter, "I send my greetings to Jaya ji. For those who don't know, please see this. This is how spine looks like."

Kapoor said, "I want to be her when I grow up." Bachchan said the film industry always stood with the government in various initiatives.

● **CELEBRITIES**, including filmmaker Zoya Akhtar, director Anil Sharma and actor-producer Nikhill Diwedi, also came out in support of Bachchan

● **JAYA JI** would you say the same thing if in my place it was your daughter Shweta beaten, drugged and molested as a teenage, would you say the same thing if Abhishek complained about bullying and harassment constantly and found hanging one day? Show compassion for us also, Kangana said.

"I hope the government tells these people who have made their earning, name and fame in this industry to stop using such language... I think it is very very important that the government must support this industry and not kill it."

Pannu said she agreed with Bachchan that the industry has always extended a helping hand in times of crisis and it was now "payback" time. "For we have always stood by the initiatives, causes and awareness campaigns. It's time for payback. Hitting the nail on its head and how! Yet again a woman from the industry spoke up #Respect," the actor tweeted.

The Producers Guild of India used the same hashtag. "The Producers Guild of India applauds Jaya ji for standing up for our industry #Respect," it said on Twitter.

Other Bollywood celebrities, including filmmaker

Zoya Akhtar, director Anil Sharma and actor-producer Nikhill Diwedi, also came out in support of Bachchan. "And yet another woman stands up," Akhtar wrote on Instagram.

Actor-director Farhan Akhtar wrote, "Respect. She has always stood up to be counted when it mattered. #Jaya Bachchan." Diwedi said a "false narrative" was being projected about the film industry. "JayaBachchan is right. A false narrative that a certain malaise infects the entire film industry is being created by few to look good in these times... People in any field including politics and journalism indulge in things illegal or immoral. Call them out specifically and not all," Diwedi tweeted.

Ranaut, however, struck quite a different tune and asked the 72-year-old actor to be more sensitive to others. She also brought in Bachchan's two children. "Jaya ji would you say the same thing if in my place it was your daughter Shweta beaten, drugged and molested as a teenage, would you say the same thing if Abhishek complained about bullying and harassment constantly and found hanging one day? Show compassion for us also (sic)," Ranaut tweeted.

Highlighting working conditions in the industry, she said there are no proper HR departments in production houses where women can complain, no safety or insurance for those who risk their lives every day and no eight hours shift regulations. — PTI

SSR case: NCB arrests 2 more in drug probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, SEPT. 15

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday arrested two more person, including school friend of Showik Chakraborty, in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide and have seized a high-end vehicle of one of the accused that was also used for peddling drugs. The officials said that they also brought Chris Costa to Mumbai from Goa. He was arrested in connection with the drug syndicate and their peddling from Goa to Mumbai.

The arrested accused was identified as Suryadeep Malhotra, who is Showik's friend. Malhotra was picked up from Mumbai taking the total number of arrests to 18. The NCB have secured the custody of the duo and they will be grilled in connection with their links with Chakraborty and the suicide probe.

"The specific roles of the duo are being probed and if needed all the arrested accused would be jointly questioned. Malhotra has been remanded to custody till September 18," said an officer.

The NCB officials earlier confirmed that names of actresses Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh and designer Simone Khambatta surfaced while questioning Rhea. The NCB has not ruled out summoning them for questioning.

The agency said that they are also zeroing in on other names that would be indirectly related with the ongoing probe.

The officials said that the six peddlers, who were arrested on Sunday gave a breakthrough in identifying the chain of narcotics that reached Rajput. One of the arrested peddlers Dwayne Fernandes, who was found to be associated with Showik Chakraborty is stated to have supplied drugs to him for Rajput.

Karamjeet Singh Anand, a peddler, has a local distribution channel of drugs in the film industry. Another peddler Sanket Patel is in the distribution chain of Karamjeet and he also delivered narcotic stuff to several celebrities.

Officials said that Sandeep Gupta, who is an auto-rickshaw driver, operates as a bulk supplier of weed to retail dealers like Dwayne. Aftab Fateh Ansari is Gupta's associate operating wholesale procurement channel of weed for him and taking care of further distribution.

Ankush Arenja runs a kitchen in a plush area of Mumbai and peddles drugs like weed, hash and mephedrone to high profile individuals. Investigation revealed that he would buy the banned substance from Patel and is also connected with the network of Anuj Keshwani (already arrested) and Karamjeet Singh.

Kangana seeks ₹2cr from BMC

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, SEPT. 15

Days after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) razed unauthorised alterations at Kangana Ranaut's office, the Bollywood actress has demanded compensation worth ₹2 crore from the civic body citing the demolition 'illegal'. She has filed an amended petition before the Bombay high court seeking the damages.

In her amended petition, Kangana has stated that the BMC has demolished 40 per cent of the office, which included valuable property such as chandeliers and rare artworks. She has sought interim relief to take steps to make the property "capable of use" after the demolition.

"The large-scale illegal demolition has caused damage estimated to be around ₹2 crore," the plea said.

The BMC had issued a 24-hour stop-work notice to Kangana on September 8 citing illegal alterations in the renovation and finishing work at her office at Pali Hill, Bandra. To this, Kangana had filed a plea in the HC seeking interim relief of stay on the demolition work. While the BMC went

ahead with the demolition of unauthorised structures on September 9, the HC stayed further demolition and directed the civic body to file an affidavit. The court will hear the petition and BMC's response on September 22.

In the amended petition, Kangana has said the civic body's claims of 14 alterations and additions to the property were not substantiated by proper evidence. The petition further said the presence of BMC staff and police officials outside the premises on September 9 even before civic authorities rejected her response to the stop-work notice showed the action was premeditated and taken with 'malafide intentions' and 'ulterior motives'.

The actress claimed that the BMC's action was because she was recently at "loggerheads with the Maharashtra government" regarding her views on certain issues. Kangana has found herself in controversy after her criticism of Mumbai police's handling of Sushant Singh Rajput's death investigation.

She also referred to Mumbai as "Pakistan-occupied Kashmir" evoking a sharp response from the Shiv Sena leaders.

ENDANGERED | SPECIES

160 leopards were poached in state in the past 10 years

Odisha turns burial ground for leopards

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 15

Odisha, which has already earned a dubious distinction among wildlife lovers as a graveyard for elephants, reportedly seems to be fast turning to be a burial ground for leopards. The seizure of five leopard skins in the last four days at Nabarangapur and Berhampur has exposed the wildlife smuggling racket in Odisha.

Poachers are indulging in mindless killing of the wild cats for their hides as reports pour in from the districts about seizures.

According to wildlife experts, at least 160 leop-

ards have been poached across Odisha in the past 10 years. In July, 2020 the Special Task Force of Crime Branch of Odisha police had seized five leopard skins indicating its largescale poaching.

Previously in June 2020, a joint team of Chhattisgarh Police and Odisha forest department had arrested a skin trader with a leopard skin in Nuapada district on the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. In the same month the Special Task Force of Odisha Crime Branch had seized four leopard skins from Ranapur Range and arrested three people in Nayagarh district.

"Odisha is a haven for wildlife poachers and

traders as we have been seeing huge levels of tiger and leopard poaching leading to a drastic fall in their population. The forest department despite abundant resources and legal powers has miserably failed to control poaching even in tiger reserves like Simlipal and Satkosia," alleged wildlife conservationist and former member of National Board for Wildlife Dr Biswajit Mohanty.

Even when leopard skin traders are apprehended red handed they are not prosecuted properly as a result of which there is not a single conviction for leopard skin trading or poaching.

"In April, 1996 one of the



A leopard skin trader (right) arrested by Odisha forest department officials on Tuesday. — DC

largest seizures in India was done near Khurda when 21 leopard skins were seized from one wildlife trader.

However, the accused is yet to be convicted in this case and he is on bail since 24 years," said Dr Mohanty.

IN BRIEF

China launches nine satellites

Beijing: China successfully launched on Tuesday a solid-propellant carrier rocket from a ship in the Yellow Sea, sending nine satellites into orbit in the second such sea-based launch mission, the official media reported. The Long March 11-HY2, the 10th member of the Long March 11 family blasted off at 9:22 am from the Debo 3, a self-propelled deck barge that was modified for the mission, *China Daily* reported. The nine satellites belong to the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group. About 13 minutes later, after travelling 535 km, it has deployed nine Jilin 1 high-resolution Earth-observation satellites, three to take videos and six to take photographs in sun-synchronous orbits, the report said.

NBW issued for Nawaz

SHAFQAT ALI | DC
ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 15

Pakistan's Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) supremo Nawaz Sharif, who is currently in London due to medical treatment, for September 22 in Al-Azizia reference. The court rejected his plea seeking exemption from the hearing and directed to initiate proceedings to declare him as proclaimed offender. The court also turned down the PML-N supremo's petition to continue the case hearings through legal representative. Nawaz had requested the IHC to nullify its ruling and allow him to become a part of the court proceedings through his representative. He made the request on medical grounds. The IHC had ordered Nawaz to surrender and appear on September 10 at any cost in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference.

UK returns 3 idols to India

London: A set of three idols of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshmana, stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu decades ago, were restored to the Indian government on Tuesday after a collector voluntarily offered to hand it back on discovering their true history. The theft dates back to 1978 and led to an investigation by the Idol Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police working along with colleagues in the Metropolitan Police in London. The unnamed collector, who had acquired the statues in good faith, was informed about their dubious provenance by the Met Police. After matching them up with archival photographs from the 1950s held at the French School in Pondicherry, it was proved that the idols in his possession were those belonging to the Vijayanagara period and stolen from Sri Rajagopalaswami Temple at Ananthamangalam in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. In a ceremony streamed from India House in London, priests from Sri Murugan Temple in London conducted a short religious ceremony.

AVNI DOSHI ON BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLIST

London, Sept. 15: Dubai-based Indian-origin author Avni Doshi is among the six authors shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar'. The shortlist was unveiled virtually in London on Tuesday after judges re-evaluated the 13 longlisted novels published in the UK or Ireland between October 2019 and September 2020 to whittle down the shortlist for the GBP 50,000 literary prize in November. "This utterly compelling read examines a complex and unusual mother-daughter relationship with honest, unflinching realism — sometimes emotionally wrenching but also cathartic, written with poignancy and memorability," the judges said of Doshi's entry.

Doshi, born in the US and now living in Dubai, has previously spoken about the long journey to her first novel, which was released in India last year as 'Girl in White Cotton' and for its UK release in July.

Others in the shortlist include Diane Cook for 'The New Wilderness', Tsitsi Dangaremba for the third novel in her trilogy — 'This Mournable Body', Maaza Mengiste for 'The Shadow King', Douglas Stuart for 'Shuggie Bain' and Brandon Taylor for 'Real Life'. Literary heavyweight and former double Booker winner Hilary Mantel, failed to make the shortlist cut.

Brexit bill clears 1st hurdle in Parl

London, Sept. 15: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial bill that aims to override parts of the Brexit divorce agreement struck with the European Union (EU) cleared its first parliamentary hurdle by winning the first House of Commons vote by 340 to 263 votes. The Internal Market Bill, which has faced strong criticism from the Opposition parties and senior members of Johnson's own Conservative Party, is set for rebellions as it progresses through further stages in its parliamentary process despite Johnson's 80-seat majority in the Commons.

The government says the bill contains vital safeguards to protect Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK if negotiations on a future trade deal with the EU break down. But critics warn that it risks damaging the UK by breaching international law.

Two ruling Tory party members of the parliament — Sir Roger Gale and Andrew Percy — voted against the bill on Monday night, while a further 30 abstained, which includes general absences from the House. During a five-hour debate ahead of the vote on Monday evening, Johnson claimed the EU's current approach could lead to excessive checks and even tariffs on goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. He said the bill would ensure the UK's "economic and political integrity",

accusing the EU of making unfair demands to "exert leverage" in the trade talks — including a threat to block food exports. "Now that we have left the EU, and the transition period is about to elapse, we need the armature of our law once again to preserve the arrangements on which so many jobs and livelihoods depend. That is the fundamental purpose of this bill," he told the MPs.

"I regret to have to tell the House that in recent months the EU has suggested that it is ready to go to extreme and unreasonable lengths using the Northern Ireland Protocol in a way that goes well beyond common sense, simply to exert leverage against the UK in our negotiations for a free trade agreement," he claimed.

"I understand how some people will feel uneasy over the use of these powers. And I share that sentiment myself and I have absolutely no desire to use these measures. They are an insurance policy," he added. The prime minister also held a call with his Tory party members of the House of Lords on Monday night in anticipation of the bill eventually moving to the Lords.

The Opposition Labour Party accused the government of renegeing on a deal Johnson signed earlier this year, and on which Conservative members of the parliament campaigned in the December 2019 General Election. — *PTI*

Bigger response if Iran attacks: Don

Washington, Sept. 15: President Donald Trump has warned Iran that any attack against the US would be retaliated with "1,000 times greater in magnitude" after media reports that Tehran is planning to avenge the killing of top general Qasem Soleimani in January. The death of Gen Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force, in a US airstrike near Baghdad's airport marks a major escalation in the standoff between Washington and Tehran, since US President Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed crippling sanctions. Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing.

"Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!" Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US. "Iran may be planning an assassination or other attack, against the US in retaliation for the killing of the terrorist leader Soleimani, which was carried out for his planning a future attack, murdering US Troops,



Donald Trump

and the death & suffering caused over so many years," Trump wrote.

In a news report based on unnamed intelligence sources, the *Politico* said "the Iranian government is weighing an assassination attempt against the American ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks. "If carried out, it could dramatically ratchet up already serious tensions between the US and Iran and create enormous pressure on Trump to strike back — possibly in the middle of a tense election season," the American news outlet said. An intelligence source told *Fox News* that the intel community is taking the threat against the ambassador seriously. — *PTI*

India beats China to win poll to UN women panel

United Nations, Sept. 15: In a significant victory, India got elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women empowerment, beating China in a hotly-contested election. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The 54-member ECOSOC, holding the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall on Monday, held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category with Afghanistan, India and China in the fray. Afghanistan, which is led by Ambassador Adela Raz at the UN, garnered 39 votes and India got 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast.

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, got only 27 votes and could not even cross the half-way mark and also failed to get the required majority of 28 votes. "India wins seat in prestigious

● **AFGHANISTAN GARNERED 39 votes and India got 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, got only 27 votes and could not even cross the half-way mark and also failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.**

#ECOSOC body! India elected Member of Commission on Status of Women #CSW. It's a ringing endorsement of our commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all our endeavours. We thank member states for their support," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Thirumurti tweeted. India beat China in the hotly-contested election to the prestigious UN body in the year when the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, that was held in Beijing in 1995, is being commemorated around the world.

Don to preside over historic Arab-Israeli recognition deals

Power dynamics to shift as Prez said to get a boost ahead of the Nov. US election

Washington, Sept. 15: President Donald Trump is set to preside over the signing of historic diplomatic deals between Israel and two Gulf Arab nations that could herald a dramatic shift in Middle East power dynamics and give him a boost ahead of the November US election.

In a White House ceremony aimed at showcasing presidential statesmanship, Trump will host more than 700 guests Tuesday on the South Lawn to witness the sealing of the agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Trump and his allies hope the occasion will burnish Trump's credentials as a peacemaker at the height of his re-election campaign. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Emirati and Bahraini foreign ministers are to ink the deals before the crowd, which will include representatives of supporting nations from the Washington-based diplomatic corps but few other dignitaries from overseas. Some Congressional Democrats who have offered muted praise have been invited to attend.

In addition to the individual bilateral agreements signed by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, all three will sign a trilateral document, officials said. The agreements are dubbed the "Abraham Accords" after the patriarch of the world's three major monotheistic religions. Trump is expected to sign as a witness. — *AP*



Demonstrators, mask-clad due to the Covid-19 pandemic, hold Palestinian flags during a protest against the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain's decisions to normalise relations with Israel, in the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. Palestinians had in August accused Abu Dhabi of a "stab in the back", as the UAE became only the third Arab nation after Egypt and Jordan to announce it would have formal relations with Israel. — *AFP*

'NO PROBLEM' SELLING UAE ADVANCED F-35: TRUMP

Washington, Sept. 15: US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he would have "no problem" selling advanced F-35 warplanes to the United Arab Emirates, despite objections from close ally Israel.

"I personally would have no problem with it," he said on Fox News. "I would

have no problem in selling them the F-35." He said the sale would mean "tremendous jobs at home". The UAE is eyeing the stealth fighter jet as a component in its ambitious plans to make the small, wealthy country into a regional military power. Israel — currently the only country

in the region to possess the US warplanes — has pushed back, insisting on retaining its overwhelming technical advantage against its Arab neighbours. Analysts say that the UAE has used its demand for F-35s as a bargaining chip in agreeing to sign the Trump-brokered deal. — *AFP*

INDIA, U.S., INK DEFENCE TECH COOP STATEMENT

Washington, Sept. 15: India and the United States on Tuesday signed a statement of intent to strengthen the bilateral dialogue on defence technology co-operation. It was signed by Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, and Ellen Lord, US Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, during the 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting held virtually. Kumar and Lord co-chaired the meeting, during which the groups reported to the co-chairs on ongoing activities and collaborative opportunities, including a number of near-term projects.

The co-chairs signed a statement of intent (SOI) that declared "to strengthen our dialogue on defence technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects. — *PTI*

Lancaster (US), Sept. 15:

A police officer fatally shot a man with a knife after his sister said she called police to get him involuntarily committed, leading to street protests and vandalism in what the mayor of the small Pennsylvania city of Lancaster called a "heartbreaking day". Police posted the officer's body camera video on social media, showing the man chasing the officer down a sidewalk with a knife before he was fatally shot.

Police eventually used tear gas early Monday to disperse hundreds of protesters who took to the streets of the diverse city of 59,000 people in the heart of Pennsylvania Amish country following the shooting death of Ricardo Munoz on Sunday afternoon. Munoz, 27, was mentally ill — diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia — and hadn't been taking his medications, his sister said.

Rulennis Munoz, 33, said she had called a crisis intervention organisation and a police non-emergency number to get her brother involuntarily committed. "He had an episode. He was just incoherent and acting out," she said. "I called to find out what the procedure was to get him some help."

Authorities did not

Police shoot, kill knife-wielding man in Lancaster, set off protests

Police chief fired over Prude death

Rochester (US), Sept. 15: Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren fired the police chief and suspended her top lawyer and communications director Monday in the continuing upheaval over the suffocation death of Daniel Prude.

Chief LeRon Singletary announced his retirement last week as part of a major shakeup of the city's police leadership but said he would stay on through the end of the month. Instead, Warren said at a news conference that she had permanently relieved him while suspending Corporation Counsel Tim Curtin and Communications Director Justin Roj without pay for 30 days following a cursory man-

agement review of the city's role in Prude's death. "This initial look has shown what so many have suspected, that we have a pervasive problem in the Rochester Police Department," Warren said.

"One that views everything through the eyes of the badge and not the citizens we serve. It shows that Prude's death was not taken as seriously as it should have been by those who reviewed the case at every level."

Officers found Prude running naked down the street in March, handcuffed him, put a hood over his head, then held him down until he stopped breathing. He died a week later. — *AP*

immediately explain why an officer was dispatched, although Munoz was facing four counts of aggravated assault after he was accused last year of stabbing four people, including a 16-year-old boy in the face, following a fight. The body camera video posted by police late Sunday showed the officer fire several

shots while running away from Munoz, who then falls to the ground.

Protesters gathered outside the police station and, in video posted to social media, they chanted, "Hands up, don't shoot", "No justice, no peace" and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" — *AP*

FEDS PROBING IN-CUSTODY DEATH OF POC

Batan Rogue (US), Sept. 15: Federal authorities are investigating the death of a PoC during what Louisiana State Police described as a struggle to take him into custody following a rural police chase last year. The death of Ronald Greene, 49, remains shrouded in secrecy because State Police have declined to release body-camera footage related to the May 2019 chase north of Monroe, Louisiana. Troopers say it began when Greene failed to stop for an unspecified traffic violation.

Greene's death drew new attention after his family filed a wrongful death lawsuit this year alleging state troopers "brutalised" Greene and "left him beaten, bloodied and in cardiac arrest" before covering up his actual cause of death. Greene's family said authorities initially claimed Greene died after crashing into a tree but omitted what police now acknowledge was the "struggle" preceding his death. — *AP*

Leave waters, Indonesia to China

Jakarta, Sept. 15: An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

The Indonesian Maritime Security Agency said it detected Chinese ship 5204 entering Indonesia's exclusive economic zone in what Indonesia calls the North Natuna waters on Friday night. The agency sent a patrol ship that closed within a kilometre (0.6 mile) of the Chinese coast guard vessel and they communicated to affirm their position and their nation's claims to the area, said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency. "We asked them to

US BANS IMPORT OF 5 CHINESE GOODS PRODUCED USING 'FORCED LABOUR'

Washington, Sept. 15: The US has banned the import of five goods from China, including computer parts, cotton and hair products, alleging that they are produced in forced labour camps in the restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang province.

In a statement, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said the products subject to the import ban are cotton, apparel, computer parts, and hair products. The fifth ban is on all products made with labour from the Lop County Number 4 Vocational Skills Education and Training Centre in Xinjiang. — *PTI*

move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash-line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out," Kurnia said. He said he reported the incident to Indonesian government ministers.

"The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am," he said. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin indicated that China saw nothing wrong with the ship's actions and said the two countries are in

contact over "relevant maritime issues". "China's rights and interests in the relevant waters of the South China Sea are clear," Wang said at a daily briefing on Tuesday. "As far as I know, Chinese coast guard vessels have been performing normal patrols in the waters under China's jurisdiction." China's "nine-dash line" delineates its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. A 2016 international arbitration ruling involving the Philippines invalidated most of China's sweeping claims in the sea, but China has ignored the ruling and called it a sham. Indonesia does not have a territorial claim to the South China Sea, but a section of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone lies within China's "nine-dash line". — *AP*

IN BRIEF

SCOTLAND'S SEABED MAY DISAPPEAR

Edinburgh, Sept. 15: One of Scotland's most important marine ecosystems is at risk of almost vanishing if climate change continues at the current rate, scientists have warned.

New modelling shows the majority of maerl beds will disappear if action isn't taken to slow global warming.

The maerl beds form a spiky "carpet" on the seabed and are an important habitat for smaller marine plants and animals.

But rising sea temperatures are putting the reef-like beds at risk. Experts from the Lyell Centre in Edinburgh, a collaboration between Heriot-Watt University and the British Geological Survey, have modelled the impact on maerl beds of various climate change scenarios.

They found that even in the best-case option, where greenhouse gas emissions fell significantly, about 38% of Scotland's maerl beds would still be lost by 2100. In the worst case scenario, about 84% of our maerl beds would disappear by the end of this century. PhD student Cornelia Simon-Nutbrown, who led the research, said: "Maerl beds' survival depends on us making major changes to our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the beds from anthropogenic activities."

Although maerl beds are found all over the world, Scotland provides their European stronghold.

N HEMISPHERE SEES HOTTEST SUMMER

Tokyo, Sept. 15: This summer was the hottest ever recorded in the northern hemisphere, according to US government scientists. June, July and August were 1.17C (2.11F) above the 20th-century average, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa).

The new record surpassed the summers of 2016 and 2019. Last month was also the second-hottest August ever recorded for the globe.

The numbers put 2020 on track to be one of the five warmest years, according to Noaa.

United Nations officials have warned that many countries are not prepared to advance climate ambitions, while the US faces a presidential election that will decide whether it will contribute to such global efforts or hinder them.

With aggressive federal action, the US could cut its climate pollution almost in half by 2030 compared with 2005, according to the latest report from America's Pledge, a group of private- and public-sector leaders.

Even if Donald Trump wins re-election and largely ignores climate change, states, cities and businesses could still cut emissions by 37% by 2030, the report finds.

The climate crisis is increasingly moving into the spotlight in the US presidential race.

BY 2050, OVER ONE BN MAY BE DISPLACED

Ouagadougou, Sept. 15: More than 1 billion people face being displaced within 30 years as the climate crisis and rapid population growth drive an increase in migration with "huge impacts" for both the developing and developed worlds, according to an analysis.

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a thinktank that produces annual global terrorism and peace indexes, said 1.2 billion people lived in 31 countries that are not sufficiently resilient to withstand ecological threats.

Nineteen countries facing the highest number of threats, including water and food shortages and greater exposure to natural disasters, are also among the world's 40 least peaceful countries, the IEP's first ecological threat register found.

Many of the countries most at risk from ecological threats, including Nigeria, Angola, Burkina Faso and Uganda, are also predicted to experience significant population increases, the report noted.

"This will have huge social and political impacts, not just in the developing world, but also in the developed, as mass displacement will lead to larger refugee flows to the middle-developed countries," Steve Killelea, the institute's founder, said. "Ecological threats pose serious challenges to global peace. Over the next 30 years, lack of access to food and water will only increase without urgent global cooperation."

Race against wildfires in world's tropical wetlands

Biodiverse paradise with ecotourism industry is now reduced to ashes

Prto Jofre, Brasil, Sept. 15: The smell of burnt vegetation and the red glow of flames welcome visitors these days to the Pantanal, the world's biggest tropical wetlands — a biodiverse paradise that is now partly reduced to ashes by record wildfires. In the northern Pantanal, in central-western Brazil — a region that formerly had a thriving ecotourism industry — hotel employee Felipe Maia is hosing down a wooden bridge, hoping to stop the nearby flames from igniting it.

There are scores of wooden bridges like this over the streams crisscrossing the wetlands along the dirt highway across the Pantanal, the 150-kilometre (95-mile) "Transpantaneira". But amid the region's worst drought in 47 years, many streams have run dry, and the fires often set this time of year on farms and ranches to clear land have spiralled out of control.

"Every day we drive along the road, check which bridge is closest to catching fire and douse it in water," Maia told AFP after soaking the bridge, just metres (yards) from the flames.

The Pantanal sits at the southern edge of the Amazon rainforest, stretching from Brazil into Bolivia and Paraguay.

In normal times, it draws tourists from around the world with its lush landscapes and wildlife, including jaguars, jabiru storks, giant otters, caimans, toucans, macaws and monkeys. But this year, around 23,500 square kilometres (9,000 square miles) of the wetlands have gone up in smoke — nearly 12 percent of the Pantanal. There have been a record-shattering 14,764 fires in the Brazilian Pantanal this year, according to satellite data from Brazil's National Space Research Institute (INPE). In less than nine months, 2020 has already broken the annual record for the number of fires, according to INPE, with an increase of 214 percent from the same period last year.

"It's sad. Just when we thought tourism was about to bounce back from the Coronavirus pandemic, these fires have destroyed 10 to 15 percent of the Pantanal," said tour guide Roberto Carvalho Macedo, part of an informal brigade of firefighters, local residents, officials and hotel owners who have banded together to patrol the area's bridges day and night.

Fellow guide Eduarda Fernandes Amaral was travelling by boat up a river in Encontro das Aguas State Park, known as the home to the world's biggest jaguar population. She and a team of veterinarians and biologists were looking amid the charred remains of trees and shrubs for a jaguar that had reportedly been wounded in a fire.

"All the animals we've rescued so far have been in critical condition. Some of them have died, some are burnt all the way to the bone," she said. She set out drinking water and baskets of fruit for animals that survived the fires. They now risk dying of dehydration or starvation.

Asbury Park, Sept. 15: A man has drowned at the New Jersey shore in seas churned as Hurricane Paulette battered Bermuda.

Lavallette Mayor Walter LaCicero told the *Asbury Park Press* that the 60-year-old man and his 24-year-old son were swimming near the Vance Avenue beach on Monday when they had trouble in the rough surf. They were rescued, but the older man did not survive. Their names have not been released. Officials closed beaches in nearby Seaside Heights after making about four water rescues on Monday. Neighbouring Seaside Park reported five rescues in a 3-hour span.

The National Weather



A volunteer battles a blaze in a bid to protect a wooden bridge — one of 119 bridges on the "Transpantaneira", the dirt highway across the Pantanal.

PORTUGUESE WILDFIRE CLOSE TO END: OFFICIALS

Lisbon, Sept. 15: Portuguese authorities said Tuesday they are close to bringing under control a major wildfire, with just a handful of hot spots being targeted by water-dropping aircraft. Just over 1,000 fighters, more than 330 vehicles and eight aircraft were attending the blaze in thick woodland in central Portugal, some 200 kilometres (124 miles) north of Lisbon. Civil Protection Agency commander Luis Belo Costa said conditions were "very favourable". He told a news conference that around 90% of the fire's perimeter, stretching some 60 kilometres (37 miles), is under control.

— AP

It is impossible to estimate yet how many animals have died, but she said she fears the losses are enormous. "I hope this makes people open their eyes and understand that the biodiversity here is unique. We have to preserve it," she said.

The scenes in the Pantanal are reminiscent of the wildfires devastating the US West Coast. As with those fires, there is a complex web of factors driving the blazes. The main cause in the Pantanal is drought.

From January to May, the usual rainy season, the region received just half the precipitation it normally does. As a result, many areas that are usually flooded this time of year are dry.

Exacerbating the problem, ranchers are increasingly introducing non-native plants for pasture land, weakening the region's natural resistance to fire, experts say. Ecologists also blame funding and staffing cuts at Brazil's environmental protection agencies under far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who took office in January 2019.

— AFP



People gather next to firefighters extinguishing fire in an under-construction building in downtown Beirut near the city's port where an explosion last month killed nearly 200, wounded thousands and left the city's residents traumatised.

Firefighters put out new blaze in Lebanon capital

Beirut, Sept. 15: Firefighters in Lebanon's capital said Tuesday they put out a fire at a building under construction, in what was the third blaze to hit the city since a massive explosion at the port.

The building, located about 1.5 kilometres (0.9 miles) away from the city's port in central Beirut, was designed by the renowned late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid.

Footage shared on social media showed black clouds of smoke billowing off of bright red flames that climbed up the side of the curvaceous building with latticed covering.

AFP reporters at the scene saw firefighters use a crane to aim water hoses at its smouldering facade.

"What was on fire was the insulation that separates the outside from the inside" of the building, a civil defence officer said.

"We were able in the fastest time possible to control" the blaze, he said.

FOOTAGE SHARED on social media showed black clouds of smoke billowing off of bright red flames that climbed up the side of the curvaceous building with latticed covering.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire.

The August 4 explosion at the port, one of the world's largest non-nuclear blasts ever, killed 190 people, wounded thousands and ravaged building windows and doors in large parts of the city.

It was followed by a small fire on Tuesday last week at the port and another huge fire on Thursday at a port warehouse where food aid was stored.

Both the explosion and port fires have revived popular outrage against a political class accused of being inept, corrupt and unable to ensure public safety.

Preliminary government findings said sparks from a power saw could have caused Thursday's blaze, echoing a theory that welding was also behind the August 4 explosion.

On Tuesday, local social media users speculated the cause of the new fire could also be welding.

Theatre director Yahya Jaber on Facebook expressed alarm at what he described as "Beirut's pre-imagined, pre-designed and pre-welded assassination".

Hadid, who died in 2016 at age 65, was famed for her architectural works of sweeping curves in countries around the world.

She was the first woman to win the prestigious Pritzker Prize for architecture, and best known for her designs for the Guangzhou Opera House in China and the aquatics centre used in the 2012 London Olympics.

— AFP

Biden: US to rejoin Paris Agreement if I am elected Prez

Washington, Sept. 15: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged to rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, if elected to power in the November presidential election, and set new standards towards reducing carbon emissions. Claiming that the 2015 Paris climate deal puts an "unfair economic burden" on Americans, President Donald Trump's administration notified the United Nations in November last year that the US would withdraw from the agreement.

The notification begins a one-year process of exiting the global climate change accord, culminating the day after the 2020 US election on November 3. "While he (President Donald Trump) turned against our allies, I'll bring us back into the Paris Agreement. I will put us back in the business of leading the world on climate change and I will challenge every other country to up the ante on climate commitments," Biden said in a major policy speech on climate change.

"Where he reverses the Obama-Biden fuel efficiency standards, he picks big oil. He picks in big oil companies over American workers, even when the automobile industry agreed," he said in his address from Delaware. Biden is challenging Trump, a Republican, in the November 3 US presidential election. Trump, who has made withdrawing from the climate agreement one of his election campaign pledges, has said the deal "punished" the US and would cost millions of American jobs.

However, Trump has also indicated he was

TRUMP, BIDEN ADDRESS ISSUES OF CLIMATE DIFFERENTLY

Washington, Sept. 15: US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden presented a different pathway to address the issue of climate change, amidst the devastating wildfires that have engulfed parts of California. Travelling to the region, Trump asserted on Monday he does not think that science knows actually.

Biden accused the president in a policy address in Delaware of being a climate arsonist. "Well, I don't think science knows actually" Trump told California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot during a briefing with State Gavin Newsom and other officials to get an update on the efforts to combat the devastating wildfires.

Biden slammed Trump on his policy on climate change. "If you give a climate arsonist four more years in the White House, why would anyone be surprised if we have more of America ablaze?" Biden, 77, said as he hammered Trump for allegedly ignoring science.

— PTI

open to another climate deal "on terms that are fair to the United States". The Paris accord committed the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures below 2C above pre-industrial levels.

— PTI

World fails to stop nature's destruction

United Nations, Sept. 15: The world has failed to meet a single target to stem the destruction of wildlife and life-sustaining ecosystems in the last decade, according to a devastating new report from the UN on the state of nature. From tackling pollution to protecting coral reefs, the international community did not fully achieve any of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets agreed in Japan in 2010 to slow the loss of the natural world. It is the second consecutive decade that governments have failed to meet targets, said *The Guardian*.

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, published before a key UN summit on the issue later this month, found that despite progress in some areas, natural habitats have continued to disappear, vast numbers of species remain threatened by extinction from human activities, and \$500bn (£388bn) of environmentally damaging government subsidies have not been eliminated.

Six targets have been partially achieved, including those on protected areas and invasive species. While governments did not manage to protect 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine habitats, 44% of vital biodiversity

areas are now under protection, an increase from 29% in 2000. About 200 successful eradication of invasive species on islands have also taken place.

The UN said the natural world was deteriorating and failure to act could undermine the goals of the Paris agreement on the climate crisis and the sustainable development goals. The UN's biodiversity chief, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, said humanity was at a crossroads that would decide how future generations experience the natural world.

"Earth's living systems as a whole are being compromised. And the more humanity exploits nature in unsustainable ways and undermines its contributions to people, the more we undermine our own wellbeing, security and prosperity," she said.

The report is the third in a week to highlight the devastating state of the planet. The WWF and Zoological Society of London (ZSL)'s Living Planet Report 2020 said global wildlife populations were in freefall, plunging by two-thirds, because of human overconsumption, population growth and intensive agriculture. On Monday, the RSPB said the UK had failed to reach 17 of the Aichi targets.

— Agencies

Flooding from Hurricane Sally, a death in Paulette's wake



This photo provided by Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier shows cars stranded in the sand, as flooding continues in Tonty Court on Dauphin Island, Alabama, as Sally closes in on the Gulf Coast.

— AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,044.35	0.74
Nifty 50	11,521.80	0.71
S&P 500*	3,415.34	0.94
Dollar (₹)	73.64	-0.21
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.97	-0.56
Euro (₹)	87.52	-0.39
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	53,019.422	0.70
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.16	0.55
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.029	-0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.679	0.010

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Gujarat okays Lol for first CNG terminal

The Gujarat government approved a letter of intent (LoI) for the world's first CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port with a an investment of Rs 1,900 crore, an official statement said. The LoI was approved by chief minister Vijay Rupani, it said. The project will be developed jointly by UK-headquartered Foresight Group, Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group and a Netherland-based consortium.

IndiGo, GoAir told to fly with altered PW engines



Aviation regulator DGCA has asked IndiGo and GoAir to fly only aircraft that have modified Pratt and Whitney engines on them, civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. The PW engine-powered A320 neo planes in IndiGo and GoAir fleets have been facing glitches since 2016. Puri said IndiGo has 134 A320neo and A321neo and have modified PW engines on them. He said GoAir has 46 A320neo and 30 are modified.

Aurobindo ties up with Birac to develop vaccine

Aurobindo Pharma announced collaboration with the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (Birac), set up by the Department of Biotechnology, for developing a Covid-19 vaccine. Birac has facilitated setting up of 'the r-VSV vaccine' manufacturing platform for the first time in India by supporting Aurobindo Pharma's Covid-19 vaccine development, the company said.

Sugar mills owe nearly ₹13,000 cr to cane farmers

Sugar mills owed nearly Rs 13,000 crore to cane farmers as on Sept. 11 for the crop procured during 2019-20 marketing season that started October last year. "Out of total cane dues payable of Rs 75,585 crore for sugar season 2019-20 as on September 11, 2020, about Rs 62,591 crore have been paid to the sugarcane farmers & only Rs 12,994 crore cane dues are yet to be paid," minister D.R. Dadarao said in the Lok Sabha.

Printed & Published by **K. Sudhakar** on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: **T.Venkatram Reddy**, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

■ 'We won't exit India, but we won't scale up' Toyota says won't expand in India, blames high taxes

ANURAG KOTOKY
SEPT. 15

Toyota Motor Corp. won't expand further in India due to the country's high tax regime, a blow for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who's trying to lure global companies to offset the deep economic malaise brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

India is planning to offer incentives worth \$23 billion to attract firms to set up manufacturing, people familiar with the matter said last week, including production-linked breaks for automakers. The country is the fourth-biggest car market in the world but international players have struggled to find a niche in a sector that's dominated by cheap, fossil fuelled vehicles.

The government keeps taxes on cars and motorbikes so high that companies find it hard to build scale, said Shekar Viswanathan, vice-chairman of Toyota's local unit, Toyota Kirloskar Motor. The high levies also put owning a car out of reach for many consumers, meaning factories are idled and jobs aren't created, he said.

"The message we are getting, after we have come here and invested money, is that we don't want you," Viswanathan said in an interview. In the absence of any reforms, "we won't exit India, but we won't scale up."

Toyota, one of the world's biggest carmakers, began operating in India in 1997. Its local unit is owned 89

Market India always has to precede Factory India, and this is something the politicians and bureaucrats don't understand"



Shekar Viswanathan, vice-chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor

The message we are getting, after we have come here and invested money, is that we don't want you...You'd think the auto sector is making drugs or liquor"

per cent by the Japanese company and has a small market share -just 2.6 per cent in August versus almost 5 per cent a year earlier, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations data show.

In India, motor vehicles, including cars, two-wheelers and sports utility vehicles, attract taxes as high as 28 per cent. On top of that there can be additional levies, ranging from 1 per cent to as much as 22 per cent, based on a car's type, length or engine size. The tax on a four-metre long SUV with an engine capacity of more than 1500 cc works out to be as high as 50 per cent.

The additional levies are typically imposed on what are considered to be "luxury" goods.

General Motors Co quit the market in 2017 while Ford Motor Co agreed last year to move most of its assets in India into a joint venture with Mahindra &

Mahindra after struggling for more than two decades to win over buyers. That effectively ended independent operations in a country Ford had once said it wanted to be one of its top three markets by 2020.

Such punitive taxes discourage foreign investment, erode automakers' margins and make the cost of launching new products "prohibitive," Viswanathan said. "You'd think the auto sector is making drugs or liquor," he said.

Toyota, which also has an alliance with Suzuki Motor Corp to sell some of Suzuki's compact cars under its own brand, is utilising just about 20 per cent of its capacity in a second plant in India.

Taxes on electric vehicles, currently 5 per cent, will probably also go up once sales increase, Viswanathan said, referring to what he says has become a pattern with suc-

cessive governments.

While discussions are ongoing between ministries for a reduction in taxes, there may not any immediate agreement on an actual cut, heavy industries minister Prakash Javadekar said this month.

Automobile sales in India were weathering a slump before the pandemic, with at least half a million jobs lost. A lobby group has predicted it may take four years for sales to return to pre-slowdown levels.

The biggest players are the local units of Suzuki and Hyundai Motor Co., which have cornered the market for compact, affordable cars. Maruti and Hyundai have a combined share of almost 70 per cent.

Toyota in India has largely pivoted toward hybrid vehicles, which attract taxes of as much as 43 per cent because they aren't purely electric.

But in a nation where few can even afford a car, EVs or their hybrid cousins have yet to gain much acceptance. Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla, has said import duties would make his vehicles unaffordable in India.

"Market India always has to precede Factory India, and this is something the politicians and bureaucrats don't understand," he said. India needs to have demand for a product before asking firms to set up shop, yet "at the slightest sign of a product doing well, they slap it with a higher and higher tax rate," he said.—Bloomberg

E-com, logistic firms kick off festive season hiring

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 15

Having waited a little longer to assess the festive season demand, e-commerce and logistics firms have started framing their season's hiring plans. After Ecom Express, Flipkart has on Tuesday made a big announcement of helping generate over 70,000 direct and lakhs of indirect seasonal jobs.

Flipkart will be creating direct job opportunities, including delivery executives, pickers, packers and sorters, across its supply chain. Further, there will also be additional indirect jobs created at Flipkart's seller partner locations and kiranas.

The on-boarding of more than 50,000 kiranas by Flipkart for last-mile delivery will also create thousands of seasonal jobs to deliver millions of packages this season.

"By generating employment and enabling our sellers to scale their businesses during this time, we're doing our part to drive growth in the industry and the economy," said Amitesh Jha, senior vice-president, ekart and marketplace, Flipkart.

Flipkart is undertaking training programmes for its direct hires in various aspects of the supply chain through a mix of classroom and digital training. For lakhs of seller partners, MSMEs and artisans, Flipkart provides separate training in warehouse management and packaging.

On Monday, logistics firm Ecom Express had



said that it will be hiring over 30,000 people as part of its seasonal recruitment exercise for its hubs and delivery centres, among others, to meet the festive season demand. These seasonal positions have been created across the country with 75 per cent of the total hiring for beyond metros as well as cities including, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Indore, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhopal and Jaipur.

During the lockdown in May, Amazon had announced plans to open 70,000 seasonal jobs. "We will continue to create thousands of additional opportunities across the network to support customer demand across the country this upcoming festive season," Amazon said. The e-com giant had created 90,000 jobs in the 2019 festive season.

Snapdeal would rely on third-party logistics partners to meet the seasonal delivery needs. "We are working in close coordination with our third-party logistics partners to prepare for the surge in festive orders. Our partners are in the process of augmenting their deliv-

ery capability through additional hiring and expansion of their delivery fleet to ensure time-bound pick-up and delivery of our shipments," said a Snapdeal spokesperson.

According to the Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), logistics and e-commerce are the sectors still hiring in the Covid-19 hit festive season. "There has been a shift in consumerism to the digital platform from physical stores due to the pandemic. This shift will help e-commerce sales this festive season despite an overall subdued demand. However, the e-commerce firms have been waiting to see how Unlock India has been helping the demand situation. Usually, festive season hiring plans are finalised a quarter before the season itself. This time, it got delayed," said Suchita Dutta, executive director, Indian Staffing Federation.

As per ISF data, in the second half of 2018, different sectors had hired around two lakh people for temp jobs. In 2019, despite the gloom in the economy, hiring had seen a 10 to 15 per cent growth.

US tariffs on China illegal: WTO

JAMEY KEATEN
GENEVA, SEPT. 15

The World Trade Organization said on Tuesday that Trump administration tariffs on Chinese goods totalling more than \$200 billion are illegal under the rules of the global trade body.

The decision marks the first time the Geneva-based trade body has ruled against a series of tariffs that President Donald Trump's government has imposed on a number of countries,

allies and rivals alike.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the WTO, which oversees international disputes on trade, for allegedly treating the US unfairly.

In its decision, the WTO ruled against the Trump administration's argument that China has engaged in practices harmful to US interests, on issues including intellectual property theft, technology transfer and innovation.

The ruling, in theory, would allow China to

impose retaliatory tariffs on billions worth of US goods—if the process is completed. But the US government can appeal the decision announced by the WTO's dispute settlement body, and the WTO's appeals court is no longer functioning—largely because of Washington's refusal to accept new members for it.

The US tariffs target two batches of Chinese products. Duties of 10 per cent were imposed on some \$200 billion worth of goods in September 2018,

and were jacked up to 25 per cent eight months later. An additional 25 per cent duties were imposed in June 2018 against Chinese goods worth \$34 billion in annual trade.

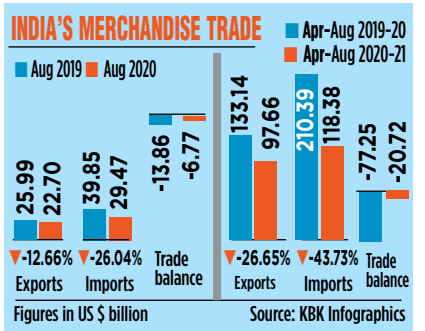
The WTO panel ruled that the US measures violated long-standing international trade rules as they only applied to products from China, and that the US had not substantiated its claim that the Chinese products hit with the extra duties had benefited from unfair Chinese practices. —AP

Merchandise exports decline 12.6% in August

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 15

Merchandise exports continued to decline for the sixth month in August. While exports were down 12.6 per cent, imports fell by 26 per cent year-on-year. On a sequential basis, the trade deficit further widened in August, making the surplus in June a one-off event.

In August, merchandise exports stood at \$22.70 billion compared to \$25.99 billion a year ago, a negative growth of 12.66 per cent. In rupee terms, the negative growth was 8.33 per cent. Gems and jewellery, petroleum products, man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups, marine products and leather continued to see decline in ship-



ments. The growth in shipments of rice, other cereals, iron ore, oil meals, oil seeds and drugs & pharma did not help much.

Volatility in markets natural: WFE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, SEPT. 15

World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses, has issued guidance on fair and orderly markets at a time when global markets are witnessing a high degree of volatility due to the pandemic impact.

"There has been a marked increase in retail participation in some countries, in both securities and derivatives. This has made it especially important to have a fair, transparent price-formation process," the WFE said.

"This year has seen a diminished global eco-

nomie outlook due to Covid-19, along with a series of actions by authorities that are unprecedented in modern times: restrictions on commerce and movement alongside trillions of dollars of fiscal and monetary stimulus. In such an environment, characterised by profound uncertainty and a fast-changing policy environment, volatility in the prices of financial assets is to be expected," the federation said.

A well-functioning exchange is one that facilitates continuous trading in securities and derivatives, and which provides for the transfer of risk and maximises the incorporation of new information in the value of financial instru-



ments, WFE said.

The purpose of these markets remains to serve the real economy—to raise capital for businesses, to facilitate the investment of savings, and to transfer risk to the parties willing and able to bear it.

Market infrastructures –

exchanges, central counterparties and central securities depositories—are amongst the critical elements of the financial system which must in principle remain open. For this reason, they have well-developed business continuity plans, which were executed.

As in past crises, any extraordinary closure has been as strictly limited as possible. After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, for example, the New York Stock Exchange was closed for six days, as IT infrastructure connecting into the market that had been damaged was repaired.

"Under their successful business continuity plans (including remote working), market infrastruc-

tures have been operating their business robustly as usual, with record volumes of trading. In a small number of jurisdictions, the government or regulator did put in place certain restrictions on trading as a result of Covid-19, for reasons of social distancing," WFE said.

Under no circumstances should restrictions on trading be invoked because a set of participants is concerned about the movement of asset prices, whatever the direction of that movement, the WFE said.

"Falling (or, rapidly rising and falling) asset prices do not imply a lack of integrity in the market on which those assets are traded," it said.

Home prices across India fall 2.3% in first half

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 15

A 2.3 per cent drop in residential prices in the first half of 2020 pulled down India by 11 spots to 54th position in the Global House Price Index of Knight Frank.

Home prices have been coming down in the last one year. As on Q2 2020, prices declined by 1.9 per cent for the 12-month period. For the six-month period of Q1 and Q2 of 2020, prices were down 2.3 per cent compared to the same period last year. In Q2, prices were down by 1.6 per cent.

This saw India moving down 11 spots from 43rd position to 54th position among 56 countries and territories tracked by Knight Frank India.

"The residential sector has been impacted by low demand across most markets in India. Further, the slowdown due to the pandemic in the global economy has adversely affected the real estate sector and the purchasing power of homebuyers. Whilst a lot will depend on when the economy opens up completely, the current softening of prices can be beneficial for the end users to make their purchase decisions. Further, lower home loan interest rate, can provide the right motivation for house purchase," said Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India. Reduction of stamp duty by some states too will force the fence-sitters to make the jump.

The Global House Price Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories using official statistics. In the 12-month period between Q2 2019 and Q2 2020, Turkey led the annual rankings with prices up 25.7 per cent, followed by Luxembourg at 13.9 per cent YoY.

SHORT TAKES

Messi in sporting billionaires club

Paris: Lionel Messi may have had to stay put at Barcelona but the Argentine legend did succeed in joining one new club this year — the one reserved for sporting billionaires, according to *Forbes* magazine. The Argentine striker's career earnings of over one billion dollars (840 million euros) places the six-time *Ballon d'Or* winner in a group of mega-wealthy sports figures containing just Tiger Woods, Floyd Mayweather and his great rival on the pitch, Cristiano Ronaldo. *Forbes* said that in 2020 Messi was the best paid footballer in the world with an income of \$126 million from his Barca salary (\$92 million for the 2020/2021 season) and \$34 million from sponsors and other sources.

The 33-year-old knocked Juventus forward Ronaldo (\$117 million) off the top of the football salary chart with Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar (\$96 million) in third place. — *AFP*

French Open wild card for Murray

Paris: Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open. The former No.1 was the only non-Frenchman of eight players to be given a free pass into the main draw of the clay Grand Slam which starts in 13 days. Murray was also awarded a wild card into the US Open, after his struggles with pelvic and shin injuries dropped his ranking to 129th. He went two rounds in New York, and improved to 110th, but still too low for the French Open when it published its main draw entry list. Murray's best French Open result was the final in 2016. Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria and Eugenie Bouchard of Canada were the only non-Frenchwomen to receive wild cards.

Pironkova, who made the US Open her first comeback tournament since 2017 after having a son, achieved an impressive first-time run to the quarterfinals, where she was stopped by Serena Williams. — *AP*

156 Tour riders pass virus test

La Tour-Du-Pin, France: The remaining 156 Tour de France riders were authorised to keep racing on Tuesday after the latest coronavirus tests. All 785 tests on Sunday and Monday of riders and staff members of the 22 teams returned negative, Tour organizers and cycling governing body the UCI announced before Stage 16 in the Alps.

No rider has tested positive since the race started on Aug. 29 in Nice. The latest screening around the race's second rest day was the fourth since the beginning of the Tour, and the last one before the peloton reaches the Champs Elysees on Sunday.

At risk of being cancelled because of the pandemic, the Tour was delayed from its traditional July date to the end of the summer and is being run amid strict health protocols. Anyone who tests positive has to leave the race which affected race director Christian Prudhomme last week and any team with two or more positive tests within seven days also has to abandon. — *AP*

Covid-19 made Manpreet stronger

Bengaluru: India hockey skipper Manpreet Singh says going through a stressful isolation period while recovery from coronavirus has made him a mentally strong player who is now equipped to tackle any situation on the field. Manpreet was one of the six hockey players to test positive for Covid-19 at the team's training base in Bengaluru last month after they arrived for the national camp. Having started their individual sessions after recovering, Manpreet said they still miss being part of the rest of the squad, even though Hockey India, Sports Authority of India and support staffs are doing their best to keep them upbeat. "Hockey India officials would check on us almost every day if the food being provided is good, if our tele-treatment was done regularly, if we are monitoring our oxygen levels regularly and so on," he said. — *PTI*

Live on TV

CRICKET

England vs Australia 3rd ODI from 5.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

FORECAST SUNNY

SRH among top-4 likely contenders for play-off spot

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Armed with a lethal top-order and a solid spin attack, Sunrisers Hyderabad as usual are an epitome of a balanced T20 side which will again be among the top four likely contenders for a play-off spot in this year's Indian Premier League.

Not exactly as high-profile as Mumbai Indians or a Chennai Super Kings, the low-key presence armed with a solid core coaching group comprising Trevor Bayliss (KKR's IPL winning former coach), V.V.S. Laxman and Muthiah Muralitharan, which has done remarkably well to identify their core strengths.

Best part is all three have been in dug-outs of successful IPL outfits and have that been there and done that aura about them.

In David Warner, who is back as captain for this season, the franchise has an inspirational leader and a superb batsman, who would like to lead from the front.

The southpaw led Sunrisers to a title triumph in 2016 and has made the tournament his own, winning the 'Orange Cap' thrice.

Last season, alongside Jonny Bairstow, Warner shattered multiple records including the highest opening partnership in IPL history. The duo single-handedly led Sunrisers to the knock-out stage.

The Australian was the leading run-getter, amassing 692 runs in 12 matches, with eight half-centuries and a ton. While Bairstow scored 445 runs in 10 games, notching up two fifties and a century.

This year again, the pair will be expected to do the heavy lifting with the bat, while senior India pacer Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and the Afghanistan T20 captain Rashid Khan will be manning the bowling resources. Siddarth Kaul and Shahbaz Nadeem are potent Indian bowling options while Billy Stanlake can crank it up considerably.

Sunrisers' blind spot in the lack of depth in their batting order. The team will rely on Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson to provide direction provided Warner and Bairstow fail to click as a pair. — *PTI*

Chelsea off to bright start

Brighton, Sept. 15: Frank Lampard believes Chelsea are already showing the benefits of his £200 million (\$257 million) spending spree as they kicked off their Premier League campaign with a 3-1 win at Brighton on Monday.

Blues boss Lampard has splashed out on a host of new signings and the early returns on his lavish investment were promising. Germany striker Timo Werner, a £53 million recruit from Leipzig, won the penalty that Jorginho converted to put Chelsea ahead.

Kai Havertz, who made a £70 million switch from Bayer Leverkusen, wasn't quite so impactful, but Lampard will be confident there are better days to come from the young Germany forward.

"Timo's speed to win the penalty showed he is sharp and he was a threat all night. He is very mobile and I liked his performance," Lampard said, adding, "With Kai we saw a lot as well. To get these minutes will only be good and both of them will be huge players for this club."

Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga was guilty of another mistake when Leandro Trossard equalised for Brighton.

But Reece James' superb strike put Chelsea back in front before Kurt Zouma's deflected effort sealed the points.

It was an encouraging result for Lampard, who has accepted he is under pressure to deliver a title



Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Bhuvaneshwar Kumar (left) interacts with teammate T. Natarajan during a practice session in this file photo.

Players want quarantine reduced

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Australia and England's IPL-bound stars, who are supposed to undergo a six-day quarantine after arriving in the UAE, have requested the BCCI to reduce the duration to three days to ensure their availability from the start of the tournament.

Around 21 players, currently part of an England-Australia white-ball series, will be boarding a chartered flight from Manchester to Dubai, touching base on September 17. They can only be available from September 23, while tournament gets underway

Desperate to not miss a single game, a big-hitting star has requested BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, on behalf of the players from both countries, to lessen the quarantine period to three days.

Ganguly, who is in the UAE along with other officers to oversee the tournament's preparations, wasn't available for a comment but a senior IPL source admitted that a plea has been made. "Yes, the BCCI president has received a request. It may have been written by one of the players but it is something that all the English and Australian players, who are coming from the UK, feel," a senior IPL source said on conditions of anonymity.

The players feel that since they are already in a bio-bubble — first in Australia and then in UK — it's only logical that "they be allowed to enter from one bio-bubble to another" as they haven't been in contact with the outside world. "If you go through safety bubble that the ECB created, not even housekeeping was allowed in the rooms of the players. Also they are taking a chartered flight and not a commercial one. So they do have a point when they talk about entering from one bio-bubble to another," the source said. — *PTI*

FORMER INDIA PLAYER PATIL PASSES AWAY

Mumbai, Sept. 15: Former India player Sadashiv Raoji Patil, who represented the country in one Test match, died at his residence in Kolhapur on Tuesday.

He was 86 and is survived by wife and two daughters.

"He died in his sleep in the wee hours on Tuesday at his residence in Ruikar Colony in Kolhapur," Ramesh Kadam, a former office bearer of Kolhapur District Cricket Association, said.

BCCI mourned the death of Patil and recollected his cricketing journey, largely restricted to domestic cricket.

"Patil, a medium-pacer, had made an instant impact on his first-class debut for Maharashtra in the 1952-53 season. Playing against Mumbai, he bowled unchanged to skittle the domestic champions for 112 after Maharashtra were bowled out for a mere 167," BCCI said.

"In the 2nd innings, he took three wickets for 68 as Maharashtra secured a 19-run win. He earned the prized India Test cap (No. 79) when he made his debut at the Brabourne Stadium against the visiting New Zealand team in 1955 under the captaincy of Polly Umrigar."

Though he never played for India again, Patil continued to play for Maharashtra. — *PTI*

Thomas-Uber Cup postponed

New Delhi, Sept. 15: The Thomas and Uber Cup in Denmark was on Tuesday postponed to next year by the Badminton World Federation following a wave of withdrawals by top teams due to the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the prestigious event which was scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from October 3 to 11.

However, after Indonesia and South Korea on Friday joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to the dreaded disease, the sport's governing body held a virtual emergency council meeting on Sunday.

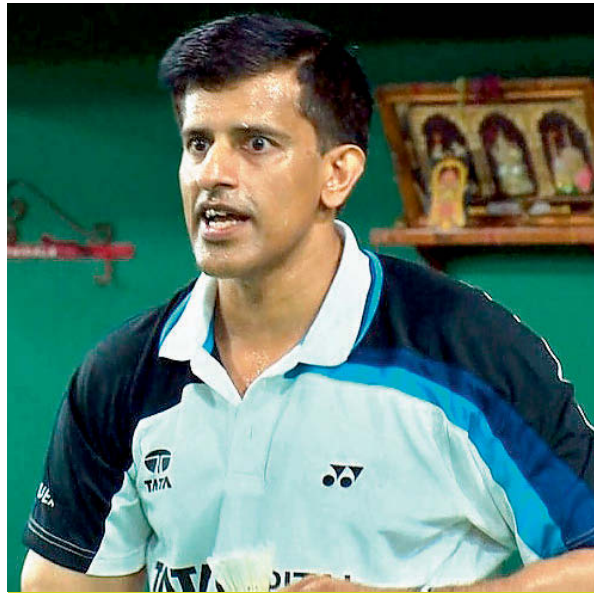
"The Badminton World Federation (BWF), in full consultation and agreement with local host Badminton Denmark, has made the tough decision to postpone the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus, Denmark," BWF said in a statement.

"The decision comes following the withdrawal of a number of participating teams from the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals and the European leg of the adjust-

ed HSBC BWF World Tour. "BWF is looking into possible alternative dates to reschedule the World Men's and Women's Team Championships, but on dates not before into 2021," it added.

BWF had tried to rope in Singapore and Hong Kong as replacements but they declined the invitation. There were also reports that Japan was contemplating withdrawing from the event, while China too was awaiting government's approval. September 18 was the last date for confirmation.

Among top players, India's Saina Nehwal had raised concerns about the timing of the event, asking whether it would be safe to go ahead with it in the middle of the pandemic. — *PTI*



Former India badminton coach Vimal Kumar.

Vimal blames it on teams from Asia

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Former India badminton coach Vimal Kumar on Tuesday blamed the withdrawals by Asian nations for the postponement of the Thomas and Uber Cup Final, calling it a "big setback" for the sport.

"What Asian nations have done, it is really disappointing. There are no major issues in these countries, they are having local events there, so to pull out in this way, is a big setback for the sport."

— **VIMAL KUMAR** badminton coach

What Asian nations have done, it is really disappointing. There are no major issues in these countries, they are having local events there, so to pull out in this way, is a big setback for the sport.

— **VIMAL KUMAR** badminton coach

the event to next year.

Vimal said: "It was an ideal way to revive the circuit. The platform was there. We are not as big as China but India stood positive, we wanted to participate but if big countries don't play, what can BWF do? How will they conduct events? I'll blame the Asian nation for this mess."

The international body, though, decided to proceed with the Denmark Open in Odense as originally planned from October 13-18, while cancelling the Denmark Masters that was slated for October 20 to 25. — *PTI*

SAI UPGRADES COVID-19 SOP TO TACKLE THREAT

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Athletes who get the nod to train at the restarted national camps will have to undergo 15-day self-isolation before joining in, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) announced on Tuesday, "upgrading" the Standard Operating Procedure to tackle the Covid-19 threat at its facilities.

A six-member committee, headed by SAI secretary Rohit Bharadwaj, had in May formulated the original SOP for resumption of sporting activities across the country. National camps have resumed for boxing, athletics, and badminton among others after over five months of a shutdown.

"The (upgraded) SOP is in continuation of the SOP released by SAI earlier, and includes procedural changes with regard to new trainees joining the training camps," a SAI statement read. The upgraded SOP will apply to the ones who will join now or for the camps which will begin later. — *PTI*

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.

RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha