DECCAN nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 30 AUGUST 2020

Max: 31.6°C Min: 23.1°C RH: 62%

Rainfall: 2.6 mm Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min



DEATHS (+950)(+76,140)

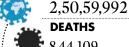
35,35,435 63,641 covid19india.org

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TS: 1,20,166 808 (+10,548)(+82)

AP: 4,14,164 3,796

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers.info/ coronavirus

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Bhadrapada Shuddha Dwadasi till 8.22 am Star: Uttarashada till 1.53 pm Varjyam: 6.05 pm to 7.46 pm Durmuhurtam: 4.49 pm to Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR Muharram 10, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.00 am **Zohar:** 12.27 pm

Asar: 4.39 pm

Maghrib: 6.38 pm Isha: 7.46 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.02 AM**

MOONRISE TODAY 4.44 PM **MOONSET TOMORROW 3.15 AM**



The car will suit **Indian conditions**

IN BRIEF **RIL buys Future** for ₹24,713 crore

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries on Saturday announced the acquisition of Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore to bolster its fast growing retail business. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, will acquire the retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group as going concerns on a slump sale basis for lumpsum aggregate consideration of ₹24,713 crore," the company said in a statement.

V.K.L. GAYATRI I DC VISAKHAPATNAM, AUG. 29

The police on Saturday arr-

ested seven persons including Madhu Priya, the wife

of Big Boss fame N. Nutan Naidu for beating up and

tonsuring a Dalit youth P. Srikanth, at their

A senior police officer said there was no evidence

of Nutan Naidu's involve-

ment and his name had

therefore not been included

"Investigation is on and if

his involvement is proved, his name will also be

in the crime diary.

house.



NATION 5

Ahead of polls, Nadda meets MPs from Bihar



WORLD 7 Trump calls Biden a

'low-IQ' individual

SPORTS 8 **Hamilton takes pole** position at Belgian GP



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GRIEVING RAINA LEAVES IPL, CSK CRISIS WORSENS

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR I DC CHENNAI, AUG. 29

There seems to be no end to Chennai Super Kings' IPL-13 misery. After Friday's Covid-19 shocker, the franchise suffered a double whammy on Saturday when senior batsman Suresh Raina pulled out of the tournament citing personal reasons, and another player

— Ruturaj Gaikwad — tested positive. With this, the team's Covid-19 tally stands at 13, forcing the organisers to put the league fixtures on hold.

Fast bowler Deepak Chahar had tested positive on Friday along with 11 others from the support staff and social media team. Raina, who returned to

India on Saturday morning, hasn't given any reasons for his IPL exit. However, speculation is rife that the recently retired international cricketer is grieving a family member who passed away unexpectedly. The sudden spurt of Čovid-19 cases in the CSK camp is believed to have added to his mental

Another report on

TIMS RUNS OUT OF OXYGEN, **SHIFTS PATIENTS**

BALU PULIPAKA I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

State health department officials scrambled late on Saturday night to shift some patients from the new Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) at Gachibowli Gandhi "urgent Hospital for additional care."

While the hospital authorities explained this was the reason for shifting of the patients, reports began swirling late on Saturday that TIMS was suffering from lack of oxygen supplies, and that was the reason why patients requiring to be on oxygen were shifted post-haste.

While health depart-ment officials refuted reports of oxygen shortage, TIMS director Dr Vimala Thomas said that the hospital had 120 oxygen cylinders as on

Saturday evening. A liquid oxygen tank has also been received at TIMS which was being installed, she said adding that the "few" patients were referred to Gandhi because they needed super specialty care. TIMS, a designated Covid-19 only hospital, however, did not say just how many patients suddenly took ill or what caused the sudden deterioration of health in these patients.

Tunnel from Pakistan



Border Security Force personnel stand near a tunnel, originating from Pakistan, beneath the Indo-Pak international border fence, in J&K's Samba district on Saturday. The force has launched a major search operation in the area to look for other such hidden structures that aid infiltration.

Cong writes to Facebook over its quid pro quo deal with BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 29

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack against the Centre over the BJP's alleged links with Facebook and WhatsApp.

"America's Time magazine exposes WhatsApp-BJP nexus: Used by 40 Cr Indians, WhatsApp also wants to be used for making payments for which Modi Govt's approval is needed. Thus, BJP has a hold over WhatsApp," he

tweeted. The article said Facebook failed to check hate speech, including some comments by BJP leaders that violated their protocols.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal has once again written a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, demanding a probe into the alleged "bias" and interference of the social media giant's India leadership team in the country's electoral democracy.
The BJP took a swipe at

the Opposition party saying any organisation that does not work to its liking is accused of acting under BJP-RSS pressure. The Congress leader said

that the party is "com-pelled to write again in a short span of time because of further information and revelations made public" through a new article in a media publication, which makes "three points that are alarming and violate both the spirit and the law of operations of foreign companies in India".

Mr Venugopal, citing the article in his letter, claimed the BJP was allowed to exercise control over WhatsApp's India operations in return for a possible licence for its payment operations, which is critical for the future of

the messaging app. A massive political row broke out after a recent report by the Wall Street Journal alleged that senior FB executives had opposed applying hate speech rules to posts by certain BJP leaders.

Teachers fight 22 yrs to get jobs

Selected in 1998 but failed to get appointment letters

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC

Teachers who were selected in 1998 are still fighting to get their jobs for the last 22 years. They hope against hope that Chief Minister K. Chand-rashekar Rao and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will resolve their issue before Teachers Day next The then government in

undivided AP had conducted a mega district selection committee (DSC) recruitment in 1998 for around 40,000 teacher vacancies. The results vacancies. The results were out in 1999 and around 5,000 candidates were notified as qualified. During the notification, the government had announced 50 marks as cut off for OC, 45 for BC and 40 for SC, ST and physically challenged candidates under GO No 221. Later, the qualifying

221. Later, the qualifying marks were revised as 45, 40 and 35 respectively under GO No 618 in view of non-availability of candidates under the reservation quotas. The government has prescribed 85 marks for the written test and 15 marks for the inter-

According to 1998 DSC Sadhana Samiti president K. Srinivas, the revision of cut-off marks triggered litigation with the involvement of school

• 98% CANDIDATES who were selected based on merit have not been appointed

UNDIVIDED AP government had conducted mega district selection committee (DSC) recruitment in 1998 for around 40,000 teacher vacancies.

education officers and certain politicians.

He said largescale irregularities took place in the selections in Nalgonda, Khammam, Karimnagar and Warangal districts and huge amounts of money changed hands, which resulted in merit candidates being shunted

Since the time the results were out in 1999, till date, 98 per cent of the candidates who were selected based on merit have not been appointed.

The merit candidates approached the then AP Administrative Tribunal which ruled in their favour on December 4, 2009. When the government did not act on the order, they moved the High Court.

A division bench of the High Court in November 2011 directed the government to give postings to

■ Page 4: Candidates died waiting for jobs

Unlock 4 permits

DC CORRESPONDENT

Though the Union home ministry on

Metro Rail to run ty, an official said.

with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, NEW DELHI,

It may take a day or two before a decision is announced on resumption of Metro Rail services in Hyderabad.

Saturday announced that Metro Rail services could be resumed from Septe-mber 7, as part of Unlock 4.0, it was learnt that a decision on when these trains will begin running again in the city will be taken after a review by the state government. Any decision will be taken only after weighing the pros and cons and the the Covid-19 situation in the city. The first priority is safe-

Before the outbreak of Covid-19, the Hyderabad Metro Rail services were transporting on an average 4,90,000 people per day. Delhi Metro, which intends to start services on September 7, has planned on limiting the number of people in lifts and longer halting time for trains to allow

physical distancing. In its Unlock 4 guidelines, the Union home ministry said political, social and religious congregations of up to 100 people will be permitted from September 21. Unlock 4 will come into effect from September and will continue till

Page 4: Schools,

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tonsured in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Police releases the CCTV footage of the Dalit victim being

DALIT I TONSURED Victim was called to enquire about stolen mobile

Telugu Big Boss' wife arrested

included," he said. It was reported that Srikanth had

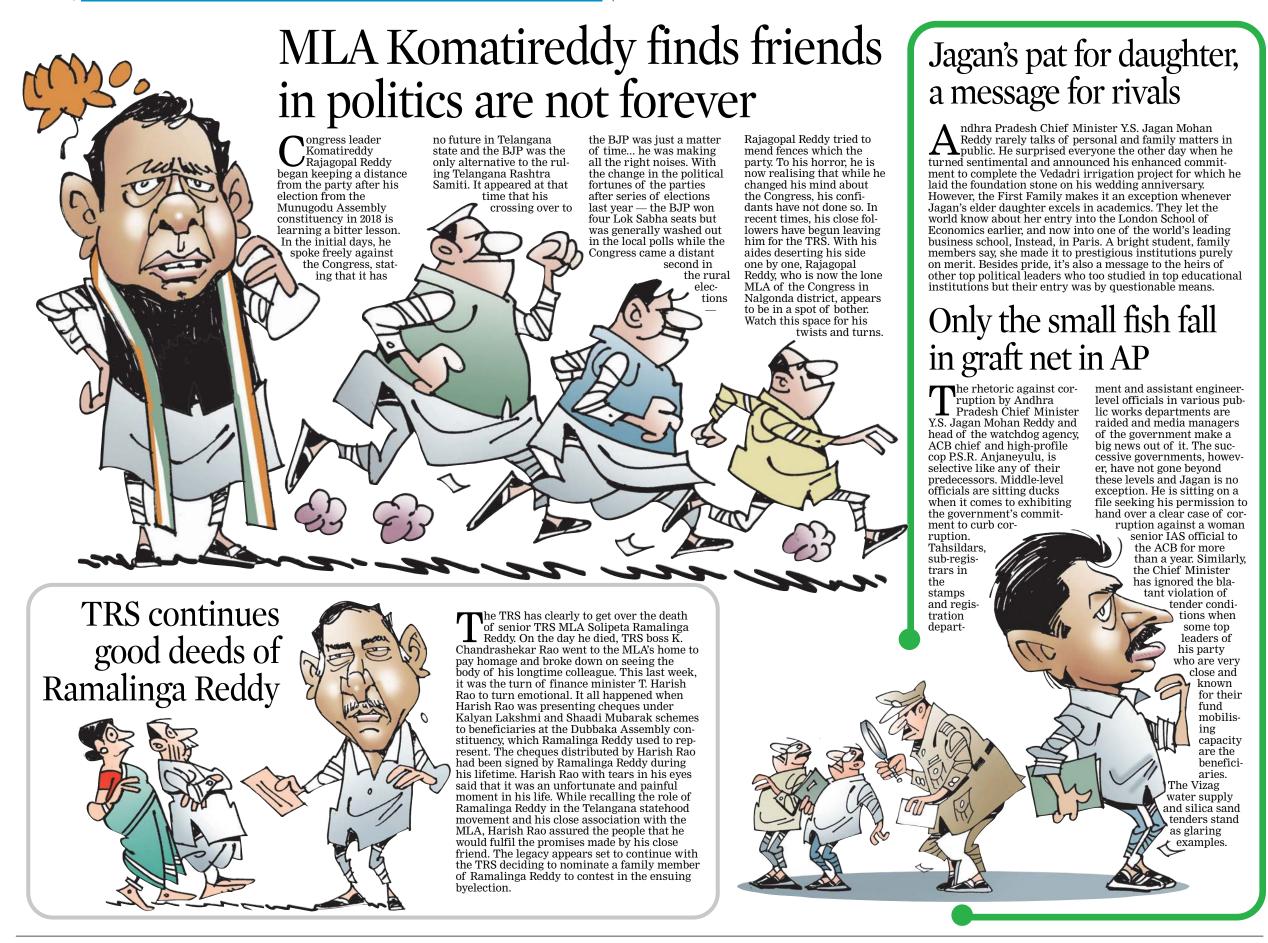
He was called to Nutan Naidu's home to ostensibly discuss the theft of a cellphone. When he reached there, he was restrained and tonsured.

Pictures of Srikanth with a bleeding injury on the scalp was uploaded on social media. Visakhapatnam

commissioner Manish Kumar Sinha released Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) footage of the incident at Nutan Naidu's house. The CCTV footage, however, had gone viral hours

after the incident on

Friday. ■ Page 4: Accused booked under SC/ST Act



President hails Bhanu Prakash

New Delhi, Aug. 29: President Ram Nath Kovind has congratulated Hyderabad's Neelkantha Bhanu Prakash for winning the 'world's fastest human calculator' title. In a letter to Prakash, Kovind said, "I am happy to learn that you have become the fastest human calculator in the world by winning gold medal in the Mental Calculation World Championship 2020 at Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO) in London.

NSUI CHIEF SHIFTED TO **PRIVATE HOSP**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

National Students Union of India (NSUI) Telangana president Venkat Balmoor was shifted to a private hospital after his health condition deteriorated on Saturday.

His indefinite hunger strike at Gandhi Bhavan entered the third day. He has been demanding postponement of NEET and JEE, and other examinations being held in the state.

According to NSUI leaders, his BP and sugar levels dropped and doctors attending on him recommended his immediate shifting to a hospi-

tal for observation. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MLA D. Sridhar Babu and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao visited the Gandhi Bhavan and persuaded the student leader to

call off his fast. Police prevented NSUI students when they tried to take out a 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' protest rally from Gandhi Bhavan at 3 pm. Mild tension prevailed and police took several students into preventive custody and released them later in the evening.

ACCORDING TO NSUI leaders, his BP and sugar levels dropped and doctors attending on him recommended his immediate shifting to a hospital.

E-classes: Students climb hill for signal

Send teachers to take classes in villages, govt urged

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, AUG. 29

Many tribal and Dalit

students in interior areas of erstwhile Adilabad district will be unable to take their online classes that will soon be started by the government since they do not have cell phones, signals, or TV and DTH connections in their vil-

They have appealed to the state government that they send government teachers or qualified youth to teach students near their respective villages while following Covid-19 norms.

In some villages, villagers are forced to climb the hills to catch the signals. This was found during the survey conducted by the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU)

earlier this month. There are many villages in Kumaramb-heem Asifabad and Adilabad districts, where people do not have access to internet, DTH or cable services. Similarly, many villages do not get cellphone signals in Pangidimadara, Manikyapur, Asnur, Rompallli, Mangi, Gopera, and Thatiguda gram panchayats in Tiryani mandal of Kumarambheem



PCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy persuades NSUI president B. Venkat to call off his indefinite hunger strike after his BP and sugar fell down to alarming low level on Saturday. Venkat is on an indefinite fast for postponement of Neet and Jee exams. - P. ANIL KUMAR

ADIVASIS ARE demanding that the state government supply smartphones and tabs to students in remote areas.

Asif-abad district. Same is the case with villages like Kamargam, Agharguda, Digidi, Gegre, Jilleda, Morlig-uda Rampur, Metlaguda, Ravulapalli, Kallempalli and Gundampalli along the Pranahitha River in Penchikalpet, Bejjur, Dahegam, Vemanpalli mandals in Kumarambheem Asif-abad and Mancherial dis-

they can provide smartphones to their children for joining digital classes while they are struggling to make ends meet due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Some Adivasis are demanding that the state government supply smartphones and tabs to students in remote areas, so that they could attend online classes. Durgam Gnaneshwar of Jilleda village in Penchikalpet mandal is unable to attend online classes that are in progress, though he has got a seat in inter-mediate at Goulidoddi Social Welfare School in

Hyderabad. Šame is the case with Penchikalpet mandal, who is studying B.Com at Adilabad Tribal Residential College. He is unable to attend online classes as he does not have a smartphone.

K. Anand, state secretary of PDSU, said they have conducted a survey from August 20-25 in which they found from marginalised sections are unable to attend online classes, as they do not have smartphones, TVs and DTH connections. He said it would be good if the government organises classes in interior areas with the help of teachers and educated youth, while ensuring the necessary precautions.

Some parents ask how Mohan of Morliguda of

that they were keeping a close watch on the families of the four their relatives and known associates as they search for ways to find the Covid-19 posi-

Govt reviews security of children in orphanages

HARLEEN MINOCHA I DC

Children whose parents have admitted them in orphanages because of their inability to take care of them owing to financial woes should be identified, and the parents should be counselled on government programmes that can assist such families, officials of the women and child welfare department were told on Saturday.

"If such children are older than six years then they should be admitted to Gurukul schools. If they are younger, the parents should be educated about for women and child welfare.

Her instructions came at a meeting where she reviewed the functioning of orphanages in the wake of the recent case of rape of a girl inmate of an orphanage in Ameenpur. The victim died in hospital while under treatment. Anyone who commits any crime against orphanage inmates must be identified and punished, she said. The minister also recalled how a woman had lodged a complaint with the Panjagutta police that she

was sexually assaulted by 139

Anganwadi facilities," men and how such cases Satyavati Rathod, minister need to be pursued and culprits punisnea

Satyavathi Rathod said offi cials should complete the inspections of all orphanages run by non-government organisations and submit status reports and if anyone is found to be in violation of any rules or guidelines, such a facility should be shut down.

It is estimated that about 15,000 children live in orphanages run by private groups in the state and officials should examine how as man children as possible from this group, can be assisted by the government.

10 INTER-STATE GANG OF ROBBERS ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

Shamshabad Special Operations Team (SOT) of the Cyberabad police on Saturday arrested 10 persons of an interstate criminal gang of Uttar Pradesh, known as the Kakral gang, for attempting to rob a jewellery store in Sangareddy district.

The police recovered two firearms, 15 pieces of live ammunition and implements like iron rods, hammers, cutting pliers, hacksaw blades and torchlights intended to be used in the heist.

The gang was caught when a person saw them drilling a hole in the rear wall of the jewellery shop and alerted the police.

The accused fled from there and pretended to be fruit venat Ambedkarnagar, Jagadgirigutta, Medchal district. They were eventually traced by the SOT and were nabbed in a joint operation with the Jagadgirigutta police.

THE POLICE recovered two firearms, 15 pieces of live ammunition and implements like iron rods, hammers, cutting pliers, hacksaw blades and torchlights intended to be used.

₹500 cr worth TDRs issued in exchange of land

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

mayor Rammohan on Saturday said there has been a good response to the offer of transferable development rights (TDRs) and people were opting for it in exchange for land, thereby reducing financial burden on the GHMC. So far, about ₹500 crore worth of TDRs

were issued. While inspecting the progress of developmental works, Rammohan said in order to provide better infrastructure, the GHMC had taken up work on 37 link roads in the first phase at a cost of ₹313 crore. Of these, work on 10 had been completed. He visited the proposed 100-feet link road for 2 km between Nallgandla main road at Ratnadeep to old Mumbai Highway. He said the Nallagandla lake will developed

picnic spot. The Mayor directed the officials to put up estimates for development of

as

HE VISITED the proposed 100-feet link road for 2 km between Nallgandla main road at Ratnadeep to old Mumbai Highway.

the lake with facilities like walking track, lung space and boundary wall.

He visited the site where a 150-feet, 2.1 km long link road will be built from Serilingampally zonal office to the Chandanagar railway track. About 1.75 km of this road, costing ₹11 crore, had been completed by the HRDCL, Work on a one-km road from Chandanagar track to My Home is to be

taken up. Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin said a ₹7.5 crore worth of cheques had distributed in connection with the road-widening works taken up in Borabanda. He distributed identity cards to hawkers and issued sanction letters for bank loans of ₹10,000 each to 85 street vendors.

Covid +ve prisoners still on the run abouts of the convicts complain briefly about some difficulty in

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The four Covid-19 positive prisoners — two undertrials and two convicts — who escaped from Gandhi Hospital's prison ward on Thursday are yet to

Police officials trying to find out the where-

M. Somasunder, 20, and P. Narsaiah, 41, and undertrials Md Abdul Arbaz, 21, and Md Javed, 35, on Saturday said they have so far drawn a blank in their efforts to locate the men who have been on the run for more than two days. It may be ous symptoms, though

men escaped from the Gandhi Hospital bathroom window on the second floor and used a rope fashioned out of bedsheets to make it safely to the ground.

It was learnt that though the men were Covid-19 positive, they did not have any serirecalled that the four a couple of them did

breathing.
Police officials said prisoners, as well as

tive men on the run.

- YELABAKA RADĤAKRISHNA

OTHER STORIES **KCR IGNORED COVID WARNING, SAYS BHATTI**

DC CORRESPONDENT KAMAREDDY, AUG. 29

Congress Legislature Party leader (CLP) Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka came down heavi ly on Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday. The CLP leader said, "The CM has declared he will spend \$10,000 crore to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic, but has failed to release even \$1,000 crore in the last six months. The TRS government is responsible for the Covid-19 deaths in the state, he said. Opposition parties repeatedly alerted the government on pandemic, but it failed to react

accordingly, he said. Mr Vikramarka along with Congress senior leader, former minister Mohammad Ali Shabbir visited the district shabbin visited the district hospital in Kamareddy on Saturday to view the Covid-19 services provided. He said, "The CM failed to review the pandemic and is confined to his farm house in Gajwel.

Mr Shabbir Ali said that the Congress government upgraded Kamareddy hospital from 30 bed to 100 bed hospital. After formation of Telangana state and setting up of Kamareddy district, the bed number has not yet increased. Only 50 percent of doctors are working in Kamareddy hospital, he said. The TRS government is preventing opposition party leaders from visiting Gandhi hospital, which is the only Covid-19 hospital in the state, he said.

BJP LEGISLATOR RAJA SINGH GETS EXTRA SECURITY

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The Hyderabad police have tightened security for BJP Goshamahal legislator T. Raja Singh following intelligence inputs about a terrorist threat to him.

Police commissioner Anjani Kumar has written to Raja Singh informing him about the terrorist threat and that the security provided to the legislator was being enhanced. According to sources, the city police has tightened security at the MLA's residence.

Anjani Kumar in his letter said, "Providing proper security to the MLA is our top priority. It is to inform you that due to your threat perception, enhanced security has been provided to you, and security personnel are also being alerted and checked from time to time. Special training has been organised to all your personal

security personnel. The police commissioner wrote to the MLA: "Your kind cooperation is solicited to ensure proper security. You may kindly completely avoid moving on motorcycles and travel by the bulletproof car allotted. The government has provided this car only for your security.

Responding to the letter, Raja Singh told reporters that he had asked the government and police department to identify the elements that were posing a threat to him. He said he had requested the police commissioner and the state government to grant him a gun licence for his personal protection as he moves in the lanes and bylanes in his constituencv which are congested and cannot accommodate a car. Raja Singh said that he would write to Union home minister Amit Shah about the issue.

THE POLICE commissioner wrote to the MLA: "Your kind cooperation is solicited to ensure proper security. You may kindly completely avoid moving on motorcycles and travel by the bulletproof car allotted. The government has provided this car only for your security."

Seven TS workers languish in Saudi Arabia prisons

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, AUG. 29

As many as seven Gulf migrants from undivided Nizamabad district in Telangana state have landed in jails in Saudi Arabia. Due to lack of official doc-uments like passport, work visa etc, they have been thrown into jails in Riyadh and Jeddah for the last 10 months. The vic-tims were arrested by Saudi Arabia police.

Their family members are worried about the safety of the workers. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, their situa-tion has turned critical. With lack of food and medical facilities, the victims have been facing a hell-like situation in jail.

Desperate to earn a livelihood abroad and duped by agents and middlemen, a few of them landed in the Gulf on a visit visa instead of a work visa.
They turned illegal migrants once their visas expired and they were thrown behind the bars.

According to the family members of the victims, siblings Bhukya Man Singh, 39, (passport No. K9204159) and Bhukya (passport No.N9661962) of School

THEIR FAMILY members are worried about the safety of the workers. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, their situation has turned critical. With lack of food and

medical facilities,

the victims have

been facing a helllike situation in jail.

thanda in Ramareddy mandal of Kamareddy district are in jail in Riyadh

for the last six months. Kanneboyi Vishnu, 28, (passport No.K4783418), of Lingapur village in Navipet has been imprisoned for three months in a

Riyadh jail.

28-year old Malavath
Ganga Reddya of
Devakkapet village in
Bheemgal mandal has
been in a Jeddah jail for
the last three months the last three months.
Polevoina Narahari, 39,

(passport No.p6472076) of Sadashivanagar mandal headquarters in Kamareddy district and Lambani Ravi, 36, of Secundrapur village in Bheemgal mandal of Nizamabad district have been staying in a Jeddah jail for last two and three months respec-

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Gali Rajalingaiah of Burgul village in Gandhari mandal of Kamareddy district said that his younger son, Gali Devaiah, 33 (passport No.59703576) was in a Saudi Arabia jail for the last 10 months.

"Without proper food and medical facilities, my son is facing a horrible situation in a Saudi jail," said Rajalingaiah. Saudi Arabian authorities are neither releasing the workers nor providing traveling facilities for them to reach India, he lamented.

Rajalingaiah urged Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, to facilitate the safe return of his son. The Telangana gulf wel-fare and cultural associa-

tion president, P. Basanth Reddy, urged the ministry of external affairs and Telangana state govern-ment to facilitate the safe return of Indian workers from Saudi Arabian jails.

He interacted with the family members of Gulf migrant workers in Kamareddy on Saturday. He assured the kin that he would bring the issue to the notice of the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia.



Telangana Gulf welfare and cultural association president P. Basanth Reddy interacts with the family members of Gulf migrant workers in Kamareddy on Saturday.

Errolla says attacks on Dalits won't be tolerated

ANUDEEP

The state does not tolerate attacks on SC and ST communities, said state SC and ST commission chairper-

son Errolla Srinivas. He visited the family of Revelli Raja Babu who was recently murdered at Mallaram in Malharrao mandal on Saturday and consoled the family.

He assured them of all possible help to get through in the future. "No matter who the culprits are they will be punished according to the law. I have already asked the police and the district collector to book a case under the SC\ST atrocities act. The family will be looked after under the same act. The family has received half the ex-gratia

and will receive the remaining amount through the collector arter chargesheet has been filed under the case," he said.

Mr Srinivas assured that he would move the district administration to see that there is no more delay in the investigation. "The wife of the deceased

will be provided a contract iob and the two children free education from KG to PG. Later they will also be helped in finding a suitable job," he said. He appealed to the police to help the Dalits while they approach them for any issues.

Peddapalli MP Borlakunta Venkatesh Netha, Peddapalli ZP chairperson Madhukar. Jayashankar Bhupalpally ZP Chairperson Jakku Sri Harshini were present along with others.



Telangana SC\ST commission chairperson Errolla Srinivas speaks to the family of Revelli Raja Babu on - DECCAN CHRONICLE

DON'T FALL INTO TRAP OF MAOISTS: **SP TO ADIVASIS**

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, AUG. 29

Adilabad superintendent of police Vishnu S. Warrier on Saturday appealed to the Adivasi youth not to ruin their lives by falling into the

trap of Maoists. He said, "Maoists are trying to lure the Adivasi youth to join organisation, banned adding that Adivasi leaders are misguiding the youth for their selfish gains.

In a statement issued on Saturday, he claimed to have received crucial information Adivasi youth and leaders extending cooperation to the Maoists through a Diary belonging to a Maoist leader Mylarapu Adellu alias Bhaskar that was seized during the combing operations in Tirvani mandal recently. He said,

"We will take appropriate action against the persons supporting the Maoist. These Maoists' supporters are giving them shelter and food by taking large sums of money from them. We also found that some surrendered Naxalites are also participating in the Maoists activities, he

Distribution Company Limited (NPDCL) godown situated adjacent to the electricity office in the heart of the city on ground at the NPDCL Meanwhile, a major incident was averted because of the timely efforts of godown. authorities estimated the personnel from the fire oss to be around ₹20 lakh. services who doused the Having learnt about the flames soon after they

fire mishap, backward classes minister, Gangula Kamalakar, district collector, K. Shashanka, police commissioner V. B. commissioner V. B. Kamalasan Reddy visited the spot and enquired about the fire mishap. Locals wanted to know how new cables and transformers were left openly on the ground.

ACCORDING TO

were sparks when a

wires from 33/11 KV

the locals, there

the high tension

sub-station to

Choppadandi.

THE SPARKS

touched the cables placed on the

Fire personnel douse the flames that burnt the transformers in the electricity office premises in Karimnagar on

₹20-L worth transformers

Three fire tenders rushed to the spot and doused the flames

Fire at NPDCL unit guts

Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar made a call to the NPDCL authorities and enquired about the fire mishap and ordered them to take necessary precautionary steps to prevent such incidents in



New transformers which are kept in the open ground at the premises of the NPDCL office in Karimnagar city on

Much-hyped KCR Island remains a non-starter

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR AUG 20

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC

KARIMNAGAR, AUG. 29

Panic gripped employees of the electricity office

and those in the surround-

ing areas after a fire broke

out due to a short circuit

at the Northern Power

rushed to the spot.

According to the locals, there were sparks when a

crow tried to land on the

high tension wires from

33/11 KV sub-station to Choppadandi. The sparks touched the cables placed on the ground at the NPDCL godown and cau-

ght fire and soon spread to

the surroundings. Hundr-

eds of new transformers were burnt to ashes. On receiving information, three fire tenders

were rushed to the spot

and they immediately brought the situation under control. NPDCL

Work on the 'KCR Island' is yet to commence despite the fact that it has been a year since the government gave its nod and sanctioned money to develop the four-acre natural hillock, Mysamma gutta, in the middle of the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) as a tourist spot.

BC minister Gangula Kamalakar conceived the initiative and sent the proposal to the government last year stating that transforming the tourist spot would cost around ₹20 crore

The government approved the plan and sanctioned ₹5 crore for the first phase to take up construction work last year. The Karimnagar Municipal Corporation allotted ₹2 crore and the tourism department ₹2 crore. As on date, construction works are yet to take off.

The KCR Island, inspired by Indonesian architecture, comprises of an entrance lobby, banquet hall with mirror walls, meditation hub and five premium suites along with 18 bamboo cottages and two mini studios for shooting short films. A floating restaurant

accommodating 40 persons



The Mysamma gutta is spread over four acres in the middle of the Lower Manair Dam in Karimnagar district.

at a time, a presidential suite with seven-star hotel facilities and swimming pools for children and adults and two bridges were proposed.

Minister Kamalakar said that the ₹5 crore given by the government would be used for construction work. But he did not mention about other works on the island. Kamalakar said that the representatives of Infinitude Design Co had approached them with a design. Work would begin once the design is finalised.

But Opposition leaders see it as a plan to take the heat off the TRS leaders.

Karimnagar Congress president Komatireddy Narendar Reddy alleged

problem. When the people question about amenities and infra-

structure facilities and measures to protect encroachment of government land, the TRS leaders speak about projects that are in the pipeline like KCR Island, riverfront and green corridor, Narendar Reddy alleged.

that it has become a habit

for the TRS leaders to divert

the attention of people

whenever they face a major

D. Srinivas, BJP convener for Karimnagar Assembly segment, alleged that last year after inspecting the hillock. Kamalakar had said that KCR Island would become an iconic symbol of

DISABLED YUUIH

DC CORRESPONDENT JAGTIAL, AUG. 29

The former MP and founder president of the Telangana Jagruthi, K. Kavitha won hearts by helping a differently person abled Saturday.

Boga Vinay, an engineering graduate, resident of Korutla town met with a road accident in 2014. He lost his legs in the accident and is unable to work for the past six years. With medical bills

mounting to around ₹18 lakh for his treatment, his family was in distress with Vinay's mother taking care of him.

Former MP, Kavitha read about Vinay's story and reached out and interacted with him. She assured Vinay support of the TRS and herself.

Vinay and his mother accompanied by the Korutla MLA, K Vidyasagar Rao met Kavitha in Hyderabad, where she handed over him a scooter. Vinay and his family expressed their thanks to the former MP and the MLA for

TRIBAL I INITIATIVE To avoid children dropping out, the unemployed youth took up the initiative Adivasi educated youth take classes during Covid

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, AUG. 29

Many unemployed educated Adivasi youth have started teaching their community children in the villages in wake of the closure of government and private schools due to the pandemic in the old Adilabad district.

Educated youth are coming forward to teach their community's students as their eduction has been affected by the pandemic and the

children waste their time since schools have yet to open. The youth came to the rescue of the children, fearing that the latter may end up as dropouts if the schools remained closed for a long time and there was a possibility of the schools not

Government school teachers, are also coming forward to teach students in village level learning centres that the community has begun in

re-opening.

various gudems. Educated youth

STUDENTS IN these Adivasi gudems and villages are unable to take the online classes as the villages lack telephone towers. The classes have been named 'Haimendorf

Marlavai in Jainoor mandal have volunteered to teach the children and have formed

Giri vidyalayam.'

informal schools. The villagers passed a unanimous resolution in the gram sabha under the leadership of sarpanch, Kanaka Pratibha, to start classes to students from class one to class 10 in their village. Villagers named the classes

'Haimendorf vidyalayam.' Classes are being held by the educated Classes are youth of the village by strictly following Covid-19 norms.

The villagers paid rich tribanthropologist Christoph Von Furer Haimendorf, Betti Elizabeth Adivasi legend, Kumarambheem, before

they began classes on Friday. The villagers regretted that students of their village are unable to take online classes as the villages lack telephone Adivasi youth have started

taking classes for the Adivasi children in Kadki, Lokari (B) in Gadeguda and Jamda. Gunjala villages in Narnoor Marsakola Kamala Bai, an

Adivasi woman, is also tak-

ing classes for the Adivasi children in Navgadh village, Tiryani

Kumarambheem. She provides the children attending the classes with slates. books, and pencils from her

own money. Educated Adivasi youth have also come forward to take classes for the children in Khandala village in Adilabad rural mandal.

Marsakola Gnaneshwar and Korenga Laxman are taking the classes for the children in their village

(C) VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC) 'E' Procurement Notice No.20/VMC/AE/2020-21, Dt.29-08-2020 Name of work Operation & Maintenance of Jakkampudi 20 MLD STP Construction of CC Drains and Re grading the existing drains in 62 & 64th Divisions, Development of Food Stree in Red Circle to MG Road, Repairs & Maintenance of CVR 974.60 Flyover from YSR Colony Jn to Kabela Road Jn, Central Divider Christurajpuram, BT Pavement to Loyola garden

Amma Kalyana Mandapam road in VMC (10 Works) Contact: Superintending Engineer (Works & Projects), VMC, Vijayawada-520 001 Further details can be seen @ 'e' procurement market place @ www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Sentini Hospital to Srirams Avenue, Development of UDA

Colony Park in Rajiy Nagar 58th Division, BT Roads &

Water Supply to Shiridi Sai Nagar, Adarsh Nagar,

Prasanthi Nagar, Foot paths to Christuraipuram main road

Download of bid documents starts from - 02-09-2020 @ 04.00 P.M. Last date / time for receipt of tenders from

For **COMMISSIONER**

Man kills wife over

suspicion of affair

Hyderabad: A man in Suraram of Medchal-Malkajgiri district killed his wife, suspecting that she was cheating on him after he found her talking constantly on phone. The couple had come from Latur, Maharashtra, to Hyderabad in search of a better livelihood. Police said he fatally attacked her with a kitchen knife after a quarrel. The accused hid the weapon in a box and fled to his native village. The police caught him while he was returning to Siddipet on Saturday for labour work, at the JBS bus stand, Secunderabad.

TONSURE CASE ACCUSED BOOKED UNDER SC/ST ACT

From Page 1

Apart from Madhu Priya, the others registered were T. Indira Rani, Ch. Varahalu, I. Ravi Kumar, Saleem Bala Gangadhar, M. Jhansi and K. Sowjanya. The Pendurthy police booked them under the ÎPC and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The case was shifted to the special court for SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) court. Assistant commissioner of police, SC/ST Cell- I has taken up the investigation. He visited Nutan Naidu's home and seized the tonsured hair and a wood stick and iron rod used in the incident. KE brothers have been associated with liquor business through a chain of syndicates for over five decades in Kurnool and surrounding districts.

INTER HUMANITIES SYLLABUS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) in a notification issued on Saturday announced the revision of syllabus of second-year Humanities subjects, which is a norm every five

The TSBIE revised the syllabus of commerce, economics, political science, history, geography, and public administration by constituting subject committees comprising professors and lecturers of degree and junior colleges.

However, the TSBIE secre-7 also announced that can didates, who had failed, would be permitted to answer as per the old syllabus.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES TO STAY SHUT TILL SEPTEMBER END

From Page 1

Schools, colleges and educational and coaching institutions will remain closed for students till September 30. with some relaxations for students of classes 9 to 12 to go to school to clarify doubts.

States may permit up to 50 per cent of teaching and nonteaching staff to be called to the schools at a time for online teaching or tele-counselling and related work.

The Centre said that state governments shall not impose any local lockdown outside the containment zones without prior consultation with the Centre. This bears significance as sporadic and weekend lockdowns have been implemented by various state governments across the country.

The permission to hold political and other gatherings comes ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, which are

due in October-November. Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres and similar places will remain shut and international air travel of passengers. except as permitted by MHA, will not be allowed. Open-air theatres will be permitted to open with effect from

September 21 Higher education institutions only for research scholars (PhD) and post-graduate students of technical and professional programmes requiring laboratory and experimental works will be permitted by the department of higher education (DHE) in consultation with MHA.

• THE CENTRE said that state governments shall not impose any local lockdown outside the containment zones without prior consultation with the Centre.

'Bibi ka Alam' on a van this yr

Mourners are not allowed at the commencement of procession

The High Court, while

disposing of a write peti-tion, directed the police

commissioner to consid-

er and pass appropriate orders before August 30,

strictly adhering to the

ATHER MOIN | DC

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar keeping alive a centuriestradition finally allowed the historic 'Bibi ka Alam' on a van without any procession on Sunday and self-flagella-tion under police surveillance from Bibi ka Alawa Dabeerpura to Masjid-e-Ilahi in Chaderghat.

At a meeting of representatives of the Shia community here on Saturday, it was decided

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC

infrastructure,

WARANGAL, AUG. 29

Instead of inciting petty politics, the BJP State leaders should convince

the Central Government

to release the pending

GST compensation and

most ₹500 crore as flood relief to restore damaged

Telangana Government

Chief Whip D. Vinay Bhaskar on Saturday.

Addressing a press con-

ference at his camp office, he said, "The torrential

rains wreaked havoc on

Warangal city causing

huge damage.
The onus is on the Union Minister of State

(MoS) for Home Affairs G.

Kishan Reddy who repre-

sents the State in the

Union cabinet, to con-

vince the Centre to

release ₹500 crore to restore civic infrastruc-

ture in Warangal. The

local BJP leaders too

All the public representatives along with the municipal administration and urban develop-

ment minister K.T. Rama

Rao visited the affected

areas and spoke to the people. Chief Minister K

DC CORRESPONDENT

Due to the recent torren-

tiai rains, warangai city

experienced floods like

never before. The floods

were caused because the

ruling TRS leaders and

their followers encroac-

hed nalas and built huge

buildings. Calling the fl-

oods a national disaster is

a joke, said BJP Warangal

Urban district general secretary Kolanu Sant-

Responding to the state-

ments made by Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay

Bhaskar earlier today, he said, the TRS government has failed to fulfil its

responsibility in develop-

ing Warangal city. When

we remind you of your

duty, you call it petty poli-

tics to belittle us. The BJP

government at the centre

is dedicated towards the

development of Warangal

and that is why the city

has been included in sev-

hosh Reddy on Friday.

WARANGAL, AUG. 29

Central schemes

helped Warangal

must work to that effect."

Stop petty politics,

Chief Whip tells BJP

• AT A MEETING of representatives of the Shia community here on Saturday, it was decided not to allow mourners to accompany the Bibi ka Alam. Police authorities have imposed a ban on ceremonies in public places due to Covid pandemic.

• THE SHIA LEADER appealed to the community members to do 'matam' (mourning) in Ashoorkhanas or community spaces or at their respective homes and cooperate with police.

not to allow mourners to accompany the Bibi ka Alam. Police authorities have imposed a ban on ceremonies in public places due to Covid

Chandrasekhar

ures, he said.

released ₹25 crore for

immediate relief meas-

Challenging the BJP leaders to prove their ded-

ication, he said, "This is

the right time for the BJP

leaders who are desper-

ately trying to prove that

they care for the people.

Convince your govern-

ment at the Centre to allot

disaster relief funds of

₹500crore and the people

Mr Bhaskar also said Mr Kishan Reddy needs

to focus on the railway

wagon factory that was

promised to Kazipet long

back. "If you really want

to develop Telangana, if you even have that

thought, make sure that

the pending projects related to the railways are

brought to Kazipet. Not

only will it provide direct

employment to 20,000 peo-

ple and indirect liveli-

hood to 80,000 people.

Now that you are in

power please take meas-

ures to make this dream come true," he said.

leaders not to indulge in

politics at this time when

the public is suffering a

lot due to natural calami-

"Most of the developm-

ent in the city is being do-ne with the funds from

the Central government

schemes. The public rep-

resentatives have done

nothing. We demand the

TRS leaders to release a

white paper on the expen-

diture of ₹300 crore spe-

cial funds given by Chief Minister K. Chandrase-

khar Rao and why the fu-

nds were discontinued.'

Mr Reddy criticised the

TRS leaders for accusing

the Central government

regarding the delay in the

railway coach factory at Kazipet. "Have the TRS

leaders forgotten that the

land acquisition and land

pooling is the responsibil-

ity of the state governm-

ent and they have not pro-vided the land yet?" he

asked, further the land

provided by the state gov-

ernment belonged to the

endowments department

and it is now under dis-

He appealed to the BJP

will believe you."

guidelines issued by Union home ministry and the Supreme Court. Sources said the police commissioner convinced

the community not to insist on the procession and to refrain from congregating at public places. However, Anjani Kumar

said that as maintaining the centuries-old tradition was a necessity, Bibi ka Alam can be carried out in a van with a few stakeholders from Bibi ka Alawa to Masjid-e-Ilahi with a single stop at Alawa Qadam-e-Rasool.

allowed at the commencement of Alam.

Moulana Syed Wahe-eduddin Hyder Jafry, secretary and patron of Anjuman-E-Alavi Shia Imamia Athna Ashari Akbari, appealed to the Shia community to avoid gathering at Bibi ka Alawa.

The Shia leader appealed to the community members to do 'matam' (mourning) in Ashoorkhanas or community spaces or at their respective homes and cooperate

CM meets Governor



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao called on Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan on Saturday to express his sympathies and convey his deep condolences at the demise of the Governor's uncle and MP H. Vasantha Kumar, who represents Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

TS records 2,751 new cases, nine fatalities

BALU PULIPAKA I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The number of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment either at home or in hospitals continues to rise with no let-up in the fresh cases of the disease that are being discovered in

As per the Covid-19 media bulletin issued on Saturday morning, 30,008 patients, a fourth of the caseload of 1,20,166 so far, were 11stas active cases. Of the active cases as Friday evening, 23,049 were in home institutional

isolation. While 6,529 were in the government and private hospitals as on August 22 this number rose to 6,959 as on August 28. Deaths from Covid-19

New cases

Date

Aug. 22 2,384

Aug. 23 1,842

Aug. 24 2,579

Aug. 25 3,018

Aug. 26 2,795

Aug. 27 2,932

Aug. 28 2,751

Active

22,908

22,919

23,737

25,685

27,600

28,941

30,008

provide breakdown on these two categories)

RISING CASES Top 10 Covid-19 districts by number of cases from August 22 to 29 Ranga Reddy

Karimnagar Nalgonda Nizamabad Khammam

Medchal-Malkajgiri 754 Warangal Urban 667 Suryapet Mancherial

GHMC area: 3,016

642 Siddipet

crossed the 800 mark with nine fatalities taking the toll to 808. The 2,751 fresh Covid-19 cases reported between Thursday and Friday evening have taken the

total number of cases to

OUARANTINE PATIENTS DATA

In isolation*

16,482

17,226

19,113

20,866

22,097

23,049

*Home/Institutional isolation data from daily Covid-19 bulletins. The state does not

In hospitals

6,437

6,511

6,572

6,734

6,844

6,959

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area continues to be the biggest Covid-19 hotspot in the state with 432 new cases. So far, 3,016 cases have been found in the GHMC area in the

week

August 22. Karimangar's latest single day tally stood at 192, followed by 185 in Ranga Reddy, 132 in Khammam, 128 in Medchal-Malkagiri, 113 in Nizamabad, 111 in Suryapet, and Warangal districts.

beginning

The state health department said in the bulletin that 1,675 people recovered from the disease on Friday, taking the cumulative number of people in this group to 89,350.

Recovere

1,851

1,825

1,752

1,060

872

1,580

Deaths

11

10



said Meghana. As there was relaxation in the lockdown, Meghana worked in the fields and

STAFF, STRICT ACTION TO BE TAKEN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The Indian Medical Association, Telangana state unit, on Saturday, condemned the attack on a medical personnel, Dr Praveen, medical superintendent at the area hospital at Huzurabad, along with other staff on duty. The TS IMA called the attack highly objectionable and said that action has to be taken as per the Act 11 of 2008, the Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2008. They said that authorities at the hospital to take proper action as per the Epidemic

Hyd girl faces island struggles

IMA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON MEDICAL

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

Hyderabad after six months, Meghana shared her lockdown days on the island, the hard times during the unplanned extended stay, eating one meal a day, interacting with the island tribes people, learning their fears about and understanding of

the virus.

A consultant architect by profession, with adventure as a passion, she was supposed to return on March 21 but flights were cancelled and soon the nation-wide lockdown followed

Neil island is 37 km from Port Blair with a population of about 2,500 people. Most supplies to the Andaman islands come from outside. The lockdown caused a scarcity of essential commodities. No one was aware of the situation and all the people were anxious, talking only about the virus everywhere

"For the initial two weeks, we survived on one meal a day, lockdown was very strict. People lacked sanitisers and masks. As the supply was struck, onions were sold at 300 per kg, same other prices of essentials shot up,'

then along with the locals, she went to hunt for fish for survival, an adventure she had never imagined. On June 10, Meghana moved to Port Blair, where every day she used to spend her time with the Jarawa and Nicobarese tribes. She discovered there was a great need of medical aid; the island has only one hospital.

A girl from one of the tribes who was a medical practitioner came on vacation and got stuck in the lo-ckdown. She was helping them with the medical assistance. "The tribes are disciplined. Though there is shortage of masks, they covered their faces with the cloth and made sure the social distancing was ma-

intained," said Meghana. Summer is a peak season for tourism on the islands. The inhabitants lost most of the earnings due to the lockdown. "It was a big blow to them. They earn for the whole year in the season. Many farmers in the lockdown could not sell their harvest which was thrown away as there was no transport," said a deeply affected Meghana.

The first case Coronavirus was found in the island is on March 26 when a man returned from Kolkata and was identified as positive. But the cases have increased rapidly in recent times. According to Meghana, initially, during the lockdown, anyone reaching the island was supposed go through the institutional quarantine but as the lockdown was eased, this was stopped. "This might have triggered more cases in the island," said Meghana.

Court slaps fine on state, AP HCs

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERARAD, AUG. 29

a division In a rare incident. bench of the Telangana High Court has imposed costs on the Telangana High Court and the AP High Court over the matter of bifurcation of court employees.

The division bench comprising Justices M.S. Ramachandra Rao and T. Amarnath Goud was dealing with a petition filed by retired employees of the then combined High Court at Hyderabad who retired prior to November 1, 2018. They said this denied them an opportunity to choose where they would like to work from — Telangana state or Andhra Pradesh.

Anticipating the division of the High Courts, the combined High Court had circular a November 2018 asking employees to choose where they would like to work.
The petitioners who

The petitioners who retired before issuance of

the circular, the petitioners in the case, said that they would have had an opportunity to work till the age of 60, which is superannuation age for employees of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati, if they were given the opportunity to opt between the two states. They contended that the 'Appointed Day' (June 2, 2014) should be considered for giving options, not January 1 2019, the day the separate High Courts were constituted for the two

As their representations were rejected by both High Courts, the petitioners approached the Telangana High Court by way of filing the writ petition.

Giving relief to the petitioners, the bench of Justices Ramachandra Rao and Amarnath Goud said that this exclusion without any valid reason was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution and also denied them fair and equi-

table treatment. **HC PHYSICAL HEARING FROM**

Sudden showers

eral schemes like Smart pute.



Women caught in the sudden showers that lashed Karimnagar on Saturday

Candidates died waiting for jobs

From page 1

Last year, on Teachers Day, a single judge of the TS High Court slapped a jail sentence and fine on district educational officers of Khammam, Warangal, Karimnagar and Nalgonda for contempt of court, said Srinivas. Despite this, the fate of the teachers has not changed due to the lethargic attitude of bureaucrats and Srinivas alleged.

Some of the candidates have died waiting for their jobs. The number of teachers asking for appointments is around 500 in TS," Srinivas said.

S.K. Khasim, vice president of the DSC Sadhana Samithi, said, "We left no stone unturned. We submitted representations multi-Chandrasheles To N. Chandrasheles T Chandrashekar Rao and Jagan Mohan Reddy. The then Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy had

asked officials to sort out

 After the HC slapped contempt punishment, the DEOs of Nalgonda and Karimnagar gave appointments to seven.

the matter. After his sudden death, the issue headed nowhere. "In the 2014 Assembly elections, Chandrashekar Rao promised to resolve the issue. In 2016, he invited us to Pragathi Bhavan and had a discussion for over two-and-a-half hours, assuring us that he would resolve the problem."
After the High Court

slapped contempt punishment, the DEOs of Nalgonda and Karimnagar gave appointments to seven candidates.

P. Somashekar, president of USR 1998 DSC Teachers' Association, said Jagan Mohan Reddy assured the candidates of resolving the problem during his padayatra before the elections.

There are around 2,000 candidates waiting for jobs in AP and many have crossed the age limit and

some have died. During the Covid-19 crisis as many as candidates Somashekar said.

He said there are no cases with regard to AP candidates. He said the then Telugu Desam government had constituted an MLCs committee on the matter but it clubbed the issue with DSC 2008 candidates which resulted in complicating the problem.

The MLC committee pointed out that 4,534 quali-fied candidates of DSC 1998 suffered losses due to the litigation, but it found only 36 candidates eligible for posting. After the survey, it found only six candidates eligible for posting,

"We have been facing severe losses with the carrying forward of the unfilled posts under all the categories by the state gov-ernment," said Soma-Srinivas shekar. Somashekar demanded that both the Chief Ministers give them justice after their 22-year-old fight.

SEPTEMBER 7 DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, AUG. 29

The Telangana High Court will resume physical court hearings from September 7, after a gap of five-and-a-half months. The court had stopped physical hearings due to the Covid-19 pandemic and taken to the online mode.

The decision was taken by the full court of the TS High Court, which has 14 judges, at a meeting convened on Saturday. In the first instance only five benches will start physical hearings. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and 4 individual single benches headed by Justice Challa Kondaram, Justice Ponugoti Naveen Rao, Justice Md. Shameem Akther and Justice Gandikota Sridevi.

SHORT TAKES

110-YEAR-OLD **WOMAN RECOVERS** FROM COVID-19

GYLVESTER ASSARY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

In Malappuram district, a 110year-old woman was cured of Covid-19. The patient, Pathu, who tested positive on August 18, was discharged from Manjeri medical college on Saturday after successful treatment

The oldest patient to have been cured from infection in Kerala so far, health minister, K.K. Shailaja,congratulated the medical team which treated Pathu. "It's a proud moment for all of us," she added.

On Saturday, Kerala reported 2397 new Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of cases to 71,701.Of the 71,701, 23,277 are active cases. The state also reported six deaths taking the toll to 280 while 2225 people recovered from the infection.

RAYANNA STATUE DISPUTE GETS RESOLVED

VITTAL SHASTRI I DC HUBBALLI, AUG. 29

dispute between Kannadigas and Marathas over the installation of a statue of freedom fighter Rayanna in Peeranawadi village of Belagavi taluk was settled ami-cably after the intervention of district incharge minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and additional director general of police Amarkumar Pande.

The Marathas agreed not to remove the Rayanna statue installed by the Kannadigas at Peeranwadi circle on Friday morning. The Kannadigas agreed not to harm the Shivaii statue situated at the venue.

Rural development and panchayat raj minister K.S. Eshwarappa, who visited the disputed place on Saturday, has ass ured that he will persuade home minister Basavaraj Bommai to withdraw the cases lodged against both Kannada and Ma-

ARMY RESCUES PEOPLE IN FLOOD-HIT MP

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, AUG. 29

The army has been called in to areas in Madhya Pradesh's Hosangahad district following flash floods in the Narmada caused by neavy downpours in the region over the last 24 hours. The river was flowing nine feet above its danger level in the district.

The army has been called in to evacuate the people in marooned areas in the district. Besides, the national disaster response force (NDRF) teams have already been pressed into service to rescue the people in flood-hit areas," Hosangabad commissioner, Rajnish Srivastav, said.

Chief minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, made an aerial survey of Hosangabad to assess the flood situation.

Road communications between Bhopal and Sagar and Narasinghpur and Chhindwara have been cut off as the flooded Narmada breached bridges and national highways at several places in the region.

INDIA WITHDRAWS FROM 'KAVKAZ 2020' IN RUSSIA

PAWAN BALI I DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 29

India has withdrawn from the multi-nation military exercise 'Kavkaz 2020' in Russia next month as China was one of the participating countries.

India did not want to participate in a military exercise with China at a time when armies from the two countries are involved in a stand-off in eastern Ladakh for the last three months.

Pakistan is also participating in the exercise. Some 20 countries are participating in this exercise, including Iran and Turkey. The exercise is being held in the Astrakhan region of southern Russia from 15-27 September, 2020. The military exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army and the name is based on the region where it is being held.

Kavkaz was last held in 2012

As per the earlier plan, India's participation in the exercise was to be a company level strength (180 troops from an infantry battalion plus elements of other arms) along with elements of IAF and observers from the Indian navy.

INDIA RECORDS SINGLE DAY **SPIKE OF 76,140 NEW CASES**

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, AUG. 29

India once again recorded a single-day spike of 76,140 cases of Coronavirus taking the country's overall infections till now to 35,35,435 out of which 27.12 lakh people have recovered. Such high numbers come at a time when the government is planning to restart metro train services, call the Monsoon Session of Parliament, hold medical and engineering entrances and university exams. It is learnt that the

Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha may either function on alternate days or have staggered timings.

Maharashtra with close to 15,000 fresh cases saw a new high while Andhra Pradesh (10,621) and Karnataka (9, 386) too registered large numbers of cases in the last 24 hours. The total number of deaths recorded due to the deadly virus in one day was 1, 057 taking overall fatalities to 61, 529 according to the union health ministry.

According to COVID19India.org, the total cases in India by Saturday evening were over 35 lakh and deaths over 63,000.

There are 7,62,950 active cases of Covid-19 in the country.

The Union health ministry pointed out that in the past five months, more than three-fourth of Covid-19 cases have recovered and less than one-fourth are active "The number of recoveries is nearly 3.5 times the active cases of Coronavirus infection currently," health ministry officials said.

Uttar Pradesh reported Covid-19-related deaths, taking the death toll in the state to 3,294, while 5,447 new cases pushed the infection tally to

Mourner shot at



A youth lies injued hit by multiple pellets when the J&K police used force to disperse a Muharram tazia procession – PHOTO COURTESY: A LOCAL RESIDENT

Ahead of polls, Nadda meets MPs from Bihar

BJP asks MPs to visit 60 panchayats each to ensure win

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 29

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday met party MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from Bihar at the party headquarters to review the party's preparedness for the coming crucial Assembly polls in the state. The BJP, which is a junior coalition partner in the state govern-ment led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), has asked its MPs to visit atleast 60 panchayats, two each day, not in their own constituencies to meet people and also work to ensure the victory of NDA candidates, whether it is of their own party or alliance partners

— JD(U) and LJP. Nadda

WHILE NADDA is likely to visit the state in the second week of next month, former

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected to visit Patna on September 6.

had recently announced that the NDA will go to polls under the leadership of Kumar and exuded confidence that the ruling coalition will retain power. Bihar will be the first state that will go to polls in October-November amid the global pandemic Covid-19. While Nadda is likely to visit the state in the second week of next month, former Maharashtra chief minisformer ter Devendra Fadnavis, who is likely to get a key

in the election committee, is expected to visit Patna on September 6, when the BJP could officially start the seat-sharing talks with allies.

During the meeting, BJP MPs were asked to address at least one virtual rally at Shakti Kendras (booths) and reach out to as many prominent people in every district, highlighting Central government and state government's achievements. BJP MPs have also been asked to observe Prime Minister Narendra Modi birthday on September 17 as 'Seva Divas' and the birth anniversary of party ideo-logue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya next month in a big way. For the Prime Minister's

gramme Mann Ki Baat in September, BJP leaders have been asked to make sure that arrangements are made at every booth in the state for the karyakartas and locals, while keeping in mind the social distancing norms and guidelines against Covid-19. Nadda held a separate meeting with Union ministers, including Ravi Shankar Prasad, Giriraj Singh, Ashwini Chaubey and Nityanand Rai. During the meeting with the party MPs, general secretary B.L. Santosh, general secretary and state's in-charge Bhupendra Yadav, Bihar organisational secretary Nagendra and state unit chief Sanjay Jaiswal also

Defence

3 militants, one jawan killed in Pulwama fight

Hours after the security forces gunned down four Al-Barq Mujahedin militants and captured a fifth one in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district on Friday

evening, a similar fire fight occurred in neigh-bouring Pulwama leaving three more militants dead. One Army jawan was also killed in the second clash, the officials said here.

A spokesman of J&K police said on Saturday

that its counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) together with the Army's 50 Rashtriya Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s 182 and 183 Battalions launched a cordon-and-search operation in Pulwama Zadoora vil-lage overnight. "During the search oper-ation, as the presence of

terrorists got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter," the spokesman

He added that the three Hizb-ul-Mujahiden cadres killed in the clash have been identified as Adil Hafiz, Arshid Ahmed Dar and Rouf Ahmed Mir-

all residents of Pulwama. In the encounter, Army jawan Prashant Sharma received critical injuries. He was evacuated to Srinagar's 92-Base Army Hospital where he suc-cumbed to his injuries

spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said Sepoy Sharma "was in the lead element of his party when it came into contact with the terrorists during a specific search operation launched in village Zadoora." An Army jawan suffered gunshot wounds.

19 MOURNERS INJURED IN PELLET FIRING

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, AUG. 29

At least 19 mourners were injured when the police fired teargas canisters and pellet shotguns to disperse a Muharram tazia orocession in Srinagar's Bemina area on Saturday.

The hospital sources and witnesses said that 12 of the injured were hit by pellets and that the condition of, at least, one of them who received multiple pellet entrance wounds in the face is stated to be critical.

The police burst teargas canisters to disperse the Shia mourners also in Shalimar area on the outskirts of the City later during the day.

However, a large number of mourners took to the streets in congested Gaw Kadal area of the summer capital and amid chanting of slogans and rhymes in praise of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, who was martyred along with 71 of his family members and companions in the Battle of Karbala (Iraq) in October 680 began intense self-flagellation. The witnesses said that the police and other security forces watched them from a distance and did not try to interfere unlike at Bemina and Shalimar.

The police authorities said that only "mild force" was used against groups of people at a couple of places after they violated restrictions in force in parts of Srinagar in view of the COVID-19 and tried to take out tazia processions, ignoring the appeals of the authorities.

NC meets to discuss political state in J&K

DC CORRESPONDEN I SRINAGAR, AUG. 29

National Conference (NC)'s high-power political affairs committee met here on Friday to discuss the overall political situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and chalk out strategy towards seek-

ing restoration of its spe-

cial status and statehood. The meeting, the first held since the Centre abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated J&K into two Union Territories (UTs) in August last year, authorised its president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah to garner support for 'Gupkar Declaration' beyond its

signatories. On August 4, 2019, the leaders of J&K's regional parties including NC and People's Democratic Party (PDP) and their allies in Congress and CPIM had met at Mr. Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road and signed a joined statement named as 'Gupkar Declaration' through which they vowed to protect the special status, identity and autonomy of J&K and fight tool and nail attempts to split

Last week, the leaders of NC, PDP, Peoples Conference, Awami Na-

tional Conference, CPIM and Congress issued a joint statement here saying that they are "wholly bo-und" by the "Gupkar Declaration" and "will unwaveringly adhere to it."

The NC said on Saturday that its political affairs committee which met at the party headquarters here with Mr. Abdullah in chair held a threadbare discussion on "unilateral. undemocratic and unconstitutional measures

undertaken Government of India and its impact on the ground level in J&K". While all its members from the Valley attended the meeting, those from Jammu region and Kargil participated in it via a video link, a party spokesman said.

A statement issued by the NC said that the meeting authorized Mr. Abdullah "to widen the acceptance of the 'Gupkar Declaration' among all the sections in Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh". It added, "The participants applauded the efforts of the party president towards bringing different political voices on a single platform for the restoration of J&K's honour, which was undemocratically, unilaterally and unethically rescinded on August 5 last year".

Sushant case: CBI grills Rhea for 2nd day in a row

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, AUG. 29

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) grilled Rhea Chakraborty for the second day in a row on Saturday in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide. Chakraborty is the pri-

me accused in the case of abetment to suicide and cheating filed by Rajput's father. She was escorted to the DRDO guest house by a team of Mumbai police. The CBI also questioned others in connection with the suicide on Saturday. The officials had grilled Chakraborty on Friday

for more than 10 hours in connection with her monetary details and bank transactions. The CBI also questioned Raiput's flatmate Siddharth Pithani, cook Neeraj Singh, domestic help Keshav, manager Samual Miranda and accountant Rajat Mewati on Saturday.

Separate teams are questioning the suspects to weed out discrepancies in the sequence of incidents. Rajput's father has accu-sed Chakraborty of allegedly swindling at least ₹15 crore from the actor's bank account. The ED is hence studying the monetary transactions of the actor and Chakraborty. 'The family will also be questioned at a later stage on the same lines. Chakraborty may also be questioned again if needed," said an officer privy to the probe. On Friday, Rhea had

sought police protection for her family citing hounding by the media and others. A police escort vehicle was provided to her, who dropped her to the CBI office at DRDO guest house in Santacruz. Apart from the ED and CBÎ, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is also investigating the nar-cotics angle in the case.

Tharoor: Suresh DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Didn't mean to hurt

chief whip in the Lok Sabha and working president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress committee Kodikkunnil Suresh, has expressed regret over his 'guest artiste' jibe against Shashi Tharoor.

Saying his words were not meant to hurt or belittle Tharoor and he had only expressed his annovance against the letter written by 23 leaders to Sonia Gandhi on the organisation revamp. Suresh expressed regret after facing widespread criticism in social media mainly from party workers.

"If he feels hurt by my statements, I regret keeping the party interest debates," he said.

above everything else but at the same time strongly differ with the stand taken by him on various issues Suresn, Congress MP from Mavellikkaraand one of the seniormost Dalit leaders, added. A section of youth Congress leaders had also come out in support of Tharoor.

In a Facebook post, Suresh said the crux of the criticism against Tharoor was related to his views against the Congress party's well-stated positions. "We have differences over the manner in which he takes stands on various issues without discussing them first in party fora. But the criticism should not be construed as personal because these are in the realm of political

Mahanadi river breaches at Banki in Odisha

AKSHAY KUMAR SAOO | DC

CUTTACK/JAJPUR, AUG. 29

Thousands of people were on Saturday marooned and hectares of agricultural lands got submerged as the river Mahanadi breached at Bhagipur under Banki block in Odisha's Cuttack district. According to sources, ini-

tially, a breach measuring

widened to around 60-foot causing a heavy flooding in the area. This is the second time after 1982 when the embankment of the state's major river caved in.

Vehicular movement on many routes disrupted as roads and bridges were submerged by the flood water.

trict said at least 26 breacharound five-foot wide was es occurred in Brahmani,

Jalaka river systems, causing serious damage to standing crops and vegetables. As many as seven human lives have been lost and two

Reports from Jajpur dis-Budhabalanga

others have gone missing in the last three days. Several cattle and goats were reportedly washed away in the floods in north Odisha as major rivers like Subarnarekha flew above

ioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena said 46 sluice gates of Hirakud dam were opened as the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi received huge rainfall in the last 24 hours. The SRC stated that the inflow into Hirakud reservoir had increased by more than 1 lakh cusec and the water level is rising by 8 cm every hour. "While over 8.9 lakh cusec water is entering the

than 7.2 lakh cusecs of water is being discharged through 44 of the 64 sluice gates of the dam. The water level at Hirakud Dam stood at 626.37 ft as against the full reservoir level of 630 Jena said. Till last reports came in, over 8.95 cusecs of water is flowing at Mundali barrage in Cuttack district which is likely to go up to 10 lakh cusec by Saturday evening.

RESCUE | MISSION | Island in MP submerged with water from Machgaon dam

Marooned man airlifted by chopper

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC BHOPAL, AUG. 29

A man perched atop a tree for nearly 24 hours on a marooned island in a Madhya Pradesh district was on Saturday rescued by a helicopter.

Madhu Kahar (31), resident of Belkhada village in Chhindwara district, had gone fishing along with his friends to the nearby

island formed by the Pench river on Friday morning. The island was complete-

ly submerged when water from Machgaon dam was released, leaving him and his friends stranded there. While his friends swam to safety, he climbed a tree in the marooned island to prevent him from being washed away by the flood

"A team of the national disaster response force

after receiving reports on the plight of the man. The NDRF team, however, co-uld not approach him due to strong current of the water in the area. Later, he was airlifted by a chopper," the state revenue control room here said, quoting reports from Chhindwara district collec-

The man was taken to a local government hospital

Chhindwara has recorded eight inches of rain in the last 24 hours, leaving many villages and the district headquarters town of Chhindwara marooned.

At least 50 villages in Chhindwara district have been cut off from the rest of the world due to flash floods in Pench river caused by torrential rains experienced by the district in the last 24 hours.

WHILE HIS friends swam to safety, he climbed a tree in the marooned island to prevent him from being washed away by the flood water.

THE MAN was taken to a local government hospital for a medical checkup.

CHHINDWARA HAS recorded eight inches of rain in the last 24 hours.

ASSAM SCHOOLS TO REOPEN FROM SEPT. 1, SAYS STATE EDUCATION MIN

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, AUG. 29

A day after doling out appointment letters to 5,319 teachers for primary and upper primary schools. Assam education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday announced that all schools across the state will reopen from September 1.

However, for the first 15 days, teachers will focus on sanitisation of their respective school premises and informal classes

will start from September 15. Moreover, the government will also distribute free masks for the stu-

Informing that teachers who had tested negative in mandatory Covid-19 tests will start coming to schools from September 1, Sarma told reporters it was decided to carry out massive sanitisation of the school premises. "We have also decided to allot a fund to the schools for sanitisation of schools, said the minister.



Chronicle

30 AUGUST 2020



The pandemic kissiquette

The new normal has brought with it new priorities, new rules of engagement, and a new or rarely-used-before vocabulary, which includes 'Coronavirus' itself, wfh (bet you thought it a swear word at first did!), lockdown, flattening the curve, and social distancing. We all now know the two-metre rule, though we don't seem to be able to abide by it (what's with all the barging, People?). We've also been advised not to hold hands, hug or kiss, except in our bubbles. Since kissing from two metres away is a physical impossibility, this rule isn't hard to maintain except for politicians and cheats, viz. often one and the same. The rags are full of scandals about British politicians caught with their pants two metres down, in bubbles that don't appear to be theirs, because the lockdown rules have eluded them (though they made them themselves). Yet, for many of us the pandemic rules of engagement are no more baffling than those we had to contend with before, such as the etiquette around kissing, aka. Kissiquette. Having had two children, and perfectly aware of how they came about, it's not romantic or affectionate smoothing that perplexes, but the formal, impersonal, performative

variety, practised with relative strangers. For example —

1) How many kisses before one can disengage? Us plebs would have it at one, if at all. But if you're part of the fashionable set, it is at least two, on either cheek. This, I understand, is French (not to be mistaken for French kissing which doesn't involve cheeks at all). At other times, they will complete their pair of kisses and lean in for a third. The Swiss Kiss, I believe. This is fraught with danger. Will they or won't they? Will you offend them by stepping away too soon or unwittingly end up molesting them by moving in for an unwanted third? As a writer and a reclusive one, this is more stress than I can handle,

especially at festival time, when the literary fraternity morph into showbiz luvvies, rushing into the arms of their peers, no matter how often they've stabbed each other in the back. At one such, I found myself in a sticky situation when having kissed me twice, the well-known author surfaced for air, but did not appear to have finished. Very much the novice, at both literary fests and social snogging, I became so



Bruderkuss: Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker kiss on the 30th-anniversary celebrations of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic, in 1979

unnerved by the ticking time bomb of our face-off, I found myself holding up my half-eaten biscuit and squeaking, "Want my cookie?" They did not, nor my company thereafter. Which settled that, but left me no wiser about how many kisses are too many.

Or why not a wave, smile, or namaste instead?

2) Whose idea was it to start blowing kisses on Zoom? In these long months of webinars, only one person has, thus far, ended a session by actually planting a smacker on the screen. But nearly everyone now blows kisses at it. The problem with virtual kisses is that they're so indiscriminate. You cannot blow kisses selectively. It has to be to everyone in the 'room' or not at all. Or go to extraordinary lengths to ensure you're left at the end with the right people, the kissable people. Or shut down screens, open up other screens, kiss the wrong people. Gaah. What if, outrageous though it might sound, a blown kiss for you is not a thing of air and inconsequence but an affirmation of actual affection? And blowing kisses to all and sundry smack of hypocrisy? If that's making heavy weather of something slight, doesn't the awkwardness of it all bother you? While the planted smacker may have been the only one, several people in their inelegant attempt to throw kisses from too close to the screen have thwacked it instead, jolting the session to a premature close. Of course friendly chats shouldn't stint on kisses blown, but strangely, younger, singler friends tell me that romantic assignations, much of which has moved online, have turned out terribly chaste. That there's no va-va-voom in Zoom, no Tinder kegs are lit, and blowing of any sort hardly happens. Through time and tide and many conversations, slow and steady wins the kiss. Like the amours conducted through epistles in the pages of an Austen classic.

3) But what would Jane have made of kissy emojis and the many curious crosses in texts? Oh I've learnt to mirror them exactly when writing back, in the hope no one guesses I haven't a clue what they mean. I get that they're kisses of course, and a convenient way of expressing affection in writing, because how many of us have time to compose sonnets? Yet, how many emoji hearts are too many? What colour should they be? If it's a kissy emoji, should it wink, for example, if your feelings are true? How about those pesky little exes, I mean x's; when are they in excess? I was led to believe a capital X denoted passion till the many messages from my 102-year-old great-aunt-in-law, each carrying giant X's, convinced me otherwise. Similarly, when is it "love", and when "luv"? Whatever it is, I must have got it wrong hundreds of times, and offended as many as I've scared!

I know I no longer need worry in this pandemic if in-the-flesh salutations involve one kiss or three (hurrah). And if biscuits are misplaced in such transactions, there's clearly more for me (double hurrah). Yet the question standshow much performative love is too much (or too little), and why wasn't I sent the explanatory memo everyone else got? If you know the answers to these, especially the correct number of kisses, please drop them into an envelope and send to The Editor, Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad.

Shreya Sen-Handley is the author of the recently published Strange: Stories, the award-winning Memoirs of My Body, and a forthcoming book of travel misadventures. Her Twitter and Insta handle is @shreyasenhan.

Subhani

Is Modi govt ready for Biden-Harris sarkar?



K.C. Singh

naming of nala Devi Kamala Harris. Indian-African-American senator from California, as Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's running mate, elicited more excitement in the United States and of course in Chennai and elsewhere in India than in ruling BJP circles. When the external affairs ministry's spokes-man was asked why no congratulatory message had gone from Prime Minister Narendra Modi or anyone in Cabinet, he incredulously replied that India doesn't interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Why then, one could ask, did Mr Modi serenade President Donald Trump at the "Howdy Modi" Indian diaspora rally in Houston in September last year? Or goad the crowd by shouting "Abki baar...", awaiting the roaring reply of "Trump sarkar". South Block's nervousness is understandable as external affairs minister S. with a US congressional demanding committee Indian-origin Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal be excluded for her critique of the Indian government's majoritarian politics. Senator Kamala Harris and other influential Democrats rallied to berate Mr Jaishankar. Ms Harris is, in any case, known human rights crusader.

What then would be Biden-Harris government's foreign policy priorities and their impact on India-US relations, tailored by Modi government to keep Mr Trump's ego massaged. A diaspora assemblage at Houston, followed by lakhs gathered at Ahmedabad, provided Mr Trump the stage

to indulge in populist self-gratification, while irritants like trade were sidestepped. Mr Trump in turn ignored anti-CAA agitation, including riot-ing in parts of New Delhi as he settled at Rashtrapati Bhavan for the farewell banquet.

James Traub, in Foreign

Policy magazine, quotes Colin Kahl, then vice-president Joe Biden's national security adviser in 2014-16, that three issues will dominate a Biden administration's agenda. One, the inter-connectedness of the world and global existential challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic; two, democracy at threat across the world; and three, with ongoing power transition between nations the return of great power competition. Mr Biden had earlier this year written in Foreign Affairs that the contest between democracy-liberalism and autocracy-fascism did not end in the last century. It lurks in the future again. Mr Biden plans a "Summit for Democracy" in the first year of his presidency, But

his vision for resurrection of liberalism and democracy, centres on Europe. instinct "Atlanticist" his priority would be revival of European alliance that Mr Trump has scorned. James Traub tellingly "On many remarks: issues, emerging-world democracies like India and Brazil feel much more like the problem than a part of the solution". The smothered voices of liber-

Many recent books have analysed worldwide democratic recession, seen in Turkey, Poland, Hun-gary, Brazil, etc. Even autocrats like Russia's Vladimir Putin and Chi-

alism in India would

na's Xi Jinping have eliminated term limits on their rule. How Democracies Die by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky analyses the malaise. The authors conclude that "Trump's rise may itself pose a challenge to global democracy". Between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Barack Obama presidency, US governments maintained a broadly prodemocratic foreign policy, except where strategic interests were dominant. But globalisation de-industrialising the US and the rush of immigrants created by Syrian crisis, with greater effect in Europe, and through America's porous south-ern border created the conditions for the rise of a populist leader playing on the sense of marginalisation of the working and middle-class white majori-ty. The authors' conclusion, written before the pandemic hit the US, is only President Trump's gross failure would create public dis-gust and desire for political reform, as happened after Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. Weighing against this is dominant social media spreading unbridled bigotry, slanted news and prejudice. America's founding fathers created foolproof

institutions and separation of powers to counter grab by eit executive, legislature or judiciary. They also mandated unwritten shared beliefs and practices that enabled those institutions to work. Two cardinal principles prescribed principles prescribed were mutual tolerance and institutional forbearance. Similar traditions were nurtured in Jawaharlal Nehru's India. Breached in the US, and progressively so in Índia, these ideals surrendered to highly polarised politics once Newt Gingrich in 1989 gained control over Republicans in two houses of US Congress. Institutional legitimacy of the US Congress got degraded, paving the way for the anti-establishment presidency of Mr Trump.

interlopers, political opponents to not just defeat but destroy them and stealing man-dates by gerrymandering or vote suppression, as Mr Trump is attempting by attacking postal ballots, or as in India by forming defection-based govern-ments even after losing mandates. All these are tion of liberal democracy.

signs of slow strangula-New Delhi may today downplay Prime Minister Modi's unwise public political dalliance with Mr Trump, but the latter's campaign is merrily using videos of the Houston and Ahmedabad joint rallies in their publicity blitz to woo Indian-American votes, who mostly favour Democrats. According to Pew Research, Hindus constitute about 51 per cent of the two million-odd diaspora voters, others being Sikhs, Christians and Muslims. Will the diaspora be drawn to Democrats' promises on immigration laws, health insurance and a fairer economic order or accept Mr Modi's endorsement of a divisive, pro-rich Mr Trump, hoping he is better for India? US voters are living

through mishandled pandemic, economic chaos and racial tension caused street violence. Mr Trump is getting traction fanning the white majority's law and order fears, while promising a vaccine and economic turnaround is around the corner. US leadership is critical for addressing vital issues like climate change, antiglobalisation paranoia affecting global trade and investment, and an aggressive China. On November 3 will be known whether a reforming and pro-democracy wins, compelling majoritarian populists globally to reflect and perhaps change, or the US sees the return of disruptive, auto-cratic and "America cratic and First" Trump.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets

LETTERS

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Exams next month will put the lives of many students at risk (6 Opposition-ruled states move SC on NEET, JEE dates, DC, Aug. 29). Apart from students, even the invigilators will also be at risk. Though many preventive measures are in place, is it possible for everyone to abide by the measures during stress?

Tajunnisa Amin Secunderabad

The Centre must rethink about conducting NEET and JEE as many states are not prepared to meet the challenges due to pandemic, floods, non-availability of transport and other reasons. States should have been expected before transport and other reasons. States should have been consulted before announcing the dates. Human life is more important than exams. The fear of getting infected will play on the minds of students weakening their aptitude.

P.J. David

Hydra had.

Hvderabad

THINK AGAIN

Even as the frightening cases of Covid-19 are coming out daily, the government's plan to reopen cinema halls and other places of public gathering is frightening. Why are they more worried about cinema halls that are not in malls? Is it just income for government to open more Covid centres and beds or are they indirectly inducing corporate leeches squeezing Covid patients?
Garlapaty Sitharamaiah

GST BETRAYAL

Before the implementation of GST, the Centre promised to compensate states for their losses. The finance minister's claim that there is shortfall in revenues due to an 'Act of God' means there is no compensation for states. However, the promise must be honoured or states will be incapacitated to meet their obligations. This is betrayal of Centre-State understanding.
P.R. Ravinder

Hyderabad

The Centre has run out of excuses after blaming the Opposition, Nehru, Pakistan and China.

Dr Mohd Abdul Mujeeb

Siddiqui Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

IA plane with 38 missing

CALCUTTA, Aug. 29 An Indian Airline Fokker Friendship is missing while on a flight from Imphal to Calcutta with 38 people, including a crew Airlines sources here.

The plane lost contact with the ground control about eight minutes after taking off from Kumbigram airport near Silchar at about 2.35 pm for Gauhati, its next stop. An aerial search by an Indian Air Force heli-

Chronicle copter was called off at night fall. A DC-3 plane leaves Calcutta at 5 am tomorrow to resume the search. The 30-minute flight from Silchar to Gauhati passes over thickly wooded mountainous terrain in North Cachar and Mikir Hills, where the weather is normally cloudy at this time of the year. The passengers including three women and one, then of them had boarded the plane at Imphal and the remaining 25 at

'23 vs 23': Is affable Ahmed the 'villain' of the piece?

Favouritism stink

Tt's 23 versus 23. On the face of it, the Congress power struggle is between the 23 dissenters and the Gandhis but a closer look would reveal something additional. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tiwari and others have problems more with AICC treasurer Ahmed Patel than with Sonia or Rahul. The grudge against otherwise affable Patel is that he is pushing his favourites at all levels of the Congress hierarchy. Since Patel's residential address in New Delhi is 23. Mother Teresa Crescent, Congress insiders are dubbing the leadership challenge as

New kid on the block

 ${f T}$ he BJP's nominee for a Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sabha seat, Zafar-ul Islam, has a past in the Congress. The BJP spokesman who got his nomination for the remaining term of the late Amar Singh from Uttar Pradesh [in Rajya Sabha bypolls, the ruling

party gets the numerical strength] was a part of the Congress social media team till 2014. Zafar, then an investment banker, had joined Deependra Singh Hooda's team and functioned from 15, Gurudwara Rakabgunj Marg, when he became disillusioned with the grand old party. There has been no looking back since. It is a different matter that not everyone in the BJP is happy over the rise and rise of Zafar-ul Islam. Veteran Shahnawaz Hussain was a contender for the Upper House berth.

Interminable wait?

Call it a Covid-19 impact but in the coming Parliament session, Central Hall will be out of bounds for journalists and ex-MPs. The Lok Sabha Speaker has already constituted a panel to look into criteria for issuance of Central Hall passes. Cynics believe by the time the panel submits its report there will be a new Parliament building in the central vista. The panel, headed by TV personality Rajat Sharma, has not



By WAQYANAWIS

been meeting as its chairman wants to discuss issues online while most members feel a physical, offline discussion would be suitable. Emails are being exchanged to work out a consensus. Meanwhile, senior journalists who have passes in the Long and Distinguished (L&D) category are most exercised over the delay.

mainstream

Azad's motivations

Treating

The Congress disquiet has rattled many, **L** particularly the manner in which Ghulam Nabi Azad has turned dissident. Azad's term is ending in early 2021 and there is no sign of renomination. At present Azad is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, enjoying the perks of a Union minister. There is likelihood that Mallikarjun Kharge, who was the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha during 2014-2019, may get the job in the Upper House. Some Congress insiders see more in Azad's defiance pointing that he has been the only former J&K chief minister who was not booked or detained under the Public Safety Act after the abrogation of Article 370. There is also talk of misuse of the

Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of

Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, popularly known as the Roshni Act during Azad's chief ministerial stint. Investigations into the land transfers subsequently said to have found that land in Gulmarg and elsewhere in the valley had been given over to ineligible beneficiaries.

Kumbigram.

Surrender to Sangh

BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia was recently at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. It prompted Digvijaya Singh and a number of Madhya Pradesh Congress leaders to twist a notable Buddhist chant, Buddham Sharanam Gachchami, to 'Sangham Charanam Gachchami". In the original chanting, the disciple supposedly surrenders to the Buddha, the awakened one but in the perverted form, Scindia is accused of taking a shelter in RSS.

> The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

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IN BRIEF

Kansas girl's killer is

5th execution of 2020

Terre Haute: A Kansas girl's killer on Friday became the fifth federal inmate put to death this year, an execution that went forward only after a higher court tossed a ruling that would have required the government to get a prescription for the drug used to kill him. Questions about whether the drug pentobarbital causes pain prior to death had been a focus of appeals for Keith Nelson, 45, the second inmate executed this week in the Trump administration's resumption of federal executions this summer after a 17-year hiatus.

New Orleans pianist

Ronnie Kole dies

New Oreleans: Ronnie Kole, an acclaimed New Orleans pianist who performed across the globe, has died. He was 89. His death on Thursday night was announced on his website and the Ronnie Kole **Entertainment Facebook** page. The cause of death was not released. Kole was a Chicago native. In interviews, he said he suffered from a heart condition as a child and was discouraged from playing outdoors. He began learning piano from an aunt and considered himself largely self-taught. He went on the road at 16, he told WWL-TV. A master of a variety of musical styles, he performed for six presidents. He also played a rollicking version of "Amazing Grace" when Pope John Paul II visited New Orleans in 1987.

Royal bros reunite to unveil Diana's statue

London: Britain's Princes William and Harry, believed to have become estranged from each other as the latter stepped back from frontline royalty to move to the US, are expected to reunite to unveil a statue in memory of their late mother, Princess Diana, to mark her 60th birth anniversary next year. Kensington Palace issued a rare joint statement on behalf of the royal brothers on Friday to announce that the memorial will be revealed in the Sunken Garden of Kensington Palace on July 1, 2021. The statue had been commissioned by William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Harry, the Duke of Sussex, the second and sixth in line to the British throne, respectively, a few years ago as a permanent memorial on the grounds of the palace in central London which was their late mother's home.

Nevada man to be 1st

virus reinfection in US

Reno: Nevada officials are reporting what may be the first documented case of coronavirus reinfection in the United States, following similar reports earlier this week from Hong Kong and Europe. A 25-year-old Reno man with mild Covid-19 symptoms initially was found to have the virus in April. recovered and tested negative twice, and then tested positive again in June. He was much sicker the second time, with pneumonia that required hospitalization and oxygen treatment. Genetic tests from each episode showed that viruses were similar in major ways but differed in at least 12 spots that would be highly unlikely from natural evolution of the bug if the man had it continuously rather than being infected a second time, said Mark Pandori. director of the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory.

KENOSHA LAWYER SAYS TEEN ACTED IN SELF-DEFENCE

Kenosha, Wis., Aug. 29: A high-profile lawyer representing the 17-year-old boy charged with killing two protesters and wounding another during demonstrations on the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, said on Friday that his client had acted in self-defence. Atlanta-based attorney Lin Wood said video footage of the altercation would vindicate Kyle Rittenhouse despite what he described as misinformation being spread by the media.

"Kyle Rittenhouse acted in self-defense. Murder charges are factually unsupportable. An egregious miscarriage of justice is occurring with respect to this 17-year old boy"

Wood said on Twitter. Rittenhouse, who prosecutors say traveled 30 miles (50 km) to Kenosha from his home in Antioch, Illinois, before the shooting at about 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, is charged with six criminal counts, including first-degree homicide and attempted homicide.



Smoke billows from burning tyres and pallets and fireworks as a few hundred protesters riot in the Rosengard

Riot in Sweden after Danish leader banned from Quran-burning rally

Friday, authorities said, hours after an anti-Muslim Danish politician was blocked from attending a Quran-burning rally

nearby.
About 300 people were on the streets of Malmo with violence escalating as the evening wore on, according to police and local

The demonstration was connected to an incident earlier in the day in which protesters burned a copy of the Islamic holy book police spokesman Rickard Lundqvist told Swedish

tabloid Expressen. Rasmus Paludan, who leads the far-right Danish anti-immigration party Hard Line, was due to travel to Malmo to speak at that event, which was being held on the same day as weekly prayers for the Muslim sabbath.

But authorities pre-empted Paludan's arrival by announcing he had been banned from entering Sweden for two years. He was later arrested near

"We suspect that he was going to break the law in Sweden," Calle Persson,

okesman for the police in Malmo said. 'There was also a risk

UAE FORMALLY

Dubai, Aug. 29: The ruler of the United Arab

Emirates issued a decree

Saturday formally end-

ing the country's boycott

of Israel amid a US-bro-

kered deal to normalise

relations between the

two countries. The

allows trade and com-

merce between the UAE,

home to oil-rich Abu

Dhabi and skyscraper-

studded Dubai, and Israel, home to a thriving

diamond trade, pharma-

ceutical companies and

The announcement fur-

ther cements the Aug 13

deal opening up relations

between the two nations,

which required Israel to

halt its contentious plan

to annex occupied West

Bank land sought by the

The state-run news

agency said the decree

formally ending the boy-

cott came on the orders of

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, the ruler of

now

announcement

tech start-ups.

Palestinians.

Abu Dhabi.

ENDS ISRAEL

BOYCOTT

Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Sweden late on Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Sweden late on Sweden late on Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Sweden late on Stockholm, Aug. 29: Protesters threw stones at police and burned tyres in southern Sweden late on Swe crowds flood US

Washington, Aug. 28: Tens of thousands of protesters demanding an end to racial injustice and police brutality thronged the US capital on Friday, signaling a renewed groundswell of anger gripping the nation fol-lowing a white officer's shooting of African-

American Jacob Blake. Crowds flooded the National Mall for a mass march marking the anniversary of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr's historic "I have a dream"

speech on August 28, 1963. Friday's demonstration was dubbed "Get Your Knee Off Our Necks," in reference to George Floyd, who suffocated beneath the knee of a white officer in Minneapolis in May, igniting the most wide-

that his behaviour... would pose a threat to society." But his supporters went ahead with the rally, and three people were then arrested for inciting racial hatred. Paludan later put a scatning message on wrapped in bacon

country in decades. Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist who gave

the eulogy at Floyd's funeral, told the crowd it was time for a "new conversation" with America. "We need to have a con-

versation about your racism, about your bigotry, about your hate, about how you would put your knee on our neck while we cry for our

lives," he said.
Often fighting back tears, relatives of Floyd, Blake and Breonna Taylor – a black 26-year-old shot dead by police in her own apartment last March took turns addressing the sea of people, who repeatedly called out the victims' names in response.

from Sweden for two years. However, rapists and murderers are always welcome!" he wrote.

Paludan last attracted media attention for burning a Koran meat that is anothema for Muslims. -AFP"Sent back and banned Muslims.

ROYAL TABOO

Pathum Thani: When university student "Rung" calmly read out 10 demands to reform Thailand's monarchy before thousands of protesters at a prodemocracy rally this month, she defied the country's biggest political taboo. Backed by an arch-royalist military and shielded by draconian royal defamation laws, the superrich monarchy wieds enormous influence in nearly every sphere of Thai society.

But 21-year-old Rung — real name Panusaya Sithi-jirawattanakul — said the Aug. 10 protest at Thammasat University outside Bangkok was "the right time" to ask for change, even though she risked arrest. "When I left the stage, I felt like I had expanded the boundaries ... raised the limits on how people can talk about the monarchy," the bespectacled sociology and anthropology student said. The demands Rung announced that day included more transparency for the royal family's fortune and the abolition of the royal defamation law, which carries a sement 15 years in prison per — AFP

Many foreign journalists in Belarus lose accreditation

Belarusian authorities on Saturday withdrew the accreditation of several foreign media journalists, including *AFP*, ahead of the latest demonstration challenging the results of the presidential election.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, is facing unprecedented protests since the disputed August 9 election in which he claimed a landslide victory with 80 percent of the vote. The opposition has rejected the results as manipulated, and has organised two demonstrations this month and called for a large-scale protest on

Government spokesman Anatoly Glaz said the decision to revoke the media accreditations was taken on the recommendation of the country's counter-ter-

He did not specify how many journalists were affected by the measure, but foreign media including the BBC and Radio Liberty reported the withdrawal of accreditation of several of their journalists.

'The Belarusian Foreign Ministry called me and informed me that my accreditation and that of one of my colleagues as BBC correspondents had been cancelled. They demanded that I return my card," journalist Tatyana Melnichuk

Opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya has fled to neighbouring Lithuania, an EU nation, after claiming she beat the 65year-old leader at the polls and calling for the protests.

She called news about the withdrawn media accreditations extremely worrying. "If true, it is another sign that this proving is parally book." regime is morally bankrupt and the only way it will attempt to cling onto power is by fear and intimidation," she said in a statement. -AFPstatement.

YOUNG BLOGGER MOBILISES PROTEST IN BELARUS

Warsaw, Aug. 29: fresh-faced 22-year-old blogger is using nothing more than his keyboard to run the main communications hub for protesters in Belarus as they mount an unprecedented challenge to the regime of President regime of President Alexander Lukashenko, often dubbed Europe's last dictator.

Stepan Svetlov is the ounder of Nexta Live, a Telegram channel with 2.1 million subscribers that helps mobilise protesters and shares photo and video content from the demonstrations. "It started out as a school project," Svetlov said in an interview in the Polish capital Warsaw where he has been living in exile under police protection after having received death threats.

Don calls Biden a 'low-IQ' individual

Trump asserts he will win in November polls

launched an attack on the

Indian-origin senator's cre-

Addressing his support-

ers at a Republican cam-paign rally in New Hampshire on Friday, Trump said he would sup-

port seeing a female presi

dent in the US but suggest-

ed that his daughter and senior White House advis-

er Ivanka Trump would be

a better candidate for such

Harris, 55, was a presi-

dential aspirant until last year before she dropped

out of the race because of

lack of popular support.

Harris returned to politi-

cal limelight after Joe Biden, the Democratic

Party's presidential candi-

date, picked her as his run-

Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian moth-

er, Harris is the first

Indian-American and first

in

ning mate in November 3 election.

dentials for the top post.

Manchester, Aug. 29: US President Donald Trump on Friday insulted his Democratic challenger Joe Biden as "low-IQ" and barely conscious in a New Hampshire speech reinforcing his strategy of painting himself as the defender of the country ag-

ainst socialist mayhem.

The speech, filled with hyperbolic and inaccurate descriptions of life under the Democrats, followed Trump's White House address to the Republican convention late Thursday where he warned that "no one will be safe in Biden's America." Trump told the crowd assembled at the airport in Manchester, New Hampshire, that he was sure of victory on November 3.

"Does anyone have any doubt?" he asked to a cho-

rus of support. "I will have lost to a low-IQ individual. I don't want that. 'Sleepy Joe,' I don't want it," Trump said of the former vice president and longtime senator. "The guy doesn't know he's alive." Much as he did Thursday at the White House, Trump claimed to be singlehandedly protecting the country from Democratic anarchists.

And he again said that the coronavirus, which has killed more than 1,80,000 Americans already, was under control. "Hopefully we're at the end," he said. The difference in New Hampshire, where he hosted a scaled-down version of his trademark pre-Coronavirus rallies, was that Trump was able to cut

free with ad-libs and even

to be US Prez: Don Washington, Aug. 29: Kamala Harris is "not competent" to be presi-THE COMPANY that owns the Trump International Hotel in dent, US President Donald Vancouver has filed for Trump has said as he bankruptcy.

Harris 'not competent'

ACCORDING TO the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada, TA Hotel **Management Limited** Partnership filed for bankruptcy on Thursday. Records show the company has CDN\$4.7 million (US\$3.59 million) in liabilities and CDN\$1.1 million (US\$840,000) in assets.

THE FIRST meeting of creditors is expected on Sept. 16.

woman of colour to be picked by a major American political party for the top post. "You know I want to see the first woman president also, but I don't want to see a woman president get into that position the way she'd do it, and she's not competent," Trump

more personal attacks on his rival. "We are all that stand

between the American people and the left wing mob," he said. "If you want to save democracy from the mob, then you must vote to defeat an extremely poor

date."To cheers and laughter, Trump, 74, described 77-year-old Biden as "weak" and "the worst candidate ever put up by the Democratic party."As he has before, Trump claimed falsely that Biden, a lifelong Catholic, is "against God." — AFP

Matt Hancock warns of extensive lockdowns

Aug. London, England could face "national action" and "very extensive local lockdowns" in the event of a winter Coronavirus wave, the government said Saturday, with a "worst-case scenario" of 80.000 deaths.

"A second wave is clearly visible in other parts the world, Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Saturday's Times newspaper.

"Cases go up again, and we have to use very extensive local lockdowns or take further national action. We don't rule that out but we don;t want to see it." Britain has been one of the country's hardest hit by the disease, with over 41,000 dead, but has eased lockdown restrictions recently as hospitalisations and deaths dropped. But cases have ticked up in recent weeks and the government is worried about another wave of the virus arriving during flu season.

Although more restrictions could be re-introduced, schools would likely remain open, according to a report prepared for the government by the Sage scientific advisory group and aired on BBC's Newsnight late Friday.

By November "policy measures would be put in place to reduce nonhousehold contacts to half of their normal pre-March 2020 levels," it

The report found 85,000 more could die across Britain, with more than 80,000 in England alone, in a "reasonable worstcase scenario."

Berlin braces for 'anti-Corona' demo

descend on Berlin on she added. Saturday for a mass protest against pandemic restrictions that was allowed to go ahead after

a bitter legal battle. Police said they will turn out in force and strictly monitor compliand social distancing, with Berlin police chief Barbara Slowik warning that if the demonstrators do not adhere to virus safety rules, police will clear the area "very

We will not be able or lence.

29: willing to watch tens of Thousands of Corona- thousands assemble and virus sceptics are set to create infection risks,'

Berlin city authorities had previously decided not to allow the Saturday demonstration to go ahead, fearing that the estimated 22,000 protesters would not keep a distance of 1.5 metres apart ance with mask-wearing or comply with face mask requirements.

The ban sparked outrage from organisers and their supporters who flooded social media with angry messages vowing to protest anyway, with some even calling for vio-

HK MASS VIRUS TEST PLAN HAMPERED BY SWIRLING CHINA DISTRUST

Hong Kong' plan to offer free Coronavirus tests to all residents has become swept up in the festering political debate dividing the city, where many remain deeply distrustful of both local leaders and China.

Billed as a benevolent public health initiative possible with Chinese help, the citywide tests are set to start on Tuesday in an attempt to stamp out a third wave of infections that have swept through the densely populated financial

But the involvement of

Hong Kong , Aug. 29: doctors and companies from the mainland has sent the rumour mills into overdrive and compounded fears surveillance Beijing's state, while many health experts in the city have questioned the efficacy of a mass testing pro-

> gramme. On the authoritarian mainland, biometric data forms a crucial part of China's vast security dragnet and many Hong Kongers fear mass testing will lead to widespread DNA collection — some-thing local authorities have strenuously denied.

CONTEST FOR POWER Right-hand man Suga, longtime anchor of government, seen as a possible successor

Japan succession race for PM kicks off

Tokvo, Aug. 29: The race tive colitis, the condition with several contenders announcing their plans to stand, a day after Japan's longest-serving leader announced his resigna-

ing a recurrence of ulcera- considered.

to succeed Prime Minister that forced him to cut Shinzo Abe kicked off short his first term in office, but that he would stay on until his successor is decided.

Exactly how the process will unfold was still unclear, with local media reporting on Saturday that Abe said he was suffer- several options were being

opt for a more traditional leadership involving lawmakers but also members of the party nationwide.

But the urgency of the situation, as well as the constraints imposed by the coronavirus outbreak, could see the party instead

Abe's ruling Liberal opt to poll only its lawmak-Democratic Party could ers and regional represeners and regional representatives —a faster process. A decision on how the election will be held, and when, is expected early next week, along with more clarity on who will

stand for the post. A few would-be candidates have already thrown their hats into the ring,

including party policy chief Fumio Kishida, a mild-mannered former for-Abe's personal choice for successor, and ex-defence minister Shigeru Ishiba, who is seen as more popular with voters but commands less party support than some other candi-

Finance Minister Taro ter Taro Kono, a social-Aso, himself a former media-savvy former forprime minister and long considered a likely successor to Abe, has announced he will not stand.

Other possible candidates include powerful chief cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga, viewed by many as a frontrunner,

and current defence minis

media-savvy former foreign minister who is seen as something of a longshot.

One woman is among those expected to stand so far: Seiko Noda, a former cabinet minister whose chances are thought to be

-AFP

SHORT TAKES **Humpy helps**

India reach final

Chennai: Koneru Humpy took the spotlight as she beat Monika Socko in a nervy tiebreak to help India pip Poland in the semifinals and reach the summit clash of the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad on Saturday. After the two teams won one round each in regular play, world rapid champion Humpy was pitted against Socko for the Armageddon (a tie-break), and the Indian beat her rival in style with black pieces to clinch a spot in the final. India will play the winner of the other semifinal between Russia and the USA, in the summit clash on Sunday. It was, however, not an easy job for the Indian team as they lost the first round 2-4 before bouncing back strongly in the second with a crushing 4.5-1.5 win. Humpy did the rest in the match-deciding tie-break. Viswanathan Anand came into his own with a much-needed win over Jan-Krzystof Duda in 78 moves in the second round after losing to his opponent in

Djokovic in final, Osaka withdraws

the first round. - PTI

New York: World number one Novak Djokovic battled into the ATP and WTA Western & Southern Open final despite a neck problem while Japan's Naomi Osaka withdrew from the tournament after reaching the final due to a left hamstring injury on Saturday, just two days before the start of the US Open.

Djokovic was treated twice by a trainer for neck issues but rallied to defeat Spanish eighth seed Roberto Bautista Agut 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/0). He will face Milos Raonic in Saturday's final after the Canadian eliminated **Greek fourth seed Stefanos** Tsitsipas 7-6 (7/5), 6-3. The world number 10's

withdrawal means meaning Victoria Azarenka takes the title by walkover. "I'm sorry to have to withdraw today with an injury. I pulled my left hamstring yesterday in the second set tiebreak and it has not recovered overnight as I had hoped. This has been an emotional week and I want to thank everyone for the out-

Kristoff wins first

pouring of support," Osaka said in a statement. — AP

stage of Tour

Nice, France: Norway's won the opening stage of the Tour de France on Saturday in a mass bunch sprint along the iconic Promenade des Anglais

UAE Team Emirates rider Kristoff takes hold of the race leader's yellow jersey following a stage littered with crashes on a slippery 154km loop around Nice, where the finish line was limited to just 100 spectators due to strict coronavirus health protocols.

The Tour de France set off from the French Riviera on Saturday. two months later than planned and under the shadow of a coronavirus pandemic which could still shatter hopes of the world's greatest bike race making it to the Paris finish line in three weeks' time.

NBA playoffs

set to resume

Washington: NBA playoff

games are set to resume on Saturday, but players are determined to keep the focus on the fight for social justice and racial equality with the help from club owners and the league. NBA commissioner Adam Silver and National Basketball Players Association executive director Michele Roberts said in a joint statement on Friday that "All parties agreed to resume NBA playoff games on Saturday". Players and the league agreed to form a social justice coalition to address a broad range of issues including access to voting, promoting civic engagement and police and criminal justice reform. The announcement came on a third day of postponed NBA playoff games after the Milwaukee Bucks shocked by the police shooting

of Jacob Blake in Kenosha,

Wisconsin - refused to take

the court on Wednesday for a

scheduled Eastern Conference

Orlando in the NBA's Covid-19

first-round matchup against

quarantine bubble. - AFF

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DOUBLE WHAMMY

Raina pulls out of IPL, virus count touches 13

Over a dozen Covid-19 positive cases in the Chennai Super Kings camp and a surprise pullout by Suresh Raina have sent shock waves across IPL teams based in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Even though the other teams have settled into their bubbles and begun training, the Covid-19 scare has raised serious doubts about the tournament, scheduled to start on September 19.

The BCCI is yet to announce the fixtures as different health proto-cols in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have complicated the scheduling issue.

As defending champi-Mumbai Indians were expected to take on CSK in the opener but now that the M.S. Dhoni-led team's pre-tournament camp is in disarray, BCCI could give them extra time and rework the plan.

A top CSK official said the team is looking to training September 5, with those who tested positive expected to rejoin the bio-bubble later. As many as 13 from

CSK have tested positive and all of them have been moved to a different hotel for a two-week isolation. "All the affected personnel as well as their close contacts are asymptomatic and have been isolated from other team members," said a BCCI release without mentioning the name of the franchise or players.

FOCUS ON

As Raina was reportedly 'worried' about the growing number of growing cases within the bubble and dealing with family issues, the focus of the teams has now shifted to counselling their players. A few teams, including the Super Kings, are said to have sought help from mental health experts to deal with the situation. "It's very important to survive in a bio-bubble where players have to cope with Covid-19 fear, isolation and anxiety. We sense that some players are not tneir usuai seif with so

Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium), Aug. 29: Lewis Hamilton deliv-

ered two successive record breaking qualify-

ing laps to claim his sixth Belgian Grand Prix

pole position and a record-increasing 93rd of

his career with a flaw-

less demonstration of

leader clocked a best lap in one minute and 41.252

seconds in the final sec-

onds of a session that he

dominated in a personal

tribute to the Hollywood

film actor Chadwick

Boseman, who died on Friday. His Mercedes

Bottas was second, to

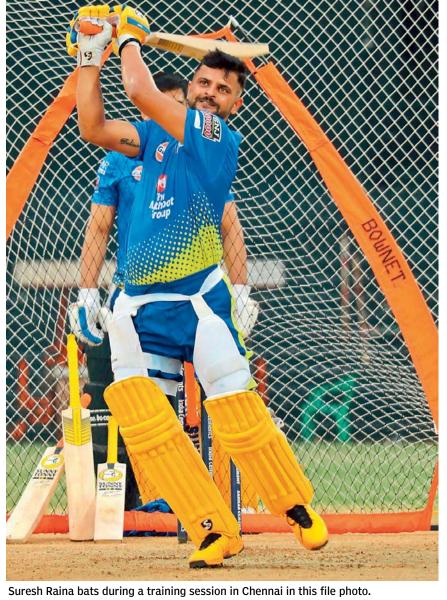
complete another 'black

team-mate

championship

Valtteri

speed on Saturday.



protocols to follow," a official said. Players have been constantly monitored through a gadget (a fob) which they are supposed to wear all the time. Apart from that, they

have to feed their body temperature in a mobile app on a daily basis. **FOREIGN PLAYERS**

A foreign player who is currently in the CSK bio-bubble has reportedly raised concerns over the pre-departure conditioning camp in Chennai which is believed to be the source of infection. A net bowler and a member of the social media eam nad to be left out of many restrictions and the contingent after they reasons.

It was Hamilton's

feat he said he had

Boseman whose life

arrows' front row of the

grid, but he was more

than half a second adrift

of Hamilton's pace. It was Hamilton's fifth

pole in seven races this

vear a feat he said he

had wanted to achieve in

Boseman

memory of Boseman whose life had been an

inspiration to Hamilton.

wanted to achieve

in memory of

had been an

inspiration to

Hamilton.

fifth pole in seven

races this year, a

tested positive in Chennai. CSK were the only team to organise a pre-departure conditioning camp for their Indian players at the insistence skipper Dhoni. The ʻjittery foreign player has questioned the decision to hold the camp in a city that witnesses at least 1,000 new positive cases every day.

BHAJJI TO JOIN CSK

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who opted out of conditioning camp in Chennai, is expected to join the squad on September 1. He had withdrawn from the team's travel schedule because of personal

Hamilton dedicates pole to Boseman

"Today was a very, very clean session for me and

the end of the lap was

getting better and better. We did such a lot of work

for this in the back-

Max Verstappen, who trails Hamilton by 37

points in the drivers'

title race, took third place for Red Bull ahead

of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo, who aborted his final lap, and Alex

Albon in the second Red

Bull. After winning last

year's race, Charles Leclerc and his Ferrari

team-mate Sehastian

Vettel were eliminated

during Q2 and will start

Sunday's race from 13th

and 14th positions.

ground."

Banton sparkles before rain washes out 1st T20

Manchester, Aug. 29: England rising star Tom Banton made a fine 71 before Pakistan fought back in the first Twenty20 international at Old Trafford on Friday only for rain to reduce the match to a no-result washout.

England had threatened a huge total while the 21year-old Banton was compiling his maiden fifty in four T20s at this level.

But his exit left England 109-3 and sparked a collapse that saw four wickets lost for 14 runs in 19 balls rain fell with came on."

BELGIAN GP

England 131-6 off 16.1

TO NETS AFTER

Dubai, Aug. 29: Indian captain Virat Kohli hit the nets for the first time

in five months and so did

Rohit Sharma and a few

other big names, begin-

ning their preparations in earnest for the upcoming IPL in the UAE.

Despite coming off a

long break, Kohli had a

good hit in the nets which

was also attended by South African pace leg-end Dale Steyn and RCB

team director Mike

Hesson was seen inter-

acting with both Kohli

and Steyn.
"Been 5 months since

the last time I stepped

onto the field. Felt like 6

days when I got into the

nets. Great first session with the boys," Kohli

In Abu Dhabi, Rohit led

his team into the ground

and even as he batted, his

pace spearhead Jasprit

Bumrah ran in to bowl some quick deliveries and

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals' fielding coach Dishant Yagnik has recovered from COVID-19

and joined his team here

ahead of the Indian

Premier League after

clearing two consecutive

coronavirus tests.

get back his rhythm.

Hesson, among others.

white-ball deputy

FIVE MONTHS

The umpires held a lengthy inspection but decided shortly after 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) that the outfield was too wet to get the game back on. But Banton, opening

after Jason Roy was ruled out with a side injury, at least had a night to remember. "It was good fun," Banton told Sky Sports. "I struggled to begin with, they bowled quite nicely and then I just backed myself when the spinners

NATIONAL SPORTS | DAY

Players receive awards virtually

New Delhi, Aug. 29: India's sporting heroes were bestowed the annual national awards in an unparalleled online ceremony amid the COVID-19 pandemic during which athletes logged in from multiple cities to be honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind.

This year a whopping 74 were picked for the national honours, including an unprecedented five Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27

Arjuna awardees.

Of these, 60 attended the virtual ceremony conducted across 11 Sports Authority of India (SAI) centree in vertices efficient efficiency of the second of centres in various cities. Cricketers Rohit Sharma (Khel Ratna) and Ishant

Sharma (Arjuna) missed the ceremony dué to their IPL commitments, while star wrestler Vinesh Phogat (Khel Ratna) and shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (Arjuna) had to pull out of the ceremony after testing positive for

the Coronavirus. The other three Khel Ratna winners — table tennis player Manika Batra, Paralympic gold-medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu and women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal attended the ceremony.

While Batra logged in attack in Bengaluru. He from Pune, Thangavelu was 79. — PTI

and Rampal joined from the Bengaluru

President Kovind applauded as names of the attending awardees were called out and their achievements cited as is the convention.

Missing, however, was the grandeur of the Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall.

Sports minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday defended his government's decision to confer a record 74 National Sports Awards this year, including an unprecedented five Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna honours, a move which faced severe criticism from all

RIJIJU CONDOLES

Rijiju on Saturday condoled the death of veteran athletics Purushottam Rai, who was to receive this year's Dronacharya award in the

lifetime category. Rai, who was to be bestowed the honour on Saturday and had even parrehearsal for the first-ofits-kind virtual ceremony, died on Friday evening after suffering a heart

MASSIVE HIKE IN PRIZE

New Delhi, Aug. 29: Sports minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday officially announced a massive hike in the prize money in four of the seven categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards.

The prize money for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award has been increased to a whopping ₹25 lakh from the previous amount of ₹7.5 lakh, while Arjuna Award

has been enhanced to ₹15 lakh from ₹5 lakh.

The Dhronacharya (Lifetime) awardees, who were earlier given ₹5 lakh, will now be richer by ₹15 lakh, while Dhronacharya (Regular) winners will be given ₹10 lakh instead of ₹5 lakh.

The prize money of Dhyan Chand Award has been increased to $\overline{10}$ lakh from $\overline{5}$ lakh. The hike will come into effect from this year. — PTI

14-year struggle paid off: Dutee

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO • Dutee Chand was

Ace sprinter from Odisha Dutee Chand, who was on Saturday conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award for the year 2020, said her struggle had brought her 'sweet success-Odisha.

es and recognitions'.
"My 14 years of struggle and hard work has brought me enough successes and recognition. This Arjun Award is a very special recognition for me. Every sportsperson cherishes a dream to get it in his lifetime," Dutee said while receiving the award from President Ram Nath Kovind.

The athlete who in the past faced questions on her gender and was banned temporarily from international events thanked followers and supporters for standing by her during hard times.

She also took to microblogging site Twitter and wrote, "Grateful and proud of my journey till now. Lots to achieve still. Let's

sportspersons to have been selected for the Arjuna Award. With this, she became the ninth Arjuna awardee from

get to work!"

The sprint queen of India was nominated for the award in the discipline of athletics. She was among 27 sportspersons to have been selected for the Arjuna Award. With this, she became the ninth Arjuna Odisha. awardee from

Earlier, eight sportspersons from Odisha have won the Arjuna Award. They include Minati Mohapatra (cyclist), Bijay Kumar Satpathy (weightlifter), Rachita Mistry (athlete), Dilip Tirkey (hockey), Jyoti Sunita Kullu (hockey), Ignace Tirkey (hockey), K. Ravi Kumar (weightlifter), and Pramod Bhagat (para-badminton).

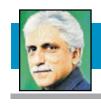
Raina's absence a big blow for CSK and IPL

Saturday ahead of the Belgian Grand Prix.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates as he stands on his

car after securing his 93rd pole position during the quali-

fying session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa on



Ayaz Memon

Over The Top

tar player Suresh Raina pulling out of the IPL for 'personal reasons' just a day after a clutch of people attached to the Chennai Super Kings squad in the UAE tested positive for Covid made it a double whammy for the franchise and the league.

On Friday evening, news emerged from Dubai that several from the CSK group had tested positive. Identities and precise number of those infected by the virus was not clarified by either the franchise or the

BCCI. In these excruciating circumstances this is neither smart nor desir-

On Saturday afternoon, the BCCI finally put out an official release, confirming that 13 people associated with the tournament players, support staff, management, etc — had tested positive. The release, how-ever, did not still identify those afflicted.

Nor did the franchise (assuming CSK is the only affected party), which created more questions than were answered. Raina

sons unknown exacerbated

The franchise was perhaps looking to do damage control, and the BCCI for a full status report before going public. Both understandable in ordinary circumstances. But secrecy in these times is an invitation to wild speculation.

The BCCI did clarify though that all 13 who tested positive "as well as their close contacts are asymptomatic and have been isolated from other team members". They will be attended to by the IPL medical

This is in keeping with standard operating proce-

That prompt action has been taken is also reassur-ing, but I still can't fathom the need to hide the identi-

returning home for rea- ties of those infected. It tinges the situation unnecessarily with controversy. More importantly, it is unfair on everybody else involved in the tournament.

It is unclear what 'personal reasons' prompted Raina to return. There could be some other compelling grounds, but for argument's sake, it is per-fectly reasonable if this was because of Covid-

related anxiety too.
Since the time big time cricket resumed in June, players have been given the series/tournament or not, without fear of recrimina-tion. Three West Indies Shimron olavers Hetmyer, Darren Bravo

and Kemo Paul — skipped

the tour to England for per-

sonal safety.

Dread of the Coronavirus is not misplaced, and players cannot be faulted for prioritising their families and themselves over cricket. That elite athletes are immune to Covid 19 because of their supreme fitness, has been shown to

be a fallacy. Tennis world no.1 Novak Djokovic, among the fittest sportspersons on the plantested positive (along with some other players) during the ill-fated Adria Tour he organized a few months back.

Djokovic had cavalierly underplayed the Covid threat. Players on the Adria Tour mixed with spectators, in fact even attended after match parties where social distancing was completely disregarded. The consequences were harrowing.

This brings us back to the issue of the 13 people in the IPL who have tested positive in the UAE. How did this happen when they had cleared everything that the bio-secure bubble protocol demanded before leaving for the gulf a week back, as also in the time there subsequently before the tests calamitous

Was it that the tests done in India or the earlier ones in UAE, were erratic? This not impossible. Remember Mohammed Hafeez's flip-flop test results before he was cleared to join the Pakistan team to England? Was the problem then in the diagnostic analyses done earli-

Or is it because these people came in contact with carriers of Corona in some

a loophole in the bio-secure bubble, or a contravention of laid down SOPs? This becomes a far more serious issue if true.

Whatever the cause, events of the past couple of days should set alarm bells clanging violently in the BCCI. There clearly needs to be a more diligent implementation of the SOPs with the active and total participation of franchise owners/management,

players, support staff et al. The vigil has to be strict, and even the most minor transgression — by any-body — has to be treated unsparingly.

If the problem is not arrested asap, the league itself could collapse. Worse, it would also imperil India's tour of Australia scheduled at the year-end.