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SHORT TAKES

COPS RECOVER WEAPONS FROM ENCOUNTER SPOT

From page 1

The combing operation was being carried out by the Mulugu district special forces and Greyhounds in the Eturunagaram and Mangapeta forest areas of the district.

During their operations, the forces came across the Maoists at the Musalammagutta forest under the Mangapeta police station. Police forces were continuing to carry out combing operations to prevent the Maoists from committing any atrocities in the Agency areas of the district, Singh said.

Sources said, a self-loading rifle (SLR) and two DBBL (double barrel breach loading) shotguns were recovered from the area. The bodies have been recovered from the forest and would be shifted to the Eturunagaram primary health centre.

Since the assassination of the TRS leader, the police have been conducting combing every day and tracking down suspects. Inquiries are being made about them in all the suspected areas. Police have stepped up patrols, taking the case as a matter of prestige.

PANEL TASKED TO CREATE COVID MODEL

From page 1

This is part of the government panel formed to evolve a national supermodel for Covid-19 progression.

The mandate of the committee was to create an evidence-based mathematical model for the pandemic after taking inputs present in the public domain from various groups and using it to analyse past events and the pandemic's future trajectories.

The panel also rejected claims and arguments that the guest worker crisis led to a spike in infections, and also claims that a possible reason for a lower number of cases being reported now could be a lower testing rate in the country.

The committee has recommended that while following the existing personal safety protocols in their totality, people must avoid congestion, especially in closed spaces and take special care of those above 65 years and children. Personnel with co-morbidities need to be extra cautious, failing which the country will see a sharp rise in infections.

DRONE CAMERA HELPS RESTORE ELECTRICITY

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, OCT. 18

Drone cameras are being used for multiple purposes, including surveillance, mapping and weddings while the government makes optimal use of them during floods and other natural disasters.

For the first time, officials of the AP Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (EPDCL) used drone cameras for restoration of power in six villages — Kolimeru, Subbayamma Pet, Gandhinagar, NSV Nagar, N.Suraram and Kotiah Palem village in Tuni Rural mandal. Thanks to the usage, they were able to restore within 24 hours to nearly 4,500 services, including agriculture connections.

According to sources, due to heavy rains, the Tandava River gates were lifted and the overflowing flood waters caused erosion of bund sides of the river and many trees and electric poles fell into the river. This resulted in a complete night blackout on October 14. Spotting and connecting electrical poles, which fell on either side of the river, was a Herculean task.

Even swimmers did not dare to dive and fix wires to the conductors while revenue officials did not agree to operate boats for the purpose. Meanwhile, officials proposed to supply power to the village with an alternative line from Kotananduru mandal. Deputy executive engineer of APEPDCL of Tuni mandal, Ch. Meena Kethana Rao, stated that power could be restored by connecting conductors by making use of drone cameras. In Kolimeru village, B.V. Ramana, who uses drone cameras to cover marriages, came forward to help the officials. "Initially, we made an experiment that linked wires making use of the thread of fishing net and later a rope, both of which were successful". Then two electrical conductors were connected with wires to two poles of both sides of the river with the help of drone cameras. This helped restore power supply to the villages within hours," said Meena Kethana Rao.

FROM THE SCENE

'Everything gone down the rain'

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Water, water everywhere... these infamous words are swirling in the minds of Pradeep Samuel and his family, whose house at Tatti Annaram was flooded in the rains that struck the city last week. Five days on, there is no respite.

Pradeep, his wife and two children were stuck on the terrace on Tuesday night after water rose to the compound wall height. With no response from rescue teams, the four finally made their way out in the wee hours of Wednesday after their son David carried them one by one, wading through neck-deep water in the dark. Their pet dog Oscar too was carried out of troubled waters.

The family moved into the vacant flat of a friend three kilometres away in Bandlaguda and is hoping the water level recedes at the earliest. It still hasn't. In fact, the rains on Saturday have worsened their woes — the water level has risen.

"This has caused us

huge damage — physical, emotional, financial. All our electronic goods are now junk. After being soaked for five days now I don't think the laptop, computer, printer, television, refrigerator and other appliances would be in usable condition. Then there are cots, mattresses, sofas and clothes. Everything has gone down the rain, we will have to start from scratch again," a forlorn Pradeep said.

"Also, all our certificates are in the house. There must be a way out to procure fresh ones though, but this will require so much leg work in running around offices and will cost us quite a bit. For now, family and friends have been providing us comfort. I hope the government helps in restructuring our lives," he adds.

Pradeep spends most of his day staring at his inundated house from a distance, visually marking the water level and with each passing hour hopes for minor improvements in this major tragedy that has hit his home.

AT MITHILANAGAR, SHARING THE TERRACE WITH STREET DOGS

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

The recent spell of rains have had a worse impact on residents of MLR Colony and Mithilnagar. "Earlier, when rainwater entered the house it was only ankle deep. Now, the levels have increased to our waist," said P. Padma, a resident of Mithilnagar.

"We are sleeping on the roof, sometimes we share the roof with street dogs that we have rescued as they have no shelter," she said. Food and water are being supplied by local leaders.

Other residents of the area rue that they are facing hapless days and nights with the inundated roads and homes.

"After every shower or rain, we have to rush to pick up anything that could get damaged in the water and place it on an elevated surface," said R. Sridhar, another resident.

CHIKOTI GARDENS: LIVING WITHOUT POWER FOR 5 DAYS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Families living in Chikoti Gardens' Brindavan Society at Begumpet, Hyderabad, haven't had power supply since October 13. Following the rain that day, water has filled up their cellars. They now run the risk of contracting diseases like dengue and malaria due to the standing water outside where mosquitoes can breed.

A family living in one of the four apartments in the society said that while others have somehow managed to vacate their flats for the time being, as the water went down a bit in the past few days, they have been stuck since the water level came back up again after Saturday night's downpour.

"We have been living without electricity for the past five days, barely managing our essential needs. I have incurred a loss of about ₹50,000-₹60,000 on my car that has been submerged.

The society's association has given up on hopes and measures, whereas no one from the GHMC has done anything to help us," said a resident.

However, Begumpet corporator Uppala Tharunji refused this, saying she had visited the area and is aware of the situation, and even provided her number to the residents to contact in case of any urgent need.



The house at Tatti Annaram which is still inundated on Sunday, five days after the rain. — DC

Boy drowns, girl dies in wall crash

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Two children died in rain related incidents in the city on Saturday night. While a six-year-old girl died in a wall collapse, a four-year-old boy drowned in a pit that was excavated near where his family lived.

According to Mangalhat inspector G. Ranveer Reddy, the girl, identified as Abida, daughter of autorickshaw driver Md. Imran and his wife Firdous Begum, and residents of RK Pet, died after a wall of her house col-

lapsed on her. According to the official, the girl, after having dinner with her family, was asleep when the wall caved in around midnight. Neighbours and the parents took her to Osmania General Hospital where the doctors declared her brought dead.

In the second instance, a four-year-old boy slipped into a pit excavated for construction of a cellar which was filled with rain water, and drowned in Durga Bhavani Nagar on Road No 5 of Jubilee Hills, the police said.

Many roads, highways were blocked

From page 1

"Wednesday's rainfall caused a major devastation and we have not recovered yet. This is the first time in my growing years I am witnessing such floods. We have already suffered property loss on Wednesday and breaching of lakes adds to our woes", lamented Mosa Khan of Hafeezabab Nagar. He said that it was back to square one for residents, who had almost

cleaned their houses.

Early on Sunday morning two teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 19 teams of the Disaster Response Force (DRF) of the GHMC are carrying out relief works. About 170 monsoon emergency teams are clearing water across the city. Over 300 motor pumps have been deployed for pumping out flood water and removing piled-up sludge from residential complexes.

Several roads in Hyderabad were submerged after heavy rains battered the city overnight.

In view of the safety of motorists, the traffic police imposed curbs by diverting traffic to other routes. People were asked to avoid taking Malakpet road, underbridge, Gaddiannaram-Shiva Ganga road, Moosar-ambagh and Chaderghat causeway as the routes were closed.

The flyover at Tolich-

Monsoon fury leaves city battered



Residents pull out an SUV from a flooded cellar in Dilsukhnagar. Motorists have been advised not to start drenched vehicles. — P. SURENDRA

Vehicles piled up on the Saroornagar road at Gaddiannaram on Sunday. They were deposited there by floodwater.

— DC



Policemen push a car to safety after it stalled in the rainwater at Uppal on Sunday, in an effort to clear the roads for traffic.

— S. SURENDER REDDY



A resident of Ramanthapur who suffered a fracture being carried to hospital by NDRF personnel on Sunday.

— DC



A family shifts to a safer locality as their house in Ramanthapur was submerged in floodwaters.

— DC

OU POSTPONES UG, PG EXAMS DUE TO RAINS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

In view of the heavy rains that have battered the state in the past week, Osmania University has decided to further postpone all its UG and PG examinations.

All exams scheduled for October 19, 20 and 21 have been postponed. Examinations scheduled from October 22 will be conducted as per the time table, said the Osmania University Controller of Examinations.

JNTUH has directed all principals of constituent and affiliated colleges to postpone exams scheduled on October 19 and 20 due to the forecast of heavy rains. However, there is no change in the schedule of other exams. The schedule for postponed exams will be announced later, the university said.

Rains submerge 3K cellars in city

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

As many as 3,000 cellars were inundated after the second wave of rain and floods on Saturday.

The GHMC after last week's devastation had identified 3,000 cellars as having been submerged. The civic body, along with public and private participation, cleared 2,877 of them, leaving 123 to be cleared.

However, Saturday's rain, accompanied by the breaching of lakes, inundated more cellars. Now, over 3,000 cellars need dewatering. Besides, over 75 areas in the city have been living without electricity and their transformers are submerged or otherwise affected by water.

According to highly placed sources, Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu convened a meeting and asked the corporation to evaluate the number of cellars which were submerged on Wednesday. He instructed the staff to deploy men and machinery immediately and restore normalcy.

Following his instructions, the civic authorities deployed additional staff and hired over 100 JCBs to dewater the submerged areas. However, Saturday's spell has brought the GHMC's job to the scratch. Dewatering is underway in 75 areas, including LB Nagar, Karwan, Malka-

GHMC STAFF, COPS EVACUATE PEOPLE

From page 1

GHMC officials and staff, particularly those from its Disaster Response Force, a large number of policemen from the three commissionerates that serve the GHMC area, NDRF and other rescue and relief teams worked through the day to evacuate people from flooded localities.

The GHMC, worried over what the next two days of predicted heavy to very heavy rain would bring as forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department, ordered evacuation of people from several low-lying areas of the city to safer locations.

Cellars of 3,000 buildings were flooded after Saturday's rain, while several lakes overflowed and suffered breaches of their bunds. A bridge in the Old City developed a hole and was shut for traffic while police and GHMC staff working overnight made many other roads ready to receive traffic.

giri, Secunderabad and most parts of the Old City. "This would be a Herculean task and the state is under tremendous pressure to redo the job with another cyclone fast approaching", said a senior GHMC official.

COPS INTENSIFY RESCUE OPS IN OLD CITY

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Damage and losses from Saturday's heavy rain in areas under the commissionerates of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda was more as the residents were yet to recover from the flood shock of early last week.

On Sunday, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar visited flood-affected areas in the south zone. Floodwater reached many places in the Old City like Chandrayangutta, Chaderghat and Falaknuma. Local police rescued those trapped in the floods and evacuated them to safer areas when a six-foot pit fell on Falaknuma bridge.

Police barricaded the area and prevented people going that way. Except for the south and east zones, traffic movement was near normal.

Cyberabad commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, along with Shamshabad DCP N. Prakash Reddy and DCP Traffic S.M. Vijay Kumar, visited old Kurnool bridge and reviewed the traffic situation. Later, he visited Gaganpahal lake, Appa Cheruvu and Palle Cheruvu, which were all filled with water and the backwaters entered the surrounding areas.

Rachakonda commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat constantly monitored the situation and instructed officers to intensify rescue operations in Saroornagar, Ramanthapur, Abdullapurmet, LB Nagar, Vanasthalipuram and Hari Hara Puram Colony. Many lives were saved as there was immediate response to every SOS. When a couple, both senior citizens, sent a message to the commissioner that they were stranded for three days at VV Nagar, under Saroornagar limits, they were rescued immediately.

In another incident, two people in a van trapped at the Lashkarguda Vagu between Batasingaram and Masjidpur villages sent a message for help.

MONSOON | SPELL

In fifth spell of heavy rain, crops damaged in 345 villages, tanks breached

Crops worth ₹100 cr damaged in Khammam

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, OCT. 18

The fifth spell of rains in Khammam district has damaged crops over 80,000 acres including paddy, cotton and chilli.

Heavy rains have breached tanks at 50 places in various mandals.

Sattupalli mandal is the worst-hit with breaches at 10 locations. Paddy crop over 1,000 acres have been washed away in the mandal.

Crop damage has been reported from 345 villages in the district causing losses to 55,000 farmers. As per a preliminary report,

crop loss has been estimated at ₹100 crore. Hopes of crops surviving are nil as they have been under water since last four days. The district has recorded 57.7 per cent excess rainfall during this Kharif season.

Paddy over 40,000 acres and cotton on 39,000 acres

has been damaged in Enkoor, Kallur, Penuballi, Raghunathpalem, Tallada, Vemsoor and Konigera mandals.

Prior to the rains, officials had expected to harvest 6.50 lakh tonnes of paddy during this season. Political parties have demanded that the state

government extend liberal financial assistance to farmers.

Communist Party of India state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy said, "Government should take up relief measures immediately. Loss of crops is unexpected and the government is not serious

about paying compensation".

Bharatiya Kisan Morcha state president Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy said the state government must provide some relief to farmers immediately. Farmers in the district stand to lose ₹15,000 per acre, he said.

SHORT TAKES

177 ANIMALS
DROWN IN
MUSI FLOODDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

As many as 177 animals belonging to dairy farms adjacent to Musi River drowned in floods. Authorities said the cattle, sheep and goats, had been tied in their farms. The onus for deaths lies on dairy farm owners, officials said.

According to highly placed sources, as many as 146 buffaloes and 18 calves, apart from 13 sheep and goats died downstream of Himayatsagar, Jillelguda tank and Gurram Cheruvu. Sources said dairy farms owners are habituated to raising cattle, goats and sheep on banks of Musi River due to easy availability of green grass.

The apathy of GHMC, revenue and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has caused the deaths animals, cattle owners say. They maintain that no city department had alerted them about evacuating their animals.

Cattle owners complain that neither the corporation nor revenue officials are ready to pay compensation. "Our livelihood will be threatened if the government does not come to our rescue. We have already lost cattle, whom we raised like our children. Authorities are not even supporting us in performing their last rites," said Narayana, a cattle owner. A senior GHMC official asked *Deccan Chronicle* not to highlight the issue, terming it "petty".

He said cattle owners are not allowing disposal of the animal carcasses, which could turn out to be quite dangerous in view of stagnating water. He said the loss of cattle has been notified to government, which would take a final call on compensation. "On knowing about cattle deaths, animal right activists will protest or create some nuisance. It is better to let the issue subside. The corporation will handle the cattle owners without highlighting the issue," the official said.

Water collects on the hills



The heavy rain that lashed the city on Saturday night resulted in waterlogging and slow vehicular movement at the KBR National Park in Jubilee Hills. — R. PAVAN

Radar conks out, local rain forecast difficult

GHMC will not have data to position teams ahead of heavy rains

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Just when it was needed the most, the Doppler radar at the Indian Meteorological Department's weather station at Begumpet is dead. The radar's ability to present real-time imagery of clouds and rain is something the GHMC depends heavily on to predict minute-to-minute, location by location and likely intensity of rain.

According to IMD director Dr K. Nagarathna, an electrical voltage issue caused problems due to which the radar was taken offline. "We have called a technician for

repairs and the person is expected to arrive on Monday to attend to the equipment," she said.

"This could not have happened at a worse time for us," a senior GHMC official told *Deccan Chronicle* on Sunday. "The system has been on the blink since the rains started on Tuesday and has hit our ability to warn people as to exactly where the rain would occur and how intense it could be," the official said.

"On Saturday, we could not predict that some areas would get 18 cm of rain. If the radar was working, we would have been prepared for this," the official added.

This has impacted the predictive ability of the GHMC to position its relief and rescue teams in the most vulnerable areas ahead of rains.

"The IMD says that it will get the radar repaired and is waiting for someone to come. We are ready to fly the person down if the IMD is agreeable," the official added.

GHMC officials are now depending on data provided by the radar at Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The problem is that data from this radar does not provide the detailed localised information that the IMD's Doppler radar could.

"We are using the Mausam app of the IMD and Windy, another app, and putting together the information from these along with data from Machilipatnam and trying to do our best to predict rainfall and out-comes," the GHMC official explained.

"This is laborious, time consuming and the best we can do is 70 to 75 per cent accuracy. We expect pretty strong rains over the next two to three days. It looks unlikely that the IMD's Doppler radar would be repaired in this period," he said.

With inputs from T.S.S. Siddharth

IMD CAUTIONS
OF RAINS IN
TS FOR 4 DAYST.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Rains will continue to haunt the state for the next four days and a warning has been issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to this effect. The city in the 24-hour period between Saturday and Sunday recorded the third highest rainfall in the last decade in October at 72.5 mm.

In its warning, the IMD said, "Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning is very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana state. Heavy rain very likely to occur at isolated places over the state."

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, IMD director Dr K. Nagarathna said that there was a cyclonic circulation over east central Bay of Bengal. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is very likely to develop over the same region during the next 24 hours. It is likely to become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours.

"This system could bring rains over the state. This time we will have a prolonged south-west monsoon," she said.

Private weather forecasting agency Skymet said that in the four-month long southwest monsoon season, India has received around 957.6 mm of rain so far from June 1 to September 30. This is nine per cent surplus of the Long Period Average (LPA).

The Hyderabad airport on Sunday, was recorded as the place which had witnessed the highest rainfall across the country, said Skymet. It had recorded 73 mm of rainfall.

GHMC begins
evacuation from
low-lying areasMADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

With the Met department predicting more rain over the next couple of days, the GHMC has begun evacuating people from low-lying areas as a precautionary measure.

During the heavy rains of October 13, about 35,309 families were affected due to floods. With water from the breached Balapur bund of Gurram Cheruvu inundating downstream areas, 2,100 families were evacuated to safer places on Sunday evening.

Giving these details, GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar said 37,409 families were affected by flooding. CM relief kits and three blankets, worth ₹2,800 in all, were being distributed to the affected families.

Till now 20,000 ration kits were distributed, and the rest of the families will be covered by Monday.

Milk, bread and biscuits were also being distributed. About 90,000 meals during lunch and 60,000 meals at dinner have been distributed.

He said the GHMC engineering wing were using 202 pumps and the Disaster Response Force (DRF) 72 pumps to clear water from apartment cellars and inundated colonies.

To contain the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, the entomology and DRF teams are taking up anti-larval operations, spraying of bleaching

● **TILL NOW** 20,000 ration kits were distributed, and another 17,000 families will be covered by Monday. Milk, bread and biscuits were also being distributed. About 90,000 meals during lunch and 60,000 meals at dinner have been distributed.

● **IN THE** interest of the public health, the GHMC chief appealed to the citizens to drink boiled water only so that water borne diseases and infections can be controlled.

powder and sodium hypochlorite in the cellars and inundated areas.

A special drive was conducted to remove debris, construction and demolition and household items accumulated in nalas and on roads due to the floods.

In the interest of the public health, the GHMC chief appealed to the citizens to drink boiled water only so that water borne diseases and infections can be controlled.

He said the GHMC had intensified relief operations to bring back normalcy in areas hit by inundation in rain over the past week. Additional, zonal and deputy commissioners are in the field and monitoring relief operations and distributing relief kits to the affected people. Kumar said the GHMC is alerting its personnel and citizens about the situation regularly.

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RH: 74%
Rainfall: 72.5mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 32/22 °C

COVID-19
COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|----------------------------|----------|
| (+55,582) | (+789) |
| 75,46,882 | 1,14,621 |
| covid19india.org | |
| STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS | |
| (+1,436) | (+6) |
| TS: 2,22,111 | 1,271 |
| (+3,986) | (+23) |
| AP: 7,80,237 | 6,429 |

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

| 4,01,53,666 |
|-------------------------------|
| DEATHS |
| 11,16,974 |
| COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES |
| 213 |
| worldometers.info/coronavirus |

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Tadiya till 2.12 pm
Star: Anuradha till 3.53 am (Tuesday)
Variyam: 9.45 am to 11.12 am
Durmuhurtam: 12.24 pm to 1.10 pm; 2.43 pm to 3.23 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabiul Awwal 1, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.09 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.14 pm
Maghrib: 5.57 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.10 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.53 PM
MOONSET 7.32 AM
MOONRISE 7.21 PM

COUNTER POINT



I can't find a safe place to shift flood affected people, sir!

SHORT TAKES

NIA CHARGESHEETS
12 FOR WOMEN
TRAFFICKING

New Delhi, Oct. 18: The NIA has filed a chargesheet against 12 people, including nine Bangladeshi nationals, for their alleged involvement in trafficking girls from across the border for prostitution.

The chargesheet was filed under the IPC, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and the Foreigners Act in a special NIA court in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Ruhul Amin Dhali of West Bengal, Asad Hasan and Shareef Shaik of Maharashtra have been named along with the Bangladeshi nationals Mohd Yousuf Khan, Bithi Begum, Mohd Rana Hussain, Mohammed Al Mamun, Sojib Shaik, Suresh Kumar Das, Mohd Abdulla Munshi, Mohd Ayub Shaik and absconding accused Abdul Barik Shaik.

The case was registered on September 21 last year at Pahadishareef police station following the arrest of 10 human traffickers from two brothels in Hyderabad.

—PTI

Farmers protest as paddy fails to sprout

**RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, OCT. 18**

Around 150 farmers from Vemsoor mandal, who became victims of the spurious hybrid variety NTU-1224 paddy seed, are up in arms demanding compensation from Nagarjuna Seed Company for the huge losses they have suffered as there was no yield even after 140 days of

sowing. NTU-1224 was sown by the farmers in 400 acres Vemsoor mandal. The variety is raised in Adasarlpadu, Lingapalem, Marlapadu, Vemsoor, Kandukur, Ramanaipalem and Vemsoor mandals, where there are only two traders. The farmers took the land on lease and raised the seed variety.

Mandapati Nagireddy, a farmer from Adasarlpadu, said "The paddy plants grew smoothly and became tall but there was no yield." T Prasad, a farmer from Lingapalem, said "We took the land on lease at ₹15,000 per acre and we spent another ₹10,000 for seeds and ploughing and sowing. We lost all the money and this has forced us to to

raise our voice". The agitated farmers raided the shops that sold NTU 1224 variety and grilled the traders. They staged a dharna in front of the shop in Kandukur. However, the traders washed their hands off by saying that they have informed the seed failure to the company officials. It is suspected that Nagarjuna Seed Company

did not test the seed, which is mandated, before dispatching them to their dealers. This has not been complied with as far as the NTU-1224 seed variety of 9003 batch goes.

Vemsoor mandal agricultural extension officer Ramamohan said that he had received a complaint about the seed failure and had sent a report to the government.

Glyphosate, toxic herbicide, causing death of farmers

Centre should take measures to stop sale and use of chemical, says NGO

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18**

Amid the debate over imposing a complete ban on the use of the weed-killing herbicide glyphosate, a report by the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India, a pesticide watch NGO, states that there is an increase in its use across the country.

Glyphosate stood at the second position in production and consumption among herbicides. The data for production and consumption also shows a huge difference and little information is available on its export.

The field study by PAN that was conducted in seven states — Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and

Tamil Nadu — reports the use of 24 different brands of three formulations based on glyphosate. Glyphosate-based herbicide products are also sold in areas where the crop for which it has been approved is not grown.

In Telangana state, where the use and sale is restricted until the end of the Kharif season, activists have suggested that there is increasing illegal sale and use by farmers, despite the government orders, and a suspected political nexus.

"Bigger cotton farmers, especially in Mancherial, by using manual labour but no protective gear, use glyphosate extensively, because they think that it is more economical for them than going through other processes of weeding their crops,"

● IN TELANGANA state, where the use and sale is restricted until the end of the Kharif season, activists have suggested that there is increasing illegal sale and use by farmers, despite the government orders, and a suspected political nexus.

said Sreeharsha T, activist with the Rythu Swarajya Vedika. Narasimha Reddy Donthi, director of Pesticides Action Network-India added that the unrestricted access and wider availability of glyphosate-based herbicides and poor pesticide poisoning monitoring has contributed to unreported or unrecognised occupational poisoning or self-poisoning. "Most farmers who spray the toxic herbicide on their own or get man-

ual labour to do so do not consider the related-safety hazards. When they are rushed to hospital and poisoning is reported, due to differences in technical pronunciation or similar issues, most of these cases don't get reported as poisoning due to glyphosate. Hence the data is difficult to be collaborated."

The study by PAN India states that the majority of farmers and workers interviewed did not have training on glyphosate application, safety precautions, and use of personal protection kits (PPE). Moreover, none of the farmers or workers reported use of PPE while working with glyphosate or working in fields sprayed with glyphosate; rather some of them reported use of a cloth, hat, mask, glove, goggles of poor quality as safety measures.

The unintended use of glyphosate reported in the study raises serious concerns over residues in food commodities, food safety, agriculture trade, and environmental contamination, as well as the consequent short and long-term health and environmental impacts. The level and extent of contamination in food commodities remains unknown, according to the findings of the report.

The NGO has recommended that the Union agriculture and farmers welfare ministries immediately take measures to phase out production and usage of glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides. State agriculture departments should take measures to stop sales and usage of glyphosate subject to the nationally approved uses of glyphosate.

Damaged roads



Motorists face trouble travelling on the road at Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad, which has been damaged due to recent rains. — R. PAVAN

Bhatti slams TRS on irrigation projects

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18**

The Veldanda police on detained Congress Legislative Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka who was on his way to the Kalwakurthy pump house which was submerged by the waters of the Srisailem reservoir on Friday.

Mallu Bhatti along with MLAs D. Sridhar Babu, Jaggarreddy, and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy planned to visit the lift irrigation project where an explosion had also occurred due to the

submergence. He was later released.

Speaking to the media, Mallu Bhatti alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao ignored engineers' instructions on the pump house construction and went by his own decisions. This resulted in the damage.

The CLP leader demanded a CBI inquiry into the irrigation projects built for the last six and a half years of the TRS regime. The CM is redesigning the projects and bagging thousands of crores as commissions, he alleged.

OFFICIALS START
TEST DHARANI
REGISTRATIONS

**PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, OCT. 18**

Revenue officials on Sunday came up with dummy registrations of agriculture lands as a prelude to real registrations and uploading data on Dharani portal, which will be launched by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on October 25.

The officials are likely to undertake a similar exercise to check the online system on Monday. Review meetings with officials are underway on how to maintain online registrations with the help of the portal. According to official sources, each tahsildar or joint registrar must record 10 dummy land registrations. Officials have been trained in this regard. Dharani portal is an online land registration process that ensures transparency, security and responsibility to people and landowners.

Tahsildars will act as a joint registrar as far as agriculture land registrations and mutations are concerned. They will register agriculture lands in 570 mandals while 142 sub-registrars will register non-agriculture assets with the help of Dharani portal. Adilabad collector Sikta Patnaik is visiting tahsildar offices and inspecting the arrangement made for the registrations.

OBITUARY



Mr. Nawab Moinuddin Ghalib
S/o Nasiruddin Ghalib
Age 85 years
Has expired on Saturday 17th Oct. 2020 at his residence. Burial (Tadfeen) was performed at 19-2-23, Maqbara Ghalib Jung, Ali Bagh Kalagaitar, Hyderabad, TS. Ph: 9391196261

CA-3441

IN LOVING MEMORY

The memory of just is blessed. Prov. 10:7



Dr. M. SANTHAIAH
M.A., Ph.D
(15.05.1945 - 19.10.2015)
Your memories will always be in our heart.
WE MISS YOU DAD!
Inserted by: Dayavathi (Wife)
Children & Grand Children
Son-in-law & Daughter-in-law

(S/2021/D00719)

95th ANNIVERSARY



Morla Sunil Kumar
DOB: 26-06-1963 ; DOD: 19-10-2015
"You remain with us every moment, guiding us in spirit & in action"
Inserted by
FAMILY MEMBERS

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Late Mrs. A. SWAPNA
W/o. Pastor Kiran
Date of Birth: 10-9-1979
Called to Glory: 19-10-2010
Parents: Mr & Mrs. Dr. A.L. Sunder Raj
Sister & Brother-in-law.
Christian Colony, Mahabub Nagar.
Ph: 9848581362 / 9052811390

Residents told to leave dilapidated houses

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18**

As part of regular monsoon activity, residents are being asked to move out of dilapidated structures. The action has acquired immediacy in view of the heavy rains forecast for this week.

The GHMC said citizens living in dilapidated structures were urged to vacate the building voluntarily. Citizens were asked to inform the GHMC if any dilapidated structure was in danger.

Meanwhile, minister K.T. Rama Rao instructed GHMC to clear construction and demolition waste on the

● MINISTER K.T. RAMA

RAO instructed GHMC to clear construction and demolition waste on the roads to enable free vehicular movement.

roads to enable free vehicular movement. The activity was carried out in nine circles on Sunday, where GHMC authorities inspected 56 main roads, wherein C&D waste was identified in 45 locations. It was listed from 25 locations and shifted to the designated centre by the contractor. Lifting the waste in the remaining locations is being completed.

13th DAY CEREMONY



M. RAVINDER (YEZI RAVI)
DOB: 12.03.1959 DOD: 07.10.2020
In loving memory of departed soul, the 13th Day Ceremony on 18.10.2020.
Venue: 1-30-358/3, Srinivasa Colony, Kanajiguda, Sec-bad. 500015.
Wife: M. Renuka, Son: M. Arjun
Daughter-in-law: M. Jinan & Family
Daughter: M. Keerthi Santosh
Son-in-law: Santosh
Lunch at 12:00 noon onwards
Mob: 9160209909

SHRADDHANJALI



PALURU JAYALAKSHMI
D.O.B: 15.10.2020
Your memories lies in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
BATCHU AMARNATH & FAMILY

10th DAY CEREMONY



Late ARIGELA B. PRAMOD
(GHMC Contractor)
DOB: 19.11.1974 DOD: 10.10.2020
Close to our hearts, you will always stay, loved and remembered everyday.
May your soul rest in peace
Inserted by: Father: A. Pandurao,
Mother, Wife, Daughters, Brother,
Sister-in-law and Family Members.
Venue: 19-10-2020 (Today) @ 12-2-835/1/A/1, Siram Nagar Colony, Mehdiapatnam, Hyd.
Ph: 8106677167

IN FOND MEMORIES



Sri. Ch. VENKATESWARA RAO (Retd)
Secretary- SGFAR, Principal - RCPE,
Vice President - SGFI
DOB 01.12.1952 D.O.D 17.10.2020
Inserted by:
Dr P Ramu & Friends
Conveying with a deep sense of condolence to the family

The memory of the just is blessed. Prov. 10:7



Dr. M. SANTHAIAH
MA, Ph.D
DOB: 15.05.1945 - DOD: 19.10.2015
Dad,
Not a Day passes without remembering you. You are always on our Mind and forever in our heart.
Love you and Miss you a lot
Inserted by: Wife: Mrs. L.S. Dayavathi,
Dy. Executive Engineer (Retd.) R&B
Daughter: Glory & Pastor Austin Dinaker
Grand Children: Cyrus & Jason

(S/2021/D00716)

69th BIRTH REMEMBRANCE



AKULA PREM KUMAR
D.O.B: 19.10.1951
Called to glory: 28.11.2016
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR DADDY
You are always in our thoughts
Inserted by: Son: A. Kiran Kumar
Daughters: Preethi & Shiney
Son-in-law: Dominic & Prabhu
Grand Children: Darvin, Sarina & Jason Prem

(S/2021/D00721)

27th ANNIVERSARY

The Memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov. 10:7



Mr. M.S. SRINIVAS
(19-10-1993) B.A., M.P.Ed.
(PD in Aliya Junior College, President, State Pds Association)
WE MISS YOU A LOT
Sons: Mr. M.S. VIJAY KUMAR, MALLB
Daughter-in-law: Mrs. DEEPA SUSAN
Grand Sons: ABHISHEK EMMANUEL,
ABHILASH CHRISTOPHER & ALL FAMILY
St. No. 16, Himayathnagar, Hyd-29.
Cell : 9849574587

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live."



Shri. KOLUGURI PREMDASS
(JANARDHAN-IDPL)
DOB: 20.08.1945 DOD: 19.10.2019
Wife Smt. K. Vimalamma,
Sons & Daughters-in-Law;
Daughters & Sons-in-Law &
Grand Children.
RSVP: 9949385259, 9878752099

40th DAY MASS
IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF

Mr. E. THOMAS LAZARUS
A requiem high Mass will be held for the repose of his soul on 20-October-2020 at 7:00 AM at St. Cecilia Church, St. No. 7, Dayanand Nagar, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad-17.
From: Edward Lazarus, Patrick Lazarus & Fly, Peter Lazarus, Jeffrey Rogers & Fly, Vincent Lazarus & Fly, Near and Dear.

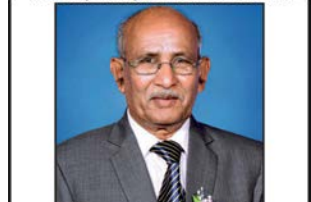
(S/2021/D00708)

25th ANNIVERSARY



Late. C. Kundanlal Gambhir
D.O.B: 02-10-1919 D.O.D: 19-10-1995
Though 25 years have passed away your memories remain with us forever. Remembering you in silent tears.
Inserted by:
Anil Kumar Gambhir (Son)
Anita Gambhir (Daughter-in-Law)
Prerna Gambhir and
Gaurav Gambhir (Grand Children)

2nd Death Anniversary



GONA GAMALIEL JAYANANDAM
DOB: 20.04.1938 DOD: 19.10.2018
From Sunrise to Sunset every moment would have been more Wonderful if you were with us. Your Memory is stored in our Hearts & Minds.
With Love: Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law & Grand Children.
9849521837, 9849399930

11th ANNIVERSARY



S. AMRUTHA
Inserted by:
Dr. S.L.N. Reddy
& Family Members
Ph No: 23300465, 9441188699
(B/2021/D00072)

SHORT TAKES

HARISH TAKES A DIG AT BJP'S PENSION CLAIMS

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Finance minister T. Harish Rao demanded that BJP leaders show proof of their claim that the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre was paying ₹1,600 pension to each bidi worker in Telangana state. The minister was addressing a gathering in Dubbaka as part of the byelection campaign on Sunday.

He dismissed the BJP's claims of giving a major share of pension amount to Telangana state. He wanted to know why pension was not being paid to bidi workers in BJP-ruled states. Harish Rao said that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh was paying ₹500 as old-age pension and to widows and in Karnataka it was ₹400 while the TRS government was paying ₹2,000.

Terming the BJP as an anti-farmer party, he said that the UP government is collecting power charges of ₹4 per unit from farmers while the TS government was giving it free. He appealed to the people to teach a lesson to the Congress and BJP in the ensuing byelection.

ARUNA FOR CBI PROBE INTO TS FARM PROJECTS

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna has demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into irrigation projects taken up by the K. Chandrashekar Rao government.

Addressing a press conference at the state BJP office here on Sunday, she accused the government of swindling funds in the name of changing the design of irrigation projects.

The BJP leader attributed submergence of the Yeleru pump house under Kalwakurty project followed by a blast to negligence of the government. She protested that the government used police force to prevent them from visiting the site.

She said that government set up the pump house underground in spite of engineers being against it. She pointed out that government ministers and TRS leaders had written a letter opposing the project. Still the government insisted on setting up the pump house underground.

Aruna urged the Centre to order a CBI probe to unravel facts behind the acts of omission and commission in building the irrigation projects. Accusing the government of ignoring the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme, she said designs of this project and the Chevella Pranahitha scheme were also changed to mint money.

Aruna said the Chief Minister could have undertaken a helicopter survey to assess crops loss due to incessant rains. She slammed the government for failing to give detailed project reports to the Apex Council and said the Chief Minister should inform people about his version of the projects.

VOLUNTEERS HELP IN CREMATION AFTER KIN AVOID

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, OCT. 18

Volunteers assisting the Red Cross Society to dispose of bodies of Covid-19 victims at the mobile crematorium have helped a family to perform final rites of a loved one after their relatives and friends failed to help them at Nellore on Sunday.

The volunteers, Shaik Rahul and S. Sai Teja, volunteered after the staff manning the mortuary at the Government General Hospital told them about the inability of family members to collect the body or perform last rites.

While the wife of the deceased is ill, one of her daughters is mentally challenged and another is working in a hotel near the RTC bus stand at Nellore. The hotel staffer daughter said that the volunteers helped her shift the body to the graveyard and cremate it in the mobile crematorium. Rahul said they purchased a garland and gave it to her. A priest came just before placing the body in the crematorium to help the daughter to perform the last rites. She said her father succumbed to kidney ailment at the GGH and he was tested positive for Covid-19 after death.

Bathukamma at Amrabad tiger reserve



Principal chief conservator of forests R. Shobha (third from right) plays Bathukamma with forest department staffers at Mannanur, the entry point to the Amrabad tiger reserve.

PRIORITY LIST FOR VACCINE UNDERWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

The state government is in the process of identifying and compiling lists of people for prioritising administration of Covid-19 vaccine as and when it becomes available. Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said on Sunday that the first priority will be frontline workers from the health sector and other government departments working directly with people, followed by those aged above 60 years.

Also on the priority list will be people with comorbidities irrespective of their age. These are being prepared as per Central directives, he said.

Dr Rao, and Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy, addressing a press conference, said that the heavy rains that lashed the city this past week could result in a spurt in water and vectorborne diseases.

To combat this possibility, the department has been running 182 health camps in the flood relief centres in the GHMC area, department officials said.

"We appeal to people to prevent spread of cholera, jaundice, and polio and other waterborne diseases. Boil drinking water before consuming and eat only hot food. Chlorinate drinking water that you get," they said.

People at camps are screened for their health and for Covid-19 symptoms and are being tested. Anyone who has been in close contact with those found positive, are under observation. It is absolutely safe to go to the flood relief camps. The authorities have also started spraying of sodium hypochlorite solution in vulnerable areas to prevent spread of Covid-19.

WATER | WORLD

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, OCT. 18

For the first time this decade, Srisaillam reservoir officials released over seven lakh cusecs of water in a 24-hour period by lifting 10 crest gates to the height of 33 feet.

The dam has seen huge flood water coming into it in the past three days as torrential rains in Maharashtra and upper reaches of Krishna river filled up Narayanapur dam in Karnataka and Jurala project in Telangana state to the brim.

Jurala has a live capacity of just 6.79 tmc and its full reservoir level is 318.52 tmc. As per Central Water Commission (CWC) alert,

3 winter months crucial, take care, warn doctors

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Winter is coming. And the three months of the cold season — the period when most viruses get active and traditionally the time of flus, and other diseases such as colds, fevers — will be crucial to how Telangana state ultimately handles Covid-19.

Unless people adhere to Covid-19 safety protocols that for these three months also include celebrating festivals at home with families and stay away from large gatherings or small crowds, it is likely that the state will

see a repeat of what happened in Kerala after the Onam celebrations with thousands of new Covid-19 cases being recorded every day. "We are not asking people not to celebrate festivals. They should do so within the confines of their own families. Avoid gatherings. Wherever there are groups of people, Covid-19 can spread. Dasara is round the corner, will be followed by Diwali in November and Christmas in December. These are the months when people will travel to their native places, from towns and cities to villages or from villages to

towns and cities, to join their families," Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao has said.

"Seventy per cent of all Covid-19 cases found in Telangana state are asymptomatic," Dr Rao said, meaning that they could be affected by the Coronavirus but not showing any of the symptoms. "Every person you interact could be spreading the disease," Dr Rao warned.

Covid-19 cases were reducing in Telangana state thanks to the efforts of the state government, health department and people following safety precautions of wearing

masks, washing hands, maintaining physical distance and avoiding crowds. "If people relax and give up on these in the festive season, we will see a surge in Covid-19 in the state," he said.

Dr Rao also announced the launch of a special publicity campaign to help people keep safe during this festive season. The publicity campaign comprises a series of posters, radio jingles and animated video spots.

"Festivals come and go but if a life is lost, it will not come back. Avoid that agony and stay safe," he said.

Gland Pharma adopts 27 zoo animals

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

In the single biggest instance after the Nehru Zoological Park introduced its animal adoption scheme, 27 animals of different species were adopted for one year by Gland Pharma Ltd., Hyderabad, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity. Among the animals adopted by Gland Pharma are lions, a giraffe, a rhinoceros, a hippopotamus, a cheetah, an ostrich, bear, wolf, pelicans, vultures, flamingos and deer. Company CSR head Raghuraman and members P. Sampath Kumar and Shilpi Sahay handed over a cheque for ₹20 lakh to zoo's deputy curator A. Nagamani for the adoptions on Friday.

"We really wanted to adopt a tiger too but were told all the tigers were already adopted by SBI," Sampath Kumar told Deccan Chronicle. The nearly crestfallen 'zoo parents', however, were informed that a tiger cub was available for adoption, which was immediately agreed to. Asked what prompted his firm to go in for such a large zoo animal adoption exercise, Sampath Kumar, said his company has many activities under its CSR initiatives including providing food for school children in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. "I am a member of the Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society and when I proposed that we adopt animals in the zoo, the CSR team and the company agreed to it. Flora and fauna are one part of our CSR spread and that got us to the zoo," he said. After the adoption formalities were completed, the Gland Pharma officials were taken around the zoo and the enclosures of the animals the firm adopted. Nagamani explained that the Covid-19 pandemic related closure of the zoo between March and October which resulted in revenue losses and the adoption by Gland Pharma would be of great help to the zoo.



The animals belonging to the Nehru Zoological Park that have been adopted for a year by Gland Pharma Ltd.

Dam sees huge floodwater in last 3 days with rains in Maha and upper reaches

Srisaillam releases record water in decade



All 10 crest gates of Srisaillam dam were opened on Sunday after the reservoir was filled due to heavy rains upstream in the last few days.

the flood trend on the Srisaillam reservoir was steady with 4,85,485 cusecs coming into the reservoir from Jurala and

Sunkesula barrage across Tungabhadra river near Kurnool.

Srisaillam dam opened 10 spillway gates to a height

of 20 feet on Sunday and 5,10,597 cusecs of water. The reservoir level is 884.60 feet against the total height of 885 feet. The

present storage at the dam is 213,4011 tmc.

A retired engineer, who worked at Srisaillam, found fault with the authorities for holding so much water in the reservoir. He raised concern that it is against flood management and would have a devastating impact on the structural stability of the dam. The water release from the Srisaillam dam left several residential houses in Lingala Gattu village of Kurnool district inundated. People were shifted to relief homes in Sunnipenta.

Around 450 Lingala Gattu locals, who mostly depend on fisheries, were in the grip of fear. However, revenue and police officials reached the

Biz houses, pubs, bars told to test staff once a week

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

All commercial establishments, particularly the likes of bars, pubs, restaurants and other businesses that see customers come in numbers and spend time in their premises, have been asked to get every employee tested for Covid-19 once a week or 10 days.

With Covid-19 Unlock 5.0 now in effect and almost every business open, Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao on Sunday said this was an appeal from the government to businesses to keep their staff and

employees, as well as their customers, safe from Covid-19.

"The government is providing free Covid-19 testing. Even if one employee is infected, the disease can spread to the others and to customers, especially in settings such as bars and pubs and restaurants where people are gathering. Regular testing is important as 70 per cent of all infected people are asymptomatic," Dr Srinivasa Rao said.

"Do not let those who do not get tested back to work. The establishments can plan to get all their staff tested on Sunday or the day of the week when they are closed," he said.

State sees 1,436 cases, 6 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Telangana state recorded 1,436 new Covid-19 cases and six more deaths from the disease on Saturday, the state health department said on Sunday. This takes the total cases to 2,22,111, and the deaths to 1,271.

There were 22,050 active Covid-19 cases as on Saturday 8 pm, of whom 18,279 were in home or institutional isolation. As many as 41,043 tests were conducted between Friday and Saturday of

which 18,059 were on primary contacts of people who had tested positive for Covid-19.

Of the 1,436 new cases, the highest number of 249 was reported from GHMC limits followed by 110 in Ranga Reddy, and 105 in Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

Bhadrakot, Karimnagar, Khammam, and Nalgonda districts recorded new cases in the 70s. While 1,553 Covid-19 patients were admitted to various government hospitals, this number was at 2,218 for private hospitals.

AP CROSSES 70-LAKH TESTS; DAILY AVERAGE CASES DROP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

Andhra Pradesh has crossed the 70-lakh mark in Corona tests, apart from recording the lowest 23 Covid-19 deaths on a single day in the past three months on Sunday.

The dropping of Coronavirus positive cases continued with registration of 3,986 new positive cases against an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day.

The total Corona positive cases reached 7,83,132 on Sunday.

29 WOMEN APPOINTED TO AP BC CORPNS

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

The YSR Congress government has announced governing bodies for 56 BC corporations formed to develop the status of backward classes belonging to 139 castes in Andhra Pradesh.

Names of persons appointed as chairpersons of these corporations were announced at a press conference by a Group of Ministers led by BC welfare minister Chelluboina Venugopala Krishna. The ministers reiterated that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been giving top priority to BCs in every welfare scheme. Formation of BC corporations is a measure to ensure their development.

Minister Venugopala Krishna said as 50 per cent reservations have been provided to women, nearly 29 of the total 56 corporations will be led by women as chairpersons. In addition to this, the state government has also appointed 12 directors representing all the 13 districts to each corporation. He asserted that the Chief Minister has set up 56 corporations for the 139 BC castes to focus on their all-round development. "The CM firmly believes that BCs are Backbone Classes and not Backward Classes," he remarked.

Recalling the promise of Jagan Mohan Reddy during the 2019 elections, Venugopala Krishna said, "As promised, the Chief Minister has formed separate corporations for every community, thereby standing by his word. After a study of the 139 castes, 56 castes with over 30,000 population have been given separate corporations. CM Jagan has also stood by his decision to implement 50 per cent women quota and provide them more posts."

IN BRIEF

Museum on ex-Prez Pranab in the offing

Berhampore: A museum will be built in the memory of former president Pranab Mukherjee in West Bengal. It will come up at his residence in Jangipur of Murshidabad, former Congress MP and Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee informed. Pranab Mukherjee, who was a two-time MP from Jangipur and held several ministerial portfolios including finance and external affairs from time to time during the Congress rule at the Centre, died on August 31 in Delhi after a prolonged illness. At a condolence meeting in memory of his father at Rabindra Bhavan in Jangipur Abhijit said, "My father had built a house at Deuli on the outskirts of Jangipur and named it as Jangipur Bhavan. We have decided to build a museum at the ground floor of the house very soon." The leaders many photos and mementos received from foreign countries would be showcased in the museum.

MAR THOMA CHURCH HEAD PASSES AWAY

Thiruvalla, Oct. 18: Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the primate of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, died early on Sunday at a private hospital here after battling cancer, church sources said.

The 90-year-old head of the Marthoma community was under treatment for pancreatic cancer and breathed his last around 2.30 am, hospital sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the spiritual leader, saying the Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor.

"His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor and down-trodden. He was blessed with abundance of empathy and humility. His noble ideals will always be remembered. RIP," Modi tweeted.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the demise of the Metropolitan was not only a loss to the church but to the society as a whole. "He worked for the liberation and welfare of the homeless and marginalised people in the society. His involvement in rehabilitating children from the Red Street in Mumbai and uplifting transgender persons into the mainstream shows how he battled for the down-trodden," Vijayan said in a statement.

Born as P.T. Joseph to Alakunnathu T. Lukose and Mariamma couple at Maramonin Pathanamthitta district, Joseph Mar Thoma became Mar Thoma metropolitan in October 2007 after the then Mar Thoma, Philipose Mar Chrysostom, expressed his desire to transfer responsibilities of the church to his successor due to his deteriorating health.

SENA ACCUSES BJP OF USING GUVs AS AGENTS

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 18

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of using the Governors as its "political agents" to destabilise all the governments run by the Opposition parties. This is not a sign of a good ruler, said senior leader Sanjay Raut. "In Maharashtra, the BJP has engaged in anti-government propaganda since there is a non-BJP government in the state. In fact, wherever there are Opposition governments, the BJP has trained its guns at them by appointing governors as their political agents," said Raut in his weekly column in the Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* on Sunday.

The Sena leader cited several states where Governors are at loggerheads with the governments of Opposition parties. "In West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is seen posing daily challenges to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not budging to him. In Delhi too, there is a clash between Arvind Kejriwal and the lieutenant-Governor. There is no trouble in Punjab due to the fear of invoking the wrath of the Sikh community. In Maharashtra, the Thackeray government is stable despite various attempts from the Governor, whereas all efforts to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government were foiled in Rajasthan," he added.

Raksha Bhavan to be razed

Shram Shakti Bhavan also to be demolished for controversial Central Vista

ANIMESH SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

Raksha Bhavan, which houses the accommodation suites of officers attached with the prestigious National Defence College (NDC), as well as Transport Bhavan (office of the road transport & shipping and tourism ministries) and Shram Shakti Bhavan (which houses the labour, water resources and power ministries), are all set to be demolished under the controversial Central Vista project.

Transport Bhavan and Shram Shakti Bhavan will make way for chambers for MPs next to the proposed new Parliament building, while Raksha Bhavan will be replaced by the common Central Secretariat (CCS) build-

ings that will house the offices of all Central ministries, top sources aware of these development told this newspaper.

The much criticised Central Vista project — which envisions the building of a new Parliament House, a new accommodation for the Prime Minister and offices of all Central ministries at the 3 km stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate — entails shifting the entire staff of these ministries as well as officers' suites of the NDC to the under construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which was earlier supposed to be the new address of the rural development ministry.

The entire cost of shifting the staff of the ministries as well as that of

the NDC officers' suites to the under-construction erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan and its fresh construction will come to around ₹350 crores, the sources added. They claimed that this cost will be less than the cost of building the new office of the rural development ministry.

The proposal has been approved by the urban affairs and the defence ministries, the sources said. The erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan will be known as General Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA) building.

The proposed Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which had been sanctioned by the rural development ministry in November 2018, as its new address, and whose construction had

begun in July 2019, was abruptly stopped after it was decided in December 2019 by the Centre that all ministries will be accommodated in the CCS buildings under the Central Vista project.

At the time of halting its construction, the government had already spent around ₹12 crores on Grameen Vikas Bhavan, sources privy to the details said.

Subsequently, according to highly-placed sources, it was decided that the under-construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan or the proposed GPOA building will now house the twin offices of all these five ministries as well as suites for the NDC officers.

Keeping security aspects in mind, the GPOA build-

ing will have separate entry and exit points for civilian and military establishments, and even the basement parking area will be partitioned by walls so that there is no intermingling of ministries' staff with that of the NDC officers.

The Central Vista project has been shrouded in controversy ever since it was officially announced in September last year. It has faced allegations ranging from seeking hasty approvals, lack of transparency and absence of public consultation, and seeking the advice of experts as well as not taking the all-important approval of Parliament, and going ahead with it despite the fact that the Coronavirus pandemic is raging in the country.

Minister confirms Covid community transmission

New Delhi, Oct. 18: Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states, clarifying that "this is not happening across the country".

The minister said this during an interaction with his social media followers on the sixth episode of "Sunday Samvaad".

He was responding to a question from a participant, who cited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remark that there are instances of community transmission in her state and asked the minister which are the states that have witnessed community transmission of the disease.

"In different pockets across various states, including West Bengal, community transmission of Covid-19 is expected to occur, especially in densely-populated areas. However, this is not happening across the country. Community transmission is limited to certain districts, occurring in a limited number of states," Vardhan said.

He added that as yet, no mutation of the Coronavirus has been detected in India that is either more transmission-efficient or more pathogenic.

The Centre so far has denied community transmission of the Coronavirus infection in

● **HARSH VARDHAN** says community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states and that this is not happening across the country.

the country.

Health ministry officials had said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has not given any standard definition of community transmission.

It permits its member nations to assess the spread of the disease, based on their own analysis of the situation, and do their reporting, which the global body shows on its website.

Broadly, if it is not possible to trace the transmission chain, it means there is community transmission, officials said. The Centre has maintained that there are clusters of cases and there are pockets of localised transmission.

Meanwhile, with Kerala witnessing a spike in Coronavirus infections recently, Harsh Vardhan said the state was paying the "price for gross negligence" during Onam festivities when unlocking of services along with an increase in travel for trade and tourism led to the spread of Covid-19.

The minister said this ought to serve as a good lesson for all the state governments that were being negligent in planning for the festival season. — PTI

Lights of victory



Iconic Howrah Bridge illuminated with the official colour of historical Mohun Bagan Club after the official handover of the I-League 2019-20 trophy to the champions Mohun Bagan at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kolkata on Sunday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

BJP-Cong spar over Tharoor's remarks

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

Berating the Congress over its senior leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks at the recent Lahore Think Fest, where he criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different".

Describing Tharoor's virtual address as a Congress "debut rally" in Pakistan, the BJP asked whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi intends to contest elections in Pakistan. It said that henceforth, the Congress leader should be called "Rahul Lahori."

Hitting back, the Congress said that the BJP had always responded to substance and facts with "jumblebaazi (rhetoric)" and that such reactions from the ruling party "ridicule" the debate and "diminish us as a democracy."

Citing Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi's earlier statement on nullification of Article 370, P. Chidambaram's tweet on restoration of Article 350, Mani Shankar Aiyar's statement during a Pakistani TV debate in 2015 and Salman Khurshid's remarks at an event in Islamabad, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "We want to ask andhi whether he is planning to contest from Pakistan."

● **SHASHI THAROOR** at the recent Lahore Think Fest criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different".

"...Tharoor said Gandhi should get credit which he is not getting in India or by the Indian media but seems he is getting much affection from Pakistan... Tharoor has already held the debut rally(of Congress) there (Pakistan)," Dr Patra said. He questioned the need to discuss Indians from the northeast at a Pakistani forum while adding that "there is no country in this world as democratic and just as India."

Taking on the Congress over Tharoor's remarks on Indian Muslims, Patra asked did the Congress leader or its leadership ever dare to ask how minorities are treated in Pakistan and how Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs are forcefully converted or killed.

Hitting back, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said, "The BJP has always responded to substance and pointed facts with 'jumblebaazi'. The BJP has always believed in rhetoric, not substance. Yes, it does sometimes catch you by the eyeballs or the eardrums when you hear it, but, within seconds, logic takes over and tells you how empty a rhetoric the BJP is indulging in."

Nath's reference of woman mantri as 'item' sparks row

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 18

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Sunday joined ranks of politicians who have made crass, sexist remarks by reportedly describing Madhya Pradesh women and child welfare minister Imarti Devi, who hails from a dalit community, as an 'item'.

Addressing an election meeting at Dabra under Gwalior district in MP, Nath, 74, said, "Who is she...(the crowd calls out Imarti Devi's name)... why should I take her name... you all should

have warned me... what an item!). Shockingly, former minister and senior Congress leader Bijoylaxmi Sadho who was present at the dais burst into laughter along with others while reacting to Nath's sexist remarks.

Devi, who is contesting from Dabra Assembly constituency in the November 3 by-elections as a BJP candidate, was also a minister in the Kamal Nath government which fell in March this year following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

BJP took strong exception to the 'derogatory'

remarks by Nath against the woman minister and moved the Election Commission demanding to bar him from campaigning in the state.

The party declared to move the women commission and national scheduled caste commission demanding action against Nath for making insulting remarks against the woman minister.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed shock and dismay at Nath's 'outrageous' utterances against a woman minister, saying it smacked of his arrogance and narrow mindset.

OFFICIAL | APATHY

Bridge built to ease transportation to local markets, hospitals

Villagers build timber bridge over river

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 18

Residents of Birindipada, a remote forest village under the K. Nuagaon block in Odisha's Kandhamal district, have built a timber bridge over the local Kalipan river to establish physical links with the local markets, hospitals, schools and colleges.

The locals on Sunday said they have been deprived of basic transport and communication facilities for decades and all their appeals to build a concrete bridge over the river always fell on "deaf ears" of the administration.

Despite repeated appeals

and petitions to the local representatives of the state administration, no step was taken to construct a bridge.

As a result, they always crossed the dangerous Kalipan river with the help of cables tied to the trees on both sides of the river.

"We have appealed to the local MLA and MP umpteen times. They have always assured us that they will look into our request. Unfortunately, they never made any move to build a bridge here. Pregnant women and ailing people were left to their fate as we could not carry them to the nearby hospitals," said the villagers.

They added that the gov-



The timber bridge constructed by villagers of Birindipada in Odisha's Kandhamal district.

— DC

ernment-supplied ration often did not reach them as the river served as a barrier.

"Earlier we used to cross the river with the help of metal cables tied to big trees on both the sides of the river. When our plight

was highlighted by the media, the administration removed the cables, pushing us to utter confinement. Our brothers and fathers collected logs from the forest and made this timber bridge. If the government removes it, we

will once again be stranded and will be paddling through water risking our lives," said a pregnant woman.

Though no government official was forthcoming on the allegation of apathy made by the villagers, sources said the government has constructed a bridge over the river six km upstream from the village. However, the villagers are not using that bridge as they have to travel that extra distance.

"The government is still considering building a bridge at Birindapada. We have drawn the attention of the higher authorities and a decision will be taken soon" a senior government official who did not want to be quoted said.

IN BRIEF

16 killed in Pak landslide

Islamabad: At least 16 people were killed on Sunday when a bus they were travelling in fell into a deep ditch after being struck by a landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to a Pakistani media report. The bus was going from Rawalpindi to Skardu when it was hit by the landslide which was so massive that it pushed the vehicle into a deep ditch, killing at least 16 people in the Roundo area in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Radio Pakistan reported. Landslides are common in the region which is famous for its scenic beauty as well as treacherous roads.

Plan to retrieve Titanic radio

Norfolk (US): People have been diving to the Titanic's wreck for 35 years. No one has found human remains, according to the company that owns the salvage rights. But the company's plan to retrieve the ship's iconic radio equipment has sparked a debate: Could the world's most famous shipwreck still hold remains of passengers and crew who died a century ago? Lawyers for the US government have raised that question in an ongoing court battle to block the planned expedition. "Fifteen hundred people died in that wreck," said Paul Johnston, curator of maritime history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. "You can't possibly tell me that some human remains aren't buried deep somewhere where there are no currents." The company, RMS Titanic Inc., wants to exhibit the ship's Marconi wireless telegraph machine.

UAE min accused of sex assault

London: The chair of Britain's Hay literary festival said Sunday the event will not return to Abu Dhabi after one of the festival's curators alleged that she was sexually assaulted by the tolerance minister of the United Arab Emirates while working with him. Caitlin McNamara alleged she was attacked in February by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, the *Sunday Times* reported. The *Times* said McNamara, who had travelled to the UAE to work on the launch of the literary festival there, claimed she was assaulted by the sheikh when they met at a remote island villa. The Foreign Ministry of the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula also home to Dubai, said it does not comment on personal matters. When asked about the case, Britain's Metropolitan Police confirmed that a woman contacted the force on July 3 to report an allegation of rape, and said an initial statement has been taken from her. The *AP* does not usually name sexual assault victims, but McNamara agreed to be identified by the *Times*, which ran her picture on the front page. Festival chair Caroline Michel said her colleagues are committed to supporting McNamara.

AFGHANISTAN CAR BOMBING KILLS 13

Kabul, Oct. 18: A suicide car bombing on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded around 120 others in Afghanistan's western Ghor province, officials said. The head of a hospital in Ghor, Mohammad Omer Lalzad, said emergency staff were treating dozens of people with both serious and light injuries from the bombing. He expected the death toll to rise. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said the car bombing struck near the entrance of the provincial police chief's office and other nearby government buildings in the area. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Ghor, which comes amid an uptick in attacks by the Taliban as representatives of the group and Afghan government officials hold their first-ever face-to-face talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country's decades-long war. Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghor, said the blast was so strong that its sound could be heard across Feroz Koh, the capital city of the province. "It damaged and partially destroyed a few government buildings, including the police chief's office," Aber said.

Covid vaccine deployment in UK by New Year: Report

The vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials

Living Covid found on frozen food packaging

London, Oct. 18: One of the UK's senior-most medical chiefs has indicated that a vaccine against Covid-19 could be ready to be deployed by the start of the New Year, according to a media report on Sunday. Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and one of the government's advisers on the Coronavirus pandemic, has reportedly told members of Parliament (MPs) that the vaccine created at Oxford University and being manufactured by AstraZeneca could be ready for rollout soon after Christmas in December.

In India, the vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials. "We aren't light years away from it. It isn't a totally unrealistic suggestion that we could deploy a vaccine soon after Christmas. That would have a significant impact on hospital admissions and deaths," *The Sunday Times* quoted Van Tam as telling the MPs during a briefing last week.

An MP who attended another briefing with Van-Tam told the newspaper that the medic was "very bullish about the third

Beijing, Oct. 18: China's health authority has confirmed the detection and isolation of living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen marine fish in the port city of Qingdao, in what it described as the first detection of its kind on the cold food chain in the world. The authorities in Qingdao, where a new cluster of Covid-19 cases were reported recently, conducted tests on all of its about 11 million population. No new clusters of cases were found after the tests, the local authorities said. In July, China suspended imports of frozen

stage AstraZeneca results, which he expects between the end of this month and the end of next." "Van-Tam expects it to protect the elderly and vulnerable. He gave us to understand that it stopped the virus

shrimp after the deadly virus was found on packages and the inner wall of a container.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday said it detected and isolated the living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen cod (large marine fish) in Qingdao. The finding was made during an investigation to trace the source of recent infections reported in the city. It has proved that contact with packaging contaminated by living Coronavirus could lead to infection, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported,

'shedding' in the young. He said he would expect vaccination to start in January," the MP was quoted as saying.

It comes as the UK government introduced new laws on Friday that would

allow larger numbers of healthcare workers to administer flu and potential Covid-19 vaccines. "Covid-19 vaccines are being developed at speed which, if successful, will save lives," said Van-Tam. — *PTI*

quoting the CDC statement. It, however, did not mention the country from where the package was imported. It is the first time in the world that living Coronavirus has been isolated from the outer packaging of cold-chain food, the statement said.

The agency said the risk of cold-chain food circulating in China's market being contaminated by the Coronavirus is very low, citing recent nucleic acid test results for samples taken from the business. A total of 2.98 million samples had been tested across the country by September 15. — *PTI*

AIRLINES PUSH FOR TESTS OVER QUARANTINES

Frankfurt, Oct. 18: What will it take to get people flying again? International air traffic is down 92 per cent this year as travelers worry about catching Covid-19 and government travel bans and quarantine rules make planning difficult.

One thing airlines believe could help is to have rapid virus tests of all passengers before departure. Scattered experiments on improving safety are under way around the world, and a UN organisation is leading talks to set guidelines. There is a lot at stake.

With no end in sight to the pandemic, the near total halt to international travel will hinder economies as they try to bounce back from recession and return to normal levels of business activity. Millions of jobs at airlines, airports and travel related businesses are affected. — *AP*

Don plays fear tactics to win Midwest states

Janesville (Winconsin), Oct. 18: President Donald Trump leaned into fear tactics Saturday as he accused the Left of trying to "destroy the American way of life" in a late reelection pitch to voters in Michigan and Wisconsin — two Midwestern states that were instrumental to his 2016 victory but may now be slipping from his grasp.

In back-to-back rallies, Trump accused the Left of wanting to "erase American history" and "purge American values". He claimed, with no basis, that Democratic rival Joe Biden would put communities at risk. Trump offered the dark message as he faces headwinds not only in national polling, which shows Biden leading, but also in key battleground surveys. His comments come after his campaign, with far less cash than Biden's, largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of its money to Sun Belt states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

As he tries to energise his base and keep on the fence voters from turning against him, Trump sought to paint Democrats as "anti-American radicals" and said moderates had "a moral duty" to join the Republican Party. "The Democrat Party you once knew doesn't exist," he said. It was the same on issue after issue, as he claimed in hyperbolic terms that Biden's election would spur "the single biggest depression in the history of our coun-

Q The left is trying to destroy the American way of life and purge American values. Democrats are anti-American radicals. Moderates have a moral duty to join the Republican Party.

DONALD TRUMP, US President

try" and "turn Michigan into a refugee camp."

Addressing the Coronavirus crisis, Trump warned that Biden would "shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic". Public health experts say the nation would be in far better shape had Trump's administration taken more aggressive action early on. And while he repeatedly predicted victory, Trump seemed to grapple throughout the day with the prospect that he could indeed lose in November. In Michigan, he quipped that, in January, he "better damn well be president". In Wisconsin, he wondered how he would process a loss. "Can you imagine if I lose? I will have lost to the worst candidate in the history of American politics," he said.

"What do I do?" Trump has continued to hold rallies despite the threat of the Coronavirus, which hospitalised him for several days earlier this month. Wisconsin broke the record for new positive virus cases on Friday — the third time that's happened in a week. — *AP*

US, Israeli envoys in Bahrain to ink deals

Jerusalem, Oct. 18: A joint American-Israeli delegation headed Sunday for Bahrain, where officials will be signing a number of bilateral agreements following an announcement last month to normalise relations.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, led the delegation that flew out of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. Israel's commercial El Al flight 973 — a nod to the international dialing code for Bahrain — will fly through Saudi Arabia's airspace en route to Manama, where dignitaries from all three countries will speak at a ceremony after landing.

US, Israeli and Bahraini flags festooned the tarmac before take-off. Ben-Shabbat, one of the key Israeli officials involved in negotiations with Bahrain, said ahead of take-off that the visit will "translate plans to actions and concrete agreements" with the signing of a range of deals involving finance, investment, trade, tourism, communications, technology and agriculture. Another Israeli official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplo-

● **AN ISRAELI** official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.

● **THE DECISION** to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance.

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The decision to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own. Bahraini civil society groups and opposition figures have also spoken out against normalisation with Israel. — *AP*

CHINA RESTRICTS SENSITIVE EXPORTS WITH NEW LAW

Beijing, Oct. 18: China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, allowing Beijing to reciprocate against the US as tensions mount between the sides over trade and technology. The law, which will apply to all companies in China, was passed on Saturday by the National People's Congress Standing Committee and will take effect on December 1.

Under the law, China can take "reciprocal measures" toward countries or regions that abuse export controls and threaten its national security. It will apply to civilian, military and nuclear products. — *AP*

Parisians pay respects to Samuel Paty



People gather on Place de la Republique in Paris on Sunday, in homage to history teacher Samuel Paty two days after he was beheaded by an attacker who was shot dead by policemen. — *AFP*

INDIAN-ORIGIN BUILDER WHO KILLED 3 FREED

London, Oct. 18: An Indian-origin builder who was arrested in connection with the killing of three men, also of Indian origin, following a deadly knife fight on the streets of east London will not face any murder or manslaughter charges as the incident was deemed to be an act of self-defence. Gurjeet Singh, 29, had been arrested by the Metropolitan Police in connection with the killing of Narinder Singh Lubhaya, 29, Harinder Kumar, 30, and Malkit Singh Dhillon a.k.a. Baljinder Singh, 37, back in January.

The three murdered men, originally from Punjab, were found to have set upon Gurjeet Singh at Seven Kings in Redbridge area of London and were killed in the ensuing street fight. "Gurjeet Singh was arrested on January 20 on suspicion of murder. He was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and was remanded in custody to appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court, where he pleaded not guilty," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "He appeared for trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court on August 19 charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon. Following trial, the jury found him not guilty," the statement said. — *PTI*

UN arms embargo on Iran expires

Tehran, Oct. 18: A decade-long UN arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons like tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States.

While insisting it planned no "buying spree", Iran in theory can purchase weapons to upgrade military armament dating back to before

its 1979 Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad.

In practice, however, Iran's economy remains crippled by broad-reaching US sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American financial retaliation.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as "a momentous day for the international community... in defiance of the US

regime's effort".

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has insisted it has re-invoked all UN sanctions on Iran via a clause in the nuclear deal it withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

"Today's normalisation of Iran's defence cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

wrote on Twitter. The United Nations banned Iran from buying major foreign weapon systems in 2010 amid tensions over its nuclear programme.

An earlier embargo targeted Iranian arms exports. The US Defence Intelligence Agency predicted in 2019 that if the embargo ended, Iran likely would try to purchase Russian Su-30 fighter jets, Yak-130 trainer aircraft and T-90 tanks. — *AP*

NAMES | OFF

Immigration and passport panel directed to meet biannually

Pak removes 5K from travel blacklist

Islamabad, Oct. 18: Pakistan authorities have removed the names of over 5,000 individuals from the travel blacklist after the government took note of the problems faced by citizens whose names have been blacklisted for a long time, according to a media report on Sunday.

Interior Minister Ijaz Shah, in a meeting held recently, directed the review committee of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to meet biannually to review cases of blacklisted individuals. The meeting was held after a gap of almost four years. The previous meeting was held in December 2016. Taking note of problems faced by the blacklisted citizens, the minister directed the

‘Illegal’ hiring: PIA ex-MD held

Islamabad, Oct. 18: Pakistani International Airlines' former managing director Aijaz Haroon has been arrested on charges of illegal appointment of a Pakistani-American to a senior position at the national flag carrier at a huge salary package in violation of human resource department rules, according to a media report on Sunday. The Federal Investigation Agency on Saturday also arrested PIA's former human resource director Mohammad

Haneef Pathan along with Haroon, *The Dawn News* reported, quoting FIA Deputy Director Abdur Rauf Shaikh.

An FIR has been registered against the two former officials on charges of illegal appointment of Salim Sayani as deputy managing director (DMD) in PIA in 2009 in "clear violation of PIA HR rules", the report said.

Sayani has also been booked in the case. He was appointed on a monthly salary of \$20,000 along

with other perks and privileges that caused huge loss to the national exchequer. Sharing details of the perks and privileges, Shaikh said apart from the salary in US dollars, Sayani was allowed to stay at a five-star hotel for three months and his family was also provided accommodation in Dubai on PIA's expense. The "illegal appointment caused a loss between Rs 200 million and Rs 250 million to the exchequer", the report quoted Shaikh. — *PTI*

report in the *Dawn* newspaper. The committee reviewed the names of citizens falling in category B of the blacklist and removed the names of 5,807 individuals out of a list of 42,725 people.

The committee will consider rest of the cases in its forthcoming periodic review, the report said. There are two main blacklist categories- Category 'A' includes names of those involved in serious crimes like terrorism, money laundering and anti-state activities, whereas the 'B' category mainly has names of deportees who had either travelled abroad on forged documents or were found involved in crime in the host country, it said. — *PTI*

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remove names from the blacklist after the due process, according to a



IN BRIEF

ART IMITATES LIFE AT PLASTIC POP-UP STORE

New York, Oct. 18: The Plastic Bag Store set to open to the public on Thursday looks like a typical New York City grocery, with rows of soda drinks and cartons on its shelves. But a closer look at the boxes of sushi rolls and cereal reveals labels such as ‘plastic bagacado roll’, ‘Yucky Shards’, and ‘Caps N’ Such’.

The pop-up art installation in the heart of Times Square is meant to raise environmental awareness, coinciding with New York State’s ban on all plastic carryout bags. “There are humorous and satirical takes on everyday products that highlight the amount of waste that we’re using, and the environmental problems related,” said creator of The Plastic Bag Store, Robin Frohardt.

BAD WEATHER HITS LANDSLIDE VICTIM SEARCH

Hanoi, Oct. 18: Vietnamese rescuers battled driving rain as they searched for at least 15 construction workers missing and feared dead after a landslide at the start of the week in the mountainous central part of the country. Intense rains since early October have caused floods and mudslides that have killed at least 55 people in central Vietnam, with more heavy rainfall expected until early next week. The landslide took place on Monday at a hydropower dam project in the province of Thua Thien Hue, with two workers confirmed dead up to now. “Another landslide later that night killed 13 rescuers, mostly soldiers, while they were on the way to search for the missing workers. Their bodies were recovered on Thursday. They bravely sacrificed to save people,” Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said in a statement, describing the deaths as a great loss to the army.

Heavy rain and the risk of more landslides was making it difficult to bring badly needed equipment to the site of the hydropower dam to aid the search, the government said in the statement on its website. “The military is determined to continue to send troops and equipment to the site of Rao Trang 3 hydropower plant project for the search and rescue operations,” the government said. State media said it would take days for the rescuers to reopen a damaged road leading to the site, more than 90 km (56 miles) west of the ancient city of Hue. A tropical depression that is moving towards central Vietnam will bring more heavy rain until next Wednesday.

DEAD SEAL PUPS WASH ASHORE ON NAMIBIA COAST

Windhoek, Oct. 18: Thousands of dead seal pups have washed ashore on the coast of Namibia, a conservancy group said on Wednesday.

The pups were found at Pelican Point peninsula, a tourist destination known for its colony of seals and school of dolphins. Drone footage taken by Ocean Conservation Namibia (OCN) shows the coast dotted with more than 5,000 dead seal pups, the group said.

“We are sitting at the cusp of a catastrophe. There are literally thousands of seal pups being born prematurely and dying almost immediately,” it said in an Instagram post.

It said previously some female seals had been observed to abort their foetus when they felt there was not enough food available. “This happens every year to a few individuals, but never on this scale!”

The Ministry of Fisheries said researchers had noticed higher than normal numbers of seal abortions at Pelican Point but could not establish a reason or give numbers.

“We cannot attach a number to it as we are still gathering data,” Graça D’Almeida, Director of Resources Management at the ministry, said. But OCN says starvation is the most probable cause as fish, the seals’ main source of food, have moved from Pelican Point. It said other reasons could be toxins or diseases but nothing could be confirmed without proper study.

OCN is working with the fisheries ministry to conduct biopsies and tests. A similar tragedy occurred in 1994 when starvation led to the loss of about a third of the seal population at Pelican Point, OCN said.

Trump approves California wildfire aid

Decision after Gov. Gavin Newsom, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy present convincing case

Washington, Oct. 18: US President Donald Trump approved California’s request for additional wildfire recovery relief, reversing his administration’s earlier denial after intervention from the state’s governor and a key Republican lawmaker.

In an email, White House spokesman Judd Deere said California Gov. Gavin Newsom and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, had “presented a convincing case” for approval

of the relief.

Newsom, in a press release, said he was “grateful for (Trump’s) quick response”. He had asked the president in September to declare a major disaster in seven counties affected by blazes that ignited earlier that month.

Trump had issued a major disaster declaration for some parts of the state in August, a move that provides federal assistance for individuals, infrastructure and both emergency and permanent work.

But several more major fires cropped up across the state the following month, prompting the state’s subsequent request. Some 4.1 million acres have burned in California this year, shattering a previous record and causing \$229 million of damage.

Earlier on Friday, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency said blazes that ignited in September were not severe enough to be declared a “major disaster”.

Trump’s administration

and the Democratic-led Golden State have clashed several times.

Trump has repeatedly blamed deadly wildfires on a failure by California to clear its forests of dead trees and debris and threatened to withhold federal assistance.

“They have massive fires again in California,” Trump said at a campaign rally in August. “Maybe we’re just going to have to make them pay for it because they don’t listen to us.”

— Reuters

COLORADO WILDFIRE IS LARGEST IN STATE HISTORY

Denver, Oct. 18: Stoked by high winds, a wildfire burning for two months in northern Colorado exploded in size this week to surpass 167,000 acres, making it the largest blaze in state history, officials said on Thursday.

The so-called Cameron Peak Fire in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests has forced the evacuations of several mountain communities

and campgrounds and has destroyed an unknown number of homes and other buildings, according to an interagency fire-tracking website.

The blaze erupted in mid-August and has raged through large stands of desiccated lodgepole pine trees killed by beetle infestation in mountainous terrain and through tinder-dry grasslands at lower elevations, fire managers

said. “High winds combined with critically dry fuels have been driving fire growth,” according to the InciWeb site.

No injuries or deaths have been reported, and the cause of the fire, which is 56% contained, is under investigation.

Winds gusting to more 70 miles per hour on Wednesday spread flames across 20,000 acres (8,100 hectares).

— Reuters



Stranded whales on Farewell Spit beach in New Zealand.

— AP

More than dozen whales die on NZ beach

North Island, Oct. 18: More than a dozen whales have died in New Zealand after becoming stranded on the country’s North Island, the Department of Conservation said on Sunday. Rescuers and volunteers worked all day on Saturday to refloat about 25 of the animals, part of a pod of about 40 to 50 pilot whales who got stranded earlier that day on a beach in the Coromandel Peninsula.

Five dead pilot whales were discovered late on

WHALES, DOLPHINS COULD BECOME EXTINCT: SCIENTISTS

California, Oct. 18: More than 350 scientists from 40 countries have signed an open letter warning against “real and imminent extinction risk to whales, dolphins, and porpoises”, and calling for global conservation efforts to save these aquatic mammals.

The letter states that

“pollution, over-exploitation, and human domination of major river systems” across the globe, especially fishing activities, can lead to several species of whales, porpoises, and dolphins becoming “extinct within our lifetimes,” denying “future generations the opportunity to ex-

perience them.” “Let it be a historic moment when realising that whales are in danger sparks a powerful action from regulators, scientists, politicians, and public to save our oceans,” Mark Simmonds, the senior marine scientist with Humane Society International said.

— Agencies

stranding location, the department said.

“Although the high tide at about 9 p.m. on Satur-

CO₂ emissions show biggest ever drop in the first half of this year

London, Oct. 18: Global carbon dioxide emissions fell by 8.8% in the first six months of this year, the biggest drop for a first half-year period, due to the effects of Coronavirus-related restrictions, a study showed on Wednesday.

Research published in the journal *Nature Communications* by a group of scientists from China, France, Japan and the US, said emissions fell by 1,551 million tonnes or 8.8% in the first half of the year; compared to the same period last year. The 8.8% reduction represents largest ever fall in emissions over the first half year, larger than for any economic downturn.

The drop was also larger

than the annual decrease during World War II, although mean emissions are much bigger now than at that time.

The scientists used data based on real-time activity and analysed the daily, weekly and seasonal trends of CO2 emissions before and after the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it triggered.

This spring, governments around the world imposed lockdowns to contain the Covid-19 pandemic which curtailed energy use for industrial production and transport. This resulted in greenhouse gas emissions declining.

Warmer-than-usual weather across much of the northern hemisphere also

● **WARMER-THAN-USUAL WEATHER** across much of the northern hemisphere also meant that emissions were somewhat lower than they would have been in the same period of last year.

● **THE SCIENTISTS** used data based on real-time activity and analysed the daily, weekly and seasonal trends of CO2 emissions before and after the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it triggered.

meant that emissions were somewhat lower than they would have been in the same period of last

year. The study said the fall in daily CO2 emissions was most pronounced in April when the toughest restrictions were in place. Emissions began to recover in late April and May as economic activity resumed in China and Europe. But falls in transport-related emissions persisted.

“By July 1, the pandemic’s effects on global emissions diminished as lockdown restrictions relaxed and economic activities restarted, in China and many European countries,” the paper said. “However, substantial differences persist between countries, with continuing emission declines in the US where Covid cases are still rising.”

— Reuters



File pic of plastics

13.3 QUADRILLION PLASTIC FIBRES IN CALIFORNIA: STUDY

California, Oct. 18: A study in California has laid bare the staggering scale of pollution from plastic microfibres in synthetic clothing — one of the most widespread, yet largely invisible, forms of plastic waste.

The report, whose findings were revealed exclusively by the *Guardian*, found that in 2019 an estimated 4,000 metric tons — or 13.3 quadrillion fibres — were released into California’s natural environment.

The plastic fibres, which are less than 5mm in length, are primarily shed when we wash our yoga pants, stretchy jeans and fleece jackets and can easily enter oceans and waterways.

“The findings were nothing short of shocking,” said Alexis Jackson, fisheries project director at the Nature Conservancy in California, which commissioned the study from a research team at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The study, which the authors describe as the first of its kind, has not yet been peer reviewed or published. Many picture ocean plastic pollution as large debris such as bags, straws and bottles.

— Reuters

EU funds drive East Europe climate rethink

10th of virus stimulus spend can help reach climate goals

London, Oct. 18: The world could get on track to avert catastrophic climate change by investing a tenth of a planned \$12 trillion in pandemic recovery packages in reducing dependence on fossil fuels, according to a study published on Thursday.

With the stimulus representing about 15% of global gross domestic product, or three times the commitment after the 2008 financial crisis, scientists say

the money could prove pivotal in meeting the temperature goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

“It makes absolute sense not just to keep your economy alive with palliative care, but to restructure your economy so it’s future-ready,” Joeri Rogelj, a climate scientist at Imperial College London, and a co-author of the paper, told *Reuters*.

The most ambitious goal in the Paris accord aims to

cap the rise in global temperatures at 1.5 degrees Celsius, which scientists say could avert far more intense disasters, from wildfires and hurricanes to storm surges and floods.

The world could start to reach that target if governments used 10% of the planned stimulus to back climate-friendly projects such as renewable energy or energy efficiency every year for the next five years.

— Reuters

Brussels, Oct. 18: The European Union has the chance to lead the world in fighting climate change but must do more, and at a faster pace, the bloc’s chairman told reporters on Friday at an EU summit.

European Council President Charles Michel, who is chairing the two-day summit in Brussels, said there was a need for more political will to cut greenhouse gases. “We need more political will in order to be ambitious and to play a leadership role at the European level,” Michel said, saying the bloc needed to take a “clear decision”.

— Reuters

sis,” European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans said. “If they delay and don’t link it with the financial possibilities offered by Next Generation EU, they might lose out in terms of the support they can get from Europe, so I think that is speeding up their thinking,” he said after an EU summit that edged towards a deal on climate targets. Germany, France, the Netherlands and other states in West Europe are pushing for investment to help a “green” economy emerge after the pandemic-induced slump. But Poland and the Czech Republic worry that racing to reduce emissions could harm communities dependent on activities such as coal mining. The European Commission has said 37% of the Next Generation EU package

London/Madrid, Oct. 18: East European nations are thinking more seriously about how to reduce carbon emissions to make use of a 750 billion euro (\$880 billion) European Union economic recovery fund, the EU’s top climate official said on Friday.

The bloc has set up the Next Generation EU war chest to support economies hammered by the Coronavirus crisis, with a focus on helping shift the EU’s 27 nations away from using fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency.

East European nations are among the biggest users of coal in the bloc and have been slower than richer nations, such as Germany, in drawing up plans to shift away from the fuel. “I see quite a sea change, also in Central and Eastern Europe, in terms of the climate cri-

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Sensex | 39,982.98 | 0.64 |
| Nifty 50 | 11,762.45 | 0.70 |
| S&P 500* | 3,483.81 | 0.01 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.34 | 0.06 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 94.87 | 0.36 |
| Euro (₹) | 85.90 | 0.06 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 51,704.324 | 0.62 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 0.742 | 0.008 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.935 | 0.037 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 42.92 | -0.24 |

* As of Friday/Saturday

Retail cheque payments down to a trickle

The share of paper clearing in retail payments has come to trickle in FY20, RBI data shows. In FY20, the share of paper clearing in total retail payments plunged to just 2.96 per cent in terms of volume and to 20.08 per cent in terms of value, the data showed. In FY16, when the RBI began to push digital payments post-note ban, paper/cheque clearings accounted for 15.81 per cent in volume and 46.08 per cent in value of total.

SECL plans 8 coal evacuation units worth ₹3,100 cr



Coal India-arm SECL is executing eight 'first mile connectivity' projects with an outlay of Rs 3,100 crore to evacuate the dry fuel, especially incremental production under the proposed plan to scale up the maharatna firm's output to 1 billion tonnes. The move will also help power plants at farther most locations in northern and western regions to avail of recently notified rail concessions for distance beyond 1400 km.

Dollar Inds. eyes acquisition to enter lingerie biz

Hosiery major Dollar Industries is looking at acquisition opportunities as it plans to enter the lingerie business by the first half of FY22. The firm is also eyeing up to 10 per cent growth in revenue at about Rs 1,050 crore in the current fiscal. "We are looking at inorganic opportunities to enter into the lingerie business. We have looked at some companies, but didn't get good value," Dollar Industries CEO Ankit Gupta said.

Parle Agro aims for ₹10,000-cr turnover by 2022

Beverages major Parle Agro, the maker of popular brands such as Frooti and Appy Fizz, plans to set up a new plant and introduce one more new major product in the next two years, as it gears up to touch a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore by 2022, its joint MD and chief marketing officer Nadia Chauhana said. Parle, which had a turnover of Rs 6,500 crore in 2019, recently introduced its new offering B-Fizz.

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■ Listing premium declines for latest IPOs Primary market losing appeal

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 18

The phase of high retail and high net worth investor (HNI) interest in the primary market seems to have lapsed, considering the tepid response to the IPOs of UTI Asset Management Company and Angel Broking and the decline in their listing premium.

UTI AMC's IPO saw under-subscription of non-institutional investors' portion, comprising corporates and HNIs, at 93 per cent subscription while Angel Broking got even less demand from non-institutional investors at 69 per cent of shares on offer.

UTI AMC's shares listed below the issue price of Rs 554 and on Friday it closed 8.84 per cent below the issue price at Rs 505 against the all-time high it touched on the listing day at Rs 529.95.

Angel Broking shares also listed below the issue price of Rs 306 and never moved beyond Rs 296.70. It closed 20.09 per cent down from issue price at Rs 244.50 on Friday.

In most of the prior initial public offerings, the non-institutional category had received high subscriptions, as with Computer Age Management Services or Cams (111.85 times) which is of similar size to the UTI AMC (Rs 2,160 crore versus Rs 2,242 crore of Cams) and having mutual fund industry as the main



Performance of IPOs during the pandemic

| Name of the company | Issue price (₹) | Current market price (₹) | All-time high price | Demand/Issue subscribed |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| UTI AMC | 554 | 505.05 | 529.95 | 2.31 |
| Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders | 145 | 168.30 | 216.95 | 157.41 |
| Likhitha Infra | 120 | 139.80 | 143.30 | 9.51 |
| Angel Broking | 306 | 244.50 | 296.70 | 3.94 |
| Cams | 1240 | 1343 | 1489 | 46.99 |
| Chemcon Speciality Chemicals | 340 | 406.20 | 731.25 | 149.33 |
| Route Mobile | 350 | 707 | 988 | 73.30 |
| Happiest Minds | 166 | 325.90 | 394.95 | 150.98 |
| Rossari Biotech | 425 | 774 | 859 | 79.37 |

Source: NSE

driving force-Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (678.88 times), Happiest Minds (351.46 times), Route Mobile (192.81 times) and Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (449.14 times).

The premium over the public issue price of other recently listed companies like Route Mobile (current market price Rs 707/all time high on listing Rs 988), Happiest Minds (Rs 325.90/Rs 394.95), Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (Rs 402.20/ Rs 731.25) Cams (Rs 1,343/ Rs 1,489) are also coming down gradually.

Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities, said, "The IPO party seems to have been punctured with the comparatively muted listings of UTI AMC and Mazagon Dock. This response seems to be in tandem with the recent swing in market sentiments from bullish to neutral."

₹3 L-cr MSME credit line may end soon

New Delhi, Oct. 18:

The government is unlikely to extend the ₹3 lakh crore-Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSME sector beyond October even though the sanctioned amount so far is only nearly 65 per cent of the target, sources said.

The scheme is meant to provide financial support to businesses, primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), impacted by the slowdown, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

The sources said the objective is to provide support to all those affected and if there are no takers for the scheme, there is no need to extend the scheme even though there is some room left.

On August 1, the government widened the scope of the Rs 3-lakh crore scheme by doubling the upper ceiling of loans outstanding and including certain loans given to professionals like doctors, lawyers and chartered accountants for business purposes under its ambit. To ensure more companies can benefit from the scheme, it was decided to increase the upper ceiling of loans outstanding as on February 29 for being eligible under the scheme from Rs 25 crore to ₹50 crore.

The maximum Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line funding under the scheme was increased from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore. —PTI

Apparel exports turn positive in September

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 18

Apparel exports have posted positive growth in the month of September. The export market has seen better recovery compared to the domestic market and is expected to close the year with lesser losses.

For the first time in the fiscal, apparel exports saw a positive growth of 10.22 per cent in September to \$1,190 million against \$1,079 million in September 2019. From a 90 per cent decline in April, exports have been recovering as the industry has been increasingly exporting medical textiles, said Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman A. Sakthivel.

According to him, apart from medical textiles, exporters have also started receiving orders for apparels for the festive season. "We expect exports to further grow in the coming months and make up for a large part of losses suffered in the first half of the year," he said. Rating agency Icrs projected Indian apparel exporters to report a turnover decline of 20-25 per cent in FY21. However, the domestic market might see a steeper 30-40 per cent decline in revenues by the end of the year.

Domestic-focussed branded apparel retail companies had reported a steep fall of 84 per cent in revenues in the June quarter while garment-exporting companies reported a lower contraction of 50 per cent. From a near standstill in April 2020 amid lockdowns, apparel exports recovered in July and August to 78 per cent and 86 per cent of the year-ago levels. However, domestic retail sales are estimated to be at 40-50 per cent of



last year's levels. The impact on domestic retailers has varied, depending on factors such as strength of online presence, segments being catered to and presence in tier-II and III cities and rural markets, which have performed better than metros and tier-I cities. "Demand in H2 FY2021 is expected to gather support from extended online festive sales and further relaxations under Unlock 5.0 guidelines, effective from October 15, 2020 onwards. Developments such as a rollback of pay cuts by some corporate entities, government's festive advance scheme etc are also expected to result in improved cash flows in the hands of consumers, thereby supporting discretionary spending," said Jayanta Roy, senior VP and group head, Icrs Ratings.

As per a survey by the Retailers Association of India, 53 per cent of consumers are looking forward to shop apparels and fashion during the festive season.

Shippers close to global deal to cut pollution

JESSICA SHANKLEMAN & EWA KRUKOWSKA OCT. 18

Nearly 200 countries are nearing a legally binding agreement to reduce pollution from the world's cargo ships, a step forward after two years of talks on how the industry should clean

up its emissions.

A series of virtual meetings will start on Monday hosted by the United Nations shipping agency over a new rating system that will measure the carbon intensity of 60,000 large ships that haul everything from containers to crude oil. After an historic

agreement in 2018 by the International Maritime Organization, its members are negotiating ways to get to their goal of cutting the industry's emissions in half by the middle of the century. All of them agree a ratings system is needed for the carbon intensity of ships. —Bloomberg

IndiGo thinking of launching dedicated freighter services

SHAH IMRAN AHMED MUMBAI, OCT. 18

The country's largest carrier by domestic market share, IndiGo, is mulling launching dedicated freighter services amid an expected surge in cargo transportation, particularly to transport Covid-19 vaccine once it is available.

The airline has already held preliminary discussions with European aviation major Airbus on the type of freighters that could be possibly put into service for dedicated freighter flights, according to an industry source.

IndiGo, which has more than 250 planes in its fleet, is one of the largest customers of Airbus, especially A320 neo aircraft.

To a query on whether the carrier is planning to launch dedicated freighter services, IndiGo chief executive officer Ronjoy Dutta said it was being studied as a proposal.

"(This is) being studied as a proposal. (But) No final decision yet," he said.

The source said that IndiGo is looking to launch dedicated freighter services as it sees good demand for air cargo.

A mid-level IndiGo executive, who is into handling



the airline's partnerships and aeropolitical affairs, recently held initial level discussions with Airbus executives on the type of air freighter that could be used for such operations, the source added.

"The dedicated air freighter service, however, is expected to be a division within the airline," the source said.

Cargo transportation raked in revenues for airlines when air passenger services were suspended during the lockdown.

IndiGo clocked higher revenue by operating around 1,700 cargo flights between April 18 and September 7 as compared to the earnings over the last financial year.

Scheduled domestic air passenger services were suspended for two months from March 25 as part of

efforts to curb spreading of coronavirus infections. The services recommenced on May 25.

While scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended from March 23, overseas flights are allowed under various air bubble pacts.

As per estimates from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), cargo revenue worldwide is expected to reach a near-record and more than double to 26 per cent of the industry's total revenue this year.

"The potential size of the delivery is enormous. Just providing a single dose to 7.8 billion people would fill 8,000 (B) 747 cargo aircraft. Land transport will help, especially in developed economies with local manufacturing capacity," IATA said recently. —PTI

India likely to lose gas field Farzad-B in Iran

New Delhi, Oct. 18: India has all but lost the ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf after Iran decided to prefer domestic companies over foreign firms for development of the field, sources said.

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.

OVL and its partners had offered to invest up to \$11 billion for development of the discovery, which was later named Farzad-B.

After sitting over OVL's proposal for years, the National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC) informed the firm in February this year about its intention to conclude the contract for Farzad-B development with an Iranian company, sources with direct knowledge of the development said.

OVL, however, continued its engagements with NIOC over the development of the field and sought terms and conditions of the proposed contract for its evaluation, they said, adding that Iran has so far not responded to the Indian firm's request.



Farzad-B holds total reserves of around 21.7 trillion cubic feet of which around 60 per cent is recoverable, and production is slated to be around 1.1 billion cubic feet per day.

Sources said unconfirmed information suggests that Iran has identified a local firm for the development of the field, but OVL has not yet given up hopes and continues to chase Iranian authorities for the contract.

The 3,500 square kilometre Farsi block sits in water depth of 20-90 metres on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf.

OVL, with 40 per cent operatorship interest, signed the Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for the block on December 25, 2002. Other partners included Indian Oil Corp

(IOC) with 40 per cent stake and Oil India Ltd (OIL) holding the remaining 20 per cent stake.

OVL discovered gas in the block, which was declared commercially viable by NIOC, on August 18, 2008. The exploration phase of the ESC expired on June 24, 2009.

The firm submitted a Master Development Plan (MDP) of Farzad-B gas field in April 2011 to Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), the then designated authority by NIOC for development of Farzad-B gas field.

A Development Service Contract (DSC) of Farzad-B gas field was negotiated till November 2012, but could not be finalised due to difficult terms and international sanctions on Iran.

In April 2015, negotiations restarted with Iranian authorities to develop Farzad-B gas field under a new Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC). This time, NIOC introduced Pars Oil and Gas Company as its representative for negotiations.

From April 2016, both sides negotiated to develop Farzad-B gas field under an integrated contract covering upstream and downstream. —PTI

Over 1.1 lakh sellers received orders in 48 hours: Amazon



New Delhi, Oct. 18: E-commerce major Amazon India on Sunday said over 1.1 lakh sellers on its platform received orders during the first 48 hours of its 'Great Indian Festival' sale, with a bulk of orders coming from smaller parts of the country.

Amazon's 'Great Indian Festival' started on October 17 and will go on for about a month to coincide with the festive season. Amazon Prime members were provided early access to the sale from October 16.

"These 48 hours were the biggest ever for Amazon in its seven-year history. We had created a buildup for the sale for our Amazon sellers...Over 1.1 lakh sellers received orders, and 66 per cent of them came from small towns," Amazon India vice president Manish Tiwari said.

Amazon India, which has over 6.5 lakh sellers on its platform, registered its biggest spike in new customers, with 91 per cent of them coming from small towns (beyond the metros and top 40 cities).

About 66 per cent of new Prime sign-ups were also from small towns like Tawang and Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh), Mokochung (Nagaland), Baran (Rajasthan), Pudukottai (Tamil Nadu), Una (Himachal Pradesh) and Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh), Tiwari said.

The trends seen by Amazon India are similar to those witnessed by Flipkart, which opened its 'Big Billion Days' sale on October 16, had said 50 per cent of new customers on its platform were from tier-3 cities and beyond. —PTI



SHORT TAKES

Narine action gets IPL's clearance

Abu Dhabi: Kolkata Knight Riders' West Indian spinner Sunil Narine was on Sunday cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee after being reported last week. Narine was reported for a suspect action during his team's clash against KXIP last Saturday and another such instance could have led him to being barred from bowling in the league. But, in a relief for the player as well as for his franchise, the IPL committee found his bowling action to be clean. "Sunil Narine, the Kolkata Knight Riders player, has been cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee," the IPL said in a statement. After being reported, Narine was placed on the IPL warning list. KKR requested for an official assessment of Narine's action from the specific committee, submitting action footage in slow motion with back and side angles. — *PTI*

Gold for Elavenil, Shahu gets silver

New Delhi: World number one Indian Elavenil Valarivan won a gold medal and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship, held virtually on Sunday. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF). Thanks to her gold, Elavenil got richer by \$1000 while Shahu Mane pocketed \$700 for his effort. In the 60-shot competition in which shooters from six nations participated, including hosts Bangladesh and India, Elavenil shot a modest 627.5 to come out on top. Shiori Hirata won the silver with 622.6, while Indonesian Vidya Toyviba took the bronze with 621.1. Japan, however, won the gold in the men's event as Naoya Okada shot a solid 630.9 to leave India's Shahu behind. Shahu shot 623.8 to settle for second place. — *PTI*

Blues held to a draw by Saints

London: Southampton scored a stoppage-time equaliser to rescue a 3-3 draw at Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday, highlighting how the home team's defensive vulnerability remains despite its off-season spending spree. Jannik Vestergaard glanced in a speculative shot from deadline-day signing Theo Walcott in the second minute of added-on time as Southampton rallied for a second time, having fallen 2-0 behind to Timo Werner's first goals in the league. Then adding to that Kai Havertz scored the third goal for Chelsea. Danny Ings pulled a goal back for Southampton just before halftime, and Che Adams took advantage of dreadful defending by Chelsea to equalize in the 57th minute. Chelsea, which has already drawn two matches 3-3, missed the experience of one of its new recruits center back Thiago Silva. — *AP*

Barca, Real lose ahead of Clasico

Madrid: Real Madrid and Barcelona will each head into the Clasico next weekend on the back of a defeat after La Liga's two title favourites were punished for slack performances on Saturday. Zinedine Zidane made four substitutions at half-time but could not spark a lethargic Madrid into life as his team fell 1-0 at home to newly-promoted Cadiz. Madrid's was perhaps the more concerning display, the reigning champions managing just two shots on target against Cadiz, who could have scored more after Anthony Lozano's early strike. Then two hours later on the opposite side of the city, Ronald Koeman tasted his first competitive loss as coach of Barcelona as they followed Madrid's example by being beaten 1-0 by Getafe at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: West Brom & Albion vs Burnley from 10 pm; Leeds United vs Wolverhampton from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2

Italian League: Verona vs Genoa from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

WWE RAW

Bouts from 5.30 am on Sony Ten 1

Lockie locks it for KKR

Ferguson floors SRH in Super Over with brilliant bowling

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18: A fast and furious Lockie Ferguson produced one of the most incredible bowling performances of this IPL edition to lead KKR to a thrilling Super Over win over SRH, here on Sunday. Ferguson proved to be the "Knight in Shining Armour" with his storehouse of variation as he dismissed David Warner and Abdul Samad in the Super Over, leaving KKR with only a three run-target to chase.

This was after David Warner's unbeaten 47 and 18 runs off the final Andre Russell over saw Sunrisers level the scores at 163 with KKR in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ferguson was magnificent during the regulation 20 overs also as his 3/15 in 4 overs had SRH in all sorts of trouble.

Earlier, Dinesh Kartik's carefree approach was well complemented by skipper Eoin Morgan's grace as Kolkata Knight Riders managed a par 163 for five after being put into bat. — *PTI*



Lockie Ferguson of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner during the super over of an Indian Premier League match in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. — *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: S. Gill c Garg b Rashid Khan 36, Rahul Tripathi b Natarajan 23, N. Rana c Garg b V. Shankar 29, Andre Russell c Shankar b Natarajan 9, E. Morgan c Pandey b Thampi 34, D. Karthik (not out) 29. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1) 3. **Total:** (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-48, 2-87, 3-88, 4-105, 5-163. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, B. Thampi 4-0-46-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-40-2, V. Shankar 4-0-20-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-28-1.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Jonny Bairstow c Russell b Chakravarty 36, Kane Williamson c Rana b Lockie Ferguson 29, Priyam Garg b Ferguson 4, David Warner (not out) 47, Manish Pandey b Ferguson 6, Vijay Shankar c Gill b Cummins 7, Abdul Samad c Gill b Mavi 23, R. Khan not out 1. **Extras:** (lb-7, w-2, nb-1) 10. **Total:** (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-57, 2-70, 3-70, 4-82, 5-109, 6-146. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-28-1, S. Mavi 3-0-34-1, Varun Chakravarty 4-0-32-1, A. Russell 2-0-29-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-15-3, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.

Super Over: SRH 2/2 (w.2,w) lost to KKR 3/0 (c.1,r.2lb).

Gayle, Mayank stun mighty Mumbai in Super Over-2

Dubai, Oct. 18: Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians via Super Overs in their IPL match here on Sunday.

After the first Super Over failed to separate the two teams, the match stretched to second Super Over where Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal made sure Kings XI Punjab prevail. Mumbai scored 11/1 in the second Super Over and in reply Kings reached the target with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Quinton de Kock continued his rich vein of form, scoring a 43-ball 53 before Kieron Pollard and Nathan Coulter-Nile provided the late flourish as Mumbai Indians posted 176 for 6 against Kings XI Punjab.

De Kock hit three fours and as many sixes for his fourth fifty of the tournament to anchor the innings before Pollard (34 not out off 12) and Coulter-Nile (24 not out off 12) added 57 runs off

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Rohit Sharma b Arshdeep Singh 9, Quinton de Kock c Mayank Agarwal b Chris Jordan 53, Suryakumar Yadav c M. Ashwin b Shami 0, Ishan Kishan c M. Ashwin b Arshdeep Singh 7, Krunal Pandya c Deepak Hooda b Ravi Bishnoi 34, Hardik Pandya c Pooran b Shami 8, Kieron Pollard (not out) 34, Nathan Coulter-Nile (not out) 24. **Extras:** (b-4, lb-2, w-1) 7. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 23-1, 24-2, 38-3, 96-4, 116-5, 119-6.

Bowler: Glenn Maxwell 4-0-24-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-2, Arshdeep Singh 3-0-35-2, Chris Jordan 3-0-32-1, Murugan Ashwin 3-0-28-0, Deepak Hooda 1-0-9-0, Ravi Bishnoi 2-0-12-1.

Kings XI Punjab: K.L. Rahul b Bumrah 77, M. Agarwal b Bumrah 11, C. Gayle c Boult b Chahar 24, N. Pooran c Coulter-Nile b Bumrah 24, G. Maxwell c Sharma b Chahar 0, D. Hooda (not out) 23, C. Jordan run out 13. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 1-33, 2-75, 3-108, 4-115, 5-153, 6-176.

Bowling: T. Boult 4-0-48-0, K. Pollard 2-0-12-0, J. Bumrah 4-0-24-3, N. Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-0, K. Pollard 2-0-26-0, R. Chahar 4-0-33-2. **Super Over scores:** KXIP 5/2 vs MI 5/1. **Super Over 2 scores:** MI 11/1 (1,1w-1,4,w-1, 0, 2) lost to KXIP 15/0 (6,1,4,4).

21 balls in the death overs to lift MI past the 170-run mark.

Opting to bat, MI were at a spot of bother when they were reduced to 43 for 3 but De Kock and Krunal Pandya (34 off 30) shared a 58-run stand to steady the ship.

It was the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Mohammed Shami (2/30) who provided the

early breakthroughs, dismissing Rohit Sharma (9) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) respectively to reduce MI to 24 for two in 3.3 overs.

New man Ishan Kishan then became Arshdeep's second victim when he was caught at deep third man while trying to go for an upper cut as MI ended the powerplay at 43 for 3. — *PTI*

Dhoni clarifies Bravo was unfit

Sharjah, Oct. 18: The proven Dwayne Bravo was not available to bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals due to fitness issues, Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said after their heartbreaking loss here.

Instead, spinner Ravindra Jadeja was entrusted with the task and Delhi Capitals knocked off the 17 runs required to win the game on Saturday night.

Bravo, who was off the field, is normally very effective with his slower balls in crunch situations.

Axar Patel smashed three sixes off Jadeja to take his side past the finish line.

"Bravo was not fit. He went out and didn't come back. The options were Jaddu and Karn. I went with Jaddu," Dhoni said.

Dhoni admitted that fielders led the side down.

"Shikhar's wicket was important but we dropped him quite a number of times. If he keeps batting, he will keep the strike rate high. Also the wicket played better in the second half, but we can't take the credit away from Shikhar," he added. — *PTI*

BRAVO COULD BE OUT FOR A FEW WEEKS

Sharjah, Oct. 18: Chennai Super Kings' death bowling expert Dwayne Bravo could be "out for a few days or a couple of weeks" due to a groin injury, according to head coach Stephen Fleming.

Bravo's inability to bowl the final over cost CSK their IPL game on Saturday as Delhi Capitals knocked off the required 17 runs.

"He (Bravo) seems to have a right groin injury, obviously it was serious enough to keep him from coming back to the field, he is just really disappointed that he was not able to bowl the final over, that's pretty much for what he is in the team for," Chennai Super Kings coach Fleming said.

The seasoned all-rounder's injury would have to be reassessed going forward. — *PTI*

Jamaican sprinter Blake slams MSD

Sharjah, Oct. 18: Star sprinter Yohan Blake said Mahendra Singh Dhoni had "made the worst decision in a long while", fuming in front of his TV set in faraway Jamaica as DC closed in on a remarkable win in IPL.

Blake, an ardent admirer of the sport, questioned Dhoni's move to give Jadeja the final over on Saturday night. He was oblivious to the fact that everyone's preferred choice, death bowling specialist Dwayne Bravo, was not fit to bowl the last over after walking off the field.

"I think Dhoni made the worst decision in a long while. Dhoni, that's a poor

decision to bowl Jadeja at the last part. What happened to Bravo. Really?" he asked in a video posted on Twitter.

"Poor poor poor poor choice Mahendra Singh Dhoni. You just can't bowl Jadeja to the left hand batsman," Blake, the youngest 100m world championship winner, tweeted.

Engaging in a conversation on the social networking site, Blake later realised that Bravo was injured. But he was still not convinced with Jadeja bowling the final over with Delhi Capitals requiring 17 runs to win the game, which they did with a ball to spare. — *PTI*

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