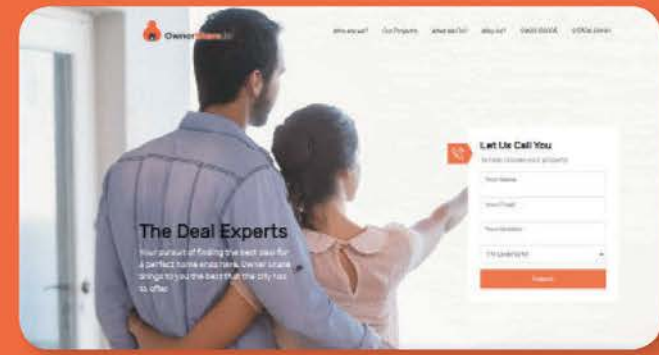


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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 3 OCTOBER 2020

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WEATHER

 **Max:** 32.8°C
Min: 22.1°C
RH: 56%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 33/22°C

COVID-19 COUNT




CASES	DEATHS
(+79,705)	(+1,069)
64,71,665	1,00,873

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,009)	(+10)
TS: 1,95,609	1,145
(+6,555)	(+31)
AP: 7,06,790	5,900

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

 **3,46,67,658**
DEATHS
 **10,30,040**
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
 **213**
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Vidiya full day
Star: Revathi till 8.50 am
Variyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 6.10 am to 7.45 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HILARI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 15, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5:07 am
Zohar: 12:15 pm
Asar: 4:23 pm
Maghrib: 6:09 pm
Isha: 7:17 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.03 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM
MOONSET TODAY 7.05 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.10 PM

COUNTER POINT



Please pardon this rapist because he has no other job to do!

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 3
Durgam Cheruvu gets more restrictions

CITY... PAGE 4
Congress to target 79 Assembly seats

ORDER | ORDER

HC says land occupancy rights can't be cancelled

Land rights can't be taken away

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The Telangana High Court has clarified that occupancy rights certificates (ORCs) issued on inam lands by a competent authority cannot be cancelled by revenue authorities on the claim that the title was yet to be approved by a court of law or on the ground that the parties are not in possession of the land. Dealing with different aspects of land issues in two

petitions, Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao did not accept the contention of the Chief Commissioner of Land Affairs (Court of Wards) that 187 acres of land in Survey No.s 1 to 19 of Sikanderguda of erstwhile Hyderabad (West) taluq of Hyderabad district belongs to Paigah Vicar-UL Umrhah and it is under the supervision of the Court of Wards. The land now falls in Gandipet mandal. The court noted that by the verdict of December 29,

1976, of the Board of Revenue, dealing with claims under the AP (Telangana Area) Atiyat Enquiries Act, 1952 had exempted the lands of Sikanderguda from the Paigah. Justice Ramachandra Rao said this decision is binding on the CCLA and it cannot plead that it is still under its supervision. The petitioners belonging to Sikanderguda had moved the High Court asking why e-pattadar passbooks were not being issued to them with regard to 39 acres of

land in Survey No.s 1 to 18. They submitted that their predecessors were tenants of the inam maktha land and ORCs were issued to them in 1978 by then RDO. Later on, pattadar passbooks and title deeds were issued to them. Now, the tahsildar has refused to issue e-pattadar passbooks. The lands were also not being entered on the Dharani website. Later on, when the matter went to Ranga Reddy joint collector, the official cancelled the ORCs.

Charminar opens to public



Scores of people patiently wait in queue for their turn to climb up the iconic Charminar on Friday. With Friday being a national holiday on account of Gandhi Jayanti, people thronged Charminar — which was shut for the last six months — for an outing, largely ignoring Covid-19 precautions.

— P. SURENDRA

Let TS control Srisaillam: CM

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

In a significant development with regard to water disputes with Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhai Naidu on Friday demanded that the Centre should direct AP to stop work on the expansion of the Pothireddypadu head regulator (PHR) and construction of the Rayala-seema lift irrigation scheme (RLIS).

He demanded that in order to enforce this, the Centre should hand over operational control of the Srisaillam reservoir to Telangana state. With regard to the PHR and RLIS, he said, "The original project is completely illegal as it has no water allocation, no approval by any statutory authority, and is meant to send water outside the Krishna basin." Rao made these demands in a letter he

wrote to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat ahead of the second meeting of the Apex Council on October 6. Rao requested that the points in the letter with regard to allocation of water be included in the agenda of the meeting. The Chief Minister said that Telangana which had struggled for six decades to get its fair share of water, had lost seven years after its for-

mation due to the inaction of the Centre. "Instead of prolonging the meaningless dispute between the two newly formed states, the government of India is requested to make the terms of reference to the present tribunal for allocation of fair and equitable share of the waters of river Krishna to both states without further delay." **■ Page 2: River board was silent spectator, says CM**

TECHIES RELIEVED AS U.S. COURT STAYS VISA BAN

Washington, Oct. 2: In a major relief to thousands of Indian IT professionals, a federal judge in the US on Thursday blocked the enforcement of a temporary visa ban by the Trump administration on a large number of work permits, including the most sought after H1-B visas, ruling that the president exceeded his constitutional authority. The order issued by US District Judge Jeffrey White of Northern District of California applies to members of organisations that filed a lawsuit against the department of commerce and department of homeland security — the US Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, National Retail Federation, TechNet, a technology industry group in the US, and Intrax Inc. — PTI

AP's ex-AG's kin returns money

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
VUJAYAWADA, OCT. 2

The AP High Court might have stayed the investigation into a criminal case against former AP advocate-general Dammalapati Srinivas but the complainant, 73-year-old retired lecturer K. Raja Rama Mohan Rao, was rendered justice, though partially and indirectly, by the police and the media. According to the complainant, a group of persons allegedly including Srinivas, his wife and brother-in-law, took ₹50 lakh in October 2019, ₹40 lakh in April 2019 and another ₹73 lakh the same month from him with a promise to sell him two flats in the proposed residential complex, Lake View apartments, in the Amaravati capital region. After great per-

suation, they registered one flat in July 2019 and did not return the balance amount. Rao said the accused, instead of paying him back, threatened to implicate him in false cases. He also said there was a clear criminal intent to swindle his money without registering properties as promised. He got back the partial amount of ₹80 lakh days after the police booked a case and *Deccan Chronicle* reported the matter. The police registered an FIR on September 22 listing Srinivas and the others as accused. Sources in the police said a former Union minister, and a former TD minister mediated with the complainant after the police filed the FIR. **■ Page 2: AP HC sees no dishonest intention**

AMID PROTESTS ON HATHRAS, 4 COPS SUSPENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 2

On Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, a day usually marked by solemn moments spent at Rajghat or at Gandhi Smriti's garden where he was shot dead, a loud, an angry roar rose from Jantar Mantar that the country had last heard at India Gate in December 2014. Then the nation was mourning the gangrape and murder of the girl who has since come to be known as "The Fearless One", Nirbhaya. On Gandhi Jayanti on Friday, the nation was mourning not just the rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl from Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, by four upper caste men, but also the fact that her body was cremated in secrecy by the UP police in the dead of the night, without the presence or permission of her family. Reports said that the family wanted to cremate the victim as per Hindu rituals, but they were locked inside their homes while she was cremated using petrol. Hundreds of civil society members, students, women and political leaders gathered at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi on Friday in shock at the brazen cover-up by the UP administration. Later, the UP government has suspended the Hathras SP and four other police officers over their handling of the gangrape-murder case even as local authorities made it clear that the Dalit victim's village was off-limits for the media.

PG5 | KERALA RECORDS HIGHEST SINGLE DAY SPIKE WITH 9K CASES



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SHORT TAKES

AP HC SEES NO DISHONEST INTENTION

From Page 1

The *Deccan Chronicle* report 'Fresh cheating case against former A-G kin', on September 26, spoke about the police booking Srinivas and others on charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy.

Srinivas' brother-in-law N. Sitaram Raju approached the High Court on September 28 and the case came up for hearing the next day.

As per the High Court interim order issued on September 29, the petitioner, Raju, transferred ₹80 lakh through RTGS a day before. Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy, referring to the repayment, observed that "there is no prima facie material to show that the petitioner made the second respondent (complainant) part with any amount with a dishonest intention," and found it fit to grant an interim order taking the totality of the circumstances into account.

INDIA THIRD NATION TO SEE 1L COVID DEATHS

From Page 1

India is the third country in the world to report over one lakh casualties. The other two countries are the United States with 2.12 lakh deaths and Brazil with 1.44 lakh.

According to data available on worldometers.info, the death rate has steeply declined compared to the number of positive cases reported because of increased awareness among the healthcare fraternity on treating Coronavirus.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate currently stands at 1.56 per cent compared to around 20 to 30 per cent during the initial months of March, April and May. With the lockdown helping the government in keeping caseload low and doctors gaining knowledge of dealing with an entirely new pathogen, the death rate declined to 2 to 3 per cent in July and August. The death rate further slipped to below 2.25 to 1.8 per cent in September.

RIVER BOARD WAS SILENT SPECTATOR: CM

From Page 1

He said that he would raise the issue of the unauthorised expansion of the PHR as it would will irreversibly compromise the interests and rights of Telangana state. The "ineffective supervision" of the Krishna River Management Board, and issues related to Section 89 of the AP Reorganisation Act, were other issues he listed.

He said he will also discuss the objections of AP to the ongoing projects of Telangana state on the Godavari.

Rao said the objections raised by AP to the new projects being taken up by the TS government in the Godavari basin are a "complete farce" as they were contemplated, designed, and grounded by the government of the undivided state, before bifurcation.

Administrative and technical sanctions were given, water allocations, finalisation of contracts and land acquisition were all taken up in undivided AP and up to ₹20,000 crore had been incurred even before Telangana state was formed.

He said the Pranahitha-Chevella project was reengineered to avoid submergence of lands in Maharashtra, create adequate reservoir capacity as per the Central Water Commission's advice, and make it suitable for the requirements of the state. It was renamed Kaleshwaram project in view of the local sentiments and traditions.

Kiran Kumar Reddy, the last Chief Minister of undivided AP, had made a detailed statement on the floor of the Assembly providing project-wise allocations for all the existing/ongoing projects, he said. He said: "The projects in Telangana were allocated 967.94 tmc ft water and 518.215 tmc ft was

allocated to AP. This was based on an estimation of 1,486.155 tmc ft water availability in the Godavari. This allocation works out to be 65.13 per cent of the total water for Telangana, though 80 per cent of the river catchment lies in the Telangana region of the erstwhile AP."



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in his 151st birth anniversary at Babu Ghat in Langer Houz, Hyderabad, on Friday as Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (partially seen) looks on.

Hyd salutes Gandhi, recalls his teachings

Many events cancelled due to the pandemic this year

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

People in the city on Friday celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, remembering the man who took on the British Raj armed only with the principle of non-violence.

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, along with several state ministers, paid rich tribute to Gandhi at Babu Ghat by the Musi river in Langer Houz. A small portion of Gandhi's ashes had been immersed in the river after his cremation in 1948.

Members of the Gandhi Gyan Mandir, the organisation that was launched on October 2, 1974, gathered in the morning and, after lighting a lamp and garlanding a portrait of Gandhi, recalled his works and ideology.

Though, every year, many residential colonies and educational institutions organise events on October 2 to recall Gandhi's services, this year the Covid-19 pandemic meant nearly all such events were suspended.

"This year we were forced to suspend the celebration in public because of the pandemic. Our respect for the Father of the Nation has not diminished but the need right now is to keep everyone safe from the disease," said Vanda Nagesh, Manikonda ward councillor. The garlanding of Gandhi portraits and statues were held at different institutions, including AIIMS at Bibinagar, Rachakonda and Cyberabad police commissionerates, the state Legislature complex and in the offices of political parties.

● Members of the Gandhi Gyan Mandir, the organisation launched on October 2, 1974, recalled Mahatma Gandhi's works and ideology.

Gandhi, Azad had great bonding: Educationists

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has a great connection with Mahatma Gandhi. Both of them together laid out plans to develop India, said Prof. Mohan Kant Gautam, international scientific commission, UNESCO, the Netherlands.

"Gandhi emphasised developing Indian languages. He opined that we can't move forward in life without understanding our language," Prof. Gautam said told a national webinar, 'Mahatma Gandhi in contemporary times', organised by the School of Education and Training and NSS cell of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu).

Recalling the incident where Gandhiji was pushed out of a train by the British, Prof. Gautam pointed out that before this incident Gandhi was influenced by the English culture in London, became a barrister and then went to South Africa but this particular incident changed him. He



No Congress leader was available to garland the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

came back to India and took up the fight against the British with non-violence.

Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Manuu Vice Chancellor, in his presidential address, said Gandhi believed in brotherhood and equality. He always opposed discrimination and was an ardent supporter of equality. As a result, many superstitions and wrong traditions were eradicated.

Humanity was his religion. The world will

always remember him as a beacon of peace and equality, he remarked.

Registrar Prof. Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood, highlighting Gandhi's ideas on education, said that the philosophy of education cannot be understood without understanding the philosophy of life. With his philosophies of life, Gandhi emerges as an educationist. The ideas he put forward almost 100 or 150 years ago are part of the new education policy, 2020.

Sarvodaya Trust holds skits

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The Telangana and Andhra Pradesh chapter of the Sarvodaya International Trust celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by digging into their archives and doing an online presentation of five skits to students of the Telangana Minorities Education Residential Schools.

Addressing over 400 students, A.K. Khan, former police chief, shared the Gandhian message of

health and moral character. The need to live in hygienic atmosphere and have sufficient physical activity, he said, is an essential part of good living.

Khan spoke against consumption of junk food. Moral character, he said, stemmed from being honest. Practicing what one says and being of help even at the domestic level are steps in the direction of self-reliance, Khan said.

The programme anchored by senior

lawyer L. Ravichander had plays from the archives of the trust presented by students of St. Ann's High School Petbasheerabad, Little Flower High School, Abids, Pragathi High School, Pragathinagar, Gitanjali Senior School and Rama Devi Public School and songs in Urdu by students of Safadiya Girls High School, a bhajan by Sairam Borra and a hymn rendered by former police officer Aruna Bahuguna.

Train PPs to hone skill: HC to govt

VIJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Irked by complaints and going by its own experience, the Telangana High Court directed the government to impart training to public prosecutors in trial courts to upgrade their professional skills.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayeswari Reddy asked Advocate-General B.S. Prasad to interact regularly with public prosecutors working in the lower courts and guide them.

"It is imperative for the government, for the safety of all of us, that the public prosecutor's office must be strengthened," the bench observed.

The court was dealing with a suo motu petition

over the government not filling recruiting regular public prosecutors.

Only 70 of the 270 posts have been filled, and most courts do not have regular public prosecutors which is delaying the hearing of criminal cases.

The bench also pointed to the lack of quality among public prosecutors.

"Perusal of the judgments and the records of the trial courts reveals that the public prosecutors are not as well trained as they should be. For many times, the public prosecutor either does not examine a material witness or does not submit a material document. Even while arguing a bail application, the PP does not submit the criminal history of the alleged offenders, and does not

● THE COURT was dealing with a suo motu petition over the government not filling recruiting regular public prosecutors.

● Only 70 of the 270 posts have been filled, and most courts do not have regular public prosecutors which is delaying the hearing of criminal cases.

● The bench also pointed to the lack of quality among public prosecutors.

bring the relevant laws to the notice of the court," Chief Justice Chauhan observed.

"Due to the lack of relevant information, offenders are being released on bail or are being acquitted after the conclusion of trial. Therefore, the train-

ing of public prosecutors is a crucial factor to be considered and to be implemented thoroughly," the Chief Justice said.

The bench told the government, "Until and unless the prosecution wing is strengthened, until and unless a sufficient number of public prosecutors is appointed, trained, and given concrete infrastructure, the conviction rate will continue to be low. Moreover, if offenders are permitted to be released on bail, it will create a law and order problem for the common man."

The hearing was adjourned to October 15, after directing the government to give a report on appointment of public prosecutors, training them and providing infrastructure.

Raj Bhavan gets e-office to redress grievances

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan on Friday launched an e-office file management system in Raj Bhavan. "The e-office will herald paperless and environment-friendly administration in Raj Bhavan, and will be a 'digital bridge' as well as 'connecting platform' between the people and the government," the Governor said.

Addressing an online press conference after inaugurating the e-office, Dr. Soundararajan said initiatives such as the e-office have additional significance in the Covid-19 pandemic conditions where physical distancing between people and paperless administration have become the norm.

The e-office, she said, will enable Raj Bhavan to attend to grievances and submissions from the people much faster and address concerns raised by the people to the government in a secure and speedy manner. "We are already working 24x7 and Raj Bhavan has attended to grievances even late at night. The new system will make our work much faster and better," she said.

Answering a question on the Covid-19 situation, the Governor said that the was in a much better position than a few months ago and has effectively contained the disease and managed to keep mortality levels low, which are declining further. "We are doing much better than many other states. Telangana state handled the peak sit-

Raj Bhavan is not a political venue: Guv.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Raj Bhavan, the official residence and office of the Governor, cannot be a venue for 'political dramas', Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan has said.

The Governor was responding to a question from a reporter on complaints by Congress leaders that she did not approve their request for a meeting with her to submit a memorandum recently.

Dr. Soundararajan said after she took office, she had met with representatives from civil society and leaders of political parties but, after the Coronavirus pandemic broke out, certain procedures were put in place as required and everyone was adhering to

them. The Congress leaders were informed that as per the procedure being followed by Raj Bhavan they can email their representation to the Governor's office, a practice that was being followed by many others who were seeking to submit representations to her.

"They did not want to do that. The Raj Bhavan should be a place for performance. I informed my officials that I will receive their representation through email. We have been following this procedure for four months," the Governor said.

Dr. Soundararajan said: "We are not in communication. We are accessible. But I do not want to break the procedure whether for the government or for political parties."

uation commendably," she said.

On the digital divide between urban and rural areas, particularly with respect to the predicament of rural students over accessing online classes, Dr. Soundararajan said this was a matter of concern for her too. "I was pained to learn of a dejected girl dying by suicide as her parents could not afford a smartphone for her to continue her education online. We must ensure a level playing

field," she said.

Dr. Soundararajan said she would like to see more focus on tribal welfare and development of tribal areas, infrastructure improvement, strengthening of government hospitals and promotion of academic excellence in the state's universities.

She appreciated the services of the NIC and IT department in digitising and setting up of the e-office software and training provided to Raj Bhavan staff.

2,009 new Covid cases in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Telangana state recorded 2,009 fresh Covid-19 cases on Thursday, taking the caseload so far to 1,95,609. Ten more people lost their lives to the disease, and the toll now stands at 1,145.

According to the state health department's Covid-19 bulletin issued on Friday, the state had 28,620 active cases of Covid-19 on Thursday evening of whom 23,372

were in home or institutional isolation.

It said 54,098 Covid-19 determination tests were conducted between Wednesday and Thursday but results from 1,151 tests were pending.

Of the 1,95,500 Covid-19 cases so far, 1,36,926, or 70 per cent, were patients who have not exhibited symptoms. All the rest were symptomatic patients. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area registered the most number of

fresh cases on Thursday with 293, with Medchal-Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy districts following with 173 and 171 cases each. Karimnagar district had 114 cases while Nalgonda reported 109, Khammam 104, Suryapet and Bhadrachalam 77 each, and Warangal Urban recorded 72 cases. There were 2,211 patients admitted to government hospitals while the number in private hospitals was 3,037, the department said.

CM FETES TOP NEPHROLOGIST, GOV'S HUSBAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Friday felicitated the nephrologist Dr. P. Soundararajan, husband of Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, for receiving the prestigious Droacharya award for his services to the people. Calling on the Governor and her husband at the Raj Bhavan, Rao presented a memento and a shawl to Dr. P. Soundararajan on the occasion.

Dr. P. Soundararajan is a renowned nephrologist who has been providing specialist care to patients for 35 years. Rao said it was a matter of pride for Telangana state that he received the award in recognition of his illustrious career as a nephrologist. Dr. P. Soundararajan, in addition to his vast experience in kidney transplants, is also a reputed researcher in nephrology with nearly 200 research publications to his credit. The Governor and her husband thanked Rao for the gesture and appreciated his visit.

● DR. P. Soundararajan is a renowned nephrologist who has been providing specialist care to patients for 35 years. The Chief Minister presented a memento and a shawl to Dr. P. Soundararajan on the occasion.

 DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS O/o Pr. Controller of Communications Accounts, Telangana Circle, Kavadiyada Telephone Exchange Compound, Bholakapur, HYDERABAD - 500080	
PRESS NOTE	
2nd Quarterly Pension Adalat 2020 will be held on 10-11-2020 (Tuesday)	
Department of Telecommunications, Telangana Circle's 2nd Quarterly Pension Adalat 2020 will be held on 10-11-2020 (Tuesday) from 1100hrs to 1300 hrs through video conferencing and BSNL pensioners may submit their grievances, if any, to Accounts Officer (Pension), O/o CCA, Telangana Circle, Department of Telecommunications, Kavadiyada Telephone Exchange Compound, Hyderabad-500080. Alternatively, the grievances may also be sent to email id : aopen.ts-dot@gov.in on or before 29 Oct 2020. Grievances received thereafter will not be placed before the Adalat. The representations received from the pensioners will only be accepted. Pensioners are requested to mention "2nd Quarterly Pension Adalat 2020" on the top of the envelope and also in the representation along with contact details.	
Sd Dy. Controller of Communication Accounts, O/o CCA, Telangana Circle, Hyderabad.	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
e-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Hazratganj, DRM office, Lucknow for & on behalf of President of India, invites open Tender (Two packet) through online (e-tendering) for the following work :	
1	e-tender N.I.T. No. TRD-7-SDEE-LKO-20 Name of work Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of OHE modification work for 2x25KV System for raising of speed to 160/200 KMPH on existing Lucknow-Kanpur section in connection with mission raftaar of Lucknow Division (Phase-1).
3	Approximate Cost Rs. 14,98,30,459/- Earnest Money Rs. 8,99,200/- Completion period 12 months
6	Last Date & Time of Submission & opening of Tender 06.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. & opening on the same day after 15:00 Hrs. Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on.
7	Validity of offer 60 Days from the date of opening of the Tender.
8	Northern Railway Website Additional relevant information may be checked on the website www.irps.gov.in
9	Tender Cost Nil
10	Eligibility Criteria The tenderer(s) shall be eligible only if he/they fulfill eligibility criteria as under:- 1. Total contract amount received during the last three financial year (i.e. current year and three previous financial year) should be minimum of 150% value of the tender. 2. The tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, Or Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, Or One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. The similar work is defined as:- Similar work means design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50 Hz, single phase 25 KV AC OHE. 3. The tenderers must submit attested copy of Electrical contractor license along with his offer.
Note: Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bid upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored/rejected. No. TRD-7-SDEE-LKO-20 dated: 01.10.2020	
2128/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

IN BRIEF

Mild tremors felt in Borabanda area

Hyderabad: Mild tremors in the Borabanda area of Hyderabad forced many people out of their homes at about 8.30 pm on Friday. Some residents also reported hearing a loud noise coming from the ground. People gathered in groups as they waited outside their homes. Some residents said the loud noises were accompanied by shaking of the ground. According to NGRI officials, mild tremors were recorded from the area.

IMD: WEATHER TO STAY UNCHANGED

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

In the absence of an active weather system, there would be little rain over the next few days, meteorologists said.

“The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon is still on. It will gradually leave the state by the second week of October,” Raja Rao Boddu of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) told *Deccan Chronicle*.

The temperature in the capital would rise by a degree or two. On Friday evening the maximum temperature in the city was 32.8° Celsius, which is two notches higher than the normal recorded for this time of the year. As per the forecast of the IMD, the weather would continue to remain this way till Tuesday next week.

NIMS ANNOUNCES MASTER'S ADMISSIONS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday announced admissions to its Master of Hospital Management programme. The aspirants should possess a bachelor's degree in any discipline from a recognised university with a minimum of 50 per cent marks, relaxable by 5 per cent in respect of SC/ST candidates.

Selection will be based on the aggregate of marks secured in the entrance examination, group discussion and personal interview conducted by NIMS University. Only qualified candidates in the written examination will be called for group discussion and interview, it said in an official communication.

The entrance test paper will be set for 100 marks and consist of questions on test of reasoning, numerical ability, English comprehension and usage, health and hospital knowledge, and business knowledge.

The last day for applications online is Oct 8 and in-person is October 10. For more details, students can visit <https://nims.edu.in/nimset?tab=curr&adminid=MJM2>.

COPS BUST CRICKET BETTING RACKET, 4 HELD

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The North Zone Task Force of the city police busted a cricket betting racket being run from an apartment in Marredpally and arrested four persons.

The police have identified the arrested men as Khimani Saleem, Anwar Akbar Khoja, Sandeep Agarwal and Kontham Abhilash.

The police said Saleem, a resident of Dwaraka Residency, Marredpally, a businessman, after coming into contact with a cricket betting bookie from Nagpur, identified as Remmy, began getting online ball-to-ball ratios and started collecting bets from punters. He was using online payment apps to collect bets as well as cash from local punters in person.

On Thursday night during the IPL match between Kings XI Punjab and Mumbai Indians at Sheikh Zayed stadium, Abu Dhabi, the police, on a tip-off, raided the house and apprehended the accused. They seized ₹1.5 lakh in cash and a set of mobile phones.

The four persons arrested, along with the seized cash, mobiles and a television set, were handed over to the Marredpally police for further investigation.

● **THE POLICE** have identified the arrested men as Khimani Saleem, Anwar Akbar Khoja, Sandeep Agarwal and Kontham Abhilash.

Unlock 5.0

Sailing restarted in the Hussainsagar, Hyderabad, after a long break due to the Coronavirus pandemic-related lockdown. The rain stayed away and the weather remained pleasant for most part of the day. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Cable fans jam newest bridge

People ignore traffic rules in rush to take pictures, selfies, block traffic

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The cable-stayed bridge on Durgam Cheruvu in Madhapur appears to be fast turning into a headache for the traffic police with people throwing caution to the winds in their pursuit of taking pictures and selfies while on the carriageway, amidst traffic.

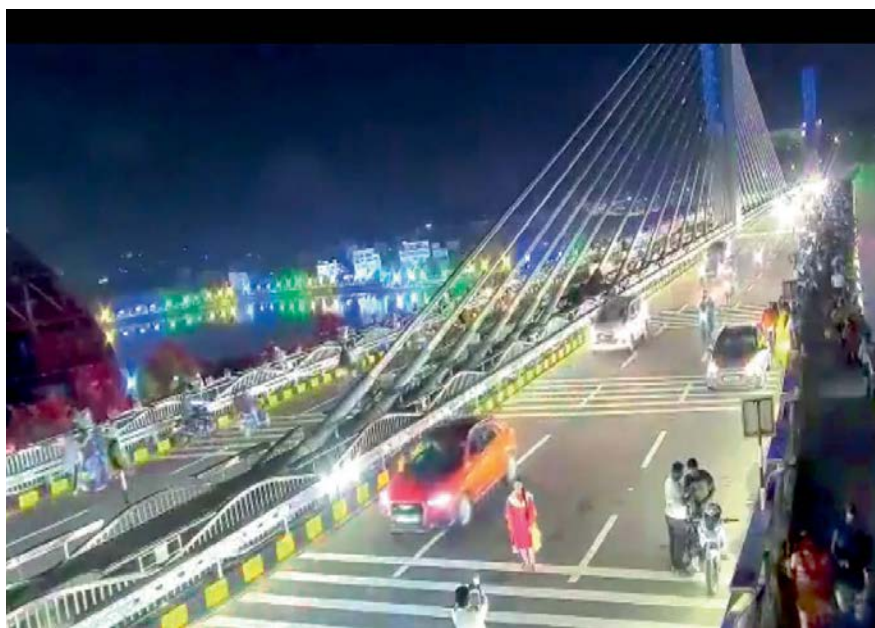
A video posted on the Twitter account of the Cyberabad traffic police shows a woman walking to the middle of the road and standing with her back to the approaching cars and two-wheelers while a man takes her picture with a mobile phone. Next to the couple, a car and a two-wheeler can be seen parked on the carriageway. “Madam, please step out of the world of pictures and recognise that you are standing in the middle of traffic,” the post accompanying the video says.

In another video that the Cyberabad traffic police posted earlier, a group of youngsters can be seen jumping over the median and running across the road.

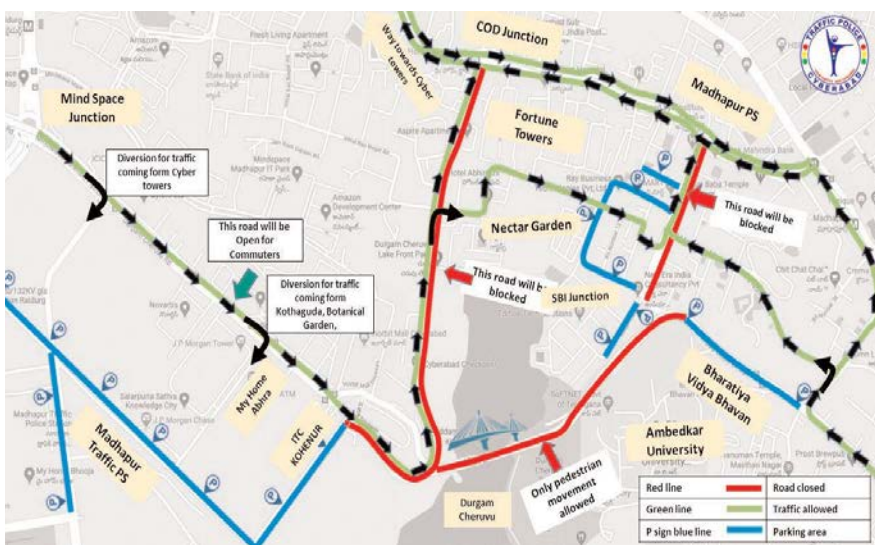
The Cyberabad police on Friday issued a detailed list of dos and don'ts for people visiting the bridge, with a focus on their safety. The police said the bridge, that provides connectivity from Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills to Hitec City, Gachibowli, ORR and Shamshabad, has a “certain aesthetic and recreational value,” and that a large number of public is thronging the bridge regularly.

In view of this, the GHMC, the police said, has decided to allow general public on weekends on the bridge by stopping vehicular movement.

The police said that while people were welcome on the bridge, especially if they use the pedestrian lanes, they must follow the directions



A woman stands in the middle of the cable-stayed bridge across Durgam Cheruvu in Madhapur while a man takes her picture amidst traffic, as seen in a picture posted on Twitter by the Cyberabad traffic police.



Route map for the Durgam Cheruvu bridge for the weekend, when traffic is barred

of the traffic police scrupulously at all times and help them in ensuring better management of traffic and road safety.

The bridge will remain closed from 10 pm every Friday up to 6 am the following Monday. On all other days, it will be shut between 11 pm and 6 am

for vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

The public, the Cyberabad police advised, should exhibit greater sense of responsibility and self-discipline while on the bridge. They should not indulge in dangerous activities like standing on the railing for selfies,

lying down/sitting on the road for photos, cutting cakes and indulging in other celebrations.

Parents or guardians should “hand hold” kids while on the bridge, while everyone has been cautioned “not to carry any valuable items like jewellery, money...etc.” “If

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES ON THE BRIDGE

● Walking on the carriageway, crossing from one side to another when traffic is allowed.

● Standing/sitting on the road or side railings.

● Stopping or parking of vehicles.

● Any gathering for birthday and other reasons.

● Consumption of alcohol.

● Movement of pushcarts, bullocks.

PARKING FOR VISITORS

● Limited parking arrangements on both ends of the bridge on the roads in Hyderabad Knowledge City behind ITC Kohenu, on Jubilee Road No. 45 under the bridge at Mastannagar, on the left side of the flyover from Road No. 45.

● Vehicles parked anywhere else on the roads leading to the bridge will be towed away.

they have to do so, they are advised to stay away from the crowd on the bridge,” the police said.

The police said CCTV cameras and public address systems have been installed on the bridge for surveillance and cases were being booked for traffic violations like rider and pillion riding without helmet, triple riding, speeding, stopping or parking on the bridge, use of cellphone while driving, and racing.

KTR: All 142 civic bodies in state to be made ODF++

S. A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday announced that the state government was aiming to turn all 142 municipalities into ‘open defecation free (ODF) ++ urban local bodies’. Though the Centre had recognised all towns in the state as ODF, he was not satisfied, Rama Rao, minister for municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD), said.

He said that eight municipalities had the ODF+ tag and Greater Hyderabad and Warangal Municipal Corporations ODF++. He was speaking at Bhongir after observing Swachhata Diwas.

Rama Rao said the MA&UD department was developing faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs), setting up toilets in proportion with the population, and taking up measures for waste collection and installing composting systems.

He said 43 per cent of the population was residing in urban areas, and this figure was likely to touch 50 per cent in the next five years which was indicative of rapid urbanisation.

In view of people shifting to towns from villages due to various reasons including employment, education and healthcare, the minister said that the government had taken up master plans for systematic urbanisation.

Counselling centre has received no support for 5 years

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The counselling centre for minorities established under the Wakf Board for providing conciliation and arbitration in family disputes, is functioning without monetary aid from either from the government or from the Wakf board for five years. Members are being forced to bear the expenditure.

Counselling centre chairperson E. Ismail addressed a letter to minority welfare minister Koppula Eshwar, requesting him to resolve certain issues. He said the centre was established in July 2015 and till now 400 cases were registered with them. Of these, more than 40 per cent of the cases were solved amicably. The centre holds seven sittings a month.

The CEO of the Wakf board had submitted a tentative estimate of expenditure and requested a grant-in-aid to the tune of ₹40, 90, 596. He suggested delegating the powers of the judicial first class magistrate to the committee to summon parties under the law, approving minimum staff consisting of a stenographer, clerk and record assistant and providing security to the centre as and when required.

He said that the time of commencement, the sitting fee was fixed at ₹2,000 for the chairperson and ₹1,200 for the members. They have never receive a

● **RAMA RAO** said the MA&UD department was developing faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs), setting up toilets in proportion with the population, and taking up measures for waste collection and installing composting systems.

● **RAMA RAO** said 43 per cent of the population was residing in urban areas, and this figure was likely to touch 50 per cent in the next five years which was indicative of rapid urbanisation.

He said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had brought the citizen-centric new Municipal Act to ensure better services to the people, Rama Rao pointed out it was mandated in the law that every municipality should spend 10 per cent of its budget for greenery development. He said that bio-mining was taken up to remove wastes and ensure their recycling.

Announcing that Pattana Pragathi annual awards would be presented to the best performing urban local bodies on February 24 every year, the minister announced that the awards would be in five categories — model municipality, water resource conservation, maintenance of sanitation, greenery development and bio-mining.

● **COUNSELLING CENTRE** chairperson E. Ismail addressed a letter to minority welfare minister Koppula Eshwar, requesting him to resolve certain issues. He said the centre was established in July 2015 and till now 400 cases were registered with them. Of these, more than 40 per cent of the cases were solved amicably. The centre holds seven sittings a month.

single paise. No staff is available to record the statements of the litigants and no stationery was being provided. Not even a single attendant was recruited. Only one attender is sent on the day of sitting.

The CEO of the Wakf board had submitted a tentative estimate of expenditure and requested a grant-in-aid to the tune of ₹40, 90, 596. He suggested delegating the powers of the judicial first class magistrate to the committee to summon parties under the law, approving minimum staff consisting of a stenographer, clerk and record assistant and providing security to the centre as and when required.

NIMS gets a stem cell laboratory, can test samples for blood cancer

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) now has a stem cell laboratory that will ramp up diagnostic tests in the city.

The lab was inaugurated by health minister Etala Rajendar. “Earlier, we had to send samples to Delhi. This laboratory can conduct thousands of tests. Now, people suffering from blood cancer can have their tests done for free under Aarogya Sri scheme at NIMS and receive appropriate treatment,” said Rajendar. NIMS is renowned for kidney, heart replacement

● **AS PER** Indian Council of Medical Research records, close to 40 lakh people in the state have developed anti-bodies for Covid-19. “Those who have Covid-19 symptoms can spend ₹10,000 and secure treatment.

and stem cell therapy. “We dedicate this laboratory to the people of Telangana state,” said Rajendar.

As per Indian Council of Medical Research records, close to 40 lakh people in the state have developed anti-bodies for Covid-19. “Those who have Covid-19 symptoms can

spend ₹10,000 and secure treatment. In a few days, people will have to coexist with dengue, viral fevers, common viral fevers, H1N1, as well as malaria. Therefore, with some vigilance, people can stay safe,” said Rajendar.

The minister said that the government will soon be launching out-patient services at NIMS while taking precautionary measures for Covid-19. “Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had earlier ordered an increase in out-patient (OP) services. Therefore, we are starting an OP block and critical care

unit with ₹250 crore. We will soon be laying the foundation stone,” said Rajendar.

Currently, 2,500 people are seeking OP services and the same shall be ramped up to 5,000. He added that the government has established four new hospitals in Hyderabad including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bibinagar, and the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences, Gachibowli. “We are going to establish a hospital on the Shamirpet-Medchal road and a hospital near Kongara Kalan,” said Rajendar.

SHORT TAKES

NHRC SUMMONS
DGP FOR ACP
REMARKSATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons to Director-General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy, directing him to appear before it in a case related to alleged communal remarks passed by the assistant commissioner of police (ACP) of Karimnagar against a youth for protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Based on the complaint of the victim, Mohammed Abdul Mujeeb, the NHRC took cognizance of the matter on January 22 and called for an 'action taken report' from the DGP, but no report was received. Another opportunity was given to submit the report, but the commission has not received it yet.

The commission took a serious note of what it called the non-responsive attitude of the police and issued conditional summons to the DGP, who has been directed to personally appear before the commission on February 1 next year at 11 am along with the requisite report. However, it stated that if the report is received by the commission a week prior to the scheduled date, then the DGP's personal appearance shall stand dispensed with.

Mujeeb alleged that Karimnagar ACP Pagadala Ashok and police inspector (Special Branch), Indrasena Reddy had threatened him for taking out a rally against CAA and passed objectionable and derogatory remarks against not only the Islam but also Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Congress to target
79 Assembly seats

Next CM of TS will be from Congress, says Tagore

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Manickam Tagore, AICC in-charge of Telangana Congress affairs, on Friday gave the party unit the target of capturing 79 Assembly seats in the 2023 general elections.

Addressing the Kisan Mazdoor Bachao Diwas at Sangareddy as part of the Congress' nationwide agitation against the three new agricultural laws introduced by the BJP-led government at the Centre, Tagore said 'Vision 2023' is being unveiled in Sangareddy, as this was the place from where former prime minister Indira Gandhi had filed her nomination papers to contest the Medak Lok Sabha constituency in 1980. He hoped Sangareddy would again turn lucky for the Congress and the party would come to power in 2023.

Tagore expressed confidence that the next chief minister will be a Congress leader and assured that Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy will be a Cabinet minister. He said, "When the Congress could fight and the defeat British and get freedom for the country, it is not difficult for us to beat KCR in the next elections."

The AICC in-charge pointed out that Congress president



As part of Kisan Mazdoor Bachao Divas, AICC Telangana in-charge Manickam Tagore, TPCC chief N. Uttam Reddy, organise a massive rally against the new agricultural laws, in Sangareddy on Saturday. — P. ANIL KUMAR

Sonia Gandhi had granted statehood for Telangana to ensure that all sections of society benefited from the new state. But, except Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his family, none has benefited from the formation of Telangana state. Urging people to think about their future and defeat the TRS, he said they should not get lured by the ₹1,000 or ₹2,000, which TRS leaders were paying to get their votes. Instead, they should vote for the Congress to ensure a bright future for their children.

On the new agricultur-

al laws, Tagore alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah had mortgaged the interest of farmers to corporates like Ambanis and Adanis.

Speaking on the occasion, TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy said the lives of farmers have been ruined ever since the BJP came to power at the Centre and the TRS in the state. He underlined that the new farm laws have made minimum support price (MSP) irrelevant. They do not bind the corporate sector on procuring agriculture produce at the MSP. He demanded

that the Centre immediately withdraw the laws and address concerns of the farming community. Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated his demand that the Chief Minister must convene a special session of the Legislative Assembly to pass a unanimous resolution against the new agricultural laws and override these laws under Articles 254 (2) of the Constitution of India.

He described Chandrashekar Rao as a betrayer of farmers and slammed the CM for not honouring the promise of waiving crop loans up to ₹1 lakh.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Row over renaming
of Kasturba collegeVADREVI
SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, OCT. 2

Renaming of the five-decade-old Kasturba Government Junior College at Bhimavaram in West Godavari as Grandhi Venkateswara Rao Junior College has kicked up a row in the town.

Significantly, the state government has already issued a GO. RT No.182 renaming the college as Grandhi Venkateswara Rao College. Grandhi Venkateswara Rao was former municipal chairman of Bhimavaram Municipality and is also father of Bhimavaram MLA Grandhi Srinivas.

Some elders of Bhimavaram feel the act of the government is disrespectful towards Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation. Sarvodaya Mandali, Bapiraju Dharma Samstha, Andhra Pradesh Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi (Memorial Fund) and others have submitted a representation to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to revoke the G. O. and respect national leaders. They said the government must know the motive behind establishment of Kasturba college in 1970s.

Sarvodaya Mandali and Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi pointed out that noted Gandhian and freedom fighter Chintalapati Vara Prasada Murthy Raju, known as "Murthy Raju" had established 68 educational institutions in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba and other national leaders in West Godavari district. As part of it, Kasturba Junior college was established at the Two Town Centre in Bhimavaram.

A member of the two institu-

● A MEMBER of the two institutions wondered how the state government could change the name of the college after Grandhi Venkateswara Rao. He questioned how IAS officers could issue a G. O. to rename the college removing the great freedom fighter Kasturba's name.

tions wondered how the state government could change the name of the college after Grandhi Venkateswara Rao. He questioned how IAS officers could issue a G. O. to rename the college removing the great freedom fighter Kasturba's name.

However, MLA Grandhi Srinivas accused people belonging to a particular caste of trying to take political mileage out of the renaming when there is no controversy at all. He said: "When I was MLA during 2004-09, I visited the college, which was in a dilapidated condition. Owners of the site on which the college stood had decided to take over their land from the college as its lease period was over. At that time, my family donated 35 cents of land and also laid road for convenience of the students. When we gave the land, government representatives promised to rename the college in my father Grandhi Venkateswara Rao's name, as he had served the society a lot. When I submitted a representation, the government issued a G. O. to rename the college in my father's name," Srinivas explained.

He clarified that he and his family are ready to add Kasturba to the name of the college to respect the national leader.

AP to change three-liquor bottle norm

SAMPAT G.
SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 2

Given the misuse of provision of allowing transport or possession of three bottles of liquor per person, the government is exploring options to curb the misuse of the facility as it is becoming rampant.

The government had issued Government Order MS No. 411 on September 24, 2019, under Section 14 of the AP Excise Act, 1968 allowing a person to have in his possession three bot-

tles of liquor at a time without a permit or licence with effect. Subsequently, the AP High Court said in an order that the possession or transportation of liquor up to the limit specified by the government not an offence, whether the liquor is purchased in AP or outside AP and is brought into the state.

Following this, a section of people have started to purchase liquor bottles from neighbouring states like Telangana state, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha and others and are

● THE PRICE variation for some top brand liquor for a full bottle is said to be in the range of ₹1,000 to ₹1,800 in other states when compared to AP.

bringing them into AP for sale at a hefty profit.

The price variation for some top brand liquor for a full bottle is said to be in the range of ₹1,000 to ₹1,800 in other states when compared to AP. This practice has become so rampant that daily liquor sales

in government retail outlets, located in border areas of AP, has come down by 60-70 per cent, denting revenue to the state exchequer.

The newly permitted bars are also unable to pick up liquor sales as a huge quantum of liquor from neighbouring states is being brought into AP.

To curb this practice, the state government is planning to approach the High Court to get a relevant order and is alter the rule. Moreover, there are plans to levy an additional tax on

such liquor, based on feasibility. The police is learnt to have written to the government suggesting the levying of additional tax on such liquor to arrest the misuse of the HC order.

D. Vasudeva Reddy, managing director of the Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited, said "We are looking at various options to curb the practice of bringing huge amounts of liquor bought in other states into AP for local sale."

Pvt tutors pass virus to 14 kids, adults

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 2

A Coronavirus-infected teacher couple, who were conducting tuitions for students at SC Colony in Bhatluru village of Sattenapalli mandal in Guntur district, have ended up infecting 14 students, apart from 25 others of the village.

According to reports, the couple staying in the village was working as teachers in a private school at Narasaraopet. As the schools were

closed due to Covid-19, they were conducting classes for students at a vacant house in the village. The teachers tested Coronavirus positive two weeks ago. When officials inquired about people they had come in contact, they informed about the students for whom they were taking classes. Following this, officials conducted Covid-19 tests on 25 students, 14 of whom tested positive. Officials then tested villagers and found 25 of them positive.

Sattenapalli tahsildar S.V. Ramana Kumari said the mandal education officer has issued notices to teachers directing them not to take any classes due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Ramana Kumari said disinfection measures have been taken up in the village and another Corona testing camp was organised on Friday, wherein samples from 200 villagers were collected. Their results will be available in a day or two. She said infected children and elders have

been shifted to NRI and Sri Chaitanya Sai Sadhan quarantine centres.

Guntur district collector I. Samuel Anand Kumar warned that cases would be registered under the Disaster Management Act if private educational institutions conducted tuitions for a gathering of students. He asked district education officer and regional director of Higher Education Department to take all necessary measures to check such incidents in future.

NIZAMSAGAR WATER LEVEL RISING,
INFLOWS CONTINUE INTO SRSPDC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 2

Floodwaters continued to flow into the Sriramsagar project where project officials are maintaining full reservoir level of 1,091 feet and gross storage of 90,313 tmc ft. The project received 47,359 cusecs on Friday and released 25,000 cusecs by opening eight gates. Outflow was continued for the Kakatiya, Saraswati and

Laxmi canals and Mission Bhagiratha schemes.

On the other hand, the water level in Nizamsagar reached 1,397.78 feet as against full reservoir level of 1,405 ft. Of the capacity of 17,803 tmc, the project as 9.13 tmc ft of water. Around 2,872 cusecs flowed into the project from the river Manjeera. Last year same day water level in Nizamsagar was 1,387.62 ft and storage 3.6 tmc ft.

12th ANNIVERSARY

SRI ROSHANLAL TANDON
(FOUNDER OF KASHMIR HOUSE)

TODAY IS THE DAY YOU LEFT US TWELVE YEARS AGO.
"WITH TWO FOLDED HANDS WE BOW TO YOU.
TO BLESS US FOR THE LONG WAY TO GO..."

INSERTED BY:
KASHMIR HOUSE, BEGUM BAZAR, HYDERABAD
TANDON FAMILY

10th DAY CEREMONY

Sri. SUDERSHAN DUBEY
(Pappu Raja)

When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure

Inserted By:
Dubey's Chikadpally
Ph: 9440924949 / 9391133223

10th DAY CEREMONY

Late Smt PANNI RADHA DEVI
W/o Late Panni Tukaram
DOB: 31.12.1950 DOD: 25.09.2020

"Mom: Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure...
You are loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure..."

10th Day Ceremony on 4.10.2020,
at 1.00 p.m. at our residence H.No. 12-3-1/33, Vedadrinagar, Street No. 2, Near Damdama lake, Dammam, 500083.
Ph: 768818304, 7760887424

Deeply mourned by: **FAMILY MEMBERS**
(CA-3427)

Sri Thuramallla Narasimha Rao
(T.N Rao - South Central Railway Retd.)

23-07-1937 to 29-09-2020

Deeply Mourned by
Padma, Murali, Mytri, Rheiya, Rikhil, Near and dear.

Call: 9550176734

11th ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Thakur V. Hari Prasad
DOB: 01.07.1935 DOD: 03.10.2009

"The torchbearers created by you continue to march with the same zeal & inspiration to fulfill the Mission of your Vision".

Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for the Mentally Handicapped

11th ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Thakur V. Hari Prasad
DOB: 01.07.1935 DOD: 03.10.2009

"Your Presence was Felt; Your Absence is Being Felt"

By Family Members

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

P. SUDERSHAN
Retd. Station Engineer - Doordarshan
DOB: 11-03-1942 DOD: 03-10-2017

Remembered by: Wife, Son, Daughter, Son-in-Law & Grand Daughter
Ph: 9000954476

(S/2021/000662)

We regret to inform that our beloved Sri U. Gopalakrishna passed away on 30th September, 2020.

SRI U. GOPALAKRISHNA
DOB: 20-04-1946 DOD: 30-09-2020

"We pray to God for his soul to rest in peace"

Funeral takes place on **Today, Saturday, 03-10-2020** at Shalibanda Hyderabad Contact: 8039226030

Inserted by: **FAMILY MEMBERS**

"...because I Live, you will live also. In 14-19"

Prabhudas Battula (Retd BHEL)
(DOB: 28-11-1924 Promoted to Glory on 29-09-2020)

Cortege will start at Sattenada Prayer House, Near MHO Office, Mayuri Nagar, R C Puram, On 4-10-2020 at 2:00 PM and Burial at LIG, R C Puram cemetery at 4:00 PM

Inserted by: **Talibha Glory, Prashant (Daughter & Son in Law), Peter Samuel, Rekha (Son & Daughter in Law), Grand Children: Sharon, Priscilla & Sarah**
Contact: 984947280, 7091197371

SHRADHANJALI

Smt. GOPATHI BALAMANI
W/o Late Sri Gopathi Srinamulu
Left for her Heavenly Abode on 1st Oct 2020

"You will live in our hearts forever! May your soul rest in peace!"

Inserted by: **Sri Ashok Gopathi & Smt. Rajeshwari, Sri Sai Gopathi & Smt. Prameela, Smt. Svaroop Gopathi, Sri Sai Gopathi & Smt. Sabitha, Sri Lathish Gopathi & Radha, Dr. Srinivas Rao & Anuradha, Sri Ch. Srinivas & Anandashwari, Grand & Great Grand Children**

22nd ANNIVERSARY

Smt. DOSAPATI KAMALAKSHI
(W/o. Late. Sri DOSAPATI TULSI RAM)
Expired on: 03-10-1998

Inserted by: **NEAR & DEAR**

(S/2021/000667)

RESPECTFUL SHRADHANJALI TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Smt. SEETABAI HARWALKAR
D.O.B: 3-10-2003

Shri GUNDE RAO HARWALKAR
(Retd. Dists and Sessions Judge)
D.O.B: 2-7-1986

We miss you on your Birthday.
From Family Members

(A/2021/000021)

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Gandham Deborah Adoncia
DOB: 27-02-2001 DOD: 03-10-2012

"We miss you,
Our hearts still ache for you, your Loving smile, your dear sweet face"

Inserted by: **Father: Gandham Johnson Albert (Kurnool), Mother: Annepogu surekha Albert, Sister: Gandham leelona Rebelkha, Grandfather: Gandham Benjamin Johnson (Hyd)**

11th ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Thakur V. Hari Prasad
DOB: 01.07.1935 DOD: 03.10.2009

Your Words and Deeds continue to inspire us..

Familily & Staff
St John Ambulance Association

SHORT TAKES

NIA CHARGESHEETS 33 MAOISTS FOR KILLING MLA

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 2

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against 33 Maoists in the last year's killing of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi in Dantewada.

The chargesheet was filed in the NIA special court in Jagdalpur, headquarters of Bastar on Thursday, a press release issued by NIA said.

Of the 33 ultras chargesheeted, six have been arrested, 22 are absconding and the rest five have died, the NIA said.

Those arrested were Medka Ram Tati, Bhima Ram Tati, Linge Tati, Laxman Jaiswal, Ramesh Kumar Kashyap, and Haripal Singh Chouhan.

Mandavi, then sitting MLA of Dantewada (ST) Assembly constituency, was killed along with his four security personnel when Maoists blew up the vehicle in which they were travelling, by triggering Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion at Shyamgiri in Dantewada district on April 9, 2019.

BSF JAWANS SEIZE EXPLOSIVES IN MALKANGIRI

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC MALKANGIRI, OCT. 2

Border Security Force (BSF) jawans seized a huge quantity of gelatin explosives during anti-Maoist operations at Rajulkunda forests in Malkangiri district on Thursday evening, the BSF officials said on Friday.

Jawans of the 76 Border Security Force (BSF) battalion launched a combing operation in the jungle and discovered around 21 kg gelatin explosives stuffed in sacks and dumped at various locations of the forest range.

On many occasions, the Left-Wing extremists have used these explosives for landmines to target police personnel and BSF jawans engaged in the combing operations. Such a seizure seems a major victory as sources claimed the Maoists were planning to plant landmines targeting police.

ANURAG KASHYAP DENIES RAPE CHARGE

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 2

A day after the Versova police grilled film maker Anurag Kashyap in connection with the rape allegations levelled against him by actor Payal Ghosh, he refuted them stating he was in Sri Lanka at the time she has mentioned of the incident taking place. He provided the proof to the police to support his claims that he was in the neighbouring country in August 2013.

The police questioned Kashyap after Ghosh filed a case against him on September 22 stating he allegedly raped her. The film maker's lawyer issued a statement stating that Kashyap had provided documentary proof to the police to establish the fact that he was in Sri Lanka shooting for a film. "The material provided by Kashyap, in support of his statement, demonstrates that the complaint is an outright lie," says the statement issued by his lawyer Priyanka Khimani.

KERALA RECORDS ANOTHER HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 2

Kerala on Friday recorded the highest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases with 9,258 cases even as 4,092 persons recovered from the infection.

The total number of Covid-19 cases in the state so far has gone up to 2,13,499 of which 1,35,144 have recovered from the disease and 77,482 are under treatment in various hospitals across the state. Of the fresh cases reported on Friday, 8,274 persons contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 657 is not known, 47 came from abroad, 184 from other states.

Prohibitory orders under IPC section 144 will be clamped in Kerala from Saturday in places where the possibility of Covid-19 super spread is high. The respective district collectors will announce the places.

Up in arms



Members of various farmers organisations block a railway track during a protest against farm laws in Bathinda on Friday.

— PTI

RJD says seat sharing deal with allies enters final stage

RJD likely to contest on 134-136 seats; Cong likely to get 68 out of 243 seats

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 2

While there is confusion over seat-sharing formula among the NDA partners, the RJD-led grand alliance seems to have sealed the deal with its allies.

RJD insiders, aware of the development, told this newspaper that "discussion over the issue has entered the final stage and a formal announcement is expected soon".

Few party leaders, however, also blamed the Congress for the confusion in the grand alliance over the issue.

As per the formula being discussed in the grand alliance, the Congress is likely to get 68 out of 243 seats.

The left parties may get 29-30 seats and Mukesh Sahani's Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) is likely to contest on 10-12 seats.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) which is the largest party in grand alliance is likely to contest on 134-136 seats.

The Congress had earlier demanded "sizeable seat share" and also issued an ultimatum to the RJD. On Friday, Bihar in charge of the Congress Shakti Singh Gohil hinted that the party may contest the polls on its own if the seat-sharing is delayed by the RJD.

"The party is prepared for any eventuality", Bihar Congress in-charge Shakti Singh Gohil told reporters on Friday.

Earlier this week, the CPI-ML had declared that it would contest alone on 30 seats due to the stubborn attitude of RJD.

In a statement, CPI-ML state secretary Kunal said that "the party has prepared a list of 30 constituencies and may contest alone if we don't get seats of our choice".

The grand alliance in Bihar comprises Rashtriya Janata Dal,

In MP bypolls, Cong promises jobs to Coronavirus victims' families

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 2

Congress which was ousted from power in Madhya Pradesh in March following revolt raised by 22 party MLAs against the then chief minister Kamal Nath, has decided to play the 'pandemic card' to return to power in the November 3 by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies.

The party has released poll manifesto for the crucial Assembly by-polls announcing a series of welfare measures for the families affected by the

● **THE PARTY** has also declared to release adequate compensation to the families whose members have been infected by the virus.

Coronavirus outbreak in the state.

Nearly 1.33 lakh people in MP have contracted the virus which has so far claimed lives of 2,336 people.

"We have decided to provide government jobs to a member of each family who has lost its earning member due to Covid-19, if our party returns to power in the

ensuing Assembly by-elections in the state", former minister and senior Congress leader P.C. Sharma said.

The party has also declared to release adequate compensation to the families whose members have been infected by the virus.

The party has pledged to make the state free of pandemic if Congress returns to power in MP.

Interestingly, Congress released 'Bachan Patra' or poll manifesto for each of the 28 Assembly constituencies.

"We have prepared a poll manifesto for each of the

28 poll-bound Assembly seats to focus on problems facing the people in these constituencies. We have earlier made a survey in all these constituencies to identify the local issues and included them in our poll manifestoes", sources said.

The poll manifesto has also promised cheap electricity at ₹100 per month per household if the party returned to power.

The Congress has already announced candidates for 24 Assembly seats, while nominees for the rest four seats may be declared in a day or two.

KMSS floats new party

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 2

National film award winner director Jahnu Barua here on Friday announced the formation of a new political party — Rajior Dal (People's Party) floated by the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) along with 70 indigenous organisations.

Asserting that new political outfit would be a political alternative to fulfil the regional aspirations of the people, Barua said, "The new inclusive democratic political party with the slogan — 'Think Globally, Act Locally', would work for ushering in a new Assam with a new era of development taking everyone together."

When a 28-year-old village, Bijoy Gaur, intervened and accused them of being superstitious, he was attacked as well, police said. The angry mob lynched both of them to death, offered rituals to the local deity and tried to cremate the bodies in a nearby hill.

Karbi Anglong's superintendent of police Debojit Deori said that they came to know about the incident on Thursday morning as it happened on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. "We went to

form, Barua hoped that all ethnic communities would cooperate and work unitedly for the greater good of the state. He also appealed that Assam Jatiya Parishad, a political party floated by All Assam Students Union recently should join hand with Rajior Dal to provide a political alternative to the people of the state.

"We have seen the unity of these organisations which needs to be galvanised into a force that can protect Assam's identity and culture," said Barua.

Barua along with prominent advocate and political leader Arup Borbora and Lachit Sena leader Sringkhal Chaliha also lauded jailed KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi who is the chief convener of the new

political outfit, for his struggle to fulfil the regional aspirations of the people.

The new party is preparing to intensify anti-CAA, and anti-EIA protests apart from mounting pressure on the government to ensure release of its jailed leader Gogoi.

The new political outfit has also formed a group of advisors which include Dr. Hiren Gohain, Dr. Nagendra Saikia, Jahnu Baruah, Dr. Udayaditya Bharali, Dr. Sitanath Lahkar, Dr. Ghanashyam Nath, Dr. Narayan Sharma and Sanjay Kumar Tanti.

The KMSS along with 70 indigenous and the regional party, the Sanjukta Anchalik Dal, Asom, were together during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act agitation.

TMC MP alleges manhandling by SDM in Hathras

New Delhi, Oct. 2: The Trinamul Congress on Friday alleged that its woman MP Pratima Mandal was manhandled and pushed by a senior district official when she was on her way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh to meet the family of a 19-year-old woman who died after she was allegedly gangraped and assaulted.

The party also shared a number of short video clips which showed its leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien being pushed to ground by police personnel and Pratima Mandal being manhandled by the administrative official on the road, a few km away from the woman's house.

Mandal and O'Brien were part of a party delegation to Hathras.

O'Brien said, "We have filed a police complaint against the Hathras Sadar SDM with a request that it be turned into an FIR. We will also write to the Lok Sabha Speaker on the matter."

In her complaint, Mandal wrote, "When we tried to meet the family this morning, SDM (Prem Prakash) Meena pushed me and tried to forcibly stop me. We have come from West Bengal to offer our condolences to the family of the victim. In a democracy to stop a public representative from meeting a victim's family is murder of democracy."

In the complaint to the police, Mandal also alleged that Meena pushed her and misbehaved with her.

There was no immediate reaction available from Meena and any other official to the allegation.

TMC sources said that the visit of the MPs to Hathras was planned in such a way that chances of them being identified and stopped were minimal.

The delegation comprised MPs O'Brien, Mandal, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and former parliamentarian Mamata Thakur. They travelled in separate cars from Delhi and met up 25 km ahead of Hathras. They managed to enter the village of the woman, but were unable to meet the family.

"We requested the police that they let the women MPs meet the family, but they did not even allow that. Then the SDM pushed our woman MP and that's when we intervened and said that meeting should be allowed," O'Brien said.

He said Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and leader Ramgopal Yadav called him up and extended their support to them.

— PTI



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks during a prayer meet of the Hathras victim at Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Friday.

— PTI

CONG PREPARES 'LAW' TO ANNUL FARM LAWS

New Delhi, Oct. 2: The Congress has prepared a draft model law that will be legislated by party-ruled states in order to annul the central farm laws.

Sources said on Friday that the model law has been drafted and will soon be sent to Congress-ruled states to replicate it in their state assemblies.

The move comes days after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi asked states under party's rule to enact legislations to bypass Centre's three farm-related laws that have triggered protests by farmers.

The move also comes ahead of the tractor rallies to be taken out by the Congress in Punjab and Haryana from October 4, in which party leader Rahul Gandhi will participate. The rallies are part of Congress agitations against the farm legislations. The Congress president had advised the Congress-ruled states to pass laws in their respective states under Article 254(2) which allows the state legislatures to pass a law to "negate anti-agriculture central laws" that "encroach" upon the state's jurisdiction.

FIR AGAINST RAHUL, PRIYANKA

Noida, Oct. 2: The police in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar said it has lodged an FIR against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and around 200 other party workers under The Epidemic Diseases Act for not maintaining social distancing and not wearing face masks.

The FIR was lodged under IPC sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (unlawfully or negligently spreading infection of any disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and under section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, the police said.

Some party members have also been booked for indulging in a scuffle during which some women constables were hurt while the uniform of a lady sub-inspector got torn, the Gautam Buddh Nagar police said in a statement.

— PTI

FALSE | BELIEFS The Assam police have so far arrested nine persons, six others involved are still at large

2 lynched by villagers over witchcraft suspicion in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 2

A woman and a man were lynched to death by their neighbours and villagers on suspicion of practicing witchcraft in central Assam's Karbi Anglong district. Police said that they have already arrested nine persons and six other accused involved in the incident are still at large.

The incident took place in a remote Rohimapur

area under the Dokmoka police station of Karbi Anglong district.

A woman from the village died a few days ago after falling sick and was taken to Guwahati for treatment. Narrating the incident to police, villagers said that on Wednesday, at a post-death ritual for her, another woman — a 50-year-old widow Ramawati Halua — started to behave in an abnormal way due to

which the villagers alleged that she was practicing witchcraft.

Pointing out that most of the villagers also held the woman responsible for recent deaths and spread of diseases, police said adding that soon, a group of people started beating her and attacked her with sharp weapons.

When a 28-year-old educated young man of the village, Bijoy Gaur, intervened and accused them of

being superstitious, he was attacked as well, police said. The angry mob lynched both of them to death, offered rituals to the local deity and tried to cremate the bodies in a nearby hill.

Karbi Anglong's superintendent of police Debojit Deori said that they came to know about the incident on Thursday morning as it happened on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. "We went to

the spot and collected mortal remains of the victims. We have also seized the sharp weapons used for the crime and have arrested nine people so far," he said.

It was under the same Dokmoka police station that in 2018 two young men were beaten to death by an angry mob after it suspected them of being child-lifters.

There have been many attempts to check such

incidents. In 2001, Assam police had introduced Project Prahari, a community project by the police against killing of women after branding them as witches.

According to official records of the government till December 2019, a total of 107 persons have been killed in witch-hunting incidents in the state since 2011. The Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and

Protection) Act, which implements stringent punishment and fine for branding and killing people after branding them as "witches", is in effect in the state since 2018.

According to the law, witch-hunting is viewed as a cognisable and non-bailable and non-compoundable offence. It was passed by Assam Assembly in 2015 with provisions of jail term up to life imprisonment.

DECCAN Chronicle

3 OCTOBER 2020

Whither govt pledge of peace, women's safety?

On a day that governments and government servants are called upon to renew their commitment to peace and the nation's progress, rising caste crimes and back-to-back rapes — in Hathras, Bulandshahr, Azamgarh, Balarampur and now Bhadohi — have together come as a terrible reflection on governance, law and order, and society. Amid the resulting outrage and claims — of police destroying evidence in Hathras and Balarampur in order to hasten the closure of the particular cases — Smriti Irani's praise at the UN of Indian laws as "strong enablers" of women does not sound credible. Save for the Prime Minister — who issued a call in general terms for "strict action" in the case — there has not been a single statement from the home minister — who is set to resume political work in poll-bound West Bengal — or from any women leaders in the government.

When the erstwhile government, which returned to power in 2019, said Beti Bachao, it was perhaps not a slogan. It was a warning.

Following the controversial midnight cremation of the Hathras rape victim against the wishes of her family, the UP police is claiming that she had not been raped and that the matter is being "twisted" to "stir caste tension". Even while the specific nature of the offence remains moot following the stealthy cremation precluding a second autopsy, how does this glib desexualisation of the crime lessen its severity — the victim had been permanently disabled — or its essential egregiousness? Also pertinently, how does this — or theories of a dispute over cleaning a drain — show that it is not a caste crime, rather than prove it otherwise?

A relative has reported being told by police that there was no monetary relief to be given to the family after the death of its prospective earning member who contributed valuable labour. But should a caste atrocity be proved to have been committed on the girl, her kin are entitled to full compensation under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

This sly spin doctoring by police of the case thus only goes to lay bare their sexist mindset — the fact that they did not value her life and its promise — as well as their bad work ethic — of staying on the right side of the local caste dynamic and protecting their jobs instead of serving the citizen.

New NCRB crime data reports 59,853 crimes against women from UP in 2019, the highest among states. This includes not only rapes, but also dowry deaths, crimes against a minor, domestic abuse and so on. Rights denials, which lie at the core and crux of all these offences, are no doubt outside the ambit of this classification. However, rape also being a caste crime, data shows that nine states in India, including Uttar Pradesh, accounted for 84 per cent of all crimes against dalits the same year; yet the conviction rate of offences under the Atrocities Act was only 32 per cent, with the pendency rate an alarming 94 per cent. Hate crimes against dalits went up by seven per cent in 2019.

The ruling party at the Centre and the state has accused the Opposition of playing politics in Hathras. But what else is the Opposition supposed to do in the face of such blatant condoning of criminality as we witness in case after case? Nevertheless, as members of the victim's family continue to remain in effective house arrest, the borders of Hathras district have been sealed, Section 144 of the CrPC imposed for a month, and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi detained and roughed up by police on their way to the victim's home.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the case, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government. This newspaper upholds the rights to fair trial of the accused and to justice for the victim.

Bring farmers on board

The farmers' agitation against the three laws that will shape agriculture in the future has shown no signs of abatement with the resumption of their rail roko programme in Punjab on Thursday. The government has shown no inclination to budge from its stand on the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, as evidenced from the repeated assertions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh's is the sole voice on the government's side calling for talks with farmers. Mr Singh, who was agriculture minister in the Vajpayee government, says the government is willing to open talks with farmers' groups to allay their fears. This is a welcome development. The farmers have reasons to believe that the minimum support price will become next to redundant in future and the government allow a free reign of market forces. Ultimately, it could lead to the complete withdrawal of the government from the sector. That will also mean the death of subsidies, which sustain farming all over the world.

Experience tells farmers that assurances hardly matter: the government had promised parity with international fuel prices when the administrative price mechanism for petroleum products was dispensed with but that has never been implemented. The government has used the price advantage to fill its revenue gap instead of passing it on to the consumer. The farmers will not be able to go ahead with their work should the government support stop. The government may be resolute but respect for democratic norms demands that it honestly and transparently engage stake-holders. Mr Singh's sane voice must be heard louder, and acted on.

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Devi Kar

Surprising outcomes as schooling goes 'virtual'

Right through the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been hearing people cribbing and moaning about the deteriorating education scene after the schools were forced to shut down in March. Online schooling was generally vilified, and it was felt that the already poor state of school education in India was now in shambles. Memes, cartoons and jokes abound about the ineffectiveness of distance teaching, but even teachers need humour to endure hard times. In urban schools where there was some access to technology, the teachers still struggled valiantly to keep the teaching-learning process alive and vibrant through virtual lessons.

The good news is that after functioning in this strange new world of distance learning for some months, we have discovered that certain positive things have emerged. We see around us extraordinary innovativeness and creativity on the part of people who are determined to continue learning and wish to live life fully despite the sudden and radical disruption of their regular schedules.

First, teachers as well as students

have successfully demonstrated that with the help of technology, it is possible to make learning effective as well as fun. They keep exploring the cyber-world to identify opportunities through which they can develop and showcase talent, to enhance learning, to participate virtually in team activities and to establish connections with people across the globe. Students have published e-newsletters and magazines, created films, videos and photo essays, hosted and participated in different kinds of festivals with mind-boggling events which tested their own talent and creativity and that of their peers.

Academically too, I feel that we cannot dismiss this period as totally futile. If we reflect for a while, we will be able to identify certain valuable gains during this period. We have observed that teachers and students have moved away from drab textbooks and learned to explore the World Wide Web for resources. They have also learnt to check for authenticity and be cautious about unvalidated information. These developments in themselves represent giant strides in the learning process. I have seen phenomenal learning dis-

played by teachers who realised that they had to master technology or else their students' learning would come to a grinding halt. It is true that though the importance of technology was being driven home, it was embraced incrementally in the last so many years. It is the pandemic which has catapulted the tardy educational world into the twenty-first century.

The other remarkable development is that collaborative work has increased in an exponential manner. It is ironical that schools, teachers and children have learnt to collaborate at a time when they are compulsorily distanced. Individuals are voluntarily reaching out to others in order to learn together, to solve problems collectively, to put up joint cultural programmes or just to have a virtual get-together. This phenomenon will have to be explained by psychologists.

In this context, the creative effort of Kolkata's Teachers' Centre should be mentioned. It put up a delightful play on the occasion of Teachers' Day with help from "Bichitra Pathshala", an organisation which brings the cinema into the classroom, and "Chitrabani", a

film study institute. The audience was filled with wonder when they saw how technology had been used to enhance the end product. Not a soul had to leave his or her home but if you watch the play you will marvel at the resourcefulness and teamwork that went into the making of something charmingly simple, yet clever. Most important, it gave immense pleasure to both the participants and viewers.

I read an article recently in the *World Economic Forum Journal*, which was titled "The Unexpected Benefits of Virtual Education". It points out that though "there is nothing ideal about teachers and students dealing unexpectedly with remote learning", "collaborating online might prepare high school students with the kind of organisational acumen, emotional intelligence and self-discipline needed for modern careers..." Increasingly, we see that people are having to work with colleagues who are located all over the world. So far as self-discipline is concerned, we have observed that a lot more independent learning is taking place. Although many students have enrolled in different tutorial centres

offering virtual coaching, many others are now learning on their own. Moreover, the number of students taking online art, cooking, music, dance, yoga and language lessons seems to have multiplied.

Perhaps the most wonderful as well as surprising thing that I have heard from my colleagues is that many timid and shy children have come out of their shells and are now expressing their feelings and thoughts for the first time. Probably it is because speaking up in a virtual classroom is less intimidating than in a real one, where many pairs of eyes are trained on you. There is also the nagging fear of derisive laughter after you have spoken. I wonder whether this newfound confidence will be sustained off-screen when the schools reopen.

Frankly speaking, though we teachers long to be able to return to the school campus and teach real children in real classrooms once again, we are not at all dismissive of what we are doing now.

The writer is a veteran school educator based in Kolkata

Subhani



Dalit lives: No more than a heap of ashes



Shobhaa De

To call UP anything else but a barbaric, no man's land, would be insulting women across the country

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust... nothing changes in our brutal and brutalised India. For centuries, we have lived with the tyranny of caste and oppression. Today, India's dark and ghastly secret lies exposed in an even more graphic manner with the alleged rape, mutilation and death of a 19-year-old dalit girl in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. To call UP anything else but a barbaric, no man's land, would be insulting women across the country. And this is the state ruled by a person who calls himself a yogi! What sort of a yogi looks the other way, encouraging his administration to do the same, while a defenceless pulped female victim is treated worse than a discarded rag and unceremoniously cremated by cops? Even stray puppies in distress receive more attention.

The accounts of what the poor girl endured at the hands of those four beasts are too horrific to recount. The visuals, too sadistic. But the pathos of her hasty cremation will — or should — haunt generations of Indians. She was denied basic human dignity in death. Her mother's heart-rending pleas to say her final goodbye to a beloved daughter, by putting *haaldi* on her dead body, fell on deaf ears. A poor, disenfranchised dalit girl's corpse was dragged to a secluded spot and hastily cremated, surrounded by the very police force that not just failed to protect her, but thought nothing of the rape, and strenuously tried hard to ignore the national outcry of horrified citizens when they raised their voices in protest. "We are punished for being born dalits. Our

only sin is our birth as Dalits," a distraught relative of the victim was quoted as saying, as the administration wasted not a minute in sealing the Hathras border after this heinous act. An official asked: "How can we arrest anybody? Has rape even been proved?"

This isn't just Hathras' hour of shame. It's equally India's collective shame.

This is 2020. And we refuse to deal with our country's biggest scourge — bigger than the Covid-19 crisis by far — the scourge of caste. So-called educated, higher caste men from the region have traditionally strutted around terrorising those who they deem "inferior". Dalit men who go to the market to buy essentials are instructed by shopkeepers to stand at a distance, while their purchases are thrown to them. Even an accidental touch is considered worse than coming in direct contact with a Covid-19 positive patient. The whole idea of "purity" is so deeply embedded across India (not just in UP) that it should embarrass us deeply and lead to a questioning and outlawing of this nasty, discriminatory practice that has gone unchecked for centuries. Caste, and let's add colour. Both exert a diabolical control over the lives of India's most vulnerable segment — women. Think about it — even Suhana Khan, daughter of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, has not been spared. Her post this week talked about being viciously targeted by troll armies and called a "Kaali Billi". In this context, I came across a news report on a short film that's attracting attention *The Discreet Charm of the Savarnas*, with a provocative

premise: Three people with a deadline to complete a project go in search of a character to be cast as a dalit! Raising the key question: What does a dalit look like? One of those shortlisted for the role is outraged! He is a brahmin! And it was "below his dignity" to play a dalit. Writer-director Rajesh Rajamani says his main intention was to put the "ruling classes" under public glare, for "they are the ones who are perpetuating the caste system".

Many powerful movies have been made on this disturbing, volatile subject over the years. Many books have been written. And yet, when something as stomach-churning as the Hathras death takes place, India finds itself divided! Uttar Pradesh, that lawless, unwieldy and chaotic state, is after all, a microcosm of India. It's chief minister and his cronies have the support of the Prime Minister and his core team. Had there not been such a widespread condemnation, it would have been just another mutilation and death of an anonymous, inconsequential dalit girl who was of no further use to anybody.

So the sordid saga carries on. Protests and arrests. Token gestures and compensation. But the deep-rooted contempt for and revulsion towards India's most marginalised people does not shift an inch. From discriminating against dalit kids in primary schools, to denying dalits a chance at playing on a level playing field later in life, our so-called "upper" castes continue to perpetuate the prejudices that have kept millions of fellow citizens from daring to dream of a better tomorrow.

The callous adminis-

tration in Uttar Pradesh is counting on everybody forgetting what happened in Hathras, when a helpless woman was left to die, and then stealthily cremated in the dead of the night, while her mother wailed and beat her breasts to express unimaginable sorrow. The unfeeling cops formed a cordon around the pyre as if to protect — protect who? Themselves? From? Surely not the girl's impoverished father who is now being pressured by the district magistrate to "rethink" his statement, since the media will lose interest in a few days? The veiled threat is hard to ignore. Meanwhile, Prashant Kumar, UP's additional DGP (law and order), denies that any rape took place. So, Prashantji... did the 19-year-old's spinal cord break spontaneously? It is more than obvious that Yogi will "meditate" and then "mediate" swiftly, to create a fresh narrative and hastily bury this shameful chapter. Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi were prevented from meeting the victim's family — was anybody surprised?

Murderous, casteist mobs can cut off a woman's tongue, break her spinal cord, strangle her and burn the remains like so much discarded rubbish or *raddi*. The Allahabad high court has taken suo moto cognisance of the fatal assault on a dalit woman in Hathras. There are millions of other equally vulnerable dalit men and women out there. India will run out of prisons for those guilty of butchering co-citizens who do enjoy equal rights under the Constitution. Not that it matters. Which is why nobody bothers to follow up and take action against the culprits. These atrocities have been institutionalised and eerily accepted by the vast majority. To use Mahatma Gandhi's last and final sigh: "Hey, Ram!"

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LETTERS

PERKS OF ELECTED

The perks of standing for elections and being in politics are awesome (₹8,400 cr worth B777 aircraft for VVIP travel lands in India, DC, Oct. 2). Congratulations to the PM and rulers of India.

M.S. Murty
Hyderabad

HATHRAS CURBS

What is the UP government trying to cover up? Hathras village was declared as containment zone and Section 144 was imposed. On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti we are seeing death of democracy. The UP police manhandled Rahul Gandhi. Is this the way to treat Opposition leaders? The government is suppressing voices.

Vikas Panchareddy
Hyderabad

BABRI DEMOLITION

The special CBI court has finally settled the Babri masjid demolition case after 28 years (*Advani, Joshi, Uma acquitted, DC, Oct. 1*). Good riddance. Nobody expected that anybody would be convicted or that anybody would be punished. Everybody knows who planned the demolition, and who executed it. It's all an 'act of God'. Nobody's responsible.

Mohammed Ikramulla
Hyderabad

UGLY CONNECTION

It is funny of Justice Katju to connect rape and unemployment. Due to unemployment and frustration if a man goes about raping women, can any society survive? The truth is that rapists are people with depraved mentality who have no respect for women or rule of law. Unless they get severe punishment, we may not be able to curb these nasty incidents that can bring shame to society and the nation.

A.J. Varghese
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Indian doctors to visit foreign countries

HYDERABAD, October 2

A team of a hundred doctors from all over the country will be leaving India on a 20-day study tour of Britain, France, Switzerland and Germany, on October 8. The entire party consisting of 150 persons including the wives or husbands of the doctors would be reaching various countries by chartered flights.

The present study tour is the fifth of such tours sponsored by the Indian Medical Association.

The doctors during their tour of the various countries would be visiting various hospitals, medical and research institutes.

SHORT TAKES

UK, EU LEADERS TO DISCUSS BREXIT, FREE TRADE TALKS

London, Oct. 2: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday will “take stock” of negotiations on a post-Brexit free trade deal and to “discuss next steps,” officials said.

The announcement by both sides came as they were winding up another weeklong session of detailed negotiations on a rudimentary free trade agreement that should come in force once a Brexit transition period ends Dec. 31.

Little progress has been made on such a deal since the UK left the bloc at the end of January. Both sides have acknowledged that time is running out if they are to achieve an agreement before the current Brexit transition period comes to an end at the end of the year. Johnson has said he is prepared to walk away from the negotiations if there is no agreement by the time of the next EU summit on Oct. 15.

CONDEMN WHITE SUPREMACISTS, SAYS TRUMP

Washington, Oct. 2: US President Donald Trump on Thursday condemned all kinds of white supremacists something which he was hesitant to do during the first presidential debate with his Democratic rival Joe Biden early this week. “I’ve said it many times, and let me be clear again: I condemn the [Ku Klux Klan]. I condemn all white supremacists. I condemn the Proud Boys. I don’t know much about the Proud Boys, almost nothing. But I condemn that,” Trump said on Thursday night.

The Ku Klux Klan, commonly called the KKK or the Klan, is an infamous white supremacist hate group in America. Trump said he could say it a hundred times but it would not be enough for the “fake” media. The president has been facing a lot of criticism for not directly condemning white supremacists during the debate. Trump and Biden clashed over the issue of race in America in the first presidential debate where in the Republican leader hesitated to condemn white supremacists.

INDIAN-ORIGIN BROTHERS BUY UK MARKET CHAIN

London, Oct. 2: Indian-origin billionaire brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa are set to acquire a majority stake in the leading UK supermarket chain Asda from its US owner Walmart after a \$8.8-billion deal was struck as part of a consortium involving private equity firm TDR Capital.

The Issa brothers, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business. The supermarket deal, valued at around 6.8-billion pounds (\$8.8-billion), follows an auction process for Asda over several months and returns the 71-year-old supermarket company back into British ownership after 21 years, a development welcomed by UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

“Great to see Asda returning to majority UK ownership for the first time in two decades today,” Sunak said on Twitter. “The new owners have already committed to investing over GBP 1 billion in the next three years and increasing the proportion of UK-based suppliers. I wish them the best of luck,” he said. Announcing the deal, Walmart said Asda would keep its headquarters in Leeds in northern England, with chief executive Roger Burnley continuing to be in charge.

Biden, wife Covid -ve, says mask important

Trump had mocked Democrat’s mask wearing habit in debate

Washington, Oct. 2: Joe Biden, 77, the Democrat opponent of US President Donald Trump in the November 3 elections, announced on Friday that he and his wife Jill had tested negative, and said that they will “continue to pray for the health and safety of the President and his family.”

During their first debate on Tuesday in Cleveland — where they stood in close proximity for 90 minutes — Trump mocked the Democrat for his rigorous adherence to mask wearing. A question mark hangs over his second televised debate, set for October 15, against Joe Biden, who has made criticism of Trump’s Coronavirus response his key issue.

Just hours before Trump’s announcement, the President had proclaimed the pandemic almost over, while Biden had accused Trump of trying to distract from a “failed” response to the disease, which has killed more people in the United States than any other country.

In his statement on Friday, Biden said “I hope this serves as a reminder: Wear a mask, keep social distance, and wash your hands.” With Trump isolating at the White House, his Democratic rival left after receiving the Covid all-clear on a campaign trip to swing state Michigan.

Trump met with dozens of people through the week and reportedly went to a fundraiser in New Jersey after it was known that his aide Hope Hicks had contracted the virus.

The White House said it was carrying out contact tracing, while Melania Trump’s spokeswoman said the couple’s 14-year-old son Barron had tested

Trump’s close aide Hicks Covid +ve

Washington, Oct. 2: One of President Donald Trump’s closest advisors, Hope Hicks, has tested positive for Covid-19, US media reported on Thursday. The White House would not officially confirm the reports from *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg* and other outlets that Hicks has the virus.

The spotlight will immediately turn to Trump himself, since Hicks was traveling with him on Air Force One just this Tuesday to fly to Cleveland for the first presidential debate with Democrat Joe Biden.

She was also with him on the Marine One helicopter on Wednesday when he flew back to the White House after a rally in Minnesota. Trump says the United States has put the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 200,000 Americans, behind and he rarely wears a

negative.

Republican Party chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, who was last with Trump on September 25, tested positive earlier this week, according to US media reports. Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, who was with him and many others on Saturday and has been on Capitol Hill meeting with lawmakers, also tested negative, the White House said.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, third in line for the presidency, said on *MSNBC* that she had tested negative.

● **HOPE HICKS** was also with him on the Marine One helicopter on Wednesday when he flew back to the White House after a rally in Minnesota.

mask, noting that he receives frequent testing.

However, his own health experts have often given less rosy assessments and he has been sharply criticized by some for holding large rallies where few supporters wear masks.

Asked about Hicks, White House spokesman Judd Deere said “the president takes the health and safety of himself and everyone who works in support of him and the American people very seriously.” Deere said the White House takes care to follow procedures “for limiting Covid-19 exposure to the greatest extent possible both on complex and when the president is traveling.” — *AFP*

Contracting Covid-19 is more than a PR disaster for a President who has staked everything on trying to persuade Americans that fears of the virus are overblown.

In what has become an overtly political gesture, Trump almost never wears a mask in public — an example followed by his supporters and many of his aides.

The President has been using large rallies to try to change the subject from his much criticised Covid-19 response, vowing in a speech just Thursday that “the end of the pandemic

POMPEO, PENCE TEST NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19

Washington, Oct. 2: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he and his wife have tested negative for the Coronavirus after they were examined on their airplane 20 minutes prior to landing in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on Friday.

He said it was the fourth time in two weeks he has been tested. President Donald Trump announced on Twitter early Friday that he and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Vice President Mike Pence and second lady Karen Pence tested negative for Covid-19 Friday morning, hours after President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump were diagnosed with the Coronavirus.

Spokesman Devin O’Malley says Pence “remains in good health and wishes the Trumps well in their recovery.” Pence is tested every day for the virus. — *AP*

Gandhi on Burj Khalifa on 151st birthday



UAE’s iconic skyscraper Burj Khalifa displayed the images of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the great Indian peace icon on his 151st birth anniversary on Friday. — *TWITTER*

EU spares Belarus Prez, imposes curbs on 40 aides

Brussels, Oct. 2: The EU will hit Belarus officials with long-awaited sanctions over the country’s political crisis on Friday, drawing an angry response from Minsk and its ally Moscow.

After more than six weeks of diplomatic efforts, EU leaders finally persuaded Cyprus to drop its veto on sanctions at a summit in Brussels, opening the way for some 40 members of President Alexander Lukashenko’s regime to be listed.

The targets for the travel bans and asset freezes are officials the European Union blames for rigging the August 9 election that returned Lukashenko to power and for orchestrating a brutal crackdown by security forces on anti-regime protests that followed the vote.

Minsk swiftly

announced “counter sanctions” against the EU, though it was not clear what form these would take or what they would target.

“In connection with visa sanctions adopted by the EU against a number of Belarusian officials, the Belarusian side from today is introducing a list of reciprocal sanctions,” Belarus’s foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said that by imposing sanctions the EU had “alienated” the country, which western commentators have dubbed “Europe’s last dictatorship” under Lukashenko’s strongman rule.

Minsk said it would not disclose which European officials were being targeted, but threatened “even more serious consequences” if the EU expands its restrictions. — *AFP*

MERKEL TO MEET BELARUS OPPN LEADER IN BERLIN

Berlin, Oct. 2: German Chancellor Angela Merkel will host Svetlana Tikhanovskaya for talks on Tuesday, a week after the Belarusian opposition leader held a similar meeting with France’s president.

Merkel’s meeting with Tikhanovskaya will take place on Tuesday afternoon, with “the situation in Belarus after the presidential election” as the main topic of discussion, said Merkel’s spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer.

Merkel has said that Germany, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU, does not recognise the result of the August 9 disputed vote. — *AFP*

20,000 Amazon workers test +ve

New York, Oct. 2: (AP) Amazon said on Thursday that nearly 20,000 of its front-line US workers have tested positive or been presumed positive for the virus that causes Covid-19.

But the online retail behemoth, revealing the data for the first time, said that the infection rate of its employees was well below that seen in the general US population. The disclosure comes after

months of pressure from Amazon workers and labor groups calling for the company to divulge the Covid-19 numbers.

Amazon said in a corporate blog that it provided the data as part of its effort to keep employees informed, and to share details and best practices with governments and other companies. “We hope other large companies will also release their

detailed learnings and case rates because doing so will help all of us,” Amazon said. “This is not an arena where companies should compete — this is an arena where companies should help one another.”

The Seattle-based company said that it examined data from March 1 to September 19 on 1.37 million workers at Amazon and Whole Foods Market across the US. It said it

compared the Covid-19 case rates to the general population, as reported by Johns Hopkins University for the same period.

Based on that analysis, if the rate among Amazon and Whole Foods employees were the same as that for the general population, it estimated it would have seen 33,952 cases among its workforce. That is 42% higher than Amazon’s actual rate. — *AP*

Macca to reopen after 7 months

Riyadh, Oct. 2: Saudi Arabia will reopen the Muslim holy places for the year-round umrah pilgrimage on Sunday, scaled back and with extensive health precautions, seven months after Coronavirus prompted its suspension.

The umrah, the pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time, usually attracts millions of Muslims from across the globe each year.

It will be revived in three stages, with the initial phase seeing just 6,000 citizens and residents already within the kingdom allowed to take

part each day.

“In the first stage, the umrah will be performed meticulously and within a specified period of time,” Haj minister Mohammad Benteen told state television last week.

He said pilgrims will be divided into groups to ensure social distancing within the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Worshipers will on Sunday be able to perform the ritual of circling the sacred Kaaba — a cubic structure inside the Grand Mosque towards which Muslims around the world pray — along socially distanced paths. — *AFP*

Azerbaijani forces strike breakaway area on Day 6

Yerevan, Oct. 2: Azerbaijani forces on Friday struck Stepanakert, the main city in Azerbaijan’s breakaway Nagorno Karabakh region, wounding “many” people, an Armenian official said as fighting raged for a sixth day.

The Caucasus neighbors have been locked in a simmering conflict for decades over the region and new fighting that erupted on Sunday has been the heaviest in decades.

“There are many wounded among (Stepanakert’s) civilian population, civilian infrastructure is damaged,” defence ministry

spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan said on Facebook without providing further details. *AFP* journalists on the ground heard several explosions in the city as civil defence sirens sounded.

The separatist government in Stepanakert said Azerbaijani forces destroyed a bridge linking Armenia to Karabakh.

Both sides accused each other of initiating the recent hostilities and have rejected a possibility of peace talks.

In a joint appeal on Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin,

US President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron urged the two sides to return to negotiations aimed at resolving the long-standing dispute.

Armenia’s foreign ministry said on Friday that Yerevan “stands ready to engage” with France, Russia, and the United States — which co-chair the OSCE group of mediators to the conflict — “to re-establish a ceasefire regime.” Nearly 200 people have been confirmed killed since on Sunday, including more than 30 civilians. — *AFP*

Islam ‘in crisis’, says Macron

Les Mureaux, France, Oct. 2: President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a plan on Friday to defend France’s secular values against Islamist radicalism, describing Islam as a religion “in crisis” all over the world.

In a long-awaited address, Macron insisted “no concessions” would be made in a new drive to push religion out of education and the public sector in France.

“Islam is a religion that is in crisis all over the world today, we are not just seeing this in our country,” he said.

He announced that the government would present a bill in December to strengthen a 1905 law that officially separated church and state in France.

The measures, Macron said, were aimed at

addressing a problem of growing Islamic radicalisation in France and improving “our ability to live together”.

“Secularism is the cement of a united France,” he insisted, but added that there was no sense in stigmatising all Muslim believers.

The law permits people to belong to any faith of their choosing, Macron said, but outward displays of religious affiliation can under no circumstances be allowed in schools or the public service.

He announced that France would seek to “liberate” Islam in France from foreign influences by improving oversight of the financing of mosques.

There would also be closer scrutiny of schools and associations exclusively serving religious communities. — *AFP*

SRI LANKA ASKS OIL TANKER OWNERS TO COUGH UP \$2M FIRE-FIGHTING BILL

Colombo, Oct. 2: Sri Lanka will not allow a Panamanian-registered oil tanker stricken off its coast to leave its waters until the vessel’s owners pay a \$2 million fire-fighting bill, government officials have said.

The New Diamond, carrying 2,70,000 tonnes of crude, was en-route from Kuwait to India when an engine room explosion on September 3 killed a Filipino crewman and set

off a massive fire. Firefighters from Sri Lanka and India battled and put out the blaze on the vessel, which is now tied to a tug boat and guarded by a Sri Lankan navy ship some 140 kilometres (90 miles) east of the Indian Ocean island.

Official sources said the owners of the tanker had planned to begin towing the stricken vessel to the UAE. — *AFP*

POTTY | TRAINING New toilets to help astronauts in space to position better to relieve themselves

Nasa tests \$23m toilet for women in space

Cape Canaveral, Oct. 2: Nasa’s first new space potty in decades — a \$23 million titanium toilet better suited for women — is getting a not-so-dry run at the International Space Station before eventually flying to the moon.

It’s packed inside a cargo ship that should have blasted off late on Thursday from Wallops Island, Virginia. But the launch was aborted with just two minutes remaining in the countdown. Northrop Grumman said it would try again on Friday night if engineers can figure out what went

wrong. Barely 45 kg and just 71 cm tall, the new toilet is roughly half as big as the two Russian-built ones at the space station.

It’s more camper-size to fit into the Nasa Orion capsules that will carry astronauts to the moon in a few years.

Station residents will test it out for a few months. If the shakedown goes well, the toilet will be open for regular business.

With SpaceX now launching astronauts to the space station and Boeing less than a year from sending up its first crew, more toilets are

needed. The new one will be in its own stall alongside the old one on the U.S. side of the outpost.

The old toilets cater more toward men. To better accommodate women, Nasa tilted the seat on the new toilet and made it taller. The new shape should help astronauts position themselves better for No. 2, said Johnson Space Centre’s Melissa McKinley, the project manager. “Cleaning up a mess is a big deal. We don’t want any misses or escapes,” she said.

Let’s just say everything floats in weightlessness. As

for No. 1, the funnels also have been redesigned. Women can use the elongated and scooped-out funnels to urinate while sitting on the commode to poop at the same time, McKinley said. Until now, it’s been one or the other for female astronauts, she noted. Like earlier space commodes, air suction, rather than water and gravity, removes the waste.

Urine collected by the new toilet will be routed into NASA’s long-standing recycling system to produce water for drinking and cooking.

— *AP*



Last time Nasa ordered a new toilet was in the early 1990s to accommodate two-week space shuttle missions. — *AP*

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
aSensex	38,697.05	1.65
Nifty 50	11,416.95	1.51
S&P 500*	3,361.33	-0.58
Dollar (₹)	73.15	0.83
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.15	0.50
Euro (₹)	85.81	0.79
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,389▼37	0.07
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.60	-1.33
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.996	-0.019
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.692	0.015

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Forex reserves drop by \$3.01 bn to \$542.02 bn

After touching a lifetime high in the previous week, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$3.017 billion to \$542.021 bn in the week ended Sept. 25, RBI data showed. In the week ended Sept. 18, the reserves had increased by \$3.378 bn to a record \$545.038 bn. During the reporting week, foreign currency assets decreased by \$1.523 bn to \$499.941 bn. Gold reserves were down by \$1.441 bn to \$35.999 bn.

Mobile phones to become dearer over duty hike



Mobile phone prices would rise by 1.5 to 3 per cent as the government has imposed 10 per cent duty on the import of display assembly and touch panel displays from Oct. 1. The duty was proposed under a phased manufacturing programme (PMP) in 2016. Pankaj Mohindroo, national chairman, India Cellular and Electronics Association said, "In a rare miss, the industry could not ramp up production adequately."

Franklin's six shut schemes generate ₹8,260cr

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund said its six shut schemes have received Rs 8,262 crore from maturities, pre-payments and coupon payments since closing down in April. The schemes have received Rs 1,078 crore during September 1-15. This takes the total cash flows received till date since April 24 to Rs 8,262 crore, Franklin Templeton MF said. Franklin had shut six debt mutual fund schemes on April 23.

S-Presso's 75,000 units sold in first year: Maruti

Maruti Suzuki India said its entry-level small car S-Presso has crossed the 75,000 unit sales milestone in the first year of its launch. Launched in September last year, the car, which takes the shape on a sports utility vehicle, made its debut in the top-10 best selling cars in India within a month of hitting the market, Maruti said. The S-Presso is an indigenously conceived, designed and developed vehicle, Maruti said.

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■ Corporate insolvency resolution Bid winner can't back out: NCLAT

New Delhi, Oct. 2: The NCLAT has said once a resolution plan for a debt-ridden company is approved by the lenders, then the successful bidder cannot be permitted to withdraw its offer.

A three-member NCLAT bench said the sanctity of resolution process has to be maintained and such withdrawal by a successful bidder "frustrate" the entire exercise of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

Moreover, there is also no express provision in the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to allow any successful resolution applicant to "stage a U-turn."

"We are of the considered opinion that the sanctity of resolution process has to be maintained and the resolution applicant whose resolution plan has been approved by Committee of Creditors cannot be permitted to withdraw its Resolution Plan," said the bench headed by acting chairman Justice B. L. Bhat.

The appellate tribunal further said even under the IBC, there is no express provision for allowing any successful resolution applicant to "stage a U-turn" and withdraw its bids, after being selected by the CoC.

"Provision for submission of a Performance Bank Guarantee by a resolution applicant while submitting its resolution plan, as required under the amended provisions of IBCI (Insolvency Resolution Process of Corporate Persons)



Regulations, 2016 is a step in this direction but may not be deterrent enough to prevent a Successful Resolution Applicant from taking a U-turn," the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) said.

The NCLAT's observation came in the judgement, in which it dismissed a plea filed by a Delhi-based firm Kundan Care Products that has emerged as a successful bidder for Astonfield Solar (Gujarat) Pvt. Ltd.

Kundan Care Products contended that on account of delay in conclusion of CIRP, its offer has been rendered commercially unviable and it could not be prevented from withdrawing the same.

It had approached the Delhi bench of the NCLT, which had on July 3, 2020, declined to pass any order on the ground that it would not be appropriate for it to deal with an issue which is already sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

After this, the firm moved the NCLAT.

It argued that IBC does not contain any provisions to compel specific perform-

ance of a Resolution Plan by an unwilling Resolution Applicant and a plea for withdrawal of a plan will have to be accepted if the plan is found to be unviable, unfit for implementation or or is based on incorrect assumptions.

The committee of creditors (CoC) had submitted that IBC does not prescribe any provision for withdrawal of a resolution plan and the NCLT is not bestowed with any power to allow withdrawal of the resolution plan.

It further submitted that once a resolution plan has been approved, it becomes a binding contract between the parties and the successful resolution applicant, and cannot be permitted to withdraw the same that will have the effect of sending the Corporate Debtor into liquidation.

Consenting to it, the NCLAT said earlier in a similar matter of Educump Solutions, it has already held that once a resolution applicant has accepted the conditions of resolution plan, it was not open to it to make a U-turn and wriggle out of the liabilities. —PTI

Tesla plans India entry next year



Elon Musk

Bengaluru, Oct. 2: Tesla Inc chief executive Elon Musk indicated on Friday that the US electric carmaker will make a foray into India in 2021.

"Next year for sure," Musk said on Twitter in reply to a post with a photograph of a T-shirt with the message: "India wants Tesla".

"Thanks for waiting," Musk said.

Tesla's entry could come at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is increasingly becoming focussed on promoting the use and manufacture of electric vehicles.

India's auto sector, already reeling from a slowdown in demand last year, has been further hit by the novel coronavirus pandemic and carmakers are seeking government support to push sales.

Musk commented last year about coming to India, in response to someone on Twitter who asked "What about India sir?".

"Would love to be there this year. If not, definitely next!" he said in March 2019.

—Reuters

AP, UP can borrow ₹7,100 cr more as reward for reforms

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 2

Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been granted permission to make additional borrowing to the tune of Rs 7,106 crore for successfully implementing some of the reforms prescribed by the Centre during the stimulus package.

While Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to implement 'ease of doing business' reforms after the public distribution system (PDS) reforms, Uttar Pradesh became the sixth state to implement the One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

By undertaking ease of doing business reforms, Andhra Pradesh has become eligible to raise an additional amount of Rs 2,525 crore through open market borrowings. The reforms prescribed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade include assessment of



'district level business reform action plan', elimination of renewal of certificates/approvals/licences and computerised central random inspection system.

Earlier, Andhra Pradesh was allowed to borrow another Rs 2,525 crore, or 0.25 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP), for successfully implementing One Nation One Ration Card along with Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, and Tripura. All the five states were granted permission to raise additional financial resources of Rs 9,913

crore then.

On Friday, Uttar Pradesh too joined the list of states that have implemented the One Nation One Ration Card scheme. This has made the state eligible to raise Rs 4,851 crore through open market borrowings. Under the reform, states have to ensure availability of ration to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes, especially to the migrant workers and their families at any fair price shop in the country.

As part of the stimulus package, the Centre had allowed states an additional borrowing limit of up to 2 per cent of GSDP for 2020-21. This made Rs 4,27,302 crore available to the states to borrow. However, one per cent of this is subject to implementation of One Nation One Ration Card system, ease of doing business, urban local body/ utility reforms and power sector reforms.

Reliance's RT-PCR kit gives Covid results in 2 hours

New Delhi, Oct. 2: Reliance Life Sciences has developed an RT-PCR kit that promises diagnosis of Covid-19 infection in about two hours, company sources said.

At present, Covid-19 RT-PCR test—a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for detecting nucleic acid from Sars-CoV-2—takes up to 24 hours to give a diagnosis.

The sources said computerised analysis of the kit gives results in 2 hours.

tational biologists at Reliance Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, analysed more than 100 genomes of Sars-CoV-2 sequenced in India and designed unique RT-PCR primers for developing quantitative real time PCR (RT-PCR) kit for Covid-19 detection.

RT-PCR kit is so far considered the gold standard.

The kit, developed by scientists at Reliance Life Sciences, is named R-

Green Kit and has been technically validated by ICMR for satisfactory performance, the sources said.

ICMR's validation process does not approve/disapprove the kit design as well as it does not certify user-friendliness.

The sources said the kit can detect the presence of E-gene, R-gene, RdRp gene of Sars COV2 virus with Actin as an internal control.

—PTI

ALL-NEW THAR SUV STARTS AT ₹9.8 LAKH



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 2

Mahindra and Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, on Friday introduced the much awaited brand new second-generation Thar off-roader SUV with a starting price of Rs 9.80 lakh for the AX trims and Rs 12.49 lakh for the LX trims at pan India showroom.

While the prices for the Mahindra Thar AX variants start at Rs 9.8 lakh, going up to Rs 12.2 lakh, the luxury-focused Thar LX variant prices start from Rs 12.49 lakh for the hard-top convertible petrol and go upto Rs 12.95 lakh for the diesel.

The first unit of Mahindra Thar was sold in an auction at a whopping Rs 1.11 crore and the winner was Akash Minda from Delhi. All proceeds with a matching amount from Mahindra will go to Covid related charity.

The new Thar would feature BSVI-compliant petrol and diesel powertrains mated to six speed manual and automatic transmissions.

RAILTEL CORP FILES FOR ₹700-CR IPO

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 2

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services provider under the Ministry of Railways, has filed draft red herring prospectus for its initial public offering to raise about 700 crore.

The net offer will comprise 8.66 crore shares and the public issue is a complete offer for sale (OFS) by the Govt. of India.

RailTel, incorporated in 2000, provides telecom network and infra services, managed data centre and hosting services government and non-government customers.

Deloitte scraps 'insane' climate change report

Prague, Oct. 2: Global accounting and consulting firm Deloitte said on Friday it had withdrawn a report that had concluded extreme climate change would benefit a third of the world's economies over the course of the 21st century. Published online by Deloitte's Prague office last week, the analysis said that countries in colder latitudes such as Canada, Norway and Russia "should benefit the most from rising temperatures."The Czech Republic's GDP, for example, would likely rise 25 per cent by 2100 "in the fastest warming scenarios," according to a summary of the report.

In a statement obtained by AFP on Friday, Deloitte, one of the world's "Big Four" accounting firms, said it had withdrawn the report from its website.

"The unfortunate wording does not represent Deloitte's global viewpoint on the impact of climate change, therefore the report has been withdrawn and is no longer publicly available," the firm said in the statement.

"Deloitte believes it's essential that everyone-



from governments to businesses to NGOs and individuals—act to protect our planet," it added.

The findings of the report, based on the relationship between average annual temperatures and GDP, ran counter to most research on the long-term economic impacts of climate change.

Recent studies in peer-reviewed journals show the world economy taking a huge hit from global warming by century's end, shrinking up to 20 per cent by 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced.

Experts asked by AFP last week called the report "naive and misleading" as well as "perfectly insane".

Deloitte's worldwide operations pulled in more than \$45 billion for the fiscal year ending in May 2019.

—AFP

Exports up 5% in Sept., down 21% in H1

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 2

Merchandise exports in September recorded a positive growth for the first time since the lockdown began. Imports continued to decline and the country narrowed its trade deficit during the month.

Merchandise exports in September grew 5.27 per cent to \$27.40 billion against \$26.02 billion in the same month last year. However, exports during April-September 2020-21 at \$125.06 billion, posted a negative growth of 21.43 per cent over the same period last year.

Non-petroleum exports

registered a positive growth of 5.44 per cent at \$23.81 billion and non-gems and jewellery exports were up 11.12 per cent. The key categories that supported the growth were drugs and pharmaceuticals, other cereals, iron ore, rice and oil meals. Ready-made garments, spices, plastic & linoleum and engineering goods also saw growth.

"While the reversal in trend for merchandise exports turning into positive territory in September is a matter of relief, the challenges in the external trade would continue given the present state of global health emergency and its economic impact on the

major economies," said Mahesh Desai, chairman, Export Promotion Council.

In the case of imports, September continued the declining trend as in the previous months of the fiscal. At \$30.31 billion, imports were 19.60 per cent lower than \$37.69 billion in September 2019. Merchandise imports during April-September 2020-21 were down 40.06 per cent at \$148.69 billion.

In September the trade deficit narrowed to \$2.91 billion against \$6.77 billion in August. The deficit was \$4.83 billion in July, after a rare surplus of \$790 million posted in June.

ECB pushes for digital euro

DAVID MCHUGH FRANKFURT, OCT. 2

With consumers increasingly using cashless ways to buy things, the European Central Bank on Friday took a step closer to issuing a digital version of the euro currency shared by 19 countries, saying it had to be ready to launch digital money if a changing world requires it.

The central bank issued a comprehensive report outlining the reasons why it might need to take the



step. The ECB also said it would hold public consultations on the idea with citizens, academics and bankers. It said no decision has been made, and that any digital euro would complement cash,

not replace it. The consultations will start Oct. 12.

"The euro belongs to Europeans and our mission is to be its guardian," said Christine Lagarde, ECB president. "Europeans are increasingly turning to digital in the ways they spend, save and invest. Our role is to secure trust in money. This means making sure the euro is fit for the digital age. We should be prepared to issue a digital euro, should the need arise." —AP

UNLIMITED | ENERGY

Solar segment provides the largest number of jobs in India

India third largest provider of RE jobs

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 2

After China and Brazil, India is the third largest job provider in the renewable energy sector. India's renewable energy sector provides 8.24 lakh jobs, finds a study by International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena).

Solar photovoltaic segment provides the largest number of both direct and indirect jobs in India. On-grid solar employment is estimated to give 109,000 jobs, with another 95,000 in off-grid, taking the total to 204,000 jobs.



In the case of hydropower, the country accounts for 19 per cent of the 1.93 million people employed worldwide. India employs around 367,000 people in the hydropower segment.

India is the fourth largest market in wind energy in terms of capacity. Around 63,000 jobs have been created by the wind energy sector. However, the slowing pace of new

installations has resulted in high competition and over-supply of equipment. The number of wind turbine makers has come down significantly in recent times and this has led to job losses.

Solar heating and cooling solutions have offered employment to over 23,000 people. Though India is not a big player in liquid bio-fuels globally, that segment too provides 35,000 jobs. Solid biomass and biogas too have contributed to the employment generated in the renewable space.

According to Irena,

decentralised renewable energy (DRE) solution companies across the different segments directly employ 95,000 workers in India and that number is expected to double by 2022-23. DRE solutions have the potential to create up to five times more jobs in local communities than direct formal employment.

The report says globally jobs in the sector reached 11.5 million last year, led by solar PV with around 3.8 million jobs. Renewable energy employment has been growing worldwide since 2012.

Customers can also avail of exclusive offers and value-added benefits during the exhibition, it said.

"We at HDFC have seen demand coming back. In July 2020, HDFC achieved 81 per cent of July 2019 disbursements, better than what we had expected given the lockdown and other restrictions and the subsequent months have been even better," HDFC managing director Renu Sud Karnad said. —PTI

SHORT TAKES

Walsh to coach Windies women

Kingston: Fast bowling great Courtney Walsh has been appointed as the new head coach of the West Indies women's cricket team. The West Indies cricket legend will lead the preparation and development of the women's team at least till the end of 2022, including competing in the next ODI World Cup and T20 World Cup.

"It's an exciting challenge and I've always wanted to give back in any way I can and help with the development of the game in the West Indies," Walsh said. Walsh has served as an assistant coach with the Bangladesh men's team, and subsequently worked on a short term contract with the West Indies women's side, including at the T20 World Cup held in Australia earlier this year. — *PTI*

Lewa gets UEFA's best player award

Geneva: Robert Lewandowski was named UEFA men's player of the year on Thursday following a superb season in which he won the treble with Bayern Munich. Lewandowski was at the Champions League group-stage draw in Geneva to receive the award, just weeks after Bayern won the 2019/20 edition of the competition. The Poland striker, who scored 55 goals in 47 games as Bayern also won the Bundesliga and German Cup, saw off Bayern team-mate Manuel Neuer and Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne to win the award. "It's an amazing feeling, because you work so hard, so this trophy is something special," said Lewandowski. Lewandowski also picked up the award for best forward in last season's Champions League after amassing 15 goals in 10 games. — *AFP*

Fati scores as Barca beat Celta

Madrid: Teenager Ansu Fati scored again to help give Barcelona a second straight win to start the Spanish league season with a 3-0 victory at Celta Vigo.

Barcelona won comfortably despite playing more than half the game with 10 men after defender Clément Lenglet was sent off before the break on Thursday.

Anshu Fati curled the opening goal, by L. Olaza and S. Roberto came all guns blazing to post the other two. Fati also scored twice to lead Barcelona to an opening win against Villarreal on Sunday. The 17-year-old forward found the net against Celta with a neat touch with the outside of his foot from inside the area after a pass by Philippe Coutinho in the 11th minute. — *AFP*

AC Milan beat Rio in penalty thriller

Paris: AC Milan avoided being eliminated in a preliminary round in Europe for the first time on Thursday by equalising with a penalty in the last seconds of extra time and then winning a 24-kick shootout 9-8.

The seven-times European champions trailed going into added time in extra time but Toni Borekovic handled in the penalty area, earning his second yellow card and Hakan Calhanoglu converted from the spot to give Milan a 2-2 draw and set up an agonising shootout.

"You can't win without suffering," said Milan manager Stefano Pioli.

Elsewhere, riding on Harry Kane's triplet Tottenham romped to a 7-2 victory over Maccabi Haifa. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Rajasthan Royals from 3.30 pm; Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Chelsea vs Crystal Palace from 5 pm; Everton vs Brighton from 7.30 pm; Leeds United vs Manchester City from 10 pm; Newcastle vs Burnley from 12.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Sassuolo vs Crotone from 6.30 pm; Genoa vs Torino from 9.30 pm; Udinese vs Roma from 12.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Holly Holm vs Irene Aldana and other bouts from 7 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Sun keeps rising

Hyderabad ride on Garg half-ton, beat Chennai

Dubai, Oct. 2: There was no end to Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings' woes as former India captain yet again struggled to take his side past the finish line, falling short by seven runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Friday.

CSK controlled the first innings for a large part before youngsters Priyam Garg (51 not out) and Abhishek Sharma (31) lifted SRH to a competitive 164 for 5 after electing to bat.

Their top guns not contributing much, former India U-19 World Cup skipper Garg scored his maiden IPL fifty and with Abhishek raised a 77-run stand for the fifth wicket. SRH collected 53 runs in the last four overs to make it a contest.

Playing a record 194th IPL game, the stage was set for Dhoni to silence his critics but all he could manage was 47 runs off 36 balls as CSK fell short.

Coming to bat at number five, Dhoni had enough balls at his disposal, a manageable target and trusted aide in Ravindra Jadeja (50) for company but again his attack came too late.

It was Jadeja who took CSK closer to the target before getting out while Dhoni struggled in their 72-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Except for a few hits, Dhoni struggled to time the ball. He also lost steam towards the end, having batted in hot conditions for over an hour. — *PTI*



Priyam Garg of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot during the Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday. — *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: D. Warner c du Plessis b Chawla 28, J. Bairstow b D. Chahar 0, M. Pandey c Curran b Thakur 29, K. Williamson run out (Rayudu / Dhoni) 9, P. Garg (not out) 51, A. Sharma c Dhoni b D. Chahar 31, A. Samad (not out) 8. **Extras:** (W-6, NB-2) 8; **Total:** (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 164. **FoW:** 1-1, 2-47, 3-69, 4-69, 5-146.

Bowling: D. Chahar 4-0-31-2, Curran 3-0-37-0, Thakur 4-0-32-1, Bravo 4-0-28-0, Chawla 3-0-20-1, Jadeja 2-0-16-0.

Chennai Super Kings: Faf du Plessis run out

(Gard / Bairstow) 22, Shane Watson b Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1, Ambati Rayudu b T. Natarajan 8, Kedar Jadhav c Warner b Abdul Samad 3, Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out 47, Ravindra Jadeja c Abdul Samad b T. Natarajan 50, Sam Curran not out 15. **Extras:** (LB-3, W-8) 11. **Total:** (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 157.

FoW: 1-4, 2-26, 3-36, 4-42, 5-114. **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3.1-0-20-1, Khaleel Ahmed 3.5-0-34-0, T. Natarajan 4-0-43-2, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-4-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-12-0, Abdul Samad 4-0-41-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	4	2	2	0	4	+1.094
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	+0.483
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	2	1	0	4	+0.117
Sunrisers Hyderabad	4	2	2	0	4	-0.084
Rajasthan Royals	3	2	1	0	4	-0.219
Royal Challengers Bangalore	3	2	1	0	4	-1.450
Kings XI Punjab	4	1	3	0	2	+0.521
Chennai Super Kings	4	1	3	0	2	-0.719

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

DHONI IS IPL'S MOST CAPPED PLAYER NOW

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 2: Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday became the most-capped player in the history of IPL with his 194 appearance in the popular tournament, surpassing Chennai Super Kings teammate Suresh Raina.

Dhoni, who has played every edition of the League since its inception, is into his 11th season with CSK, a side he has always captained apart from playing two seasons for Rising Pune Supergiants. He is the second most successful skipper in IPL history after Rohit Sharma, having led CSK to three titles (2010, 2011 and 2018) with a total of eight final appearances. — *PTI*

Playing off-spinner in last over was a treat: Hardik

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 2: Mumbai Indians all-rounder Hardik Pandya says the very sight of off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham being handed the ball in the 20th over of his team's IPL clash against Kings XI Punjab had him and his big-hitting partner Kieron Pollard excited before they hit him for 25 runs.

Pollard (47 not out) hit three sixes while Hardik (30 not out) got one maximum in that over which took MI to 191 for 4 after being invited to bat. The duo stitched 67 runs from just 23 balls. MI won the match by 48 runs.

Interviewed by his elder brother Krunal Pandya for MI's *Youtube* channel, Hardik talked about how he felt when he saw



Hardik Pandya

Gowtham being handed the last over.

"It was very intense, it was more like mouth watering that an off-spinner bowling the 20th over.

Me and Pollard, whoever misses has to stand at the non-striker's end and just watch, and that was me

today. I missed two balls but Pollard made up most of it," he said.

Hardik said he has always enjoyed batting with Pollard.

"The number of times Pollard and I have done this is fantastic and I've always enjoyed it. When we went, it was a clear message for me that I should go hard and look to get some big runs at the end and get to a total that KXIP find difficult.

"We didn't aim for 191, but we were lucky enough that Pollard had done it again. It is the belief we all in MI have, everyone in MI set-up has done some wonder. This is something happening often, again and again. That is fascinating," Hardik further added. — *PTI*

'SKY IS THE LIMIT IN LAST FOUR OVERS'

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 2: "We know sky is the limit in the last four overs," said Mumbai Indians all-rounder Kieron Pollard after adding 67 runs in 23 balls with Hardik Pandya in their IPL game against Kings XI Punjab here.

Pollard, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, said: "It's about what's there in front of you. Look at the bowlers and see how many you want to get, 15 off the over and then you try to go hard."

"Today Hardik had to come and swing and he showed his prowess. We know sky is the limit in the last four overs," he added.

Mumbai Indians had scored 25 runs in the final over. — *PTI*

RR & RCB meet in royal rumble

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 2: The dew factor will go out of the window but the searing heat will be an issue when Royal Challengers Bangalore take on a better prepared Rajasthan Royals in the first of the 10 IPL double-headers here on Saturday.

Having played their first two games at Sharjah, the smallest of the three venues, Royals got their strategy wrong in the game against Kolkata Knight Riders in Dubai.

With the batsmen unable to hit through the line as consistently as they could do in Sharjah, Royals failed to chase 175 against KKR on Wednesday.

Since they have a settled overseas players' combination, one possible change in the eleven could be replacing pacer Ankit Rajpoot with Varun Aaron, who is yet to get a game.

The team has benched young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal after Jos Buttler's arrival but calls have been growing for his inclusion.

Both Royals and the RCB go into Saturday's afternoon match with two wins in three games. RCB have made a promising start but need to improve their fielding and death bowling. Navdeep Saini bowled a tidy Super Over against Mumbai Indians to get his

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 20
- Rajasthan won: 10
- Bangalore won: 8

MEETING IN 2019

- Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 7 wickets at Jaipur
- No result at Bangalore

FOR THE RECORD

- In the Royal Challengers' Bangalore's last 10 wins, Abraham de Villiers has eight half-centuries. He was unbeaten on five occasions.

- Jos Buttler's strike rate of 157 in the IPL is the highest among all openers who have scored at least 500 runs since 2018.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

team over the line after RCB leaked as many as 79 runs in the last four overs for the game to be tied.

The Bangalore franchise made three changes in the previous clash and are likely to give those players — Isuru Udana, Adam Zampa and Gurkeerat Mann — another go. Ab de Villiers has shown ominous touch and it must be heartening for the team management to see Shivam Dube providing the big hits towards the end against Mumbai Indians. — *PTI*

Spirited KKR take on dented Delhi

Sharjah, Oct. 2: Andre Russell's brute power will meet its match in Rishabh Pant's fearless approach when Kolkata Knight Riders face Delhi Capitals with an aim to light up the skyline in what promises to be another six-hitting contest on Saturday.

Russell gave a glimpse of what is in store with three sixes on a big Dubai ground against Rajasthan Royals while Pant will be itching to throw caution to the winds and play his natural game of destructive edge of the seat hitting.

In fact, Pant needs it more than Russell as three of his peers, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have all got runs under their belt, something that the beefy man from Roorkee so desperately needs.

If there is Shubman Gill, Andre Russell and Eoin Morgan in one side, there is Pant, Marcus Stoinis and Shreyas Iyer on the other end.

KKR have been slowly getting into the groove with some comprehensive performances while Capitals, after two fine victories, hit a roadblock against SRH in their last outing.

For the Knights, their young pace attack of Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Shivam Mavi will have their task cut out on a batting paradise. KKR is unlikely to tinker with their winning combination even though Sunil Narine as an opener hasn't worked well for them in the three games with only 24 runs scored by the Trinidad all-rounder. — *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME — KKR vs DC

HEAD TO HEAD

- Matches: 23. ● Kolkata won: 13. ● Delhi won: 9. ● Tie: 1

MEETING IN 2019

- Delhi Capitals beat Kolkata Knight Riders in Super over after match ended in a tie at Delhi.
- Capitals beat Knight Riders by 7 wickets at Kolkata.

FOR THE RECORD

- Sunil Narine who took 124 wickets at an average of 23.69 in 112 innings of 113 matches is one wicket away to become the eighth bowler to complete 125 wickets in IPL.
- Amit Mishra who took 99 wickets at an average of 24.08 in 94 innings of as many matches, needs just one wicket to become the first from Capitals to complete a century of wickets in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

Fitness is the key



Above: Telangana Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud (fourth from left) participates in the Fit Telangana programme as part of the nationwide Fit India campaign that aims to improve physical and mental health of citizens, at the Lal Bahadur Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.

Below: Trainees pose with film actor and chief guest Ali (standing, fourth from left) after a tennis camp organised by Academia Sports Village at Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club in Aziz Nagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad.



Gunners shoot down Liverpool

London, Oct. 2: Mikel Arteta praised Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno for repaying his faith after the German's two penalty saves clinched a 5-4 shootout win over Liverpool that sent the Gunners into the League Cup quarter-finals.

Arteta's side had already beaten Liverpool on penalties in the Community Shield earlier this season and they repeated the trick in the fourth round tie.

Joe Willock scored the winning penalty after Leno saved from Divock Origi and Harry Wilson.

Adrian kept out Arsenal's third spot-kick from Mohamed Elneny, but Alexandre Lacazette, Cedric Soares, Ainsley Maitland-Niles and Nicolas Pepe all netted before Willock set up a last eight clash with



Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno makes a save during the English League Cup fourth round match against Liverpool at Anfield on Thursday. — *AP*

Manchester City. Arsenal's disciplined display was another sign that the FA Cup winners are heading in the right

direction under Arteta's astute leadership. Leno underlined why Arteta decided to restore him to the team and sell

back-up Emiliano Martinez to Aston Villa, making a series of superb saves before emerging as the hero in the shoot-out.

"Bernd Leno was really good. When we needed him we had him. You need a top individual performance to win at Anfield," Arteta said.

Arsenal's win was revenge for last season's League Cup defeat on penalties against Liverpool, when the Gunners led 3-1 and 4-2 in a 5-5 draw.

There was less drama until the shoot-out on this occasion as Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp made nine changes and Arteta eight, contributing to a stop-start encounter.

"If there would have been a winner in 90 minutes it should have been us but we are not in dreamland, you have to score," Klopp said.

"A penalty shoot out is tricky, everyone knows it," he added. — *AFP*

Thiem and Svitolina in Round of 16

Paris, Oct. 2: US Open winner Dominic Thiem swept into the Last 16 at the French Open on Friday along with women's third seed Elina Svitolina while Rafael Nadal anticipated a stiffer challenge after serene progress in his first two matches at the clay court Grand Slam tournament.

Former champion Simona Halep faces a fascinating rematch with Amanda Anisimova, the American teenager who knocked her out of last year's competition.

Thiem broke down early resistance from Norway's Casper Ruud to secure an impressive 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory and set up a possible showdown with 2015 French Open winner Stan Wawrinka.

"I'm very happy. It was a great match and I didn't do any mistakes," said Thiem, the runner-up to Nadal the past two years.

Wawrinka, the 16th seed, goes up against the lone Frenchman remaining in the draw, Hugo Gaston, the world number 239.

Two-time quarterfinalist Svitolina ensured she will stick around for the second week in Paris with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova, the 27th seed.

Ukrainian Svitolina is full of confidence after capturing her 15th career WTA at Strasbourg last weekend.

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek dismissed former Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-2 to seal a return to the last 16, matching her best result at a Grand Slam.

World number one Novak Djokovic took another confident stride closer to an 18th Grand Slam title with his 70th win at Roland Garros on Thursday.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion, needed just 83 minutes to complete a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 demolition of Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis in the second round.

The top seed went level with Roger Federer for victories at the tournament, although still 25 behind Rafael Nadal's all-time best. Nadal meets 74th-ranked Italian Stefano Travaglia.

BEKELE PULLS OUT OF LONDON MARATHON

London, Oct. 2: Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele has withdrawn from Sunday's London Marathon with a calf injury, robbing an athlete-

ics-starved audience of a showdown with Kenyan world record holder Eliud Kipchoge. "I am very disappointed that I cannot race on Sunday. I was in

good shape but then I picked up a niggle in my left calf after two fast training sessions close together in the last weeks," he said. — AFP

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