

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | THURSDAY 26 | SEPTEMBER 2019

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 5 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Purattasi 9
Tithi: Dwadashi/ Thrayodashi
Star: Magam
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam: 6 am to 7.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.48 am
Zohar: 12.07 pm
Asar: 3.20 pm
Maghrib: 6.05 pm
Isha: 7.16 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.03 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 3.18 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 4.17 PM

IAF MiG trainer aircraft crashes near Gwalior airbase, pilots eject safely

New Delhi: A MiG-21 trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed near the Gwalior airbase on Wednesday, the IAF said. Both pilots ejected safely, it said. “An Indian Air Force MiG-21 Type-69 Trainer aircraft crashed near Gwalior at around 10 AM. The aircraft was on a routine mission and was airborne from Air Force Station Gwalior,” the IAF said in a statement.

Maradu: Police file FIRs against 3 builders

Kochi: Police on Wednesday registered FIRs against three builders, who constructed apartments at Maradu in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone rules and which the Supreme Court had recently ordered to be demolished, following complaints by flat owners that they were cheated by them.

MP: 2 Dalit kids lynched for defecating in public

Shivpuri: Two Dalit children were allegedly beaten to death by some people for defecating in front of a panchayat building in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place in Bhavkedhi village in the morning, Sirdsod police station's inspector R S Dhakad said. The two children, Roshani (12) and Avinash (10), suffered serious injuries in the incident and were rushed to the district hospital where doctors declared them dead, he said.

COUNTER POINT



I want just one seat... the CM's seat if our alliance comes to power!

Market report

GOLD 24 ct (1 gm): ₹3,790.00
22 ct (1 gm): ₹3,642.00
SILVER Bar (1 Kg): ₹50,070.00
INDICES Sensex: 38,593.52 pts
Nifty: 11,440.20 pts
EXCHANGE US\$: ₹71.04 Euro: ₹78.04

NATION

Yogi govt announces ₹6,000 annual aid for triple talaq victims

6

TABLOID

Protesters stall Karthi's film shoot



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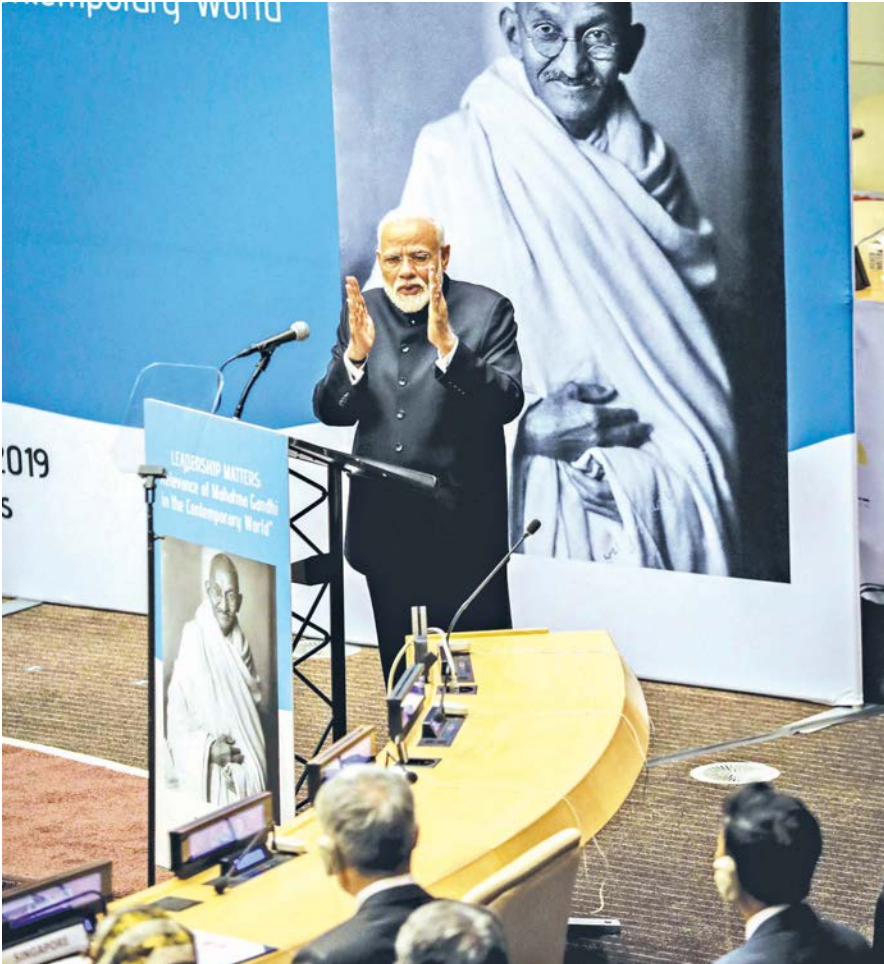
US asks India to improve relations with Pakistan

New York, Sept. 25: Just hours after the bilateral meeting in New York between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United States issued a statement asking India “to improve relations with Pakistan” and “better the lives of the Kashmiri people”. The remarks show that the United States is extremely keen on resumption of talks between India and Pakistan despite the fact that Islamabad has not stopped sponsoring cross-border terrorism. With Washington keen for US troops to exit Afghanistan and therefore relying heavily on Pakistan for that, the US statement—especially the reference to Kashmir — is being seen as a move to not antagonise Pakistan and clearly an attempt by the Trump Administration to protect American interests.

The PM said on Wednesday that India not being a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group is hindering its ability to get necessary fuel supply for producing nuclear energy and if this problem is solved, the country could become a model for the rest of the world.

“One challenge that still confronts us is nuclear energy,” Modi said. “We are not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and due to this we don’t really have the ability to get the necessary fuel supply for producing nuclear energy,” Modi explained during a Q&A session at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum here.

He said if India gets a solution on this front, then the country could be a model in this area for the rest of the world. China has repeatedly blocked India’s entry into the 48-member grouping which regulates the global nuclear commerce. Ever since India applied for the membership of the NSG in May 2016, China has been insisting that only those countries which have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should be allowed to enter the organisation. India is not a signatory of the NPT. Modi interacted with over 40 business leaders and American CEOs, high-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks as he hosts a special event commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi during the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters on Tuesday.

— AP

Trump illiterate for praising Prime Minister, says Owaisi

Hyderabad, Sept. 25: AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday hit out at Donald Trump for hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as father of India, alleging the US president lacked knowledge about the country’s great past and Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. Even late Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, giants



of Indian politics, were not called father of nation, he told reporters here replying to questions on Mr

lighting the steps taken by India to build a USD 5 trillion economy. “Captains of industry interact with PM @narendramodi in New York. The extensive agenda includes harnessing investment opportunities in India and boosting com-

mercial linkages between India and USA,” the Prime Minister’s Office tweeted. About 42 CEOs of the top global companies are in the meeting with Modi. “PM at the CEO Roundtable in New York highlighted the steps

Modi’s visit to US and Mr Trump sharing stage with him at Houston.

“...The US president Mr Trump has called Mr Modi, father of the nation. He is ‘jahil’ (illiterate). He is ignorant. He does not know anything about Mahatma Gandhi. He has zero knowledge about India’s great past, our freedom struggle and when he calls him (Modi) fatherof nation,” he said. —PTI

taken by India to build a USD 5 trillion economy. Global business community is upbeat about the India success story,” Spokesperson the Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar tweeted. —PTI



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presents a replica of kathakali dancer to his Tamil Nadu counter part Edappadi K. Palaniswami on the sidelines of the inter state river water sharing talks held in Thiruvnanthapuram on Wednesday.

— AVMUZAFAR

Tamil Nadu, Kerala CMs make history

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25:

Aiming to ensure an amicable solution to the river water issues between the two States, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan have agreed to review the 60-year-old Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) after forming secretary-level committees to discuss the matter.

The high-level meeting between the CMs of the two States on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram, held after 15 years, decided to resolve the issues between the two States in a spirit of brotherly relationship. Mr. Palaniswami who led the Tamil Nadu delegation, discussed the Parambikulam project, Anamalai, Pandiayar-Punnapuzha, Pamba Achankovil diversion and other issues.

“We have decided to form a 10 member (five from each State) secretary-level committee to discuss matters and resolve the issues. The committee will be formed within a week and it will decide the date of the next meeting,” Mr.

● **CM told reporters at Chennai airport there is no question of talking with Karnataka on Cauvery as Supreme Court had already given its verdict on the issue**

Palaniswami and Mr. Vijayan told a joint press conference, after the talks.

Both States have also agreed that their Chief Secretaries would meet once in six months and discuss the functioning of the secretary-level committee formed to resolve the river water-sharing issues. The move would draft a new chapter in the history of inter-State cooperation and in ensuring lasting solution to contentious issues between TN and Kerala.

Describing the meeting with his Kerala counterpart as an “excellent start” Mr. Palaniswami indicated that dialogue was the way forward to iron out differences. On the May 2014 Supreme Court verdict on Mullaperiyar, he said efforts will be taken to sort out “problems” in this

Krishna water flowing to Chennai from Kandaluru

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Andhra Pradesh has released water from the Krishna River to meet the requirements of residents in Chennai. With Kandaluru reservoir receiving a steady inflow, Krishna water was released on Wednesday morning.

In a simple function, Telugu Ganga Project (TGP) Chief Engineer R. Muralinath Reddy released water from Kandeluru. ■ P4

issue.

The apex court had then held that the 120 year-old dam was structurally safe and allowed Tamil Nadu to raise the water level to 152 feet and eventually to 152 feet after completion of strengthening measures on it. ■ P4

VIKRAVANDI AND NANGUNERI

AIADMK announces candidates for bypolls

J V SIVA PRASANNA KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The AIADMK on Wednesday announced the party candidates for the Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly by-elections happening on October 21. The Kanai panchayat secretary MR Muthamizhselvan will contest at Vikravandi while Reddiarpatti V Narayanan will fight the battle for Nanguneri, said the announcement made in a joint statement by party coordinator O Panneerselvam and joint-coordinator Edappadi K Palaniswami here.

EPS and OPS, along with some other members of the selection committee, had interviewed about 90 candi-

dates for the two constituencies on Monday. While Muthamizhselvan was no surprise choice, there have been a few other names doing the rounds for the Nanguneri seat - such as Manoj Pandian, former MP and son of former Assembly Speaker PH Pandian of the 'sky-high-powers' fame.

DMK president MK Stalin had announced Villupuram district unit treasurer Pugazhendi as his party's Vikravandi candidate and has already begun the ground work for campaign strategy to retain this seat that's become tough since the PMK has pledged to work hard for the success of the AIADMK ally in this Vanniyaar-dominated constituency.



Rupa Gurunath

Cricket gets first woman administrator

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Rupa Gurunath, daughter of former ICC chief N. Srinivasan, will create history on Thursday when she takes over as the president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.

Rupa is set to be elected unopposed as the first woman boss of a state unit in BCCI.

TNCA's 87th AGM will be held on Thursday morning and Rupa's was the only nomination filed for the post of president.

The 42-year-old, executive director of India Cements, is an avid golfer.

Trump Ukraine call at centre of Democrats' impeachment probe

Washington, Sept. 25: President Donald Trump repeatedly pushed Ukraine's president to open a corruption investigation into Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript of a phone call released by the White House on Wednesday. The call is now at the center of Democrats' impeachment probe into Trump.

In the summer phone call, Trump told his Ukrainian counterpart: “I would like

for you to do us a favor.”

The president’s words set the parameters of the political debate to come, with Democrats saying that it laid the predicate for an impeachment inquiry and Trump dismissing it as a “nothing call.” Yet the rough transcript clearly shows Trump’s willingness to engage a foreign leader on matters directly related to his reelection prospects.

The new impeachment probe plunges a deeply



● **The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances**

divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief. The probe injects deep uncertainty

meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, a remarkable split screen even for the turbulence of the Trump era. On his schedule: a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, whose contacts with Trump are now central to the impeachment inquiry.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched the formal impeachment inquiry on Tuesday, yielding to mounting pressure from fellow

Democrats.

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to take this step, confident that the specter of impeachment led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

“Just so you understand, it’s the single greatest witch hunt in American history, probably in history,” Trump said during a meeting with foreign leaders in New York. Republicans largely stood

by the president and dismissed the notion that the rough transcript revealed any wrongdoing by Trump.

“I think it was a perfectly appropriate phone call, it was a congratulatory phone call,” said Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 House Republican. “The Democrats continually make these huge claims and allegations about President Trump, and then you find out there’s no there there.” —AP



Attitudes to Pak

Reading between the lines, it's clear the difference between US and Chinese attitude to Pakistan is US support for Pak is nuanced and sophistry, while Chinese is open and blatant, says S.Swamy

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

State

PAGE
2

DENGUE CASES ON THE RISE IN TAMIL NADU

Hospitals on high alert as 3 children die across state

R YAMUNA | DC
CHENNAI SEPT. 25



A nurse attends to kids at the dengue special ward in Egmore GH, Chennai.

—DC

more than a day, he says, "A 12-year-old girl admitted to our hospital this morning lost her life due to dengue. She was admitted after five days of high fever. Though we tried our best, the condition worsened quickly."

He also advises people against opting for home medication for fever and cold.

Fever and isolation wards have already been set up in the city hospitals and the health department, as well as the civic body, are taking precau-

tionary measures on war-footing.

Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Salem, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Krishnagiri, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai have reportedly recorded the most number of cases. 72 people were admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital on Tuesday, out of which 17 tested positive for dengue. 33 have been admitted to Stanley Medical College and Hospital out of which four, including three chil-

dren, have tested positive for dengue.

Patients with symptoms of dengue are reportedly being treated in separate isolation wards and special teams of doctors are also being deployed to monitor their progress.

"Aedes aegypti, the mosquito responsible for causing dengue is active only during the day time. As children spend most of their day in schools, it is important that schools undertake vector control measures," says Dr.Jayachandran.

Rains pose dengue threat in Coonoor

B.RAVICHANDRAN | DC
COONOR, SEPT. 25

Stagnating water is making commuting tough for the passengers and other public at the Bus Stand here in Coonoor hills, as residents here

are gripped with fear that unhygienic conditions due to water logging may become breeding grounds for the mosquitoes and pose threat to health.

S. Manoharan, president of the Coonoor Consumer Protection Association(CCPA) said that a portion along the

TAMIL NADU DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 2015										
State	2015		2016		2017		2018(Prov.)		2019(till 26th May)	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
TN	4535	12	2531	5	23294	65	4486	13	951	0

C-Cases/D-Death; Source: NVBDCP

bus stand border which was dug in the recent past for laying water pipes was not properly closed. Though the CCPA appealed to the Coonoor municipal administration to take steps to bring the road back to shape, it failed to budge.

As the autumn showers have begun to rock the hills here for the past few days, the condition

around the bus stand has turned pathetic as storm-water has begun to stagnate in the dug-up portion bordering the bus stand.

The Coonoor municipal administration is carrying on a campaign for cleanliness as well as to avoid water stagnation to check mosquito breeding, as dengue threat is surfacing again due to the

rains. The Nilgiris district administration which is also taking up the health, hygiene and cleanliness drive in a more serious way should crack its whip against the lax municipal administration in Coonoor town to clear the mess around the Coonoor bus stand to take proper he said.

‘Low platelet count may not necessarily be dengue’

SANJEEVI ANANDAN | DC
KRISHNAGIRI, SEPT. 25

Low platelet count may not necessarily be dengue. Even other illness like common cold and viral fever can bring the platelet count down.

"People need not panic if the test report shows low platelet count. Other illness not at all dangerous and some drugs will also decline the platelet counts has resulted in unwanted panic among people and unnecessary hospitalization," Dr P Priya Raj told DC.

Priya Raj, the deputy director for health services (DDHS) asked patients to take more fluids, rest and most importantly to get treatment from government hospitals or professional doctors who will help in speedy recovery of the patients.

The DDHS, elaborating about the ways to confirm Dengue said, "a doctor should not come to a conclusion with the first result. He should advise the patient to go for two or three tests if the platelet count was low in the first evaluation. The tests should be repeated after 48 hours or in the right interval depending on the patient's condition."

"The dengue should also be differentiated as 'Hemorrhagic' and mild dengue. Bleeding occurs and the platelet count is the matter of concern, not all time in the Hemorrhagic case" Priya Raj said.

According to Dr Priya Raj, even a patient having blood count around 30,000 platelet counts per micro liter of blood, has chances for recovery without platelet infusion.

"Normal platelet count should be between 1.50 lakh to 4.50 lakh in per micro liter of blood. It goes down below 20,000 in cases of dengue and for other viral fevers it declines to below one lakh. The blood count reaches to normal stage

2 ‘mysterious fever’ deaths in Krishnagiri, pvt firms give help

SANJEEVI ANANDAN | DC
KRISHNAGIRI, SEPT. 25

Mylan, a private pharmaceutical company has joined the Hosur municipality in the fight to stop the spread of the 'mysterious fever' and deaths that result from it.

For this initiative, the company having its manufacturing unit in Hosur has gifted 52 fogging machines worth ₹16 lakh, after two people died of dengue-like fever in this district.

L. Dinesh (16) of Halahalli village, near Anthevanapalli of Denkanikottai taluk of Krishnagiri died on Tuesday in a private hospital at Bengaluru in neighboring Karnataka.

The boy who was studying Plus-1 in a private school of his place was admitted in Karnataka institute of medical sciences hospital and research center at V.V. Puram in Bengaluru.

Dinesh was taken to the hospital by his relatives after the boy suddenly fainted in the school that day. He was diagnosed as a victim having symptoms similar to that of dengue-like illness. The boy died because of the refractory shock witnessed in the case of the dengue patients.

Earlier, C.Sadhamma (48) of Chinnna Thyagarasanapalli village, died a few days ago in a private hospital at Shoolagiri, on Chennai-Bengaluru national highway of Krishnagiri

after the dengue or other viral fever was completely cured," Dr Priya Raj said.

Dr Priya Raj when asked about two deaths reported in Krishnagiri for the fever said that the cases have not been taken to the professional doctors at the begin-



L. Dinesh



C. Sadhamma

district. The woman was given treatment in two other private clinics before admitted to the Shoolagiri hospital, where she died.

The district administration following the spread of the mysterious fever having dengue like symptoms have conducted intensive drive against the mosquitoes spreading the fever.

"Though we are into the business of selling medicines our company believes in saying 'prevention is better than cure'. We gifted fogging machines to take part in the government's mission to stop the spread of the mysterious fever and deaths," P. Palani Kumar, Senior HR of the company said.

ning stage of the illness. First, they received treatment from quacks and later visit clinics after the condition became worse. Moral of the story is: Any serious fever, straight go to the Government hospital first.

23 rifles seized from 3 passengers at Madurai airport

Madurai: Twenty three rifles used for shooting events were seized from three passengers who arrived at the airport here from Dubai, customs officials said on Wednesday. The trio, carrying the rifles worth ₹171 lakh in their luggage, landed two days ago. The passengers from Kerala claimed that they had come to take part in a shooting competition in the country. However, they did not possess any documents permitting them to carry the rifles, they said. They had also claimed that they registered with the National Rifle Association for participating in the event. During verification, customs sleuths found that the passengers had not registered with any of the associations, following which they seized the rifles and detained the trio. Further investigation is on, they added. —PTI

Reaching out to small, medium biz

Chennai: IIT-M Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) has launched the 'D-Well' initiative to leverage digital media and devices to help enhance small and medium businesses. This initiative is expected to help aspiring entrepreneurs by creating awareness about the opportunities in and beyond the digital screen. It will also help make the screen time minimal and make it qualitative, said a statement from IIT-M. The activities of D-Well' Initiative involves workshops and talks to help students bring out their artistic talents like singing, writing, designing, etc., conducting activities reminding people of how the world used to be before the digital era and discussions and debates of what the future of digital media holds for us. Programs to create awareness about this initiative will also be conducted by the E-Cell.

New Tirupur dt collector assumes office

Tirupur: The new Tirupur district collector K Vijayakartheeyan has promised to take action to redress grievances of the people at any time of the day. He assumed office at the Tirupur district collectorate on Wednesday. Speaking to the press, he said, "people can approach me at any time of the day to submit their grievances and immediate action will be initiated on them. Importance will be given for implementing government welfare schemes and development plans effectively." He called upon people to cooperate with the district administration to execute government plans properly. "Since public cooperation is required for the execution of any government initiative such as avoiding the use of plastic goods, we expect people to join us."

MoU for industry-academia partnership

Coimbatore: Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) of PSG College of Arts and Science (PSGCAS), Coimbatore and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ladies Organization (FICCI FLO), Coimbatore Chapter signed an MoU to initiate industry-academia partnership, mentorship for entrepreneurship promotion activities and mentoring EDC trainees at PSGCAS through FICCI FLO network. Renowned speaker at TEDx Anand Pillai managing director of Leadership Matters Inc, Bengaluru participated as chief guest. Poonam Bafna, chairperson FICCI FLO and project chairs Lakshmi Ramachandran and Jayanthi Manohar, management and staff of PSGCAS were present.

‘ONION TO BE SOLD FOR ₹33 PER KG IN COOP SUPERMARKET’

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

Aiming to stabilise the spiraling price of the most used ingredient in kitchen, the State government on Wednesday announced that onions would be sold for Rs. 33 per kg at the Cooperative supermarkets.

"We are also taking steps to sell onion in about 200 ration shops in Chennai," Cooperation Minister Sellur K. Raju said.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting the farm fresh vegetable outlet being run through the Cooperative department at Teynampet here, the Minister said Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy has expedited



Cooperation Minister Sellur K. Raju inspected the farm fresh vegetable outlet at Teynampet and took stock of the situation in the wake of spiraling prices of onion.

—DC

ed measures to curb the rise in prices of onions. Mr. Sellur Raju attrib-

uted the current price rise to heavy rainfall in Maharashtra and

Madhya Pradesh, but pointed out that onions are being sold for ₹45 per kg in Cooperative farm fresh vegetable outlets. He pointed out that during the DMK rule onion was sold for ₹100 per kg.

In order to ensure the people do not get affected by the prohibitive cost in the market, the State government would procure onions from the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh purchasing the commodity at Rs. 30 a kg and would make it available for ₹33 per kg to the consumers here.

The price of onion has increased to ₹50 in the city from ₹35 last week, forcing the people to cough up more than the monthly budgetary allocation for vegetables.

Five including mother arrested for selling a child

K.SENTHIL NATHAN | DC
VELLORE, SEPT 25

Five persons, including the mother and a relative of a child, were arrested on charge of child trafficking in Vaniyambadi on Wednesday. Based on a complaint by the father of the child, Vaniyambadi Taluk Police rescued the child after arresting them.

According to the police, Sathiya, after separating from her husband, married an auto rickshaw driver Murugan. They were blessed with a boy - Adhitya, (1). Murugan was undergoing treatment for

TB in Dharmapuri hospital for a few months.

With the treatment of her husband in hospital, Sathiya was facing difficulties in meeting their regular expenditure. Her aunt Geetha conveyed the matter to a broker named Kavitha in the area. Kavitha told Geetha that Ahamed and Shakeela, a couple in Jai Nagar, Bengaluru were looking for a male child and they would buy the child for ₹1lakh.

After receiving an advance of ₹65,000, Sathya and Geetha handed over the child to the couple.

On returning home from hospital, Murugan found that his son was missing and Sathya was giving evasive replies.

He lodged a complaint with Vaniyambadi Taluk Police. After conducting a preliminary probe, Inspector Mangaiyarkarasi found that the child had bene sold to Ahamed and Shakeela.

A team led by Mangaiyarkarasi rushed to Bengaluru and rescued Adhitya from the couple. The cops arrested Sathya, Geetha, Kavitha Ahamed and Shakeela and remanded them to judicial custody.



Vijay film row

Higher Education department sending a show-cause notice to an Engineering college for allowing in its campus the audio launch for actor Vijay's new film 'Bigil' is condemnable, said TNCC president K S Azhagiri

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

City

PAGE
3



Move to subtly impose Sanskrit in Anna University's Guindy campus is condemnable

— M.K. Stalin, DMK leader

OTHER STORY

Youth held for kidnapping minor girl in Kovai

Coimbatore: A 22-year-old youth was arrested under the Pocco Act for kidnapping a Plus-1 girl student near Sulur on the outskirts of Coimbatore. Police said, Sarath Kumar 22, a daily wage laborer working at Sulthanpet near here, fell in love with the minor girl, but she did not reciprocate.

Meanwhile, few days back, Sarath Kumar kidnapped the girl, threatening he would kill her sister and mother. He took the girl to many temples in Erode and Tiruchy and forced her to marry him. He also allegedly tortured the girl sexually as she refused his advances. The girl asked him to leave her back in home town, home town, after which he dropped her at Sulur. On returning home, the girl narrated the happenings and on her mother's complaint, Sulthanpet police arrested Sarath under Pocco Act. He was later remanded to judicial custody on Wednesday.

HC seeks details of all admissions made in medical colleges

J.STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The Madras high court has directed the state government to furnish the list of candidates admitted under the NRI quota with their respective marks, the list of candidates admitted under the state quota with their respective marks and the list of candidates admitted under the AII India quota with their respective marks in medical colleges.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and P.Velmurugan gave the directive and posted to today (Sept 26) further hearing of a petition filed

by S.Dheeran, an aspiring medical student seeking to set aside an order of a single judge, dismissing a petition challenging the selection process for the 207 seats that got reverted to the management quota owing to their not getting filled up under the NRI quota.

The bench said M.Velmurugan, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that 260 seats were earmarked under the NRI quota, out of which only 53 persons were selected for admission and the balance 207 seats were declared as vacant and reverted to the management should also be filled up as per merit. As per the judgment of



the Apex court in Dar-US-Slam case, the state government shall conduct manual counselling for allotment of students and after the completion of counselling, the state government shall determine the number of seats that were still vacant and thereafter shall forward a list of students in order of merit, equalling to ten times the number of vacant seats to the medical college so that

in case of any stray vacancy arising in any college the seats may be filled up from the list.

However, in the state of Tamil Nadu, 207 seats under the NRI quota remained vacant and without conducting manual counselling for those seats, the state government returned it to the management and the management were said to have filled up those seats allegedly without following merit by getting huge sums for those seats. Though the government pleader appearing for the state denied the allegation made by the counsel for the appellant, the contentions made by the coun-

sel for appellant cannot be ignored and "this court would like to know whether the appropriate procedures have been followed in the selection of candidates for admission into the medical colleges," the bench added and gave the direction.

The bench said it was seen from the public domain that certain malpractices have been committed for getting admission in the medical college. It was said that one candidate got admission in the Theni Medical College by making another student to write the NEET examination by impersonation and a case was said to have been registered against the

student candidate, the bench added and posed 7 queries to be answered by the state government in the next hearing.

The queries are: 1) How many persons are said to have obtained admission in medical colleges by impersonation? 2) Whether the authorities have verified the identity of those candidates who wrote the NEET examination and those who got admitted in the medical colleges? 3) Whether any other cases of impersonation or cheating have been detected? 4) What is the stage of the case filed against the student of Theni Medical College who is alleged to have

obtained admission fraudulently by impersonation? 5) Is it a fact that the Principal of Theni Medical College has not taken any action in time, in spite of knowing about the fraudulent admission obtained by the student? 6) Whether all the statutory procedures have been duly followed by the authorities, right from permitting the students for examination after verifying the identity of the students and 7) Whether the authorities have identified any other fraudulent methods like dual nativity certificate by which medical admission have been obtained by any other student?



Students from Queen Mary's College, Chennai, dressed in traditional clothes of different states of India for the World Tourism Day celebration.

—DC

WOMAN RUN OVER BY MTC BUS AT VADAPALANI

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

A 50-year-old woman succumbed to injuries on Wednesday morning after an MTC bus ran over her at the Vadapalani bus terminus on Tuesday night.

Police identified the deceased as Meena (50) of Virugambakkam who was working as a pharmacist with a private hospital in Vadapalani. The incident happened at around 9 pm when the woman was waiting at the Vadapalani depot to board a bus to Virugambakkam.

Sources said that when he was waiting at the entrance of the depot to board a bus, MTC bus route 570 plying between Koyambedu and Kelambakkam ran over her. Meena suffered grievous injuries on her head and was rushed to a private hospital nearby, however, she passed away on Wednesday morning. The driver and conductor of the MTC bus are still absconding, sources said.

Gold, old laptops seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

Customs officers at the Chennai International on Wednesday seized gold and used laptops worth ₹50 lakhs.

They intercepted two passengers Sirajudeen (45) of Nagapattinam and Sathick Ali, (48) of Ramanathapuram, who arrived from Malaysia by an Air Asia flight. Sources said both were found to have concealed gold on their person in rubbery paste form. On extraction, gold weighing 689 grams and valued at ₹27 Lakhs was recovered. Also, 57 old and refurbished laptops valued at ₹3 lakh were also recovered from their checked-in baggage and the same were seized under Customs Act 1962.

In another case on the same day, Ajmathkhan (30) of Tiruchirappalli, who arrived from Dubai by an Air India flight was intercepted at the exit. He was found to have concealed gold in rubbery paste form. Gold weighing 48 grams of 24k purity kept in his pant pocket was

AAI staffers protest privatisation of 6 airports

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

Hundreds of AAI employees and officers under a joint forum on Wednesday held a hunger strike at the Chennai Airport premises and at all 126 airports across India to protest against the privatisation of six airports in India.

The government decided last year to privatise airports in Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati for operations, management and development through the public-private partnership (PPP) model. In February this year, the Adani group won the rights to run these six airports. Airport employ-



ees across the country have been holding protest since then.

According to airport sources, on Wednesday morning, hundreds of AAI employees began a hunger strike demonstration at the Chennai Airport. The strike is expected to contin-

ue till Friday. AAI confirmed that flight operations were, however, not affected.

Earlier too, the joint Forum of AAI (Airports Authority of India) Unions and Association had held various demonstrations against privatisation.

recovered. Total of 508 grams of gold valued at ₹20 lakhs was recovered and the same seized. The

passenger has been arrested.

Goods worth ₹50 lakh, 1.2 kgs of gold valued at ₹47

lakhs and refurbished laptops valued at ₹3lakhs were seized under CA act 1962. Probe is on.

SHRC calls for report on encounter death in city

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The State Human Rights Commission has directed Tamil Nadu Government to file a detailed report along with relevant documents in connection with the death of a history sheeter in a police encounter in Chennai on Tuesday night.

Based on the report published in DC on Wednesday, Chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission Justice T Meenakumari initiated

suo-motu proceedings and directed the Principal Secretary, TN Government, Public (Law and Order) to file the report in four weeks.

According to the report, the history-sheeter Manikandan alias Dadha Mani (39) was shot dead in an encounter in Korattur on Tuesday night. Manikandan, a proclaimed offender, who has been involved in more than 20 cases, was rounded up by a special police team from Villupuram. When they tried to arrest him, he

pulled out a 'pattakathi' and hacked sub-inspector Prabhu, prompting the police to open fire in self-defence, killing him on spot.

The injured SI was admitted to the Kilpauk government medical college and hospital for treatment. Manikandan was taken to the hospital where he was declared dead. His body was sent to post-mortem. A number of cases including murder charges were pending against Manikandan, of Kuilappalayam village in Villupuram district.

HC dismisses ex-CJ's transfer petition

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The Madras high court has rejected as not maintainable a petition seeking a direction to the Secretary to President of India, from giving effect to the proposal for transfer of the Chief Justice V.K.Tahilramani from Madras High Court to Meghalaya High Court passed by the Collegium of the Supreme Court of India and the consequential rejection order, following the CJ's representation for reconsideration of transfer.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyanara-

yanan and N.Seshasayee rejected the petition filed by advocate M.Karpagam. The bench said the decision to transfer Justice V.K.Tahilramani was taken by the Collegium of the Supreme Court consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four senior most judges of the Supreme Court and in the light of the ratio laid down in Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association's case, which has been explained and affirmed by the later decision of the Apex Court in K.Ashok Reddy's case, the petitioner is not entitled to maintain this writ petition.

The bench said that Justice Vineet Kothari would perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of the Madras high court, as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on Sept 20

"The court can also take judicial notice of the fact that subsequent to reiteration of the decision taken by the Collegium of the Supreme Court to transfer Justice V.K.Tahilramani,

Chief Justice of Madras high court to Meghalaya high court, the judge has tendered her resignation and it was also accepted by the President of India," the bench added.

The bench said the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), Government of India, has also issued a notification dated September 20, 2019 intimating the appointment of Justice Vineet Kothari, senior-most judge of this court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of the Madras high court and on account of the said development.

HC directs CoP to monitor probe into techie Subhasri's death

J.STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

Directing the Commissioner of Police, Chennai to monitor the overall investigation into the death of techie Subhasri on the road due to a tanker falling on her and a tanker lorry running over her on September 12 at Pallikaranai and file a status report, the Madras high court has asked the police how long they would take to arrest Jayagopal, who erected the digital banners.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyanarayanan and

N.Seshasayee also directed the Additional Commissioner s of Police, Traffic and Law and Order respectively to monitor the investigation in the case in so far as nabbing of the accused persons and file status report.

The bench gave the directives while passing further interim orders on a contempt petition filed by social activist Traffic Ramaswamy and suo motu taken up hearing on the death of Subhasri. Posting to October 23 further hearing, the bench asked the state government to inform it as and

when they arrest the accused.

Senior Counsel P.Wilson, appearing for DMK party had submitted that the DMK party has been complying with the directions of the court relating to erection of digital banners. The DMK party has also filed an affidavit. The party president has stated that he had warned his party cadres not to erect any digital banners and he will not participate in any function if any banners were erected. In fact, during the MGR Centenary celebrations, a techie who came from abroad to attend

a marriage in Coimbatore was killed due to a huge banner erected on the road. The DMK party filed a petition and this court had issued a set of directions. Till today the accused were not arrested in this case and hence the court may transfer the investigation in the case to CBCID, Wilson added.

Additional advocate general S.R.Rajagopal, appearing for the Chennai Corporation, submitted that as per the directions of the court an interim compensation of Rs 5 lakh was paid to the father of deceased on September 20. Disciplinary

proceedings were also initiated against Division Assistant Engineer AVK Kamalraj under Rule 9 (2) of the Madras Corporation Class III and IV Services (Disciplinary and Appeal By-laws) contemplating major punishment for the misconduct and negligence on his part. Similarly disciplinary proceedings were also initiated and an inquiry ordered on Assistant Executive Engineer R.Ravivarman under Rule 10 (b) of the Chennai corporation services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules contemplat-

ing major punishment for misconduct and negligence on his part. Disciplinary proceedings would be completed as early as possible and action taken on the delinquent officials, he added.

Additional advocate general C.Emmiliyas, appearing for the police, submitted that two FIRs have been registered - one against the driver and another against Jayagopal and his brother-in-law Meganathan who erected the banners. The FIRs were altered and section 304 (ii) (Culpable homicide not amounting to murder) IPC was included.

Action was initiated against an Inspector of Police. The police could not trace the accused, he added.

The bench said now the FIR has been altered and it was no more a minor offence. It was a cognisable offence. "The incident occurred on September 12. Now 13 days are gone. Why you have not arrested the accused? How long you take to nab them?"

AAG Emmiliyas said in a short period of time, action will be taken. A special team has been formed to nab the accused, he added.

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YOGA TRAINING



Yoga training program conducted for the first year students of the Government Arts College for Men, Nandanam, to get positive approach in life. At the end of the program, Mylapore constituency MLA R. Nataraj distributed the certificates.

—DC

HC stays hartal by DMK and 12 other parties in Kovai

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The Madras high court has restrained the DMK party and 12 other political parties from conducting hartal/bandh/strike on September 27 at Coimbatore city, against enhancement of property tax and opposing the international contract entered with a foreign organisation by the Coimbatore City Municipal corporation.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyanarayanan and N.Seshasayee also ordered notice to the state government, Coimbatore City

Municipal Corporation and 13 political parties, on a PIL filed by Coimbatore-based advocate C.Dinesh Kumar. The bench posted to October 23, further hearing of the case.

According to petitioner, as per the directions and guidelines issued by the high court, necessary steps were taken by all the local bodies to revise long pending property tax issue in accordance with the government orders and amendments. Accordingly, the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation revised the property tax in complete compliance with the order of the high court. If any



error or mistake were committed by the officials of the corporation, it was open to the individuals or affected parties to report the same to the municipal authorities by way of appeal and get it revised in accordance with annual rental value of the building, he added.

He said during the year

2008, the Municipal Council passed a resolution to appoint a consultant for the purpose of drinking water management effectively in Coimbatore city. After following due process, a consultant by name M/s Fitchner Consulting Engineering India was appointed as consultant. The same scheme itself was approved by the government headed by DMK party during the year 2008. Following the proposal of the previous government, without affecting the policy decision of the previous government, the present government implemented the same since it was viable

and public friendly.

In order to implement the scheme as advised by the Central government as well as the state government, the Municipal Corporation entered into an agreement by name Suez Projects, for the purpose of implementing the drinking water scheme in Coimbatore city. When attempt was made by anti-social elements stating that the entire water scheme had been handed over to a foreign company and the entire Coimbatore city population will depend upon a foreign company for a drop of water, to remove such false and frivolous allegations and propagan-

da, the Municipal Corporation has issued pamphlets to clarify to the public that the allegations raised by the opposition parties were not only false and frivolous but misleading.

In order to put an end to the false propaganda, the Commissioner has rightly issued pamphlet clarifying the proposals and effect of the drinking water scheme. In order to take political mileage, the opposition parties have not only started false propagation about property tax revision and international contract entered with Suez Projects, he added.



Commonwealth meet

Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker, P. Dhanapal, left for Kampala, capital of Uganda, on Wednesday to participate in the three-day 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference there



NJP will back AIADMK in Vikravandi and Nanguneri by-polls

— A C Shanmugham, NJP leader

OTHER STORIES



Krishna river water flowing to Chennai from Kandaleru

Chennai: Andhra Pradesh has released water from the Krishna River to meet the requirements of residents in Chennai. With Kandaleru reservoir receiving a steady inflow, Krishna water was released on Wednesday morning. In a simple function, Telugu Ganga Project (TGP) Chief Engineer R. Muralinath Reddy released water from Kandaleru. Following incessant rainfall, the storage in the reservoir went up to 12.28 tmcft on Tuesday. Officials from Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (WRD) and Chennai Metrowater were also present on the occasion. According to sources, AP government decided to release 500 cusecs of water initially and gradually, it will go upto 2,000 cusecs. Water would reach Poondi reservoir, which is the storage point of Krishna water through Kandaleru Poondi canal, within a week. The Kandaleru reservoir has total storage capacity of 12.8 thousand million cubic feet. The water release comes in the wake of Tamil Nadu Ministers SP Velumani and D Jayakumar meeting Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in Amaravati recently and handing over a letter on behalf of Chief Minister K Palaniswami, requesting immediate release of drinking water through the Telugu Ganga canal. Following the meeting, Reddy directed the water resources department authorities in AP to ensure water was released immediately. As per the agreement between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the former normally releases at least two tmc ft of water to meet Chennai's drinking water needs, sources said.

WATER RELEASED FROM KANDALERU FOR CHENNAI

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, SEPT 25

In a bid to quench the thirst of Chennaites, the irrigation engineers here on Wednesday released 1000 cusecs of water to Saiganga canal, hitherto known as Chennai-Poondi canal. The water will reach the Poondi Reservoir near Chennai "within six days", said Chief Engineer of Telugu Ganga Project, Muralinadh Reddy. Earlier, he released the water through two sluices after performing Puja at the head regulator of Kandaleru dam. The quantum of release would be increased to 1500 cusecs on Thursday, he said. He said according to the interstate agreement on sharing of Krishna waters, AP has to release 3.5 tmc.ft to Chennai and this would be accomplished within next 3 months. The releases could be further increased if any request comes from Tamil Nadu, Reddy said. Telugu SE Harinarayana Reddy, DE Vijayakumar Reddy and Kandaleru DE Ramana were present among other officials.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissions vessel at Chennai port CG ship Varaha launched

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT 25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varaha, a state-of-the-art offshore patrol vessel with capabilities to operate twin engine ALH Helicopter developed indigenously by HAL, at the Chennai Port Trust here on Wednesday. This is the fourth in the series of seven 98-meter Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Varaha, named after the third incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rajnath said Varaha, which is designed with night flying capabilities, will operate from the port of New Mangalore on the West Coast covering up to Kanyakumari and Lakshadweep. It will be under the operational and administrative control of Commander Coast Guard region (West).

Designed and built indigenously at Kattupuli Port here, the ship is fitted with the most advanced state-of-the-art technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensor and machinery. It is also the 50th vessel built by L & T in Chennai since the last nine years. It is fitted with 30 mm gun and will be fitted with 12.7 mm gun with FCS for enhancing the fighting efficiency of the ship. The vessel will add to Coast Guard's strength in responding to the threats of maritime terrorism, smuggling and challenges of maritime law enforcement.

The ship will be commanded by Commandant Dushyabt Kumar with a crew of 14 officers and 89 men, and it carries four high-speed boats including two rigid inflatable boats for swift boarding operation, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. It would be an enabler towards our international and national obligations of providing search and reduce cover to mariners in distress at sea. It is capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to contain oil spill.

The ship displaces 2,100 tonnes and is capable of achieving maximum speed of 26 knots and endurance of 5,000 nautical miles and can stay at sea for 20 days without any replenishment.

At present, Indian Coast Guard has a fleet strength of 142 ships and boats and 62 aircraft. About 65 ships are at various stages of construction at different ship-



The ICGS Varaha is capable of carrying pollution response equipment. The vessel is a force multiplier for the Indian Coast Guard.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils a plaque commemorating the commissioning of the state-of-the-art ICGS offshore patrol vessel 'Varaha' at the Chennai Port Trust on Wednesday.

yards in India and 16 Advanced Light Helicopters are under production by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru.

Director-General of Coast Guard Krishnaswamy Natarajan said the first ALH will be rolled out by HAL by 2020. The aim of Coast Guard is to have 200 ships and 100 aircraft by

2025, he said. Deputy Chief Minister O. Paneerselvam, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Larsen and Toubro board member and whole time

director (Defence business) J. D. Patil, director and CEO, Larsen and Toubro (Ship Building) B. Kannan, were also present.

INVEST IN DEVELOPMENT OF NAVAL EQUIPMENT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called upon the industry to invest in development of naval equipment meeting the stringent standards.

"We have taken a conscious decision to encourage other shipyards, including private yards, to enter the field of warship-construction. The response has been encouraging. The indigenous warships construction has come a long way since the commissioning of the INS Nilgiris in 1972," he said on his second day of his Chennai visit, on Wednesday.

Mr. Rajnath who commissioned the ICGS Varaha, said there are not many countries in the world having capability to produce such a wide variety of warships ranging from fast attack craft to aircraft carriers. "The industry is urged to invest in development of naval equipment meeting the stringent standards," he said.

He informed that the Indian Naval Indigenisation plan from 2015-2030, as a guideline document, has also been formulated in pursuance of the Government of India's vision of Make in India.

This document is aimed to enable indigenous development of equipment and systems over the next 15 years. "With its motto of 'Vayam Rakshamah' signifying We Protect, the commitment displayed by the Tatrakshaks over the last four decades has resulted in saving one precious life every second day at sea and carving a niche amongst international and national maritime fraternity," Mr. Rajnath Singh tweeted. In another tweet, he said, "Clean oceans are important for our Economic prosperity and sustainability. Indian Coast Guard has launched 'Swachh Sagar Abhiyan' in lines with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' which is a welcome and commendable step. The VARAHA ship is capable of carrying Pollution response equipment."

"Indian Coast Guard has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with seven maritime nations for capacity building, training, collective and cooperative response to deal with maritime threats," the Union Defence Minister said. He also lauded the contributions of the Coast Guard for the service of the nation.

RE-ACTIVATION OF BALAKOT TERROR CAMP

OUR SECURITY FORCES FULLY PREPARED: RAJNATH SINGH

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT 25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the Indian security forces are fully prepared to meet the situation in the wake of Army Chief General Bipin Rawat's disclosure on the re-activation of terror camp in Balakot in neighbouring Pakistan.

"Whatever be the national security challenges, our jawans, be it Army, Air Force or Navy, are capable of combating and defeating them. Don't worry, our force is fully prepared," Mr. Rajnath told reporters here while responding to a query on Army Chief General Bipin Rawat's confirmation on the re-activation of terror camps in Balakot. About 500 terrorists were waiting to infiltrate into India, the General had told reporters at OTA here on Monday.

"Let me tell you, Balakot has been reactivated very recently by Pakistan. This shows that Balakot was affected and damaged and destroyed. That is why people had got away from there," General Rawat had

said. In February this year, IAF which resorted to air strikes, destroyed the terror camp in Balakot. This came close on the heels of a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) killing 40 CRPF personnel in Kashmir's Pulwama district.

To another query on Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh's letter to Home Minister Amit Shah on alleged weapon dropping by drones and whether Balakot terror camp will be "shut down" once again, Mr. Rajnath replied, "as far as the country's security was concerned, the armed forces have the capability to defeat any such challenges."

On Tuesday, Amrinder Singh tweeted, "Recent incidents of Pakistan-origin drones dropping consignments of arms & ammunitions is a new and serious dimension on Pakistan's sinister designs in aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. Request @AmitShah ji to ensure that this drone problem is handled at the earliest."

NANGUNERI: AIADMK SENIORS IGNORED IN TICKET SELECTION

M. ARULOLI | DC TIRUNELVELI, SEPT 25

Tirunelveli rural district joint secretary of MGR Mandram, V Narayanan has been officially announced as the AIADMK candidate for the Nanguneri bypoll.

The selection of 54-year-old Narayanan raised many eyebrows in the Tirunelveli district AIADMK as more powerful aspirants including former members of Parliament, Paul Manoj Pandian and K R P Prabhakaran and the party's urban district secretary Ganesha Raja, were sidelined.

An SSLC dropout Narayanan, a realtor of Rediyarpatti, is the only one who applied from Nanguneri constituency and hence he was preferred by the party high command to represent the party in the by-election, said a party leader.

Narayanan joined the party in 1986 served as deputy president of Rediyarpatti panchayat twice and assumed party positions as the Tirunelveli rural district deputy secretary and MGR youth wing deputy secretary before becoming the deputy secretary of the Tirunelveli district MGR Mandram in 2013.

The Congress party, however, is yet to decide its candidate to take on V Narayanan at Nanguneri. Reportedly, around 25 Congress aspirants who include "Orvasi" Amirtharaj, a businessman, who is said to have a good chance of getting selected by the Congress party as its candidate for the Nanguneri by-election, applied. The election is likely to be held on September 27.

Before the Congress finalises its candidate, its alliance partner, the DMK kick started its election work for Congress at Nanguneri by constituting a 50-member election working committee led by former state minister and Dindigul MLA I Periyasamy and Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.

Meanwhile, DMK president M K Stalin held discussions in Chennai with election in-charge members of the party for both Vikravandi and Nanguneri constituencies, headed by Dr K Ponnudurai and I Periyasamy respectively. Stalin will campaign in Nanguneri on October 5, 6, 12, 13, 14 and in Vikravandi constituency on October 3, 4, 17, 18, 19 for the victory of the Congress and DMK candidates, sources said.

8 cases booked for violating poster rules: CEO Sahoo

D SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, SEPT 25

The Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Mr. Satyabrata Sahoo, said here on Wednesday that so far eight cases have been booked for violation of rules concerning pasting posters and putting up banners in the wake of the recent Madras High court directives on this issue.

Speaking to reporters after a video-conference with concerned district collectors, election officers and SPs of Villupuram and Tirunelveli districts on the arrangements for the October 21 by-elections

from Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly constituencies, Sahoo said the unauthorised posters and banners will be removed immediately.

Stating that the poll code of conduct was being strictly adhered to in both the constituencies, he said in Vikravandi nine flying squads in three shifts were keeping a watch, with a similar number of flying squads in Nanguneri.

Besides them, monitoring committees, two video crews in each and one video observing team were working in both the constituencies. The election observers will move in after nominations are filed for both the seats.

Transfer RK Nagar poll case to CBI, urges Stalin

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, SEPT. 25

The Opposition DMK leader M K Stalin on Wednesday demanded that the case related to alleged electoral malpractices committed in the run-up to the by-election to R K Nagar constituency in the city in April 2017 should be transferred to CBI.

In a statement here, Mr. Stalin condemned the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu for having informed the Madras High Court on Tuesday that it would not go on appeal against the order of a single Judge quashing the FIR related to the alleged cash-for-votes allegedly indulged by the ruling party during

the RK Nagar by-poll, after the demise of former Chief Minister, J Jayalalithaa, which allegedly involved cash to the extent of Rs. 89.50 crore meant to be given to voters.

Referring to the then district election officer, Mr. Karthikeyan IAS, having reportedly given his opinion that it was not a "fit case" for the State to go on appeal, Mr. Stalin said it was a matter of 'serious concern' as the Election Commission of India (ECI) during an election had powers to take action based on the report of Income Tax department's search operations.

In this instance, a "list (of number of voter-beneficiaries and related details)" was

seized from the state minister C. Vijayabhaskar's house by an I-T team, he said. The EC had subsequently written to the city police commissioner in April 2017 to register an FIR, but it was put in cold storage, charged Stalin. A case was subsequently registered under a directive by the Madras High court, he said.

However, a person unconnected with the case moved the High Court to get the FIR quashed due to the prodding by the AIADMK government, alleged Stalin.

Taking note of all these developments, the EC itself should now urge the High court to transfer the case for CBI investigation, the DMK leader added.

As first step, we have initiated talks today: Edappadi

FROM P1

"The farmers and people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are living in brotherhood and the time has come for them to work together," Mr. Palaniswami said and added that it was decided to hold talks on many small issues through the respective committees. "As a first step, we have initiated talks (today). Efforts to solve inter-State water-sharing issues (through dialogue) has been

initiated," he said.

Mr. Vijayan said the earlier agreement on PAP was around 60-years-old and its review and other matters would be discussed by the secretary-level committees.

In 2004, the then Chief Ministers late J. Jayalalithaa and Oommen Chandy had met in Chennai. The PAP is an inter-State multi-purpose project completed in late 1960s and its functioning is based on an agreement between the two



The farmers and people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are living in brotherhood and the time has come for them to work together

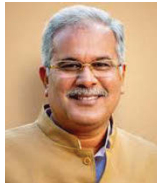
—CHIEF MINISTER EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI

States. The project diverts the water from the basins of three west flowing rivers originating from the Western Ghats along the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, namely the Periyar, Chalakkudipuzha and

Bharathapuzha. These rivers are mainly fed by the southwest monsoon and northeast monsoon rainfall. The water diverted to the east is mainly used for irrigation purpose. Mr. Palaniswami was

accompanied by Municipal Administration Minister S. P. Velumani, Assembly Deputy Speaker Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam, secretaries and chief engineers.

Kerala Water Resources Minister K. Krishnakutty, Forest Minister K. Raju, chief secretary Tom Jose, higher officials of Electricity Board and other officials were part of the Kerala team which met the Tamil Nadu delegation.



Politics

Congress stands with Centre on matters at global forums, said Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday.



The BJP and RSS want the judiciary to be dependent on them.

— D. Raja,
CPI general secretary

IN BRIEF

SHO, middleman held for bribery

Jaipur: The Station House Officer (SHO) of the Begun police station in Rajasthan's Chittorgarh and a middleman were arrested for allegedly offering bribe to an MLA, police said on Wednesday. Begun Congress MLA Rajendra Singh Bidhuri had complained to the anti-corruption bureau that SHO Virendra Singh was trying to bribe him to ensure that he was not transferred elsewhere. After examining the complaint, the ACB laid a trap. Middleman Himanshu was arrested at the MLA's residence while offering a bribe of ₹11.18 lakh. The SHO was arrested in Chittorgarh for sending the bribe amount through hawala, ACB DG Alok Tripathi said. — PTI

CBI to investigate BJP leader killing

New Delhi: The CBI has taken over investigation in the killing of BJP worker Yogesh Gowda in Karnataka's Dharwad in 2016, officials said on Wednesday. Gowda, a BJP zilla panchayat member, was killed in his gym on June 15, 2016 by unidentified men, they said. CBI has taken over the probe on the recommendation of the Karnataka government, they said. It is alleged that Gowda was running a gym at Saphthapura in Dharwad. He was friends with Basavaraj Shivappa Muttagi, the prime accused, for the last 10 years with different political inclinations. — PTI

AIMIM to contest Jharkhand polls

Ranchi: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has announced that his party will contest the Jharkhand elections, scheduled for later this year. Addressing his maiden rally, the Hyderabad MP said the AIMIM "will unite Muslims, Christians, tribals and others", while also expanding its political base in this part of the country. He, however, did not mention the number of seats the AIMIM would contest in the polls. Exuding confidence that the next Assembly will have members from his party, Mr Owaisi said on Tuesday, "The AIMIM would not allow Sheikh Bhi-kari and Jaipal Singh Munda's struggle go waste." — PTI

BJD MP SLAPS PARTY WORKER, CLIP GOES VIRAL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 25

Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Berhampur Lok Sabha member Chandrasekhar Sahu has landed in a controversy after he lost his cool and slapped a party worker on stage during a party meeting at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district on Tuesday. The act of the former union minister and sitting MP slapping the party worker was caught on camera and the video of the incident subsequently, went viral on social media platforms triggering strong criticism from several quarters. According to sources, Mr Sahu had gone to attend BJD's meeting in and was felicitated on stage when he suddenly lost his temper and gave a tight slap to former Gajapati District Youth Congress president Sangram Sahu who recently joined BJD. As the video of the incident started doing rounds on social media, leaders of political parties and intellectuals condemned Sahu for his misbehaviour. BJD general secretary Bhruagu Baxipatra said that the parliamentarian's 'outrageous' and 'shameful' conduct has brought disgrace to Odisha. However, BJD member Sangram Sahu clarified that the parliamentarian did not slap him but rather chided him with a gentle touch just like an elder brother.

Says he will personally visit agency's headquarters Won't bow down before Delhi throne, says Pawar on ED case

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has decided to use the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case against its chief, Sharad Pawar, to galvanise party workers ahead of forthcoming Vidhan Sabha polls in the state. Mr Pawar has, meanwhile, taken an aggressive stand, invoking the legacy of the 17th century founder of the Maratha Empire to defend himself on Wednesday. "Maharashtra follows the ideology of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. We do not bow before the Delhi takht (throne)," the 78-year-old former chief minister said.

The NCP chief said he would visit the ED office himself on September 27 to seek the agency's 'hospitality.' "I believe in the Constitution of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and, hence, will give all the information that I have related to this case... I will mostly be out of Mumbai for our Assembly poll campaign. The ED officials shouldn't misunderstand that I am unavailable. Hence, I will go to the agency's office in Mumbai and extend my co-operation," he said.

The ED has filed a money-laundering case against Mr Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar and 70 others in connection with the alleged ₹25,000-crore scam involving the sanction of loans by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB).

The NCP chief, however, said that he has never been associated with the bank — either as a member or director. "I have never been part of the bank's decision-making process," he said.

Alleging political vendetta, the Rajya Sabha MP said, "The development has happened when



NCP supporters stage a protest in Mumbai on Wednesday against the registration of a money laundering case against party chief Sharad Pawar and others in connection with the MSCB Bank scam. — PTI

I will go to the agency's office in Mumbai and extend my co-operation.

— Sharad Pawar
NCP chief



the polls are round the corner. So the people understand what is up."

The leader said he was arrested only once in his life, during a rally from Jalgaon to Nagpur in 1980, after he led a protest march over an agrarian issue.

Former state deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar also said there was no scam and added that the NCP president was nowhere related or involved in the matter.

Is it possible there is ₹25,000 crore scam, as is being said, in the bank whose deposits were between ₹12,000 crore to ₹13,000 crore?" he said. Ajit Pawar said the bank

was still making profit and questioned how come it was possible for the bank to register such a performance in the wake of the alleged scam. "The matter should be probed," he said.

According to political observers, the ED's actions could prove a blessing in disguise for the NCP, which is in dire straits due to a series of desertions of its prominent leaders. To protest the ED's actions, irate party workers held protests across the state and a shut-down was observed in Baramati, Mr Pawar's hometown. Workers of the NCP's youth wing also staged a protest outside the ED office in Mumbai.

Meanwhile, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the ED registered the case based on Bombay high court's directive and said the step should not be ascribed to political vendetta. "It would be wrong to attribute a political motive for the ED action and call it a political vendetta (by the BJP government)," he said.

'Not proud of Trump praise? Maybe you're not Indian'

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

Following the outrage over US president Donald Trump calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi the "Father of India", Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said those who object to the observation "do not consider themselves Indians."

"India is being respected in a way that was rare in the past. People who live abroad are proud today of being Indian. This is happening due to the personality and personal outreach of Prime Minister Modi," said Mr Singh, who is minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office. Mr Singh went on to say that such kind of statement for an Indian leader by any American President is unprecedented. "If an impartial and bold statement comes from America and its president then I feel every Indian should feel proud regardless of his political affiliations with any party or ideology. This is the first time that an president has used this kind of words of praise not for an Indian PM but for any other world leader and if someone is not proud of this, then maybe he does not consider himself Indian," he said.

President Trump on Tuesday while praising Mr Modi in New York said: "I remember India before was very torn. There was a lot of dissension, fighting and he brought it all together. Like a father would. Maybe he is the father of India."

The Opposition parties have been taking digs at the comment.



Singh

NCP chief's name not mentioned in case: Khadse

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

In a major embarrassment to the ruling BJP, senior party leader Eknath Khadse on Wednesday claimed Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar's name was never mentioned in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank corruption case when he was "following it up" as Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Mr Khadse's statement comes a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a money laundering case against the NCP chief, his nephew Ajit Pawar and others, which has triggered a firestorm in politics of poll-bound Maharashtra.

Claims of Mr Khadse, a disgruntled BJP veteran and former state minister, are likely to be lapped up by the NCP which has been alleging that the ED case was politically motivated with an eye on the next month's assembly elections.

"I had followed up the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) corruption case when I was the Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Assembly. I have raised the voice several times but I can state that Sharad Pawar's name was nowhere in the entire case".



Khadse

BJP CEC likely to finalise H'yana aspirants Sept. 29

Modi to attend meet prior to release of 1st list

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

The BJP's central election committee (CEC) is likely to meet on September 29 to finalise candidates for the coming Haryana Assembly elections. In another poll-bound state Maharashtra, BJP and ally Shiv Sena are yet to officially announce the seat-sharing formula.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the meeting after which the party could release the first list of candidates for the Haryana polls.

BJP's Haryana core group leaders, also including chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, on Wednesday held a meeting with party's national president and Union home minister Amit Shah, to sort out the issue of some senior leaders seeking tickets for their kin.

Though the party's state unit chief Subhash Barala, after the meeting, announced that the party was unwilling to field family members of its sitting MPs and MLAs,



Former Punjab Cabinet minister and member of SAD Bikram Singh Majithia during a press conference in Amritsar on Wednesday. — PTI

sources disclosed that Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh wants a ticket for his daughter and another Union minister Kishan Pal Gujjar is lobbying for his son, who is currently Faridabad's deputy mayor. Sources said both Union ministers have cited the example of former Union minister and Rajya Sabha MP Chaudhary Birendra Singh, whose son is an MP from Hissar and wife, Prem Lata, is an MLA Uchana Kalan Assembly seat. Rao Inderjit Singh belongs to

the Ahirwal community, which has a significant population in atleast 17 Assembly seats.

Haryana will go to polls on October 21 and the party is confident of retaining power. The BJP had 47 seats in the 90-member Assembly in the 2014 polls.

At the core group meeting with Mr Shah, other than Mr Khattar and Mr Barala, Union minister and election incharge Narendra Singh Tomar, state incharge Anil Jain also attended.

'Global Goalkeeper' award to PM for Swachhh Bharat

New York, Sept. 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Wednesday conferred the "Global Goalkeeper" award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Swachhh Bharat Abhiyan launched by his government.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, the Prime Minister's Office said Mr Modi lauded the countrymen for contributing to the grand success of the cleanliness mission, saying he shared the honour with them.

"Getting the award in the year of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary is personally significant for me. When 130 crore people take a pledge, any challenge can be overcome," the PM said.

He dedicated the award to those Indians who transformed the Swachhh Bharat campaign into a "people's movement" and accorded topmost priority to cleanliness in their day-to-day lives. "No such campaign was seen or heard about in any other country in the recent past. It might have been launched by our government, but people took control of it," Mr Modi said.



Azam Khan

Azam case: ED set to record statement

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

Trouble seems to be brewing for Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Azam Khan as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to record the statement of Abdul Ali, who had lodged a complaint with the local police, alleging that he was threatened by the SP MP into not giving his land for the expansion of Jauhar University (linked to Mr Khan) in Rampur, in a day or two.

Sources said, "Abdul Ali is a complainant. The agency will interrogate Mr K-han and other persons linked to him only after recording the statement."

Mr Ali had stated in his complaint that he was kept in jail for 15 hours and his land was encroached upon by the university, sources said adding that this information need to be verified.

The agency has already registered an FIR against Mr Khan and three others after Mr Ali complained that he was allegedly threatened into giving his land to the Jauhar University. Mr Ali, in the FIR, claimed Mr Khan threatened him into giving his land to the university illegally by using his power as a minister.

Line of credit announced for Pacific island nations

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

With an eye on China, which has made rapid inroads into the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced a slew of measures as part of the economic assistance to 12 Pacific island nations, including allocation of US\$12 million grant (US\$1 million to each nation) towards implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice and a concessional line of credit of US\$150 million, which can be availed by these countries for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects based on each country's requirement.

In addition, New Delhi "proposed to depute technical experts to provide training and offered to organise specialised courses also under ITEC programme in priority areas identified by partner countries, including training of diplomats



Narendra Modi

from Pacific island nations at the Foreign Service Institute". New Delhi also offered to "organise a Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in a Pacific regional hub under 'India for Humanity' programme.

The announcements were made by Mr Modi when he interacted with leaders of these countries as part of the "India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting" early Wednesday morning in New York on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (GA).

The meeting was attended by the heads of delegation of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia,

Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, The Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu.

Interestingly, of these 12 countries, two nations — Solomon Islands and Kiribati — had recently snapped diplomatic ties with Taiwan and embraced China. India, incidentally, like most nations in the world, follows the "One-China Policy" and does not recognise Taiwan as a sovereign nation.

China does not have diplomatic ties with any country that recognises Taiwan as a sovereign nation.

Meanwhile, at the PSIDS meeting in New York, Mr Modi made the announcements for the Pacific island nations as part of "his fundamental Mantra 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas Aur Sabka Vishwas' (together with all, for the development of all and with the trust of all)", the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said.

Krishnagiri growers distribute flowers free at Hosur

Ryots protest Chinese dumping

SANJEEVI ANANDAN | DC
KRISHNAGIRI, SEPT 25

Flower growers who are members of the 'Hosur small farmers association' staged a novel protest by gifting flowers to members of the public on Wednesday.

The protest was held to draw the Central government's attention to their demand to stop imports of artificial flowers from China, which according to them the Chinese are dumping into our market, taken away their livelihood.

"We gifted over one lakh natural flowers to ask people stop using artificial



flowers, to highlight our demand and for drawing the attention of the Central government to impose a ban on imports of plastic flowers entering into India from China," G. Bala Siva Prasad told DC here.

Bala, the president of the Hosur small farmers association added, "Hosur is the largest producer of flowers grown in the con-

trolled cultivation and open cultivation methods".

Most of the flowers including cut roses are exported, helping India to fetch precious foreign exchange earned from hard work of the farmers who are already in a crisis due to mounting losses in recent years, he said.

Besides, the import of artificial flowers from

China "plunders the livelihood of the farmers" who are in a dilemma whether to continue with their business or not, he pointed out.

According to Bala, imports from China which was 20-lakh kilos in the year 2016, had increased to 35-lakh kilos in the next year and the imports in 2018 stood at 75-lakh kilos. This would cross 100-lakh kilos before 2020.

Besides, the entry of flowers made of plastic also posed challenge to the environment because people using the cheap product are the decorators for various functions including marriages.



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval today reached Srinagar to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir

UP announces ₹6K annual aid for triple talaq victims

Yogi Adityanath

various schemes. These women should be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or under the Chief Minister Arogya Scheme," he said. Adityanath directed the departments concerned to prepare welfare schemes for the victims.

Around 300 women from across the state attended the event.

“Educated women should be absorbed in government jobs as per their qualifications while arrangements should also be made for providing them shelter and education under

various schemes. These women should be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or under the Chief Minister Arogya Scheme," he said.

Adityanath directed the departments concerned to prepare welfare schemes for the victims.

"Proper schemes should be implemented for the overall development of the society and no person should feel neglected," he said.

While assuring the triple talaq victims that their grievances will be redressed, the chief minister in a stern

warning to the police said they too would be punished if it is found that they failed to perform their duty.

Adityanath said women have the right to live with dignity. "In Uttar Pradesh, in last one year, 273 cases of triple talaq were reported from various districts in which FIR was registered. We will ensure proper grievance redressal of the triple talaq victims and in case police failed to do their duties, they too will be punished," the chief minister said, adding the society cannot develop if one community is neglected.

He asked the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) to personally look

into the concerns of the victims who submitted their applications during the event.

The chief minister also asked for identifying triple talaq victims and holding such interactive programmes at divisional level.

“The government is

ready to support all women, whether Hindu or Muslim, who have faced any kind of harassment. The government wants to make it clear that even Hindu men illegally having second wife and harassing them would not be spared and will face the wrath of law," he said.

The chief minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects that are meant to benefit the minority community, according to a state government statement.

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing law on triple talaq and taking the step towards women empowerment and honouring the dignity of women. Only he could have taken such step," he said.

"I want to assure all the women present here and other women of the state that the UP government is there to support them and help in all possible ways while following the path shown by PM Modi," he said. —PTI

2 MP dalit kids lynched for defecating on road

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, SEP 25

Two dalit kids including a girl in a Madhya Pradesh village were on Wednesday lynched by two men when they were attending nature's call in the open.

Preliminary investigation by police suggested that superstition driven by evil practice or 'untouchability' might have led to the gory incident.

The incident took place in the village of Bhavkhedi under Sirsoud police station in Shivpuri district.

The victims, Roshni (12) and Avinash (10) were hit repeatedly on their heads with bamboo canes by the two accused, identified as Hakim Singh Yadav (42) and Rameshwar Yadav (40), when they were defecating in the open in the village at around

6.30 in the morning, leaving them grievously wounded, Shivpuri district superintendent of police (SP) Rajesh Singh Chandel told this newspaper.

They were rushed to the district hospital in Shivpuri where doctors declared them dead.

Both the accused were arrest-

Police registered a case under section 302 (murder) of Indian Penal Code and SC, ST (preven-

The two accused attacked the two kids without any provocation and later took video of the gory sight of the victims lying in a pool of blood and writhing in pain, police said.

"It appeared the two accused were mentally deranged. Medical tests on them would establish if they were mentally ill", police said.

TENDERS / NOTICES



Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
(A Public Limited Company)

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD

(Regd. office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi)

CHENNAI 21 – BRANCH

20, A.G.Road, Old Washermenpet, Chennai – 600 021

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Chennai-21 Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1)(2) read with rule 3 of the Securitization (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice dated **18.07.2019** calling upon the borrower **Mrs.M.Durga W/o. Mr. K.M.K.Manoharan Proprietor, M/s. M.Durga Halal Mill, New No.78/2, Old No.37/2, Vardaraja Perumal Kolli Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-81** and Guarantor **Mr.K.M.K.Manoharan S/o.Murugesan, New No.78/2, Old No.37/2, Vardaraja Perumal Kolli Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-81** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.43,96,615.79 (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred and fifteen Rupees and Ninety Nines and Only)** (For CC- **Rs.31,53,642.79** and TL-**Rs.12,32,973.01**) with subsequent interest and expenses, within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on the undersigned, Authorised Officer of the secured creditor Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., under sub-section (4) of section 13 of act read with rule 8 of the Standing notice (Enforcement) Rules 2002, on the **20th day of September of the year 2019.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Chennai-21 Branch, for a total amount **Rs.44,85,991.79 (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred And Ninety One and paise Seventy Nine only)** (For CC- **Rs.32,20,731.79** and TL-**Rs.12,65,260.01**) as on **31.08.2019** with subsequent interest and expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Land to the extent of **2975 Sq.ft** (including passage of **297.50 Sq.ft**) comprised in R.S.No.3503 (Part) and residential building thereat to the extent of **2717 Sq.ft** being **D.No.78, (Old No.77/2), Vardaraja Perumal Kolli Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-81** Standing in the name of **Mrs.M.Durga BOUNDARIES** North by: Gandagada Gramani's Property, South by: Property of V.Rajendran & Vardaraja Perumal Kolli Street, East by: Jagannatha Chetty's Property, West by: Seni Pandiaraj's Property

Date : 20.09.2019

Place : Chennai

Authorized Officer
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.,
(For Chennai-21 Branch)



Syndicate Bank
SINCE 1950

REGIONAL OFFICE-II
No: 21/3, Sri Gurusu Misri Complex, 2nd Floor,
Kamarajar Street, Tambaram West,
Chennai-600 045, Ph: 044 - 2256 5127 / 2128

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

APPENDIX- IV-A (See proviso to rule 8 (6))

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the **Borrower and Guarantor** that the below described immovable property mortgaged, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there may be" on **23.10.2019**, for recovery of **Rs. 93,91,616.94** (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen Paise Ninety Four only) due on **31.08.2019** along with future interest from **01.09.2019** and costs till date of payment to the Secured Creditor from **1. M/s Jayasakthi Traders Prop: Gomathy V Rajan**, situated at No 1 Nehru Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Vengalvassi, Near Veerapathra Nagar Bus Stop, Chennai-600 100.

2. Prop: Gomathy V Rajan, W/o Varadarajan, 3. Mr.Varadarajan L, S/o M/Lakshman, No.2 & 3 residing at No.27, Bajapali, Old Street, Madhavaram, M/L. Kishan Rao, Koothencherry (Near Ramana Temple), Chennai-600 126 and Guarantor: Mr.Vijay M, S/o Mr.Munusamy, residing at 6/9, 3rd Indira Street, Dr.Kannu Nagar, Nesapakkam, Chennai-600 078. The reserve price will be Rs.2,78,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand seven only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.27,800/- (Rupees Twenty seven thousand and Eight Hundred only).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Owned by Mr.Varadarajan, S/o.Lakshmanan: All that part and parcel of all the piece and parcel of the **Vacant Land** bearing **Plot No.12**, forming part of layout known as **Selli Amman Nagar Annexe** approved vide Chennai/DTCP No.110/592 and **Vid.letter No.3086/A4/92** issued by the office of **Kadambathur Taluk, Tiruppur District**, situated at **109, Nemmanambur Village, Tiruppur Taluk**, comprised in Survey No.161/2 & 3, measuring 3090 Sq.ft., measuring North side 49 feet, South side 54 feet, East side 60 feet, West side 60 feet. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Tiruvallur and Registration District of Kancheepuram Owned by Varadarajan S/o Lakshmanan Bounded: On the North by 23 feet Road, On the South by Plot No 13, On the East by Plot No 11, On the West by Vacant Land.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured Creditor's website i.e. www.syndicatebank.in [or] Contact: Sales/try Branch: Mob: 94443 96921

Date : 24.09.2019
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank, RO-II, Chennai


 **GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Trichy Highways (Construction and Maintenance) Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.17/2019-20/HDO / Dated: 19.09.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **16.10.2019, 15.00** hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy - 20 for NON PLAN 2019-20 works (**Package No.104 to 109**) pertaining **Pudukkottai (H) C&M Division**.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **27.09.2019** onwards in the Government website **<https://tenders.gov.in>**. If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

**Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M Circle, Trichy - 20**

DIPR/3347/Tender/2019



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

BUILDING ORGANISATION BLDGS (C & M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 5.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No. 15 BCM / 2019-20 / DATED : 24.09.2019.


FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPsum / ITEM RATE.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tenders are invited from PWD eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Bldg (C & M) Circle, Chepak, Chennai -5 for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of work and EMD	Approximate value of work	Period	EMD in favour of
1.	Provision of Split type AC units to the Newly Constructed Inspection Office complex for Registration and Commercial Taxes Department in Government Farm Village, Guindy Taluk, Chennai. EMD Rs. 39,00/-	Rs. 57 Lakhs	3 Months	Electrical Engineer, PWD, Electrical Division - II, Chennai - 5.
2.	Provision of Air conditioning facilities and power mains to AC facilities to the Squash Court in Integrated Sports Complex, Chennai. EMD Rs. 54,500/-	Rs. 89.00 Lakhs	3 Months	Electrical Engineer, PWD, Electrical Division - I, Chennai - 5.

Tender schedule can be Downloaded at a cost of free from the Website <http://www.tenders.in.gov.in> or <http://www.tendersgovt.org> and also available in the Office undersigned at a cost of Rs. 1500/- + 1800 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available from 27.09.2019 at 14.30.19. Last date of receipt of tender is 15.10.2019 upto 03.00 PM, and opened on the same day at 4.00 PM by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website.

DIPR/3356/Tender2019 Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C & M) Circle, Chepak, Chennai - 5.

 **GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Trichy Highways (Construction and Maintenance) Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.19/2019-20/HDD / Dated: 23.09.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **16.10.2019, 15.00** hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy - 20 for NON PLAN 2019-20 works (**Package No.115 to 119**) pertaining **Pudukkottai (H) C&M Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **27.09.2019** onwards in the Government website **<https://tntenders.gov.in>**. If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

**Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M Circle, Trichy - 20**

DIPR/3348/Tender/2019


[illegible]

 **TAMILNADU TEXTILE CORPORATION LIMITED**
 201-B, Alagesan Road, Saibaba Colony, Coimbatore-641 011
 Phone: 0422-2450385 | Email: tntc18@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE



Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders those who are having own vehicles in two parts (Techno-Commercial bid & price bid) for transporting cloth bales from our godowns at Erode Corporation limit and also at Aruppukottai to various places within Tamil Nadu. All the details regarding tender and tender form is available at our above office on all working days **from 27.09.2019 to 14.10.2019 - 2.00 P.M.** during working hours. The tender forms are also available from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** In future corrigendum / extension, if any shall be published only at the above web site.

DIPR/3338/TENDER/2019 OFFICE MANAGER / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

 GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUILDING ORGANISATION BLDGS (C & M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 5. SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No. 14.BCM/ 2019/20 /DATED : 24.09.2019. FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPsum / COVER SYSTEM.			
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tenders are invited from PWD eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Bldg (C & M) Circle, Chennai -5 for the following works:-			
Name of work and Estimate	Approximate value of work	Period	Favour in favour of
Sl. No. 1 : Package No. 1, Sl-1 to Sl-13 : Special repairs to the following buildings, Agriculture Department at Chepaauk, State Guest House, Chepaug, Government Vigilance House at Kutchery Road, Lady Wellington Gf, Hr. Sec. School, Government Model Higher Secondary School, Triplicane, A&B wing of Kanchari Government Regional Transport Office at Kanchi, G.H.S. at West Main Road, (Pudur), G.H.S.S. at Kodambakkam, Chennai - 24. Government Service Quarters, Todumbar Nagar, Regional Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Guindy.	Rs. 236.71 Lakhs	3 Months	Executive Engineer, South Chennai - 5.
Sl-14 : Annual Maintenance of "C" type quarters (720 New Quarters) at Government Servant Quarters, Tondiar, Rs. 1,25,00,000.		12 Months	Presidency Division, Chennai - 5.

Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website <http://www.tenders.in.gov.in> [or] <http://www.tendersinfo.in> and also available in the Office under the signed at a fee of Rs. 15000/- + Rs. 1800 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available from 27.09.2019 to 14.10.2019. Last date of receipt of tenders is 15.10.2019 upto 05.00 PM. and opened on the same day at 4.00 PM. by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website.

DIPR/3354/Tender/2019 **Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C & M) Circle, Chepaug, Chennai - 5.**

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055. Ph: 080-23378715, 23371103 Fax: 23375102, 23370498 e-Mail: ksdl.dgmmts@gmail.com</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company</p> 			
Date: 25.09.2019					
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOTICE INVITING TENDER</h2>					
<p>Tenders are invited by KS&DL in two cover system through e-Procurement Portal (Website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) with respect to supply of the following Materials/Services.</p>					
Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Qty.	Published Date	Last date for Bid Submission
1	KSDL/2019-20/IND3879	Procurement of 20 TR/Hr. Process Chiller	1 No	11.09.2019	10.10.2019
2	KSDL/2019-20/IND3880	Procurement of Servo System 320 Lubrication Oil	10 Barrel	12.09.2019	11.10.2019
3	KSDL/2019-20/IND3883	Supply and Installation of 5000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos	25.09.2019	24.10.2019
		Supply and Installation of 10000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos		
<p>Please visit KS&DL website: https://www.mysoresandal.org for further details. For any queries/clarification, contact the undersigned.</p>					
Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)					

punjab national bank
AGMO BRANCH: 150, Luz Church Road, Mylapore,
 Chennai-600 004. Ph: 2467 1510 / 2499 2990
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer & Chief Manager of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01.07.2019 to, Mr.Kiran Bafna and Mrs.K.Dimple Bafna, the Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s), Mr.Prakash Kumar Jain, the Guarantor, and calling upon him/her to repay the amount of **Rs.36,83,972/-** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two only) as on 30.06.2019 with further interest from 01.06.2019 within **60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice.**

The borrowers, and mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **20th day of September of the year 2019.**

The borrower and mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned NOT to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of **Rs.36,83,972/-** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two only) with further interest and charges w.e.f from 01.06.2019.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

558 Sq.ft of undivided share in 43,754 Sq.ft of undivided share in 2,43,078 Sq.ft (Phase II) of undivided share from and out of total of 4,27,366 Sq.ft situated at Old Door No 106 & 107 and New Door No 210 & 212 in Cochrane Basin Road, Chennai 600021, comprised in Old Survey No 561 & 563, Re-Survey No 1844/2 and 4, New Re-Survey No 1841 and (as per permanent land register extract in Re-Survey No 1841/3), of Tondiarpet Village, Fort Tondiarpet Taluk, Chennai and being bounded on the North by: (Government Land) now Ambedkar Nagar and Anandanayaki Nagar, South by: 10 meter wide road comprised in S No 1841/3 part, East by: Cochrane Basin Road, West by: Open Space area leading to Buckingham Canal and Railway Line. Together with residential flat bearing Flat No M-20/11 in Block-M, second floor, measuring 1281 sq.ft (inclusive of common areas) in the building known as 'Vooru Vidyaasagar Oswal Garden' along with two covered car park area and lying within the limits of Corporation of Chennai in the Registration Sub-district of Royapuram and in Registration District of Chennai-North.

Date : 20.09.2019
Place: Chennai

AUTHORISED OFFICER & SECURED CREDITOR
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.				
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)				
Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification Nos.	Total	
1	SE/P&A/TPPS	2852-S	1	
2	SE/P&A/NCTPS	83 (78 Due date Extension) 2	1	
3	CE/Erode	(06 Scrap)	1	
4	CE/Ch/South	E.725	1	
5	SE/MM-III	M.24, M.25, M.26	3	
6	CE/Ch/North	E.75	1	
7	SE/MWS/Mettur	(1 Scrap)	1	
TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.				
8	CE/Tc/Pr/Trichy	C-27 to C-30	4	
9	CE/Tc/Pr-I	53 to 55	3	

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
MPZ - 50Z
Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045.

E-AUCTION NOTICE 6/2019

The following Plots are available for
allotment through e-auction in MPZ-
SEZ, Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045.

a	Plot No. B-32, Phase - II (along with existing Building)	3265.00 sq.m
b	Plot No. B-21, Phase - I	4835.00 sq.m

2. For further details and Terms and
Conditions please visit website:

www.mstcecommerce.com

 <div style="text-align: center;"> GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT SALEM DISTRICT STATE FINANCE COMMISSION 2019 - 2020 (DISTRICT PANCHAYAT) (SHORT TERM ELECTRONIC TENDER NOTICE) </div>	
Rec.No.1308/2019/A4 Dt. 29.09.2019.	
1. For details, visit www.tntenders.gov.in	
2.e-Bids are invited by Project Director, DRDA, Salem District of Tamil Nadu State under Two Cover System for Road Works under State Finance Commission 2019-20 (District Panchayat)	
3. The e-Bid documents can be downloaded from www.tntenders.gov.in on free of cost and it can be downloaded from the date 26.09.2019 to 10.10.2019	
4	The Last Date and Time for downloading and Submission of Bid Documents upto <div style="float: right; text-align: right;"> 10.10.2019 03.00 P.M. </div>
5	Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents will be held on <div style="float: right; text-align: right;"> 11.10.2019 04.00 P.M. @ DRDA Office, Salem </div>
DIPR/3372/TENDER/2019 Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Salem.	

AMRITSAR SMART CITY LTD. (ASCL)									
SCO-21, 2nd Floor, B-Block, District Shopping Complex, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar Phone No. 0183-5015048 smartcityamritsar.com, ceoasclsr@gmail.com									
NOTICE INVITING TENDER									
Amritsar Smart City Limited, Amritsar invites online unconditional bids from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) with Single Stage - two envelope bidding procedure for following works:									
Sr. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender Availability Date and Time	Preiod of Completion	Last Date for Bid Submission	Tender Document Fee		
1.	Redevelopment of Outer Circular Road of Walled City at Amritsar as "Smart Road" with 5 years of Operation and Maintenance Period including Defect Liability Period under Smart City Mission; NIB No.05/ASCL/2019-20	125.78 Crore	125.78 Lakhs	26.09.2019 at 03:00 PM	28 Months	17.10.2019 by 03:00 PM	Rs. 25,000/- + Processing Fee		
2.	Development of Non-Motorized Transport Infrastructure in Amritsar City under Smart City Mission with 03 (three) years of Operation & Maintenance including 01 (one) year of Defect Liability Period; NIB No. 21/ASCL/2019-20	2.02 Crore	8.08 Lakhs	27.09.2019 at 03:00 PM	10 Months	18.10.2019 by 03:00 PM	Rs. 10,000/- + Processing Fee		
1. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in								Chief Executive Officer Amritsar Smart City Limited	



Power point

Venezuela pro-democracy and opposition leader Juan Guaido attempts to set up a government to rival the socialist administration of Nicolas Maduro



Determined to meet Kim Jong Un face to face, without any conditions

— Shinzo Abe
Japan's PM

IN BRIEF

Case on Pervaz to be heard daily

Islamabad: A special court in Pakistan has decided to conduct the high treason trial of former military dictator Pervaz Musharraf on a daily basis from October 8 to conclude the case pending since December 2013, according to a media report. The previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had filed the treason case against the former army chief in 2013 over the imposition of extra-constitutional emergency in November 2007, which led to the confinement of a number of superior court judges in their houses and sacking of over 100 judges.

China launches 1st amphibious ship

Beijing: China has launched its first amphibious assault ship, which would enable ground forces to carry out attacks on enemy territory from sea. The ship was launched in Shanghai on Wednesday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. With a strong capacity in amphibious operations and performing a variety of tasks, the ship is independently developed by China, the report said. The ship will next undergo equipment debugging, mooring and navigational trials as planned, it said. The ship will have a strong capability to carry out amphibious combat and other tasks, state-run *China Daily* said quoting a statement from the Chinese navy. Observers familiar with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's hardware have pointed out that the new ship is the first in the Type 075 class of amphibious assault ship, which is also defined as a type of landing helicopter dock, the report said. In a major rejig of its military doctrine, China since 2013 has stepped up the development of its navy, which included building several aircraft carriers besides submarines, frigates and assault ships as part of its efforts to expand its global influence.

Four bodies found from crashed plane

Timika: The bodies of four passengers on an Indonesian cargo plane that went missing in the jungles of Papua a week ago were recovered, the search agency said. The DHC-6 Twin Otter took off from Timika to Ilaaga, a mountainous region in Papua. Local authorities declared the plane — carrying three crew, a police officer and 1.7 tonnes of rice — missing after it failed to land hours after taking off. On Wednesday, the search and rescue agency said four bodies were discovered near the wreckage of the small plane. "The location was difficult to reach because of the dangerous terrain, but we managed to recover the victims' bodies," Budi Purnomo of the national search and rescue agency told reporters.

Dems roll dice to impeach Trump

Washington, Sept. 25: Top US Democrat Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday announced the opening of a formal impeachment inquiry into US President Donald Trump, saying he betrayed his oath of office by seeking help from a foreign power to hurt his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The dramatic move — the first step in a complex process that stands little chance of driving Trump from office — pushed US politics into a perilous new chapter just 14 months before new elections for control of White House and Congress.

Following the bombshell developments from Trump Tower in New York — after addressing the UN General Assembly — the President denounced the inquiry as "Witch Hunt garbage" — while also claiming it would help his re-election chances in 2020. "The actions of the Trump presidency revealed the dishonorable facts of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security, and betrayal of the integrity of our elections," Pelosi told a highly anticipated news conference in the US capital.

"Therefore, today I'm announcing the House of Representatives moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry."

Pelosi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other Democratic Party leaders

■ **THE DRAMATIC** move that stands little chance of driving Trump from office, pushed US politics into a perilous new chapter

■ **TRUMP** denounced the inquiry as "Witch Hunt garbage" and said he will release transcript of a call at the centre of the row

had resisted taking the step for months, preferring to focus on the coming election fight.

But a combination of the newest allegations that Trump offered Ukraine aid in return for help to damage Democratic White House frontrunner Biden, and a groundswell of support for impeachment among the party's rank and file, appeared to tip the balance.

"The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law," she said.

Seeking to head off the looming impeachment threat, Trump announced on Tuesday he would release the transcript of the call. "You will see it was a very friendly and totally appropriate call. No pressure and, unlike Joe Biden and his son, NO quid pro quo!" he tweeted.

"PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT" he tweeted later. —AFP

Save oceans, aid humans: UN

Digest of 7,000 peer-reviewed studies approved by IPCC shows bleak future

Monaco, Sept. 25: Two days after a climate summit failed to deliver game-changing pledges to slash carbon emissions, the United Nations warned on Wednesday that global warming is devastating oceans and Earth's frozen spaces in ways that directly threaten a large slice of humanity.

Crumbling ice sheets, rising seas, melting glaciers, ocean dead zones, toxic algae blooms — a raft of impacts on sea and ice are decimating fish stocks, destroying renewable sources of fresh water, and incubating superstorms that will ravage some megacities every year, according to a landmark assessment approved by the 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Some of these impacts are irreversible.

The report, a digest of 7,000 peer-reviewed studies, is a sobering reminder that record greenhouse gas emissions, mostly from burning fossil fuels, are driving the planet towards a hothouse climate our species could find intolerable.

But it also raises more clearly than ever before a red flag on the need to confront changes that can no longer be averted. For some island nations and coastal cities, that will certainly mean finding new places to call home.

"Even if we manage to limit global warming, we will continue to see major changes in the oceans," said Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a researcher at the Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences and an IPCC co-chair.

UK PM talks about chickens, robots, baffles UN delegates

United Nations, US, Sept. 25: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivered an unconventional speech at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that referenced "terrifying limbless chickens" and "pink-eyed terminators" but only mentioned Brexit once.

During a late-night, 20-minute address that drew baffled looks from delegates, Johnson struck a light tone on a serious subject as he warned of technology's capacity to control citizens.

He made no mention of Britain's top court ruling earlier in the day that his decision to suspend Parliament amid a Brexit impasse was unlawful.

Johnson painted the possibility of a future where devices in every house-



Boris Johnson

hold "monitor your nightmares, your fridge," and where smart cities are "as antiseptic as a Zurich pharmacy." "Alexa" will pretend to take orders but it will be watching you, clapping her tongue and stamping her foot," Johnson said, suggesting "there may be nowhere to hide." "As new technolo-

gies seem to race towards us we strain our eyes as they come, to make out whether they are for good or bad, friends or foes.

"AI, what will it mean?" he asked of artificial intelligence. "Helpful robots washing and caring for an ageing population or pink-eyed terminators sent back from the future to cull the human race?" Johnson pondered.

He went on to wonder whether synthetic biology could restore tissues "like some fantastic hangover cure" or "bring terrifying limbless chickens to our tables." Johnson also referenced one of his favorite subjects, Greek mythology, by telling the story of Zeus punishing Prometheus by ensuring that an eagle ate his liver over and over again. —AFP

UN REPORT: MEGACITIES WILL BE HIT ANNUALLY BY CATASTROPHES

Monaco, Sept. 25: By 2050, many coastal megacities and small island nations will experience once-a-century weather catastrophes every year, even with an aggressive drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions, a major report by the UN said on Wednesday.

More than a billion people will, by mid-century, be living in areas prone to cyclones, large-scale flooding and other extreme weather events amplified by rising seas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected. —AFP

China's grand airport gift to celebrate 70 years of Communist Party rule



A futuristic airport resembling a giant starfish opened in Beijing on Wednesday, as China unveiled a big infrastructure project before it celebrates 70 years of Communist Party rule. Daxing International Airport will operate fully in 2040, with eight runways, 100 mn passengers annually. —AFP

US warns China over Hong Kong

United Nations, US, Sept. 25: The US ramped up pressure on China at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, rallying countries against Beijing's treatment of Uighur Muslims and warning it is watching Hong Kong.

President Donald Trump fired several shots across the bow of the fellow Security Council member, moving beyond his typical



attacks against China on international trade.

"The world fully expects that the Chinese government will honour its bind-

ing treaty... (and) protect Hong Kong's freedom and legal system and democratic ways of life," Trump told the General Assembly.

"How China chooses to handle the situation will say a great deal about its role in the world and the future," the Republican tycoon added during his third appearance at the diplomatic forum in New

York.

It marked one of his most strident speeches on the situation in Hong Kong since massive anti-government protests broke out there three months ago.

The demonstrations have triggered the Asian financial hub's biggest political crisis since its handover from Britain to China in 1997. —AFP

'Last chance' for Iran-US meeting

United Nations, Sept. 25: US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani face their last chance on Wednesday for a historic meeting as European leaders raced to arrange talks to defuse soaring tensions. Escorting Rouhani to a

meeting with British PM Boris Johnson, Macron said time was running short. "If he leaves the US without meeting Trump, this is a lost opportunity," Macron said. "And Trump will not go to Tehran, so they have to meet now," he said, as Boris voiced agreement. —AFP



SWEDISH RIGHTS PRIZE FOR CLIMATE STRIKER THUNBERG

Stockholm, Sept. 25: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg on Wednesday won the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes called the "alternative Nobel Prize", the jury for the Swedish human rights prize said.

Thunberg was honoured "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts," the Right Livelihood Foundation said in a statement.

"Her resolve to not put up with the looming climate disaster has inspired millions of peers to also raise their voices and demand immediate climate action," it added.

Thunberg's global climate movement "Fridays for Future" began in August 2018 when she started sitting alone outside Sweden's Parliament with her now iconic sign reading "school strike for the climate". —AFP

Khan: US asked us to talk to Iran

United Nations (US) Sept. 25: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday Donald Trump had asked him to mediate with Iran to defuse tensions, though the US president later suggested it was Khan who approached him and nothing was final.

Khan met Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of this week's United Nations General Assembly before which he visited Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, whom he said had made the same request.

"Trump asked me that if we could de-escalate the situation and maybe come up with another deal," Khan told reporters at the gathering of leaders in New York.

"Yes, we did convey this, and yes, we're trying our best," he said.

"I immediately spoke to President Rouhani yesterday after the meeting with President Trump. I can't say anything right now more than this,



Imran Khan

except that we're trying and mediating," he added.

In Saudi Arabia, which was hit earlier this month by attacks on its oil infrastructure blamed on Iran, the crown prince "also asked me to talk to the Iranian president," Khan said.

Speculation was rife about a possible face-to-face between Trump and Rouhani on the sidelines of the general assembly, with France's Emmanuel Macron trying to broker a historic meeting. —AFP

PRESIDENT ASKS NETANYAHU TO FORM NEW GOVT

Jerusalem, Sept. 25: Israel's president on Wednesday tasked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with forming a new government after last week's deadlocked elections, his office announced.

The announcement followed a joint meeting between President Reuven Rivlin, Netanyahu and the premier's challenger Benny Gantz.

Netanyahu will have 28 days to form a government, with a possible two-week extension.

If all attempts fail, Rivlin can then assign the task to someone else.

Rivlin has been urging Netanyahu and Gantz to form a unity government, but a compromise appears a long way off.

Netanyahu renewed his call for his challenger Benny Gantz to join him in a unity coalition. Final results from September 17 polls gave Gantz's centrist Blue and White 33 seats, ahead of Likud's 32. —AFP

UK MPs return after bombshell SC ruling

London, Sept. 25: British MPs returned to parliament on Wednesday following a momentous Supreme Court ruling that struck down Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend the house weeks before the Brexit deadline.

The judgment has hit Johnson's authority, prompting calls for his resignation and cast further doubt on his promise to pull Britain out of the EU on October 31, come what may. The Conservative leader landed back in London at around 10.30am (0930 GMT)

after a trip to New York, heading straight into a political maelstrom triggered by Tuesday's damning court ruling that his decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks was unlawful.

He was due to address Parliament later on Wednesday on the ruling, while insisting that he will not accept MPs' demands to seek an extension to the October 31 Brexit deadline, according to his Downing Street office, setting him on another collision course with lawmakers. —AFP

TURNING POINT

Honey heals Colombian war wounds

Chengue, Colombia, Sept. 25: Covered from head to toe in a protective suit, Yina Ortiz peers through a veil to check in on her beehive.

It is one of hundreds that form a lifeline for her remote village, helping to heal the wounds of one of the Colombian conflict's most brutal atrocities.

Rightwing paramilitaries stormed the village in the dead of night and used machetes to hack 27 people to death, accusing



them of collaborating with leftist guerrillas.

The attack 18 years ago was one of the worst atrocities. Ortiz survived the attack on Chengue in Montes de Maria. But she

lost several family members and close friends. Now 33, her memories are still clear. "It wasn't just the streams of blood, it was awful to see so many dead bodies, one of

top of the other, there on the ground, and their loved ones picking them up," Ortiz said.

Over a hundred families fled, leaving behind a ghost village. But nearly two decades later, life has slowly returned to the dusty village, in part because of the lure of bees. A programme initiated by Ortiz and a group of local women helped bring apiculture to Chengue and it hasn't looked back.

"Thanks to beekeeping, people have united, returned, they enjoy taking care of the bees," she said, working the handle on a device called a bee smoker to fumigate and calm the swarming bees.

For the past year, the 159 families of Chengue alternate between agricultural work and caring for the 500 hives donated by government and the UN, as part of a collective programme for survivors of armed conflict. —AFP

MFs told to adopt waterfall approach to valuation

Palm oil imports could hit record



Page 11

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,593.52	-1.29
Nifty 50	11,440.20	-1.28
S&P 500	2,975.03	+0.28
Dollar (₹)	71.03	+0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	88.05	-0.63
Euro (₹)	78.03	-0.19
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,182.162	+0.41
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.96	-1.81
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.754	-0.020
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.687	+0.052

* As of 9:30 pm IST

RBI rebuts rumours of 9 banks closure

Rebutting social media rumours, the RBI said no commercial banks are going to be shut. Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar described such messages as “mischievous” saying the Centre was rather strengthening the banks by infusing capital in them. “Reports appearing in some sections of social media about the RBI closing down certain commercial banks are false,” the RBI said.

Tata Steel South Wales site reports ‘incident’



Tata Steel said there had been an incident at its site in Port Talbot in South Wales. “We can confirm there has been an incident at our Port Talbot site,” Tata tweeted. “The emergency services are currently on site and a full investigation has been launched.” It did not give any details of what had happened but South Wales Police said it was an isolated incident.

Tax panel on direct tax code for DDT removal

The task force on direct tax code (DTC) has recommended abolishing dividend distribution tax (DDT) with a view to promote investment. DDT is a surrogate tax and it hinders foreign direct investment inflows, sources said. Dividends paid by a domestic company are subject to DDT at 15 per cent of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid.

14.24 lakh jobs created in July: ESIC payroll data

Around 14.24 lakh jobs were created in July, higher than 12.49 lakh in the previous month, according to Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Gross enrolments of new subscribers with the ESIC were 1.49 crore during 2018-19, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said. It also showed that during September, 2017 to July, 2019, around 2.83 crore new subscribers joined the ESI scheme.

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■ Disclosure about IBC, ICA events now mandatory

Firms told to promptly report default details

FC BUREAU with agency inputs NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

The leading stock exchanges have asked all listed companies to promptly disclose to them all “material developments” relating to payment defaults, including inter-creditor agreements made in this respect.

BSE and NSE have issued the direction in consultation with the regulator, the Securities Exchange Board of India.

The exchanges have also announced additional surveillance measures for companies involved in the resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) or Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA).

In separate circulars, the bourses said developments related to the ICA are likely to have significant impact on prices of the securities of the entities whose assets have been deemed to be ‘stressed’ on account of default or delay of interest/principal payments.



Therefore, developments such as signing of the ICA by lenders of a listed company is deemed to be “material” as it is likely to have significant impact on the ownership and governance of the company, the exchanges said, citing Sebi’s disclosure regulations.

The Reserve Bank’s Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets Directions, 2019 provides for lenders to take a prima facie review of defaulting borrowers within 30 days of default. During this review period,

the lenders may decide on a resolution strategy which may include putting in place a resolution plan or alternatively initiate legal proceedings under the IBC.

In cases where a resolution plan is to be implemented, all lenders can enter into an ICA during this review period.

In view of this, the exchanges have now asked all listed companies to promptly disclose all material developments pertaining to any default and about the ICA.

Besides, all entities who get confidential informa-

tion in course of developments pertaining to default and/or ICA, will need to maintain confidentiality of such information, until the same is disclosed to the exchanges for public dissemination.

Besides, listed companies on their own would have to promptly confirm or deny and clarify to stock exchanges regarding any rumours or news on developments pertaining to default and/or ICA.

Detailing the criteria for short-listing of securities for action and the surveillance action, the exchanges said additional surveillance would be applicable in case of a closing share price variation of more than 25 per cent in five consecutive trading days, post disclosure of default.

The surveillance action in this case would be applicable margin rate of 40 per cent or existing margin, whichever is higher, subject to maximum rate of margin capped at 100 per cent from T+3 day for a minimum period of 15 days.

Bansal makes ₹740-cr entry into fintech firm CRIDS

New Delhi, Sept. 25: Flipkart Co-founder Sachin Bansal has picked up a majority stake in Chaitanya Rural Intermediation Services (CRIDS) and pumped in Rs 739 crore in the non-banking financial company.

Bansal, who has been an active investor in the Indian start-up ecosystem, including in compa-

nies like Ola and Bounce, will also assume the role of CEO at CRIDS.

“There will be a total infusion of INR 739 crore from Sachin. He will assume the role of CEO of CRIDS...And will provide additional support to create further impetus to business growth... Both Samit Shetty and Anand Rao will continue in their respective roles of growing the existing business

segments,” a statement said.

The various business units will continue to operate as they have and there will be no significant change in management, it added.

Founded by Anand Rao and Samit Shetty, CRIDS provides credit access to underbanked population



Sachin Bansal

and a majority of its business is in micro-finance.

“This acquisition is our entry into financial services. Samit and Anand have built a great

company that provides much-needed financial access to people who don’t have access to other for-

mal finance. I look forward to working closely with Samit and Anand and building further on the solid work they have done,” Bansal said.

CRIDS also provides loans for two-wheelers, housing, small business and education. It operates in five states — Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maha-rashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.

“Sachin brings with him

the ability of building huge scale grounds up to CRIDS... We are looking forward to benefiting from his insights and experience with technology, and how that can be leveraged for improving access to financial services, financial inclusion and making our business better, more sustainable and customer centric,” Shetty said.

— PTI

ADB slashes GDP forecast to 6.5%

New Delhi, Sept. 25: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday sharply lowered India’s growth forecast from 7.2 per cent to 6.5 per cent for the current fiscal, though has indicated that the country will grow faster than China.

The multi-lateral lending agency in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Update for 2019 cut the growth projection for India, which recorded an over six-year low growth of 5 per cent in April-June quarter this fiscal.

“India’s growth forecast for fiscal year 2019 is lowered to 6.5 per cent after growth slowed markedly to 5 per cent in the first quarter, April-June. Abrupt declines in manufacturing and investment reflect uncertainty ahead of gen-

eral elections, subdued lending by banks and other financial institutions, stress in the rural economy, and a weakening external outlook,” the agency said.

However, India is expected to rebound to 7.2 per cent growth in fiscal 2021 and join most other sub-regional countries in performing at or near their ADO 2019 growth forecasts for next year, it added.

The Manila-headquartered funding agency had projected India’s economy to expand at 7.2 per cent in its ADO for 2019-20 released earlier in April this year and cut it down to 7 per cent in the supplement to the ADO in July.

For China, ADB has projected that growth will slip from 6.6 per cent last year to 6.2 per cent in 2019.—PTI

Discounts on credit card payments at pumps end

New Delhi, Sept. 25: Credit card payments to buy fuel at petrol pumps will from October 1 not get a 0.75 per cent discount that state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) had introduced more than two-and-a-half years back to promote digital payments.

“Dear SBI credit cardholder, as advised by public sector oil marketing companies, the 0.75 per cent cashback on fuel transactions will be discontinued with effect from October 1, 2019,” the country’s largest bank in a text message informed its credit card customers.

The government had asked Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) to give a 0.75



per cent discount on card payments for fuel purchases after a widespread cash crunch in late 2016 following demonetisation.

The 0.75 per cent discount of the value of fuel purchases using credit/ debit cards and e-wallets was introduced in December 2016 and had continued for more than two-and-a-half years.

Apart from the cash discounts, the government had also directed OMCs to bear the burden of card payment charges called merchant discount rate (MDR), which is usually

paid by the retailer.

An industry official said the oil companies have decided to discontinue the discount on all credit card payments from October 1.

However, the discount on debit card and other digital modes of payments would continue, he said.

The three fuel retailers paid Rs 1,165 crore in e-payment discounts and Rs 266 crore to banks for bearing MDR, totalling Rs 1,431 crore in 2017-18. In 2018-19, the outgo almost touched Rs 2,000 crore.

This after the number of digital transactions jumped from 10 per cent in 2016 to over 25 per cent in 2018.

The 0.75 per cent discount on payments made using credit/debit cards or e-wallets translated into a rebate of about 50 paise a litre on petrol and diesel. —PTI

Tax euphoria ends, Sensex drops 504 pts

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

The stock market snapped a three-day winning run, tracking declines in global stocks, as calls for an impeachment of US President Donald Trump rattled investors. Trump putting China on notice at the United Nations conference—by declaring that the time of trade “abuses” by Beijing was “over” and asking Beijing to protect Hong Kong’s “democratic ways of life”—also weighed on investor sentiment.

The Sensex dropped 504 points, or 1.3 per cent to 38,593.52 on Wednesday while the Nifty-50 fell 148 points, or 1.28 per cent, to 11,440.20. Both indices rose more than 8 per cent in the previous three sessions post-the corporate tax cut.

Global stocks fell on Wednesday after Democrats in the US House of Representatives on Tuesday launched a formal impeachment inquiry into Trump, accusing him of seeking foreign help to smear Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of next year’s election.

Trump’s stinging rebuke to China’s trade practices at the UN also stoked fears of an escalation in the ongoing trade war.

India remains the most expensive market in emerging Asia even as analysts increased earnings estimates for the benchmark indices by as much as 10 per cent.

— Reuters

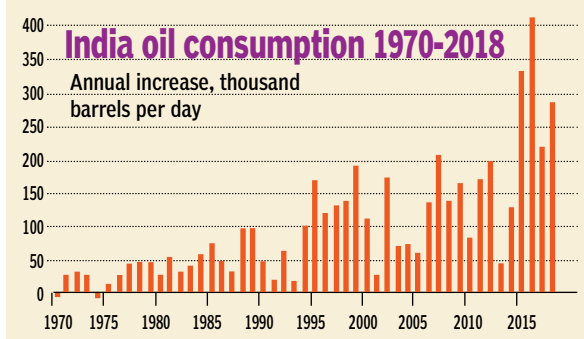
India slowdown hits global oil demand

JOHN KEMP LONDON, SEPT. 25

India’s oil consumption is growing well below its long-term trend as the country struggles with a widespread economic slowdown, including a slump in new vehicle sales.

The slowdown is part of a worldwide economic deceleration, which is weighing heavily on the motor industry. But because India has been so important for growth in oil demand over the last two decades, its downturn is materially shifting oil’s global production-consumption balance and weighing on prices.

India’s slowdown threatens to trim at least 100,000

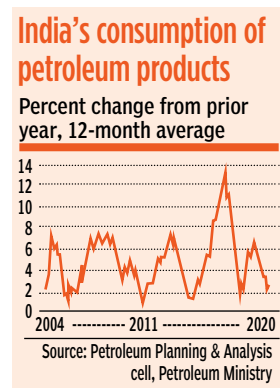


barrels per day (bpd) from global consumption growth in 2019, pushing world growth down to 1 million bpd or less this year.

In the last two decades, India’s consumption incr-

Column

eased at an annual average rate of around 5 per cent compared with a worldwide average of 1.5 per



cent, making the country a major source of incremental demand. It accounted for almost 13 per cent of worldwide consumption growth between

1998 and 2018, rising to 18 per cent between 2013 and 2018. But the country’s consumption was up by just 1.45 per cent in the three months from June to August compared with the same period a year earlier, down from more than 8 per cent year-on-year at the start of 2018.

Petrol, used by private motorists, is now growing less than 10 per cent year-on-year, down from more than 13 per cent in the first quarter of last year, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Diesel is increasing by just 1.3 per cent, down from more than 9 per cent in early 2018.

Uber offers free insurance to riders

New Delhi, Sept. 25: US-based ride hailing giant Uber on Wednesday said it will offer free insurance to its riders in case of accidents while on trip across categories such as cars, autos and motorcycles.

Riders will be insured for up to Rs 5 lakh in case of accidental death or disability and up to Rs 2 lakh for hospitalisation, including an OPD benefit of up to Rs 50,000.

Uber, which operates in over 40 Indian cities, has partnered with Bharti AXA to provide insurance for car rides and with TATA AIG for auto and moto rides.

"We engage closely with our riders and our focus is on ensuring a smooth and safe experience for them. We already offer insurance for our driver partners, and we are confident that this development will give riders a greater sense of security and assurance when they take an Uber ride," Uber Head of Central Operations (Rides) for India and South Asia Pavan Vaish told PTI.

Govt revives EAC-PM under Bibek Debroy

New Delhi, Sept. 25: The government on Wednesday reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) under existing Chairman Bibek Debroy, for a period of two years. Ratan P. Watal will continue as Member Secretary of the EAC-PM. "Government of India has reconstituted the EAC-PM for a period of two years with effect from September 26, 2019," said an official release.

Apart from these two full-time members, the EAC-PM will have two part-time members as against three in the outgoing panel.

While Ashima Goel continues to be one of the part-time members, Sajid Chinoy has been roped in as the new member.

Two existing part-time members, Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi, have not found place in the reconstituted EAC-PM.

The EAC-PM is an independent body constituted to advise the government, especially the prime minister, on economic and related issues. —PTI

Wow! Momo plans 40 Wow! China outlets

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, SEPT. 25

Wow! Momo Foods Pvt Ltd, the home-grown QSR brand, which has recently bagged \$23 million from Tiger Global at a valuation of \$120 million, seems well set to foray into Chinese cuisine and replicate its success story with momo in case of what it positions as "re-imagined Chindian cuisine".

Co-founded by Sagar Daryani and Binod Homagai in 2008, Wow! Momo, which at present sells as many as 5 lakh momos per day from its 281 outlets (280 company owned and one-franchise) across 15 cities, has lined up plans to put in place a chain of 40 Wow! China outlets across Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore within the new fiscal, said Sagar Daryani, co-founder & CEO, Wow Momo Foods. The Kolkata-headquartered food start-up, which notched up a revenue of Rs 120 crore in FY19, is also hopeful of crossing the Rs 200 crore mark this fiscal, on the basis of its expansion plans.

■ Sebi's valuation framework bars use of own trades

MFs told to use waterfall approach to valuation

New Delhi, Sept. 25: In order to bring uniformity and consistency in valuation, markets regulator Sebi has asked mutual fund houses to follow "waterfall" approach for the valuation of money market and debt securities.

Under this approach, all traded securities would be valued on the basis of traded yields, subject to identification of outlier trades by the valuation agencies.

Besides, the regulator has come out with a framework relating to valuation of inter-scheme transfers and barred the use of own trades for valuation.

Further, the regulator said a money market or debt security will be classified as "below investment grade" if the long-term rating of the security issued by a credit rating agency (CRA) is below BBB—or if the short-term rating of the security is below A3.

A money market or debt security will be classified as "default" if the interest and/or principal amount has not been received on the day such amount was due or when such security was downgraded to "default" grade by a CRA.

In the case of default, mutual funds will have to promptly inform to the valuation agencies and the CRAs any instance of non-receipt of payment of interest and/or principal amount (part or full) in any security.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Securities and Exchange Board of India

UNIFORM CRITERIA

► All traded securities would be valued on the basis of traded yields, subject to identification of outlier trades by the valuation agencies

► VWAY for trades in the last one hour of trading will be used as the basis for valuation of govt securities

(Sebi) said, "for arriving at security-level pricing, a waterfall approach shall be followed for the valuation of money market and debt securities."

Spelling out broad principles that need to be adopted under the waterfall approach, for arriving at the security level prices, the regulator said that "all traded securities shall be valued on the basis of traded yields, subject to identification of outlier trades by the valuation agencies".

Volume weighted average yield (VWAY) for trades in the last one hour of trading will be used as the basis for valuation of government securities including treasury bills, Sebi said.

"Valuation of all other money market and debt securities (including government securities not traded in the last one hour) shall be done on the basis of VWAY of all trades during the day," Sebi said.

The market watchdog asked the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) to ensure that valuation agencies have a documented waterfall approach for valuation of money market and debt securities.

Considering the importance of polling in the valuation process, Sebi asked Amfi to issue framework on polling by valuation agencies and on the responsibilities of mutual funds in the polling process, as part of the approach.

Valuation agencies will identify the mutual funds who will participate in the polling process on a particular day, taking into account factors such as diversification of poll submitters and portfolio holding of the mutual funds.

Mutual funds, who are identified by the valuation agencies, will have to necessarily participate in the polling process. However, in case any fund does not par-

Palm oil imports could hit record high on rising demand: Analyst

RAJENDRA JADHAV
MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

India's palm oil imports in 2019/20 are likely to rise 2 per cent from a year earlier to a record high as consumption in the world's biggest edible oil buyer will expand more rapidly than local supplies, a leading industry analyst said on Wednesday.

Higher imports may help support benchmark Malaysian palm oil prices that in July hit their lowest level in nearly four years and are struggling to recover due to weak export demand.

Palm oil imports for the 2019/20 marketing year starting on November 1 will rise to 9.7 million tonnes, said Govindbhai Patel,



Managing Director of trading firm G.G. Patel & Nikhil Research Company. The imports will rise as edible oil consumption is estimated to grow to a record 23.6 million tonnes.

Palm oil accounts for nearly two-thirds of India's total edible oil imports. India buys palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia,

with its soybean oil mainly imported from Argentina and Brazil. It purchases sunflower oil from Ukraine.

"Soybean oil imports may rise 3.4 million tonnes against previous year's 3.1 million tonnes due to a drop in domestic crop," Patel told a conference.

The country's soybean production is expected to drop 12.6 per cent from a year ago to 9 million tonnes as excessive rainfall damaged the crop in the top producing central state of Madhya Pradesh, he said.

Madhya Pradesh received 38 per cent more rainfall than the average since the start of four-month long monsoon season on June 1. India is likely to receive above-average monsoon rains in 2019 for the first

time in six years as seasonal rainfall continues longer than expected.

Higher rainfall, although, could lift groundnut and cotton production and allow farmers to expand the area under winter-sown oilseed crops such as rapeseed, said Patel, who has been trading edible oil for more than four decades.

The South Asian country's total edible oil imports could rise to a record high of 15.6 million tonnes in 2019/20, up 3.8 per cent from a year earlier, Patel said.

India's sunflower oil imports in the new marketing year could rise to 2.5 million tonnes from 2.4 million tonnes estimated in the current year, he said.

—Reuters

GVK to spend ₹8,500 cr on Navi Mumbai airport

Hyderabad, Sept. 25: The GVK Group, which is in the process of developing Navi Mumbai International Airport, will be spending Rs 8,500 crore in the first phase to cater to 10 million passengers per annum, Chairman of the infra major G. V. K. Reddy said here on Wednesday.

The airport is a public-private partnership venture in which the GVK-led Mumbai International Airport has a 74 per cent stake with CIDCO, the Maharashtra government's nodal agency for the project, holding the remaining 26 per cent.

The greenfield international airport will be built on 1,160 hectares in phases and eventually cater to 60 million passengers per year.

"In the first phase, it is going to be about Rs 8500 crore. It goes in phases. It will be 10 million passengers (in the first phase). Maybe by spending another Rs 2,500 crore or Rs 3,000 crore, another 20 million can go ahead. The project is on track and going on well," Reddy told shareholders at the Annual General Meeting of GVK Power and Infrastructure Limited.

The concession agreement for Navi Mumbai International Airport was signed on January 8, 2018 between Navi Mumbai International Airport and City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO).

GVK, which currently manages the Mumbai International Airport through its subsidiary GVK

Punjab power plants to see debt swap

Hyderabad, Sept. 25: GVK Group is in discussion with Deutsche Bank to transfer the loans extended by senior lenders for its 540 MW coal-fired power project in Punjab, a source close to the development said on Wednesday.

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd (GPGL) was unable to run the plant at optimal capacity during financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 primarily on account of low availability of fuel and hence defaulted on repayment of dues to lenders.

Consequently the lenders have classified the loan balances of GPGL as non-performing assets.

If a deal works out, Deutsche Bank will be replacing the senior lenders (of GPGL). It will be a one-time settlement. There will not any change in the equity proportion. —PTI

Airport Developers, said Yes Bank would be the lead bank and mandate lead arranger for phase I and phase II of the Navi Mumbai airport project. —PTI

IRCTC IPO from Sept 30

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the railways' online ticketing, tourism and catering arm announced its initial public offering aiming to raise approximately Rs 645 crore at the upper end of the price band.

The IPO, with a price band of Rs 315 to Rs 320 per equity share of Rs 10 face value, will open on September 30, 2019 and close on October 3, 2019.

IRCTC operates one of the most transacted websites, www.irctc.co.in, in the Asia-Pacific region with transaction volume averaging 25 to 28 million transactions per month during the five months ended August 31, 2019, the company said.

"It has also diversified into other businesses, including non-railway catering and services such as e-catering, executive lounges and budget hotels. Currently, IRCTC operates in four business segments, namely, internet ticketing, catering, packaged drinking water under the "Rail Neer" brand, and travel and tourism."

The IPO which received market regulator Sebi's approval just in a months time after filing of the draft red herring prospectus comprises an offer for sale of over 2.01 crore shares.

Investors in the retail category and eligible employees of IRCTC will be offered a discount of Rs 10 per equity share on the offer price to be fixed after close of the public issue.

The IPO is an offer for sale of 12.5 per cent stake by Government of India, post listing of the public issue Government will hold 87.5 per cent stake in IRCTC.

SpiceJet plans IPO for its cargo unit

Weights \$10 billion Airbus deal

RICK CLOUGH &
ANURAG KOTOKY

SpiceJet is weighing an order for at least 100 Airbus SE planes as Boeing grapples with the fallout over its grounded 737 Max.

The budget carrier, a major global customer for the Max, may buy a "sizable" number of Airbus A321LR and XLR jets to accommodate a planned expansion,

SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh said on Tuesday. No decision has been made, he said, and the airline would consider a competing mid-range jetliner if Boeing decides to build one.

Airbus has "pushed us hard since the day we started flying Boeing aircraft, and of course with the current problems, they've pushed us harder," Singh said. —Bloomberg

The no-frills carrier is expanding its nascent cargo-hauling arm to fill the growing need for overnight shipping services, fueled by online retailers such as Ama-

zon.com Inc. and Walmart's Flipkart. India is under-served at the moment, Singh said, with just SpiceXpress and Blue Dart Express as the major shippers.

Mukesh Ambani is India's richest man

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, SEPT. 25

With Rs 3.8 lakh crore net worth, Mukesh Ambani is India's richest man for the eighth consecutive year.

The RIL chief is also the 8th richest man in the world, the IIFL Wealth-Hurun India Rich List 2019 report said on Wednesday. Following Ambani is London-based SP Hinduja and family with Rs 1.8 lakh crore.

"A total of 953 individuals, who crossed the threshold of Rs 1,000 crore across 41 industries feature in The

The top rung		
S. No.	Name	Net Worth (₹ cr)
1	Mukesh Ambani	3.8 lakh
2	SP Hinduja and family	1.8 lakh
3	Azim Premji	1.2 lakh
4	L N Mittal	1.07 lakh
5	Gautam Adani & family	94,500
6	Uday Kotak	94,100
7	Cyrus Poonawalla	88,800
8	Cyrus Pallonji Mistry	6,800
9	Shapoor Pallonji Mistry	76,800
10	Dilip Shanghvi	71,500

Source: The IIFL Wealth-Hurun India Rich List 2019 report

Researcher at Hurun Report India told *Financial Chronicle*. Last year the rich list stood at 831, he pointed out.

Junaid said with all the conversation around economic slowdown and overheating of economy, the rich list report celebrates the growing tribe of Indian wealth creators in India and abroad.

Sample this, while the number of dollar billionaires have merely grown by 2 as compared to 2016, the number individuals with Rs 1,000 crore have increased by a third in the past two years from 617 to 953.

Globally, the wealth creators drive the growth and therefore play a vital role in shaping the economy. "With Indian government setting its sight on \$5 trillion GDP mark, we are confident that the size of the India Rich List will easily triple in the next 5 years," Junaid said.

Junaid said a total of 233 new entrepreneurs from different businesses made it to the rich list this year.

No women made it to the top ten richest Indians list. The richest woman in India is Godrej Group's Smita V. Crishna with Rs 43,400 crore, who is ranked 302

OPENING BELL

PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market's undertone still seen as positive

Equity market fell sharply by 1.3 per cent for Sensex and Nifty-50 as investors booked profit after an over 8 per cent rally triggered by the corporate tax rate cut announced by the finance minister.

Also the approval of impeachment investigations against US President unnerved the markets, brokers and analysts said.

Financials and auto stocks led the list of top losers in Wednesday's trading while IT and Power stocks were gainers.

It was a double whammy for the market participants as both domestic institutions and foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 762.48 crore and Rs 342.40 crore respectively as per the provisional stock exchange data.

Sensex closed 503.62 points or 1.29 per cent down at 38593.52 points while the broader Nifty-50 Index closed at 11440.20, down by 148 points or 1.28 per cent.

In the broader market BSE Mid-Cap Index fell 1.76 per cent while BSE Small-Cap Index fell 1.50 per cent.

Technical View

Manav Chopra, Head-Research (Equity), Indiabulls Ventures said, "Nifty corrected sharply and market breadth was on the negative side. 11400 is the near term support on the downside for Nifty-50. Overall the undertone broadly continues to remain positive."

"Nifty Bank being a high beta index witnessed sharper correction led by heavy weights. Support of 29,700 was broken on the downside. The next immediate support is placed at 29,200. Since the rise was near vertical supports are placed a bit far. The broader trend continues to be positive. Nifty Bank is likely to outperform going ahead and is likely to test its all time highs of 31,800. Broadly we continue to remain positive on the Nifty Bank," Chopra said.

Market View

Gaurav Dua, Senior Vice President, Head — Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas said, "Global uncertainties and weakness in equities across regions nipped the recent upsurge in Indian equities post the announcement of fiscal stimulus on last Friday. The approval of impeachment investigations against US President has unnerved the markets. The political uncertainty in USA could certainly put further brakes on the global economic growth in the near term."

"Domestically also, the emergence of trouble in one of the large co-operative banks and possibility of the margin squeeze for public sector banks pulled down the Bank Nifty and the overall markets," Dua said.

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD



Cutting clutter

Yahoo unveiled a new version of its Mail app that redefines the way people use their inboxes.

SHORT TAKES



MARIO KART TOUR SERVER OVERLOADED

Tokyo, Sept. 25: Nintendo Co Ltd's hotly-awaited mobile title Mario Kart Tour launched on Wednesday with many users complaining server overload meant they were unable to play the game - seen as a major test of the Kyoto-based company's mobile ambitions.

"The servers are experiencing heavy traffic. Your log-in request will be processed in the order it was received," reads a message that appears when the game is launched.

Nintendo did not respond to a request for immediate comment. — Reuters



CHINESE HACKERS ALSO TARGETED TIBETANS: STUDY

San Francisco, Sept. 25: Chinese hackers who used a previously unknown iPhone security flaw to target ethnic minority Uighurs also went after Tibetans in exile, according to a report published on Tuesday.

It was the first detected use of malicious software against exiled Tibetans that required only a single click on a mobile device to work, said Citizen Lab, a Canada-based academic research group.

Citing the technical similarities in the attacks and ones uncovered by U.S. tech firms against Uighurs, the report suggested that forces likely working with the Chinese government may be upgrading their surveillance efforts against key minorities more broadly. The Tibetans are protesting Chinese rule of the mountainous region inside China.

Asked in Beijing about the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China resolutely opposed and cracked down on any form of internet attacks, and that any accusations needed to be backed up by cast-iron proof.

Citizen Lab, based at the University of Toronto, said it had worked with the recently established Tibetan Computer Emergency Readiness Team (TibCERT), a coalition of Tibetan organizations working on digital security, to probe cyber attacks that occurred between November 2018 and May 2019.

In the attacks, people posing as human rights workers or journalists contacted unnamed senior figures in Tibetan groups over Facebook's WhatsApp messaging service, according to screenshots featuring their phone numbers posted in the Citizen Lab report. Reuters was not able to independently confirm the authenticity of the screenshots or details of the report.

Among the groups targeted in November 2018 were the private office of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Parliament, and human rights organizations, the report said.

Using well-crafted cover stories, the attackers tried to entice the targets to click on links to websites that would have installed spyware on Apple or Android devices, the report said.

Eight of the 15 Tibetans known to have received the tainted links recalled clicking on them to open them, the researchers said. All their devices were protected by patches that had been issued for the security flaws, but the researchers followed the links themselves to determine what would have happened.

Citizen Lab said the spyware aimed at the Tibetans had also been used to target Uighurs, a mostly Muslim minority group considered a possible security threat by Beijing, in two campaigns revealed in the past month. — Reuters

Amazon plans to bundle assistants on one device

Google was approached by Amazon over the weekend

Bengaluru, Sept. 25: Amazon has launched an initiative that would allow users to access its Alexa, Microsoft Corp's Cortana and multiple other voice-controlled virtual assistant services from a single device.

The move comes as competition has intensified among global technology companies to dominate the market for voice assistants, which are commonly housed in smart speakers and mobile devices.

The notable exclusions from Amazon's 'Voice Interoperability Initiative' are Alphabet Inc's Google Assistant, Apple Inc's Siri and Samsung Electronics Co's Bixby.

NEW PLANS

■ The notable exclusions from Amazon's 'Voice Interoperability Initiative' are Alphabet Inc's Google Assistant, Apple's Siri and Samsung's Bixby.

■ Chip companies including Intel Corp, Qualcomm Inc, MediaTek Inc and NXP Semiconductors NV will develop the related hardware, Amazon said.

Google was approached by Amazon but only over the weekend, giving it a very small time frame to evaluate the proposal, a source familiar with the matter said.

"We just heard about this initiative and would need to review the details, but in general we're

always interested in participating in efforts that have the broad support of the ecosystem and uphold strong privacy and security practices," a Google spokesperson said.

The initiative, which has been supported by more than 30 companies, also includes Salesforce.com's

Einstein.

Chip companies including Intel Corp, Qualcomm Inc, MediaTek Inc and NXP Semiconductors NV will develop the related hardware, Amazon said.

Spotify, Tencent, Baidu, BMW, Bose, Harman, Orange, Sonos, Sony Audio Group are also supporting the partnership.

Microsoft and Amazon have collaborated in the past. The two companies two years ago announced that their voice assistants will be able to talk to each other, a rare move in itself as most virtual assistants are known to use data from their own ecosystems and not talk to one another. — Reuters



8K GAMING REMAINS A DISTANT DREAM

■ For sometime now, TV manufacturers are launching device that support 8K content. However, 8K content for such devices remain scarce.

■ Now, folks at TweakTown tried to run the Gears 5 game at 8K resolution with a number of graphic cards including Nvidia Titan RTX.

■ Results of the experiment proved to be disappointing as the game was unplayable at 8K resolution even with the \$2,400 graphic card that boasts of 24GB of GDDR6 memory

■ While most gamers are happily running games at 1080p or 1440p, but gaming hardware that can support 4320p or 8K remains a distant dream

■ Technically, it is possible to play Gear 5 at 8K resolution with reasonably playable results

■ TweakTown found that Gears 5 at 8K resolution and medium graphical settings, with motion blur and vertical sync disabled, seriously challenged the mighty Titan RTX, with the GPU managing 27.4 frames per second.

■ In comparison, ADM's flagship GPU, the Radeon VII, managed only 18.4 FPS for Gears 5 at 8K on medium settings.

■ The Nvidia RTX 2080 Ti, which at \$1,049 is a lot cheaper than the Titan RTX, managed 25.6 FPS in the same tests.

■ If the graphic settings are upped to Ultra (but with motion blur and vertical sync still disabled), the Titan RTX managed only 19.1 FPS. The RTX 2080 Ti fares a little worse with 18 FPS.

■ For the time being, at least, it looks like PC gamers will need to make do with 1080p or 4K gaming.

■ The results also cast doubt on Microsoft's claims that its upcoming Xbox Project Scarlett console could play games at 8K and 120FPS. The same goes for Sony's 8K claims with the PS5.

Install update right now, Microsoft advises users

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

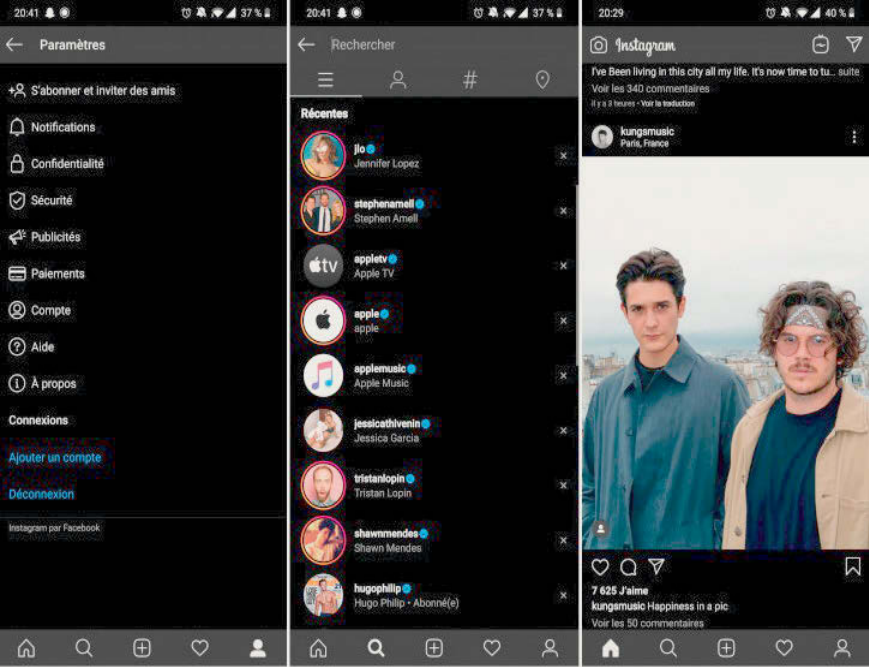
Microsoft has urged users of popular operating system Windows 10 to install a new security patch. According to the software giant, a security flaw in some Internet Explorer versions allowed remote attackers to run malicious code on their device. Users of affected devices may be tricked into clicking on Email links or by

visiting unsafe web pages. "An attacker who successfully exploited the vulnerability could take control of an affected system," said Microsoft. While the company revealed that the vulnerability was actively being taken advantage of, details of the flaw had not been made public.

About 7 per cent of all browser users run affected versions of Internet Explorer 9, 10 and 11. The

infection exists on all supported versions of operating systems like Windows 7, 8.1, 10 and even some Windows Server versions. The security patch can be installed through Windows update. The patch also includes a fix for Windows Defender that fixes a bug that renders the tool unusable. The company claims that no separate action is required through Windows Defender.

First look



While Instagram's interface has been white since time immemorial, it was known that the social media platform has been testing out a dark mode for sometime. Now, Android Police reports that the beta builds automatically adopts a black and grey interface on Android 10 once users enable the system dark theme.

Xiaomi launches Redmi 8A

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

Xiaomi extended the Redmi A series with the launch of a new 'Redmi 8A' smartphone. It shall be available in two variants, 2GB+32GB and 3GB+32GB it will be available for ₹6,999 and ₹6,499, respectively on Flipkart as well as on its own website.

A release from the smartphone manufacturer detailed that the phone will have a 6.22-inches HD+ display, with an aspect ratio of 19:9. The

screen consists of Corning Glass 5 and is a Dot Notch display.

Further, talking about the body it has a P2i nano-coating making it splash resistant with textured patterns as well, for better grip and lesser fingerprint residues.

Inside the Dot notch, resides an 8MP selfie camera, 12 MP Sony IMX363 sensor, aperture of f/1.8, and delivers photographs with a large pixel size of 1.4µm. The latter is it primary, rear camera, and the both of them support AI

portrait modes.

Venturing beyond, on the interior and one of the most important aspects of the phone is a Qualcomm Snapdragon 439 octa-core chipset. A dual Sim phone it will come with a 2+1 dual SIM slot with dedicated MicroSD card support, it will thus have up to 512 GB of internal storage above the 32 GB of in-built one.

According to its manufacturer it shall also retains the popular feature which allows users to play-back FM radio without the

need of connecting their earphones. Fuelled by a 5,000 mAh battery, the budget handset will support 18 Watt fast-charging on the type C port. Inside the box, it will come with a 10W fast charger.

Redmi 8A will be available in Midnight Black, Sunset Red and Ocean Blue colour variants and will go on sale from the September 29. Offline stores like Mi Homes will have them from September 30 onwards. It will soon be available across all other offline stores.

FB exempts political speech from fact-checking

Facebook did not submit original content from politicians to its independent fact-checkers: Nick Clegg

San Francisco, Sept. 25: Facebook said it would not take down politicians' posts that violate its community standards and will not label them as rival Twitter has promised, saying it should not be the arbiter of acceptable speech in the political arena.

Social media platforms are under pressure to block election interference and be more transparent about policies on political content, after what U.S. authorities called an extensive cyber-influence

campaign by Russia aimed at helping elect President Donald Trump in 2016. Moscow has denied the claims.

Facebook will take down posts if a politician's content has the potential to incite violence or pose a safety risk that outweighs the public interest value. And political advertisements must still meet Facebook's rules.

The kinds of posts from politicians that could be kept up might include cruel or insensitive comments or graphic content.



Facebook's head of global affairs Nick Clegg announced the stance in a speech in Washington D.C. on the social media giant's preparations for the U.S.

■ The move follow Twitter's announcement in June that it would identify and de-emphasize tweets that broke its rules but were posted by important sources, such as politicians and government officials.

presidential election in November 2020.

"Would it be acceptable to society at large to have a private company in effect become a self-appointed

referee for everything that politicians say?" Clegg asked. "I don't believe it would be."

The comments follow Twitter's announcement in June that it would identify and de-emphasize tweets that broke its rules but were posted by important sources, such as politicians and government officials.

If flagged, a notice would cover the offending tweet and require a user to click on a link to view it.

A Facebook spokeswoman told Reuters that

newsworthy content from politicians on Facebook would not be labeled to show it had violated the rules.

Clegg, who was previously Britain's deputy prime minister, also said Facebook did not submit original content from politicians to its independent fact-checkers. It will only demote and label previously debunked content that is shared by politicians.

Facebook's third-party fact-checking program, which is used to label and

de-emphasize false content, has been a centerpiece of its fight against disinformation.

A Facebook spokeswoman said the global policy would apply to politicians at the executive, national and regional levels, including candidates for office.

Facebook's stance on politicians' content builds on its policy, in place since 2016, to leave up content whose public interest it considers to outweigh the risk of harm.

— Reuters



iPhone 11 preorders go 'out of stock'

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, SEPT. 25

The iPhone 11 series went on preorder in India and the demand for the new handsets have been so good that several online portals are showing that they have gone out of stock. As per a report by Money Control, demand for the iPhone 11 was so high that the low-cost variant has seen unprecedented sales figures.

The report claims that the iPhone 11 which went up for preorder on September 20 now shows that it is unavailable on Flipkart as well as Amazon India.

The higher-end iPhone 11 Pro is also reportedly unavailable for preorder on both websites.

The iPhone 11 line-up went up for preorders on September 20 with the iPhone 11 coming with a starting price of ₹64,900 for the 64GB option.

Sales in India will start on September 27 and at the time of writing, all of the iPhone 11 storage tiers appear to be out of stock. A few of the higher-end iPhone 11 Pro and 11 Pro Max appear to be available for preorder but it can get sold out at any time due to the rising demand of the handsets.

The strong demand for the iPhone 11 was foreseen when Apple priced

SCARY

■ Apple is warning users of a bug in iOS 13 and iPadOS involving third-party keyboards.

■ In an advisory, the tech giant said the flaw impacts third-party keyboards which have the ability to request "full access" permissions.

■ Third-party keyboards can either run as standalone, or with "full access" they can talk to other apps or get internet access

for additional features, like spell check. But "full access" also allows the keyboard maker to capture to its servers keystroke data or anything you type — like emails, messages or passwords.



Honour

Indian track and field legend PT Usha was on Wednesday presented the 'Veteran Pin' by the world athletics governing body, in recognition of her contribution to the growth of sport



I second him because he is supporting my sport.

— Jaspal Rana, Indian shooting legend lauds Narinder Batra for backing his sport

SHORT TAKES

Virdhawal wins 50m gold medal

Bengaluru: Virdhawal Khade clinched India's seventh gold medal at the 10th Asian Age Group Championship but failed to make the Olympic 'A' cut in the men's 50m freestyle event, here on Wednesday. Khade clocked 22.59 seconds to finish ahead of Khurshidjon Tursunov (22.96) of Uzbekistan and Iranian Gharehhasanloo Benyamin (23.23). The gold medal winning feat was, however, not enough for the 2010 Asian Games bronze medallist to make the Olympic A qualification mark, set at 22.01 seconds. "I am quite disappointed with my timing. I was fully tapered for this meet, I got off to a great start but somehow my timing with the technique was not put to the mark," Khade said. Earlier, this month during the senior nationals, Khade had clocked 22.44 seconds in the same event. "I will be attempting again next month during the FINA World Cup in Singapore and I want to achieve it this year although there is time till June. If I can make the qualification now then I can just focus on training for Tokyo," he said. Sajjan Prakaash won his second silver in the men's 100m butterfly category with a timing of 54.42 seconds.

— PTI

India colts beat Lanka, enter SF

Kathmandu: Gurkirat Singh's brace helped India thump Sri Lanka 3-0 and move to the semifinals of the SAFF U-18 Championship here on Wednesday. Gurkirat's brace alongside Aman Chetri's strike proved to be the difference between the two sides in India's last league match. The Indian team started the match on an attacking note but despite holding possession they could do little in front of the goal with Sri Lanka heaping bodies in defence. The two sides remained goalless at the half time break. The Indian team started the second half with much vigour but once again complacency in front of goal cost them chances. In the 65th minute, Gurkirat found the back of the net with a cross coming in through the flanks. Gurkirat and Aman then added a goal each to take India 3-0 up in the dying moments of the match. The three goal margin proved enough for India to seal their win and progress to the semifinals of the SAFF U-18 Championship. India were held to a goalless draw by Bangladesh in their opening match. — PTI

KOREA OPEN BADMINTON

Sindhu, Saina bow out, Kashyap lone survivor

Incheon, Sept. 25: Parupalli Kashyap was the lone Indian to survive in the singles event after star shuttlers P V Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and B. Sai Praneeth made first round exits at the Korea Open badminton tournament here on Wednesday. Kashyap registered a comfortable 21-16 21-16 over Lu Chia Hung of Chinese Taipei in a men's singles match match that lasted 42 minutes. The first round casualties for India included World Champion Sindhu, who bowed out of the tournament after going down 7-21 24-22 15-21 at the hands of USA's Beiweng Zhang, Sai Praneeth and Saina — both retired hurt in their respective first round matches. World Championships bronze-medallist Sai Praneeth was trailing 9-21 7-11 when he conceded the match to fifth-seeded Anders Antonsen of Denmark due to an ankle

Saina's husband and personal coach Kashyap said she retired because of gastroenteritis problem.

injury. London Olympic bronze medallist Saina was trailing 21-19, 18-21 and 1-8 against South Korea's Kim Ga Eun when she was forced to retire. Saina's husband and personal coach Kashyap said she retired because of gastroenteritis problem. "It seems she had a relapse of the gastroenteritis that bothered her early in the year. She was feeling dizzy and vomited yesterday. In fact, she went to the stadium straight from the hospital today," he said. "Still she could have won but when it went to three games, she didn't have anything left in her tank. We need to check with the doctor when we go back. It has

been a difficult year for her." Saina had a 2-0 head-to-head record against Eun in their previous matches. Saina has had a tough year owing to injuries. She won the Indonesia Open at the beginning of the season but has struggled since then. At the China Open Super 1000 event last week, she made a first-round exit. Sindhu also seems to be facing a rough patch after the high of winning the World Championships. The Olympic silver-medallist was knocked out of the China Open by Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the second round last week. Interestingly, the 26-year-old former winner here had defeated Zhang en route her World Championships gold at Basel. The Chinese-born American prevailed over the Indian twice last year at the India Open and Denmark Open.

— PTI

Pullout call heartbreaking: Athletes

New Delhi, Sept. 25: The athletes reacted with anger but the officialdom chose to weigh its words before responding to Indian Olympic Association chief Narinder Batra's assertion that the Commonwealth Games is a waste of time and the country should consider a permanent pullout.

Batra, while speaking at an event in Bengaluru on Tuesday, said the level of competition at the CWG is not particularly high and that India should consider a pullout to improve its own standards. The statement has context as Batra had earlier called for an Indian boycott of the 2022 CWG in Birmingham over the axing of shooting from the Games program due to logistical issues. Shooting has been a major contributor to India's CWG tally and the nation stands second, with 134 medals, in the overall count won from the sport.

"It is not acceptable," said one of India's currently most successful table tennis players G. Sathiyam, who claimed two silvers and a bronze in the 2018 edition in Gold Coast.

The shooting fraternity chose to sidestep queries on Batra's comment but others were upfront. Boxing star Vijender

Singh, who is the first and only male pugilist with an Olympic medal to his credit, said Batra's statement is heartbreaking as it undermines athletes' hard work.

"It is heartbreaking. By this logic, India should not send teams to invitational tournaments either because the level of competition is not like the Olympics or the world championship even there," said the boxer who has two silver and a bronze from the three CWGs he competed in.

"Why belittle the athletes' achievements? And in any case, CWG has strong boxing nations such as England and Ireland in fray," he added.

The 2014 Glasgow CWG gold-medallist shuttler Parupalli Kashyap also differed with Batra, who also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH). "It is ridiculous to think of boycotting the Commonwealth Games. I don't think the standard is low. I didn't have it easy when I beat all these players during the 2010 edition (when he won bronze) and the 2014 Games," he recalled.

"It is not like we are winning all the gold medals. Even in badminton, there are teams like Malaysia, England who are tough,"



Narinder Batra

he added.

In fact, 2010 CWG gold-medallist discus thrower Krishna Poonia said the Commonwealth competition in athletics is stiffer than the Asian Games, which is generally perceived to be tougher by the sporting fraternity. "For athletics, CWG is world-class, the competition is of higher level than the Asian Games," she said.

A top official from the national federation of a prominent Olympic sport asked if Batra would deem the competition good enough if shooting is brought back.

"Someone should ask him will the CWG regain significance if shooting is accepted back on the roster. May be he will have a

different view to offer," the official said.

"Why deride the athletes who have worked hard for their medals at CWG because you are unhappy about the exclusion of one sport? CWG won't die if India pulls out," he added.

Two-time CWG gold-medallist weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam said a medal at the Games provides job security to a lot of athletes and that shouldn't be taken away.

"I am completely against the pullout. The Commonwealth Games are a big event for us. Medal-winning performances in the CWG bring a lot of incentives like jobs and money etc. So for us, this competition is important," he said.

Former India hockey captain Zafar Iqbal, who was part of the 1980 Olympic gold medal-winning team, was surprised by Batra's comment. "That's a ridiculous statement coming from a man who is holding numerous important positions in national as well as international sports federations," he said.

"Commonwealth Games is the biggest competition after Olympics in terms of participation of countries. 72 countries took part in the last Commonwealth Games. And if you talk about hockey, all top nations like Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain are there," he added.

A more guarded response came from the Wrestling federation. The sport contributes massively to India's medal tally at CWGs and its President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said the grapplers are eager to continue at the quadrennial showpiece. "The general view of the wrestling fraternity is that the athletes want to compete, whatever the tournament is," he said.

Similar responses were offered by the national federations of table tennis, squash and swimming, who said they would abide by the government and the IOA's decisions.

But the athletes were more forthcoming. Archer Rahul Banerjee, a gold-medallist at the 2010 Delhi CWG, said all talk of pullout started only after shooting was excluded and the administrators ought to answer why the competitiveness of the event didn't matter before that.

"If Commonwealth Games were so easy why only a few disciplines like wrestling, shooting and boxing earn India the bulk of medals?" he asked. "Obviously we can't compare CWG with the Olympics which is above all, even the World Championships. So does that mean we will not value a World Championship medal and won't send a team there?" But there were also voices who agreed with Batra.

Former Archery Association Secretary General Pares Nath Mukherjee said, "there can't be a bigger truth" than what the IOA chief has dared to say.

"He has hit the nail on the head. Commonwealth Games has no relevance in the Olympics. It has no value and only poor and foolish countries like us make such hype about CWG."

"It's nothing but waste of money," he said. — PTI



It is heart-breaking. By this logic, India should not send teams to invitational tournaments either.

— VIJENDER SINGH



I don't think the standard is low. It is ridiculous to think of boycotting.

— P. KASHYAP



For athletics, CWG is world-class, the competition is of higher level than the Asian Games

— KRISHNA POONIA

Hammer & tongs

Colchester, an enthusiastic fourth-tier team, stun Tottenham

London, Sept. 25: Tottenham's disappointing start to the season hit a new low as they suffered an embarrassing League Cup third-round defeat on penalties at fourth-tier Colchester on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side were held to a 0-0 draw in normal time before losing 4-3 on penalties against opponents currently 10th in League Two.

Christian Eriksen's opening spot-kick was saved and Lucas Moura hit the crossbar before Tom Lapslie scored the winning penalty to spark a pitch invasion from Colchester's jubilant fans. It was the first time Tottenham manager Pochettino had been knocked out of a domestic cup competition against lower-league opposition.

The shock defeat extended Tottenham's poor run, which included a 2-1 loss at Leicester in the Premier League on Saturday.

"Colchester made a fantastic game, it was difficult. We are so disappointed we could not score in 90 minutes," Pochettino said.

"That's the beauty of the competition, always something can happen. We wanted to go further but we are out."

After finishing as Champions League runners-up last season, Tottenham were expected to kick on this season but instead they have struggled to find any consistency.

Pochettino has grumbled about the distractions of the transfer window, with Eriksen and several other players linked with moves that never materialised.

As a result, Tottenham have looked a disjointed team, with two-goal leads squandered in draws at Arsenal and Olympiakos.

The upset was the biggest setback so far for Pochettino, who made 10 changes to his side but could still call on enough quality players to expect a win against a team 71 places below them in the football pyramid. — AFP



Barcelona's Lionel Messi reacts on the ground during the Spanish league match. — AFP

Messi injured but Barca win

Madrid, Sept. 25: Lionel Messi endured yet more injury frustration on Tuesday after going off at half-time against Villarreal but Barcelona gave their coach Ernesto Valverde some much-needed relief with a comfortable 2-1 victory.

Messi received treatment in the first half for what looked like a problem with his left thigh and was then unable to continue after the interval, replaced by Ousmane Dembele.

His withdrawal will be a major concern for Barca, particularly given this was Messi's first start of the season after just recovering from a niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

After the match, Valverde struck a note of calm.

"When something happens to Messi, everyone stops, not only on the field, but in the stands as well," he said.

"It is a small problem in the adductor and as a precaution we have decided not to risk it. In theory, it is nothing more but we will see tomorrow how it is."

Barcelona visit Getafe in La Liga on Saturday before playing Inter Milan at home in the Champions League four days later.

Certainly, they would have been eager to see Messi back in their lineup, having suffered a humbling 2-0 loss at newly-promoted Granada last weekend, a result that left them with seven points from five games, their worst start to a season since 1995. They arrived with doubts hovering, particularly over Valverde, but delivered a far more convincing win than the scoreline suggested. — AFP

LEAGUE	CUP
THIRD ROUND	
Arsenal (Martinelli 31, 90, Holding 71, Willock 77, Nelson 84)	5
Nottingham Forest	0
Colchester	0
Tottenham	0
Colchester won 4-3 on penalties.	
Crawley (Ferguson 38)	1
Stoke (Vokes 23)	1
Crawley won 5-3 on penalties.	
Luton	0
Leicester	4
(Gray 34, Justin 44, Tielemans 79, Iheanacho 86)	
Portsmouth	0
Southampton	4
(Ings 21, 44, Cedric 77, Redmond 87)	
Preston	0
Manchester City	3
(Sterling 20, Jesus 35, Ledson 42-og)	
Sheffield Wednesday	0
Everton	2
(Calvert-Lewin 6, 10)	

Colchester United's Tom Lapslie celebrates after the win over Tottenham Hotspur in the League Cup on Tuesday. — AFP

SPANISH LEAGUE

RESULTS

Valladolid (Plano 12)	1
Granada (Fernandez Luna 42)	1
Real Betis (Moron 45+3, 48, Iglesias 67)	3
Levante (Hernani 7)	1
Barcelona (Griezmann 6, Arthur 15)	2
Villarreal (Cazorla 44)	1



County stint

Australia batsman Travis Head has signed up with Sussex for the 2020 season and will be available to play all three formats, the county confirmed

Cricket

PAGE
14

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

Opening gambit

■ Rohit begins trial run as opener in red-ball cricket in the warm-up game against Proteas

Vizianagaram, Sept. 25: Rohit Sharma will begin a last ditch effort to save his stop-start Test career with a trial run in the unfamiliar opener's slot when he leads the Board President's XI in a three-day warm-up game against South Africa, starting here on Thursday.

With the national selection committee and the team management deciding to promote Rohit as an opener, keeping his spunky strokeplay in mind, the next five Tests could be a make or break for the 32-year-old stylish right-hander.

The third notable character in the game would be Umesh Yadav,

who has been drafted into the Test side as an injured Jasprit Bumrah's replacement. He will look to rattle the likes of Faf du Plessis and Aiden Markram in order to make a statement. But the focus from Thursday will be on Rohit.

One of the modern day greats in the white ball format, Rohit's average of 39.62 in 27 Tests, including three hundreds, doesn't do justice to his potential.

Ajinkya Rahane and Hanuma Vihari consolidated their middle-order slots with impressive performances in the West Indies and the only remaining option for Rohit was to bat at the top.

—PTI

SQUAD
Board President's XI:
Rohit Sharma (Captain), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, AR Easwaran, Karun Nair, Siddhesh Lad, KS Bharat (wicket-keeper), Jalaj Saxena, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Avesh Khan, Ishan Porel, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav.
South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Second.



Disappointed that I really trusted who ultimately didn't follow through.

— Mickey Arthur, former Pakistan coach on people he 'trusted' in Pakistan set-up

SHORT TAKES Sri Lanka to replace Zimbabwe

New Delhi: The BCCI on Wednesday named Sri Lanka as Zimbabwe's replacement for a short three-match T20 International series to be held in January next year. The BCCI has roped in Sri Lanka for the short series in place of Zimbabwe, which has been suspended by the ICC. As planned earlier, the first T20 will take place in Guwahati on January 5, followed by matches in Indore on January 7 and Pune on January 10. "In the wake of Zimbabwe's suspension by ICC, the BCCI invited Sri Lanka to participate in the three-match series. Sri Lanka Cricket has confirmed their participation," the BCCI said in a statement. The series against Zimbabwe was in doubt after the ICC had suspended Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) in July this year over government interference in its administration. The ICC Board unanimously decided that ZC, an ICC Full Member, was in breach of Article 2.4 (c) and (d) of its constitution which imposes an obligation on members to provide a process for free and democratic elections. Schedule: 1st T20: January 5, Guwahati 2nd T20: January 7, Indore 3rd T20: January 10, Pune. —PTI

Bangla, Afghan share trophy

Dhaka: The final of the tri-nation Twenty20 tournament between Bangladesh and Afghanistan washed out without a ball being bowled at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Match officials declared the game abandoned at 9pm local time as the rain showed no sign of stopping - making it impossible to hold even a curtailed-over game.

The trophy was shared between the two teams after the wash-out. It means hosts Bangladesh got a hand on the trophy of a Twenty20 tournament involving more than two teams for the first time in their history. The wash-out also rounded off a mixed tournament for both teams as Bangladesh won three of their four matches in the league phase, while Afghanistan won their first two matches before losing the next two. "Disappointing that we didn't get any match today. It was a very important final. We didn't play our best cricket in this tournament but leading up to the final we played some good cricket," Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan said.

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan hailed the fans who waited in the gallery, defying the rain and hoping for some action. "The crowd we had today was amazing. I think it was incredible performance from the guys," he said.

—AFP

Dhawan inches closer to top 10

Dubai, Sept. 25: Rohit Sharma moved up a place to world number eight while India skipper Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan inched closer to a top 10 spot in the latest ICC T20 Rankings for batsmen released on Wednesday.

Kohli's unbeaten 72 in the second T20I of the three-match series against South Africa that ended in a 1-1 draw, has seen him gain one spot and reach 11th in the list.

—PTI

Injured Bumrah asserts to come back stronger

New Delhi, Sept. 25: Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Wednesday said he will come back stronger after recovering from the lower back injury that has ruled him out of the Test series against South Africa.

The 25-year-old was on Tuesday forced out owing to the injury that was caught in a routine radiological screening. The Test series against the Proteas starts on October 2 in Visakhapatnam.

"Injuries are part & parcel of the sport. Thank you for all your recovery wishes. My head is held high & I am aiming for a comeback that's stronger than the setback," Bumrah tweeted.

Umesh Yadav has replaced him in the Indian squad for the three matches. Bumrah



is also likely to miss the upcoming T20 and Test assignment against Bangladesh scheduled for next month. Bumrah had been rested from the recently-concluded Twenty20 series against South Africa, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

The paceman, with a sling action, is feared for his immaculate line and length, particularly the perfectly-placed yorkers. In the Test series against the West Indies, which was his last assignment,

My head is held high & I am aiming for a comeback that's stronger than the setback.

—JASPRIT BUMRAH, India pacer

Bumrah emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for India with 13 wickets in two Tests.

He became the fastest Indian pacer to take 50 wickets in Tests during the course of that assignment last month. He achieved the feat during the second Test against the Caribbean side in his 11th Test, surpassing Venkatesh Prasad and Mohammed Shami, who took 13 matches each to touch the mark.

—PTI



Rohit Sharma



Rahul Dravid

Dravid to depose before Ethics Officer

Mumbai, Sept. 25: Former India captain Rahul Dravid would depose before BCCI Ethics Officer D K Jain on Thursday to explain the conflict of interest allegations against him.

Dravid is currently the Director of National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, besides being a vice-president in the India Cements group, which owns the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

The 46-year-old former batting mainstay was the head coach of the India 'A' and Under-19 teams before being handed the NCA role, which includes monitoring the progress of these two sides as well.

The complaint against Dravid, by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) life member Sanjeev Gupta, alleging that there is conflict in interest in Dravid's role as NCA head and being an India Cements employee.

Dravid has already given a reply and defended himself saying he has taken leave of absence from employers India Cements and he has nothing to do with the Chennai Super Kings.

Similarly, BCCI employee Mayank Parikh has been asked to depose before the Ethics Officer on Thursday. Parikh, who too faces of conflict of interest allegations.

A part of the operations team in the BCCI, Parikh is also associated with multiple clubs, with voting rights, in the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

Dravid's hearing will be in the morning, followed by Parikh's. As per the BCCI constitution, no individual can hold more than one post at the same time. The BCCI Ethics Officer would give his judgement based on the hearing on Thursday.

—PTI

● As per the BCCI constitution, no individual can hold more than one post at the same time. They would give his judgement based on the hearing on Thursday.

Below-par batting left Kaur nervous

Surat, Sept. 25: The Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team's below-par batting show in the first T20 International against South Africa here had left her nervous before the bowlers rose to the challenge with a stellar effort.

Harmanpreet was the only Indian batswoman to play an impactful knock, scoring 43, while the rest of her colleagues failed to chip in with any notable contribution. India posted 130 after being put in to bat on Tuesday. The bowlers, led by player of the match Deepti Sharma (4/8), pro-

duced an impressive show to dismiss South Africa for 119 in 19.5 overs.

"I was nervous at the halfway stage but we knew that we'd have something for the bowlers. They did a great job," Harmanpreet said after the match. She said the players have been working hard on their fitness.

"We were doing a lot of fitness (regimens) before coming here and we got the result on the field. The way we fielded and bowled, I was happy," she said. She also her side still needs improvement in several areas, especially batting.

Star of the match Deepti said her effort was the "best bowling performance" of her career.

—PTI

Pant will get back his mojo, don't push him



R. Mohan
Line & Length

They have left young Rishabh Pant thoroughly confused. The talented batsman-keeper will be wondering if he should ever hit the ball hard again. The GenNext batsman with all the credentials for modern age cricket with the red and white balls has been put in an awkward position from an excessive analysis of his shot selection. Poor as his stroke selection has always been, he is being pushed so hard it would be no surprise if he folds under pressure.

A critical look at his batting would throw forth the analysis that he tends to mishit in the air early in the innings. Instead of trying to talk to him on how to be wiser at the crease, he is being pressured through menacing warnings that he would be dropped if he did not heed. And, as it invariably happens under pres-

sure, he mishit twice in two T20is and is looking terribly vulnerable in his career.

Any more misadventures by the bright batting prospect, who began his Test career with a six, and Team India would not hesitate to go right back to Mahendra Singh Dhoni. No one would hold anything against Dhoni because he has contributed so much when he was younger. As an abler batsman he became the finest finisher in the game after that end game player of such certitude that he never seemed to make a mistake in the face of a target — Michael Bevan.

While a nice kind of farewell game or series would be apt for Dhoni, it might be stretching things if we were to think of him as the keeper-batsman for the T20i Worlds in Australia next year. If a younger and



Shikhar Dhawan and Rishabh Pant

better 'keeper than Pant is sighted, it might be nice to see him given a place, but to go back to Dhoni for one more T20i Worlds 12 years after his first in 2007 would be a bridge too far. Time waits for no man, not even such a clever user of his resources like Dhoni.

The fact that Team India never recaptured the magic of that first World T20i should not be held altogether against Dhoni. He led the

team on into more T20i Worlds but no combination proved capable of stunning the world like the first one did. The 'will he play or not' wait on Virender Sehwag ruined the effort in England that followed the successful one in South Africa. The next one in the Caribbean was an absolute washout and even when we came near enough again winning the cup later, it was not to be.

It's arguable whether Indians lost that wonderful capacity to attack as never symbolised better than in Yuvraj Singh's six sixes in an over of Stuart Broad. That kind of magic may not happen more than once in a lifetime. But the general bustling aggression you need to win a T20i and the ability to keep the nerve while doing so has not been sighted in a Team India again. The hard wickets of Australia might make it even harder for Virat Kohli's men in 2020.

Any coach worth his salt would advise Pant that the only thing wrong with his cricket is his early aggression in which he finds himself compelled to take the

aerial route. If his shot selection were to improve to the extent that he knocks the ball around more thoughtfully early on as he tried to in Bangalore before he succumbed to the big shot again, Pant might live up to his potential. There is scope even for a middle distance horse in a sprint if the preparation and tactical thinking are right.

Team India have invested much time in Pant and to let him go now would be a waste of the efforts of grooming a rare talent. All attacking batsmen face this problem of analysts trying to make them dumb down their attacking instincts in order to score more. But in Pant's case, a little more patience might be advisable so that he might unleash his ability to clear the ground when he has built himself into a platform from where outright aggression could come without inhibition and with more precision in converting intent into stroke. And who better to talk to than Delhi colleague Virat Kohli who could teach him a thing or two about shot selection!



Harmanpreet Kaur



Shock return

British boxer Nigel Benn is set to make a shock return to the ring after being labelled “the fittest 55-year-old on planet earth”



I genuinely am very pleased and proud of the way the sport has come together.

— Sebastian Coe after he was re-elected as the IAAF president

SHORT TAKES

Nazarov fails doping retest

Doha: Olympic hammer throw champion Dilshod Nazarov of Tajikistan has been temporarily suspended after one of his samples from the 2011 world athletics championships failed a doping retest, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Tuesday. The 37-year-old, who won gold in Rio de Janeiro three years ago, will miss out on an eighth world championship appearance in Doha, with the event getting underway on Friday. Nazarov, also a world silver medallist in 2015 in Beijing, finished 10th in the 2011 hammer final in Daegu. His sample collected during that competition was positive for the steroid turinabol, the AIU said. Nazarov's 2016 title is the only gold medal in Tajikistan's Olympic history. — AFP

NBA fines Bucks for comments

Los Angeles: The NBA slapped the Milwaukee Bucks with a \$50,000 fine for comments about a contract extension offer for reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, the league said Tuesday. The fine pertains to recent comments from Bucks general manager Jon Horst regarding a supermax extension for Antetokounmpo. The team is not permitted to offer the contract extension until the summer of 2020. Asked about Antetokounmpo's contract situation on September 12 at a town hall event, Horst replied, "The answer right now is we can't talk and negotiate anything. Giannis, basically a year from now, will be eligible for a supermax extension. At that time, of course, he'll be offered a supermax extension." Antetokounmpo, 24, won the league's MVP award in 2018-19 after averaging 27.7 points. — AFP

AT 76, COACH RIVERA BAGS TOP LICENSE

Rome: Gianni Rivera could potentially take charge of the next Serie A team to dump their manager after the former Italy attacker and AC Milan hero earned Europe's most important coaching licence at the tender age of 76. Rivera, a Ballon d'Or winner in 1969 and former Member of the European parliament, was one of the "famous faces", alongside 2006 World Cup winner Mauro Camoranesi, announced by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) to have gained the Italian equivalent of the 'UEFA Pro' licence, which enables him to coach in Italy's top division. "Rivera has helped write the history of football but he was still humble enough to become a student again. He was a brilliant student and didn't miss a single lesson," said Renzo Ulivieri, head of the Italian coaching association AIAC, to the Gazzetta dello Sport on Wednesday. According to the Gazzetta, Rivera, who won the 1968 European championships with Italy and two European Cups with Milan, is not interested in a top coaching role and simply wants to remain "up-to-date" with the football's inner workings. He scored 14 times for Italy, including the extra-time winner in the 'Game of the Century', the 4-3 semi-final win over West Germany at the 1970 World Cup. — AFP

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THURSDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

Sport

PAGE
15

KYRGIOS FALLS

■ Australian serves underarm but exits in first-round

Zhuhai (China), Sept. 25: Nick Kyrgios served underarm once again but the fiery Australian fell away dramatically in the second set in a limp first-round exit at the Zhuhai Championships on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Australian, who has been accused of tanking matches in the past, led the veteran Italian Andreas Seppi 4-1 in the first set, only to go down 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.

Kyrgios, who has had numerous run-ins with tennis authorities down the years, elicited a few giggles from a sparse crowd in southern China with an underarm serve in the first set.

Coasting 3-1 and 40-0 up, the 27th-ranked Kyrgios served weakly into the net, before surging into a 4-1 lead.

But the Australian, who then appeared to be troubled by his right shoulder, faded alarmingly from there and his previously dominant serve collapsed.

He repeatedly felt his shoulder and his game disintegrated as he went down in the first-set tie break.

The second set was a non-contest as Seppi, 35, ranked 74th in the world, strolled into round two in 65 unpredictable minutes.

Kyrgios has divided tennis by serving underarm in the past, although it is within the rules, albeit rare to see from professionals.

The Australian firebrand says he deploys it for tactical reasons, but Rafael Nadal of Spain accused him of 'lacking respect' by doing it.

‘Clicking shoulder’

Kyrgios fears he could face several weeks out after struggling with what he said was a 'clicking' shoulder.

"I was battling with a bit of a shoulder/collar bone injury," said the 27th-ranked Kyrgios, a colourful but controversial figure.



Nick Kyrgios of Australia reacts during his men's singles first round match against Andreas Seppi of Italy at the Zhuhai Championships tennis tournament on Wednesday. — AFP

"At this rate I'm not thinking about playing until my shoulder's — or I don't even know what it is — but until my front of my shoulder feels better and I can serve," he added, saying his right shoulder had been 'clicking'.

"I mean the reason I lost today was because I couldn't serve. If I could serve, it would have been a pretty routine win for me, to be honest."

Asked if he could sit out the next few weeks or even the rest of the season, Kyrgios replied: "For sure, I mean at this rate I wouldn't be surprised. "I wasn't able to even serve at a reasonable pace. "I'm probably not going to bother playing until I can get it right again."

Kyrgios said that he still hopes to play in the Davis Cup in November.

"So until now and then I've got a lot of time, I can rest, recover, get my shoulder right," he said. — AFP

Halep retires due to back injury

Wuhan (China), Sept. 25: Wimbledon champion Simona Halep was left disappointed on Wednesday after suffering a fresh injury setback in China that forced her to retire from the Wuhan Open with a lower back problem.

Halep said the problem that caused her to quit her third-round match felt different to the herniated disc she had suffered at the China Open in Beijing a year ago which brought an early end to the Romanian's 2018 season.

"It's lower back. I think it's more muscle, but I don't know yet because I haven't checked it properly," Halep said.

The world number six led Elena Rybakina by a break and looked on her way to win the first set before her Kazakh opponent drew level.

During the changeover after the ninth game Halep took a medical timeout for treatment to her back, but soon after the former world number one retired while serving at 4-5, 30-30.

"At 4-4, 0-30 with the backhand, I had a sharp pain. I don't know yet, but it looks a little bit different, but it's still the same zone. I started to play well this tournament. I'm disappointed it happened again with the back," Halep revealed. — AFP

DJOKOVIC TO PLAY IN TOKYO AFTER INJURY

Belgrade, Sept. 25: World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, forced out of the US Open with a shoulder injury, is back in training and will play in Tokyo next week, a member of his press team told AFP.

The 32-year-old Serbian star has 'started to train and the situation with his shoulder is a bit better,' the spokesperson said.

Earlier this month Djokovic was forced to pull out of his US Open fourth round clash with Stan Wawrinka due to a nagging injury in his left shoulder.

Serbia's media quoted Djokovic as saying he had been "training without pain for two days already". — AFP

FRENCH | LEAGUE

Golovin sets up Monaco victory

Paris, Sept. 25: Russia midfielder Aleksandr Golovin scored twice and set up a third goal as Monaco moved out of the Ligue 1 relegation zone with a 3-1 win over Patrick Vieira's Nice on Tuesday.

Golovin's double came either side of Patrick Burner's equaliser before he fed Wissam Ben Yedder to claim Leonardo Jardim's first three points of the campaign, lifting some of the pressure from the Portuguese coach.

The 30-time Russia international opened the scoring just before the half-hour mark as captain Cesc Fabregas marked the first victory of the season with his maiden assist for Monaco.

Former Chelsea and Barcelona playmaker Fabregas, who joined the Ligue 1 side in January, found Golovin inside the box and the attacker smashed his finish high into the top corner. The hosts were denied a

quick second four minutes later as Islam Slimani's effort was ruled out for offside by VAR.

Vieira's side were back on level terms eight minutes into the second period. Monaco made a mess of clearing a short corner and right-back Burner scored his first senior goal.

Golovin's second came with quarter of an hour to play as Slimani played a square ball for the 23-year-old to finish smoothly.

He then teed up summer signing Ben Yedder who made sure of all three points, beating Walter Benítez with ease. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Monaco (Golovin 29, 74, Ben Yedder 79)	3
Nice (Burner 54)	1
Dijon	0
Marseille	0



Monaco's midfielder Aleksandr Golovin (right) celebrates with Cesc Fabregas after scoring against Nice. — AFP

ONE DEAD, FIVE INJURED IN RIVAL FANS CLASHES

Rabat, Sept. 25: One person was killed and five injured in clashes between rival football fans after a cup tie near the Moroccan city of Casablanca, local authorities said Wednesday.

"A group of supporters of Wydad Casablanca (club) stopped a vehicle carrying fans of AS FAR Rabat, throwing stones and the situation degenerated," they said in a statement.

They said one person died of his injuries after "falling from on top of the vehicle" and five others were hospitalised. — AFP

RUGBY | WORLD CUP

Uruguay upset Fiji with win

Kamaishi (Japan), Sept. 25: Minnows Uruguay pulled off the greatest upset in their history on Wednesday as they stunned Fiji 30-27 to leave the Pacific islanders staring at an early exit from the Rugby World Cup.

John McKee's Fiji had showcased their traditional running flair in a thrilling first 60 minutes against Australia, when they led the much-fancied Wallabies. But they ran out of steam in an error-strewn performance against Uruguay four days later.

The brave Uruguay XV were magnificent in a pulsating game at the Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium, running in three tries and clinging on desperately towards the end as Fiji threw everything at their lowly opponents.

It was the biggest rugby win in the history of Uruguay, who had only ever won two games at the World Cup and are ranked nine places below the

Fijians, whom they had never beaten.

Asked if Fiji could still reach the quarter-finals, McKee admitted: "It is going to be challenging for us. We are relying a lot on other points now." He said he was targeting a bonus-point win against Georgia next Sunday before facing Six Nations champions Wales.

The New Zealander refused to blame the short turnaround for the defeat against the fresher South Americans, who were playing their first match. But he acknowledged the difficulty of taking the field again so soon after the bruising game against the Wallabies.

Uruguay's captain Juan Gaminara broke down in tears at the end of the game, saying: "We are not the biggest, we are not the tallest but we came here to win."

Fiji's McKee, rued that his team's dismal goalkicking had cost them dear. — AFP



Uruguay's players celebrate after winning over Fiji during the Rugby World Cup match. — AP

VIJAY | HAZARE TROPHY

Tamil Nadu thrash Services

Jaipur, Sept. 25: Skipper Dinesh Karthik led from the front as Tamil Nadu thrashed Services by a whopping 212 runs in their Elite Group C game of the Vijay Hazare trophy here on Wednesday.

This is Tamil Nadu's second successive win after they had opened their campaign by defeating Rajasthan on Tuesday.

Put in to bat at the Sawai Mansingh stadium, Tamil Nadu posted a healthy 294/8 with Karthik top-scoring with 95.

And later, their bowlers produced a splendid show to bundle out Services for a paltry 82.

Karthik was ably supported by C Hari Nishaanath (73 off 71 balls) as the two rebuilt the Tamil Nadu innings after they were tottering at 55-4.

While Karthik hit 8

fours and a maximum in his 91-ball knock, Nishaanath had seven fours and a six to his name.

A late onslaught by no 10 batsman M Mohammed (36 off 15 balls), in which he hit four sixes, helped Tamil Nadu near the 300-run mark.

And then the Tamil Nadu bowlers created havoc as they did not allow any Services batsman to settle down with pacer K Vignesh taking a fiver.

Vignesh (5-41) ran through the Services line-up, while M Mohammed (3-10), T Natarajan (1-22) and R Sai Kishore (1-9) were the other wicket-takers as Tamil Nadu completed a comprehensive win.

Brief Scores: Tamil Nadu 294/8 (Dinesh Karthik 95, C Hari Nishaanath 73, Rajat Paliwal 2-26) beat

Services 82 (Nakul Verma 20, Rahul Singh Gehlot 17, K Vignesh 5-41) by 212 runs. **Points:** Tamil Nadu: 4; Services 0. **Railways 289/6 in 50 overs beat Bihar 155/6 in 43 overs by 84 runs (VJD method).**

Points: Railways: 4; Bihar: 0.

Tripura 268/8 in 50 overs beat Madhya Pradesh 86/6 in 20 overs by 104 runs (VJD method).

Points: Tripura 4; MP 0.

Rain forces Delhi to share points again

At Vadodra, India pacer Navdeep Saini helped Delhi bundle out Haryana for 154 but rain forced them to share points for the second day in a row in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Wednesday.

While no play was possible in all three games of Group B here on Tuesday, rain played

spoilsport soon after Delhi dismissed Haryana in 32.4 overs with Saini taking four wickets for 36 runs in 6.4 overs.

Spinners Manan Sharma and Pawan Negi shared two wickets each. The top-scorer for Haryana was Pramod Chandila, who made 58 off 57 balls. Delhi could bat only for 1.3 overs before rain arrived at the Darshanam Sports and Education Academy Cricket Ground. Both teams shared two points each for the abandoned game.

Haryana had India leggie Yuzvendra Chahal in the playing eleven and Delhi had Rishabh Pant, who has topped criticism of late for his reckless stroke-making in India colours. Rishabh would be aiming to get some runs under his belt. — PTI

Warrior Felix eyes golden track finale

Doha, Sept. 25: A warrior on and off the track, Allyson Felix is determined to go out on her own terms as she sets out on the final leg of her glittering career at the World Championships this week.

After 16 years at the pinnacle of her sport, the 33-year-old American has accumulated more World Championship and Olympic honours than any other track and field athlete in history.

In Doha, she will be aiming to add to an incredible collection of 25 medals, a dazzling haul that includes six Olympic golds and 11 World Championship titles.

The Worlds mark the start of what is in all probability a year-long lap of honour, with Felix eyeing a golden farewell at what will be her fifth Olympic Games in Tokyo next year.

Unusually for Felix, Doha marks the first time that she will not be entered in an individual event at a major championships after she failed to finish in the top three at the US trials in July.

Instead, Felix will travel as part of the US relay pool as the Americans look to defend the 4x400m title they won in London.

That in itself represents a victory for Felix, who only



Allyson Felix

returned to racing in July after a 13-month absence, which saw her give birth to her daughter Camryn via an emergency C-section in November last year.

Felix though says she is not going to be satisfied making up the numbers in the final stages of her career, and is determined to compete in Tokyo next year in the individual 400m.

"I think it would be crazy for me to say that I was disappointed," Felix said after her sixth place finish at the US trials.

"I have my health, I have my family, I couldn't ask for more than that. And I am able to still do what I love."

Felix, who took silver in the 400m final behind the Bahamas' Shaunae Miller-Uibo in the Rio Olympics in 2016, is confident however that her performances at

the US trial indicate she has plenty left in the tank.

"I want to be back at the Olympics," Felix said. "I want that more than anything. I want to go out on my terms. A little sacrifice here or there, I believe it will be worth it."

While Felix remains first and foremost a competitor, she has also emerged as a leading voice for the rights of women athletes.

In May, she denounced long-time sponsors Nike over the company's maternity practices, calling for greater support for female athletes who take time off from the sport to have children. — AFP

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