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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 24 OCTOBER 2020

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Vol. 83 No. 296 Established 1938 | 24 PAGES | ₹6.00

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Max: 32.6°C
Min: 19.3°C
RH: 54%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temperature 33/20 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+54,280)	(+632)
78,10,486	1,17,909
covid19india.org	
(+1,421)	(+6)
TS: 2,29,001	1,298
(+3,765)	(+20)
AP: 8,00,684	6,544

CASES AROUND THE WORLD	
4,22,73,813	
DEATHS	
11,46,224	

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213
worldometers.info/
coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Sudha
Ashtami till 6.59 am

Star: Shrawanam till 2.38 am
(Sunday)

Variyam: 5.41 am to
7.22 am (Saturday)

Durmuhuram: 6.15 am to
7.47 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 6, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.11 am

Zohar: 12.10 pm

Asar: 4.12 pm

Maghrab: 5.54 pm

Isha: 7.02 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.12 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.48 PM

MOONSET 1.28 PM

MOONRISE 12.01 AM

COUNTER POINT

Hope it's not a promise like achhe din!

SHORT TAKES

Monday holiday for govt offices

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao declared a holiday on Monday, October 26, for Dasara for government offices and educational institutions.

According to an official press release, the Chief Minister asked officials to declare a holiday every year on the day after Dasara from next year. He took the decision in response to representations of employee unions asking for a holiday on Monday in view of the Centre declaring October 26 as a restricted holiday.

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 2

Central teams skip some rain-affected areas

Bharat Bio's Covaxin gets P3 nod, vaccine by June '21

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Phase 3 clinical trials on humans for Covaxin, the ingeniously developed Covid-19 vaccine, have been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India on 26,000 participants in 25 centres.

The tests will be carried out in hospitals in major cities. Symptomatic patients of Covid-19 with confirmed CT scan and chest X-ray and who are under treatment will be given the vaccine dose.

The dose is 0.5 ml on day zero and day 28, according to sources. An expert committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) evaluated the safety and efficacy data of Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials of Covid-19 before giving the final approval.

Bharat Biotech, which has developed Covaxin in

collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology, said on Friday that it has got approval for Phase 3 trials from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Sai Prasad, executive director of Bharat Biotech, has stated that if everything goes well there is a possibility of Covaxin being available by June 2021. The expert committee meeting of CDSCO was held on October 5 where the data of Phase 1 and 2 was evaluated. It discussed the efficacy of the inactivated Coronavirus vaccine BBV152 along with the proposal to conduct event-driven Phase 3 trials to assess the efficacy of the vaccine.

The committee instructed that symptomatic cases who will be given the dose must have symptoms of breathlessness, oxygen saturation levels less than 94, vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea and severe cases and must be in intensive care treatment.

Bharat Biotech had on October 2 sought the DCGI's permission to conduct Phase 3 randomised double-blind placebo-controlled multicentre trial of its Covid-19 vaccine. It was asked to submit the complete safety and immunogenicity data of the Phase 2 trial besides providing some clarifications before proceeding to the next stage.

Trials of about 100 vaccine candidates are being conducted worldwide. In India, Zydus Cadila Ltd is in Phase 2 of human clinical trials. The Serum Institute of India is holding Phase 2 and 3 human clinical trials of AstraZeneca's Oxford vaccine. One of the volunteers of this trial died in Brazil but the trials are going ahead.

PAK TO STAY ON FATF 'GREY' LIST FOR INACTION

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

In a major boost to India's position on the menace of terrorism, global anti-terror-financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has reportedly decided to retain Pakistan in the FATF grey list at least till February next year for its failure to take action on six important action items out of a total of 27.

According to media reports from Islamabad, FATF president Marcus Pleyer announced the decision to keep Pakistan in the grey list at a press briefing held after the FATF's virtual three-day (Oct 21-23) plenary session that concluded on Friday. The FATF's "grey list" comprises nations like Pakistan who have failed to fulfil their obligations to combat terror-financing. Pakistan was put in the list in June, 2018.

Media reports from Islamabad quoted the FATF statement as saying, "Pakistan has made progress across all action plan items and has now largely addressed 21 of the 27 action items. As all action plan deadlines have expired, the FATF strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2021."

AS MANY as 399 lakes disappeared in the last 10 years, 14 of them in Saroornagar mandal.

TWO ARE in process of disappearing and another 10 lakes are in the verge of extinction

1978 and 2013.

A technical report, 'Documenting disappearing water bodies of Hyderabad city', prepared by the Society for Participatory Development revealed that 27 lakes and kuntas under Himayatsagar, Umdasagar and Miralam tank systems have totally disappeared during this period.

The impact has been manifold, with aquatic life deteriorating, groundwater levels declining, and waterlogging and flash floods becoming common during heavy rains.

The government finally formed the lake protection committee comprising officials from the irrigation and revenue departments, GHMC and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority.

Page 2: Records not translated from Urdu

1990s order let realtors build on smaller lakes

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The death knell for the city's lakes was sounded in the 1990s when the then government issued a notification stating that water bodies smaller than 10 acres could be used to build residential and commercial purposes.

As a result, more than 3,000 water bodies within the city limits disappeared by mid-2000s which also saw a real estate boom.

There are now a mere 185 lakes in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

What is even more alarming is that as many as 10 lakes in the city are on the verge of disappearance, with four lakes already disappearing.

The full tank level of 25 waterbodies under the Himayatsagar alone has reduced to about 1,222 hectares from 2,081 hectares.

A study has also revealed that combined water spread under the basins of three lakes, which served as major watersheds for Hyderabad and surrounding areas, has come down by 40 per cent between

UPA wasted 10 years of Nitish rule, says PM

Era of lantern is over, says Modi taking dig at RJD

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched his campaign for Bihar Assembly elections with three back-to-back rallies in Sasaram, Gaya and Bhagalpur where he castigated the Opposition over its stand on repeal of Article 370 and reminded people of the 15-year reign of "crime" and "loot" under the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

In Sasaram, Mr Modi began his speech by paying tribute to veteran Dalit leader and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan and socialist leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who passed away recently due to prolonged illness. Blaming the Opposition parties for "creating hurdles" in the progress of Bihar, Mr Modi said that "people have decided to stop all those who have a history of making Bihar a BIMARU state".

"They were so angry over being defeated by the NDA that they tried every possible way to sabotage the development of Bihar. I as Gujarat CM and Nitish Kumar used to attend Central meetings regularly and I used to see him requesting them not to stop the development of Bihar. They wasted 10 years of Nitish Kumar as

CM," Mr Modi said. The RJD-led grand alliance has emerged as the main challenger to the JD(U)-BJP alliance in the state where polling is scheduled to begin in three phases from October 28.

Mr Modi, who is to address 12 public meetings across the state ahead of Bihar polls, sought votes for another term of the NDA government in Bihar, saying that he has been working with Mr Nitish Kumar only for the last three-four years and the state has progressed during this period. He also spoke of the poor law and order scenario during 15 years of RJD rule.

"The era of the lantern is over... people are now using electricity everywhere in the state. I don't have to remind you about the condition of Bihar when they were in power and how they pushed the state towards backwardness," the Prime Minister added.

come to a standstill after sunset, but today roads and electricity are there. People live without fear in the present time," he said.

"The people who were once in power have greed in their eyes for Bihar which is now developing. People of the state must not forget the condition of Bihar when they were in power and how they pushed the state towards backwardness," the Prime Minister added.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING TO BE UP BY OCT. 2022

New Delhi, Oct. 23: Construction of a new Parliament building will begin in December this year and is likely to be completed by October 2022, while necessary measures have been put in place to ensure that Parliament sessions can be held uninterrupted during this period in the existing buildings, Lok Sabha Secretariat said on Friday.

In the new building, the Lok Sabha chamber will have a seating capacity for 888 members, while Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats for the upper house members, sources said after a review meeting. It will also have a grand Constitution Hall, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and parking.

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Another World Cup-winning former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh said, "Dear paji. Praying for your speedy recovery! Get well soon please...after cricket I still need some golfing lessons."

Nicknamed the 'Haryana Hurricane', Kapil is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Territorial Army.

— PTI

Future Tank Bund



An artist's impression of how the Tank road in Hyderabad will look after the ongoing ₹13 crore facelift project is completed.

Report on Page 4

World Cup winning cricket captain on road to recovery, may be discharged in next couple of days

Kapil Dev suffers heart attack, undergoes angioplasty



was wished a speedy recovery by many on social media, including India's current captain Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar among others.

"Praying for your speedy recovery. Get well soon paji," Kohli said. "Take care @therealkapildev! Praying for your quick recovery. Get well soon Paji," wished Tendulkar. Also wishing him good health were India batsman Shikhar Dhawan and badminton player Saina Nehwal. "Wishing the @therealkapildev a swift recovery. The nation is well aware of his grit and spirit and we are very sure

he will be out of the hospital soon," said the BCCI. Kapil's former teammate Madan Lal said he has conveyed some of the concern of his well-wishers to the Chandigarh-born legend's family. "To those who have called to inquire your prayers and wishes are conveyed to the family and received with gratitude. Good health and strength caps," read a tweet from Kapil's former teammate Madan Lal. "Kapil was taken to the hospital in time as he complained of uneasiness. As per the doctors the procedure was successful and he will be home soon," he added.

One of India's greatest cricketers, Kapil played 131 Tests and 225 ODIs. The imposing former player, who also tried his hand at golf after retiring from cricket, is the only player to claim over 400 wickets (434) and accumulate more than 5000 runs in Tests. He also served as India's national coach between 1999 and 2000. Kapil was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in 2010.

"The big hearted #Kapildev our captain, with a never say die attitude, has recovered. For this mighty giant of Indian cricket nothing is impossible," tweeted Kirti Azad, also a former teammate of Kapil. "Kapil the invincible @therealkapildev is a great friend and super human being. Captain, Looking forward for a meal together soon," he added.

SHORT TAKES

AIG DONATES ₹50L FOR RELIEF RAIN-HIT AREASDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The Asian Institute of Gastroenterology has donated ₹50 lakh as assistance to the measures taken by the state government in the rain and flood-affected areas in Hyderabad.

Asian Institute of Gastroenterology managing director Dr Nageswar Reddy said that the financial assistance was extended to support measures taken by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for the relief and rehabilitation of the people in the affected areas.

GOVT TEACHERS DISMISS ROW OVER DONATIONDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The Government Teachers' Association has decided to contribute one day's salary towards the Chief Minister Relief Fund to help farmers who were affected by the recent floods. A representation of government teachers stated their willingness in this regard to education minister Sabitha Indira Reddy on Wednesday.

The association stated that the decision was taken with consent of all teachers and that opposition from some panchayat raj teachers unions towards the cause was uncalled for.

CM ORDERS ₹10K RELIEF TO BE PAID BEFORE FESTIVALS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has instructed officials to ensure that the ₹10,000 immediate financial assistance sanctioned by the government is distributed to every flood-affected family before the Dasara festival.

While reviewing the relief and rehabilitation measures in the city with senior officers, Rao instructed officers to complete the process on a war footing. "Due to inundation of houses in many parts of the city, people are not in a position to even cook their meals. Hence, we have decided to extend ₹10,000 to each family as immediate financial assistance. This programme should be done actively," he said. Raghu Reddy, managing director, Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd (TSSPDCL) managing director, explained that due to heavy rains and floods, 33/11 KV substations were damaged at 15 places and they had been repaired.

Besides, 11KV feeders were damaged in 1,080 places and had also been restored. Of the 1,215 transformers damaged, 1,207 had been restored and the remaining eight were submerged in water, said Raghu Reddy.

Kishan Reddy offers support

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy speaks to the families who were affected by the heavy rains in Nagamakunta on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Kishan thanks Gadkari for fundsDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, expressed his gratitude to Nitin Gadkari, Union minister of road transport and highways, for the release of ₹202 crore to the state.

The money is meant to carry out repair work on 868 km of eight national highways. The proposals have been pending for

long, and Kishan Reddy had held several meetings to get clearance.

The sanction of funds comes at a time when roads are ravaged by heavy rains and floods. It will be used by the state roads and buildings (national highways) division of the state government to undertake rescue repair and rehabilitation activity.

On Friday the minister held a review meeting with five members of the Central team at the Dilkusha guest house here. The minister said that the state government was yet to give a

mittted by the state.

Kishan Reddy reiterated that the state would get the maximum possible support from the Centre to undertake rescue repair and rehabilitation activity.

Kishan Reddy suggested that the government utilise the State Disaster Relief Fund to take up relief work. The minister visited flood-affected areas at LB Nagar, and Musheerabad.

detailed report about the damage caused by floods.

He appealed to the government to submit a report early and said the Centre would be able to release funds after receiving the report.

Kishan Reddy suggested that the government utilise the State Disaster Relief Fund to take up relief work. The minister visited flood-affected areas at LB Nagar, and Musheerabad.

Resident's slab over nala adds to woes of Trimulgherry localsSANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Heavy rains, flooded Trimulgherry lake, and an overflowing nala have made life miserable for people living Indian Airlines Colony, Padmanabha Colony, Malani Enclave Colony and Surya Avenue. To make matters worse, a retired mandal revenue officer (MRO) has put a concrete slab over a nala adjacent to his house just to park his cars. The slab has been obstructing free flow of water in the nala, which made matters worse during last week's record rains.

The resident welfare associations have complained to both the Secunderabad Cantonment Board and the GHMC. But nothing has happened.

Whenever a rain starts, fear literally engulfs Dr Jayashree, a resident of Indian Airlines Colony since past 27 years. Her house had got flooded last year too. But the October rains have been virtually hell. "There is more than four feet of water in my house. We have shifted to the first



A concrete slab laid over a nala is stopping the free flow of stormwater in Airlines Colony, Trimulgherry. One side retaining wall is broken. — GANDHI

floor, but we have lost lakhs due to flooding of our ground floor," she said.

A B-school professor, Dr Jayashree points to the nala whose free flow has been obstructed because of the concrete slab. "Whenever there is heavy rain, the nala overflows and water stagnates in the colony. This year, the area is flooded because of the heavy rains," she points out.

Residents of colonies in the area say Trimul-

gherry Lake is highly neglected. Though the lake is spread over eight acres, authorities have not bothered about it. People have been dumping garbage in it. Anti-social elements also gather around the lake, said P. Bala Showry, secretary of Malani Enclave Residents' Association, where more than 50 families live.

Indian Airlines Colony Residents' Welfare Association president Kylasa Balaraju, said, "Since the

area falls under the Cantonment Board, we have brought our precarious situation to the attention of the board. We have also informed the GHMC about it.

Balaraju alleged that a resident of Surya Avenue, B. Krupakar, a retired MRO, constructed the concrete slab over the nala to park his cars. "That slab is obstructing the free flow of the water, due to which the area has got flooded," Balaraju underlined.

Farmers reel under losses due to heavy rainsHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Thousands of farmers in the state have been left battered by the incessant rains and floods that hit last week. Hundreds of acres of land and standing crops on them have been destroyed in Khammam and other districts.

Deccan Chronicle spoke to an affected farmer, Yaswanth Chowdary in Chandrupatala village of Khammam district. Chowdary said



Crops damaged as a result of continuous rains.

he and about 500 farmers in his village had lost over an acre of land each and paddy and cotton crop due to the rains. "So far we have not

received any assurance from the government about compensation for this massive loss. It was only today that officers from the agri-

culture department visited the village to take stock of the situation but they did not tell us anything," Chowdary said.

He added that this is not the only issue they are facing as farmers. Farmers in Chowdary's village claim they have not received any benefits under the Rythu Bandhu scheme since last year. "In my mandal alone, there are about 3,000 farmers who are yet to receive money. Imagine how many farmers who have suffered

the fury of nature may be awaiting help all over the district and the state."

Farmers in Chandrapatala are furious over the small compensation for the land that was acquired in the village. The government took over a large section of the land at low rates for the highway from Surajpet to Devarapalli, which passes through the village. Farmers claim that while the land costs ₹20 lakh per acre, the government has valued it at ₹3 lakh.

Records on lakes not translated from Urdu

From Page 1

The government asked the committee to mark the FTLs of the lakes and fence them to stop further encroachments.

Even though records of Hyderabad's lakes from the Nizams' times are safe at the State Archives and Research Institute, the government has not got them translated from Urdu to zero in on encroachments.

Responding to a writ petition, the then Andhra Pradesh High Court during the mid-1990s had asked

19 LAKES are being developed under the urban Mission Kakatiya, including Patel Cheruvu, Ambeer Cheruvu, Boin Cheruvu, Malka Cheruvu, Pedda Cheruvu, Cherlapally Tank, Mukkidi Cheruvu, Nallagandla Cheruvu, Oora Cheruvu, Anthangani Kunta, Surram Cheruvu, Maddela Kunta, Mohini Cheruvu, Durgam Cheruvu, Nalla Cheruvu and Fox Sagar.

then Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) to submit records pertaining to the number of lakes in the city. The authority then came up with the idea of not considering water bodies below 10

acres as lakes and kuntas and that they can be used for residential and commercial purposes. This eventually led to a government order, which has resulted in disappearance of 3,000 of the 7,000 manmade and

irrigation and command area development department. Ironically, after 10 years, the number of lakes has reduced to just 185.

When queried, officials said the GHMC has already marked the FTL of 185 lakes and has fenced 53 of them. Encroachments could not be removed as people have been holding pattas and registration certificates. "The issue has been taken to the notice of government, which will take a final call," a senior GHMC official maintained.

Many wait in vain to meet Central teamMADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

teams, the latter were in a hurry. The area, including Ayyappa Colony, Malikjunagar, and others, have flood water mixed with sewage water from the adjoining areas.

The teams did not inspect Venkatramana Colony, Sai Nagar Colony in Nagole, Green Park in Lingojuda (Karmanghat), P&T Colony, Kamalanagar, Vivekanandanagar in Saroornagar, Singareni Colony in Saidabad, Kodandaram Nagar, Sisalasti in Gaddiannaram, Banjara Colony, Ambedkar Nagar and Ranganayakugutta in Hayathnagar which are still submerged.

The teams just inspected the sites which they were asked to visit by GHMC officials. Civic body officials had a busy time as both Central teams and Union minister G. Kishan Reddy were inspecting different areas at the same time.

T. Sudheer, a resident of Ayappanagar, said that the major problem that the residents are facing is not the lake, which has been overflowing with sewage water continuously since 10 days but the water that is raising a stink and making it difficult for the residents to step out. When they tried to convey the same to Central

flowing through nala and inundated areas and interacted with people.

In LB Nagar zone, the team visited Hayathnagar circle and Nagole Rajarajeshwari Colony, inspected the areas under inundation where the affected people informed that the water flow was about six feet high. State irrigation and GHMC officials informed the team that a consultant had been appointed to draft designs for a permanent solution like alignment of lakes into Musi River to prevent further inundation.

Further, the team visited Meerpeta Nala in Karmanghat and Bairamalguda Nala where water inundated Udaynagar, Malreddy Rangareddy Nagar, Tapovan Colony where nearly 2,000 houses were submerged.

Later the team inspected Saroornagar Cheruvu. The team also visited Nadeem Colony where Shatham

GUDUR DEMANDS

TRANSPARENCY
OVER FLOOD
FUNDSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

State Congress treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy on Friday demanded that the government be transparent in distributing financial aid to flood-affected people in Hyderabad.

In a statement, he said that though the government had announced a relief package of ₹550 crore, he was doubtful about the proper distribution of the money.

He said that many times in the past, whenever the people faced natural calamities, relief has not reached all the affected persons. The distribution process has been used for the publicity of the ruling party.

The TPCC treasurer demanded that the GHMC should open a website and uploaded the details of financial aid for transparency.

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IN BRIEF

**Gautam Bhansali
is TS JITO chief**

Hyderabad: Gautam Bhansali was elected chairman and Vinod Ranka as chief secretary of the Hyderabad chapter of Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) during the elections held on Friday. The new office-bearers were elected in a virtual meeting held in the city. They will have a two-year tenure. JITO-Hyderabad has 352 members.

AI holds vigilance awareness week

Hyderabad: Air India, southern region, will observe a vigilance awareness week from October 27 on the theme 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India'. Like every year, Air India will organise competitions and events during the week for employees, their wards as well as for schoolchildren to bring awareness on vigilance and as an anti-corruption drive among the youth. The Central Vigilance Commission as part of its efforts to promote probity in public life observes Vigilance Awareness Week every year.

GIANT TORTOISE ADOPTED AT NEHRU ZOO

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

A female Al-Dabra giant tortoise at the city zoo was adopted by one Akshay Chakraborty for one year. Akshay along with his parents paid ₹30,000 towards the adoption charges.

N. Kshiti, curator, Nehru Zoological Park, thanked Akshay and his parents for adopting the Al-Dabra giant tortoise which is endemic to the Seychelles. The zoo has a pair of the giant tortoises, which were received as a gift from the President of Seychelles in 2018. The Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change had selected the Nehru Zoological Park for housing these tortoises as it has the best habitat and open-moat enclosures.

STATE PAYS DA INSTALMENT AFTER CM'S NOD

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday instructed the finance department to release one dearness allowance (DA) instalment due from July 1, 2019, to state government employees. A government order was later issued, paying the money.

The CM also instructed the officials to change the method of paying DA. He said that when the Centre delays its DA estimates, it is reflected in the states. This leads to an accumulation of dues. He asked the officials to prepare a method which will ensure that employees get the DA periodically, and put it up for discussion in the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, government employees have decided to donate one-day salary to support relief measures for floods and rains. A consent letter to donate ₹33 crore was given to the Chief Minister by leaders of government employees unions at Pragathi Bhavan.

• **THE CM** said the Centre's delay in providing DA estimates affects states. He wanted officials to devise a method to avoid the delay.

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per the instructions of my client Mr. Khader Ali S/o Late Firoz Khan, R.R/Ho/No.6-1-69/5, Behind Ravindra Bharathi, Sababud, Hyderabad, it is hereby informed to the general public that my client presently residing at 10, P.L. Road, Hyderabad, has dismissed and final Decree proceedings was initiated and 14th share has been awarded in Survey No. 41, 42 & 43. The said Prasad Reddy neither the joint owner nor having any possession over the property as per the partition Decree vide O.S.No.471 of 1987 on the file of court of Additional Senior Civil Judge, R.R. District was decreed dated 25-01-1988. That the said Decree reached final stage and the same was dismissed and final Decree proceedings was initiated and 14th share has been awarded in Survey No. 41, 42 & 43. The said Prasad Reddy neither the joint owner nor having any possession over the property as per the partition Decree vide O.S.No.471 of 1987.

That my client came to know that the said Prasad Reddy misguided the general public and trying to claim with fabricated documents if anyone does so then the said property the same will be at their own risk and they shall liable to be prosecuted under contempt of Courts Act.

Hyderabad. Date : 13-10-2020
(M.A.K MUKHEE) FAHMEENA YASMEEN Advocates

Floor No. 201, Maa Plaza,
Beside Indian Bank, Barkatpura,
Hyderabad, T.S. Cell : 98498 33601



The Tank Bund pathways in Hyderabad are being renovated and cleaned up. The work will ensure a smooth walking experience as well as provide better amenities for visitors
— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Tank Bund road to be improved by HMDA

Area to have well-manicured lawns on the green zone

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

While Durgam Cheruvu is being developed with the newly-inaugurated cable-stayed bridge across the lake, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has commenced work to improve Tank Bund Road.

Tank Bund is the city's oldest hangout place for people of all walks of life. Considering its strategic location and natural beauty, the Tank Bund Road makes up for the most important and safe urban zone for families to spend their leisure time and unwind.

The state government had given the green signal to the HMDA for tak-

ing up works on either side of the Tank Bund Road to elevate its look and creating facilities for the people to use. While the focus of development has been in the western parts of the city for more than a decade, the government has decided to lay more emphasis on parts of the city that have been the hub of activity for several decades.

As part of the project, the sidewalks on Tank Bund Road will be completely renovated by fortifying them. The HMDA would lay flamed granite on the footpaths and granite kerbs would be provided on either side. Before laying the foundation for strengthening the footpaths, electrical

cable ducts would be laid and the cables would be run through them so that the pavement need not be disturbed for any purpose in the future.

The HMDA expects an increased footfall on the Tank Bund once the refurbishment is complete, for there would be no undulations on the walkway and they could relax on the street furniture.

Tank Bund, in fact,

is the longest lung space

in the city, decked with

greenery on one side and

a huge waterbody on the other.

The works, which commenced recently, will be completed in less than a year on both sides of the 2.2-km-long Tank Bund Road. The HMDA would enrich the area with

well-manicured lawns on the green zone.

The work is estimated to cost over ₹13 crore. The lush green surroundings around the statues would be maintained. All loose ends will be capped and the electric wires and cables would not be left hanging outside. This would enable setting up street furniture on both sides, kiosks, and decorative lighting.

Bays will be created for locating the cranes for Ganesh immersion. This would ensure that the sidewalks are not disturbed or damaged during the festival.

The newly decked up Tank Bund is likely to enhance activity on either side of the road.

On top of paycuts, job losses, onion prices adds to the tears

PRICES OF ONION TO SHOOT UP BY ₹20 DUE TO SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Pay cuts and half salaries already affected the salaried class and the rising price of onions is another blow especially in the festival season.

Pinky Mehta, a school teacher, said, "The increasing price of vegetables has been a concern since last two months. Now, the onion has again become costly. How is one to survive?"

Those who are getting half salary or no salary from March are not venturing to the vegetable market and are surviving on grams and grains.

M. Siddique, an employee with a private company, said, "We are not using too much onion. Foods which require too much onions are totally skipped as it is not worth buying in these times."

M. Ramesh, a shopkeeper, said, "I have stopped keeping stocks of onions. Most of the stock is soiled."

Small eateries have been affected. William Peter, who runs a catering and food delivery business, at Malkajgiri, said, "We work with small margins. When onion is ₹100 a kg, we are left with no profit."

Nadigopa Vijay Kumar, who runs a saloon, said, "Onion is compulsory at home. The price rise hurts the middle class. Our incomes have come down due to the lockdown and this new burden is unbearable."

Kiran Kumar, a kirana shop owner had pur-

This is not the first time, however. In 2019, onion cost ₹150-₹200 in November while in 2018, at the same time, onion prices went up ₹50 which had created unrest. In December 2017, onions cost ₹48-₹60, a 220 per cent jump since December 2016. It is estimated that this year, onion prices will further shoot up by ₹20.

Owners of small shops like the Bombay Chaat House in Secunderabad say that despite the skyrocketing prices, they cannot stop using onions, as it will affect their sales further.

The price of onions has shot up like a rocket. Cooking them at home is a very lavish affair. When it comes to eating out, there are a few restaurants that are giving onions in the salad along with the order. But, the onions have a very weird taste," said K.S. Dimple.

"There are very few options we have left, we cannot afford to procure onions for ₹100 a kg and serve them to a customer who orders food worth ₹50. So, we are giving them cucumber salad," said a representative of a well-known food chain.

According to officials of the model rythu bazaar in Erragadda, most onions sold there were damaged by the rainfall. "The only onions that we have for sale are the ones that were hoarded during the lockdown. Once we get new stocks the prices would come down," an officer said.

chased only half the stock that he usually does. "Many people are finding it very difficult to purchase onions."

Vijayadasami should be celebrated on Sunday.

Astrological researcher and Philosophical Truth founder Neelam Purna Mohan says the Dasami tithi and Sravanam star should be there when the festival is celebrated. The Dasami tithi should also be there after sunset, according to the Prasna Tantra, Dharmra Sindhu and Nirnaya Sindhu. Vijayadasami must be celebrated on Monday.

on Monday. So, the festival will be on that day.

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Restaurants serve poor quality onion

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Onions, a kitchen essential that under normal circumstances does not

retail for more than ₹30 per kg, is being sold at ₹110 due to a shortage in supply after incessant rains and destruction of crops.

Supply at the Kurnool market yard which used to get a daily average of 5,000 tonnes is sliced down to less than 1,000 tonnes.

At Mahboobgunj in Malakpet, supply has gone down to 1.11 lakh quintals from 2.42 lakh quintals last year.

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Almanac writer Godavarti Sampatkumar Appalacharyulu says that festival dates should differentiate between general view and temple view. He said though some are arguing that the festival is on Sunday, according to temples' Agama shashtras and Samithhas, Vijayadasami must be celebrated on Monday.

"A day never passes without your memory. May your soul rest in peace."

Inserted by: EPIPHANIA ANDRADE (NIVEDITHA REDDY)

(S/2021/D00744)

Vijayadasami should be celebrated on Sunday.

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"A day never passes without your memory. May your soul rest in peace."

(S/2021/D00744)

Ambiguity over Dasara date

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, OCT. 23

Ambiguity prevails over when Vijayadasami should be celebrated. This is because almanac writers and astrologers are expressing different opinions.

The view of some is that the festival is on Sunday, as Dasami prevails after sunset. Others argue that Dasami will start with sunrise

Vijayadasami should be celebrated on Sunday.

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"A day never passes without your memory. May your soul rest in peace."

(S/2021/D00744)

CM TO LAUNCH DHARANI ON OCT. 29

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao will launch the much-awaited Dharani portal on October 29 at 12.30 pm at Pragathi Bhavan. It is expected that the CM will take a decision on when the holi-

day on land registrations can be ended.

Earlier it was decided to launch the portal on October 25. Sources said a slight delay was caused as the officers became busy with relief and rehabilitation measures following the heavy rains and floods.

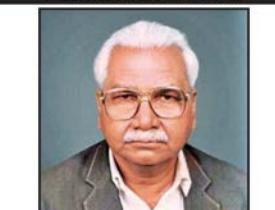
OBITUARY


CASULA VIDYAVATHI
W/o Late Sri Casula Gopal Rao
Born: 1942 DOD: 22-10-2020
Funeral will be held on Saturday 24-OCT at residence around 1 PM, Plot # 47/1, H. No 11-13-589, Rd #15, Alkapuri Hyderabad 500068
Inserted by:
Family Members

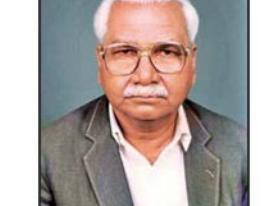
OBITUARY


SHRI KISHORE CHAND PURI
Left for his heavenly abode on 23/10/20. The last rites will be performed on 24/10/20 at noon at Banslalpet.
Inserted by:
Puri Family and Kapoor Family

REMEMBRANCE


B. SHIVIAH
D.O.B: 24-10-2016
Inserted by:
M/s Pancha Pharma Corporation & Family Members Ph: 94400 49607

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY


VIJAY BAHADUR GOUR
D.O.B: 24-10-2010
The sands of time will never wash away the love we have for you. Your sweet memory will remain forever in our heart.
Inserted by: Mrs. MANU GOUR (Wife) Mr. SRI GOUR (Son) Contact: 9000219777
(S/2021/D00742)

11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY


Late Rev. K. Solomon Samuel
DOB : 19-05-1952 DOD : 24-10-2011
PASTOR, METHODIST CHURCH, MOINABAD DISTRICT, HRC. Service to 11.00 am at Aziznagar, Moinabad Mandir RR District.
Mrs. Pushpalatha Solomon (Wife) and Family Members #

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The Power to Surprise



SHORT TAKES

MAKING AGRI VIBRANT IS TOP PRIORITY: KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday directed the agriculture department to create two new wings, one to take care of water for irrigation, power, fertilisers and seeds and the other for concentrating on marketing.

He said that the wings would be headed by IAS officers.

While reviewing the agriculture situation with senior officers, Rao said that Telangana state is fast emerging as an agriculture-based state. To keep pace with this, the agriculture department has to be strengthened.

Rao suggested that the marketing wing will study the demand for crops in the country and accordingly prepare strategies in coordination with the marketing and civil supplies departments to get better prices for farmers.

OWAISI FLAYS MODI FOR SILENCE OVER LJP

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not mention the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) during his campaign speeches for the Bihar elections. "He is trying to ride two horses at once and wants to rule Bihar on one of them," Owaisi said.

Owaisi said the BJP has released an election manifesto pledging 19 lakhs jobs a year; a clear indication that the BJP wants their Chief Minister in Bihar and to retire Nitish Kumar.

He alleged that the BJP maintaining silence over the LJP raises the question on whether they will adopt a different path if Nitish Kumar fails to get a majority.

In Bihar, the MIM has formed a Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) with the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party of former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha.

AKBARUDDIN TO PROVIDE ₹4CR AID FROM TRUST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Chandrayangutta MIM legislator Akbaruddin Owaisi announced a ₹4 crore relief package for the rain-affected people of his constituency. The aid will be provided by the Salar-e-Millat Educational Trust that the legislator has established.

Addressing the media, Akbaruddin Owaisi said affected families will be provided with a kit containing essential items including utensils, clothes and bedsheets. Damaged autorickshaws will be repaired by spending up to ₹20,000 each.

He also announced provision of ₹50,000 to 50 girls whose wedding will be performed in the near future. Apart from this, a three-member committee has been constituted to identify and assess the losses of vehicles which were engaged with taxi companies. He said a kit of essential items has been distributed among 3,000 families.

AKBARUDDIN OWAISI also announced provision of ₹50,000 to 50 girls whose wedding will be performed in the near future. Apart from this, a three-member committee has been constituted to identify and assess the losses of vehicles which were engaged with taxi companies.

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
MAHBUBNAGAR, OCT. 23

The Mahbubnagar police arrested six persons of a seven-member gang that allegedly looted ₹41.07 lakh from an SBI ATM at Jadcherla on Friday, and seized ₹12.07 lakh from them. The gang had on September 29 looted an ATM at Signal Gadda under Badhepally branch, said Mahbubnagar superintendent of police Rema Rajeshwari.

The gang took just seven minutes to cut upon the Jadcherla ATM and decamp with the booty, she said. The gang hails from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and is wanted in Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Hyderabad, the SP said. The accused were involved in 57 crimes across the country and was known to have opened fire against the police on previous occasions.

FDA okays remdesivir, foxes docs

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved remdesivir as the first drug for Covid-19 treatment for those above 12 years of age. This comes a week after a World Health Organisation trial showed no survival benefit with the use of remdesivir. The FDA has not taken into account WHO's randomised trial results. Instead, the three randomised trials carried out by the US National Institute of Health have been taken into account.

The FDA has stated that Remdesivir limits the replication of SARS-CoV-

TS COVID DEATH TOLL REACHES 1,300

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The Covid-19 death toll neared the 1,300 mark, with the state recording six fatalities from the disease on Thursday. According to the health department bulletin on Friday, the state recorded 1,421 and six deaths on Thursday. The tally is now 2,29,001 and toll 1,298.

Hospitalised patients above 12 years of age must be given this injectable drug under emergency use authorisation. The guidelines also state that the

Total recoveries are 2,07,326 and there are 20,377 active cases in the state. GHMC recorded 249 new cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 111 and Ranga Reddy 97.

There were only 38,484 tests carried out as the cases are declining and fewer people are coming to hospitals. The in-patient load is also reducing.

trials have shown that a five-day course of the drug is equivalent to a 10-day course. Benefits were also noted in moderate cases in hospitals state the guidelines.

Some patients have suffered from allergic reactions and the side-effects noted with the use of remdesivir are low blood oxygen level, fever, shortness of breath, wheezing, swelling and shivering. The adverse events vis-à-vis benefits need further evaluation but the initial data analysis stated that this drug is the first line of treatment.

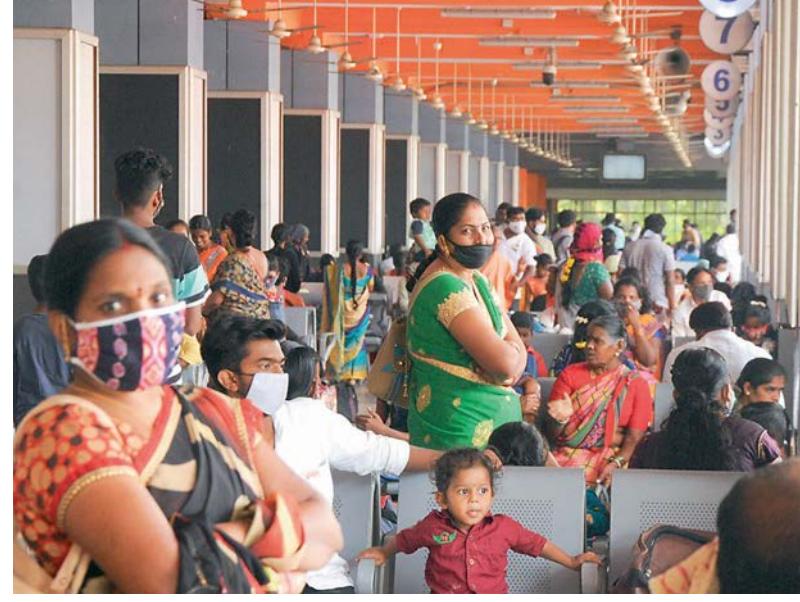
These guidelines have added to the woes of medical fraternity rather than give them direction. Doctors who have successfully treated patients with remdesivir say that the drug is definitely important in the treatment module. Those who lost their patients

after the treatment state that we need more data and better assessment of the side-effects.

While the drug has benefits, experts state that benefits versus risk evaluation is more important as that will show the way forward. There is also a need for more data, argue pulmonologists and critical care specialists in the city.

The biggest problem for now is to convince the family members of Covid-19 patients. With the WHO ruling it out and FDA stating it is the first line of treatment, there are going to be lots of questions at the clinical level before the drug is administered.

Rush hour



A large number of people wait at the Jubilee bus terminus to catch buses for home for the Dasara celebrations, in Hyderabad. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Uttam criticises CM for ignoring farmer troubles

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

Telangana state Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has strongly condemned Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for neglecting the problems being faced by maize, paddy and cotton farmers despite massive protests going on across the state.

Speaking to the media after inaugurating a camp office in Dabbaka for the by-election campaign, the TPCC chief said lakhs of farmers, who cultivated maize on the advice of the Chief Minister, are now demanding minimum support price of ₹1,850.

With less than 15 days left for completion of harvesting, not a single procurement centre has been opened for maize, he said. He pointed out that farmers in Jagtial, Nizamabad, Sircilla, Kamareddy and other districts have been holding massive protests demanding procurement of maize at MSP.

Similarly, Uttam Kumar Reddy said, the Chief Minister had advised farmers to grow superfine varieties of paddy, instead of regular varieties.

Consequently, the farmers made extra investments towards input cost and got less than half of the yield compared to the regular variety.

While the thicker (doddu) varieties were yielding 30 quintals per acre, the finer (sanna) varieties of paddy were yielding 20 quintals. "Since the farmers are cultivating finer varieties of paddy on the specific directions of the Chief Minister, the farmers are losing ₹10,000 per acre because of lower yield. The government should purchase the finer varieties of paddy at ₹2,500 per quintal," he demanded.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the farmers followed the government's advice in sowing cotton and paddy under the regulated cropping system. Therefore, it is the duty of the government to compensate them. He demanded compensation of ₹20,000 per acre for the crops damaged by the rains.

Former ministers G. Vinod and Damodar Reddy, ex-MLAs Maheshwar Reddy and Mahender Reddy, TPCC general secretary Prem Lal were present on the occasion.

Maize to be bought at ₹1,800 per quintal: KCR

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

In a major relief to distressed maize farmers, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday announced that the government will purchase the stocks at minimum support price (MSP) of ₹1,800 per quintal.

Maize would be purchased by the TS Marketing Federation (TS Markfed) through paddy purchase centres set up in the villages.

He was reviewing the estimated crop yields during the Kharif season with senior officers. Rao pointed out that the government was not responsible for purchasing

maize as farmers went against its advice, but keeping, in view their plight, the government was ready to bear the losses.

While urging farmers not to cultivate maize in the upcoming Rabi season, Rao expressed disappointment that some farmers had cultivated maize in the monsoon season despite repeated advice from the government that they will suffer losses as there was no demand for maize in the market.

Stating that the BJP-led Union government was to be blamed for drop in maize prices after it has decided to reduce the import duty from 50 per cent to just 15 per cent, he urged farmers not to fall for cheap politics of the BJP leadership which was now criticising the state government only to derive political mileage.

TS seeks report on KUDA land

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 23

The state government has taken serious note of the alleged violation in the processing of layout permission for Hilltop Developers in Warangal.

Arvind Kumar, principal secretary, municipal administration and urban development department, on Friday sought a report from Pamela Satpathy, vice-chairperson, on the procedure to be followed for sanction of layout and deviations.

He was reacting to a report, 'KUDA turns a blind eye to Hilltop's

illegal layout', reported by Deccan Chronicle on Friday.

Sources said the vice-chairperson was guided by town planning officials who took an errant stand that the NALA certificate issued by the revenue authorities needs to be followed in letter and spirit while sanctioning the layout.

Evidence clearly establishes that the boundaries mentioned in the registration documents mismatch those in the NALA certificate and the proposed layout in at least 12 places.

The report submitted by M. Vasu Chandra, revenue divisional offi-

cer, Warangal Urban, kept under wraps the mismatch. It merely stated that sub-division of land among different owners did not take place. But, it also talked of the local tahasildar submitting a report that NALA certificates were issued as per physical possession of the landowners.

"The report is managed because the physical possession of the landowners does not arise as their own registration documents showed different boundaries," alleged B. Suman Reddy, who complained to the authorities against Hilltop.

The report submitted by M. Vasu Chandra, revenue divisional offi-

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSPCL, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Website: www.pspcl.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / P/P&R,
D-3, Shakti Vihar, PATIALA - 147001
Tele Fax: 0175-2200872, email: ce-pr@pspcl.in
Registration Number : 33813

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF ENERGY TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. PPR-08/2020

PSPCL invites tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs as per table given below:

Period	Duration (Hrs)	Quantum in MW at NR Periphery
15th June 2021 to 30th September 2021	00:00 to 24:00 (RTC)	upto 1000

Sr. No.	Event	Date
1.	Date of Publication/Uploading of Tender Enquiry	22.10.2020
2.	Date of receipt of EMD in the office of Dy. CE/PR, T-1, Thermal Design Complex, PSPCL, Patiala	05.11.2020 up to 12:00Hrs
3.	Last date of Submission of Bid	05.11.2020 up to 13:00Hrs

Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016, through e-bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). Bidders are requested to familiarise with the applicable guidelines notified by the Ministry of Power on 30.03.2016 carefully before submitting the offer.

Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details specification and corrigendum (if any) may be downloaded / seen on www.mstcecommerce.com and official website of PSPCL i.e. www.pspcl.in.

C-331/2020
RO: I/94575
Dy. CE/PR,
PSPCL, Patiala.

G -84452/2

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

(Ministry of Labour & Employment,
Govt. of India)
Regional Off: 3-4-763, Bhavishyanidhi
Bhawan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027

No. TS/Hy/RO/I/Public Notice/C-II/T/2/2020/ Dated: 16.10.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention of public at large is being invited that inquiry under Section 7A of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been continuing for more than three years for determination of dues for the period mentioned against the establishment but there is no effective participation in terms of production of all summoned records or through attendance of the summoned persons. The Inquiry under Section 7A of EPF & MP Act, 1952 is deemed to be judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 193 of Indian Penal Code and inquiry authority have the powers vested in a court under Civil Procedure of 1908.

S. No.	Code No.	Est Name	Period of Inquiry
C-502/T-2			
1	TS/72106	M/s IZEN BIO SCIENCES	04/2015 TO 04/2018

If any person who has worked in above cited establishments during the period as mentioned above, has any relevant records in his possession, he may appear in person or through authorized representative and produce all records or send the same by mail or post, at the Office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Regional Office-I, Barkatpura, Hyderabad within 20 days.

Sd/- Regional PF Commissioner-II
Regional Office, Hyderabad-I

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. NO.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01				

SHORT TAKES**CENTRAL AGENCIES DENY LEAKING SSR CASE INFORMATION**DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 23

Union government told the Bombay High court on Friday that none of their three agencies — Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) — which are investigating cases related to Sushant Singh Rajput's (SSR) death, have leaked probe information to the media. Last week, the court had pulled up the Union government for sharing probe information to the media.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigations filed by former IPS officers alleging that some news channels are maligning image of Mumbai police in SSR death case and asked the court to restrain the media coverage. The HC is hearing arguments on whether a statutory mechanism is required to control the TV news content.

On Friday, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh filed affidavits before the court on behalf of the CBI, ED and NCB stating they had not leaked any probe related details to the media.

The court was irked when lawyers of news channels, which are party in the PIL, put forth Supreme Court judgements and opposed the idea of statutory regulatory mechanism on news channels. The HC remarked that the media has changed now.

ANTI-BENGALI RANT: MEGHALAYA CALLS FOR PEACEMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 23

After a racial campaign by an influential students' body targeting Bengalis ahead of Durga Puja, the Meghalaya government on Friday appealed to all to maintain peace and harmony in Meghalaya. The Khasi Students Union (KSU) had put up posters in Shillong accusing all Bengalis in the state of being "Bangladeshis". The state police has removed the posters and warned of action against those trying to "incite communal disharmony". Police specifically warned the KSU to refrain from such activities or face legal action.

Former Meghalaya governor Thangjam Roy, also a BJP leader in Kolkata, tweeted, "I say this taking full responsibility as ex-governor of Meghalaya: KSU needs to be banned just like HNLC. It is an anti-national terrorist organisation, threatening Indian citizens, some of whom are residents of Meghalaya since British times. Like my family on both sides." The Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council is a banned militant outfit in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya home minister Lakhmen Rymbui said, "Anything we do, we should not vitiate the atmosphere... I request everybody not to give communal colour to any incident."

Sources in the student body indicated that the poster campaign has its roots in the Ichamati incident earlier this year when a KSU member was killed in clashes with non-Bengalis who were largely Bengalis.

US confirms 'close' watch on India-China border row

Might discuss situation during the forthcoming Indo-US 2+2 dialogue

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

The United States confirmed on Friday that it was 'watching the situation' on the Sino-Indian line of actual control (LAC) 'closely' and that it would probably be discussed during the forthcoming Indo-US 2+2 talks at the foreign and defence ministerial level on October 27 in New Delhi, adding that the (defence pact) 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)' and other agreements are in the works.'

In response to a question on the forthcoming 2+2 dialogue with India, a

US state department official told reporters via tele-conference "Certainly, I think the situation on the LAC will be, will probably be, discussed at some point, and we're watching the situation closely. I think both sides have expressed a desire to de-escalate violence." In response to another question, he added, "We're in the process of finalising a lot of the discussions right now, and so I know that BECA and other agreements are in the works."

The US official also said "The 2+2 format is reserved for our closest friends and partners and reflects our belief that the United States and

India are stronger, more secure, and more prosperous when we work together. The 2+2 discussions will focus on global cooperation, on pandemic response, and challenges in the Indo-Pacific: economic space and energy collaboration, people-to-people ties, and defense and security cooperation."

As already reported, United States secretary of state, Michael R. Pompeo, and secretary of defense, Mark T. Esper, will be visiting New Delhi on October 26 and 27 and will hold talks with their Indian counterparts, S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, on October 27 as part of the

Indo-US 2+2 talks. As also reported already, India and the United States could ink the BECA defence pact for 'greater geospatial information-sharing during the forthcoming Indo-US 2+2 talks.'

According to reports, BECA will enable India to use US geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery to improve the accuracy of missiles and drones, a development that might prove crucial in the situation in the Ladakh sector where there is heavy deployment of both Indian and Chinese troops backed by tanks and heavy artillery on both sides. BECA is the third proposed defence pact between the

Mumbai mall fire mishap



Smoke rises from City Central Mall after a fire broke out in it in Mumbai on Friday. The fire brigade evacuated around 3,500 people residing in a building adjacent to the Mall which caught a huge Level-5 fire on Thursday evening. — PTI

ACTIVE COVID CASES BELOW 7-LAKH MARK

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

With 54,366 fresh cases, India on Friday registered a total of 77,61 lakh cases of Coronavirus. In the last 24 hours 690 new deaths were recorded taking the country's total death tally to 1.17 lakh.

According to the Union health ministry, India has leaped across a significant milestone in its fight against Covid-19 as active caseload of the country has fallen below 7 lakh for the first time after two months.

The active caseload was below the 7 lakh mark last on August 22.

The total positive cases of the country are 6.95 lakh and they comprise 8.96 per cent of the total cases.

TN MP triggers row by citing Manusmriti

Chennai, Oct. 23:

A row erupted here on Friday over the alleged derogatory remarks of Lok Sabha MP and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) founder Thol. Thirumavalavan about women, with the BJP lashing out at him and demanding an apology.

The allegation against the Chidambaram MP was that he spoke ill of women while citing Manusmriti, a perceived anti-feminist ancient code of conduct. But the VCK leader denied denigrating women and insisted he was working for their emancipation.

Addressing reporters at the state BJP headquarters, Kamalayam, Khushbu Sundar hit out at Thirumavalavan and asked him to be careful of what he speaks since he was a political leader.

The allegation against the Chidambaram MP was that he spoke ill of women while citing Manusmriti, a perceived anti-feminist ancient code of conduct. But the VCK leader denied denigrating women and insisted he was working for their emancipation.

A video clip on social media purportedly showed him making some remarks but the leader alleged "communal" forces were creat-

ing a wrong impression that he belittled women.

Users on micro-blogging site Twitter debated the issue, with some supporting him and others criticising the MP.

BJP leader Khushbu Sundar hit out at Thirumavalavan and asked him to be careful of what he speaks since he was a political leader.

Addressing reporters at the state BJP headquarters, Kamalayam, Khushbu said women cannot be objectified and accused the MP of "using religion" against them. Without naming anyone, she said many women family members of political leaders claiming to be followers of rational leader, the late EVR Periyar, "go from temple to temple

and click pictures."

Responding to the charges, Thirumavalavan said he had made no disparaging remarks against women while participating in an online conference recently.

"I said that demeans women. But those with an eye on political mileage, a casteist-communal group is spreading falsehood against me and creating an impression as if I spoke against women," he said in a video uploaded on his Twitter page. "This is completely wrong. We are struggling for women's emancipation and those unable to tolerate this are doing such things to create a flutter in the DMK alliance during (ahead of) elections," he said. — PTI

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He also lashed out at the centre for passing the three farm laws. "The three farm laws are not good for farmers. First, they put an end to mandis and MSP in Bihar and now they are trying to do it in other parts of the country," he said.

He also asserted that it was not the PDP's alliance with the BJP that led to the abrogation of Article 370. "It was the Parliament that was misused. Parliament had no right to do this," she said.

She said, "These BJP leaders have ruined the Constitution of India. This country will work on the constitution and not as per the BJP manifesto."

She also said that India is economically and at diplomatic level in distress and internally also polarisation is taking its toll due to the wrong policies of the incumbent government.

She said, "Our economy is worse than that of Bangladesh. They have demonised Muslims, Dalits and all downtrodden communities. Kashmir is a problem. You cannot close your eyes to it. PDP always wanted to bring peace to this place. Look at the condition now; China on one side, Pakistan on the other."

She, however, claimed that her party did not forge an alliance with the BJP to come to power.

She said, "We didn't ally with the BJP for power. If you remember, my father made a statement on July 28, 2014 wherein he stated that he wants to work for people of Jammu and Kashmir. He knew a Tsunami was coming."

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre of hurting the sentiments of the people of J&K by snatching from them the special status and taking other "anti-people" decisions, she said, "This is highly regrettable that since the unconstitutional and ille-

gal abrogation of Article 370, the government has left no stone unturned to hurt the sentiments of the people with their anti-people decisions. They don't want people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are expendable for them."

She asserted, "The people of J&K are shell-shocked. They have lost hope. August 5 was loot and theft".

On PDP joining hands with the BJP to cobble up a government in J&K in 2015, she said that she regretted trusting Modi who belonged to a party of which Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a part.

She, however, claimed that her party did not forge an alliance with the BJP to come to power.

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IN BRIEF
Greta urges EU farm bill veto

Brussels: Environmental activists on Friday piled pressure on the European Parliament to vote down the EU's massive farm subsidy bill, saying it fell short of commitments to fight climate change. Leading climate change activist Greta Thunberg told MEPs that "this is your chance to turn empty words into action." "The eyes of future generations are upon you," she added. Thunberg has also taken shots at the media for putting under-served attention on a minor aspect of the package — a proposed ban on using the term "veggie burger" for non-meat products. The proposal, pushed by cattle and dairy farmers, was rejected as an amendment by MEPs on Friday although a ban on "yoghurt style" and "cheese substitute" tags on plant-based goods survived.

US drone strike kills 17 jihadists

Beirut: The US army said on Thursday it carried out a drone strike against Al-Qaeda leaders in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border, killing 17 jihadists, according to a war monitor. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said five civilians were also among those killed. "US Forces conducted a strike against a group of Al-Qaeda in Syria (AQ-S) senior leaders meeting near Idlib, Syria," said Major Beth Riordan, the spokeswoman for United States Central Command (CENTCOM). "The removal of these AQ-S leaders will disrupt the terrorist organisation's ability to further plot and carry out global attacks threatening US citizens, our partners and innocent civilians," Riordan said in a statement. She did not specify the number of deaths from the strike.

15 detained after abortion rally ban

Warsaw: Poland's police said Friday they detained 15 people during protests in Warsaw against a court ruling that toughened the nation's strict abortion law and banned abortion of fetuses with congenital defects. Hundreds of people protested on Thursday night in front of the ruling right-wing party offices and the home of its leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, in defiance of a pandemic-related ban on public gatherings. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Warsaw police spokesman Sylwester Marczak said on Friday that 14 people remain in detention and 35 have been fined for having broken the ban. They were protesting the ruling by the government-controlled Constitutional Court Thursday that declared abortion of defective fetuses unconstitutional, thus shutting a major loophole in the 1993 abortion law that was a hard-won compromise.

AGEING CHIMPS CHOOSE FRIENDS CAREFULLY

Washington, Oct. 23: When it comes to friendships, people are known to become more selective with age. It turns out the same is true of male chimps, who have fewer yet more genuine pals to ape around with as they get older, according to a study published in the journal *Science* on Thursday.

The research, which was led by animal psychologist Alexandra Rosati at the University of Michigan, was said to provide the first evidence that animals exhibit age-related social selectivity, and could help us understand more about why humans behave as they do.

The authors drew on a huge dataset of 78,000 hours of observations performed at the Kibale National Park in Uganda between 1995 and 2016.

They reported on the social interactions among 21 wild male chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) ranging in age from 15 to 58 years. Males were chosen because they remain in the communities in which they are born, whereas the majority of females disperse to new groups when they become sexually mature.

Aside from being our closest animal relatives, chimpanzees are an ideal species to compare to humans because they live long lives — sometimes until their 60s — and have a wide-degree of choice in whom they befriend.

Male friends groom one another; hunt and share meat together; collectively patrol the boundaries of their territories, and form alliances to attain and keep high rank in their groups, which in turn leads to more individual reproductive success.

Trump, Biden clash on Covid, racism, climate

Over 47 million Americans have already cast their votes

India, China 'filthy', says Don, rejecting climate talk

Nashville,

Oct. 23: US President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden clashed over Covid-19, immigration, racism and climate change during their final debate, ahead of the November 3 presidential election, presenting Americans with sharply divergent views of where they would lead them over the next four years.

The two leaders traded barbs during the debate that lasted just over 90 minutes, attacking each other's positions on controlling the raging Coronavirus pandemic and curbing the country's world-leading death toll of over 2,23,000.

The prime-time debate in Nashville, Tennessee, was a less acrimonious and more substantive affair than their previous showdown on September 29, which devolved into insults and name-calling. This prompted the debate organisers to put in place muted microphones during the candidates' opening statements on each topic to minimise disruption.

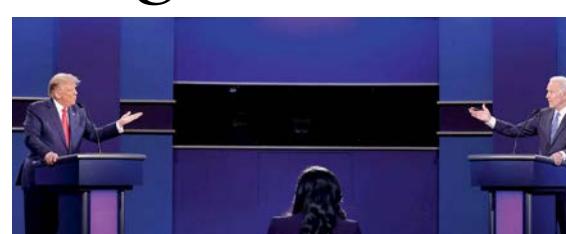
The debate, deftly moderated by NBC's Kristen Welker, saw plenty of personal attacks between 74-year-old Trump, a Republican, and his 77-year-old Democratic rival, Biden, whose mutual dislike was quite evident. Millions of Americans have already made up their minds about the election, with more than 47 million people having cast early ballots by mail or in person due to Covid-19 fears.

The figure exceeds the early vote total in 2016. There are about 230 million eligible voters in total. The Coronavirus dominated the opening minutes of the Trump-Biden face-off with President Trump terming the contagion a "worldwide problem". "This has been a worldwide problem, but I've been congratulated by many countries on what we've been able to do," he said. Trump once again blamed China for the virus and said Beijing failed to prevent the disease from becoming a pandemic. — PTI

Trump's remarks come days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper visit New Delhi for talks on building the growing US-India partnership.

At the first presidential debate, Trump also spoke critically of India, questioning its coronavirus data amid criticism of his handling of the pandemic. China's foreign ministry on Friday said Beijing hoped the US would "stop dragging China into its election campaigns." — AFP

The committee wants to hear from them about "the



US President Donald Trump, Democratic Presidential candidate former US vice-president Joe Biden participate in the final presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

TRUMP SAYS HE WILL VOTE IN PERSON

Washington, Oct. 23: President Donald Trump is taking his own advice and plans to vote in person in the presidential election on Saturday in Florida.

Trump is heading to his home state on Friday for campaign rallies at The Villages and in Pensacola. He's scheduled to spend the night at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach and says he'll vote on Saturday before he flies

north for more campaign rallies.

Trump revealed his plans on Thursday after the presidential debate with Democrat Joe Biden. Earlier this year, as Trump pressed unfounded claims about fraud surrounding mail-in and absentee ballots, Trump said people should be required to show up in person at the polls to vote. Trump also has voted by absentee ballot in the past. — AP

CEOS OF FB, TWITTER ORDERED TO TESTIFY BY GOP SENATORS

Washington, Oct. 23: The GOP push against Facebook and Twitter accelerated on Thursday after Republican senators threatened the CEOs of the social media companies with subpoenas to force them to address accusations of censorship in the closing weeks of the presidential campaign.

With Democrats boycotting the hearing, the Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee voted to authorise the legal orders if Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter's Jack Dorsey did not agree to testify voluntarily.

The committee wants to hear from them about "the

suppression and/or censorship of two news articles from the New York Post," according to the subpoena document. Senators also want information from the executives about their companies' policies for moderating content "that may interfere" with federal elections.

Representatives of Facebook and Twitter declined comment. The urgency ratcheted higher Thursday as US officials said Russian hackers have targeted the networks of dozens of state and local governments in recent days, stealing data from at least two servers. — AP

World's largest fountain opens in Dubai



Dubai launches the Palm Fountain in a bid to break a Guinness World Record as the world's largest fountain, at Palm Jumeira. Spread over 14,366 square feet of seawater, the fountain's super shooter stands tall at 105 metres and comes alive with over 3,000 LED lights. — AFP

SINKING RISK 1.3 million barrels of crude may spill into water, no water ingress found on vessel by expert team

Venezuelan tanker tilts, may spill oil into ocean

Caracas, Oct. 23: Trinidad and Tobago said on Thursday that a damaged oil tanker off the island's coast was "stable" after opposition politicians in neighboring Venezuela warned of a potential "environmental catastrophe."

The damaged tanker, which is in the waters separating Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago and is owned by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, threatens to spill 1.3 million barrels of crude into the water.

"The ship is straight and stable without any visible

risk of sinking," Energy Minister Franklin Khan said during a video conference in Puerto Espana.

The Nabarima tanker, anchored for several months in the Gulf of Paria, is used to store oil, but video footage shared on October 16 by the Fisherman and Friends of the Sea NGO showed it tilting.

A team of three "experts" boarded the ship on Tuesday, the day after receiving the green light from Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government, Khan said.

The findings showed that

"there was no water ingress on the vessel visible to the team. Which means the ingress reported in early September no longer exists," the minister said.

According to Khan, the team reported that maintenance tasks were being carried out on the ship, such as repairing and replacing pumps and electric motors if necessary, which the experts described as "quite satisfactory." Eudis Girot, a Venezuelan oil sector union leader, said the 855-foot (264-meter) ship has had maintenance problems since 2014. But he said

those problems "have been ignored" by PDVSA.

Girot said several PDVSA employees reported on October 12 that the tanker was listing by eight percent while the engine room is flooded and water pumps have broken down.

If the oil is not transferred, and even if the Nabarima can be stabilized, we risk a permanent environmental catastrophe," Venezuelan opposition legislator Robert Alcalá said. The Nabarima is owned by Petrosure, a company majority owned by PDVSA, with Italian

US gives approval to use remdesivir against Covid

Washington, Oct. 23: US regulators on Thursday approved the first drug to treat Covid-19: remdesivir, an antiviral medicine given through an IV for patients needing hospitalisation. The drug, which California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. is calling Veklury, cut the time to recovery by five days — from 15 days to 10 on average — in a large study led by the US National Institutes of Health.

It had been authorised for use on an emergency basis since spring, and now becomes the first drug to win full Food and Drug Administration approval for treating Covid-19. President Donald Trump received it when he was sickened earlier this month. Veklury is approved for people at least 12 years old and weighing at least 40 kilograms who need hospitalization for their coronavirus infection. For patients younger than 12, the FDA will still allow the drug's use in certain cases under its previous emergency authorization. The drug works by inhibiting a substance the virus uses to make copies of itself. Certain tests are required before starting patients on it.

And the label warns against using it with the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, because that can curb its effectiveness. "We now have enough knowledge and a growing set of tools to help fight Covid-19," Gilead's chief medical officer, Dr Merdad Parsey, said in a statement. The department said the risk of infection was "low" for the two people who drove the diplomat 300 kilometers (185 miles) from Sydney to Canberra. Australia's Health Department said in a statement on Friday "all relevant international state parties have been notified." The Vatican did not immediately respond to a request for comment. — AP

The drug is either approved or has temporary authorisation in about 50 countries, he noted. Its price has been controversial, given that no studies have found it improves survival. Last week, a large study led by the World Health Organization found the drug did not help hospitalized Covid-19 patients, but that study did not include a placebo group and was less rigorous than previous ones that found a benefit. Gilead charges \$2,340 for a typical treatment course for people covered by government health programs in the United States and other developed countries, and \$3,120 for patients with private insurance. — AP

UN CHIEF URGES G20 TO UNITE, FIGHT PANDEMIC

United Nations, Oct. 23: The UN chief says it's "very frustrating" that leaders of the 20 major industrialised nations didn't come together in March and establish a coordinated response to grapple with the Coronavirus in all countries as he proposed. The result, he says, is every country is taking its own sometimes contradictory actions, and the virus is moving "from east to west, north to south," with second waves of infections now affecting many countries.

Ahead of the Group of 20 summit next month, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview that he hopes the international community now understands "they need to be much more coordinated in fighting the virus." Guterres says the United Nations also will be "strongly advocating" during the G-20 summit for a guarantee that when a vaccine is available, "it becomes indeed available and affordable for everyone, everywhere." — AP

a typical treatment course for people covered by government health programs in the United States and other developed countries, and \$3,120 for patients with private insurance. — AP

Libya rivals sign 'permanent' truce

Geneva, Oct. 23: Libya's two warring factions signed a "permanent" ceasefire agreement on Friday after five days of talks at the United Nations, which hailed the deal as a historic moment following years of turmoil and bloodshed.

"Today is a good day for the Libyan people," said Stephanie Williams, the UN's acting envoy to the troubled North African country, where a UN-recognised government in Tripoli has been battling a rival administration based in the east and dominated by military commander Khalifa Haftar. "The two Libyan delegations... signed a complete, country-wide and permanent ceasefire agreement with immediate effect," she told journalists afterwards.

Williams said the parties agreed that "all military units and armed groups on the front lines shall return to their camps", while "all mercenaries and foreign fighters" must leave within three months.

Since then, it has been dominated by armed groups, riven by local conflicts and divided between the two bitterly-opposed administrations.

Tripoli is held by the internationally recognised Government of National Accord, while a parliament based in the eastern city of Tobruk is backed by Haftar's forces.

But hopes for a solution rose after the two sides separately announced in August that they would cease hostilities.

Ahmed Abu Shahma, who headed the GNA delegation in Geneva, urged Libyans to come together and rebuild a united, stable country.

"We have had enough suffering, enough divisions, enough bloodshed," he said at the signing ceremony. — AFP



A video image released by the Fishermen and Friends of the Sea NGO shows the tilted Nabarima oil tanker.

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,685.50
Nifty 50	11,930.40
S&P 500*	3,448.13
Dollar (₹)	73.60
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.44
Euro (₹)	87.15
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,685*81
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.89
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.844
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.858
	0.010

* As of 9:30 PM IST

IDBI Bank posts ₹324 cr profit, NPA ratio drops

IDBI Bank on Friday reported a net profit of ₹324 crore for the second quarter of the current fiscal year against a loss of ₹3,459 crore for the same period of the previous fiscal. Compared sequentially, the bank registered a 125 per cent jump against the first quarter net profit of ₹144 crore. Total income of the bank fell by 7.5 per cent to ₹5,761.06 crore during Q2FY21.

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RBI fears India entering recession in H1 of FY21

Central banker awaits NSO data on economic growth in Nov

Wealth increases in India despite Covid

New York, Oct. 23: The pandemic that's led to more than one million deaths globally has also led to a decline in individual wealth, yet household wealth largely held up and even increased in China and India.

That's one of the main findings in Credit Suisse Group AG's 2020 Global Wealth Report released Thursday. Thanks to government and central-bank actions to mitigate the Covid-19 fallout, wealth rebounded from an initial slump in the first quarter of the year, growing by 4.4 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively. Latin America suffered the most, with a 13 per cent plunge in household wealth.

"Given the damage inflicted by Covid-19 on the global economy, it seems remarkable that household wealth has emerged relatively unscathed," said economist Anthony Shorrocks, one of the report's authors, adding as a caveat that the findings are based on provi-

sional household balance sheets for the second quarter issued by few countries.

Global wealth creation is expected to rebound next year as the economy recovers. The "main outlier" is North America, the report says, where the economy is hobbled by the "continued weakness due to the high prevalence of Covid-19" in the U.S.

Only China and India saw gains in household wealth in the first half of the year for the first time in history, Patra said.

The MPC members were keen to support economic recovery rather than control inflation even though it would drift from the original mandate of keeping retail inflation on an average between two and six per cent.

The MPC on October 9 had unanimously voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at four per cent for the second consecutive time and maintain an accommodative stance "at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year".

According to minutes, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said there are downside uncertainties that could put sand in the wheels of the nascent recovery being witnessed.

"Primary among them is the risk of a second wave of Covid-19... Despite sequential improvement in Q3 and Q4, the full year GDP is expected to contract by 9.5 per cent with a strong rebound next year," Das added.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ICRA said,

"While the MPC members

clearly desire to support the economic recovery, inflation may not oblige by falling fast enough to allow for speedy or substantial rate cuts. In our view, the incoming price

data suggests the chances of a February 2021 rate cut have dimmed."

To address Covid-induced economic problems, the Monetary Policy

committee (MPC) may continue with an accommodative stance for an extended period of time.

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