# **DECCAN** an icle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA **VIJAYAWADA | TUESDAY I 13 OCTOBER 2020** 

Rainfall: 11.7mm Forecast: Rain and Hmuid. Max/Min temp. 27/23 ºC

# COVID-19

CASES DEATHS (+765)(+58,967)

1,09,892 71,73,069 covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+1.021)(+6)TS: 2,13,084 1,228 (+3,000)(+32)

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

AP: 7,58,951



213

worldometers.info/ coronavirus

6,256

### STROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Ekadasi till 2.29 pm Star: Magha till 10.49 pm Varjyam: 11.37 am to 1.06 pm; 6.04 am to 7.31 am (Wednesday) Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.19 am; 10.48 pm to 11.37 pm **Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Safar ul Muzaffar 25, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.30 am

> **Zohar:** 1.30 pm **Asar:** 4.45 pm Maghrib: 6.00 pm Isha: 8.15 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM** SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.47 AM **MOONRISE** TODAY 2.15 AM **MOONSET** TOMORROW 4.08 PM



His body doubles are wearing masks and out campaigning!

IN BRIEF

## **Neet aspirants get**

2nd chance in Oct

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the National Testing Agency to conduct second round of the NEET (UG) for the Covid-19 affected students and those in containment zones on October 14. A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde passed the order after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought the top court's nod in the issue citing special circumstances due to the Coronavirus pandemic. "In view of circumstances,

we grant permission to the NTA to conduct a second part of the NEET for the Covid affected students and those in containment zones on October 14, 2020," it said.

NATION 4

**BJP's Phase-II picks in Bihar upper castes** 



WORLD | 5 | SPORTS | 8

China to test 9 mn in 5 days for Covid

**Los Angeles Lakers** win NBA title



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## Central govt staff offered Heavy rains batter AP, LTC sop, festival advance

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, OCT 12

The Centre on Monday announced a slew of booster shots for both government employees and states to prop up demand, in terms of con-sumer spending and capi-tal expenditure. It said the demand boost is estimated to be a total of ₹73,000 crore and that it should be spent till March 31, 2021. The expects Centre demand to go up by ₹1 lakh crore if the states

join the exercise.

The two schemes —

LTC Cash Voucher Voucher Scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme Special are expected to benefit Central government staff. Under the LTC Cash

**GST COUNCIL AGAIN** 

New Delhi: The stalemate over compensating Centre will offer intereststates for the shortfall in free 50-year loans to the GST collections contin- tune of ₹12,000 crore. It ued on Monday

Voucher scheme, government employees can opt to receive cash amounts for leave encashment plus three times the ticket fare, to buy items which attract GST of 12 per cent or more on only digital transactions, and a GST invoice will have to be produced from the vendors.

Under

Special Advance

CONSENSUS ELUDES scheme, the money will be given to employees as a prepaid RuPay card. The amount granted is ₹10,000 crore. For the states, the

> will consist of three com-■ Report on Page 7 ponents. The first part is ₹2,500 crore for the Northeast (₹1,600 crore), and ₹9,000 crore for Uttarakhand and HP. The second part involves ₹7,500 crore for other states in proportion to their share in the Finance Commission's devolution. The last part is ₹2,000 crore for states that meet at least three out of four reforms mentioned under Atmanirbhar deficit package.

### In protest



A protest organised by the Thiruvananthapuram Forane and Archeparchy of Changnacherry in front of the accountant generals office in the city against the arrest of 83-year-old activist Stan Swami by the NIA in the Bhima Koregaon case, in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

# HC orders CBI probe on

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC

ordered a probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the defamatory posts on social media against the court and its judges. A two-member bench The High Court further observed: "Persons occu-

cripple the entire sys-

The court asked the CBI to register more FIRs and bring the investigation to its logical end. The court further wanted the CBI to examine whether or not such attacks on judiciary were made as a result of

government to ensure full cooperation and provide all logistical support The court directed the

CBI to submit its report in a sealed cover to the court within eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of the order. It posted the next hearing of the case to December 14.

# 2 die in Visakhapatnam IMD warns of more rains in coastal areas over 24 hrs

K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 12

Heavy rains caused by a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal battered north coastal Andhra, the coastal districts and parts of Telangana state on Monday.

The deep depression has moved in a west-northwest direction at a speed of about three kilometres per hour in the last six hours.

The system now lies 250 km southeast of Visakhapatnam, 320 km east-southeast of Kakinada and 360 km east-southeast from Narsapur.

It will continue to move in the west- northwest direction and make landfall south of Kakinada in the early hours of Tuesday.

People in Visakhapatnam recalled the Supercyclone Hudhud, which ravaged the city on this day in 2014. A pregnant woman and her two-year-old son died when boulders crashed on their house in Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam city. Low-lying areas in many parts of the city were inundated making it difficult for commuters to reach homes.

Reports from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said there could be



Women join hands as they cross the waterlogged junction on the national highway near P. NARASIMHA MURTHY Tathichetlapalem in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

more rains and stormy winds in the cities of coastal AP during the next 24 hours, including East and West Godavari, Visa-khapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Kakinada. During the last 24 hours, Bhimili received the highest rainfall of 17.5 cms fol-

lowed by Visakhapatnam city 15.42 cms, city 15.42 cms, Visakhapatnam rural 14.05 cms, Kakinada 13.95 cms, Peddapuram 13.02 cms and Amakapalle 10.06 cms.

The system will weaken to depression and low pressure and move to Maharashtra while Telangana state is likely to get heavy rains, the reports said.

Minister for agriculture and in-charge for State NDRF, K. Kannababu, held a review meeting with officials here in the presence of minister Muttamsetti Srinivas and senior offi-

Local cautionary signal number three was hoisted at Kalingapatnam, Bheemunipatnam, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam Krishnapatnam



# anti-judiciary posts online

VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

The AP High Court has

comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice J. Umadevi issued the order during a virtual hearing held on Monday stating, "Without going into merits of the case or without recording any observations against either of the parties, we propose to entrust all the matters to an agency, namely, Central Bureau of Investigation, which is fairly fit, having wider

scope for investigation as

agreed by all parties.'

pying high posts are indulging in waging war against the judicial system, oblivious of the fact that even their entity exists since there is a democratic system in our

In a democratic state, if such war is initiated against the judicial system by persons holding high positions, it will certainly create unnecessary doubt in the mind of citizen against the judicial system, which may

larger conspiracy.

the case, the agency is required to take appropriate action against such culprits, irrespective of the post and position they hold.
The High Court direct-

ed the CBI to take steps so that all defamatory posts available on social media are struck down and such users are blocked in accordance with the law.

The court asked the AP to the CBI.

■ Page 2: Court counsel

## **CAPTIVES | FREE | Welders went to Libya to work in October last year**

# Indian hostages freed after 1 month

with bureau inputs VISAKHAPATNAM/NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

After gap of one month, the family members of B. Danayya, B. Venkata Rao and B. Jogarao, slept well on Sunday night, after they got information that their bread-winners are coming back safely from Libya.

Danayya, Venkata Rao and Joga Rao were kidnapped, along with four others, at Asshwerif, in

home. After the efforts of the Indian and Libyan governments, they were released by the kidnappers yesterday. The trio belongs to the tiny village of Sitanagaram in Santabommali mandal, Srika-kulam district. All three are welders by profession and went to Libya to work in a construction company in October last year.

They will now return to India, said the ministry of external affairs (MEA), Libya on September 14, while thanking the Libyan while they were on their authorities and the tribal

elders there "for their steadfast cooperation in securing the release of the Indians unharmed. 'Our ambassador

Tunisia, Puneet Kundal, spoke to them over the phone after they were handed over by the abductors to the company Al Shola Al Mudia. All of them are in good health and are currently staying in the company's premises in Brega. We are trying to complete the requisite formalities to enable their return to India," the MEA

satisfactory lunch on Sunday after receiving the information that their bread-winners are coming home safely. The families have had nightmares since the kidnappings.

Though they were kidnapped on September 14, the family members members received the information on September 17. The tense family members did not eat well or sleep properly for the last one month.

> ■ Page 2: Welders called family in September

### SHORT TAKES **WELDERS CALLED FAMILY IN SEPTEMBER**

FROM PAGE 1

The three workers had called up their family members on September 13 and informed that they were coming back shortly. After that, there was no communication from them till the families were told on September 17 that they had been kidnapped.

The families were glued to their phones for information and relatives, police, officials, and politicians visited their

houses daily to pacify them. B. Sudhakar, Venkata Rao's father, said, "Really, it is a rebirth for my son. Thanks to the government for their timely response. For the last month, we have had hardly any sleep and were constantly looking for information.

Danayya and Venkata Rao are relatives, said Jogarao's father, Gandhi.

Thanks to the police, MPs and ministers who regularly monitored with the government and also visited our fam-

### **ENSURE PIPED WATER IN SCHOOLS: GUV**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT 12

Biswabhusan Harichandan directed officials to expedite supply of piped water to schools and anganwadi centres under Jal Jeevan Mission in the state.

The Governor reviewed the implementation of the 100 days campaign under Jal Jeevan Mission with Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney and other senior officials through

a video link on Monday.

He stated that Prime
Minister Narendra Modi had
launched the Mission in all the States and Union Territories on October 2 to ensure piped water to schools and AWCs so

that children stay healthy. He explained that 'Har Ghar Jal' was intended to provide safe and adequate potable water through taps in every household as children were vulnerable to water-borne diseases like typhoid, dysentery, diarrhea and cholera. He said that consumption of potable water would help avoid such health problems.

### **NO ONE IS ABOVE LAW: CHIEF WHIP** SRIKANTH REDDY

NAGESWARA RAO BALLED I

KADAPA, OCT. 12

Government Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy on Monday stated that the government, administration and judiciary must be treated impartially and none was above the other.

Speaking to the media in Rayachoti, he said a recent development was being blownout of proportion while no part of the system can work unilaterally and against the interests of the people. He said that no one was above law and justice should prevail irrespective of the stature of the individual.

He said a man who served as Advocate General was found guilty and the CID filed a case against him. The son of a Chief Justice was accused of violating the law, he said.

He wanted to know if it was right to issue a gag order when things point at criminal manipulations.

He said people should have the power to question when the Prime Minister or a Chief Minister commit mistakes. Why should someone fear when there is talk of inquiry,

### **FARMERS TOLD NOT TO GROW TOBACCO**

**VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC** ELURU, OCT, 12

Cherukuvada Sriranganatha Raju, said that the farmers should be weaned away from tobacco crop cultivation and encouraged to raise alterna-

tive crops. Participating in the agriculture advisory board meeting held here on Monday, Raju said that there was no demand for tobacco world-wide as governments were not encouraging tobacco products in view of people's health and India is also discouraging the crop.

Indian tobacco is decreasing and over-dependence of tobacco as a commercial crop is not advisable, said Mr Raju.

# Cargo-handling ops halted in Kakinada

All reservoirs and lakes were full to the brim and fields were inundated with rainwaters

**VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC** 

Incessant rains due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal disrupted normal life on Monday in East and West Godavari districts and cargo-handling operations were halted in both the deep water as well as the anchorage port on the Kakinada coast.

Twenty ships in the two ports were stranded. The authorities closed the Kakinada-Uppada beach road to traffic, taking the precautionary step as the sea was rough and the Indian Meteorological Department had predicted that the depression will cross the Kakinada-Yanam coast in the early hours of Tuesday with a wind speed of 55-75 kmph.

All reservoirs and lakes were full to the brim and fields were inundated with rainwaters. Fields under Yeleru ayacut have been inundated for almost one month due to floods and depression. The heavy rains on Sunday and ruined

remaining crops.
The authorities shifted 270 families, including 70 families from hope island and 200 families in Phule colony in Kakinada to safer places and they have been provided shelter in a high school in the city. Two shops in a municipal shopping complex at Peddapuram collapsed due to heavy rains.

East Godavari recorded 5,006.8 mm rainfall with an average of 78.2 mm and Kakinada Urban recorded highest rainfall with 182.6 mm. Roads were flooded, disrupting traffic. People were forced to stay

According to sources, non-Basmati rice and broken rice, exported to East African countries, were being loaded into eight ships. The heavy rain halted the handling operations and the steel barges were brought back and anchored at the jetties. At the deep water port, cargo like granite, fertiliser, sugar, liquids were being



Motorists have a tough-time to move on the road as a huge branch of a tree fell due to depression over the Bay of

### **WOMAN WASHED AWAY IN RIVULET**

Kadapa: Rajeshwari, a woman from Dappepalli village in Lakkireddypalli mandal of Kadapa district, got washed way in a rivulet that she was crossing on Sunday evening. There have been heavy rains since past two days in the district because of

unloaded but these were also stopped, said an offi-cial of the Kakinada Sea Port Limited.

Reservoirs like Yeleru, Pampa, Maddigadda, Subbareddy and others are flowing at full levels and officials discharged surplus waters downstream. At the Dowleswaram barrage, officials discharged 1,63,488 cusecs of surplus water and say that it may

which all rivulets are in flood. Villagers and relatives of Rajeshwari searched for her but could not find her anywhere. Her body was found floating in an irrigation tank the village Monday morning.
Police have filed a case.

be increased to 2.5 lakh on Tuesday and Wednesday due to heavy rains upstream.

collector Joint Lakshmisha reviewed the situation and instructed officials to be available to the people and take up assistance work in their respective areas, if necessary. He said that special steps were being taken in coastal villages and if the roads are damaged, they should be replaced on a war footing.
Cyclone shelters have been set up in the

Konaseema area and NDRF and SDRF teams are available in emergencies. Lakshmisha said that a call centre was set up in collectorate Kakinada to work round the clock. He requested people to be alert on the

heavy rains and take precautionary steps. Agriculture minister, Kurasala Kannababu, vis-ited the inundated fields at Vakada and Vemulavada villages in Karapa mandal and enquired about the situation with the farmers. He said that thousands of acres of crops were inun-

dated due to the rains in

the state and crop loss

11 CONTROL **ROOMS SET UP IN PRAKASAM** 

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 12

In view of the rain warning in coastal Andhra Pradesh, revenue officials advised fisherfolk to avoid venturing into the sea in Prakasam district. Control rooms have been established at 11 coastal mandals and rehabilitation centres are being readied to deal with

any eventuality. Revenue divisional officer of Ongole, Prabhakar Reddy, said they have set up a control room at the RDO office.

## **Boulders crash** into house, 2 die

K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC

Boulders crashed into a small asbestos house on the foothills in Gajuwaka instantly killing a preg-nant woman and her three-year-old son.

The boulders slipped due to heavy rain caused by the depression in the Bay of Bengal. The incident took place on Sunday night when the family was asleep. Two more persons of the same family sustained injuries.

The deceased were identified as Ramalakshmi, said to be in an advanced state of pregnancy and her

The police, with the support of fire service personnel and local people, retrieved the bodies from the spot and shifted them to the government hospital morgue for post-mortem. The injured persons were taken to a nearby private hospital for treatment. Heavy rains have been lashing parts of Vizag city since Sunday. In December 2015, four

people belonging to two families were crushed to death when a huge boulder broke off from the hill abutting their house at Sanjeevaiah Nagar Colony of the Thatichetlapalem area in Vizag City follow-

## Land shrinks in CK Dinne mandal

**NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA I DC** KADAPA, OCT. 12

A 20-metre deep ditch was formed due to the heavy Bhirjakhan village in Chintakommadinne (CK Dinne) mandal of Kadapa district on Monday.

Trenches have formed in the area several times in the past.

Farmers who went to their fields on Monday morning noticed the huge pit that was filled with water. There were continuous rains for the past two days and the land was soaking wet.

On August 25, 2019, there was a 100-foot pit formed at Ippapenta village in CK Dinne mandal. Mining and geology department officials and scientists had inspected the spot and said there were huge



deposits of limestone reserves.

The limestone layer undergoes a chemical reaction when rain falls in the area. When acidic rain falls limestone reacts to the acid forming precipitations, they said. Due to certain factors, voids can be formed. It is unavoidable and farmers and nearby villagers were

### **COURT COUNSEL FOUND LEADERS SPARED**

**FROM PAGE 1** 

Earlier, the High Court said that though Advocate-General S. Sriram had agreed to entrust the investigation to other investigating agency, he had raised serious objections on submission of certain documents by the court's counsel N. Ashwani Kumar pertaining to statements made by the Assembly Speaker Sitaram, Tammineni Deputy CM K. Narayana Swamy and MP V. Vijaya Sai Reddy on the ground that they were not arrayed as parties in the writ petition nor those facts were corroborated.

Ashwini Kumar, in his petition submitted earlier, mentioned that the CID was taking a different stand in cases related to attack on the High Court and its judges. He said that in case of any offensive posts against the government, CID was registering FIRs and arresting t accused immediately.

He stated that in case posts against the High Court, the CID added only a few persons as accused in FIRs. while trying to shield or save accused persons who are influential.

### **BUGGANA SEEKS EARLY RELEASE OF IGST ARREARS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Minister for finance Buggana Rajendranath appealed to the Centre to arrears of release Integrated Goods and Service Tax at an early

The minister took part in the 42nd GST Council meet held virtually from New Delhi chaired by the Union minister for finance Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

# Farmers complete 300 days stir

DC CORRESPONDENTS VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA/ KADAPA, OCT. 12

A large number of farmers and farm labourers staged protests in several villages falling under Amaravati region marking the completion of 300 days of their ongoing campaign against the state government's move to set up three capitals on Monday.

The farmers staged relay protests and raised slogans in favour of retaining Amaravati as the capital city for AP as the present YSR Congress govern-ment proposed legislation to relocate administrative and judicial capitals in Visakhapatnam Kurnool respectively while allowing Amaravati to be the legislative capi-

TD MLC Nara Lokesh visited capital city villages like Penumaka, Yerrabalem, Krishnayapalem and others to mark the completion of 300 days of protests by the farmers. He thanked especially the farmers, women and the



TD leader and MLC Nara Lokesh addresses the farmers at Mandadam in Guntur district on Monday.

- TEĴO ROY ELETIC

youth, who were relentlessly continuing their protest seeking Amaravati to be the capital city for AP despite being implicated in police cases, arrests and humiliation.

He turned critical of the Chief Minister Y.S. Chief Minister JaganMohan Reddy for reneging on his word to support Amaravati as the capital city for AP and alleged that the CM was trying to take revenge against the former CM father his Chandrababu Naidu by relocating it.

Referring to the allegations of insider trading and attribution of caste in development Amaravati, he said that

the YSR Congress government had failed to prove its charges and slammed the government for failing to take up developmental works in the state.

He found fault with the

CM for failing to pay a visit to Amaravati even as 92 farmers had sacrificed their lives for the capital city. He reiterated that they were committed for Amaravati to be the capital city for AP for comprehensive development of In Rajahmundry, mem-

bers of Amaravati Parirakshana Samiti joint action committee staged a Stand Centre. Rajahm-undry rural MLA rural Buchaiah Choudhary called upon the CM to give up his three capitals as a large number of people were staging protests against relocation of the capital city from Amaravati for the last 300 days and demanded justice to them.

In Kakinada, political JAC member Gadula Saibaba flayed the state government for attributing caste to the ongoing aviation by the people at Amaravati.

In Kadapa, local TD leaders staged a protest at Sub Collector's office. They submitted a representation to the Sub Collector, seeking continuation of Amaravati as AP's capital city. Several leaders\_including Govardhan Reddy, Pothuganti Peeraya, Janardhan and Yatagiri Ram Prasad laid stress on the part of the state government to develop Amaravati as the capital .

## CM holds review meet on power

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | • The CM laid stress on VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed officials to ensure quality and uninterrupted ninehour power supply to farmers during daytime to help them raise crops in the state. He held a review meet-

ing on free power supply to farmers with the minister for energy Balineni Srinivasa Reddy and senior officials here on Monday. He laid stress on bringing awareness among farmers that they would not be charged even after fixing electric

metres to their pump sets. Explaining about the benefits of fixing metres to agriculture pump sets, remittance of power bill amounts directly into the bank accounts of farmers, who in turn, would pay to Discoms, he felt the need to highlight such issues for the benefit to farmers and people. He

bringing awareness among farmers that they would not be charged even after fixing metres

also called for dispelling apprehensions about free power supply. He directed officials to

maintain ISI standards for power transformers, electric metres, motors and capacitors and asked them to approach Central agency Energy Efficiency

Services Limited. Meanwhile, the officials informed that they had informed farmers that they would not face any financial burden for fixing of electric metres to their pump sets and said that they have trained

14,353 linemen. The officials said that they had prepared bid documents for installation of 10,000 MP solar power plants and assured that once the judicial preview was over, they would call for tenders.

## PARTY I TIME Russian women hosting VIP parties is quite common these days, says Raghu

# MP confirms woman served him champagne

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

YSR Congress rebel MP Raghu Ramakrishna Raju once again courted a controversy when a photo, shot at a private party, showing a Russian lady pouring champagne in his mouth, went viral on

social media. The Narasapuram MP gave a clarification on this while addressing media-persons in New Delhi on Monday. He confirmed that it was him in the picture and the photograph was taken about two or three years back at a private party either in Kolkata or Hyderabad. Mr Raju said, "An MP from the Telugu states

hosted a party for his son.

I graced the party along with several other politicians. The picture was taken when everyone was in a partying mood. Many politicians drank champagne served by the Russian," he added.

Maintaining that there is nothing wrong in the picture as Russian women hosting VIP parties is quite common these days, he clarified that champagne is not alcohol and he did not drink any cheap liquor sold by the YSRC government. "I have forwarded this

photo to more than 500 people in the past. I think Subba Reddy or some other critic of mine could have circulated the picture now to malign my name. What's the big deal in it? I did nothing wrong," he



and had seen abusive posts The MP claimed that he on social media against has been receiving abusive messages on WhatsApp having profile pictures of

Ramachandra Reddy and MP Avinash Reddy have Russian been sharing the photo with abusive comments woman pouring against me. I have saved chamthose profiles and contact pagne in numbers of people, who may be 'devotees' of YSRC the mouth of the MP leaders, and filed a police complaint against them," Raghu Ramakrish na Raiu gone viral

photo of

on social

media.

Alleging that there is no law and order in AP, he said that he had filed a police complaint, hoping that police will take strict action against those who posted abusive comments against him. He also said that he will approach the Delhi police, as the incidents happened when he was in the national capital and they will take stern against those who abused him on WhatsApp and

When Deccan Chronicle contacted a couple of YSRC MPs for their reaction to the photo, they refused to comment. The photo, however, garnered trolls and reactions by netizens across AP.
People took to the micro-

blogging site and shared it with funny captions. A user wrote in Telugu on MPs recent Facebook post: "Sir, miru Delhi nunchi vechepudu oka full bottle thisukuni randi", which means "Sir, bring a full bottle when you are coming from Delhi". Another user also dared the MP to resign for his

post and re-contest from his constituency. The user also exuded confidence Ramakrishna Raju.

### IN BRIEF 5-day QFCI convention begins

Visakhapatnam: Director (Operations), RINL, AK Saxena inaugurated the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) Visakhapatnam chapter's 20th chapter Convention on Quality Concepts (Digital form) on Monday. Mr Saxena stressed the need and importance of small group activities, including quality circles, 5-S, lean, and six sigma. The theme of this five-day convention is "Developing Self Reliant India through Quality Concepts". Over 450 delegates from around 65 quality circle teams from different industries participated in the virtual convention. Director (Projects), RINL and Chairman, Vizag Chapter of QCFI K.K. Ghosh highlighted the growth of the chapter and the success

## **Sirimanu fete: Tree**

and patronage the convention

has been receiving over the

### **cutting ritual starts**

Visakhapatnam: The first ritual of the Sri Pyditalli Ammavari, the presiding deity of Vizianagaram, Sirimonotsavam was performed to the identified 30 ft tree in Balarampuram village in Jami mandal on Monday. Sirimonotsavam is one of the biggest festivals in the north coastal region. The temple priests would select a big tree in the district every year and after performing special prayers, the tree would be cut and a 30 ft wood log would be made as Sirimanu. This year, the tree identified in Balarampuram village in Jami mandal. Temple priest Bantupalli Venkata Rao along with the other performed special rituals. Later, he directed some of the villagers to cut the tree. Vizianagaram MP B. Chandrasekhar, MLAs K. Veerabhadra Swami, B Appalanarasayya, Joint Collector J. Venkata Rao, and several other officials and elected representatives were present. After cutting the tree, it was shifted to Vizianagaram and would be made as Sirimanu for the three-day festival to be

■ The priests would select a big tree in the district every year and cut it into a 30-ft log

held from October 27.



Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works. SI.No. : 1. Tender Number & Date 12-10-2020. Description of Work Cleaning of HL Bay, ML Bay, LL Bay and inspection Bay and administrative building and disposal of scrap garbage and upkeep of Electric Loca Shed, Lallaguda Premises for a period Tender Value Rs. 90,05,954.73. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 1.80.100/-. Cost of Tender Form : Nil. Completion Period: 24 Months. Date & Time of Closing & Opening : 06-11-2020 15:00 hours & 06-11-2020 15:15

SI.No.: 2. Tender Number & Date C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/332, Dated 12-10-2020. Description of Work Management of Locomax System a ELS/LGD for a period of 2 years Tender Value Rs. : 51,63,431,61 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1,03,300/-. Cost of Tender Form 5,000/-. Completion Period : 24 Months. Date & Time of Closing & Opening: 06-11-2020 15:00 hours & 06-11-2020 15:15 hours.

Validity of offer : 63 days from the date of opening of tender Submission of tender document

through IREPS websit a 'www.ireps.gov.in"

ELS, Lallaguda

Secunderaba

E-Tender Notice No.: 349/ DRM/W/GNT of Dated: 09-10-2020

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hours of 03-11-2020.

SI. No. 1. Tender Id : 2347 Sr.DEN/DEN: N. Description of : Safety related Trac Maintenance works in ADEN Nalgonda Section. Approximate Earnest Money Deposit Rs.

2,19,600/-Tender Id : 2348. Sr.DEN/DEN: N. Description of Work : Safety related Track laintenance works in ADEN / North Guntur Section. Approximate Value in Rs. ; 1,90,48,025/-. Earnest

Money Deposit Rs.: 2,45,200/-. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15:30 hours of 03-11 2020. For detailed information logo

o website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Any further Communication Corrigendum shall be intimated

through **E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.** Divisional Railway Manage A1143 (Works), Guntur

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## No Corona to protest



Students, under the aegis of SFI, stage protest against the government demanding abolishing the degree xamination in the wake of the pandemic , outside the AU Registrar Office in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

# **Covid-19: AP records 3,224 cases in 24 hours**

### Over 1,24,171 samples were tested for 1 mn population

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Andhra Pradesh record-

ed a steep fall in the fresh Covid-19 positive cases on Monday. Over 3,224 Covid cases were registered against the average cases of over 5,000 per day in the last few days.

The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin here this morning stating that out of 61,112 samples tested, 3,224 individuals tested positive taking the tally to 7,58,951 and 32 deaths increasing the toll to 6,256 in the last 24 hours.

state 66,30,728 samples so far and of them, 7,08,712 patients have been discharged after recovery while 43,983 are still

**ANTI-SMUGGLING** 

DC CORRESPONDENT

assumed charge as the

Superintendent of Police

for the AP Red Sanders

Anti-Smuggling taskforce,

assured that he would

strive hard to curb the red

sanders smuggling activi-

ty in the Seshachalam

He assumed charge as

the SP of the task force at

its office headquartered in

The task force SP said, "I

will strive hard to train

and strengthen the task

force team for special

combing operations to pro-

tect precious red sanders

take support from the

police and forest depart-

ments to prevent smug-

glers from entering into

the forest area. The task

force department will be

upgraded with technical

intervention and we will

ensure safety and security

of the task force personnel

participating in the comb-

ing operations," he main

Venkataiah, RI Bhaskar,

Subrahmanyam and oth-

ers met the SP in his office

congratulated

Kumar,

Taskforce

'We will coordinate and

in Seshachalam forests."

Tirupati on Monday.

**NEW SP FOR** 

**TASKFORCE** 

TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

forests.

active cases with the

Among the fresh Coronavirus cases, East the fresh Godavari has registered 547 followed by 489 in West Godavari, 379 in Guntur, 293 in Chittoor, 270 in Prakasam, 209 in Anantapur, 191 in Vizianagaram, 190 in Kadapa, 166 in Nellore, 136 in Kurnool, 135 in Visakhapatnam, 133 in Srikakulam and 86 in Krishna.

With regard to the cumulative cases, East Godavari continues to lead with the highest number of 1,06,590 fol-lowed by 75,489 in West Godavari, 70,615 in Chittoor, 61,156 in Anantapur, 60,221 in Guntur, 58,241 in Kurnool, 56.844 Nellore, Prakasam, 54,658

Visakhapatnam, 48,209 in Kadapa, 41,381 in Srikakulam, 37,515 in Vizianagaram, 32,036 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery pf the Covid-19 patients has also been good in East Godavari with 98,608 followed by 69,351 in West Godavari, 64,060 in Chittoor, 58,861 Anantapur, 56,378 Kurnool, 54,924 Nellore, 54,902 in Guntur, 50,377 in Prakasam, 49,654 in Visakhapatnam, 44,531 in Kadapa, 39,861 in Srikakulam, 35,377 in Vizianagaram, 28,933 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other

With regard to the deaths registered in the last 24 hours, Krishna and Prakasam have registered five deaths each fol-lowed by four each in Guntur and Kadapa, three each in Anantapur and East Godavari, two each in Chittoor and West Godavari and one each in Kurnool. Srikakulam

... Visakhapatnam. Chittoor has registered the highest number of cumulative deaths of Covid-19 patients at 707 followed by 571 in East Godavari, 564 in Guntur, 536 in Prakasam, 527 in Anantapur, 498 in Krishna, 478 in Kurnool, each

Visakhapatnam and West Godavari, 472 in Nellore, 400 in Kadapa, 331 in Srikakulam, and 224 in Vizianagaram. patients

## Two minor girls sexually assaulted by youth in Vizag

Two youngsters lured two minor girls with a motorcycle ride and sexually assaulted them in an isolated industrial shed under Duvvada police stationlimits in Visakhapatnam. The girls went home and narrated their ordeal to their parents.

This incident took place on Saturday night but came to light on Monday morning when the girls, along with their parents, lodged a complaint against the accused at Duvvada police station.

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC

arrested eight persons in

two separate incidents for

circulating fake currency

notes in Tallarevu and

Ambajipet mandals on

Monday and seized ₹91,74,500 fake currency

Superintendent of Police

Godavari Police

KAKINADA, OCT. 12

notes from them.

**K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC**VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 12

The police said that a case against the duo and transferred the case to year-old girl in the same the Disha police station locality and, following a plan, his friend of the same age became friendly with the girl's friend.

> On Saturday afternoon. the two youngsters took the two girls on two motorcycles to the beach where they spent some time. Later, they took them to an isolated industrial shed where the duo allegedly sexually assaulted the two girls. Based on the complaints from the victims, circle inspector Duvvada police station, K. Lakshmi, registered a

Adnan Nayeem Asmi told reporters that Korangi

Srinivasa Rao, 52, Dangeti

Venkata Brahmajee, 26, of

Dasaradha Ramudu of

Tallarevu mandal, Undru

Pottigondhi village and

Ramkumar of

Pottigondhi village

police arrested

Georgepet,

Puliyat

Chinamavullu

Sirgindalapadu

for further investigation. The police shifted the girls to King George hos-

pital for medical tests

and launched a manhunt

for the accused. A few days ago, a pastor was arrested on the charges of attempted rape of a 16-year-old girl at Gajuwaka in Vizag

Political leaders and activists of various women's organisations on Monday demanded stringent action against those involved in crimes women and against

Ramachandrapuram man-

dal- and seized ₹88,74,500

fake currency notes from

There were 4,211 ₹2,000

notes and 905 ₹500 notes

besides which were a CPU,

monitor and a colour print-

er and a Panchaloha idol of

He said that Srinivasa

Rao made fake currency, kept them in the middle of

their victim.

Nagadevatha.

Currency racket busted: 8 arrested

Dangeti

Dommeti

in

# Arrangements peak for Tirumala Brahmotsavams

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT, 12

With just three days left for mega Navaratri brahmotsavams at the world-renowned hill temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala, arrangements being made have reached their peak level.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is making all efforts to ensure that devotees visiting the hill town during brahmot-savams have darshan of the Lord without any hassles, while strictly adhering to Covid-19 protocol. The newly appointed TTD executive officer K. S. Jawahar Reddy, additional executive officer A.V. Dharma Reddy, and chief vigilance and security offi-cer Gopinath Jatti are con-tinuously reviewing the ongoing arrangements at

Unlike the annual brahmotsavams last month, which were conducted in Ekantham (solitude) due to Covid-19 restrictions, TTD has decided to take out the procession in the four mada streets during vahana sevas. However, only a limited number of

ets will be allowed in the galleries.

As these Brahmotsavams will be over nine days, there will be rigorous thermal screening. Foot-operated sanitisers have been kept in place at all galleries around the mada streets. TTD has decided to deploy only a limited number of security personnel and Srivari Seva volunteers, as there will be limited num-ber of Bhajans and cultural programmes before vahana sevas. The number of pil-

grims will also be less. While the Annaprasadam wing is making necessary arrangements for continuously serving food to visit-ing devotees, the temple potu is building enough stock of laddus for distribution to devotees during the nine-day event. brahmot-Navaratri

savams will start with Ankurarpanam Thursday between 7 pm and 8 pm. Morning Vahana Sevas will be from 8 am to 10 am while the evening sevas will be between 7 pm and 9 pm, including the Garuda Seva on October 20. Bangaru Tiruchi Utsavam will be on October 16 from 9 am to 11 am, followed by

Pedda Sesha Vahanam between 7 pm and 9 pm.

On Day II, October 17, Chinna Sesha Vahanam programme will be in the morning and Hamsa Vahanam in the evening, followed by Simha Vahana and Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanam on October 18, Kalpavruksha Vahanam Sarvabhoopala Vahanam on October 19.

The most important day

of the brahmotsavams, October 20, will have Mohini Avataram and auspicious Garuda Vahana Seva from 7 pm. Hanumantha Vahana, Hanumantha Vahana, Pushpaka Vimanam and Gaja Vahanam will be on October 21, Surya Prabha and Chandra Prabha Vahanams on October 22, and Swarna Rathotsavam and Aswa Vahanam on October 23. The brahmot savams will conclude on October 24 with Pallaki and Tiruchi Utsavam from 3 am to 5 am, Snapana Tirumanjanam and Chakra Snanam between 6 am and

Utsavam in the evening. Arrangements are also made being for floral and photo exhibitions Kalyana Vedika.

9 am and Bangaru Tiruchi

### 18.57L KG **VEGGIES GIVEN TO BALAJI SHRINE**

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

TTD Additional EO Mr Dharma Reddy informed that about 18.57 lakh kilos of vegetables had been donated at free of cost to TTD by the vegetable donors in the year 2019-20, while this year due to COVID-19 restric-tions only 1.65 lakh kilos of vegetables were donated till September.

Speaking during a meeting held with vegetable donors at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Monday, the Additional EO said that the vegetable donors have been rendering incredible service to the devotees of Lord Venkateswara by donat-ing varieties of vegetables for the preparation of Annaprasadam "This year due to the

COVID-19 restrictions, only 1.65 lakh kilos of vegetables were donated until September. The donors, however, have agreed to provide a variety of vegduring the ri brahmotetables Navaratri savams slated to take place between October 16 to 24. The devotees coming for brahmotsavams will get quality and delicious Annaprasadam every day", he added.

DyEO of Anna Prasadam Nagaraja, Catering Officer G.L.N. Shastri. Lokanatham, vegetable donors from the states of Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were also present.

original currency bundles

and asked the other

accused to circulate them to

the tune of ₹1 crore. The

notes were printed at

Dangeti Brahmajee Photo

studio. Three of them pur-

chased an ancient idol of

Naga Devatha from one

Bokka Narayana, priest of

Pithapuram at a cost of ₹30

lakh and paid ₹10 lakh fake

Visakhapatnam port is

not allowed to store

Krasezewsaki, carrying the Cyprus flag, was anchored on the high seas

since August 11 and East

Ayutthaya, carrying the

Thailand flag, with 14,000

tons of nitrate, arrived on

August 29. The third ves-

sel, Diana, carrying 10,000

tons of nitrate arrived on

September 9. All the three

ships loaded nitrate at

nitrate.

notes as advance.

# TD may not to contest against Balli family

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, OCT. 12

All eyes are on the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat, which has fallen vacant because of the sudden demise of the sit-ting YSRC member Balli Durga Prasad. Though TD is projecting

that they are gearing up for the by-election, the party may not enter the fray if the seat is given to any family member of Durga Prasad, reliable sources in the party told this newspa-

However, TD would extend its support to the nominee of BJP if the saffron party decides to field a candidate for the segment, the sources said, pointing out that the TD bigwigs wish to be in the good books of the BJP top brass.

Durga Prasad was earlier a four-time TD MLA from Gudur. On being denied a ticket, he jumped over to YSRC on whose ticket he won the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat defeating former union Panabaka Lakshmi in the 2019 general elections.

Incidentally, she will be in the fray if TD decides to

contest going by the recent announcement of TD boss N Chandrababu Naidu. Further senior leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy told party men to prepare for the Tirupati Lok Sabha by-election. During Sunday's meeting

with party in-charge for the seat, Narasimhulu Yadav convener Narasimha Chandramohan Reddy instructed in-charges of all

the Assembly segments to strengthen the party base from the grass-root level. Speaking to this newspa-per, he said that they are gearing up for the by-election as per the directions of

the party high command. Meanwhile, sources close to Balli Durga Prasad family said that Chief Minister ÝS Jagan Mohan Reddy has promised the ticket to the family and left the choice of selecting a candidate to Durga Prasad's Saralamma. She has to between choose

daughter Haritha. A YSRC leader said that the family is likely to nominate Kalyan, an engineering graduate.

Kalyan and Karthik or

## Seaward artillery practice to be held at Suryalanka

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Seaward artillery practices over Suryalanka area to be held from Nov. 23 to Dec. 4,

The state government issued GO MS No. 97 dated 15-09-2020, according permission to carry out operational training of SAGW

units of Indian Air Force Station, Survalanka in Banatla mandal in Guntur district from 06.00 hrs to 22.00 hrs.

The areas extending up to 100 kms from the firing points are unsafe.

The Union ministry of defence (Navy Wing) is taking up training pro-

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### LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

I, **BALTHU NAGA SRINIVAS**, S/o B.Venkata Durga Rao, R/o D.No.30-20-5A/1, Seetharampuram Vijayawada, Krishna District, AP, India. That having Property Doc.No.3023/2011, Dt.31.03.2011. SRO Vijayawada and Document No.5982/2006 Dt:06.04.2006. I lost my original Documents on 03-10-2020, at Photostat center for taking photostat at Civil Courts, Governorpe Vijayawada. It was lost by me. If anybody found it please inform to the above address.

(CA:VJ/20-21-00092

#### SAFETY I FIRST As per the rules, Vizag port is not allowed to store nitrate No unloading of ammonium nitrate at Vizag DC CORRESPONDENT public property, the VPT from October 11 till of police, harbour divinitrate

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 12

The revenue and police department issued notices to Visakhapatnam port trust not to allow the berthing of four ships carrying ammonium

The RDO issued the notice under section 133 for maintenance of tran-Visakȟapatnam port area. A note from the assistant commissioner

sion, T. Mohan Rao, said that in view of precautionary measures to safeguard human life and both public and private properties, ammonium nitrate is strictly restricted to the limits harbour subdivision as it was necessary to prevent untoward incidents and in the interest of the safety of citizens of Vizag city

Since the trade is injuri-

authorities are requested not to allow the merchant vessel, Kraszewski, transporting 20,041 tonne of ammonium nitrate in bags to unload at EQ-06 berth in Visakhapatnam

Announcing the promulgation order under section 144 Cr PC to prevent the movement of vessels of ammonium nitrate, which is highly explosive substance, Rao said these ous to public health and orders will be in force

October 31. A senior port official also confirmed that there

would be no berthing of ammonium nitrate ships at Visakhapatnam port. Earlier, the petroleum and explosives safety organisation gave permission to importers to get the ammonium nitrate unloaded and evacuate it from the port premises without loss of

As per ammonium

Ukraine port.

### SHORT TAKES

### **BJD NAMES CANDIDATES FOR BYPOLLS**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 12

Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Monday declared its candidates for the forthcoming by-elections to Balasore Sadar and Tirtol assembly seats.

Bijay Šankar Das, son of former BJD MLA Bishnu Das, will contest from Tirtol, while Swarup Kumar Das was declared as the party's nominee for Balasore Sadar.

On Sunday, the BJP had declared its candidates for the two constituencies.

Manas Dutta, son of deceased BJP MLA Madan Mohan Dutta will contest from Balasore Sadar Rajkishore Behera declared as party candidate for Tirtol.

Congress is yet to announce their candidates. However, party MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati dropped hints that the party would announce its candidates within a day or

The by-polls to both the seats have been necessitated by the demise of sitting BJP MLA Madan Mohan Dutta (Balasore) and sitting BJD legislator Bishnu Das (Tritol). Polls will take place on November 3 and results will be appropriated November 1000. announced November 10.

### **BUXAR WOMAN GANG-RAPED**, **MINOR SON KILLED**

**Buxar, Oct. 12:** Seven persons allegedly raped a 30-year-old woman after killing her fiveyear-old son in a village in Bihar's Buxar district, police

said on Monday.

One person has been arrested in connection with the incident, while search is on to nab the others, they said.

On Saturday, the accused took the woman to a jungle when she had come to Chaigain village to deposit money at a bank along with her see range her and killed her son, raped her and killed the child, her father said in the FIR lodged with Murar Police Station.

The men then threw the woman and her son in a canal after tying them with a rope, according to the police com-

The two were taken to Chaigain Primary Health Centre, where doctors declared the child broughtdead and referred the woman to Sadar Hospital, police said, adding, the body of the minor has been sent for post-mortem examınatıon.

The woman's medical examination report is awaited and her statement will be recorded in the court of the judicial magistrate on Monday, a police officer said.

Sub-Divisional Dumraon Police Officer K.K. Singh said a person named Munni Ram has been arrested and the other accused will be apprehended soon.

### **HATHRAS VICTIM'S KIN APPEAR BEFORE HC**

Lucknow, Oct. 12: Family members of the 19-year-old Dalit woman who died after allegedly being raped by four upper caste men in Hathras appeared before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahahad High Court, which fixed November

2 as the next date of hearing. They were heard by the Bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Rajan Roy on

Monday. The UP Additional Chief Secretary; DGP; and the ADG (Law and Order) also deposed before the court, along with the Hathras DM and SP.

The DM told the court that the decision to cremate the body in the night was taken due to the law and order considerations and there was no pressure from the state authorities.

Additional Advocate General V.K. Shahi, who represented the state authorities in the court, said the next date of hearing has been fixed for

November 2. The woman's father, mother and three brothers was brought to the court amid tight security from Hathras

earlier in the day. The court had summoned the Additional Chief Secretary, Home; the Director General of Police; ADG, Law and Order; and the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of Hathras to furnish the sta-

tus report of investigation into the case. The woman was allegedly raped by four upper caste men

on September 14.

## Power outage rocks Mumbai



A doctor treats a child with the help of a torch in Sion Hospital in Mumbai on Monday. A rare citywide power outage paralysed Mumbai, halting local train services, trapping people in lifts and disrupting work from home adopted by millions during the ongoing pandemic. Power restoration efforts began on war footing and pocket-wise resumption in supply was started around 12 noon onwards, nearly two hours after the outage.

# Half of BJP picks for Bihar's 2nd phase are upper caste

BJP seeks to maintain sway over upper castes while wooing OBCs, Dalits

Patna, Oct. 12: A strategy of keeping its upper caste support base intact while making inroads in the sizeable OBC and Dalit vote bank meets the eye upon perusal of the BJP's list of 46 candidates for the second phase of assembly elections in Bibor.

Altogether 94 seats go to polls in the phase, for which voting will take place on November 3.

The BJP had got more than half of these under the seat-sharing arrangement with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

The saffron party's list of candidates for the second round of voting was released on Sunday.

Nearly half of the BJP's 46 candidates for the second phase of voting votes for the party in as belong to the upper castes Bhumihars, Brahmins, Kayasthas and Vaishyas which constitute the core base of the saf-

fron party in the state. The party has also given tickets to eight Yadavs, seeking to make a dent into the opposition RJD's unquestionable sway over the most sizeable OBC

group in the state. The JD(U), which has announced its candidates for all the 115 seats it will be contesting, has also fielded a substantial number of Yadavs.

Yadavs form nearly 15 per cent of the electorate in the state and the NDA parties are trying to cash in absence of Prasad from the poll scene to wean away the core support base of the RJD.

The RJD supremo is in jail after conviction in four cases of multi-crore

Candidates from other OBC groups also figure in the BJP's list while seven Amnour have been the BJP's list while seven Amnour

**52,000 VOTERS OPT FOR POSTAL BALLOT IN PH 1** 

New Delhi, Oct. 12: More than 52,000 voters, who are either senior citizens above 80 years of age or are people with disabilities, have opted for postal ballot in the first phase of Bihar elections to be held on October 28.

Booth Level Officers (BLO) in 71 constituencies spread across 16 districts of the state had approached over four lakh voters of the two cate-

many reserved constituen-

Out of the 46 seats in the second phase, the BJP has set aside five from its quota for the Vikassheel Insaan Party, headed by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni who left the Opposition camp and joined the NDA nearly a week ago.

The VIP has been allocated total 11 seats for all three phases of the polls by the saffron party from its share of 121 seats in the NDA.

Bihar has a 243-member

Rest 122 seats in the NDA camp have gone to the JD(U) out of which it has provided seven Hindustani Awam Morcha of the former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi.

The BJP had won 20 out of the seats going to polls in the second phase. Its sitting members in four of these Sugauli, deprived of tickets this

While Sugauli has gone to JD(U), the BJP has placed its trust in new faces in the remaining Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey's reported lobbying for his son

Arijit Shashwat seems to have paid no dividend in Bhagalpur where the party has placed its trust in district unit chief Rahul Pandey. Another candidate, who has risen from the ranks

and made it to the list is Nikhil Anand, one of the most prominent spokesmen in the state unit who will be challenging RJD strongman Bhai Virendra in Maner

Former MP Om Prakash Yadav who had won Siwan in 2014 but was denied tickets last year as the seat went to the JD(U), has been fielded from the assembly segment of the same name.

neighboring Daraunda, the party has pacified rebel Karanjeet Singh, who quit and won the seat as an Independent in by-poll necessitated by Kavita Singhs election to the Lok Sabha from Siwan. Karanjeet Singh will now seek to retain the seat as the BJP's official

nominee. Two state ministers in the list Nand Kishore Yadav and Rana Randhir will be seeking re-election from Patna City and Madhuban respectively.

The party has come out with names of its candidates for a total of 75 seats which go to polls in the two phases. Unsurprisingly, not a single Muslim has been given the party ticket though ally JD(U) has fielded nearly a dozen.

# Cong leader hits out at Chouhan's humble background

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

The campaigning for the November 3 by-elections in 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh has reached a new low with a senior Congress leader trying to belittle chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan citing his humble family background.

State unit president of armers' wing of farmers' Congress Dinesh Gurjar said Mr Chouhan was no match to former chief minister Kamal Nath while drawing a comparison of their financial backgrounds.

"Mr Chouhan hails from a family of 'nange, bhookhe', loosely translated in English as extremely poor, while Mr Nath was the second biggest industrialist in India", the Congress leader said while addressing an election meeting Ashok Nagar late on Sunday.

The ruling BJP has seized the opportunity to portray it as a battle between 'rich vs poor' in the assembly by-polls to target Mr Nath, who is leading Congress in the crucial by-elections.

'Yes, I come from a poor family. That's why I understand the pangs of hunger. That's why my focus has always been to uplift the poor and the farmers. I have transferred  $\ratsum 1000$  to the bank accounts of each farmer as soon as I assumed office. I have undertaken many welfare measures for the poor and the farmer after I assumed power in March", he said while addressing a poll meeting

in Guna in the state on Monday. He also attacked Mr Nath saving that the latter never visited villages and was hardly aware of conditions of the poor in vil-

'Congress is projecting Mr Nath as an industrialist. But, I challenge Mr Nath if he has ever visited villages to know how agriculture operations are being undertaken by the farmers, or what kind of problems the poor and the farmers are fac-

ing", he said.
"A man from a poor family like me can only understand the people's plight and work for their development. An industrialist like Mr Nath is hardly aware of their problems", he observed.

Senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya scindia, who quit Congress following his differences with Mr Nath in March this year, joined the issue daring Mr Nath to reveal how he became rich and industri-

## Kerala opens up tourism sector in a phased manner

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

ing tourists in hill desti-

nations, adventure tourism spots and back-waters from Monday. The Covid-19 safety norms will be adhered to strictly at these tourist destinations.

The tourist centres will be opened up in two phases complying with the safety protocols, said tourism minister Mr Kadkampally Surendran.

While houseboats and tourist boats have been allowed in backwaters and lakes, the beaches will be opened for tourists only after November 1 in the second phase.

The decision to open tourism sector has been taken in view of the huge crisis being faced by the sector and the people who are dependent on it, due to the lockdown.

While many other states had opened up tourism sector earlier, the government in Kerala was cautious as it did not want to trigger a spike in the Covid cases, especially in the densely populated

Therefore, the govern-ment decided to open up the sector in a phased manner.

Since the union home ministry in its Unlock 4 order has not mentioned tourism in the prohibited category, the sector can be opened with adequate measures. The government's decision has brought some relief to the people engaged in tourism sector.

The government had earlier announced that

those coming to Kerala from outside the state for business purposes, would be exempted from 7 days mandatory quarantine. The same norm is going to be applied to the tourists as well. They can come to the state on a short visit for a week. All tourists coming

form outside should register with the state government's Jagratha porreturn after seven days, tourist centers will com-they will be subjected to ply with all safety Covid-19 test and they wiii nave to bear the expenses for the same.

Those who are interested to stay for more than seven days should either come with a Covid negative certificate or on reaching Kerala, undergo a Covid test. If the tourists don't comply with the norm, they will have to undergo seven days quarantine. The government said

tourists with any suspected Covid symptoms should not travel to Kerala. All tourists while in Kerala, will have to wear masks, use sanitizers and maintain a distance of 2 meters from others.

In the event of tourists developing Covid-19 symptoms during their trip, they should immediately get in touch with the government helpline Disha and seek assistance of health professionals.

Those with symptoms will have to go into

## **INDIA RECORDS CASES BELOW** The Kerala government has opened up tourism sector partially by allow-**LESS THAN 900**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

With 66,732 fresh cases, India on Monday registered a total of 71.21 lakh cases of coronavirus while its death toll climbed to 1,09,150 with 816 new fatalities in the last 24 hours.

However, despite significantly high number of fresh cases being detected, the virus spread seems to have slowed down a bit in India though the coming festive season will make it clear if India has crossed the

The gap between India and the United States of America in terms of overall cases is narrowing down and on Monday it has further come down to 8.70 lakh.

Union health ministry officials said that the trend of steady decline in active cases is continuing and the active caseload is now only 12.10% of the positive

which is 8.62 lakh.
"For the fourth day
after the active cases
dropped below the 9 lakh mark after a month, the decline continues unabated," officials said.

India is also reporting a high number of recoveries and the total recovered cases are close to 61.50 lakhs.

The difference between active cases and recovered cases stands at 52.88 lakh as on date. In the last 24 hours, 71,559 patients have recovered and discharged compared to 66,732 new cases admitted. The national Recovery Rate now stands at 86.36%.

The government has issued details of the norms, guidelines and restrictions to be followed in tourist centres.

The hotels, restaurants tal. If the tourists don't and other facilities in the norms.

They will keep infrared forehead thermometer, soap for washing hands and sanitizers.

All the pathways, rail ings, other facilities will be sprayed with disnfectants form time to time. The names and addresses of people arriving at the tourist centres will have to be registered. Tourism deputy directors and DTPC secretaries have been entrusted with the task of ensuring all Covid safety norms are strictly complied at the tourist

All hotel bookings, tickets to tourist spots should be booked through online system. The government has asked the Ayurveda tourist centres to strictly following the Covid safety norms.

The tourism minister hoped that tourists from outside the state and abroad will not hesitate to traveling to Kerala in view of the strict safety protocols in place.

### Himanta Biswa Sarma links love jihad to 'Ajmal's culture and civilisation' FRESH ISSUE Will fight 'love jihad' in next term: Assam mantri

MANOJ ANAND | DC **GUWAHATI, OCT. 12** 

After announcing to shut down all the government madrasas, senior BJP leader and Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stirred a fresh controversy by announcing to launch a fight against 'love jihad' if they return to power in

2021 assembly polls. Addressing a meeting of BJP Mahila Morcha at Dibrugarh, the minister said that they have been fighting against various problems that that state has been facing but five years were not enough to bring an end to it.

Coining a new term 'Ajmal's culture and civilisation' for illegal immigrants from Bangladesh

and equating it with AIUDF chief Badruddin Aimal as its saviour, the minister said that a large number of girls have become the victim of 'love jihad' on social media platforms like Facebook. Referring that many

Assamese mothers came to him crying that her daughter was victimised by youths displaying fake Hindu names on social media, the minister said that this is being done by a section of youths who are from "Ajmal's culture and civilisation"

Stressing the need of launching a campaign against love jihad, the minister said, "If BJP comes to power again, we will take a decision that if any boy hides his religious identity

AIUDF CHIEF Badruddin Ajmal, who has been instrumental in stitching alliance with Congress for the assembly election next year, has become the regular target of the BJP leader as political observers are of view that AIUDF-Congress alliance may turn out to be a formidable challenge for the saffron party in

and comments anything negative on Assamese daughters and women, he will face rigorous punishment.'

Referring to instances as to how Hindu girls are becoming victims "Ajmal's culture and civili-

sation" on Facebook where boys hiding their religion on social media befriend and marry them, the minister said, "We have taken an oath that if Ajmal's army touches our women, the only punishment for them will be a death sentence, nothing less. We are working with such a

resolve." AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal, who has been instrumental in stitching alliance with Congress for the assembly election next year, has become the regular target of the BJP leader as political observers are view that AIUDF-Congress alliance may turn out to be a formidable challenge for the saffron

party in Assam. minister

"Love jihad has created a mountain-like problem for daughters. Assamese Many girls have faced talaaq after getting duped by fake names of the boys.The BJP has resolved that whenever anyone from "Ajmal's culturecivilisation" attacks Assamese girls, "ruthless" replies will be given."

Describing the assembly elections of 2021 as a fight to save culture and civilisation of the state, he said, "If people do not unite then the society will not be saved. That is why the 2021 assembly election is for saving our culture-civilisation. If the 65 percent people don't fight together against Ajmal's culturecivilisation, then our future Assam will not be

saved. If we lose this fight culture-civilisation, then we will not be able to live in Assam after 15

The minister's reference to 65 per cent population was obviously to non-Muslims as according to the 2011 census report, 34.22 per cent people in Assam are Muslims while

61.47 per cent are Hindus. Mr Sarma said, "We had about spoken Saraighat battle in 2016. This battle doesn't end in five years. We will have to fight till we finish off

Ajmal's army politically." The Battle of Saraighat was a naval battle fought in 1671 between the Mughal Empire, and the Ahom Kingdom on the Brahmaputra at Saraighat.

### SOUMITRA **CHATTERJEE STILL CRITICAL**

Kolkata, Oct. Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee is still in a "high risk zone" though his parameters are stable, doctors attending to the thespi-

an said on Monday. The 85-year-old Dadasaheb Phalke awardee has fever and continues to be in a "drowsy, confusional state", which is a matter of concern, they said. Chatterjee might have to undergo an MRI later on Monday, doctors at the private hospital, where he is being treated for Covid-19, said.

"He is stable, had good sleep last night, but is still in a high risk zone. His oxygen saturation level has improved," doctor said.

IN BRIEF

### **Lanka suspends**

expatriates rescue

Colombo: Sri Lankan officials say they have suspended bringing back expatriates stranded overseas due to the Coronavirus because the country's quarantine facilities are full. Army Commander Shavendra Silva, who heads the task force to control the pandemic, says Sri Lanka's quarantine facilities have filled up amid a steep rise in Covid-. 19 patients in the past week. Sri Lanka had earlier announced that it successfully contained the spread of the virus, and no local clusters were reported for two months.

### **Death penalty for** rape in B'desh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Cabinet on Monday approved an increase in the maximum punishment in rape cases to death from life imprisonment after a series of recent sexual assaults triggered protests on streets and in social media. Cabinet spokesman Khandaker Anwarul Islam said President Abdul Hamid is likely to issue an ordinance amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act because Parliament is not in session. Details of the amendment were not immediately available but Islam said the Cabinet agreed to a proposal that trials in rape cases be completed in a speedy manner. Under the current law, the maximum punishment in rape cases is life imprisonment, except for cases in which the victim dies, when capital pun-

### **Protesters raze**

**statues in Portland** 

Portland: Protesters overturned statues of former **Presidents Theodore** Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln in Portland, Oregon, in a declaration of "rage" toward Columbus Day. Protest organisers on Sunday night dubbed the event "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage," in response to Monday's federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarising figure who Native American advocates have said spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas. The

### **Poland defuses WW**

bomb, shifts 750

group threw chains around

Roosevelt's statue, officially

titled "Theodore Roosevelt,

Rough Rider.

Warsaw: Hundreds of people in northwest Poland have been evacuated for a few days to allow Navy sappers to neutralise a British World War II giant Tallboy bomb resting under a waterway leading to the port of Szczecin. The 5.4 tonne bomb was found in Sept. 2019 during work to deepen the waterway. It's located on the southern edge of a popular Baltic Sea resort of Swinoujscie, that, like Szczecin, was a busy Nazi Germany military port during the war. In a defusing project that began on Monday and is expected to last for five days. experts will be seeking to neutralize the Tallboy underwater by causing its explosives to burn out in a controlled way.

### **CLOTH MASKS NEED DAILY WASH TO CUT VIRUS RISK**

Melbourne, Oct. 12: Cloth masks may reduce the transmission of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19. only if they are washed daily at high temperatures, according to

"Both cloth masks and surgical masks should be considered 'contaminated' after use," said Professor Raina MacIntyre. from the University of New South Wales in Australia. "Unlike surgical masks, which are disposed of after use, cloth masks are re-used. While it can be tempting to use the same mask for multiple days in a row, or to give it a quick hand-wash or wipe-over, our research suggests that this increases the risk of contamination," Maclintyre said.

The researchers analysed data from a randomised controlled trial (RCT) they published in 2015. The latest study, published in the journal BMJ Open, is still the only RCT ever conducted on the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing viral infections, they said. The researchers did a deep dive into the 2011 data on whether the health workers in their study washed their masks daily, and if so, how they washed their masks. The team found that if cloth masks were washed in the hospital laundry, they were as effective as a surgical mask.

### **US Supreme Court confirmation hearing**



White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows (left) looks on as Judge Amy Coney Barrett arrives to testify at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on her nomination to serve as an associate justice on the US Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday.

## Don's task: Resetting campaign that GOP fears is slipping away

Washington, Oct. 12: President Donald Trump is running out of time to recover from a series of self-inflicted setbacks that have rattled his base of alarm among Republicans who fear the White House is on the verge of being lost to Democrat Joe

The one-two punch of Trump's Coronavirus diagnosis and his widely panned debate performance also has Republicans worried they could lose control of the Senate. With just over three weeks until Election Day, Senate races in some reliably red states, including South Carolina and Kansas, are competitive, aided by a Democratic fundraising that has put both the Republican Party and Trump's own campaign at an unexpected financial disadvantage.

The president will aim

for a reset this week, hop-ing an aggressive travel schedule and Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation hearings will energise his most loval supporters and shift attention away from a virus that has Killed more than 214,000 Americans on his watch. Optimists in the president's inner circle point to his unique ability to command attention and to his 2016 campaign, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift. But that comeback was aided by outside forces

**PHILIPPINES SPLIT** 

**OVER LEADERSHIP** 

Manila, Oct. 12: A large

faction of Philippine leg-

islators in the House of

Representatives elected a

new leader on Monday.

but the incumbent speak-

er declared the vote a "travesty" in a tense

between two allies of the

Duterte warned last week that he would inter-

cede if the leadership

row between House Spe-

aker Alan Peter Cayetano

and Rep. Lord Allan Vela-

sco threatens the passage

billion) budget is crucial

in helping finance the

government's response to

the Coronavirus pandem-

ic in a country with the

largest number of con-

firmed infections in

The dispute, however,

took a turn for the worse

when Velasco's support-

ers gathered in person

and online on Monday in

a sports club in Quezon

City in the capital region,

declared Cayetano's posi-

tion vacant and elected

Velasco to replace him. Cayetano and his allies

declared in a news con-

ference at the House that

the vote for Velasco vio-

lated the law and the

rules of the 300-member

which is dominated by

chamber,

legislative

Duterte's allies.

Southeast Asia.

of next year's budget. The 4.5 trillion peso (\$90

political

president.

President

in a tense

standoff

Rodrigo

**IN PARLIAMENT** 

# Trump begins the election trail again

Washington, Oct. 12: US President Donald Trump will launch a campaign marathon on Monday, holding rallies in three key swing states over the next few days as his White House race against surging rival Joe Biden enters its critical final

The Republican leader will hold a rally in Florida, followed by Pennsylvania and Iowa — states all crucial to clinching a victory on November 3. Trump will likely try to

galvanise his electoral base by touting his nomi-nee for Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney

The Republican-controlled Senate will begin hearings for the 48-year-old judge, whose confirmation — of which there is little doubt — will shift the nation's highest court firmly to the right for generations.
Trump's doctors gave

against an unpopular opponent.
This year's campaign,

other Republicans worry, may instead resemble 1980 or 2008: a close race until, at the end, it decidedly wasn't. "It's not good for my side," said veteran him the all-clear Saturday to return to the campaign trail after he was ruled no longer a Coronavirus transmission risk, and on Sunday he said while calling in to a campaign event that he tested "totally negative." But he has yet to be declared virus-free, and his immunity claim is

"It looks like I'm immune for, I don't know, maybe a long time and maybe a short time, it could be a lifetime, nobody really knows, but I'm immune," Trump said. The word 'immunity' means something, having really a protective

"So now you have a president who doesn't have to hide in a basement like his opponent," Trump added — in a jab at Democratic challenger Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to campaigning during  $-\!\!AF\!P$ the pandemic.

GOP pollster Whit Ayres. "Pretty obviously, in many ways down-ballot Republicans are in the boat with Donald Trump. That's good for Republicans in deep-red states, but more problematic for those in swing states.'

## IRAQI MILITIAS OFFER TRUCE FOR **U.S. PULLOUT**

Baghdad, Oct. 12: Iraqi militias backed by Iran have agreed to temporarily halt attacks targeting the American presence in Iraq, on the condition that US led coalition troops withdraw from the country in line with a parliamentary resolution, three militia officials have said.

The militia officials said after a roadside bomb targeted a convoy that was transporting equipment for the US-led coalition, damaging one vehicle, an Iraqi army statement said. The attack on a highway south of Baghdad prompted ques-tions over whether such a truce could hold across all militia factions. Roadside bombs and in

particular rocket attacks targeting the US Embassy in Baghdad — located inside the heavily fortified Green Zone — have become a frequent occurrence and have strained ties between Washington and Baghdad. The militia factions offered truce and will refrain from targeting the US in Iraq, including the embassy, on the condition that all American-led forces withdraw within an "acceptable timeframe", said Mohammed spokesman for the powerful iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah.

## EU weighs in on action against Russia for poisoning Navalny read of chemical weapons.

Brussels, Oct. 12: European Union foreign ministers were weighing on Monday whether to impose sanctions on Russian officials and organisations blamed for the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a Soviet-era nerve agent.

The ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, are considering a proposal from France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from travelling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and sp-

Navalny, an anti-corrupinvestigator and major political opponent of President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was the victim of a Novichok nerve agent. German Foreign Minister bility.'

Monday that given the OPCW's findings, it is now 'objectively clear that this is a breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention, one that cannot remain without consequences. In a statement on Friday,

France and Germany said that despite repeated calls Russia has provided "no credible explanation" for what happened and that 'there is no other plausible explanation for Navalny's poisoning than a Russian involvement and responsi-

# China to test 9mn for Covid in 5 days

### Quingdao city begins nucleic acid test campaign

Beijing, Oct. 12: China's Qingdao city has lau-nched a citywide nucleic acid test campaign that will cover its nine million residents over the next five days, amid apprehensions of a second wave after the coastal city reported 12 Covid-19 cases. The cases were connected to Qingdao Chest Hospital which is a designated medical institution for the Covid-19 patients

from overseas. In May, China tested 11 million people in Wuhan-the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Qingdao health authority has said that a citywide testing program has been launched. The five districts - home to about six million people — will be fully covered in the next three days. The whole city will be tested within five days, covering roughly nine million people, state-run Global Times

So far, all medical staff, new hospitalised patients and nurses in hospitals at Qingdao have been given nucleic acid tests, with all 114,862 results coming back negative. As of Saturday, the total num-ber of confirmed Covid-19 cases on the Chinese mainland had reached 85,557, including the 218

• ONE OF the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing.

• IN THIS process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was

patients still treated.

80,705 Altogether patients have recovered, according to China's National Commission's released on Monday. It said 4,634 people have died to Coronavirus on the mainland.

They also mobilised teams to test disabled people, the elderly and those vulnerable in their own

One of the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing. In this process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was positive within the batch.

circulating online showed residents

lining up late on Sunday to get tested, said the Global Times, adding that some of these test points were open from 07:00 to

The new cases come a week after China's Golden Week holiday - which saw millions travel across the

country.
A Global Times report quoting the Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism said the coastal city had received 4.47 million passenger trips over this peri-

The nearby city of Jinan, in the same province as Qingdao, called for anyone who had visited the city since 23 September to get tested, according to a report by The Paper.

Earlier last month, Qingdao announced that two port workers who handled imported seafood had tested positive. They were not known to have infected anyone else.

Daily Coronavirus infections have fallen drastically in China, and for the most part the country appears to have recovered from the worst. China currently has

91,305 virus cases and the death toll stands at 4,746, according to WHO data.



### **EX-PAK PRESIDENT ASIF ALI ZARDARI** HOSPITALISED

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Pakistan's former president and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was admitted to a private hospital in Karachi after he felt "unwell", his party has said.

Doctors are conducting his medical check-up and necessary medical tests," the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) tweeted on Sunday without providing much Zardari was "shifted to

hospital after feeling unwell late on Sunday evening," it said. The former president's longtime associate Dr Asim Hussain told a private news channel that Zardari was brought to the hospital due to low sugar level. it was reported that the PPP leader was admitted in the emergency ward of the private hospital in Karachi. It, however, did not mention the hospital's name.

Zardari, who is facing multiple corruption cases, was released from jail in December last year after the Islamabad High Court approved his bail on medical grounds. He had been suffering from ischemic heart disease, which means his heart may have an inadequate supply of blood and oxygen. — PTI

## Imran's top aide resigns, facing graft charges Pakistan Prime Minister FATF'S REGIONAL

Imran Khan's Special Assistant on Information GROUP KEEPS and Broadcasting Lt. Gen. (retd.) Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned on Monday, amid allegations that he used his offices to help family set up several off-shore businesses.

"I requested the honourable prime minister to relinquish me from the additional portfolio of SAPM on Info & broadcasting. He very kindly approved my request," Bajwa, the former Pakistan Army spokesman who also served as Commander of the Southern Command, tweeted. However, he would continue working as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) Authority. The development comes more than a month after Bajwa submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Khan following a report on a website that alleged that he had used his offices in setting up off-shore businesses of his wife, sons and brothers. However, Khan rejected his resignation at the time and asked him to continue working as his special assistant.

The report alleged that Bajwa's younger brothers opened their first Papa John's pizza restaurant in 2002, the year he started working as a Lieutenant Colonel on the General Pervez Musharraf's staff. It claimed that his brother Nadeem Bajwa, 53, who started as a delivery driver for the pizza restaurant franchise, another three brothers, Zeba Farrukh

# **PAKISTAN ON** FOLLOW-UP LIST

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Noting that Pakistan's measures against money laundering and terror financing "is not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating", a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force on Monday retained the country on its 'Enhanced follow-up' list, according to a media

only a few weeks ahead of the meeting of the FATF - the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog
— to decide on Pakistan's grey list status.

The development came

report.

The first Follow-Up Report on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) underlined that the country's progress on the 40 FATF recommendations on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror (AML/CFT) system largely remained uncha- non-compliant on four counts, partially compliant on 25 counts and largely compliant on nine recommendations. — PTI

three sons now own a business empire which set up 99 companies in four countries, including a pizza franchise with 133 restaurants worth an estimated \$39.9 million.

### TOP I HONOURS U.S. Economists worked towards improving the theory of how auctions work

## Milgrom, Wilson bag Nobel Prize in Economics rational bidders tend to

Stockholm, Oct. 12: Two American economists won the Nobel Prize on Monday for improving the theory of how auctions work and inventing new and better auction formats that are now woven into many parts of the economy.

The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. "have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," the Nobel Committee said, noting that the auction formats developed by the winners have been used to sell radio frequencies, fishing quotas and airport landing slots.

Both economists are based at Stanford University in California, and Milgrom said he received news of their win "in a strange "I got a knock at my door from Bob Wilson," he said. "He was my Ph.D. advisor, and he lives right across the street from me.' Milgrom said students, friends and colleagues had long suggested he and Wilson

might be due for the prize. "It's really sweet actually," he said. "It's nice to have their respect but their affection as well." The winners announced in by Goran Stockholm



Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Sciences, Academy rounding off a week of Nobel Prizes. Technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic



Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the award was established in 1969 and is now widely considered one of the Nobel prizes. committee Wilson's work showed "why

place bids below their own best estimate of the com-mon value," that is, "the value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone.' "(Bidders) are worried about the winner's curse that is, about paying too much and losing out," the committee said. Wilson, 83, described his

former student as "sort of the genius behind all of this auction work," noting that they first worked together on auctions in the 1970s. "We're really motivated to use theory in a very practi-

economic processes," Wilson said. Milgrom, 72, economic developed a more general theory of auctions that takes into account what is known as the "private value" of what's being sold that can vary greatly from bidder to bidder. Speaking to reporters in Stockholm by phone after learning of his win, Wilson struggled to think of an auction he himself had participated in. But then added: "My wife points out to me that we bought ski boots on eBay. I guess that was an auction.



# **Chronicle**

13 OCTOBER 2020

# Judiciary must keep itself above suspicion

he move by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to write a letter to Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde, with a "sense of pain and anguish" at the "politicisation of institutions", monitored by N. Chandrababu Naidu, "through honourable sitting judges of Supreme Court", is unprecedented in India's history. tory. True, there have been confrontations between politics and the judiciary, between Parliament and other legislative bodies over the division of powers. There were times that the judiciary was accused of "judicial over-reach" and "legislating in disguise" in the course of interpreting legisla-tion and executive orders. The relationship between judiciary and politi-cal pillars of the legislature and executive is complex, but there is little doubt, even factoring in the impeachment powers of Parliament, that the judiciary is independent and supreme in interpretation of the Constitution and legal matters.

Equally important, as much as the powers of judiciary are supreme, the dignity, honour and majesty of the courts are sacrosanct too. Indian history records that whenever Indian politics was set to compromise with the values of democracy or unhesitant to trample on the rights of citizens or let down the foundational values of our republic, it was the judiciary that time and again has saved our nation. The Indian judiciary is not just one of the four pillars of the modern Indian nation or democracy — it has also been the exemplar of the highest standards, ethical conduct and has served as a role model for the other three. Like Caesar's wife, it stands even above suspicion or a shade of doubt, and must continue to do so.

The political rivalry between YSRC chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his arch-rival Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is irrelevant here; it is best decided every five years in the people's court. But when a chief minister, or even an ordinary citizen, raises issues, casts aspersions or makes allegations against a sitting Supreme Court judge, the onus shifts to the nation's highest court and the CJI to ensure that every citizen of this country is assured that there is no need to worry about the serious allegations by ensuring transparency, fearless introspection and ensuring

One cannot completely dismiss the views of Mr Reddy's rivals that this could be an arm-twisting tactic at a time when serious cases of financial wrongdoing are pending in the courts, including a matter on fast-tracking such hearings, in which, if found guilty and sentenced, the young CM could face disqualification from holding office and contesting elections for

The court will have to undertake this testing ordeal of not getting arm-twisted into weakening its resolve to rid India of political corruption but also simultaneously stand above any shred of doubt that no one in the judiciary, much less so, someone in the highest court, is possibly guilty of allegations of extra-constitutional judicial intervention at the behest of any political leader. Given its track record and the Indian people's overriding trust and unshakable faith in the courts, one expects this is exactly what the CJI would ensure happens. Hail the judiciary!

## Indefatigable Nadal

The Spaniard Rafael Nadal's 13th triumph in the French Open is an incredible achievement. The unforgiving clay courts of Roland Garros present a challenge that can also drain the fit and tuned-tothe-minute athletes. Roger Federer acknowledged this as "one of the greatest achievements in sport" after his great rival equalled his record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday. A naturally gifted champion like Federer has only one French Open in his 20 Grand Slams. A persevering Nadal adapting his baseline game to Wimbledon grass and the hard courts of the Australian and US Open championships and converging each of them con-Australian and US Open championships and conquering each of them con-

sistently enough is a saga in itself.

Not fortunate to be gifted with the dulcet touch and graceful athleticism, Nada makes up for it by his willingness to chase down each point like a man possessed. There is a terrier-like determination to him on a tennis court that makes him a role model for fellow sportsmen who struggle to withstand the vicissitudes of form and, more importantly, fitness. Nadal has had his share of injuries, surgeries and endless queries in random drug tests, besides his self-doubts, in a remarkable journey of endurance in which the ability to stay motivated for years after raking in millions of dollars also counts.

In crushing Novak Djokovic, the third gladiator of modern tennis, Nadal not only emphasises that he is the king of the rectangle of clay. In this virtual monopoly of Grand Slams, broken only by Thiem's victory at the US Open, the three greats are signalling they are in no hurry to make way for a generational change in men's tennis. On the other hand, with Serena Williams not winning a Grand Slam since becoming a mother, the field is wide open on the distaff side. Young Iga Swiatek, the first ever Pole to win a Grand Slam, brings with her a powerful forehand and angled groundstrokes that makes her appear to be the one poised to emulate the likes of Nadal in exhibiting a metronomic thoroughness in tennis conquests.

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# Tackle Xi in Myanmar; don't forget Rohingyas



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

The future of 1.3 million

António calls "the

Rohingyas whom the

United Nations Secretary-

world's fastest-developing

refugee emergency ... a

humanitarian night-mare", will have to be decided. So will the future

of Aung San Suu Kyi, still

elegantly winsome at 75,

whose National League

for Democracy infused the future with optimism in 2015. Today, she seems rather like a faded rose,

having lost much of her

shine as the global pin-up

girl of Asian democracy and must justify her glory as Nobel Peace Prize lau-

reate. For all that she is

styled State Counsellor,

Ms Suu Kyi seems to

dance to the Tatmadaw's

Like the rest of the

world, the Naypyidaw

regime must also come to

grips with a fast-spi-

ralling Covid-19 crisis

that may keep voters away from the polls. With

nearly 24,000 infections, a

meteoric rise from the 887

that were recorded on

September 1, Myanmar

has suddenly surged from

only marginally infected

to being Southeast Asia's

fourth-worst hit country.

The speculation is that

pressed on so many

fronts, Myanmar might

feel that the future would

be better protected if China's rising influence

were to be checked. That

might explain reports of

New Delhi's offer of a \$6-

billion petroleum refinery project and the talks

The electoral

outcome is bound

imprint not only on

the chequerboard

politics but on the

social and demo-

graphic character

of the country.

of Asia's power

Myanmar's place on

to leave a heavy

tune on the Rohingyas.

General.

Guterres,

Reflections

ndia's foreign secretary and Chief of Army Staff may not Lhave recently paid a joint visit to Naypyidaw, the capital of the country formerly known Burma, if so much did not hang on the outcome of the November 8 elections. What probably influenced both Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Gen. M.M. Naravane most was the spectre of "Paukphaw", the China-Myanmar friendship that President Xi Jinping had under-scored during his state

visit in January.
Although India and Myanmar are distant neighbours at present, they comprised one administrative unit from 1885 to 1937. They might have been politically one now if Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted U Nu's 1947 proposal for a "United Nations of South Asia". The fears, hatreds and resentments that make these elections so different from the 20 when Myanmar soared on the cusp of hope may signify major changes in the road ahead.

The electoral outcome is bound to leave a heavy imprint not only on Myanmar's place on the chequerboard of Asia's power politics but on the social and demographic character of a country that seems incapable of accepting that it must rise above tribal and religious loyalties to claim the status of a nation. It's not just a question of more than 37 million voters choosing their parliamentary and sub-national assembly representatives or of the all-powerful military appointing its tame legis lators. Empowering the people is what matters. Under Myanmar's 2008 constitution, Tatmadaw — Myanmar's

all-powerful military — chooses the vice-president and the home, defence and border affairs ministers, and controls 25 per cent of all parliamen-

interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond 'Look East' to 'Act East'

India's national

to boost connectivity, power and energy projects, as well as joint efforts to tackle the pan-demic. Worthy as these initiatives may be, one cannot but wonder why they are not components a permanent programme binding two such physically close neighbours. When India did take an

interest in Myanmar after years of neglect, it was to deny the Naga or Mizo rebels sanctuary or prevent China and Pakistan from gaining strategic advantages. These legitimate objectives were small in themselves and appeared to reduce foreign affairs to immediate petty gains, with little inkling of the broad sweep of history. Myanmar's expulsion of Indian labourers, clerks, lawyers prompted little reaction because the victims seemed to be culturally, socially and financially remote from the mandarins of South

Rightly or wrongly, it was whispered at one time that a pragmatic approach was discouraged by India's ethnic Myanmarese first lady. That was nearly two decades aho. A subsequently more sympathetic attitude was attributed to Ms Suu Kyi's personal contacts in New Delhi during the years her mother was Myanmar's ambassador and she a student at the city's Lady Shri Ram College. Inevitably, the suffering Rohingyas are now seen Muslim jihadists rather than victims of

Myanmar's 2014 census listed Rohingyas as illegal immigrants. Most were stripped of citizenship in 1982. They are denied education.

employment and the right to move about freely. This legal subjugation is nothing compared to the terrible atrocities of repeated military crackdowns, particularly in 2017-2018, when entire villages were burned down, men were murdered and women subject to gangrape. Predictably, perhaps,

some Rohingya groups responded with militan-cy. But the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation demands the right to "self-determination within Myanmar", while the Rohingya-led National Democratic Party for Human Rights supported the 1988 democmovement. It returned four members to Parliament in 1990 when the Tatmadaw cheated the victorious NLD of its right to form the govern-

The former Army strongman, Shwe Mann, is now projecting his Union Betterment Party as the middle ground between the NLD and the military-backed Union Solidarity Development Party, while the tycoon and legislator Thet Thet Khine, who left the NLD to launch the People's Pioneer Party, focuses mainly on the economy. Meanwhile, the NLD's promise of importcars has ridicule. Unhappily, none of the 16 major parties in the fray is campaigning to enfranchise the marginalised ethnic groups like the persecuted Rohingya.

They needn't be India's priority either. The politi-cal challenge of "Paukphaw" — including China-backed projects like the \$4 billon Myitsone Dam, the Belt and Road Initiative, the economic corridor stretching from China's Yunnan province to Rakhine state, and the \$15 billion Yatai New City Project at Shwe Kokko on the Myanmar-Thai border — matters far more However, India's national interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond "Look East" to "Act

> The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

### **LAW & ORDER**

The recent increase in crimes, especially in North India is due to unavailability of police in crime prone areas and their excess deployment for protection of ruling political bigwigs (CBI takes over Hathras probe, DC, Oct. 12). If the police protection is withdrawn, then one can imagine the plight of politicians.

> N.S. Sharma Visakhapatnam

### **LETTER TO CJI**

The Telugu Desam's reaction to the letter written by Andhra Pradeesh Chief Minister to CJI was on expected lines. They have conveniently skipped the main issues raised in the letter. Stopping investigation on an FIR, gagging the media from publishing the contents of the FIR are some of the atrocious decisions taken recently by AP HC. The Supreme Court too found fault with HC on this. TD is always harping on Jagan as the prime accused in several charge sheets pending trial in a CBI court. During 2014-19, when the TD was in power, nothing was finalised against Jagan and there is no answer from the TD or BJP on it.

Govardhana Myneedu

Vijayawada

## YEARS AGO IN Chronicle

### Two get letters of intent to make baby cars

NEW DELHI, OCT. 12 Letters of intent are under-stood to have been issued by the Industrial Ministry of Development to Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi's son, and Mr. Madan Mohan Rao of Madras for the manufacture of small cars in the private sector.

The issue of licences to the two parties for the manufacture of baby cars would be considered by the Ministry of Industrial Development after they submit detailed project reports which would have to be scrutinised by the Directorate-General of the Technical Development, Ministry of Industrial Development.

Mr. Gandhi has already assembled a small car out of locally made components which was tested by the Directorate-General of Technical Development. His proposal envisages an initial production of 2,000 cars, per annum to be progressively increased to an annual turnout of 20,000 units.

## Aakar



If you do not admit there's a crisis, you can't solve it

f I do not acknowledge that I have a problem, then I cannot solve it. If the problem is a minor one, this is less consequential and does not affect me beyond a point. It is only an irritant that I can continue to ignore. But if the problem is a major one,

and if the problem affects not just me but many people around me, then ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

The sale of cars in India has not

grown for the past five years. The number of cars bought by Indians in 2015-16 was 27 lakh units. The number of cars bought in 2019-20 was 27 lakh units. India's middle class is either not growing or not

The government says that stagnating car sales is not a problem because young people prefer to use Uber and Ola cabs. The United States sold two crore cars last year. Uber and Ola (and its various equivalents) do not seem to affect any other nation.

The sale of two-wheelers in India has not grown for the past four years. Altogether 1.7 crore units were sold in 2016-17, and 1.7 crore units were sold in 2019-20. This is the vehicle of the lower middle class, the size and consumption

of which has not grown for four years. What theory the government has for this we do not know as it has not been acknowledged that there is no growth.

Commercial vehicles have not shown any growth for the past four years. Sales were seven lakh units in 2016-17 and seven lakh units in 2019-20. This includes vehicles like trucks, heavy lorries, tankers and small tempos that carry products either to the manufacturers or to the market. The real meaning of four years of zero growth in this market can simply be imagined. Real estate has shown no growth

over the last four years. Indians

bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2016. They bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2019. India's exports have not grown for six years. The country exports the same quantity that it did when Dr Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. India was exporting about \$300 billion a year when the UPA-2 left office. It exported about \$300 billion in 2019-20. Why is this the case? We do not know because the government does not speak about it. When imports into India fell more than exports out of India, the government celebrated the as a achievement.

Employment has not only not grown in the past six years, it has actually gone down. A report produced by the government showed it to be at over six per cent in 2018, more than at any other time in history. Why are Indians losing employment? We do not know. The government has dismissed the issue and said that pakora sellers

and Uber drivers were replacing traditional employees. It is true that Covid-19 has affect-

ed India's economy deeply and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. We are unlikely to get back to the GDP figure that we achieved in January this year for another three years. This means that by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term ends in May 2024, we will still only be economically where we were in January this year. The problem is that where we were in January this year was not a good space. All the numbers that have been referred to above are before the Covid-19 pandemic's outbreak.

The stagnation in our economy had happened before the lockdown and has nothing to do with our current crisis. If and when we are able to overcome the Covid-19 related problem with our economy, we will go back only to the earlier problem.

India's GDP growth declined every quarter for 10 quarters before

Covid. Why? We do not know. It could be one reason, and it could be many reasons. But if we do not acknowledge the issue at all, we will never solve it. You can only think about, discuss and then implement corrective measures if you acknowledge that corrective measures are needed. If you carry on like nothing has happened, then deep problems cannot be fixed by themselves and they won't go away. The government went from saying that India was the one bright spot in the world's economy and the fastest growing economy in the world, to not saying anything about the economy at all.

The problem is a major one, and it affects not just the Prime Minister but hundreds of millions of people across the country. Ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

Aakar Patel is a senior journal-











VIJAYAWADA | TUESDAY | 13 OCTOBER 2020

# quick

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	40,593.80	0.21
Nifty 50	11,930.95	0.14
S&P 500*	3,538.30	1.76
Dollar (₹)	73.27	0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.47	0.91
Euro (₹)	86.53	0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,073▲240	0.46
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.53	-1.32
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.899	-0.041
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.779	0.00
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

### **Govt extends** tenure of 3 EDs of Canara, IOB

The government has extended the tenure of three executive directors of Canara Bank and Indian Overseas Bank by two years. Canara Bank said the tenure of EDs Debashish Mukherjee and Matam Venkata Rao has been extended for two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. IOB said the government has extended the term of Ajay Kumar Srivastava as executive director for a period of two years.

### Razorpay joins the league of unicorns in India



Payments solution provider Razorpay Razorpay said it has gained the 'unicorn' status after having raised \$100 million funding from GIC, Sequoia Capital and existing investors. Witnessing a 300 per cent growth in its business during the past six months, Razorpay said it has raised a Series-D ing the company more than \$1 billion in valuation. This round was co-led by GIC and Sequoia.

### Credai seeks fiscal sops for realty sector

Realtors' apex body Credai said the industry is going through much pain due to the pandemic and urged the government to take fiscal measures for improving the liquidity position of cash-starved developers. The industry body, which represents more than 20,000 builders from across India, has sought financial support in the form of interest waiver and extension of the moratorium period till March 2021 for the sector.

## Hiring activities up 24% in Sept: Naukri JobSpeak

With life returning to normalcy gradually, hiring activities grew 24 per cent in September as compared to the previous month, mostly driven by pharmaceuticals and education sectors. At 1,755 job postings, there was an improvement of 24 per cent in hiring activities last month compared to August with 1.413 listings according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index for September 2020.



# **GST Council again**

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The stalemate over compensat-ing states for the shortfall in GST collections continued on Monday with a meeting of the GST Council ending without reaching any consensus. The panel, which is the

highest decision-making body on indirect taxes, for the second time in a week failed to reach a consensus on the Centre's proposal of states borrowing against future GST collec-tions to make up for the shortfall.

This was the third meeting in a row that discussed compensation shortfall without a decision.

minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman, who heads the Council, said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields, resulting in rise in borrowing costs for the government and the

private sector.

However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said, adding 21 states had agreed to borrow as suggested by

the Centre. However, other states insisted on a decision to be taken by consensus,

"We were not able to arrive at a consensus," Sitharaman said. In its previous meeting last week, the council had

decided to extend the surcharge on taxes on luxury goods such as cars and tobacco products beyond June 2022 but failed to reach a consensus on



#### STALEMATE CONTINUES

- FM said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields
- However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said
- Dissenting states insisted on consensus decision

ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue. The projected total compensation shortfall in the current fiscal stands at Rs 2.35 lakh crore.

The Centre had in August given two options to the states—to borrow either Rs 97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or Rs 2.35 lakh crore from the market. It had also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

Following a demand by some states, the amount of Rs 97,000 crore was increased to Rs 1.10 lakh

As many as 21 states --

have supported it on various issues- have opted to borrow Rs 1.10 lakh crore to meet the compensation shortfall.

The Centre has released Rs 20,000 crore to the states towards compensation shortfall so far in the current fiscal. Under the GST struc-

ture, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per

On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods, and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss. But due to a slowdown in the economy, collections have fallen short of the money needed for compensating

# Meeting ends without a decision Travel industry unhappy with Consensus eludes redirection of LTC money

SANGEETHA G

Naturally, the travel industry is unhappy with the Centre's decision to redirect the leave travel concession (LTC) allowance of government employees to purchase of consumer goods.

After the prolonged lock down, the travel and tourism industry was expecting the festive season to boost travel demand, as people usually use the opportunity to travel to their home state.

After almost eight months of nil to very limited tourism activity, festive season was one of the few demand drivers that the travel and hospitality industry was looking forward to and the industry was hoping for more tax-based stimulus in the hands of all citizens to travel when spent against GST-rated travel agents, hotels tour operators. tourist transporters and restaurants, said the

Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (Faith).

"Redirecting the LTC money of government employees to buy consumer goods would dry up those funds for the travel sector. Additionally, it would also send a vote of no-confidence to the tourism travel and hospitality industry, which was looking to get back on its feet after 'Unlock'," said

Additionally, since tax-free LTC is a four-year block scheme, it will also cut away funds for future travel demand sources for the next year when the LTC block ends in 2021. The tourism ministry was



## **But consumer durables** are in a sweet spot

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT, 12

The government's leave travel concession (LTC) scheme meant to induce demand has put consumer durables and electronics in a sweet spot.

The government has put forward a few riders for those availing the LTC scheme. The employee, who wants tax-free LTC, will have to buy goods or services worth three times the fare and onetime the leave encash-

ment. Further, the goods and services bought under the scheme should be carrying a GST of 12 per cent and above. This will weed out all the basic amenities that have a GST of less than 12 per cent and the focus will be on dis-

The industry wants LTC

planning to make 2021 the year for domestic tourism.

cretionary items like computers, consumer durables, smartphones, home appliances, furniture and home furnish-

"Both in terms of price point and GST, consumer durables are in a sweet spot. People who have been deferring purchase of consumer durables, electronics, mobile phones and household electronics will have a reason to buy," said Naval Seth of Emkay Global Financial Services. Even those who had not made any festive season purchase plans will find a reason to upgrade consumer appliances with the scheme.

to Kamal According Nandi, president, Electronics Consumer

Manufacturers Association (Ceama) and business head and EVP, Godrej Appliances, the measure will augur well for the consumer durables segment in the

upcoming festive season. Traditionally, Indian customer makes many of his/her big-ticket purchases, such as appliances, during the festive season. Due to the current pandemic, consumers have appreciated the value appliances add to their lives as they are looking for comfort and convenience at home with the adoption of work from home format and for the overall health, hygiene & safety of their family from the coronavirus," he said.

Consumer durables have been seeing a good month-on-month recovery in sales in the past couple of months. "The category has not yet made growth over the same month last year. But we expect a positive growth during the festive season," said Seth.

income tax benefits be offered to citizens travelling within the country,

GST-registered travel agents, hotels tour operators, tourist transporters

## Bank of England asks banks on readiness for negative rates

**London, Oct. 12:** The Bank of England has asked commercial banks wnetner tney are ready for negative interest rates, signalling that the central bank is moving closer to cutting its key interest rate below zero.

If the benchmark rate were cut to less than zero, from the current 0.1 per cent, commercial banks would have to pay the Bank of England to hold deposits for them. Policy makers have previously indicated that they were willing to consider nega-tive interest rates amid the economic pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

A negative interest rate would encourage banks to lend money out rather than leave it at the Bank of England. A negative interest rate could theoretically result in savers being charged to hold deposits in their bank accounts, but commercial considerations, such as the need to attract deposits, might prevent banks from passing on all their costs to

## IIP contracts 8% in **Aug; inflation spurts**

**FC BUREAU** 

Despite the gradual relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the industrial output contracted by 8 per cent in August, mostly due to minimal output from the manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors. While at the same time, consumer inflation in the September month increased to 7.34 per cent from 6.69 per cent in the previous month on account of rising food prices, according to government data

released on Monday. The Index of Industrial Production, or IIP, had contracted by 1.4 per cent in August 2019. The index had contracted 10.4 per cent in July 2020, which was better than 15.7 per cent contraction in June this year.

"It may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic mon-ths with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

"The manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 8.6 per cent, while the output of mining and power segments fell 9.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respec-tively," it said, adding that with the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting.

The consumer price also went up to an unsatisfactory level, marking the highest level recorded in eight months, and it is also above the Reserve Bank's target range of 2-6 per cent. "The consumer inflation in September increased to 7.34 per cent from 6.69 per cent in the previous month on account of rising food prices. Food inflation in September rose to 10.68 per cent compared to 9.05 per cent in August," the

release said.

Despite the central bank's effort to contain inflation by keeping rates low, unabated high prices have hurt the economy.

## Sahara says over ₹3,200 cr paid to co-operative society members

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The Sahara Group on Monday said it has paid Rs 3,226 crore to more than 10 lakh members of its four associated co-operative credit societies in the last 75 days, including some payments against requests from people who had complained about delayed

The group said there has been some delay in payments, primarily due to an embargo imposed for last eight years by the Supreme Court, while about Rs 22,000 crore of its funds, including interest amount, are deposited in the Sahara-Sebi account, which was created to refund bondholders

of two group firms.
In a statement, Sahara said Sebi has been able to repay only Rs 106.1 crore to the investors in these eight years despite repeated attempts, which the group said only affirms its view that there are no claimants left as most bondholders were already repaid before it was asked by the regulator to deposit the money. —PTI

## Rao to man regulation department at RBI **FALAKNAAZ SYED**

India on Monday rejigged the portfolios of deputy governors following the appointment of Rajeshwar Rao as the new deputy governor. Rao was appointed following the retirement of his predecessor N.S. Vishwanathan and has been given the charge of department of regulation, communication, enforcement, inspection, legal department and risk monitoring. Vishwanathan's vacancy was filled after a delay of six months. Rajeshwar Rao is a seasoned central

The Reserve Bank of

Last week, the appointments committee of the Cabinet cleared the name of Rao for the post of RBI deputy governor. With this, the RBI now has four deputy governors. The other three are B.P. Kanungo, M.K. Jain and M.D. Patra.

banker.

According to the central bank's website, Kanungo will handle ten portfolios. These include coordination, currency management, external investments and operations,

China bans Oz coal imports

ment and bank accounts, information technology, payments and settlements, foreign exchange, internal debt management and right to infor mation and secretary's department

Jain will be in charge of eight portfolios, including central security, corporate strategy and budget department, consumer education and protection department, supervision, financial inclusion and human resources. Patra will handle the

monetary policy department, department of economic and policy research, deposit insur-ance and credit guaran-tee, department of statistics, financial markets and international department and financial stabilitv unit.

The RBI needs four deputy governors: two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy depart-Prior to taking over as

the ED, Rao was chief general manager, financial markets

## **HERO LAUNCHES GLAMOUR BLAZE** AT ₹72,000



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 12

Hero MotoCorp, India's biggest motorcycle maker, on Monday introduced a new special edition of the popular Glamour bike called the Glamour Blaze priced at Rs 72,200 at Delhi showroom to boost sales ahead of the

festive season. Powered by a BS 6compliant 125cc engine, the bike is looking at making a mark in an extremely popular segment which also sees stiff competition between competing products.

The 125 cc engine comes with XSens comes Programmed Injection and offers 10.7 bhp and torque of 10.6 Nm. It also gets an idle start-stop system called i3S by Hero.

### Mahindra Alfa 3-wheeler now **BS6-compliant**

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 12

Mahindra & Mahindra on Monday launched the BS6 compliant variants of Alfa, its flagship 3-wheeler brand in Asia's third biggest economy. Mahindra economy. Mahindra Alfa comes with a few cosmetic changes and enhanced performance. The Alfa three-wheeler is available in both

passenger starting at Rs 2.67 lakh and cargo variants at Rs 2.59 lakh at Mumbai showroom.



## Singapore Air's A380 restaurant tickets sell out in 30 minutes

**KYUNGHEE PARK** SINGAPORE, OCT. 12

Singapore Airlines Ltd said all seats on its A380 pop-up Airbus restaurants were reserved within 30 minutes of bookings opening

on Monday.
With flights largely grounded by the coron-avirus pandemic, Singapore Airlines is trying novel ways to raise money, including using two A380 superjumbos parked at Changi Airport as temporary restaurants on Oct. 24 and 25.

A meal in a suite costs S\$642 (\$474, or roughly Rs 35,000), while seats in

business class are going for \$\$321 and then dropping to S\$96.30 for premium economy and \$\$53.50 for economy. Customers can also pay with frequent-flyer miles.

About half the seats in

each aircraft will be available for dining, in line with restaurant guidelines on group limits and distancing, Singapore Airlines said in a statement. It plans to open a wait list later on Monday due to strong demand. In normal flying service, the carrier's A380s can seat as many as 471 people, according

The company will study

to its website.

the wait list and see how it can "potentially accommodate some of those who are still interested in this unique dining experience," vice president of commercial operations Lee Lik Hsin said.

Singapore Airlines, which suffered a record \$\$1.12 billion (\$827 million) net loss in the lion) net loss in the quarter through June and is laying off about 20 per cent of its workforce, is also selling a range of first- and business-class meals and offering a service whereby a private chef reheats, plates and serves customers in their

-Bloomberg

as political relations sour Oct. 12: China has suspended purchases of Australian coal, according shipments became subject to port delays. It's one of the few resources in which to people familiar with the China is largely self-suffiorder, as Beijing continues to tightly control imports of the fuel amid soured

political relations with Canberra. Chinese power stations and steel mills have been verbally told to immediately stop using Australian coal, the people said, asking not to be identified as the matter is private. Ports have also been told not to offload Australian coal, one of the people said.

tration wasn't immediately available for comment. The ban marks an escalation in tensions that have

China's customs adminis-



already jolted agricultural exports from China's biggest supplier of commodities. It isn't clear when the halt might end or how it might affect longterm contracts that are already in place. The fossil fuel has been a

previous target for China's ire with what it regards as an increasingly hostile government in Canberra, most recently in 2019 when

China is, overwhelming-ly, the key buyer of Australia's most lucrative export, iron ore, although curbs on that product would be a heavy blow to a steel industry that relies on vast -- and cheap -- supplies from mining heavy-

weights like Rio Tinto Group and BHP Group. More broadly, China keeps a tight grip on coal imports, as it seeks to balance the needs of its miners and industrial users. The fuel still accounts for over half of its energy

-Bloomberg

needs.

Para shuttler Manasi Joshi poses with the Barbie model.

### **Barbie model after** role model Manasi

New Delhi: Indian para athletes have been making the headlines lately Weeks after an unprecedented nine Para athletes were honoured with the National Sports Awards 2020, para shuttler

Manasi Joshi has now made every Indian proud becoming the first ever Para athlete to have featured in TIME magazine as Next Generation Leader. She is also the first Indian paraathlete to have a Barbie doll modelled to her likeness announced on the occasion of the International Day of Girl Child. Joshi joined the likes of

Australian Paralympic medallist wheelchair para athlete Madison De Rozario and Para Swimming champion Sumeyve Boyaci among many others, in celebration of extraordinary women who inspire girls around the world to be anything they dream to be.

The only other Indian to have received this laurel is gymnast Dipa Karmakar in 2019. Extremely delighted with Manasi's latest recognitions, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President Deepa Malik said these honours will give a great boost to the Indian Paralympic Movement.

### **Football captain Carlton no more**

New Delhi: Former India football captain and mid-fielder Carlton Chapman, who formed a deadly trio at the club level with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s, died on Monday following a heart attack in Bengaluru. He was 49. Chapman was hospitalised on Sunday night at a hospital in Bengaluru and passed away early this morning. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001 and the country won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy. At the club level, he had two successful spells with East Bengal and one with now defunct JCT Mills. A product of

the Tata Football

### Akbar elected **FMSCI** president

early 1990s, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993 and scored

a hat-trick in his team's 6-2 win

against Iraq club Al Zawra in a

first round match at the Asian

Cup Winners Cup that year.

New Delhi: Former racer Akbar Ebrahim was on Monday unanimously elected for a second term as the president of India's motorsports governing body, **FMSCI** 

The elections were held via video-conference amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Ebrahim had his first stint as FMSCI chief from 2016-2018 following which he was replaced by J. Prithviraj. "It is without doubt, going to

be a very challenging and tough year given the unprecedented pandemic situation the whole world is facing. I am sure that the FMSCI will collectively rise to the occasion and manage the situation to the best of its ability," Ebrahim said in a

statement. Farooq Ahmed was unanimously elected as the vice-president. The FMSCI boasts of more than 50 affiliates across all corners of the country and there are more than 1200 registered athletes. — PTI



on Star Sports 1, HD **BADMINTON** 

**Denmark Open:** Matches from 12.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

**St Petersburg Open:** Matches from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

**FOOTBALL UEFA Nations League:** Azerbaijan vs Cyprus from 9.30 pm on Sonv Ten 2, HD; Ukraine vs Spain from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD; Germany vs Switzerland from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on

# BANG ON TARGET Lakers crack the

## AB de Villiers goes great guns as RCB crush KKR

Sharjah, Oct. 12: AB de Villiers hit a power-packed 73 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore outplay Kolkata Knight Riders by 82 runs in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

The South African great

smashed six sixes in his 33-ball blitz and put on an 33-ball blitz and put on an unbeaten century partnership with skipper Virat Kohli, who scored 33, as Bangalore posted 194 for 2 in 20 overs.

Proteas quick Chris Morris and spinner Washington Sundar

Washington Sundar claimed two wickets each to keep down Kolkata to 112 for 9 in 20 overs.

But the evening belonged to the 36-year-

old De Villiers who scored his third IPL half-century of the season to go past 3,000 runs in the Twenty20 tournament.

"Genius. Find me another word for @ABdeVilliers17. This one will do for now! Genius.," veteran com-mentator Harsha Bhogle wrote on Twitter.

Opener Aaron Finch (47 from 37 balls) looked sluggish in the middle and struggled to find boundaries before being castled by Prasidh Krishna.

With boundaries drying up, De Villiers unleashed his array of shots against a disciplined Nagarkoti, smashing him for consecutive sixes, over midwicket, one of which hit a run ning car.



AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore plays a shot on way to his half-century during an IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

#### **SCORECARD**

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Aaron Finch b Prasidh 47, D. Padikkal b Russell 32, Virat Kohli not out 33, AB de Villiers not out 73. Extras: (LB-2, W-6, NB-1) 9. Total: (for two wickets in 20 overs) 194.

FoW: 1-67, 2-94. Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-38-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Andre Russell 4-0-51-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-25-0, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 4-0-36-0.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Tom Banton b Saini 8, Shubman Gill run out 34, Nitish Rana b Washington Sundar 9, Eoin Morgan c Udana b Washington Sundar 8, D. Karthik b Chahal 1, A. Russell c M. Siraj b Udana 16, R. Tripathi c Morris b M. Siraj 16, Pat Cummins c Padikkal b Chris Morris 1, K. Nagarkoti b Chris Morris 4, Chakravarthy not out 7, Prasidh Krishna not out 2. Extras: (LB-3, W-3) 6. **Total:** (for 9 wickets in 20 Overs) 112. FoW: 1-23, 2-51, 3-55, 4-62, 5-64, 6-85, 7-89, 8-99, 9-108. Bowling: Chris Morris 4-0-17-2, Navdeep

Saini 3-0-17-1, Mohammad Siraj 3-0-24-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-20-2, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-12-1, Isuru Udana 2-0-19-1.

IPL PUINTS TABLE							
Teams	Р	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR	
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327	
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	0	10	+1.038	
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	0	10	-0.116	
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577	
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	3	4	0	6	+0.153	
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872	
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588	
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381	
Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rat							

## Teen nabbed for threatening Ziva

nabbed on Sunday threat message, Singh Gujarat for allegedly issuing threats against Mahendra cricketer Singh Dhoni's minor daughter, police said.

"The class 12 student from Namna Kapaya village was detained for questioning in connection with a disgusting threat message that was posted on the Instagram account of Dhoni's wife Sakshi Dhoni a few days back," Kutch (West) superintendent police Saurabh Singh told reporters.

The teenager "confessed" to have posted the threatening message on the Instagram account after the IPL 2020 match between KKR and CSK cricket

teams, police said. Ranchi police had hared information regarding the boy with Kutch (West) police and asked them to con-

Paris, Oct. 12: Portugal

and Italy kept hold of

first place in their UEFA

Nations League groups

on Sunday with goalless

draws against France and

Poland on a night of little

drama, while England saw off Belgium to take

the initiative in their

talk about at the Stade de

France as a star-studded

line up of players including Cristiano Ronaldo,

Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann

failed to muster much of

a spectacle in the League

Pepe headed home what

he thought was a 74th-

minute opener when he

got on the end of Bruno

Fernandes' free-kick but

102nd international goal,

Ronaldo, chasing his ahead of Croatia.

'A', Group 3 match.

was flagged offside.

There was not much to

Ahmedabad, Oct. 12: firm if he was the one A 16-year-old boy was who had posted the

> "We detained him for questioning after Ranchi police informed us that the accused hails from Mundra in Kutch dis-

> trict. "We have confirmed that the boy is the same who had posted the message. He will be handed over to Ranchi police as the FIR was lodged in that city," the SP said, adding that a team of Ranchi Police is likely to reach Kutch tomorrow to take custody of the teenager.

> Dhoni is captaining the CSK cricket team in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

The nature of the threat had caused a huge outrage on social media, with several cricketers, politicians and celebrities expressing disgust and demanding action.

## **ISHANT OUT OF IPL WITH RIB CAGE INJURY**

Dubai, Oct. 12: Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma has Indian Premier League with a rib-cage injury, his team Delhi Capitals said on Monday.

The 32-year-old Test specialist had played only one of the seven games that the Capitals have played so far, finishing his four overs wicketless for 26 runs against Sunrisers

Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi. "Fast bowler Ishant Sharma experienced an acute episode of left rib cage pain while bowling at a team training session on October 7, 2020 in Dubai.

"Subsequent investigations revealed that he sustained a left internal oblique muscle tear. This injury will unfortunately rule him out of the remainder of the IPL," Capitals said. Ishant has played 97 Tests, 80 ODIs and 14 T20Is for India and is set to spearhead the ace attack during Test matches in Australia.

Portugal, Italy held as Eng win

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (centre) in action during

their

Gdansk

stretched their unbeaten

streak to 18 matches and

held onto top spot in

League 'A', Group 1 with

stalemate

their UEFA Nations League match against France at

the Stade de France in Saint-Denis on Sunday.

Italy

was denied by a flying

save from Hugo Lloris in

added time. Both sides

are on seven points, four

Meanwhile.

# Depleted Dhoni side face SRH

Dubai, Oct. 12: Time is fast running out for the Chennai Super Kings, a team which desperately needs its batting to click when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad here Tuesday in a battle to keep Sunrisers Hyderabad beat its IPL hopes alive.

CSK with five defeats in seven games are currently at the penultimate position in the eight-team standings halfway into the tournament. While Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis have had decent outings so far, CSK need a stronger show from its faltering middle order to.

SRH, on the other hand, are a only a tad better-placed than CSK at the fifth spot with three wins from

But the the five-wicket defeat to RR on Sunday would be hurting the Hyderabad outfit badly.

Batting has not been SRH's concern at all as the likes of Jonny Bairstow, skipper David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane

the chance to win the match for the dominant

'Azzurri' from close range

Roberto Mancini's side

are one point ahead of the

Netherlands, who also drew 0-0 with Bosnia and

England manager Gareth

Southgate said his side

showed what they were

made of after coming

from behind to beat

Belgium 2-1 and move top

of League A, Group 2 ear-

The Three Lions are on

seven points, one ahead of

the world's top-ranked

Rashford's spot-kick and

Mason Mount's deflected

winner 25 minutes from

Romelu Lukaku's early

cancelled out

Marcus

after

another match,

in the 11th minute.

Herzegovina.

lier on Sunday.

time

penalty.

in

### **NUMBERS GAME**

OVERALL:

• Matches: 13 Chennai: 9

**MEETING IN 2019** 

 Sunrisers Hyderabad beat
 Chennai Super Kings by 6 wick-ets at Hyderabad
 Chennai Super Kings beat
 Sunriseres Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Chennai

**MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION** Sunrisers Hyderabad beat

Chennai Super Kings by 7 runs at Dubai **FOR THE RECORD** Faf du Plessis is the highest

run-getter for Chennai Super Kings in the current edition. The South African batsman scored 307 runs at a strike rate of 147.59 in seven innings of as many matches.

- S. PERVEZ GAISER

Williamson are all among runs and have the ability to shoulder the responsibility on their own. But it is the bowling unit which let Hyderabad down Sunday.

### ICC SETS DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION **OF ITS CHAIRMAN**

Dubai, Oct. 12: The ICC on Monday set October 18 as the deadline for its Board of Directors to propose candidates for the chairman's post to succeed Shashank Manohar, ending a nearly threemonth-long impasse on the nomination process.

"The process, which is being overseen by the Independent Chairman of the ICC Audit Committee, has commenced and the first stage is for the nominations of potential candidates to be made by current Board Directors by 18 October 2020," ICC stated in a release.

The candidate would require two thirds of the 17 ICC Board member votes, which roughly comes to 11 or 12.

# whip to win title

Orlando, Oct. 12: Kobe Bryant's spirit could be felt by the Los Angeles Lakers as they finished a run to the NBA title on Sunday, nine months after Bryant's death in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers completed a championship run dedicated to the late LA legend by defeating Miami 106-93 to capture the NBA Finals four games to two in a quarantine bubble at Orlando, Florida. "Kobe, I know he's look-ing down on us super

proud. We miss him, and this is definitely for him, Lakers star forward Anthony Davis said. 'I think Kobe and Gianna

have guided this team the entire year," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka

"Kobe's voice is always in my head, always, every day, every minute... for us to be able to win this championship doesn't take away the sting of the loss, but what it does is it helps us

add to their legacy. Bryant's widow, Vanessa Bryant, posted a congratulations message on Instagram, saying: "Wish Kobe and Gigi were here to see this."
The Lakers captured

their first NBA title since 2010, when Bryant led them to the last of his five career crowns.

"There would be times in my hotel room here when you're in a bubble for 100 days, it's tough — there would be times in the middle of the night, I would hear his voice: 'Stay the course. Finish the task,'" said Pelinka.

Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud. We miss him, and

this is definitely for him. - ANTHONY **DAVIS** after winning the NBA title

"He said, 'I'll give you two, three years, you'll fix this. You'll get the Lakers

back on top.'
Pelinka looked to the heavens and said, "I guess you were right, man. You gave me the energy to do

Outside the Lakers' home arena, the Staples Center in Los Angeles, fans took to the streets chanting, "Kobe, Kobe," despite being urged to celebrate at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **JAMES SAVOURS**

The sight of LeBron James hoisting an NBA championship trophy as Most Valuable Player of the title series was no surprise but the path he took to a fourth career crown was

anything but usual.
"I can't sit here and say
one is more challenging than the other or one is more difficult than the other," James said after capturing his fourth NBA title with a third team, and his fourth Finals MVP

He posted a triple-double of 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in the titleclinching 106-93 victory over the Miami Heat in



LeBron James (centre) of the Los Angeles Lakers is jubilant as he holds his MVP and the NBA Championship trophy after winning the NBA title at AdventHealth Arena at the ESPN Wide World Of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Sunday.

## No direct entry for badminton Finals

New Delhi, Oct. 12: India ace P. V. Sindhu will not get a direct entry in the rescheduled World Tour Final as the Badminton World Federation (BWF) has decided against handing automatic invitations to current world champions in the season-ending tournament.

According to the BWF rules, world champions have always enjoyed a direct qualification to the prestigious World Tour Finals but with the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting the international calender, the world body has decided to do away with the criteria

this year. "Players will qualify for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2020 in Bangkok (Thailand) according to current regulations. The exception to that is current world champions will not get an automatic invitation (World Tour Regulations,

points earned from World Tour tournaments will be taken into account," BWF said.

"The remaining Grade 2 tournaments counting towards qualification are: DANISA Denmark Open 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 750), Asia Open 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000), Asia Open II 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000), the statement added.

Sindhu, who won the World Championship gold medal last year, had pulled out of the Denmark Open and will now have to perform at the Asia legs to make it to the World Tour Finals. "We don't regret the decision to pull out of Denmark Open. Now that the BWF has laid down the criteria, Sindhu will try to do well in the Asia leg if there are no more postponements and qualify,"
Sindhu's father P V Sindhu's father P.

Clause 8.2.3) and only Ramana said.

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