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KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 4 OCTOBER 2020

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TABLOID

The new, trim Indian wedding

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Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 33/24 °C

[worldometers.info/
coronavirus](https://worldometers.info/coronavirus)

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM
SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM
MOONSET 7.46 PM
MOONRISE 7.03 AM

A political cartoon by Dave Coverly depicting Donald Trump. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He has his characteristic large, blonde, wavy hair. He is wearing a light blue surgical mask with white stitching. On the mask, the words "MASK IS IMPORTANT." are written in black, all-caps, sans-serif font. In his left hand, he holds a white rectangular sign with black text that reads "TRUMP TESTS POSITIVE". The background is a solid light blue. The cartoon is signed "Dave Coverly" in the bottom left corner.

Hyderabad: In what is one of the biggest seizures of contraband gold ever in the city, customs officials at the Shamshabad airport on Saturday seized 21 kg of gold valued at around ₹9 crore in the open market. It was learnt that the gold was seized from the cargo terminal area. Investigations were still on as to where the gold was brought from and its destination, though initial reports said the gold was flown in from a West Asian country and was to be shipped to Mumbai. No official word on the seizure or the details were available till late in the evening.

The Hague: This really was the gold standard of road trips. The Netherlands' central bank transported its Dutch-based stock of gold — 14,000 bars and about 1,000 boxes of gold coins — from its headquarters in Amsterdam to a safe in the nearby city of Haarlem in a closely guarded operation that ended on Saturday, the bank said. Along with the bullion worth \$11.7 billion, the bank also shifted bills worth another \$5.3 billion in the operation that was led by the Royal Dutch Military Police. It was shifted about 20 km with a police helicopter hovering overhead.

Police was deployed at the clash site outside a municipal corporation office in Kothi Meena Bazaar area, officials said. Some visuals showed Valmiki members reached the municipal corporation office and pelted stones at the garbage collection vehicles at around 12 noon.

Sources said that stringent provisions of the New Municipalities Act of 2019, with regard to disqualification of elected members for not performing and disciplinary action against civic officials, will be incorporated in the proposed legislation.

According to news agency reports, the panel has further said, "There were no marks of struggle on the body and clothes of the deceased". The CBI will now continue its probe into "abetment to suicide", the charge that was listed by the Bihar Police, they added.

SHORT TAKES

COPS BUST FLESH
TRADE RACKET,
COUPLE HELDSANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

A couple was arrested by the Rachakonda anti-human trafficking unit for pushing a Bangladeshi woman into prostitution, at Lecturers Colony in Hayatnagar on Friday. The organisers, the husband-wife duo of Uyyala Yadaiah and Chittamma, were apprehended. Police said one Imran from Bangladesh had brought a 26-year-old woman from the neighbouring country, promising her work as a domestic help in India. He handed her over to Rahul who led the victim to Hyderabad.

According to the police, Rahul forced the victim into prostitution. She was sent the house of Yadaiah and Chittamma, where the whole operation used to take place.

The police raided the house and rescued the woman. K. Chandra Shekhar, inspector of the anti-human trafficking unit, Rachakonda, and Hayatnagar inspector M. Surender conducted the joint operation.

38 PRISONERS IN
WARANGAL JAIL
WALK FREEDC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, OCT. 3

As many as 38 prisoners were released from the Warangal Central Prison on Saturday evening under a special remission plan as part of Mahatma Gandhi's 151st birth anniversary celebrations.

Jail superintendent N. Murali Babu administered an oath to the beneficiaries to lead a good life outside and handed over their release certificate.

Of the 38 prisoners who benefited from the remission, 27 are men and 11 are women, belonging to the old districts of Warangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad and Khammam.

"The male convicts who have completed a sentence of 14 years and female convicts who completed eight years were set free," Murali Babu said.

EVEN SMALL
SURGERY NEEDS
BIG PROTOCOLS

From page 1

"Even the smallest of surgeries requires a list of protocols to be followed which, for small hospitals, are draining.

In these times, it is not possible for them to continue and are shutting down," Dr Prasad said.

Their patients are now being referred to medium and corporate hospitals for surgeries and follow-ups are carried out by their treating doctors.

The shift to online diagnosis, treatment and follow-up is not a temporary phase and many are of the opinion that it will continue in the future too.

With patients able and willing to connect to their doctors from home, their costs of travel, waiting time and other risks are reduced.

The only problem is that the cost of surgery will see a rise as there will be only medium and corporate hospitals services which will be too high for the lower middle class and the poor who frequented smaller hospitals.

Dr Sanjiv Singh Yadav, secretary of the Telangana Indian Medical Association, says "Emergency surgeries are the only ones which are happening as electives are reduced.

For any elective surgery, the procedure is long and tedious and it has to now be planned ensuring that patient and healthcare workers are safe. This has reduced the numbers."

These changes in the health sector are unfolding with the unlocking and many of them see that the long term impact will make it difficult for small hospitals to re-establish themselves again.

● **DR SANJIV SINGH** Yadav, secretary of the Telangana Indian Medical Association, says "Emergency surgeries are the only ones which are happening as electives are reduced.

● **FOR ANY** elective surgery, the procedure is long and tedious and it has to now be planned ensuring that patient and healthcare workers are safe. This has reduced the numbers."

CM resists support towards
farm bills despite pressure

KCR feels that the legislations are detrimental to the farmers

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday told some of his ministers and legislators that the BJP government at the Centre had put a lot of pressure on him to support the contentious farm Bills passed in the Rajya Sabha recently but he had resisted it, sources said.

He was speaking informally with ministers and MLAs from Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Hyderabad districts at

Pragathi Bhavan.

Sources said that the CM told them that despite the pressure he did not vote with the NDA as he felt that the legislations were detrimental to the farmers.

Sources said that Rao also told the ministers and MLAs that the BJP leadership had brought pressure on him to support the proposed Electricity Bill. The Bill will benefit private players to sell electricity to the state governments.

Sources said Rao had called the ministers and MLAs to get feedback on the New Revenue Act, proposed digitalisation

of property records, the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) which is facing opposition from the BJP, and the government's stand on the Electricity Bill.

He will be meeting with other leaders in the coming days.

The CM told the leaders to highlight the benefits of the New Revenue Act, the LRS and regularisation of sada binama (agreements written on plain paper) land transactions and convince them to cooperate with the government to bring a transparent and corruption-free revenue administration.

While referring to the elections to two Legislative Council graduate seats, Rao asked the leaders not to get confused by the propaganda of Opposition that graduates and unemployed are against the TRS.

He asked the leaders to take an active role in enrolling voters for the graduates elections and forward updates to the party office regularly, sources revealed.

Rao is said to have told them that since the launching of the TRS, the youth of the state have been with the TRS and they will continue to remain so. The Chief

Minister termed the BJP as a "bakvas party" that would never emerge as alternative to the TRS, sources added.

Rao said that the BJP was only interested in dethroning Opposition governments in the states, they don't show any interest in the welfare of the people, sources said.

The Chief Minister reportedly told the ministers and MLAs that internal surveys of the party showed that the TRS would win 104 divisions in the GHMC elections and the Dubbaka byelection with a large margin.

Dubbaka byelection meet



BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna, Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy, former MP A.P. Jitender Reddy and OBC Morcha president Dr K. Laxman take part in a meeting on the Dubbaka byelection in Hyderabad on Friday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Centre ready to mediate
on water dispute: KishanDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday said that the Centre is ready to mediate if the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state want an amicable settlement to the water-sharing disputes between the two states.

While speaking with the media at the state party office, Kishan Reddy said that it is not proper on the part of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to drag the Centre into the water disputes between AP and Telangana state.

Reacting to Rao's letter to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, he asked why Rao had not raised the issue of water-sharing between both states when he had dinner with AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Stating that the Centre will not object if both Chief Ministers work toward a solution to the issues, he pointed out that when the Maharashtra and Telangana state Chief Ministers met to share the Godavari waters,

BJP TO FIELD ITS CANDIDATE
FOR DUBBAKA BYELECTIONDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Party vice-president D.K. Aruna, BJP OBC National Morcha president Dr. K. Laxman, Jitender Reddy and M. Raghunandan Rao, the proposed nominee for Dubbaka, and other senior leaders participated in the meeting. Jitender Reddy said that they had proposed the name of Raghunandan Rao and the final decision would be taken by the party high command. He said that an eight-member team will steer the election campaign.

He said that during their recent visit to the constituency, they noticed that people are looking at the BJP as an alternative to the TRS. He said that the people were regretting that this was not the Telangana that they dreamt of.

Among the remaining elected representatives, 140 are from the Congress, 84 from BJP, 28 from the MIM, a TRS ally, and another 66 are independents.

Since the day MLC elections were announced, over 100 mandal and zilla parishad

the Centre had mediated. Reiterating that the Centre will certainly mediate if both Chief Ministers want to resolve the dispute

through consultations, Kishan Reddy alleged that Rao intentionally sought postponement of Apex Council meeting on August 5.

Kavitha as MLC
poll nominee
perks up TRSS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti is trying hard to regain its footing in the erstwhile Nizamabad district. The candidature of former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha for the MLC local body polls has changed political dynamics in the district. The local TRS leadership has swung back into action on the ground. The party is also all set to welcome

leaders from Opposition parties. Though the victory of Kavitha is imminent in the MLC polls with the TRS having the backing of 505 of 824 voters from various local bodies in the erstwhile Nizamabad district, party leaders are aiming to win the seat for her with an even bigger majority.

Among the remaining elected representatives, 140 are from the Congress, 84 from BJP, 28 from the MIM, a TRS ally, and another 66 are independents.

Since the day MLC elections were announced, over 100 mandal and zilla parishad

members and corporators belonging to Opposition parties in the district have joined the TRS in the presence of minister Prashant Reddy. With this, the strength of TRS among MLC voters has crossed 600.

Polling for MLC elections is scheduled on October 9. Counting of votes will be on October 12.

Ruling party cadres are asserting that Kavitha is sure to win with over two-thirds of majority in the MLC election. They feel her active presence in district politics thereafter will change political equations in the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency. Party leaders are pointing out that even prior to her tenure as MP from Nizamabad, Kavitha had established herself well among the cadres in Nizamabad. She also has a strong support from women in the district.

TRS cadres feel her growing social media presence and work carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic will help her regain foothold in the district.

TRS takes bypoll
voters to campsNARENDER
PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

With the October 9 byelections to the Nizamabad MLC round the corner, the great bazaar of 'securing' the vote-bank is set to gather steam.

Shifting of voters to camps began on Saturday. TRS legislators initiated steps to shift voters to undisclosed places. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's daughter, former MP K. Kavitha, is a contestant and the ruling party leaders are taking utmost care to ensure her victory.

Bodhan MLA Shakil Amer arranged special buses to shift MPCTC, ZPTC members and municipal councillors. Interestingly, women voters accompanied their families on the tour. Nizamabad Rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan

also shifted voters to camps.

In the ensuing byelection, the 824 voters include MPCTC, ZPTC members, municipal councilors and corporators.

High-end accommodation, food and entertainment will be provided to the voters during the camp, TRS sources said.

Officially TRS has around 500 voters in undivided Nizamabad district, but elected representatives from Congress and BJP are to support Kavitha, whose voters' tally has crossed 600 on Saturday. The shifting of voters is in strict compliance with the Covid-19 protocol. The voters will reach their respective polling stations on October 9.

On the other hand, district administration in Nizamabad and Kamareddy is making arrangements for the polls.

28-YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR
ATTEMPT TO CHAIN SNATCHINGBALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

A 28-year-old man, identified as G. Ravi Kumar of Yarpal, was arrested by the Neredmet police for attempting to snatch a gold chain, worth approximately ₹1.5 lakh, off a woman's neck.

According to the police, Kumar, who lost his job due to the Covid-19 lockdown, tried to earn quick money by borrowing from friends

and placing bets on the ongoing IPL cricket matches. He quickly ran up debts of ₹10 lakh, and was under pressure to repay the money.

With no cash, Kumar decided to try his hand at chain snatching. On Saturday, he followed a 52-year-old woman, identified by the police as R. Indira of Defence Colony in Neredmet, and snatched the gold chain she was wearing.

POLICE TO TAKE UP SEARCH OPERATIONS

Hyderabad: Search operations will be taken up in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district as the movement of Maoists and their affiliated organisations was detected there and on the borders of Chhattisgarh, police said on Saturday. The police forces of Bhadradi-Kothagudem and Mulugu districts of Telangana state and Chhattisgarh would take up the search operations, a police release said. Three Maoists, including two women, were killed in an exchange of fire between the ultras and police in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, bordering Chhattisgarh, on September 23.

— PTI

Actors, technicians to
face 20% income cutSANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Telugu movie industry which has been feeling the pinch with the prolonged Covid-19 shutdown that threw its finances into turmoil, has decided to cut the remuneration received by actors and technicians by 20 per cent.

The Movie Artists Association (MAA) and the Active Telugu Film Producers Guild on Saturday announced that both groups have agreed to the reduction on the pre-lockdown rates. The Guild said with many unknowns lying ahead, there was a need to resume work by taking decisions that will ensure that the Telugu movie industry can sustain itself till the situation normalises.

Though the government is opening up various sectors of the economy including movie theatres, questions remain on theatre occupancy, a zero foreign theatrical market, and decrease in revenue realization on account of the impact of Covid-19 on all sections of society.

"After fruitful discussions with the MAA, we have been able to arrive at an understanding that will set the tone and help us lift ourselves from the situation in the near future," the Guild said in its announcement. It said that artists whose remuneration is ₹20,000 or less per day will not face any cuts.

With respect to technicians, those drawing more than ₹5 lakh per film will face the 20 per cent cut in remuneration on par with others.

Meanwhile, though the Centre has said that movie theatres can reopen from October 15, with the Telangana state government yet to give its go-ahead, the Telangana Theatre Owners Association (TTOA) on Saturday said its members were gearing up for the reopening.

"Like most industries, cinema and theatre industry suffered huge losses and single

● **THE ASSOCIATION** members met on Saturday to discuss the way forward, and the safety and security protocols to be followed, once the state government gives the go-ahead for reopening of the cinemas.

● **MEANWHILE, THOUGH** the Centre has said that movie theatres can reopen from October 15, with the Telangana state government yet to give its go-ahead, the Telangana Theatre Owners Association (TTOA) on Saturday said its members were gearing up for the reopening.

screen theatres accumulated losses of at least ₹2 lakh per month in the past seven months.

We do not expect to immediately get into a profit-making mode once the theatres are reopened. What we hope for is to minimise the ongoing losses," Vijayender Reddy, TTOA secretary, said.

The association members met on Saturday to discuss the way forward, and the safety and security protocols to be followed, once the state government gives the go-ahead for reopening of the cinemas.

Theatre owners assured that every Covid-19 safety protocol will be followed and urged the state government to allow them to function at 50 per cent of their seating capacity as allowed by the Centre. Balgovind Raj Tadla, who owns two theaters at RTC crossroads, told *Deccan Chronicle* that the government should balance between people's health and its economy. "The reopening of the theatres will lead to restarting employment for many. The OTT platforms are a threat to cinema theatres and the government's nod to reopen cinemas will help us," he said.

NITW to create
awareness on JOSAADC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, OCT 3

A one-day awareness program on JOSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority) counselling for admissions through online will be held on 4 October by the National Institute of Technology Warangal (NITW).

NIT Warangal director, Prof N. V. Raman Rao, said, "Over the years it is observed that, parents and students seeking admission into NIT's and IIT's have numerous queries related to admission procedure, branch selection etc.

The one day awareness programme will address these issues," he said.

The programme will cover all the aspects of JOSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority) procedures so that students are well prepared for counselling.

Often, some students end-up

losing opportunities because of minor mistakes in the filling of the online forms. Many students do not come prepared with the required documents for reporting.

This programme will help the rural and tribal students to prepare well for counselling. The admissions team will clear the queries of the students and parents.

Apart from JOSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority), there will be a session about the NIT Warangal.

In the afternoon, a visit to the departments so students can interact with faculty members and a visit to the laboratories to get first-hand information of the specific branch of engineering is scheduled.

Interested students can visit www.nitw.ac.in for details. One can click on the YouTube link on 4 October to watch the programme.

TS reports 1,718
new Covid casesKANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

There were 1,718 new cases of Covid-19 and eight deaths due to the disease in the state on Friday, according to the health department bulletin issued on Saturday.

The caseload stands at 1,97,327 cases and the toll at 1,153 deaths.

A total of 49,084 samples were taken for testing as against the average of 53,000 which was noted on weekdays. A total of 31,53,626 samples have been tested in Telangana state so far.

With further unlocking and people not being able to stay put at home, it has become extremely important to fol-

low the protocols of masking and physical distancing. There are many violations noted from time to time and the government authorities are continuously warning that basics of hand washing, cough etiquette and masks must be followed strictly.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) recorded 285 new Covid-19 positive cases, Ranga Reddy district 129, Medchal-Malkajgiri 115, Karimnagar 105 and Nalgonda district recorded 103 new cases on Friday.

The cases in other districts are low that is because testing facilities are limited or there are mild cases which are being given home treatment.

SHORT TAKES

PROPERTY OFFENDER ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

Bodhan police arrested a property offender on Saturday and recovered ₹4.75 lakh worth gold, silver ornaments and cash. The accused identified as Ukkalkar Sai Kumar alias plumber Sai, 34, of Banswada in Kamareddy district.

Rudrur CI Y. Ashok Reddy, Varni SI Anil Reddy apprehended the accused on Saturday.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing property offences under Varni police station limits. The cops recovered the stolen property and produced the accused in court.

Bodhan ACP N.Rama Rao appreciated the police team for arresting the accused.

BJP STAGES PROTEST AGAINST LRS IN NIZAMABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

The BJP staged a protest at the Nizamabad collectorate on Saturday against the Layout Regulation Scheme (LRS).

BJP leaders and activists in large numbers took part in the agitation.

They said that LRS is financially affecting the people and the state government should cancel it immediately.

They also asked for the hike in registration charges to be rolled back.

NIZAMABAD ZP WINS NATIONAL AWARD

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

The Nizamabad Zilla Parishad has won the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) for 2018-2019.

The national award recognises the best-administered village panchayats. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award online.

The award that carries a memento and a cash prize of ₹50 lakh was handed over to Nizamabad Zilla Parishad chairman Dadannagari Vittal Rao.

After receiving the award, Vittal Rao met Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in Hyderabad on Friday. The Chief Minister appreciated the achievement.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, zilla parishad chief executive officer Govind expressed joy on receiving the national award. He said, "We bagged the award due to the collective efforts of the elected representatives and the officials."

Nizamabad is the only district in Telangana state to be awarded the award.



Adilabad MP Soyam Bapurao welcomed by villagers of an interior village in Adilabad rural mandal. Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna visits an interior village in Adilabad rural mandal on Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE



TRS, BJP eye Adilabad Rural ZPTC seat

Seat vacant after the demise of vice-chariman Are Rajanna

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, OCT. 3

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and the BJP are eyeing the Adilabad Rural ZPTC (zilla parishad territorial committee) seat which fell vacant after the demise of vice-chairman Are Rajanna of the TRS recently due to Covid.

The TRS had defeated the BJP in the race to the Adilabad zilla parishad chairman post last year.

Adilabad MP Soyam Bapurao of the BJP and TRS MLA Jogu Ramanna

● **THERE ARE** total 17 ZPTCs in Adilabad district, of which the TRS won nine, BJP five and Congress three. The Congress is not showing much interest.

are visiting tribal areas in Adilabad Rural mandal to strengthen support for their parties. The Adivasi population is high in the Rural mandal, and they are briefing them on the development brought about by the government.

There are total 17 ZPTCs in Adilabad district, of

which the TRS won nine, BJP five and Congress three.

Rathod Janardhan of the TRS got 10 votes in the ZP chairman election, nine of the TRS and one of the Congress.

Uttoor ZPTC member Charulatha Rathod of the Congress voted for the TRS but continued with the party.

Janardhan's BJP rival Mesram Gangubai got seven votes, including two from the Congress — Goka Ganesh Reddy and Malleshwar Narsaiah.

Ramanna is explaining the benefits of the new

Revenue Act and pointing to the improved road connectivity. Bapurao is campaigning on how the new farm Acts will help farmers and highlighting the Centre's financial assistance to the many welfare schemes being implemented in the state.

The Congress is not showing much interest. DCC president Bhargav Deshpande has resigned his post which is lying vacant. It is said that many TRS leaders including a woman leader are aspiring for the seat. It is said that Are Rajanna's son may be nominated.

Warangal Rural farmers switch to horticulture, earn profits

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 3

The number of farmers stepping out of their comfort zone of traditional farming is on the rise in Warangal Rural district. The district administration has been successful in convincing the farmers to take up horticulture crops.

With the help of the latest farming technology, a sizeable number of farmers are already reaping the benefits. Bommineni Rajaranga Reddy cultivates maize on his five-acre land at Elukurthy in Geesugonda mandal. He used to earn a profit of ₹2 lakh. With the encouragement of the horticulture officers, he grew bitter gourd in half his land and ridge gourd in the other half.

He said, "I set up a permanent pandal in my field and use drip irrigation and mulching to grow both the crops. I incurred a cost of ₹5 lakh for seeds, urea, mulching and labour. I was able to harvest 35 tonnes ridge gourd which fetched me ₹7 lakh, and 30 tonnes of bitter gourd bringing in another ₹6 lakh."

He received a total of ₹13 lakh and a profit of ₹8 lakh. When compared to the agriculture crop, he has benefited by ₹6 lakh.

Another maize farmer Kuduthala Veeranna of Narakkapet in Nallabally mandal made the switch to watermelon cultivation in



Kuduthala Veeranna with his watermelon crop in Narakkapet on Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

PREFERENCE OF FARMERS

Crop	Number of farmers	Area in acres
Fruit orchids	3,349	10,506
Vegetables	6,388	8,433
Mirchi	8,734	14,579
Turmeric	10,765	16,750
Flower gardens	158	313
Plantations	429	1,037
Mulberry	99	250
Total	29,922	51,868

his one-acre land.

Raising 15 tonnes of watermelon, he received a profit of ₹96,500 a considerable raise from the ₹40,000 he received through the maize crop. His investment was ₹53,500 for raising the crop and sold it for ₹1.5 lakh.

District Horticulture officer R. Srinivas said that the subsidy schemes intro-

duced by the state government have made it easier for farmers to take up horticulture. "We created awareness among the farmers about the benefits of horticulture and the use of the latest technology. One farmer reaping benefits encourages other farmers in the village to try the same," he said.

LEGACY | LIVES ON

During Covid-19 children are taught under the banyan tree Haimendorf's spirit continues in Marlavai

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, OCT. 3

Adivasis of Adilabad district are continuing anthropologist Christoph Von Furer Haimendorf's age-old tradition of imparting education to children under the banyan tree at historical Marlavai village even today despite the Coronavirus pandemic.

Haimendorf had established a formal school at Marlavai in Jainoor mandal during the 1950's while he was studying the lifestyle of Adivasis as part of his research work for the then Nizam. The Nizam government had invited the renowned anthropologist in 1941 to study the problems being faced by Adivasis.

This was after a rebellion by Adivasis under the leadership of Komaram Bheem for their rights on Jal, Jangal and Jameen. Komaram Bheem died while fighting the forces of Nizam at Jodeghat in 1940.

The school for Adivasi children at Marlavai was later converted into a teacher training centre in 1951. Teachers used to teach



Adivasi children study under the banyan tree during the Covid-19 pandemic. Left: Christoph Von Furer Haimendorf with Kanaka Hannu Master (right) at Marlavai village.

the students in Gondi language in Marathi medium.

Many first-generation Adivasis, who got trained at the Marlavai teacher training institute, went on to become teachers. Many of them are still remembered as 'Masters', for example Sidam Maru master, Kanaka Hannu master and Kotnaka Somji master.

Former minister late Godam Ramarao's son Godam Nagesh became a teacher at the Marlavai training centre and became a teacher before entering

● **HAIMENDORF** HAD established a formal school at Marlavai in Jainoor mandal during the 1950's while he was studying the lifestyle of the Adivasis.

politics.

Sidam Maru master's son Arju also became a teacher, like Godam Ramarao's son Godam Nagesh became a teacher. Nagesh joined politics after working as a teacher for some years. He

went on to become the minister for tribals like his father during the TD rule in the 1990's.

Former sarpanch of Marlavai Kanaka Maruti, 70, said the then Nizam established the school at Marlavai and subsequently a teacher training centre on the advice of Haimendorf. He pointed out that many Adivasi youth studied in Urdu, Modi and Marathi languages during those days.

Many Adivasi children are still being taught under the same banyan tree after 50

years despite the pandemic. Local Adivasi leaders and gram panchayat conduct elocution, essay writing and painting competitions for students. They are giving prizes to encourage the Adivasi students to attend their classes regularly.

Haimendorf's wife Elizabeth had also stayed at Marlavai on the invitation of villagers led by the then village headman Atram Lachu Patel. Incidentally, the Haimendorf couple had named their son after the headman as Lachu Patel.

Family of 7 farmers gets Rythu Bima

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 3

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has introduced the Rythu Bima insurance scheme to provide security to the farmers' families, said Choppadandi MLA, Sunke Ravi Shankar.

The MLA distributed the insurance papers of the Rythu Bhima worth ₹5 lakh each to the family members of seven farmers from different villages of Boinapalli mandal in Choppadandi constituency on Saturday.

The family members of farmers, Ganti Mallaiah of Thadagonda village, Bongani Anjaiah of Malkapur village, Manda Thirupathi of Dandrupally village, Dava Lachhi Reddy and Potturi Pochaiiah of Boinapalli village, Bongani Lachhava and Annem Ramya of Stambampally village received the insurance papers.

He said, "In an agreement with the LIC of India, the Telangana government is paying ₹3,000 crore as premium under the Rythu Bima insurance

● **THE FAMILY** members of farmers, Ganti Mallaiah of Thadagonda village, Bongani Anjaiah of Malkapur village, Manda Thirupathi of Dandrupally village, Dava Lachhi Reddy and Potturi Pochaiiah of Boinapalli village, Bongani Lachhava and Annem Ramya of Stambampally village received the insurance papers.

scheme on behalf of the farmers in Telangana." Mr Ravi Shankar said that the TRS government is also sanctioning ₹10,000 for every acre of land to the farmers as an investment under the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

It also purchases the farmers produce and is constructing Rythu Veditkas.

No government in the country has introduced so many schemes and welfare projects for the farming sector.

Govt main hospital gets liquid O2 plant

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 3

A 21,000-litre capacity liquid oxygen plant at an investment of ₹85 lakhs was installed on Saturday at the Government main hospital in Karimnagar.

After inaugurating the plant, minister for civil supplies and Backward Class Welfare, Gangula Kamalakara said that the setting up of the liquid oxygen plant is the initiation taken by district collector K. Shashanka. Covid-19 patients and others will now be able to receive better treatment.

The liquid oxygen plant is centralised and connects to all the wards of the 400-bed hospital through pipelines. The hospital dependency on purchasing commercial oxygen cylinders will drastically reduce.

The minister said, "With the support extended by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and health minister Etala Rajendar, the needs of the hospital for the coming 20 years are met."

The liquid oxygen will be stored at minus 100 degree Celsius. More than 93 per cent of pure oxygen will be supplied directly through pipelines to 2,630 patients at a time in a sin-

● **THE LIQUID** oxygen plant is centralised and connects to all the wards of the 400-bed hospital through pipelines.

● **THE HOSPITAL** dependency on purchasing commercial oxygen cylinders will drastically reduce.

● **MORE THAN** 93 per cent of pure oxygen will be supplied directly through pipelines to 2,630 patients at a time in a single day.

gle day. The minister said that after the formation of Telangana state under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, government hospitals are functioning much better compared to private hospitals. Unlike in the past, higher institutional deliveries are taking place in government-run hospitals.

"The TRS government is taking steps to bring the lost glory of the government hospitals back by providing all kinds of facilities for the treatment of patients," he said.

DO YOU OWN A PLOT IN UNAUTHORIZED LAYOUT?

LAST & FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO REGULARIZE

GREAT CHANCE TO REGULARIZE ALL UNAPPROVED LAYOUTS

The Government of Telangana announces Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) in Rural and Urban areas for regularizing unauthorized Plots & Layouts.



Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao
Chief Minister, Government of Telangana

If not regularized under LRS scheme, the unauthorized Plot will not get the following approvals/facilities:

- * No Registration
- * No Building Permission
- * No Water Connection
- * No Electricity

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

All existing unapproved sub-division of plots, existing unapproved layouts or ventures where

- * The plots have been sold through a Registered Sale Deed
- * Unauthorized layouts developed, provided at least 10% of plots are sold through Registered Deed
- * Plots registered on or before 26.08.2020

EASY TO APPLY:

Applicant should file an online application or at mee-seva center in the prescribed format for regularization of the Plot/Layout before the competent authority by 15-10-2020 for all such Plots / Layouts, which are unapproved unauthorized and not covered under the prohibitory category.

The applicants can file online application in a simple way through:

- Common web portal
- Mee-Seva Center
- A smart phone based mobile app as developed for this purpose

PROHIBITORY CATEGORY:

Plots falling in Government lands / ULC surplus / Endowment / Waqf Lands and falling in FTL of tanks are not eligible for regularization.

LAST DATE FOR REGULARIZATION:

OCTOBER 15, 2020

Details of the Scheme & Regularization Charges are available at:

<http://lrs.telangana.gov.in/>

Helpline Numbers:

For Clarifications call between 10 AM and 6 PM

1. For Plots in HMDA: 1800 - 4258838

2. For Plots in GHMC: 040 -2111 1111

e-mail: support-lrs@telangana.gov.in

Download **LRS 2020 Mobile App** from

Google Play

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs_2020

Utilize this last & final opportunity - Get your plot regularized

APPLICATION FEES PAYABLE: FOR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS:

RS.1,000/-

ALONG WITH APPLICATION

FOR LAYOUT DEVELOPERS:

RS.10,000/-

IF APPLIED FOR THE ENTIRE LAYOUT

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS REGISTERED, THE ENTIRE REGULARIZATION CHARGES SHOULD BE PAID BY 31/01/2021



Sri K T Rama Rao
Hon'ble Minister for MA & UD Industries & Commerce, IT & C

TRS leader could be the comeback man

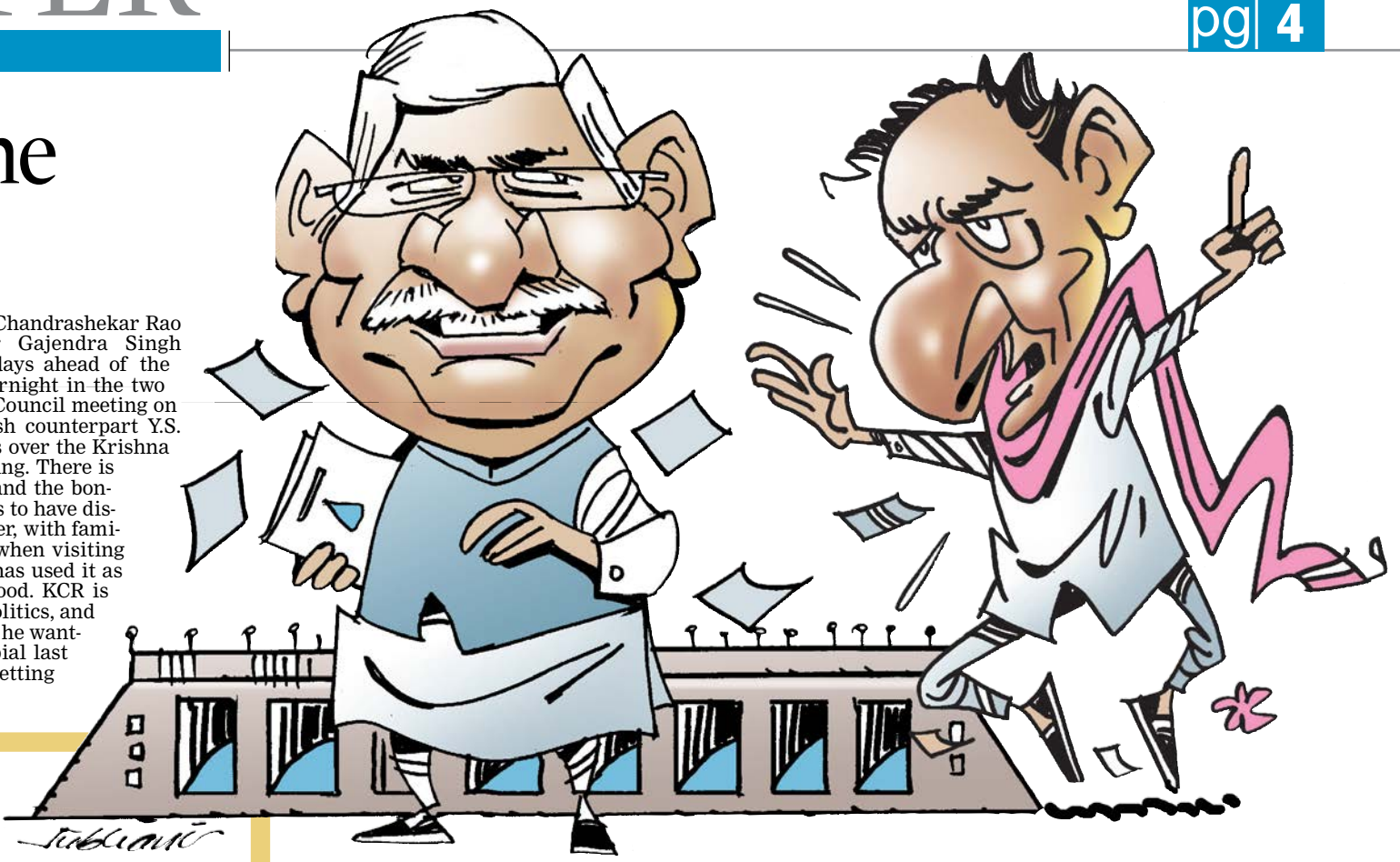
The sudden surfacing of a former deputy chief minister, who was putting in only occasional appearances after the 2018 Assembly elections, is being seen as significant in the TRS ranks. In the 2018 elections, he had sought the party ticket for his daughter but did not have his way. Now, for the election to the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduates' constituency of the Legislative Council, the ruling party is in search of a strong candidate. Though the seat is in the kitty of the ruling party, TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao is keeping all options open: The party is wary after suffering defeat in the Karimnagar-Medak-Adilabad graduates' seat. In this context, the former deputy chief minister met the TRS working president and interacted with him for a while. TRS cadres feel that KTR may field the former deputy CM for the forthcoming poll. Confidants of the former deputy CM say that he has laid down a condition, that his daughter should get a ticket in the 2023 Assembly elections if the party wants to field him for the MLC poll.

KCR keeps the water boiling

The six-page letter that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao wrote to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday night, just three days ahead of the Apex Council meet, has built up curiosity overnight in the two Telugu states. The Centre has called the Apex Council meeting on October 6 where KCR and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will discuss their disputes over the Krishna and Godavari river waters, with Singh overseeing. There is wonder that things have come to such a pass and the bonhomie between the two Chief Ministers appears to have dissipated so quickly: They have had lunch together, with family in tow, and each received a warm welcome when visiting the other. Water is a sensitive issue, and KCR has used it as one of the main pillars in his fight for statehood. KCR is seen as a veteran in politics, especially water politics, and observers are trying to figure out what message he wanted to send by writing the letter at the proverbial last minute before the Apex Council meeting and setting out tough terms.

KCR quickly rewards a prodigal

Senior bureaucrat V. Seshadri has created a record of sorts by getting a posting within a short period after coming to the Telangana state cadre from the Prime Minister's Office. Usually, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao takes his own sweet time to give postings to AIS officers coming back from Central deputation. The officers while their time away, waiting to catch the eye of the big man. But Seshadri was busy from day one after returning from Delhi, assisting the CM and the Chief Secretary in formulating the new Revenue Act. So impressed was he with the officer that KCR took him as his secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. Everyone knows of the integrity and efficiency of Seshadri and are of the view that the CM has made his intention clear to not allow any wrongdoing, knowingly or unknowingly, at least in departments to be allotted to this soft-spoken yet tough officer who is also a stickler for rules.



Inside track of Jagan-Shah meeting

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah has become a hot topic of debate in political circles. Contrary to public pronouncements that the CM had discussed many issues concerning the state, sources said his main agenda was to tell his side of the story in the ongoing tussle with the High Court. Also on the agenda was to explain to the No. 2 man at the Centre the insider trading of land in Amaravati and a few other issues concerning a powerful man in the judiciary. Grapevine has it that the CM made use of the services of an advocate, son of a former SC judge from the state, in building up his case. The advocate was called to the Shah-CM meeting but only for a brief moment. After documentary evidence collected against the powerful figure was handed over, the invitee had to leave. The curious moments continued even after Jagan left for Tirupati. The same evening, sources say, a YSRC parliamentarian who aspires to become No. 2 in the state hosted a dinner for his fellow MP from the state who had switched loyalties to the BJP and a young and a flamboyant leader from Rayalaseema who contested the last Lok Sabha polls on a TD ticket. The sad part is that while the young politician is having a gala time with ruling party leaders in Delhi, his close relatives are languishing in jail in cases which they alleged were foisted out of political vendetta.



LEISURE

BRIDGE | Susanna Gross

Dealer North	Neither vulnerable
<p>♠ A Q 4</p> <p>♥ A Q 10 7</p> <p>♦ 2</p> <p>♣ K Q J 9 8</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 2</p> <p>♥ K J 5</p> <p>♦ A K 7 5 3</p> <p>♣ 4</p>
<p>♠ 10 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♥ 9 6</p> <p>♦ 10 9</p> <p>♣ A 10 7 5</p>	<p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ 8 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ Q J 8 6 4</p> <p>♣ 6 3 2</p>
West	North
	East
	South

The Alt Invitational is a prestigious online teams tournament held every fortnight or so, packed with world-class players. It's not easy to secure a place, but my friend Jonathan Harris managed it for the first time last week. Things didn't start well for his 11-strong team, and by Thursday morning, after four days of play, it seemed impossible they would qualify for the quarterfinals. As it happens, I spent Thursday afternoon playing rubber bridge with two of the team, Steve Root and Niall Igoe (with a client of ours who doesn't like playing online). As Steve and I travelled home in the same direction, he got an urgent text; they were through! He needed to be ready to play in 20 minutes.

The rest unfolded like a dream. Few expected Team Harris to beat the all-star Team Donner, but they made light work of it. The next day, they played the semis against the brilliant Peter Fredin and his team, and triumphed again. And in the final they met the mighty Team Zhao — and ended up champions. What a debut! Congratulations to the whole team, and particularly the four who played the final: Steve, Niall, Marusa Gold and Todor Tiholov. On this deal, Steve was North.

East led the ♠2, won in dummy. Steve did well to play a club to the ♠9, followed by the ♣K (East throwing a diamond). West won and returned a spade. Steve now ran the clubs, carefully watching East's discards. East came down to ♠J9 ♥KJ, ♦AK. He should have thrown a winning diamond and kept the ♥5, but that was hard to do. Steve cashed the ♥A, and played the ♥10 to East's ♥K. East cashed the ♦AK — but that was it for the defence.

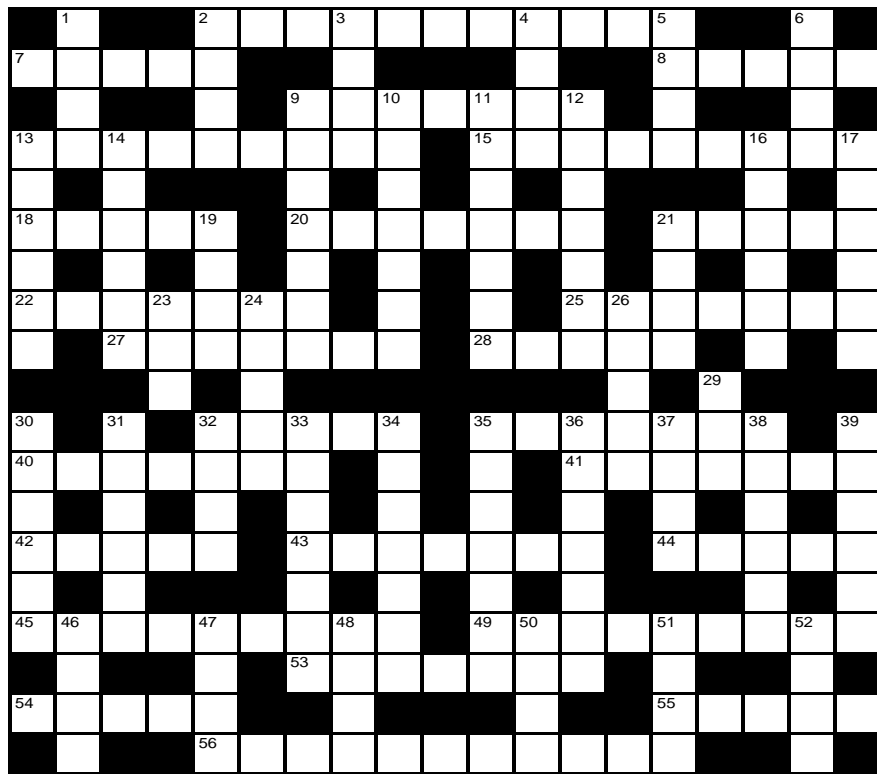
SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 954

ACROSS:

- 2 A light medium-dry sherry (11)
- 7 Trunk of a young fir tree (5)
- 8 Forbidden (5)
- 9 Got one's own back (colloq) (7)
- 13 Associated on very friendly terms (9)
- 15 Speak; utter (8)
- 18 Approaches (5)
- 20 Pertaining to curved courses of planets (7)
- 21 Customs; practice (5)
- 22 Combine with water (7)
- 25 Scheduled in sequence, informally speaking? (7)
- 27 Seats for monarchs (7)
- 28 Ancient language (5)
- 32 Staircase post (5)
- 35 Planned, plotted or concluded (7)
- 40 American state (7)
- 41 Deer horns (7)
- 42 Former Force India driver (5)
- 43 Reassemble (7)
- 44 Parasite (5)
- 45 Pull the shutters for the day? (5,4)
- 49 Doodled (3)
- 53 In the correct manner? (7)
- 54 ___ forth: begin or start a journey? (5)
- 55 Vegetables similar to onions (5)
- 56 Went faster or speeded up (11)

DOWN:

- 1 Sandwich content (4)
- 2 Jason's vessel (4)
- 3 Part of a church — "Evan" changed? (4)
- 4 Right to hold another's property till debt is paid (4)
- 5 Ear-related (4)
- 6 Under ___: in the way? (4)
- 9 Belly (7)
- 10 Things fit to eat? (7)
- 11 Affectedly polite? (7)
- 12 Least bright? (7)
- 13 Largest of Japan's four main islands (6)
- 14 Peace Nobelist of '71 (6)
- 16 Modified (5)
- 17 Puts right (6)
- 19 Joust (4)
- 21 Atop or over (4)
- 23 Greek letter (3)
- 24 Tribal symbol (5)
- 26 Compare (5)
- 29 Come together (3)
- 30 Astronomical distance of 3.26 light years (6)



SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD - 952

P	A	R	O	R	E	C	R	I	B	S	O	F	F	E	R	S
O	L	A	S	A	G	N	A	E	L	A	U	E	B	I		
L	E	S	A	G	N	A	E	L	A	U	E	B	I			
E	N	V	A	C	A	T	I	N	G							
T	H	A	R	B	H	A	J	A	N							
R	A	B	A	J	A	N										
O	U	T	S	P	O	K	E	N								
W	I															
C	O	N	T	E	S	T	A	R	S	O	N	I	S	T		
D	N	I	P	E	M	P	A	T								
R	E	T	C	H	E											
A	S	B	E	T	W	O	L	O	P	E						
C	O	U	R	T	I	E	R									
H	E	T	E	W	T	N										
M	O	D	I	S	H											
A	N	G	S	T												
A	G	E	N	T	S											

WIN A PRIZE

Here's your chance to win a cash prize of ₹200 each. All you need to do is rush in your completed crossword entry to us by Wednesday with your full name and address. Mark the envelope to:

Sunday Crossword-954
Sunday Magazine, 36, S.D. Road, Secbad-03

WINNERS OF CROSSWORD 952

M Nikhil
Hyderabad
S.D Toorkey
Secunderabad

CROSSWORD JIGSAW

K	E	G	L	E	R	S	E	L	E	N	E
A	A	A	O	R	T	A	L	S			
O	N	W	A	R	D	E	R	O	D	E	S
L	A	N	E	P	A	L	E	A			
I	L	I	A	O	L	D	A	R	M	Y	
N	I	N	N	Y	E	A	R	S	I	S	
M	G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	T			
C	E	R	E	S	T	H	A	T	E	D	
I	Y	A	R	R	E	V	N	E	R	O	
T	T	V	I	D	E	O	N	E	C		
I	R	O	N	E	D	R	A	T	T	L	E
E	O	E	G	E	S	T	E	N			
S	E	N	A	R	Y	E	S	P	R	I	T

STRIKE OUT

F	U	R	C	A	T	E	N	O	D	D	Y
I	U	P	N	A	G	E	I				
N	O	R	T	H	E	R					
E	C	A	O	A	E	E	L				
C	L	A	N								
F	C	L	A	N							
R	E	A	G	A	N						
A	R										
C	U	T	D	O	W	N					
T	D	C	B	R	O	T					
I	N	E	P	T							
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N	J	O	R	D							
D	D	U	D	G	E	O	N				

Answer for last week's

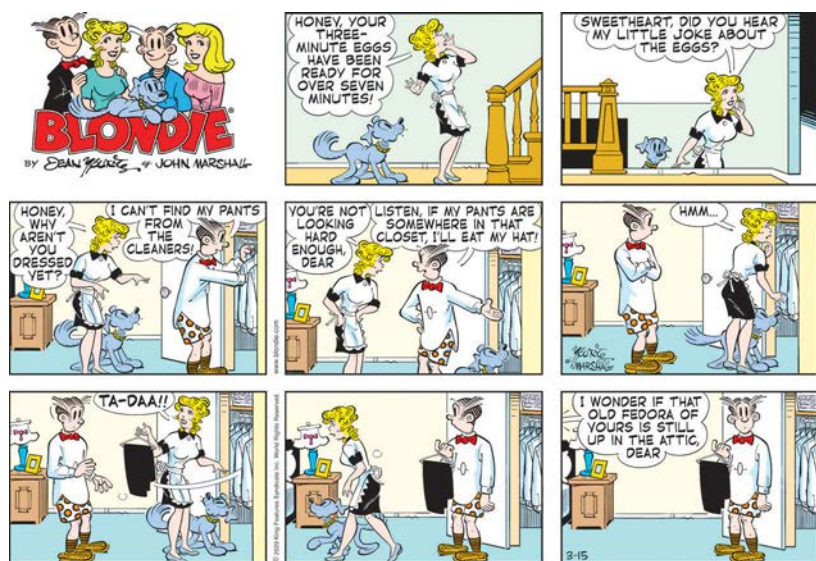
PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



SHORT TAKES

RJD MP MOVES SC AGAINST NEW FARM LAWS

New Delhi, Oct. 3: RJD MP Manoj Jha has moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws, saying they are “discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary” and will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates.

Parliament has recently passed the three Bills - the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. These have come into effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent.

Jha, a Rajya Sabha member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), has filed the plea in the top court through lawyer Fauzia Shakil.

Besides Jha, Congress Lok Sabha member from Kerala TN Prathapan and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu Tiruchi Siva had moved the top court against the farm laws.

BSP ANNOUNCES 2ND LIST OF 10 CANDIDATES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 3

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday announced its second list of 10 candidates for the November 3 by elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

Former minister Mahendra Singh Boudh who has recently joined BSP after resigning from Congress has figured in the second list of candidates of the party and has been given ticket for the Bhandar (SC) Assembly seat.

The BSP has earlier announced the first list of eight candidates for the assembly by-polls.

“BSP has decided to field candidates in all the 28 Assembly seats that are going to by-elections in MP on November 3. The party will go alone in the ensuing assembly by-elections”, state party president Ramakant Pippal said.

KERALA RECORDS OVER 7,000 CORONA CASES

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 3

Kerala on Saturday recorded 7,834 cases of Covid-19 taking the total number of cases so far to 2,21,333 even as 4,476 persons recovered from disease during the last 24 hours.

Of the total cases, 1,39,620 patients have recovered and 80,818 are under treatment in various hospitals across the state. Of the fresh cases, 6,850 contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 648 is yet to be known, 95 health care workers got infected, 49 came from abroad while 187 from other states.

The state also reported 22 more deaths taking the official death toll to 813.

COVID RECOVERIES SURGE TO 54,27,706

New Delhi, Oct. 3: India's Covid-19 death toll crossed one lakh and the infection tally climbed to 64,73,544, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 54 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.84 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 64,73,544 with 79,476 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,00,842 with the virus claiming 1,069 lives in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 54,27,706, while there are 9,44,996 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.60 per cent of the total caseload, the data showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.56 per cent.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

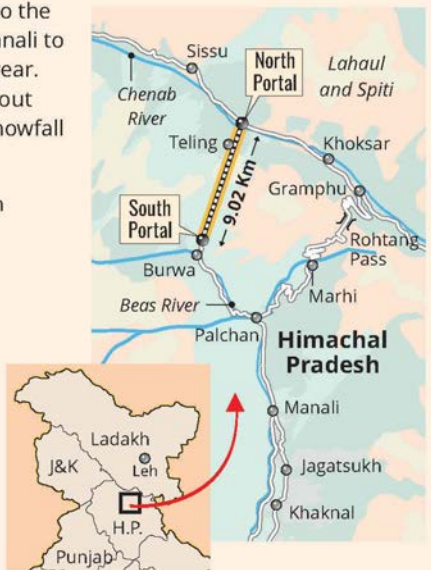
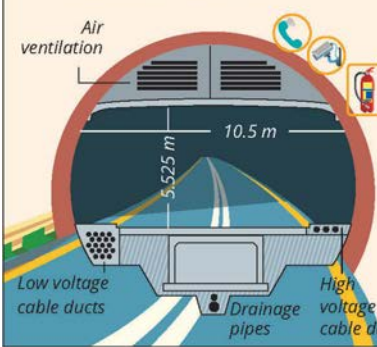
Atal Tunnel Inaugurated by PM Modi

The 9.02 km long tunnel, dedicated to the nation on Oct 3, 2020, will connect Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.

Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall

Key Facts

- The project was announced by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June 2000
- Built by Border Roads Organisation at a cost of ₹ 3,200 crore, it is the world's longest highway tunnel
- It reduces the road distance by 46 km between Manali and Leh and the time by about four to five hours
- Constructed with ultra-modern specifications at an altitude of 3000 metres from the Mean Sea Level
- Single tube double lane tunnel with a roadway of 8 metres and an overhead clearance of 5.525 metres



- It is 10.5-metre wide and has a 3.6 x 2.25 metres fire-proof emergency egress tunnel built into the main tunnel itself
- Designed for traffic density of 3000 cars and 1,500 trucks per day with max speed of 80 km/hr
- The tunnel has ample safety features built into it, which include telephone connections, fire hydrant mechanisms and auto incident detection system with CCTV cameras

KBK Infographics

Dream of Atal's friend comes true after opening of tunnel

Tholang (HP), Oct. 3: The decades-long dream of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's friend, Arjun Gopal, came true on Saturday with the inauguration of Atal Tunnel at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh.

Amar Singh and Ram Dev, sons of Arjun Gopal alias Tshidawa, said their father had suggested the construction of the tunnel to the former prime minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the strategically important all-weather Atal Tunnel, which reduces the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours.

Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world, and the 9.02 km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut off for about six months every year due to heavy snowfall.

The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur

● **AMAR SINGH** and **Ram Dev**, sons of Arjun Gopal alias Tshidawa, said their father had suggested the construction of the tunnel to the former prime minister.

had earlier said, Vajpayee got the idea for constructing the tunnel on a suggestion from his friend Arjun Gopal of Tashi Dohbe village in Lahaul.

Talking to PTI in their native village Tholang in Lahaul-Spiti district, Amar Singh (75) said his father met Vajpayee in 1998 in Delhi, seeking the construction of the strategically significant tunnel beneath Rohtang Pass for the benefit of the residents of Lahaul-Spiti district.

My father passed away in 2008. Today, his decades-long dream came true and my joy knows no bound, he said.

Singh, who retired as state deputy director (education), said the former prime minister and his father came close during an officers' training camp (OTC) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1942 in Gujarat's Vadodara.

When Vajpayee became the prime minister in 1998, my father met him

through a prominent RSS activist Chaman Lal, he said.

Singh said Lahaul-Spiti-Pangi Janjaati Sewa Samiti' was formed with Gopal as its founder president to pursue the construction of the tunnel.

He said Vajpayee sent copies of the memorandum submitted to him for construction of the tunnel to defence, finance and surface transport ministries.

Following initial objection by the defence ministry, the Union government gave its approval for constructing the tunnel in 2000, Singh claimed, adding that Vajpayee himself announced about the project during a public meeting at Keylong in June, 2000.

Gopal's other son, Ram Dev (61), a retired officer of the state information department, said the economy of Lahaul-Spiti district would see a drastic change after the opening of the tunnel. He also travelled in a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus which was flagged off by Modi from north portal in Lahaul to south portal in Manali of Kullu district. Residents of the tribal district also hailed the construction of the tunnel. — PTI

TEJASHWI YADAV IS CM FACE OF GRAND ALLIANCE

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 3

The opposition Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Saturday announced seat-sharing formula for the upcoming assembly elections amid high drama.

Congress in-charge for Bihar assembly elections Avinash Pandey announced Tejashwi Yadav as the CM face of the grand alliance.

As per the seat-sharing formula in the opposition coalition, the RJD will be contesting on 144 seats, the Congress 70 and Left parties 29 seats. “Two smaller partners JMM and Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP) will be getting seats from the RJD quota”, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said while making a formal announcement in Patna on Saturday.

Upset over being ignored by the grand alliance leaders, VIP Chief Mukesh Sahani walked out of the event and hinted that he may quit the opposition coalition.

Mukesh Sahani had joined the RJD-led grand alliance just before the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 and he was expecting “sizeable seat share” to contest in the assembly elections.

Reports suggest that he also wanted the grand alliance to declare him as a deputy CM candidate.

“I will announce my next move after meeting party leaders. I feel cheated”, VIP Chief Mukesh Sahani said.

The grand alliance in Bihar comprises RJD, Congress, VIP and three left parties (CPI-ML, CPI and CPM).

Two of RJD's prominent allies Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha had earlier left the grand alliance due to differences over leadership and seat-sharing pact.

Political analysts claim that Manjhi's exit was a jolt for Tejashwi Yadav who has been trying to strengthen his party's structure and voter's base in Bihar in the absence of his father:

BIHAR BSP PRESIDENT QUILTS PARTY

Patna, Oct. 3: The BSP of Mayawati which is part of a three-party alliance headed by Upendra Kushwaha of RLSP for Bihar polls, suffered a setback on Saturday when its state unit president Bharat Bind quit and joined RJD.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav gave membership of the party to the BSP leader.

Yadav released a picture admitting Bind into the party on his twitter and also the party's social media platform.

Yadav, the younger son of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, wrote on his twitter handle that the Bahujan Samaj Party Bihar president joined them to lend support in making a new Bihar and remove anti-youth NDA.

After being spurned by the NDA and discarded by the RJD-helmed Mahagathbandhan, Kushwaha has forged an alliance with the BSP and a non-descript Janatantrik Party (Socialist) for the Bihar elections. — PTI

MP gangrape victim ends life

Cops had not registered victim's FIR

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 3

An alleged gangrape victim in a Madhya Pradesh village committed suicide over non-registration of FIR in the case by police.

The 33-year-old woman, who was allegedly gangraped in her village of Gotgoria under Narasinghapur district on September 28, was found hanging in her house on Friday, police said on Saturday.

Her husband said she took the extreme step when police refused to file an FIR in the case, besides harassing her relatives for asking to register an FIR in the incident.

Two police officers were arrested for not registering a case in the incident.

In-charge of Gotgoria police outpost Misrilal Koddape and in-charge of Chacheli police station Anil Singh were arrested for lapses in registering the case. They were booked under section 166-A (non-recording of information) of Indian Penal Code.

Besides, three other people were arrested on charges of rape and two others arrested for instigating suicide (of the victim), Narasinghpur district superintendent of police Ajey Singh said.

The deceased's husband told the police that his wife was gangraped by three local villagers, Parsu, Arvind and Anil, when she was cutting standing crops in a farm land on September 28.

She narrated the incident to the family members when she returned home.

Later, the family members took her to the Gotgoria police outpost to lodge a complaint on the night of the fateful day.

Gotgoria police, however, said an FIR would be registered after her medical examination.

However, the complaint was not registered by Gotgoria police on September 29 also.

They then approached Chichli police station to lodge the complaint.

Later, instead of registering the case, the deceased's husband and her brother-in-law were locked up in the police station, her husband said.

The harassment by the police provoked her to end life, he added.

Didi: BJP is the biggest pandemic of the country

● **THE WEST BENGAL** Chief Minister said she would stand by the Dalit community till the end as her caste is “humanity” and she does not believe in differentiation on the grounds of caste and religion.

darkness, but we will lead them towards the light,” she said, addressing the rally.

Continuing her tirade against the saffron camp, Banerjee said, “The country is going through super autocracy as democracy has been murdered by BJP.

“Dictatorship is going on across the country. Instead of government for the people, it is running a government against the people, the Dalits and the farmers. This is super autocracy,” she said.

Referring to the TMC delegation being stopped by the Uttar Pradesh police from meeting the victim's family at Hathras on Friday, Banerjee said she felt like “running to UP and standing by the family of the victims”.

She said, “My heart is in Hathras. I feel like running to that village and standing by the Dalit family in their fight against injustice. Our representatives went to Hathras but were stopped a km from the village.

— PTI



TMC Supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participates in a rally to protest over the death of Hathras victim in Kolkata on Saturday. — PTI

India reiterates no first use of nuclear weapons

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

India on Saturday reiterated its nuclear doctrine of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India also reiterated its “long-standing and unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons”.

New Delhi's position was reiterated by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the “High-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of

● **INDIA'S REITERATION** of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the LAC with China.

Nuclear Weapons”.

India's reiteration of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, and also in readiness for any contingency to face a “two-front war”, an euphemism for a hypothetical Sino-Pakistani joint attack on India. Both

these neighbours also possess nuclear weapons.

Shringla said, “India espouses the policy of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India reiterates its unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, in line with the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UNGA on disarmament.” He added, “We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and a multilateral framework.”

SALUTING | THE BRAVE Memorial located in eastern Ladakh mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’

Army builds memorial for soldiers killed in Galwan Valley

New Delhi, Oct. 3: The Indian Army has built a memorial for its 20 personnel who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15, official sources said on Saturday.

The memorial, located at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh and inaugurated earlier this week, mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’ under operation ‘Snow Leopard’ and the

way they evicted the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting “heavy casualties” on them in “hand-to-hand combat”.

China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties.

According to an American intelligence report, the number of

casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Post 120 lies along the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) road. The names of all the 20 Indian Army personnel were inscribed at the unit-level memorial.

Colonel B. Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among the Indian Army personnel killed in the clash that had significantly escalated the border tension between the two coun-

tries with India calling it “a premeditated and planned action by China”.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China around patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley.

Giving a brief account of Operation ‘Snow Leopard’, the Army mentioned in a

plaque at the memorial that Colonel Babu led the ‘Quick Reaction Force’ of 16 Bihar Regiment and attached troops tasked to evict a group of Chinese troops from the general area in ‘Y nala’ (a junction) and stop them from moving further to Patrolling Point 14.

“The column successfully evicted the PLA OP from Y Nala and reached PP14 where a fierce skirmish broke out between

the IA (Indian Army) and PLA troops. Col B Santosh Babu led from the front and his troops fought gallantly in hand-to-hand combat, causing heavy casualties to the PLA. In the ensuing fight twenty ‘Gallants of Galwan’ achieved martyrdom,” the Army wrote.

The list of 20 personnel in the memorial included three naib subedars, three havildars and 12 sepoy. The defence ministry has

also started the process to inscribe the names of Colonel Babu and other soldiers at the National War Memorial in Delhi.

During a visit to Lukung forward post in eastern Ladakh on July 17, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh personally conveyed his appreciation and compliments to the troops from the Bihar regiment for displaying exemplary grit and courage in fighting the Chinese troops.

DECCAN Chronicle

4 OCTOBER 2020



Shreya Sen-Handley

Off the beaten track

A Kolkata 'Kumroween' & other Covid sacrifices

I could murder a malpoa right now. And that potoler dolma I've been drooling over in my dreams, the shorshe illish that dance in my peripheral vision, disappearing like chimera (or Nemo) when I look them in the eye. Some nights I wake in a chom chom sweat, and dig around my kitchen cupboards to find my dalmut hoard sadly depleted. Nor can Tesco's mango chutney fill the yawning achaar-shaped chasm in my gut. And when I think of mishti doi — oh boi. I melt into a puddle of yearning. My dwindling pile of panchphoron too, in its steel tiffin box, is not to be sneezed at (what will I have left then?).

It's been more than a year since we last travelled to Kolkata, the city of my birth, of my parents and oldest friends, of the spices, sweets, books and great memories I bring back yearly, and our stocks are all but gone. Cold turkey they call this sudden, enforced withdrawal, but it's kosha mangsho for me. As merry as our Sherwood curry may be, there are jhaals, jhols and ombols that can't be concocted outside Bengal. Not without an infusion of its tangy winter smog, monsoon winds that roll from the Bay, and Rabindrasangeet saturating the air no matter what the weather. Sniff as hard I might, I can smell none of this now.

Sure sign of Covid you say, but these notun gurer cravings and maacher muthia longings are symptoms of homesickness instead. Evading the former has unfortunately required the renunciation of the akash, batash, and barir ranna of Kolkata this year. Abetted by inept, often unfeeling governments, the Coronavirus has harvested death and deprivation everywhere. In Bengal alone so far there are a staggering 216,000 cases, and nearly 5,000 deaths, with Kolkata accounting for 70 per cent of it.

But just for a moment, shall we dwell on the lesser tragedies? Like the suspension of flights to Kolkata from much of Britain and the hijacking of my annual trip home. Since moving to Britain two decades ago, I have returned home for the harvest every year. Of a very different crop usually; the diurnal glide of crisp blue skies and mellow sun, long addas over favourite foods, slow, smoky evenings with family and friends, and pilgrimages to fondly remembered haunts. Including the biggest and brightest of festivals.

This pandemic has put paid to even that. It has hijacked not just my homecoming but mighty Durga's too. Kolkata's Durga Puja is an extravaganza so massive, so magnificent, so, er, mingly, it can only be a shadow of itself this socially-distanced year. The ocean of humanity that swamps the resplendent pandals and eye-popping illuminations won't be welcoming the Mother Goddess with their customary rapture this year, because they will, hopefully, stay home to prevent further dissemination of the killer virus. Which is as it should be. But because it is indeed the high point of the year for many and in these dismal times, a tonic for the soul, some puja organisers have been exploring alternatives, from virtual pujas to portable ones. Bearing the Devi round in a bedecked palanquin in Jodhpur Park, for people to see from the safety of their homes, is one such I gather. As if Corona Devi, flexing her spiky muscles to demonstrate her might, instructed the good folks of Kolkata — "Koro na!" But Kolkata peeps replied (cching Durga), "OK tata, but y' know? Ashche bochor abar hobe!"

The high point of our trip back however is quite another tradition. Timing it so the bulk of our visit is post-puja; quiet and contemplative after the fervour and din, we finish every trip with the tiny, homegrown celebration we've come to know as 'Kumroween'. It all started with October being the best time for us to visit India, but the kids didn't want to miss the trick or treating of an English Halloween. So we devised our own little fusion festival, a best-of-both-worlds hybrid that was all treats and no trick, incorporating an array of Bengali delicacies and bonhomie, with fancy dress, eerie party balloons and trim (on which we had fun scrawling a scary range of faces), and the pièce de résistance - a glowing Jack o' Lantern carved from an almost invariably misshapen kumro. Thus 'Kumroween', an invariably misshapen but always entertaining tradition was born. Over the years, patched together Gupis and Baghas have rubbed shoulders with Professor Lupin and Harry Potter, a cobbled Captain Hook has sung along with affable, unthreatening crocs, whilst pleasantly plump skeletons tucked into kochuri, aloor dom, and goja. Most of all, it has given us the opportunity to gather our family and friends round, to say hello, thank you, and au revoir, so quickly do our fortnights in Kolkata fly. Two splendid weeks of breaking bread, or indeed luchi, with family, catchup addas with friends lasting half the day, and storytime and play for our children with their beloved but rarely-seen Dida and Dadu, coalescing one last time on spooky, sparkling, slightly sad Kumroween night.

There can be no Kumroween this year. No festivities of any sort for us in Kolkata. In fact, no trip at all. Just sadness and long distance anxiety as every day brings the names and images of people we once knew, or knew of, who have succumbed to the marauding bug. With more to come. But malpoa, madugga, Mababa, and my mother city; you are on my mind. And if it is OK tata for this year, horn please, because ashche bochor abar hobe.

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



The writer's children celebrate Halloween in Kolkata. — STEPHEN HANDLEY

Subhani



Napping media awakes, puts Yogi on the spot



Pavan K. Varna

Chanakya's View

The horrific Hathras rape outrage raises some deeply disturbing questions. First and foremost, is the role of the UP government and police. Why was the victim's body taken away forcibly from her home and cremated against her family's will in the dead of night? The family wanted to perform the last rites in the morning and then cremate her. But her parents and brothers were locked in their house.

Quite apart from the legal propriety of cremating the body when another autopsy was clearly warranted, there is a shocking insensitivity to this episode. The family of the young Dalit girl was in trauma. They had just lost a daughter to one of the most brutal rape incidents seen in recent times. To take away the dead body against the family's will, lock up family members, and forcibly carry out the cremation at 2:30 am, shows an unpardonable callousness to basic human emotions.

Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite. Thanks to the media, most of them brave young women, the entire nation was sickened by the pitiless, cruel and high-handed behaviour of the police. The visuals of the mother wailing at not being able to even see the face of her dead daughter were appalling.

The UP government seemed to have only one priority, which was to

claim that the girl was not gangraped. The state police cited the report of the Forensic Science Lab in Agra, which apparently said that no trace of semen was found. Surely, the police would know that the absence of semen is no proof that rape did not take place. Moreover, as against the forensic report, there is the dying declaration of the girl herself where she says that she was raped. Is this not proof enough? In the light of the victim's confirmation of rape, why was the body not subjected to a fresh examination by a panel that would include a senior gynaecologist? Was this the reason why the body was cremated in such unseemly haste?

There is also the visual of the district magistrate of Hathras obviously trying to intimidate the victim's family. The media will go away in a day or two, he can be heard telling the family; only the police will remain, so it would be better if you change your statement. This raises the question of why the UP police want to whitewash this gruesome incident. Who is UP chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact

Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite.

Who is the Yogi trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact that the four accused are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, the same caste as the UP CM?

that the four accused who have been arrested are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, which is the same caste as the UP CM?

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), nearly 10 Dalit women are raped every day, with UP recording the largest number, 14.7 per cent of India's total. No doubt, UP is the most populous state in the country, but the fact remains that even nationwide — again as per NCRB data — crimes against Dalits have increased by 47 per cent in the period between 2014 and 2018. The rivalry between the BJP and the Congress has triggered a "competitive rape politics" where a rape in Rajasthan — a Congress ruled state — is being compared to the Hathras incident. This is deeply shameful. Both incidents were heinous and gruesome. But Yogi Adityanath, who dresses in saffron and calls himself a Yogi, must answer for the condemnable manner in which his administration and police acted in Hathras. Even now the victim's family is being barricaded by the police, their phones are being illegally tapped, and journalists or politicians of Opposition parties are not being allowed to meet them freely. Why?

The brutal Nirbhaya rape led to national outrage because it happened in the capital of the Republic. But the Nirbhaya of Hathras was not that fortunate. She was fatally assaulted on September 14, and — as per her own state-

ment — raped, her neck broken and her tongue cut. But national media hardly took any real notice of this shocking incident, until her death on September 29. On electronic media we were presented frenzied accounts of which actresses allegedly smoked hash, Rhea Chakraborty's bail application, and Kangana Ranaut's verbal tantrums. If the media had paused from its breathless chase of Bollywood actresses and focused on this case, perhaps the victim would have got better medical attention, and her life could have been saved.

The minimum that should be done now is to immediately suspend the Hathras DM. The Superintendent of Police (SP) has been suspended. The accused should be tried through a fast-track court in a time bound manner, and if found guilty, hanged like the Nirbhaya perpetrators. There is a demand that an investigation into the rape and murder should be entrusted to the CBI. But, a "caged parrot" may not be the solution. What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police. It would be good if the UP CM is asked a few questions, not only by his political opponents, but in a judicial process.

The writer, an author, is a former diplomat and in politics

What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police

LETTERS

WILL INDIA FORGET?

The government and administration believe that by suspending a few cops, the media and the weak Opposition could be easily diverted to another issue to protect culprits (*Amid protests on Hathras, 4 cops suspended, DC, Oct. 3*). The whole country knows that the DM and SDM wrote this script to defeat Babu on his 151st birth anniversary as his killer's soul waits to be a national icon.

Naresh Sohanraj
Secunderabad

Stopping Rahul, Priyanka and the media from meeting the family of the Hathras rape victim and burning the body of victim late at night reminds us of suppression against whoever raises their voice against injustice. Suspension of cops is only an eyewash. If the state government is sincere, the home minister should quit, taking responsibility for the police action.

T. Kailash Ditya
Hyderabad

CITY DRAINAGE

The GHMC taking up big-budget work to cover open drains is just not enough. It is silent about nalas which are unprotected. When there are heavy rains the roads are flooded, with water from these nalas endangering people. I suggest that these drains have a minimum of 3.5-foot-high walls constructed all along on both sides to prevent inundation of roads and low-lying areas. This is mandatory for the city and has been ignored all these years.

K. Nagendra Rao
Hyderabad

CHEATING JUDICIARY

Many lawyers and litigants are misleading courts and fraudulently getting orders by filing false affidavits, suppressing truth by taking advantage of legal loopholes (*Dammalapati kin cheats APHC, DC, Oct. 2*). If justice is done by awarding marks, based on question/answer, attending hearings and imposing huge fine and jail for cheating judiciary, many false cases can be reduced.

John Samuel
Secunderabad

Foundation laid for fertilizer project

BY M.P. Rabindranath
"Chronicle" staff reporter

HYDERABAD, October 3 A giant step that would transform Andhra Pradesh's agrarian economy into one of the modern economy was witnessed yesterday as the Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, Dr. Triguna Sen laid the foundation for the Ramagundam Fertilizer Project.

The banks of Godavari — the site of the project-presented a glittering sight with thousands of people pouring in to witness the realisation of the Rs. 71 crore project that would in course of time change the face of Karimnagar district — may be even Telangana and its impoverished masses.

The project when commissioned will save the country annually Rs. 36 crores in foreign exchange by reduction of fertilizer imports and Rs. 120 crores by replacement of imported foodgrains.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Hope alive for those shown the door in BJP reshuffle

Great expectations

The BJP organisational reshuffle has not disappointed anyone. It seems all those shown the door are hoping for "better" options. The party's former vice-president, Vinay Sahasrabudhde, is said to be angling for a Union Cabinet berth. Mr Sahasrabudhde is currently head of ICCR, enjoying a Cabinet rank. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would accommodate him as the country's education minister. Another axed vice-president, Prabhat Jha, is hoping to get a gubernatorial assignment. Ram Madhav, who was a party general secretary and a player in the north-eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir, is aspiring to head the party in his home state Andhra Pradesh.

Swamy's allegation

Subramanian Swamy filing yet another complaint against Congress president Sonia Gandhi for allegedly giving "wrong"

information on her educational qualification is not news. In a letter addressed to the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr Swamy observed, "In our country, the educational qualification is highly valued and obtained after much effort. Hence our culture has given such high value to educational qualifications." Mr Swamy's focus on obtaining a higher educational qualification is being viewed with a lot of interest. Some cynics wonder why Mr Swamy, an astute politician, currently unhappy with the BJP leadership for its failure to "discipline" in-house Swamy-baiter Amit Malviya, has written this. Mr Malviya heads the BJP IT cell and weeks before the BJP organisational reshuffle, Mr Swamy had boasted that Mr Malviya would be removed. Nothing happened.

The controversy around Sonia's educational qualification was first raked up in 1999 when the Congress president reportedly attributed her English language course obtained in Cambridge to the University of Cambridge. Sonia had apologised, pointing that it was a "typing mistake".



By WAQYANAWIS

Man of many bosses

He has been described as an 'eighth wonder' of the world. Uttar Pradesh's senior bureaucrat Navneet Sahgal has a knack of bouncing back. The former principal secretary to chief minister Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav, has now become head of the information and public relations department under

chief minister Yogi Adityanath after the Hathras gangrape outrage. Yogi, struggling to counter adverse media coverage, had no choice but to think of Mr Sahgal as his Man Friday. Mr Sahgal also holds the distinction of serving as personal secretary to Union minister Akhilesh Das who had belonged to the Congress during Manmohan Singh era. In a state where bureaucrats get marked over their alleged political affiliation, Mr Sahgal, currently additional chief secretary, is proving to be an exception. Exceptional.

Midnight 'news' alerts

Journalists covering the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) are both intrigued and annoyed for getting WhatsApp messages on almost a daily basis post-midnight. The message, attributing information to a prominent LJP leader, makes sensational claims such as LJP walking out of NDA or fighting all Bihar Assembly seats independently. While it disturbs the sleep of many scribes, mornings usher in business as usual within the NDA.

Abandoned Kamal Nath

All is not well between former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and senior party leader Digvijaya Singh. At one point when the Congress was in power for 15 months from December 2018 to March 2020, the Nath-Diggy jodi was a *bada bhai-chhota bhai* pair. But now that crucial Assembly by-polls have been announced in 28 seats, Digvijaya is not to be seen.

Kamal Nath, at 72, is fighting a lone and grim battle to regain a foothold in MP politics. Chances of dislodging Shivraj Singh Chouhan regime are slim as the BJP needs to win barely one third of the seats going to polls while the Congress would need almost all of them: the 20 out of 28 seats for Congress is seen as a figure that would rattle everyone in the BJP from Bhopal to New Delhi. The Nov. 10 verdict is keenly awaited when results of these bypolls would be declared along with the Bihar Assembly outcome.

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

IN BRIEF

Reunification: German anniv

Berlin, Oct. 3: Germany is marking the 30th anniversary of its reunification on Saturday, drawing a generally positive picture of the progress made in knitting together east and west amid celebrations that are low-key because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Germany was reunited on October 3, 1990, after four decades of Cold War division. East Germany joined the western federal republic less than a year after the east's Communist rulers — under pressure from growing protests — opened the Berlin Wall and the rest of the highly fortified border between the two states. While much progress has been made since then, economic and other differences between the west and the less-prosperous east still persist.

Sudan, rebels seal peace deal

Juba: Sudan's transitional authorities and a rebel alliance signed on Saturday a peace deal initialed in August that aims to put an end to the country's decades-long civil wars, in a televised ceremony marking the agreement. "The next biggest challenge is to work with all local and international partners to preach the agreement and its benefits," Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok tweeted on Friday upon his arrival at Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Reaching a negotiated settlement with rebels in Sudan's far-flung provinces has been a crucial goal for the transitional government, which assumed power after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. Sudanese civilian leaders hope the deal will allow them to revive the country's battered economy by slashing military spending, which takes up much of the national budget.

Afghan car bomb attack: 15 killed

Jalalabad: At least 15 people were killed and more than 30 others wounded in a car bomb attack that targeted a government building in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said. The explosion occurred at an administrative building that also housed some military facilities in the Ghani Khel district of Nangarhar province, the governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said. "The car bomb detonated at the entrance of the district headquarters building. Several armed attackers tried to enter the building after the attack but were killed by security forces," he said. Provincial police spokesman Farid Khan confirmed the details. He said most of the victims were Afghan security force members but several civilians were also among the dead. No one had so far claimed responsibility for the attack but Khan blamed the Taliban. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in the region.

RICK MORANIS PUNCHED IN ATTACK

Los Angeles, Oct. 3: "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" star Rick Moranis was assaulted in an apparently random street attack in New York.

The 67-year-old actor was punched in the face by a random passer-by when he was walking on Central Park West near 70th Street, reported *New York Post*. A CCTV video footage, released by the police, showed a man dressed in black hoodie with a backpack on his shoulder punch Moranis with a closed fist directly into the face. Afterwards, the actor fell to the ground and the suspect nonchalantly walked away.

Moranis, who suffered pain in his head, back and right hip, went to a local hospital to be evaluated, police said. He later filed a complaint with the police. In a statement, Moranis' spokesperson said that the actor is doing "fine".

"Rick Moranis was assaulted on the Upper West Side yesterday. He is fine but grateful for everyone's thoughts and well wishes," the representative said. Moranis rose to prominence with his work on Canadian comedy sketch series "Second City Television".

He later became one of the most sought-after comic stars in the 1980s and 1990s.

His film credits include 1984's "Ghostbusters" and its 1989 sequel, "Spaceballs", "Parenthood" and "The Flintstones" remake.



A demonstrator holds up a placard reading "Fake news Trump tested positive" to protest against masks and virus restrictions during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in Konstanz, southern Germany, on Saturday. — AFP

Cavalier WH approach to Covid catches up to Don

Jinping wishes Trump, Melania speedy recovery

Washington, Oct. 3: Masks were rarely spotted in the West Wing. Crowds of people gathered shoulder to shoulder on the White House South Lawn. And Air Force One streaked across the sky from one massive campaign rally to another. With ready access to testing and the best public health minds at his disposal, President Donald Trump and first lady Melania who have tested positive for Coronavirus. In a message to Trump, Xi, 67, said that after learning President Trump and Melania have tested positive for Covid-19, he and his wife Peng Liyuan extend sympathy to them and wish them a speedy recovery, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Leaders and prominent figures from around the world on Friday sent their best wishes to Trump and his wife. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind wished Trump and the first lady a quick recovery. "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick

recovery and good health," Modi tweeted. "Our prayers and best wishes are with you during this time," Kovind said. In a message posted on his official web page, Russian President Vladimir Putin wished Trump well, saying: "I am sure that your inherent vitality, good spirits and optimism will help you cope with the dangerous virus." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, also sent well wishes. "My best wishes to President Trump and the First Lady. Hope they both have a speedy recovery from Coronavirus," Johnson tweeted. — PTI

Trump's age, health woes raise his risk for Covid-19

Washington, Oct. 3: President Donald Trump has several strikes against him — age, obesity, elevated cholesterol and being male — that could put him at greater risk of becoming seriously ill from the Coronavirus infection he disclosed early Friday. Here's what experts say about Trump's outlook and next steps.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Infection causes mild or no symptoms in about 80 per cent of cases. About 15 per cent of people become seriously ill and 5 per cent get critical-

ly ill. Symptoms, when they do occur, usually appear two to 14 days after infection and can include loss of smell or taste, coughing, a sore throat, trouble breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and fever.

Up to half of patients who are hospitalised don't have a fever when admitted but nearly all develop one. How people fare varies widely — some seem to be recovering and then suddenly worsen. Pneumonia, often with a specific appearance on X-rays, some-

times develops but complications in virtually every organ of the body have been reported. Doctors also increasingly recognize that some people have long-lasting symptoms.

TRUMP'S RISKS Older age, being male and having any other health problems increase the chance of severe illness, and Trump has those. At 74, "his age would be the primary risk factor," said Dr. David Banach, an infectious diseases physician at the University of Connecticut's health system. — AP

one fixated with health guidelines that would remind a nervous public about the virus rather than an economic resurgence. Experts urged the widespread use of masks, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, who testified before Congress last month that face coverings could be a more effective safeguard than a vaccine.

Those on the White House staff dared not break with the president, who wanted to embody a nation on the way back, not

ads of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over everything from the risks associated with opening schools to the timetable for a potential vaccine.

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2 US SENATORS, TRUMP EX-AIDE TEST VIRUS +VE

Washington, Oct. 3: Two US Senators, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, his campaign manager and three White House journalists have tested positive for Covid-19, joining several officials working at the presidential palace to have contracted the infection. Republican Senators Thom Tillis from North Carolina, and Mike Lee from Utah confirmed they have been tested positive for Coronavirus.

"Over the last few months, I've been routinely tested for Covid-19, including testing negative last Saturday, but tonight my rapid antigen test came back positive," Tillis said. Hope Hicks, 31, is the closest aide of the President to have tested positive. Former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway also announced on Twitter that she has been tested positive. Trump Campaign Manager Bill Stepien tested positive as well. The White House Correspondents Association confirmed that three member journalists have tested positive. — PTI

PENCE-HARRIS DEBATE ON

Washington, Oct. 3: The vice presidential debate between Mike Pence and Kamala Harris next week will go on as scheduled after President Donald Trump tested positive for the Coronavirus on Friday. An official with the Commission on Presidential Debates confirmed that no changes are anticipated to the Wednesday night debate in Salt Lake City. Both Pence and Harris underwent tests for the Coronavirus on Friday and tested negative. Pence's physician said in a memo that the vice president was not considered a "close contact" of anyone infected with Covid-19. — AP

Azerbaijan Prez criticises mediators; fighting rages on

Baku, Oct. 3: Heavy fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan continued Saturday in their conflict over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Azerbaijan's president criticised the international mediators who have tried for decades to resolve the dispute. Fighting that started September 27 is the worst to afflict Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas since the 1994 end of a war that left the region in Azerbaijan under the control of ethnic Armenian local forces backed by Armenia.

Shushan Stepanian, a spokeswoman for the Armenian Defence Ministry, said that "intensive fighting is taking place along the entire front line," and claimed that Armenian forces had shot down three planes. Azerbaijan's defence ministry did not respond to the claim of planes being shot down, but said Armenian forces had shelled civilian territory within Azerbaijan, including the city of Terter. Nagorno-Karabakh officials have said more than 150 servicemen on their side have been killed so far. Azerbaijani authorities haven't given details on their military casual-

ties but said 19 civilians have been killed and 55 more wounded. Nagorno-Karabakh was a designated autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet era. It claimed independence from Azerbaijan in 1991, about three months before the Soviet Union's collapse. Full-scale war that broke out in 1992 killed an estimated 30,000 people. By the time it ended in 1994, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but substantial areas outside the territory's formal borders.

Several United Nations Security Council resolutions have called for withdrawal from those areas, which the Armenian forces have disregarded. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said in a television interview that the forces must withdraw from those areas before fighting can stop. In the interview with al-Jazeera, a transcript of which was distributed Saturday by the presidential press office, Aliyev criticised the so-called Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has tried to mediate a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. — AP

Belarus: No foreign media credentials

Kyiv, Oct. 3: Belarus, rocked by weeks of protests against its authoritarian president and Western condemnation over a crackdown on dissent, on Friday rescinded the accreditation of all journalists working for foreign news outlets and said they must apply for new ones in a process that could take a week or more. The action was the latest by Belarusian authorities against journalists and news media amid the wave of large protests that have occurred almost daily since the country's authoritarian president won a sixth term in a disputed Aug. 9 election. "In the current situation, we are forced to exercise our sovereign right and apply the necessary protective measures, including in the form of new provisions of the regulations,"

the Belarus Foreign Ministry said in a statement announcing the move. The ministry said that journalists working for foreign media can apply for new credentials beginning Monday; temporary accreditation applications will be considered within five days, and permanent within 30 days. The largest protests against President Alexander Lukashenko have taken place on Sundays. Earlier this week, authorities in Belarus suspended for three months the credentials of the popular independent news website tut.by, which has covered the protests. Some credentialled foreign journalists were deported in August, and the credentials of two Belarusian nationals working for AP were revoked. — AP

Take legal step to bring Nawaz: Imran

Islamabad, Oct. 3: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked his party leaders to devise a legal strategy to bring back former premier Nawaz Sharif from the United Kingdom as in the absence of an extradition treaty between the two countries it would be difficult to get him extradited, according to a media report.

Presiding over the first meeting of a committee recently formed to counter the Opposition, Prime Minister Khan on Friday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders to foil all moves of the Opposition aimed at destabilising the government and "maliciously" the Army, the *Dawn News* reported. The government had earlier sent a request to the British government for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader's repatriation to ensure that he faces the corruption cases pending against him in the courts. Sharif has been living in London since November last year when he was allowed to go there for medical treatment.

A source privy to the meeting told *Dawn* that the prime minister was committed to bringing back Sharif from London and directed the committee members to devise a legal strategy because in the absence of an extradition treaty between Pakistan and the UK, it would become difficult to get him extradited. — PTI

NEW | STUDY Killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people documented in 2020

Sexual, gender minorities more likely to be crime victims

Phoenix, Oct. 3: The first study of its kind found that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender non-conforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities.

Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the study published in *Science Advances*, a multidisciplinary journal, on Friday looked at data that has only been collected since 2016, making for the

first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue. It found that members of such communities, referred to as sexual and gender minorities, experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimisations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 a year among non-sexual and gender minorities. But it was the fact that sexual and gender minorities are victims of such a variety of crimes at such disparate rates — and who they're victimised by — that surprised researchers, said lead author Andrew R. Flores, an assistant profes-

sor at American University. For example, researchers found that such a population is much more likely to be victimised by someone they know well than a person who is a non-sexual and gender minority.

The fact that sexual and gender minorities are victimised by people close to them at such higher rates "does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships," Flores said. "There are certain socialisations that goes in that. I think many people are so-

cialised and have a certain disdain for trans and queer people," said Tori Cooper of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a national organisation that advocates for the LGBTQ community. Cooper is the director of community engagement for the organisation.

THE STUDY also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarized at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

n's Transgender Justice Initiative. A survey of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teens around the country released in 2018 by the Human Rights Campaign found that 67% report they've heard family members make negative comments about LGBTQ people. Cooper said transgender people are particularly vulnerable, especially by partners or people close to them.

The HRC has documented the killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people in 2020 alone. The majority were Black and Latina transgender women. "The-

re's an incalculable amount of transphobia ... that plays into these relationships," Cooper said. The new study didn't have a large enough sample of surveys by transgender people to come to a conclusion about their specific victimization rates, but Flores said other research has shown they are particularly vulnerable.

The study also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarised at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft. The study is based

on a national crime survey conducted by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, which until 2016 had not asked respondents about their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Trump administration, without seeking public comment, announced that it was moving the sexual orientation and gender identity questions from the general demographic section of its national crime survey to a part of the survey only pertaining to victims. This will limit what researchers can learn about crime disparities. — AP

SHORT TAKES

IPL player reports corrupt approach

New Delhi: A cricketer, competing in the Indian Premier League in the UAE, has "reported a corrupt approach", putting BCCI's anti-corruption unit (ACU) on a high alert. The 13th edition of the IPL in being held in the UAE in a bio-secure environment, which has significantly reduced the chance for persons with dubious credentials approaching the player directly. The threat though still remains by and large due to the online network of corruptors. BCCI ACU chief Ajit Singh confirmed the development to PTI. "Yes (a player has reported approach)," Singh, the former DGP of Rajasthan Police confirmed the news. "We are tracking him. It will take some time," he said when asked if the alleged corruptor or "person of interest" has been nabbed. As per anti-corruption protocols, the name of the player (Indian or overseas) or franchise is not revealed for confidentiality purposes. — PTI

Tsitsipas through to fourth round

Paris: Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the fourth round of the French Open on Saturday after his opponent Aljaz Bedene retired with an ankle injury while trailing 6-1, 6-2, 3-1. Slovenian Bedene, who defeated Tsitsipas in straight sets when they met at Rotterdam earlier this year, first called for the physiotherapist on Court Suzanne Lenglen to get treatment on his right ankle after going down 5-0 in the opening set. After returning to court Bedene won the first game to get on the scoreboard and then got his ankle strapped before the start of the second set. Tsitsipas, the reigning ATP Finals champion, kept his focus and went about his business smoothly, hitting 28 winners and breaking the 56th-ranked Bedene's serve five times before he decided he could no longer continue. — Agencies

Neymar sizzles in PSG's big win

Paris: Neymar scored his first goals of the season to help Paris Saint-Germain make up some lost ground in the French league with a 6-1 rout of visiting Angers. PSG moved up to second in the sixth round after winning four games straight. The defending champions started with two defeats. Kylian Mbappe, who also scored, had the first big chance at Parc des Princes in the fifth minute saved by the quick reacting Angers goalkeeper Paul Bernardoni. But the home side did not have to wait long for the breakthrough, a fine goal from Alessandro Florenzi in the seventh minute. The Italian defender lifted the ball over an opponent with his fist touch, then lobbed it over another defender inside the far post with his next. — AP

Union Berlin rout Mainz 4-0

Berlin: Former Germany striker Max Kruse launched Union Berlin to a 4-0 rout of Mainz for their biggest ever Bundesliga win and their first of the season. Finland forward Joel Pohjanpalo also scored, just seconds after coming on for his debut, to wrap up an unhappy start for new Mainz coach Jan-Moritz Lichte. Former assistant coach Lichte took over Mainz on an interim basis on Monday when the club fired Achim Beierlorzer after losing their first two games and players boycotted a training session in support of a demoted player, Adam Szalai. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 3.30 pm; Kings XI Punjab vs Chennai Super Kings from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

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

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Leicester City vs West Ham from 4.30 pm; Arsenal vs Sheffield United from 6.30 pm; Manchester United vs Tottenham Hotspur from 9 pm; Aston Villa vs Liverpool from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Atalanta vs Cagliari from 4 pm; Lazio vs Inter Milan from 6.30 pm; AC Milan vs Spezia from 9.30 pm; Juventus vs Napoli from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 3 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six, HD

DELHI DHAMAKA

Shreyas leads from front as DC down KKR in run-feast

Sharjah, Oct. 3: Shreyas Iyer showed his class with a captain's knock and pacer Anrich Nortje honoured his skipper's heroics by bowling a splendid penultimate over in Delhi Capitals' 18-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in a thrilling IPL match here on Saturday.

Iyer's (88 no off 38 balls) magnificent power-hitting after Prithvi Shaw's opening act propelled Delhi Capitals to an impressive 228 for four after being put into bat first by Dinesh Karthik.

If Iyer and Shaw weren't not enough, Rishabh Pant (38 off 17 balls) dusted off his rustiness with a quickfire knock.

The target was difficult but not impossible but Delhi produced the best effort by a pace bowling unit on a placid track with KKR finishing at 210 for 8.

Harshal Patel, as Ishant Sharma's replacement, did well enough to finish with 2 for 34 in 4 overs while the ever-improving Nortje (3/33 in 4 overs) was also

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c Shubman Gill b Nagarkoti 66, S. Dhawan c Morgan b Varun 26, S. Iyer (not out) 88, R. Pant c Shivam Mavi b Russell 38, M. Stoinis c Varun b Russell 1, S. Hetmyer (not out) 7. **Extras (w 2) 2. Total (for four wickets in 20 overs) 228.** **FoW:** 1-56, 2-129, 3-201, 4-221. **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-49-0, S. Mavi 3-0-40-0, C. Varun 4-0-49-1, S. Narine 2-0-26-0, A. Russell 4-0-29-2, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-35-1.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubman Gill c Pant b Mishra 28, S. Narine b Nortje 3, N.

Rana c sub (AR Patel) b HV Patel 58, A. Russell c Nortje b Rabada 13, D. Karthik c Dhawan b HV Patel 6, E. Morgan c Hetmyer b Nortje 44, P. Cummins c HV Patel b Nortje 5, R. Tripathi b Stoinis 36, K. Nagarkoti (not out) 3, Shivam Mavi (not out) 1. **Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 2, w 5) 13. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 210.** **FoW:** 1-8, 2-72, 3-94, 4-117, 5-117, 6-122, 7-200, 8-207. **Bowling:** K. Rabada 4-0-51-1, Nortje 4-0-33-3, R. Ashwin 2-0-26-0, M. Stoinis 4-0-46-1, H. Patel 4-0-34-2, A. Mishra 2-0-14-1.

impressive.

However, it was Kagiso Rabada (1/51 in 4 overs), who dismissed the dangerous Andre Russell (13) cheaply, was taken to task by Eoin Morgan (44 from 18 balls) and Rahul Tripathi (36 off 16 balls) in

the 18th over that got KKR 23 runs.

With 31 to get from 12 balls, Nortje bowled a superb 19th over getting rid of Morgan and only giving five runs in the process.

With 26 needed off the last over,



SHREYAS IYER			
R	B	6s	4s
88	38	6	7

Delhi skipper Shreyas Iyer in action against KKR. — BCCI

Upbeat Sunrisers take on MI

Sharjah, Oct. 3: Boasting an explosive batting line-up that complements their effective death bowling, Mumbai Indians will have their nose ahead in the IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

To add to SRH's worry, doubts remained over lead seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's participation in the match. Bhuvneshwar picked up an injury on Friday night and was unable to complete his final over in the game against Chennai Super Kings. He walked off the field with the help of the team physio.

In the event the experienced seamer misses out, table-toppers Mumbai will fancy their chances more at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, whose boundaries are much shorter than Dubai and Abu Dhabi and have been a paradise for power-hitters.

The defending champions, having humbled a strong Kings XI Punjab in their last game, are unlikely to make any



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Priyam Garg (left) and Abhishek Sharma. — BCCI

changes to the winning combination. Skipper Rohit Sharma is in sublime form and he can pummel any attack into submission on his day. Rohit has scored 170 runs from four games this season.

While the poor form of Quinton De Kock is worrisome, the prolific Suryakumar Yadav would be more than keen to convert his starts. The

biggest positive for the defending champions is that their middle-order has finally delivered with Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard launching into opposition attacks with their big-hitting prowess. Young Kishan has been the find for MI, after his blistering yet responsible knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 13
- SRH won: 7
- Mumbai: 6

MEETING IN 2019

- Mumbai beat Sunrisers by 40 runs at Hyderabad.
- Mumbai beat Sunrisers in Super Over at Mumbai.

FOR THE RECORD

- David Warner holds the record for the most number of 50+ scores in IPL. He has made 48 fifty plus scores (four hundreds and 44 fifties) in 130 innings.

- Trent Boult who has played 99 matches since 2009 will complete his century of matches in T20.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Hopefully, this year shows these kids what they're capable of.

— DAVID WARNER
SRH captain on performance of youngsters Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma

CHENNAI SEEK TURNAROUND IN CLASH OF KINGS

Dubai, Oct. 3: Hit hard by a start that least defines them, Chennai Super Kings would be desperate to find answers to their predicament when they take on Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match here on Sunday.

So used to be on top of their game in the previous editions, sitting at the bottom of the points table now with three losses in four matches is an unknown territory for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side.

Nothing has worked for them despite having the resources. They even made three changes to their playing XI against Sunrisers Hyderabad but neither comeback of Ambati Rayudu nor the presence of Dwayne Bravo could lift the gloom. A misfiring top-order, save Faf du Plessis, combined with inadequate run-flow in the middle overs and the habit of leaving way too much for the climax, proved to be their bane.

— PTI



RCB skipper Virat Kohli en route to his first half-century of the IPL season. — BCCI

Kohli back in form, RCB win

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 3: Captain Virat Kohli roared back to form with an unbeaten 72 and stitched a 99-run stand with Devdutt Padikkal (63) to power Royal Challengers Bangalore to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Saturday.

This was after wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal snared three wickets in an impressive bowling show that helped them restrict RR to 154 for 6.

Kohli's knock came off 53 balls with seven fours and two sixes. It was RCB's third win in four matches.

Padikkal yet again produced an impressive innings before he was dismissed by Jofra Archer in the 16th over, after hitting six fours and one six.

Padikkal allowed his captain to get in and settle down before Kohli produced some of his trademark shots later on to accelerate.

The RCB needed 31 runs after Padikkal's dismissal and another in-form batsman AB de Villiers (12 not out) ensured that his side reached the target with five balls to spare.

Having failed to score big in his earlier three innings

SCORECARD

Rajasthan Royals: Jos Buttler c Padikkal b Saini 22, Steve Smith b Udana 5, Sanju Samson c & b Chahal 4, Robin Uthappa c Udana b Chahal 17, Mahipal Lomror c Padikkal b Chahal 47, Riyan Parag c Finch b Udana 16, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 24, Jofra Archer (not out) 16. **Extras (LB-1, NB-1, W-1) 3. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 154.** **FoW:** 1-27, 2-31, 3-31, 4-70, 5-105, 6-114. **Bowling:** I. Udana 4-0-41-2, Washington 4-0-20-0, N. Saini 4-1-37-1, Y. Chahal 4-0-24-3, A. Zampa 3-0-27-0, S. Dube 1-0-4-0.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Devdutt Padikkal b Archer 63, Aaron Finch lbw b Gopal 8, Virat Kohli (not out) 72, AB de Villiers (not out) 12. **Extras (B-1, W-2) 5. Total (for 2 wickets in 19.1 overs) 158.** **FoW:** 1-25, 2-124.

Bowling: J. Archer 4-0-18-1, J. Unadkat 3-0-31-0, S. Gopal 4-0-27-1, T. Curran 3-1-0-40-0, R. Tewatia 4-0-28-0, R. Parag 1-0-13-0.

(14, 1, 3), Kohli took time to settle down and scored mostly in ones and twos initially.

Padikkal continued his good form with another 54 runs knock.

Earlier, Chahal returned with figures of 3/24 from his four overs to restrict RR to 154 for 6. — PTI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	4	3	1	0	6	+0.588
Royal Challengers Bangalore	4	3	1	0	6	-0.954
Mumbai Indians	4	2	2	0	4	+1.094
Sunrisers Hyderabad	4	2	2	0	4	-0.084
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	0	4	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	0	4	-0.317
Kings XI Punjab	4	1	3	0	2	+0.521
Chennai Super Kings	4	1	3	0	2	-0.719

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

NUMBERS GAME — CSK vs KXIP

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 22
- CSK won: 13
- Punjab won: 9

MEETING IN 2019

- Chennai Super Kings defeated Kings XI Punjab by 22 runs at Chennai.
- Kings XI Punjab beat Chennai Super Kings by six wickets at Mohali

FOR THE RECORD

- Mohammed Shami who has taken eight wickets at an average of 14.75 in four innings is the joint highest wicket-taker this edition.

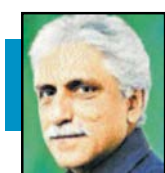
- M.S. Dhoni who has smashed 299 sixes in 287 innings of 321 matches needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a triple century of sixes in T20 cricket

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

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Young guns manifest the richness of Indian cricket



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

Insane hitting by batsmen, especially in the death overs, has been one of the major talking points of the IPL's second week. Power-hitters like Rohit, Rahul and Samson from the top order, and Pollard and Hardik Pandya as finishers, have peppered the grounds with sixes galore.

Then there is Rahul Tewatia, who hit five sixes in an over to transform defeat into victory for Rajasthan over Punjab, making a Himalayan tar-

get of 223 look like a stroll in the park. And Watson, Warner, Russell, Bairstow, Morgan and Pant — who binge on sixes — haven't yet got into full throttle!

Interestingly, while flat pitches, fast outfielders and small grounds (Sharjah) have enabled several scores of 200+ plus already, apart from two stirring Super Over finishes, bowlers haven't exactly been rendered inconsequential.

Shami, Cummins, Rabada among pacemen

and Chahal and Rashid among spinners have been quite superb. If they've sometimes still finished on the losing side, it is because their batsmen failed them.

For India's superstars, it's been a mixed bag so far. Rohit has hit splendid form and, after losing the first match, has inspired Mumbai to the top of the table as much with his batting as tactical nous in crunch situations.

M.S. Dhoni was able to lift his batting form against Sunrisers yet is still short of the vigour of old that would help him win matches off his own bat. His problems are compounded by the fact that CSK are also bottom of the points table currently.

That RCB were able to

clinch a thrilling Super Over climax against Mumbai Indians, and the he hit the winning shot, is only small redemption for Virat Kohli. He's otherwise had three batting failures in a row, and despite two victories, RCB still look undercooked.

The highlight of the past week for me, however has been the performance of young Indian players, manifesting the richness of cricket talent in the country as well as the role played by the IPL in exposing them to the world.

Take the match between CSK and SRH on Friday. While Warner and Rashid played big roles in the team's success, it was the rollicking partnership between 19-year-old Priyam Garg and 20-year-

old Abhishek Sharma which turned things around.

All looked lost when Warner and Williamson were dismissed off successive deliveries before Garg and Sharma played with great intrepidity to break CSK's stranglehold. SRH's young bowlers Natarajan, Khaleel and Samad played their part splendidly too.

This is not an isolated example where India's youngsters have shone. KKR, who have invested in Shubman Gill, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivam Mavi and Varun Chakravarty have started reaping rewards already.

Gill is becoming widely regarded as India's best young batsman. Coach Ravi Shastri, who I spoke to, thinks very highly of

him and sees him as someone who should be a "regular fixture for India in all formats."

Leg spinners Ravi Bishnoi (Punjab) and Rahul Chahar (Mumbai) have caught the eye too even if they haven't claimed as many wickets as Chahal or Rashid.

Getting into a slightly older age group, there is Navdeep Saini, Sanju Samson, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer who are also serving their teams with great efficiency, some of them with excellence.

A bulk of these players have come from the under-19 teams, but the IPL showcases their talent to India's selectors, coaches and captain whose business it is to track performances of

players, especially youngsters. The importance of the IPL in fast-tracking players into the Indian team is evident from what's happened in the past 12 years: R. Ashwin, Rahane, Jadeja, Rahul, even Rohit and Kohli to an extent have benefited from playing in the league.

Of course, not everybody who has excelled in the IPL has made it to the India team or been able to sustain a place, as the examples of Paul Valthaty, Manpreet Gony, Pawan Negi and several others highlight.

Having got the platform and the attention, it is still up to the player to make the most of the opportunity. An India career does not come free, whatever the earnings in the IPL.