





## OTHER STORIES

FIVE SENIOR  
IPS OFFICERS  
TRANSFERREDDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Five senior IPS officials were transferred in AP on Tuesday. The AP government has issued orders appointing R.K. Meena as Additional Director General of Greyhounds and Octopus. Trivikram Varma posted as Guntur range DIG.

Chief Secretary to government Nilam Sawhney issued the GORT: 1572 under which R.K. Meena, who was waiting for posting, is posted as Additional DGP, Operations (Greyhounds and Octopus) while Dr Shanka Brata Bagchi, Director, ACB, was transferred and posted as IGR, APSP Bns., in the existing vacancy.

Dr C.M. Trivikrama Varma, who is waiting for posting, is posted as DIG of Police, Guntur Range, Guntur. G. Vijay Kumar, DIG, Intelligence was transferred and posted as Special Secretary to government, Home Department in the existing vacancy and Sudheer Kumar Reddy, who is waiting for posting, is posted as Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Enforcement.

The transfers and postings of IPS officers are notified with immediate effect.

NARROW ESCAPE  
FOR GUDUR MLA  
IN ROAD ACCIDENTDC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, OCT. 13

YSR Congress legislator of Gudur Assembly segment, V. Varaprasad Rao had a narrow escape when his speeding car hit a lorry on the National Highway at Mallam Junction near Naidupeta town late on Monday night.

If not for another lorry moving towards Nellore, the MLAs car would have overturned three times and plunged into the slope at the edge of the road causing grievous injuries to the inmates including the legislator, his gunman and the driver, said the CI of Naidupeta, G. Venugopal Reddy.

According to the CI, the mishap took place around 11.30 pm when Mr Varaprasad was on his way to Gudur from Chennai. "The car hit the lorry, which was entering the highway from the parking area, at Mallam Junction. Though the driver lost control of the vehicle, another lorry on the left side prevented the vehicle from overturning and ending up in a ghastly accident," Mr Reddy said pointing to the video footage of the incident he obtained.

FARMERS OPPOSE  
GMR-AUROBINDO  
DEAL IN KSEZDC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, OCT. 13

Rythu Sangham found fault with the taking over of major shares from GMR in Kakinada Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) by the Aurobindo group. The Sangham district president Tirumalasetty Nageswara Rao told the reporters on Tuesday that KSEZ is in controversy and the farmers are agitating for their lands.

He said that without sorting out the problems of the farmers, such transactions in KSEZ are against the law. He said that the former CM N. Chandrababu Naidu cheated the KSEZ farmers by not giving back the KSEZ lands to the farmers. When Mr Y.S. Jagan was in Opposition, he demanded the then TD government to give ₹73 lakh per acre to the KSEZ farmers. He said that now that Mr Jagan Reddy is the Chief Minister, he should not accept the GMR-Aurobindo deal in KSEZ.

COPS REINSTALL  
AMBEDKAR  
STATUEDC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, OCT. 13

A few miscreants broke Dr B.R. Ambedkar's statue at Katrenikonapadu village of Razole mandal in Konaseema area in the East Godavari district. However, the Razole police led by Amalapuram DSP Shaik Masoom rushed to the spot and promised them to install a new statue in place of the existing one. The police installed the new statue on Tuesday and sorted out the issue.

Razole CI Suri Appa Rao said that a case was registered and investigation is on. MLA Rapaka Vara Prasad visited the spot and requested the police to punish the culprits.

## Rains help AP reservoirs brim with water

Out of the gross capacity of storage of 982.35 tmc ft of water, the current storage is 863.03 tmc ft

SAMPAT G.  
SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Several major and medium reservoirs are filled almost to their full capacity following the rains in the last few days in AP.

In major, medium and other reservoirs on Tuesday, out of the gross capacity of storage of 982.35 tmc ft of water, the current storage is 863.03 tmc ft (87.85 per cent) against 795.96 tmc ft (81.03 per cent), last year's storage in the corresponding period.

Srisaillam reservoir on Krishna river in Kurnool district has the water level at 884.51 feet with current storage of 212.77 tmc against the gross storage capacity of 215.81 tmc with an inflow of 3,60,936 cusecs of water and outflow of 4,12,275 cusecs of water.

Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir on Krishna river in Guntur district has the water level at 589.50 feet with current storage of 310.55 tmc against the gross storage capacity of 312.05 tmc ft of water with an inflow of 2.58 lakh cusecs and outflow of 3.41 lakh cusecs of water.

Pulichintala project on Krishna river in Guntur district has the water level at 173.33 ft with current storage of 43.20 tmc against gross storage capacity of 45.77 tmc ft of water.

Prakasam barrage on Krishna river in Krishnan district has the water level at 57.05 ft with current storage of 3.07 tmc against gross storage capacity of 3.07 tmc ft of water.

Sir Arthur Cotton barrage on Godavari river in East Godavari district has the water level at 44.75 feet with current storage of 2.93 tmc against gross storage capacity of 2.93 tmc ft of water with an inflow of 1.66 lakh cusecs of water and outflow of 1.66 lakh cusecs of water.

Yeleru reservoir in East Godavari district has the water level at 282.62 feet with current storage of 23.24 tmc against gross storage capacity of 24.11 tmc ft of water.

Somasila reservoir on Pennar river in Nellore district has the water level at 328.08 feet with current storage of 73.73 tmc against 78 tmc ft of water.

Gundlakamma reservoir in Prakasam district has the water level at 78.31 feet with current storage of 3.12 tmc against gross storage capacity of 3.86 tmc ft of water.

Velugodu reservoir on Pennar river in Kurnool district has the water level at 866.83 feet with current storage of 16.10 tmc against gross storage capacity of 16.95 tmc ft of water.

AP OFFICIAL NEWS  
SUPPRESSED, SAYS  
AMBATI RAMBABUDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

YSR Congress MLA and party official spokesperson Ambati Rambabu said that there was a deliberate attempt by a section of the media to appease to their vested interests. He stated that the news of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy writing a letter to Chief Justice of India (CJI) was widely published and telecast throughout the country, but the Telugu Desam Party friendly media ignored the press conference of Ajaya Kallam, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister, during which he released the letter.

Mr Rambabu said that the bias had been there for a long time, but it has now been exposed more glaringly.

He alleged that the ethics took a beating with the same media houses conducting debates against the CM. He said that such lopsided opinions and campaigns were run against Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy as well in the past, but they all failed as he emerged victorious finally.



Rainwater logged at Ganapati Rao Road at One Town due to Heavy rains in Vijayawada on Tuesday. —C. NARAYANA RAO

## Slum dwellers on hills live in terror

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 13

Monsoons and cyclones might bring cheers to many people but for the lakhs of people living on the hillocks in Visakhapatnam city surroundings, it is a nightmare. A pregnant woman and her three-year-old child died on Monday when boulders came crashing on to their house in Gajuwaka in the city. In the same area, a family of four had a narrow escape when a huge boulder fell on their asbestos roofed house and destroyed all the household articles.

In 2015, four people died in Thatichetlapalem when huge boulders fell on their house while it was raining heavily. In 2007, two people were trapped in mud, which came along with a gush of water in Arilova.

Other incidents were never reported. The political leaders keep promising them with better hous-



Houses constructed on the hills at Aarilova in Vizag.

ing facilities while the GVMC authorities merely make plans for their rehabilitation.

Former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, after dedicating the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to the nation in 1991, took an aerial survey of the city and was surprised to see hundreds of houses built on hills. He told the local officials that living on hills not only endangered the human lives but also harmed the environment. The officials took his advice and built thou-

sands of houses during the last two decades under various schemes.

However the people never moved out from the hills. They sold the new houses to the fresh migrants or gave it up for rent.

"Rich people prefer to live on the hills. Former union minister D. Puredewari lives on a hill in Rushikonda area and the chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is also planning to build a house on one of the hills. But for the poor, hills are

## IRON FENCING TO BE INSTALLED ON GHAT ROAD TO RESTRICT FALL OF BOULDERS

From Page 1

According to police, the death in Vidyadharapuram occurred when a cliff collapsed on a residence at Nalugustambala centre in Vijayawada. Locals informed police that a resident Tandu Siva Sanjara Rao (50) had been caught underneath the debris. Police with fire personnel reached the spot and rescued the person. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Minister Velampalli Srinivas expressed condolences over the demise.

Incessant rains led to

boulders crashing on the ghat road to Indrakeeladri Kanaka Durga temple at Omkar turning point on Tuesday morning. Luckily, none was injured. Durga temple committee chairman P. Somi Naidu said the temple will install iron fencing on the ghat road to restrict falling of boulders, which may harm devotees.

As many as four control rooms have been started in Guntur district on Tuesday. Guntur district collector I. Samuel Anand Kumar said in case of any emergency, people may contact the control room in Guntur Collectorate by

dialling 0863-2324014. The numbers and locations of other control rooms are 086444-223800 (Tenali sub-collector office), 0863-2240679 (RDO office) and 9618617374 (Gurazala RDO office).

The overflowing Palavagu inundated Seed Access Road in Amaravati, apart from areas in Rayapudi and adjacent localities. Gurrallavagu is overflowing at Patampadu in Chandralapadu mandal of Krishna district cutting off road communication.

Local streams in Anigandalapadu, Lingagudem, Penuganchaprolu and Mullapadu are also over-

flowing cutting off villages in the area. Dandivagu is overflowing at Magallu in Nandigama mandal, cutting road transport between Nandigama and Madhira.

Low lying areas in LBS Nagar and adjacent areas in Vijayawada have been inundated due to rainwater, which has also entered many houses. CPM executive committee member Ch. Babu Rao and others visited the area and demanded that officials remove accumulated rainwater by using electricity pump sets. Krishna district collector A. Md. Imtiaz visited low-lying

Bangla ship runs  
aground in VizagKMP PATNAIK | DC  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 13

A merchant vessel carrying Bangladesh flag ran aground near Tenneti Park in Visakhapatnam late on Monday night. A spokesperson from Visakhapatnam Port Trust said MV MAA was anchored in the sea off the port waiting for the customs clearance. The vessel, which came from Bangladesh, was empty and booked by a shipping agent in Visakhapatnam to take cargo.

On Monday night, high winds with speed reaching 50 kmph snapped the two anchors of the vessel. The ship drifted towards the northwest and finally ran aground near Tenneti Park. The Navy and Coast Guard vessels accompanied by helicopters visited the site and picked up the 15 member crew. They were given accommoda-

tion after they were given first aid. Sources from the Indian Navy said that a salvage operation team would be deployed by the management of the vessel to retrieve from the beach. However, it might take a few days to hire a domestic or international agency to bring back the vessel into the waters.

Usually, vessels entering the port channel for the first time, is guided by a tug but the pilot of the ill-fated vessel steered the ship into the channel resulting in running aground near the beach close to the old municipal office.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people flocked Tenneti Park to take a close look at the vessel. The police closed the park and cordoned off the area where the ship ran aground fearing people might drown into the sea while taking pictures.

31,768 HECTARES OF CROP AND 238  
HOUSES DAMAGED IN EAST GODAVARIDC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, OCT. 13

East Godavari district collector D. Muralidhar Reddy said that the crop in 31,768 hectares including 30,149 hectares of agriculture and 1619 hectares of horticulture crops had been damaged and 1,12,903 population affected due to the heavy rains for the past three days in the district. He said that 238 houses had been damaged causing a loss of ₹41.45 lakh and 2,538 houses are still in inundation.

Breaches were made in

three places in the Yeleru Canal and three canals were destroyed causing a loss of ₹30 lakh. The SC colony in Rajupalem in Kirlampudi mandal was affected. Two shops collapsed in Peddapuram and one woman Lothu Lakshmi, 48, of Bommuru in Rajahmundry Rural mandal died as a wall collapsed on her. He said that Kakinada-Uppada Beach road was temporarily closed due to heavy rains. Also, 3,780 people were evacuated and have been provided shelter in five rehabilitation camps.

## YANAM RECEIVES HIGHEST RAINFALL

From page 1

During the last 24 hours, Yanam received the highest rainfall of 25 cm, followed by Amalapuram and Tanuku 19 cm, and Vijayawada, Kaikaluru, Bhimili, Ichapuram and Palasa 16 cm. Most places received rainfall above 10 cm.

According to reports, 40 villages in 10 mandals of Visakhapatnam district have been affected by the rainfall. Around 3,470 people from 900 families have

been evacuated from flooded villages and given shelter. In East Godavari, 11 villages have been marooned and 90 families evacuated and provided shelter. In Visakhapatnam, many low-lying areas were inundated. People had to wade through waist-deep water to reach their homes. Trees were uprooted in many places affecting road communication. People had to hold each others' arms to cross roads in main localities.

areas and said pump sets are being deployed to clear rainwater from 42 areas of Vijayawada city. 700 sani-

tary workers have pressed into service to clear the drains, so that accumulated water could flow out.

Flood alert notices to  
Naidu house, 30 moreDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Flood alert notices were issued to 30 houses, including TD chief, N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence, on the Krishna river Karakatta at Undavalli on Tuesday in view of increasing floodwater in the Krishna.

The water level in the Krishna river is increasing swiftly due to gushing of floodwater as a result of incessant rain, so officials issued notices to houses situated within the flood bank area. The huge floodwater from upstream areas, including tributaries, gushing

into the Krishna river is increasing water level at Prakasam barrage.

All the gates of the Prakasam barrage were lifted to release the heavy inflows into the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday.

The Prakasam barrage received 279490 cusecs of floodwater and released 198450 cusecs of floodwater on Tuesday evening.

The further increase of floodwater level in the Krishna would inundate areas lying under the Krishna flood bank which is called Karakatta. Mr Naidu is living in a house within the flood bank and another 29 structures are also in danger.

## PRIME | LAND The company is told not to create any 3rd party interest until land ownership issue is settled

## Supreme Court red-flag to Greenko's realty project

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Supreme Court has red-flagged energy major Greenko's grandiose realty project on 119 acres of disputed land in Survey No. 1007, popularly known as Bhagyanagar Society Colony, located between Hitec City and Kukatpally. In a recent order, the apex court directed all the parties to "maintain status quo as to possession" and "no third party interest will be created" till ownership is decided.

The rival claimants of land are about 1,400 registered plot owners of whom 600 got their plots regularly under the LRS and some even constructed houses and apartments. Promoters of Greenko - Ch. Anil Kumar and K. Mahesh - entered the scene just two years ago.

"It is just bulldozing using their money power. The government records establish our ownership yet Greenko is moving fast to build a world class city, displacing us," said E. Raja Uma Reddy and

Kiran, president and secretary of Bhagyanagar Cooperative Society.

Documents available with Deccan Chronicle revealed that the Greenko promoters floated Ace HIBC Pvt Ltd and entered into a joint development agreement (JDA) with one Prime Properties which claimed to own the disputed land and Sidhharth Infratech Services which is all set to take over Prime Properties.

Apart from several legal shortcomings and suppression of facts, what makes

the JDA curious is that owner of 119 acres will get just 18 per cent of the developed property while the remaining 82 per cent will go to the developer. When the plot owners approached the Telangana High Court against registering the JDA, the state government too opposed it. It told the court that signatories of JDA never figured in the revenue records which reflected names of those who sold land to the Bhagyanagar plot owners.

Taking the state govern-

ment's contention and an existing *status quo* issued by the Supreme Court as some of the grounds, Justice Sanjay Kumar ruled against registering the JDA stating that creating third party interest will complicate matters further.

However, a High Court division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chouhan directed the registration authorities to decide on the JDA following due procedure. Mere presentation of JDA to sub-registrar can't be

assumed as registration. If the party, after registration, violated the *status quo* it is for them to face consequences, the bench said adding that the aggrieved parties may invoke contempt in such case.

"The officials wasted no time after the High Court order and registered the JDA without following due process. There is no surprise if the company launches the project and sells it off, creating some more interested parties and we have to run around courts," said the plot owners.



## SHORT TAKES

## SEIZURES ARE ONLY THE TIP OF ICEBERG : OFFICIAL

FROM PAGE 1

A senior police official also attributed the rise in seizures and arrests to heightened surveillance by the police. "Sharing of intelligence among different security agencies, enhancing security at state borders, using new surveillance technology etc, helped the police to curb fake notes circulation in the state," a senior officer said, adding that the periodic seizures and arrests are only the tip of the iceberg and there is lot more to do to zero-in on this illegal business.

In Telangana, about 310 fake currency notes were seized in 2019, whereas in 2018 and 2017 the seizure of fake notes was shown as 15,231 and 2,234 respectively. Seizures in 2019 amounted to ₹81,900, which is 97 per cent less than the value of counterfeit currency seized in 2018 (₹32.61 lakh) and in 2017 (₹40.17 lakh).

## VAHANA SEVAS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN MANDAPAM

FROM PAGE 1

District collector Narayan Bharat Gupta, TTD additional EO A.V. Dharma Reddy, DIG Kranti Rana Tata, JEO P. Basanth Kumar and CVSO Gopinath Jatti participated in the meeting.

It may be noted that as per Covid-19 guidelines issued recently by Union health and family welfare ministry, no religious or cultural festivals should have a congregation of more than 200 persons even if conducted in open. The direction had come in view of several festivals lined up in the country from October to December, which witness huge gatherings and could lead to a spike in Covid-19 cases.

In view of the new Covid-19 guidelines, TTD reviewed its earlier decision and decided to conduct the brahmotsavams in Ekantham inside the Srivari temple, just like it had held the annual brahmotsavams during last month.

All vahana sevas will be carried out in the Kalyanotsava mandapam inside the temple. Brahmotsavam rituals and utsavams will be celebrated as per Agama traditions inside the temple in Ekantham. TTD's SVBC TV channel will provide live feed of all events, while the Public Relations Department of TTD will issue photos of all events and vahana sevas daily for the benefit of devotees across the globe.

## PANCHAYAT SECY LEAVES SUICIDE NOTE, DISAPPEARS

AVINASH P SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 13

A panchayat secretary from 49 Kothapalli panchayat, under S.R. Puram mandal, Chittoor district, A. Kodandarami Reddy, disappeared for a while after leaving a suicide note in which he alleged that he was being harassed by his mandal parishad development officer (MPDO), S. Parvathamma.

In his purported suicide note, Reddy alleged that the S.R. Puram mandal MPDO refused to admit him for duty and also didn't send his joining report to the district panchayat officer.

In the note, Reddy says he was earlier deputed as PS at Aranyamkandriga village in Narayanavanam mandal. His deputation at this village was revoked on September 26, 2020, and further orders were also issued for him to report his joining to the S.R. Puram mandal MPDO on September 28.

However, Reddy alleged that the MPDO didn't allow him to join his duties, because S.R. Puram is his native mandal. He also alleged that the MPDO has troubled and harassed him in many ways during these days, as he didn't cooperate with the MPDO to continue her irregularities.

Stating that he was vexed with her behaviour, Reddy left a note on Tuesday in which he said that he is going to end his life. He also put the blame on the MPDO for his extreme decision. After leaving the note at the office, he disappeared.

On learning about this, S.R. Puram police launched a search operation to trace him. "Kodandarami Reddy was found safe at the village in the evening. He was counselled and the information was passed on to his higher officials," S.R. Puram SI, Srinivas Rao said.

## Jumping in joy



Youngsters enjoy at the seashore during the inclement weather conditions at Ramakrishna Beach in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

— K. MURALIKRISHNA

## Govt docs infected with virus want special leave

## Some doctors in advanced age falling victims to infections

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Government doctors infected with Covid-19 in line of duty, have urged the state government to sanction special leave to them for at least for 30 days to enable them to avail medical treatment in AP.

All government doctors are drafted for Covid-19 duty at various facilities and some of them are getting infected as they are exposed to the virus on a daily basis. Once infected, they can avail 14 days leave with one week for treatment and the second for recovery by opting for home quarantine or isolation. After that, they are expected to re-join duty.

Government doctors say that those among them above 40 years and with multiple health complications themselves, like high blood pressure, diabetes or chronic ailments pertaining to their lungs, kidneys, heart and other organs, are unable to recover from Covid-19 in two weeks' time. This is forcing them to use personal leaves, medical leaves, half-pay leaves and at times leaves with loss of pay.

The rate of recovery from the Covid-19 infection varies from person to person depending upon several factors, from physical size, lean or obese, to viral load, one or two strains of the virus, immunity levels, from failure of early detection of the virus to seriousness of co-mor-

bidities, say the doctors. They have appealed to the state government to sanction at least 30 days of leave if a doctor is infected, so that s/he can take medical treatment and some time for recovery from the illness and weakness in the body before resuming work. Moreover, they say that some doctors of an

advanced age are falling victim to opportunistic infections as post-Covid-19 bodies and underline the need to grant special leaves for more than the existing period of 14 days to help them take treatment.

A government doctor in Visakhapatnam said "Though we are being considered as Covid-19 warriors, we are not getting much help from the state government as we have to pay for our Covid-19 treatment if we choose a private hospital of our choice given the seriousness of our health condition. We urge the government at least allow us to avail 30 days of special leave to get proper treatment and for early recovery to resume Covid-19 duty again."

A PHC doctor in Guntur said, "Even when we avail leave for Covid-19 treatment, we have been attending to phone calls from various authorities seeking reports on Covid-19 and providing all the requisite information and not shirking work."

The AP government doctors' association general secretary, Dr D. Jayadheer, said, "It is true some of our colleagues, especially those suffering multiple health complications, are facing problems when infected to recover and to resume work in 14 days. Though a week is enough for treatment and another for recovery, due to other health issues, they need a few more days' leave. We will take it to the notice of the state government."

## Stalker sets nurse on fire, both die in blaze

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

A 24-year-old nurse Chinnari, working at a Covid care centre in Guntur, died when she was set on fire by a stalker at her residence on Monday night. The stalker, Nagabhushanam, also sustained 80 per cent burns while setting the woman afire. He died while undergoing treatment at Government General Hospital in Guntur in the early hours of Tuesday.

Assistant commissioner of police M. Ramesh said Chinnari had been in love with Nagabhushanam for the last four years. But a few

months ago, she decided to end the relationship. Since then, Nagabhushanam had been stalking and harassing her to marry him. On October 5, the woman lodged a complaint with Governorpet police alleging that the man was continuing to harass her, though she has refused to marry him.

Police summoned Nagabhushanam and warned him, after which he gave an undertaking that he would not trouble her, said the ACP.

On Monday night, when Chinnari returned to her room nearer the Covid care centre where she was working, the stalker arrived and

picked up a quarrel for filing a police complaint against him. During the course of argument, he took out a bottle of petrol he had brought with him, poured it over her and set her ablaze. The woman caught hold of him tightly, so that he could not escape after killing her. Listening to their cries, neighbours rushed there and separated them before dousing the fire.

While the woman died on the spot, the stalker was admitted to the government hospital with severe burns. As he was serious, he was shifted to Vijayawada, where he died during early hours of Tuesday.

## SP PRESENTS SADBHAVANA PROJECT TO THE JURY

Nellore: Prakasam district SP Siddharth Kaushal has given a presentation on his Sadbhavana project to the six-member jury of

SKOCH Awards through a video conference on Tuesday.

The SKOCH Award is one of the highest national awards in the

country that recognises those who have excelled in various fields and those who have served innovatively in public service.

## MATTERS OF FAITH

## Breaking 116 coconuts for protection of worship place

## Protest to save 450-year-old dargah

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

The Muslim minority leaders staged an innovative protest of breaking 116 coconuts and further conducting special Dua prayer seeking development of 450 years old Hazrat Syed Shah Quadri and Ali Hussein Shah Quadri Dargahs and mosque situated beneath the Kanaka Durga flyover in Vijayawada. The minority leaders Muslim personal law board of India AP president Altaf

Ali Raza presented the innovative protest at the ancient Dargahs in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The Muslim devotees in large numbers participated in Dua programme praying to give wisdom to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for the development of Dargahs and mosque.

Mr Altaf Raza said that they went post-to-pillar seeking the development of the Dargah and further met Deputy CM Amzath Basha who assured to take measures

for the development of the Dargah. He lamented that there is no entrance to the Dargahs and the officials are laying new road without a way to Dargahs and the mosque, which turned into a big problem for people to visit the holy place. He demanded Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy initiate measures for the development and protection of ancient Dargahs and mosque.

Mr Altaf Raza stated that two Dargahs and

mosque were situated adjacent to Krishna river at Prakasam Barrage and the then Telugu Desam government had taken 1,500 yards land of the mosque for the construction of Durga flyover promising to compensate accordingly. He said that the Quadri mosque and two Dargahs were very ancient and that the TD government promised to develop them. He said that after completion of Durga flyover construction and link roads, the Dargah complex is facing

difficulties. He said that earlier the Dargah complex was elevated compared to the earlier roads but as the present road constructed above the Dargah complex surface level, the rainwater and further drainage water gushing into Dargahs and into the mosque.

Mr Altaf Raza said that the Dargah the minarets and gumbaz was damaged during the construction of flyover hence they should be renovated and Dargah basements should be lifted.

## AP records 4,622 new Covid cases

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Andhra Pradesh has registered 4,622 new Covid-19 cases, scaling up the tally to 7,63,573, apart from 35 deaths, taking the death toll to 6,291 in the last 24 hours.

State health authorities released the Covid-19 bulletin here on Tuesday reporting that out of 72,082 samples tested during the last 24 hours, 4,622 individuals have been found infected with the virus. Out of the total 67,02,810 samples tested so far, 7,14,427 patients have been discharged after recovery from various hospitals, while 42,855 patients are still active with the virus and undergoing treatment.

West Godavari leads the state in registering the highest number of 752 new Coronavirus cases on the day, followed by 705 in Chittoor, 691 in East Godavari, 442 in Prakasam, 416 in Krishna, 391 in Guntur, 317 in Kadapa, 228 in Nellore, 168 in Visakhapatnam, 164 in Anantapur, 159 in Vizianagaram, 101 in Srikakulam and 88 in Kurnool.

East Godavari continues to be the worst-affected with highest number of 1,07,281 cumulative Covid-19 cases,

followed by 76,241 in West Godavari, 71,320 in Chittoor, 61,320 in Anantapur, 60,612 in Guntur, 58,329 in Kurnool, 57,072 in Nellore, 55,100 in Prakasam, 52,819 in Visakhapatnam, 48,526 in Kadapa, 41,932 in Srikakulam, 37,674 in Vizianagaram, 32,452 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery among Covid-19 infected patients has been good in East Godavari with 99,364 recoveries, followed by 70,373 patients getting well in West Godavari, 64,770 in Chittoor, 59,059 in Anantapur, 56,598 in Kurnool, 55,473 in Guntur, 55,183 in Nellore, 50,808 in Prakasam, 50,122 in Visakhapatnam, 44,867 in Kadapa, 40,035 in Srikakulam, 35,630 in Vizianagaram, 29,250 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

With regard to daily deaths of Covid-19 infected patients, Chittoor has registered seven deaths, followed by five in Krishna, four each in Kadapa and Prakasam, three each in Anantapur, Guntur and Visakhapatnam, two each in East Godavari and Nellore, and one each in Srikakulam and West Godavari districts.

## ₹148 CRORE RELEASED TO AAROgyASRI

Vijayawada: Chief Executive Officer of Dr YSR Health Care Trust Dr A. Mallikarjuna said that the state government released ₹148.37 crore to the Aarogyasri network hospitals under the Aarogyasri programme settling the bills until the first week of September.

He said that the government had also transferred ₹31.97 crore into the accounts of the 544 network

hospitals under EHS until July.

Employees Health Scheme (EHS) until the end of July. He said that the network hospital managements expressed pleasure

over the release of dues to them. "The chief minister has been regularly releasing the funds to the hospitals keeping up his promise," Dr Mallikarjuna added.

## No smart look to Kakinada streets

VADREvU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, OCT. 13

Even though rains abated on Tuesday morning, many of the streets in Kakinada are still underwater. The people in the port town are facing a lot of hardships due to stagnation of the waters in their streets. There is no outlet to the waters and the residents of several colonies are facing difficulties to come out from their houses due to inundation of their streets. Though Kakinada has been selected for the Smart City initiative, the city doesn't bear any semblance of it.

The people felt that the city was better before taking up smart city works. The officials failed to construct drains and also after repairing some of the drains, the problem has aggravated. Though 100 building centres and 50 building centres in the city were inundated during the rains, the situation used to be resolved within two or three hours. Due to the rains for the past two days, the centres have been inundated and the rainwater reached cellars of the apartments and other institutions. The officials said that due to the blocking of the outlet at the drain near RTC complex, the problem has arisen.

The CPI district secretary Tatipaka Madhu lashed out

at Kakinada Municipal Corporation and Kakinada Smart City Corporation Limited officers for the worsening situation in the city and commented that the city was turned to a "muddy city and dirty city" instead of "smart city". The CPI team led by Mr Madhu visited the city and observed the conditions of the roads and drains on Tuesday in the aftermath of rains. The team visited Recherlapet, Srinagar Colony, dairy farm centre, Ayodhya Nagar, Jana Chaitanya Layout, Kacheripet and others which were inundated due to rains. Mr Madhu demanded the government should make a Magisterial probe on the spending of ₹360 crore of smart city funds. He alleged that the MLAs, MPs and other public representatives were not bothering about the city and not sorting out the problems for the past one and half decade.

The Kakinada Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar said that steps are being taken to bring the city to normal condition. He inspected several outlets and inundated areas in the city on Tuesday. He said that four teams have been formed to drain out the water and 10 special sanitation teams have been formed to clean the roads and drains.

## 2 DIE AS CAR COLLIDES WITH LORRY

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, OCT. 13

In a ghastly road accident, two persons died on the spot after a lorry hit and dragged a car. The incident took place on national highway 44 near Peddatekuru village in Kallur mandal during the early hours on Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Govardhan Reddy, 39, and Sujith Kumar, 40, both belonging to Anantapur district, private employees.

The lorry-car smash occurred after the car was unfortunately jumped on the opposite side on the national highway with heavy speed and at the same time lorry was coming from Anantapur to Kurnool was hit and dragged it for nearly 10 metres into agriculture farm fields.

Sub-inspector of Ulindakonda police station Sarath Kumar Reddy said

## TWO PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

Nellore: Two persons killed and one injured critically when a speeding autorickshaw rammed into a stationary lorry at Seetharamapuram in Maddipadu mandal of Prakasam district during the early hours of Tuesday.

The deceased include a woman identified as Inamala Suseela, 50, of Marlapadu and the autorickshaw driver, Pasupuleti Vamsi, 20.

that the deceased was going to Anantapur from Kurnool in the late hours of Monday in their car with self-driving.



## SHORT TAKES

ODISHA: WILDLIFE  
TRAFFICKING  
RACKET BUSTEDAKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha crime branch on Tuesday busted a wildlife trafficking racket and seized one leopard skin. The STF arrested one person in this connection near the government ITI in Subarnapur district.

Acting on reliable information about the deal for sale of the leopard skin, a STF team conducted a raid and arrested one Ashok Chhatra, a resident of Babunektima under Mahupalli police station in Sambalpur district.

The police also seized one leopard skin from his possession. The STF said the seized skin would be sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Derhadun for chemical examination.

A case has been registered under Sections 379 and 411 of the Indian Penal Code and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 against the accused. Further investigation is underway, said the police.

CONG ANNOUNCES  
CANDIDATES FOR  
ODISHA BY-POLLSAKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

The Congress on Tuesday announced the names of its candidates for by-polls to Odisha's Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies which are scheduled to be held on November 3, 2020.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi gave her approval to a proposal for the candidature of Mamata Kundu and Himanshu Bhusan Mallick as party candidates to contest the ensuing by-polls to Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies, respectively.

Earlier in the day, BJD named Swarup Kumar Das and Bijaya Shankar Das as its candidates.

The BJD had announced its candidates - Manas Kumar Dutta and Raj Kishore Behera for the by-polls.

The BJP is pulling out all stops in Balasore to retain the seat. Its candidate Manas Kumar Dutta is the son of Madan Mohan Dutta, the sitting MLA who died in July this year. The party strategists believe sympathy factor would work wonders for the party and its nominee would post a spectacular victory.

The BJD is also trying to defend the seat in Tirtol playing the sympathy card. Its nominee Bijaya Shankar Das is the son of Bishnu Charan Das, the sitting MLA who died in July.

PRIYANKA HITS  
OUT AT U.P. GOVT  
FOR RISING CRIMESDC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the rising 'lawlessness' in the state. The latest attack comes over the alleged pouring of a chemical on three sisters in Gonda in Uttar Pradesh.

The three sisters suffered burn injuries when someone allegedly poured a chemical on them while they were sleeping on the roof of their house in Paksa village of Gonda, police said on Tuesday.

Tagging a video in which the father of the girls is narrating the incident to media persons, Priyanka Gandhi tweeted, "This man's three daughters aged 17, 10 & 8 were asleep in their home when someone entered and threw acid on them." She further added, "The UP government's politically motivated narrative of justifying and protecting perpetrators of crimes against women has only emboldened criminals across the state."

Superintendent of police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said the incident took place on Monday night when the girls were sleeping on the roof of their house. An unidentified person poured a chemical on the eldest girl and some of it fell on her younger sisters as well who were sleeping with her. Asked if it was an acid attack, the SP said, "The chemical used in the attack is yet to be ascertained. It will be clear after a probe by experts."

The Congress has been attacking the UP government over the Hathras incident in which a 19-year-old Dalit woman from the district was allegedly raped and attacked by four men.

## It's showtime again



A worker wearing PPE kit sanitises a cinema hall in New Delhi on Tuesday, as multiplexes prepare to reopen from October 15 after seven months of closure due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

— PTI

## BJP expels 9 rebels leaders for 6yrs

## Party expels leaders after they decide to contest upcoming Bihar elections on LJP ticket

NAYEAR AZADI | DC  
PATNA, OCT. 13

In a major move, the BJP has initiated tough action against its rebel leaders for abandoning the party and joining hands with Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ahead of Bihar Assembly elections.

The BJP insiders said that the party has expelled nine senior leaders for six years after they decided to contest polls on LJP ticket. The suspension letter was issued by BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal on Monday evening.

Among those who have been expelled is Ravindra Yadav, sitting MLA from Jhajha. He has been fielded by the LJP after the seat went to the JD(U). Another big name to be fielded by the LJP against the JD(U) nominee is a four-time BJP MLA from Nokha constituency. He was upset after the seat went to the JD(U).

Rajendra Singh is another prominent face who has been suspended from the BJP for accepting a ticket from Dinara constituency.

● **AMONG THOSE** who have been expelled is Ravindra Yadav, sitting MLA from Jhajha. He has been fielded by LJP after the seat went to JD(U).

He has been fielded by the LJP against the JD(U) nominee and a minister in Nitish Kumar's cabinet Jai Kumar Singh.

In 2015, he had contested against Jai Kumar Singh from the seat but lost. Rajendra Singh's switching sides has raised eyebrows in Bihar political circles as he was seen as an active RSS member.

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal in his letter clearly states that the party's and NDA's image has been maligned by nine leaders who are contesting polls against the NDA on LJP ticket.

"You are being suspended for six years for indulging in anti-party activities", the BJP notice said.

The development is being seen as a major setback for the BJP which is contesting Assembly elections in alliance with

Nitish Kumar's JD(U), Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insaan Party.

Before the announcement of seat-sharing last week, the LJP had pulled off the NDA defying the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The LJP had, however, announced that the party's ties with BJP will remain intact and it will not field candidates against the saffron party during Bihar elections.

The LJP has fielded 42 candidates against the JD(U) and two other smaller parties HAM and VIP for the first phase of polls. However, no candidate has been fielded against the BJP.

The JD(U) is contesting 122 seats out of which seven has been allotted to Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM. While the BJP has been allotted 121 seats and it has given 11 seats from its quota to Mukesh Sahani's VIP.

The Assembly elections in Bihar for 243 seats are to be held in three phases beginning October 28 and results will be declared on November 10.

## Cong seeks dismissal of 14 non-MLA mantris in MP

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, OCT. 13

Congress has moved the Election Commission (EC) seeking dismissal of 14 non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj government for allegedly misusing their offices to influence voters ahead of November 3 by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

The Opposition party said their continuance in the offices may deny free and fair by-polls particularly in the Assembly constituencies they were seeking re-elections in the upcoming by-polls.

"The 14 non-Congress MLAs have been making various promises and laying foundation stones for various schemes to influence voters in their

respective constituencies. This is gross misuse of their positions and violation of model code of conduct", Congress spokesman here Narendra Saluja said on Tuesday.

The party took up the matter with the EC for action late on Monday.

Saluja alleged that the non-MLA ministers were also misusing the government machinery in the by-elections.

Ruling BJP however denied the allegations. "The allegations are politically motivated. None of these ministers violated the model code of conduct during electioneering. The Congress is leveling wild charges against them out of sheer frustration", BJP spokesman here Rajneesh Agrawal said.

The 14 ministers were among the 22 former Congress MLAs who resigned from the Assembly and subsequently from their party in March this year leading to the fall of 15-month-old Kamal Nath government.

All the 22 former MLAs, staunch followers of senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, later joined the BJP.

The BJP has re-nominated all the 22 former Congress MLAs in their respective Assembly constituencies in the November 3 by-elections. Three more Congress legislators quit their party and joined Congress in July this year.

All the three former MLAs have also been given tickets by BJP to contest from their respective Assembly seats in the upcoming by-elections.

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## ‘Don’t need your certificate to prove my Hindutva’

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

War of words broke out between Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday over reopening of temples in the state. Both the leaders sent hard-hitting letters to each other. While Koshiyari questioned Thackeray's commitment to Hindutva, the CM retorted saying he doesn't need the governor's cer-

tificate. NCP chief Sharad Pawar also backed the CM and wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protest the "intemperate language" used by the Governor.

The Maharashtra Governor had written a letter to Thackeray on Monday urging him to reopen the places of worship in the state. He said that it was ironic that while the state government has allowed the opening of bars, restaurants and beaches, "gods

and goddesses have been condemned to stay in the lockdown".

"You have been a strong votary of Hindutva. You had publicly espoused your devotion for Lord Rama by visiting Ayodhya after taking charge as the Chief Minister. You had visited the Vitthal Rukmini Mandir in Pandharpur and performed the Puja on Ashadhi Ekadashi. I wonder if you are receiving promotion to keep postponing the reopening of

the places of worship time and again or have you suddenly turned 'secular' yourself, the term you hated?" Koshiyari wrote to Thackeray, who also sent a strongly worded response to the Governor.

Informing the Governor that his government will consider his request to reopen temples, Thackeray wondered if Hindutva meant merely reopening places of religious worship to Koshiyari. Responding to the Governor's secularism

jibe, Thackeray wrote, "Isn't secularism a key component of the Constitution, by which you swore while taking oath as the state Governor?"

"I don't need your certificate for my Hindutva. While considering the sentiments and beliefs of the people, it is also important to take care of their lives and it is wrong to impose and lift lockdown suddenly," Thackeray wrote.

Interestingly, the Governor's letter to the CM came in the wake of two-days

protests carried out by the Bharatiya Janata Party demanding reopening of temples. The BJP on Tuesday held protests outside temples in various cities in Maharashtra.

Mumbai, BJP workers led by MLC Prasad Lad and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Praveen Darekar tried to enter the famous Siddhivinayak temple as part of an agitation. In Pune, BJP activists staged a demonstration outside the Tambadi Jogeshwari temple.

## FARM | BILLS Policy experts, industry leaders &amp; academicians with agri sector praise the recently passed Bills

## Centre reaches out to stakeholders to clear confusion

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Reaching out to stakeholders to allay apprehensions about the recently passed farm Bills, Union minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday met policy experts, industry leaders and academicians associated with the agriculture sector, who were all praise for the new legislation.

Singh along with agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has so far held a series of meetings with farmers and many others associated with the farm sector to deliberate upon the three agriculture-related Bills recently passed by the Parliament.

part of the delegation that met both Union ministers, said it was a good interaction and praised the government for bringing these three Bills.

"In a way these three farm Bills will usher a new era of reforms in the agriculture sector and will give farmers' independence from the clutches of the middle men and help in getting them better prices for their produce," Gambhir told reporters after the meeting.

Echoing similar sentiments, Chairman of Punj-

● **RAJNATH SINGH** along with agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has so far held a series of meetings with farmers and many others associated with the farm sector to deliberate upon the three agriculture-related Bills recently passed by the Parliament.

ab-based Green Valley Farms, R.P.S. Gandhi said there are enormous benefits of the new farm-related legislation but the farmers need to be made aware and educated about it.

He said talking to the farmers in their own language is important so that there is no confusion about these three Bills.

Last week, Singh had a long meeting with a delegation of award winning farmers including a Padma Shri awardee to deliberate on the government's farm legislations.

Earlier in a statement, Singh had assured that the MSP mechanism will stay and the support price will continue to rise under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

The meetings with a number of stakeholders in the agriculture sector are being held at Singh's residence here.

Chairman of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture M.J. Khan who was present in all the meetings held so far said in a way it is a dialogue process between farmers, key stakeholders in the agriculture sector and the centre to clear any apprehensions and misgivings about the farm bills.

— PTI

## Kangana booked by K'taka police over tweet on farmers

**Bengaluru, Oct. 13:** A case has been registered against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in Karnataka over her tweet allegedly targeting farmers protesting against contentious central farm laws, police said on Tuesday.

The case was registered by police in Tumakuru district on Monday based on the recent order of a local court.

It has been registered

under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 108 (abetment), wanton vilification upon a community (153A) and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace (504), police said.

The Tumakuru Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court had on October 9 directed police to register an FIR on a complaint by lawyer L. Ramesh Naik who contended that the September

4 VACCINES IN  
ADVANCED STAGE  
OF PRE-CLINICAL  
TRIALS IN INDIADC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

A steady decline in fresh positive cases of Coronavirus is being noted in India now as 55,342 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours taking the country's overall figures to 71.76 lakh.

According to Union health ministry, the average daily Covid-19 positivity rate has declined from 8.50 per cent between September 9-15 to 6.24 per cent between October 7-13.

"Decline in cumulative, weekly and daily Covid-19 positivity rates stand at 8.07%, 6.24% and 5.16%, respectively. There is a significant increase in testing for Covid-19 and there is also a continuous decline in positivity rate," said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. He added that there are 8.39 lakh active cases in the country as on date and they have been below the 9 lakh mark for the fifth consecutive day.

Niti Aayog member Dr V.K. Paul said though the country has managed to stabilise the spread of virus, coming winters and the festival season pose a serious challenge as sharp increase in fresh cases are expected during this time. He gave example of other countries where the virus has re-emerged in winters.

The fatalities due to the virus too seems to be coming down as in the last 24 hours 706 deaths were recorded across India taking total fatality figures to 1, 09, 856. Bhushan said about 70% of Covid-19 deaths are of males and 30% fatalities from the infection have been reported in females. About 35% deaths are of patients in 45-60 yrs age group, 10% in 26-44 yrs age group and about 53% in patients aged 60 and above.

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said vaccine against Coronavirus is expected to be available in India by early next year and there could be vaccines from more than one source.

"We are expecting that early next year, we should have vaccine in the country from maybe more than one source. Our expert groups are already formulating and devising strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccines in the country, who do we give the vaccine first and then of course we are strengthening the cold chain facilities," he said during a meeting of the group of ministers. He added at present, four vaccines are in advanced stages of pre-clinical trial in India.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Covid-19 situation in Maharashtra is worrisome.

"The danger of Coronavirus still persists. In Maharashtra, the situation is a little more worrying. I appeal to everyone, don't be careless when it comes to wearing masks and social distancing," he said.

21 tweet on the actor's Twitter handle @KanganaTeam had hurt him. "People who spread misinformation and rumours about CAA that caused riots are the same people who are now spreading misinformation about farmers bill and causing terror in the nation, they are terrorists. You very well know what I said but simply like to spread misinformation," Ranaut had tweeted.

— PTI



## IN BRIEF

## Muslims protest in Indonesia

**Jakarta:** Thousands of conservative Muslims marched in Indonesia's capital on Tuesday demanding that the government revoke a new law that say will cripple labour rights. Authorities blocked streets leading to the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, where clashes between riot police and rock-throwing demonstrators, including workers and students, broke out last Thursday. The protests spread and turned violent in some cities across the world's most populous Muslim nation, but calm had largely returned to Jakarta over the past four days.

## US hits Taliban with airstrikes

**Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan):** American forces carried out several airstrikes in support of Afghan security forces under attack by the Taliban in southern Helmand province, a spokesperson for the US military in Afghanistan said on Monday. Colonel Sonny Leggett said the recent Taliban attacks in Helmand are "not consistent" with a US-Taliban deal signed in February and undermine ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks. He said the airstrikes do not violate the February deal. The Taliban "need to immediately stop their offensive actions in Helmand Province and reduce their violence around the country," Leggett said in a statement on Twitter, quoting Gen. Scott Miller, the commander of the US Forces in Afghanistan.

## Indian-origin patron wins award in US

**Washington:** Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The lifetime achievement award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHY) was presented to Kotecha, who is founder and president of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference on October 9, a statement said.

## 49 stranded Indians return home

**Dubai:** A total of 49 Indians, who were stranded for several months in the UAE after being abandoned by their employers, have been repatriated after the Indian mission here helped them secure their passports and security deposits from two companies, a media report said on Tuesday. The expats were abandoned and unpaid for the last six months after two Dubai-based carpentry firms owned by Indians shut during the Coronavirus pandemic without informing their staff, the Gulf News reported. Left to fend for themselves, the expats reached out to the Indian Consulate in Dubai in July and sought help to return home.

## VIRUS REINFECTION MIGHT SEVERE SYMPTOMS

**Houston, Oct. 13:** Covid-19 patients infected with the Coronavirus for a second time might experience more severe symptoms, according to a study which is the first to confirm a case of reinfection with the virus in the US.

The study, published in the journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, found evidence that an individual with no known immune disorders or underlying conditions was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two separate occurrences. According to the scientists, including those from the University of Nevada in the US, the patient, a 25-year old male, was infected with two distinct SARS-CoV-2 variants within a 48-day time frame, while testing negative in between infections.

The study noted that the patient's second infection was more severe, resulting in hospitalisation with oxygen support, indicating previous exposure to Covid-19 may not translate to guaranteed total immunity. The patient tested negative for the virus after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in April 2020, the researchers said. Then in June 2020, after experiencing severe Covid-19 symptoms, including fever, headache, dizziness, cough, nausea, and diarrhea, the patient was hospitalised and tested positive for a second time.

## Trump holds 1st rally since Covid

Busy schedule of the Prez comes amid unanswered question of travel impact on his health

**Sanford (US), Oct. 13:** Just a week after his release from the hospital, President Donald Trump returned to the campaign trail on Monday for the first time since contracting the Coronavirus as he tries to stage a late comeback in the election's final stretch.

"It's great to be back in my home state, Florida, to make my official return to the campaign trail," Trump declared in front of a crowd of thousands of supporters, standing shoulder-to-shoulder, mostly without masks, despite the ongoing pandemic.

"I am so energised by your prayers and humbled by your support" he said. Trump, whose doctor said on Monday for the first time that he had received a negative test for Covid-19, is pushing to correct a stubborn deficit in national and battleground state polling. His Sanford rally on Monday night was his first stop in a busy week that will include events in Pennsylvania, Iowa, North Carolina and Wisconsin. The robust schedule underscores the work Trump needs to do as he tries to win over voters just three weeks before Election Day. And it comes amid still-unanswered questions about the impact so much travel so soon could have on the 74-year-old president's health.

The progression of Covid-19 is often unpredictable, and there can be long-term complications. After Air Force One lifted off from Joint Base An-

draws, the president's doctor released an update on his health that said Trump had tested negative for the virus — and had done so on consecutive days.

His doctor, Navy Cmdr. Scott Conley, said that the tests, taking in conjunction with other data, including viral load, have led him to conclude that Trump was not contagious.

For days, the White House had sidestepped questions as to whether Trump had tested negative. Conley over the weekend said that the president met Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for safely discontinuing isolation and that by "currently recognised standards," Trump was no longer considered a transmission risk.

Trump, eager to return to campaigning, says he is now "immune" to the virus — a claim that is impossible to prove given limitations in what scientists know about the Coronavirus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, said on Monday that those who recover from Covid-19 are likely to be immune for a limited period of time, but there are cases emerging of people getting reinfected weeks or months later. Fauci, speaking as Trump was prepared to depart the White House for Florida, questioned the wisdom of holding such an event. He noted that test positivity rates are climbing in parts of the Sun Belt. "We know that that is

## Amid poll fears, Microsoft targets malware network

**Washington, Oct. 13:** Microsoft announced legal action on Monday seeking to disrupt a major cybercrime digital network that uses more than 1 million zombie computers to loot bank accounts and spread ransomware, which experts consider a major threat to the US presidential election.

The operation to knock offline command-and-control servers for a global botnet that uses an infrastructure known as Trickbot to infect computers with malware was initiated with an order that Microsoft obtained in Virginia federal court on Oct. 6.

Microsoft argued that the crime network is abusing its trademark. "It is very hard to tell how effective it will be but we are confident it will have a very long-lasting effect," said Jean-lan Boutin, head of threat research at ESET, one of

several cybersecurity firms that partnered with Microsoft to map the command-and-control servers. "We're sure that they are going to notice and it will be hard for them to get back to the state that the botnet was in," Cybersecurity experts said that Microsoft's use of a U.S. court order to persuade internet providers to take down the botnet servers is laudable.

— AP

● **TRUMP'S DOCTOR** said that the tests, taking in conjunction with other data, including viral load, have led him to conclude that Trump was not contagious.

asking for trouble when you do that," Fauci said.

Some medical experts have also voiced skepticism that Trump could be declared contagion-free so soon. And it was unclear what — if any — added precautions and safety measures the campaign planned to take to prevent the trip from further spreading a virus that has already infected so many of the president's closest aides and allies, including his campaign manager and the head of the Republican Party.

## Bipartisan Christian group opposes Don

**Washington, Oct. 13:** A group of prominent Christians from both sides of the aisle, including a past faith adviser to former President Barack Obama, is forming a political action committee designed to chip away at Christian support for President Donald Trump in the final weeks of the 2020 campaign.

Dubbed Not Our Faith, the new super PAC plans to roll out six-figure TV and digital ads focused on Christian voters — particularly the evangelical and Catholic voters who helped power Trump to victory in

2016. Its first digital ad, set to run in Michigan and Pennsylvania, takes sharp aim at Trump's claim to a foothold with Christians.

The ad says Trump "has used Christianity for his own purposes," invoking imagery of the Republican president's photo on outside a historic Washington church amid this summer's racial justice demonstrations. Urging Christians to break from Trump, the ad states that they "don't need Trump to save them. The truth is that Trump needs Christians to save his flailing campaign."

## NIKKI HALEY SLAMS BIDEN, HARRIS FOR THEIR POLICIES

**Washington, Oct. 13:** Popular Republican politician Nikki Haley has hit out at Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden for being a "status quo" on China and wanting to revive the Iran nuclear deal while accusing his running mate and Senator Kamala Harris for advancing the leftist agenda.

Indian-American Haley, 48, had so far refrained from publicly criticising 55-year old Harris, has now come out in open against the California Senator's policies, which the former US Ambassador to the UN said was reflective of Harris' leftist agenda.

"Harris pledged to repeal the 2017 tax cut and invest in the American people, revealing the left's fundamental philosophy that government is better equipped to spend people's money than the people themselves," she said in a tweet. Haley is one of the most popular Republican politicians in the US after Trump and is seen as party's potential presidential candidate in 2024. The two-term Governor of South Carolina, Haley was the first Cabinet-ranking Indian-American in any presidential administration.



Donald Trump

## I'LL GIVE YOU'LL A BIG FAT KISS, SAYS TRUMP

**Sanford (US), Oct. 13:** Deprived of his beloved campaign trail for 10 days by Covid-19, President Donald Trump took center stage again on Monday in Florida, vowing that he is in "great shape" with 22 days to go until he faces Joe Biden in the election.

"I went through it and now they say I'm immune," Trump told a cheering crowd in Sanford, near Orlando, few of whom wore masks.

"I feel so powerful. I'll walk in there, I'll kiss everyone in that audience. I'll kiss the guys and the beautiful women, just give you a big fat kiss."

Trump's medical team announced he had tested negative and was no longer contagious as he jetted to Florida — the first of four battleground states he plans to visit over the next four days. His claim of immunity is unproven.

— AFP

## SECOND J&amp;J VACCINE TRIAL HALTED OVER ILLNESS

**New Brunswick (US), Oct. 13:** A late-stage study of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine candidate has been paused while the company investigates whether a study participant's "unexplained illness" is related to the shot.

The company said in a statement on Monday evening that illnesses, accidents and other so-called adverse events "are an expected part of any clinical study, especially large studies," but that its physicians and a safety monitoring panel would try to determine what might have caused the illness.

The pause is at least the second such hold to occur among several vaccines that have reached large-scale final tests in the US. The company declined to reveal any more details about the illness, citing the participant's privacy. Temporary stoppages of large medical studies are relatively common. Few are made public in typical drug trials, but the work to make a Coronavirus vaccine has raised the stakes on these kinds of complications.

Companies are required to investigate any serious or unexpected reaction that occurs during drug testing. Given that such tests are done on tens of thousands of people, some medical problems are a coincidence. In fact, one of the first steps the company said it will take is to determine if the person received the vaccine or a placebo. The halt was first reported by the health news site STAT.

— AP

## Day of the Race



A demonstrator paints the helmet of a riot police officer near a statue of Christopher Columbus which was surrounded by a metal fence for protection, during Columbus Day in Mexico City, on Tuesday, October 12 commemorates the arrival of Columbus to America in 1492, which in Mexico is called the 'Day of the Race'. — AFP

## Chinese FM terms US Indo-Pacific strategy a "huge security risk"

**Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 13:** The United States poses a "huge security risk" to Asia by pushing to boost engagement with the region, China's foreign minister said on Tuesday during a tour of Southeast Asia, where Beijing and Washington are locked in a battle for influence.

Speaking in Malaysia, Wang Yi said the US's real aim is "to build an Indo-Pacific NATO," in a strategy he said harkened back to the Cold War. Washington is trying to "stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs, and stir up geopolitical competition

● **WANG'S TONE** is typical of China's increasingly hard-line approach to disputes with Washington.

while maintaining the pre-dominance and hegemony system of the US," Wang said at a joint news conference with his Malaysian counterpart, Hishammuddin Hussein. "In this sense, this strategy itself is a huge security risk," Wang said.

Wang also urged Southeast Asian nations, which are aiming to draw up a code of conduct with China in the South China

Sea, to remove "external disruption" in the disputed waters, but did not elaborate. Wang's tone is typical of China's increasingly hard-line approach to disputes with Washington as it seeks to capitalise on political divisions within the US and a perceived decline in America's global influence to advance its own foreign policy aims.

China's aggressive moves to assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, through which a third of global shipping passes, have drawn rebuke from the United States and become a flashpoint for a region in which Southeast

Asian nations Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all have rival claims. Hishammuddin said the disputes over the South China Sea must be resolved peacefully through regional dialogue.

The US says its Indo-Pacific engagement framework supports sovereignty, transparency, good governance and a rules-based order, among other things. By using the term "Indo-Pacific," the US also wants to propagate the idea that the region stretches far beyond China's backyard and the tiger economies of East Asia to include the Indian Ocean.

— AP

## COVID | IMPACT

Pandemic to leave deep scars on world economy, says Gita

## IMF puts total economic loss at \$28tn

**Washington, Oct. 13:** The International Monetary Fund has scaled back its estimate of the hit to the global economy from Covid-19 this year but warned that the final bill for the pandemic would total \$28tn (£21.5tn) in lost output.

In its flagship world economic outlook, the IMF said a stronger than expected performance in the second and third quarters meant it believed glob-

al output would fall by 4.4 per cent in 2020 compared with the 5.2 per cent drop forecast during the summer.

But the Washington-based organisation said rising infection rates in some emerging market economies had forced it to pare back its estimate of the rebound in 2021 from 5.4 per cent to 5.2 per cent. The gap between rich and poor countries was growing, it added.

Gita Gopinath, the IMF's economic counsellor, described Covid-19 as the worst crisis since the Great Depression, and said the pandemic would leave deep and enduring scars caused by job losses, weaker investment and children being deprived of education.

"The cumulative loss in output relative to the pre-pandemic projected path is projected to grow from \$11tn over 2020-21 to \$28tn

over 2020-25," Gopinath said in a blog. "This represents a severe setback to the improvement in average living standards across all country groups."

The IMF said swift action by central banks had softened the impact of the damage to economic activity caused by lockdowns, and warned against the premature removal of support measures.

Gopinath said: "The considerable global fiscal sup-

port of close to \$12tn and the extensive rate cuts, liquidity injections, and asset purchases by central banks helped save lives and livelihoods and prevented a financial catastrophe."

With the UK announcing a tiered system of local lockdowns this week, Gopinath said that "to the extent possible, policies must aggressively focus on limiting persistent economic damage from this crisis".

— Agencies



DECCAN  
Chronicle

14 OCTOBER 2020

# Demand stimulus on offer is too little

Spending to resuscitate the pandemic-hit economy will face longer delays because of the stalemate over making up for the revenue shortfall by way of GST. In the absence of an agreement on how to cover the Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall expected by March 2021, state governments will be left largely to their own devices to work out how to pick themselves up after heavy expenditure on tackling the coronavirus and looking after the sick over the last several months, in which time their SGDP would have also slackened considerably. The data flow on Monday from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are indicators of the extent of the bind the Indian economy is in even as rising headline inflation flashes warning signs over the future of the accommodative stance of RBI's monetary policy, because rising inflation may not be transitory as the MPC may have perceived it to be.

In the face of dispiriting data, which however is common enough in a phase when a second wave of the coronavirus is threatening the world economy, came the somewhat good news over a spending stimulus estimated at around ₹73,000 crores declared by the finance minister. If states also follow suit and gladden their employees with sops and festival cash advances, the stimulus could touch ₹1 lakh crore. Even that would appear to be a drop in the ocean in a country with a GDP close to three trillion dollars. All the fiscal stimulus put together would amount to just about 1.2 per cent of GDP, including the grandstanding announcements. The much trumpeted ₹20 lakh crore stimulus had more to do with lines of credit to industry and MSMEs rather than cash payments that several countries like the US, UK, Japan and South Korea made to come to the aid of those worst hit by the pandemic — people, companies and trade.

In the final analysis, the Centre has shown a distinct lack of imagination in opening up the purse strings at a time when governments had to contribute the most to get the economies going again. Handing out lollipops to babus and the rich by way of tax write-offs through the purchase of consumer durables in lieu of leave travel concession is indicative of a conservative mindset just when a lot more was called for. Cash doles to the poorest — which some state governments did attempt but with too little in their kitty to make a real difference to lives and livelihoods of the most stricken — and tax breaks to the middle class to stimulate festive demand would have been ideal ways to show that governments at the Centre and the states were willing to cover the interests of all. The enormity of the growth hit will become known as we transit from the strict lockdowns to the final “unlock”, which is when the relatively small size of the demand stimulus will show up how niggardly the Centre has been and that very quality is reflected in its reluctance to fulfil sovereign guarantees on the GST growth shortfall.

## Keep Bollywood unfettered

Bollywood, cricket, politics. There is hardly an Indian citizen not occupied by any of the above. If there is a single activity that has a hold on the minds of the general public, and is arguably the lever to mould them, it is that of storytelling as performed by Indian cinema. A story has more power than it is usually given credit for. It is, at its core, the purveyor of an idea. More than television news, newspapers or literature in the various languages, the Hindi film industry is the single largest vehicle of ideas, and for long it has enacted its roles of both thought pioneer as well as force multiplier against Indian conservatism, caste tyrannies and non-egalitarian power structures. That role is now being challenged.

Quite aside from propaganda assisted by sections of the media that this industry is a den of drugs, nepotism, corruption and other venal vices, all of which are nonetheless pervasive in almost every field and walk of life, and the hounding of personalities like Deepika Padukone and Anurag Kashyap whose political opinions differ from the official line, both have, at different times, registered their protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, there is the very noteworthy departure from the trend of realist and experimental, creative, filmmaking that had begun in the early Oughties and continued to entertain us through the Twenty-tens. Starting from *Uri: The Surgical Strike* through *Kesari* to *Manikarnika*, many prominent and officially publicised films released in the last two years, including super-duper hits like *War*, *Pad Man* and *Padmaavat*, had a militaristic or moralistic theme. Wearing its patriotism on its sleeve, the National Film Development Corporation organised an online patriotic film festival as part of the Independence Day celebrations this year. It must be remembered that the Joseph McCarthy era witch-hunts and Hollywood blacklists effectively ended the careers of hundreds of directors, actors and writers.

Very recently, auteur Karan Johar has tweeted that the “film fraternity” will come together to celebrate the hoary “valour, values and the culture of India”. It is, however, less unexpected than the tweet of his industry colleague, Vivek Agnihotri, who has publicly opined that Bollywood has “destroyed Indian culture”. The crony capitalist nexus is well-known. Now with government forces infiltrating erstwhile independent institutions like banks, universities and the judiciary and the nationalist versus anti-national rhetoric drowning all reason, alarm bells have rung. It is time to issue a caveat. What we are witnessing today is the rise of “Godi Bollywood” following a similar rise of the “Godi media”.

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Subhani



# Can CMs help India set up political alternative?



Sanjiwan Sahni

How will a credible challenger to the incumbent Prime Minister emerge?

The current wisdom, and most opinion polls, indicate that the PM's popularity is overwhelming, leading to the TINA (there is no alternative) factor.

The largest Opposition party's leadership, even as it asks the government the right questions, fails to make any impact. There is a lack of credibility in its present leadership and little hope that it will improve in a hurry.

The divided Opposition also hasn't been able to throw up a candidate who will hold appeal on a pan-India basis. Many chief ministers and other regional leaders have local spheres of influence, but don't have a presence in most areas outside their direct domain. As a result, the nation doesn't have a credible leader in sight who could effectively take on the PM, let alone be considered as a replacement.

The question is — how will one emerge?

Over time, India has thrown up regional leaders, particularly CMs, who had the ability and in fact have shouldered the responsibility of leading the country. Even the present PM falls into that category. Experience as a CM is an important ingredient in the grooming of a Prime Minister. It's not necessarily a sufficient one, but certainly an indicator of where potential challengers could emerge.

Recent developments, including but not limited to a steep decline in economic performance, most recently reflected by the 23.9 per cent negative GDP growth; using majoritarianism to impose divisive steps like the CAA, NRC, and the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution, are illustrative. The domination of multimedia communications to reinforce this divisive agenda, dilution

of protective democratic institutions are all well known, but have not been catalysts of bringing about changed electoral attitudes. This is not new. But it seems that recent developments which have aggravated friction in Centre-state ties could become a powerful trigger, which if properly institutionalised and propagated, might provide the route to change.

What is suggested is the creation of an institutionalised forum that could become one of the supportive pillars of democracy. The compulsion to create such an institution will come from the growing Centre-state rifts. The reneging on GST commitments, intruding on the states' domain in agriculture to pass legislation without due consultation, amending laws to take control of the cooperative finance sector and authoritarian use of the Disaster Management Act for centralised pandemic management are some examples.

These should become the trigger for states (in practice, non-BJP states) to join hands in a formal forum. This could comprise the CMs and leaders of the Opposition as members. This would obviously be across party lines, but the membership wouldn't be decided by political parties. It would comprise the elected representatives in states, including CMs and LOPs, and it could in turn create a body of experienced bureaucrats, legal experts and eminent citizens both to advise the forum headed by CMs as well as act as spokespersons.

The CMs will have credible reach in their states and perhaps beyond. The spokespersons and experts would send appropriately approved messages on behalf of the forum, not themselves. Therefore, it would not rest on their individual credibility, but messaging from a mass based politically credible entity.

Think of such a body that could include people

like Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Subramanian, Ravish Kumar, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Derek O'Brien, Shashi Tharoor and others that the CMs/LOPs and other leaders with their ear to the ground would choose. In essence, good communication skills would be backed by experience to send collective messages on matters of importance to the people.

The focus of coordination would be Centre-state relations, but clearly it would also include matters of importance to the nation as a whole.

The process of creating such an institution is far less complex and more administratively feasible than trying to create alliances between parties and multiple states. The forum also has the advantage of creating a competitive environment where state CMs and LOPs could compete for visibility to get their points of view across to their constituents and also become examples for a wider audience. This process would throw up potential leaders who would get wider acceptability from their states as well as the national audience.

There are several important issues that remain on the backburner, but which need to be debated and brought to the forefront. For the present, we will use one example as an illustration of what if collectively rather than individually brought into the public domain would help bring a new important discourse of material relevance to change the course of events in India.

Today, the nationalism card is equated with propagating India's strength. Combined with majoritarianism, aggressive stances have been taken both internally and now increasingly externally.

**What is suggested is the creation of an institutionalised forum that could become one of the supportive pillars of democracy. The compulsion to create such an institution will come from the growing Centre-state rifts.**

Electoral benefits have followed.

However, there is no mention, leave alone widespread understanding, of the costs of such a policy. The costs of controlling Kashmir after Article 370's abrogation, internal insurgencies, and in some ways the minorities, must be researched, assessed and broadcast. The aggressive stances with Pakistan and China have now been supplemented by differences with Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. All these entail huge costs, which the country can ill afford to bear, keeping in mind the fragile economic situation, the high level of poverty and the government's inability to provide the required stimulus.

There is no way India can achieve the growth levels it aspires to with the continuation of policies that in fact are fighting internal-external battles at the expense of funding and alleviating poverty.

What is the alternative?

Modern defence systems can offer maximum deterrence through nuclear capability and technological edge, including digital and IT innovations. This combined with diplomacy should be our key negotiating stance externally. Even Pakistan uses nuclear deterrence to keep us from taking any major military initiatives.

Internally, the divisive agenda should be replaced by policies that help the State carry along all its citizens. Most important, and relevant to the suggested changes, is cooperation rather than friction between New Delhi and the states. No other initiative will be more conducive to rapid progress all around and achieving the growth targets needed to alleviate poverty. Only a collective forum can initiate a meaningful dialogue on issues like nationalism. With properly researched facts, political will and diplomatic endeavours, this is eminently achievable. A transformation could follow peace could replace aggression all around.

*The writer is a management and economic adviser*

### LETTERS

#### SPENDING SOPS

The sops to employees announced by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the form of advance and encashment of leave travel concession to boost purchasing power is nothing but a gimmick to make them purchase things not essential because whatever they purchase should carry GST of 12 per cent or more. She also said that this would increase the sales of electronic and durable items only to help industrial giants. The fact is that middle and lower middle class people are badly in need of purchasing power to make both ends meet which is not addressed to by the finance minister.

**D.S.P. Rao  
Kakinada**

#### ECONOMICS NOBEL

It is heartening and cheering to read amid Covid times that two American economists won the Nobel Prize for improving the theory of auction work and better auction formats for the economy. Their discovery has benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers of the world. This would bring a sea change in the area of e-commerce.

**Dr K. Ghanshyam  
Visakhapatnam**

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

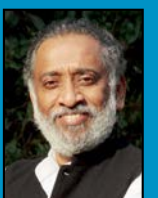
### Nagarjunasagar to be international tourist centre

By a staff reporter  
HYDERABAD, Oct. 13  
The Tourist Department of the Government of India and the India Tourism Development Corporation have committed to develop the Nagarjunasagar Project in the State as an international tourist centre.

The proposals for making the Nagarjunasagar as a major tourist attraction included building up of a house guest with 40 rooms, provision of 3 hydro-foil boats, 2 launches and a swimming pool.

Disclosing this to reporters State Minister for Women's Welfare and Tourism, Mrs Roda Mistry said here today that the Director-General of Tourism, Mr. S. K. Roy, who is also the Chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation and Mr. B. N. Raman, Additional Director General of Tourism had already visited the projects in this connection.

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



## RAW & IB set to teach tax officers about 'tradecraft'

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers trying to nab economic offenders will now get an edge after undergoing training from spooks. Officers from the nation's premier intelligence agencies, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB), have been roped in to train them in intelligence “tradecraft”.

Sources say that revenue officers from the Enforcement Directorate, income tax, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, CBI and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence will be training in gathering intelligence and handling digital and forensic evidence. The training programme is being conducted by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) of the finance ministry.

Apparently, nine course modules have been developed. While RAW and IB sleuths will conduct training

of Group A officers of the Indian Revenue Service, some other modules are open to officers starting from superintendent level up to principal commissioners. Other courses include investigating economic crimes in the securities market, trade-based money laundering and also legal aspects. Hopefully, after training these “specialists” will make economic offenders think twice before violating the law.

#### TRANSFER TRAVAILS OF A SENIOR COP

Frequent transfer is a fait accompli in government. But Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner Sandeep Bishnoi who was recently transferred has approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) challenging his transfer order.

He was moved out from his post in less than a year. He has been suc-

ceeded by Krishna Prakash, a 1998-batch IPS officer.

Mr Bishnoi has stated that “such abrupt transfers without justification or valid reason is contrary to law and ought to be set aside”. Mr Bishnoi and Mr Prakash are part of a major reshuffle carried out by the state government in which around 50 officials were transferred.

Mr Prakash is the third police commissioner of Pimpri-Chinchwad in two years after the state government established the commissionerate in the industrial town, as law and order became a challenge following a rise in the number of street crimes and cases of vandalism. Mr Bishnoi's predecessor, senior IPS officer R.K. Padmanabhan, too was transferred before completing two years in office.

**ADHOCISM MAY UNDERMINE RAILWAY REFORMS**

After the heady announcement heralding long-awaited reforms, Indian Railways is moving cautiously on the implementation. Some observers are surprised at the slow pace. From the time when Covid-19 struck and passenger rail traffic almost stopped, the Railways have had plenty of time on its hands to consider its internal rearrangement.

While all posts of members of the Railway Board are ex-cadre now and should be filled with suitable officers, based on seniority and residual service, the railway ministry is edging ahead with great caution. Sources say that the post of director general of HR (DGGHR) was filled with an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer, even though more senior officers from other cadres are eligible and available. It is also being reported that the post of member, traffic and

rolling stock, is likely to be given to an officer from the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE). Similarly, there seems to be a proposal to appoint the member (finance) from the Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS).

So far so good. But there is some grumbling among the Indian Railways Service of Engineers (IRSE) and Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSM), which seem to have lost out on apex grade posts to the other services in the new plan.

According to sources, the railway ministry is still not drafted the recruitment rules, which may explain the sense of ad-hocism prevailing in the ministry's actions.

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quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,625.51	0.08
Nifty 50	11,934.50	0.03
S&P 500*	3,520.22	-0.40
Dollar (₹)	73.35	-0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.61	-0.14
Euro (₹)	86.45	0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,989*133	0.25
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.55	0.83
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.904	0.005
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.737	-0.038

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

SIP inflows drop for 6th month in September

Investment in mutual funds through SIPs remained lacklustre with inflow dropping for the sixth-consecutive month to Rs 7,788 crore in September amid a challenging economic environment. The trend is expected to reverse only slowly as investors feel more confident to save more once their own income stream stabilises, said Vidya Bala, co-founder of Prime-investor.in. The industry added 7.37 lakh folios last month.

Deepak Kochhar sent back to ED custody



A special court in Mumbai remanded Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till Oct. 17. Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the ED in Sept. under the PMLA in the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case. He was remanded to the ED custody till Sept. 19, but it was suspended after he tested positive for coronavirus and was sent to judicial custody.

EPFO launches WhatsApp helpline service

Retirement fund body EPFO has launched a WhatsApp helpline service for speedy redressal of grievances of its subscribers, the labour ministry said. This facility is in addition to other means of grievance redressal forums which include EPFIGMS portal, CPGRAMS, social media platforms (Facebook & Twitter) and a 24x7 call centre. With WhatsApp, PF subscribers can interact directly with EPFO's regional offices.

Piaggio offers up to ₹10K benefits on Vespa, Aprilia

Italian automaker Piaggio announced benefits worth up to Rs 10,000 on the purchase of Vespa and Aprilia scooters as part of festive sales offer. The offer entails insurance benefit of up to Rs 7,000, complementary accessories worth upto Rs 4,000 and e-commerce booking benefit of Rs 2,000. The release stated, could be availed by Nov. 16, Piaggio India said. The firm is also offering free service.



India's GDP may contract by 10.3% in 2020 IMF projects 8.8% growth next year

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT. 13

The Indian economy is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday. However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021.

America's economy is projected to contract by 5.8 per cent in 2020 and grow by 3.9 per cent the next year. China is the only country, among the major economies, to show a positive growth rate of 1.9 per cent in 2020, it said.

The IMF in its report said that revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where GDP contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter. "As a result, the economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebounding by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said. In 2019, India's growth rate was 4.2 per cent. —PTI



\$6 trillion wiped off global economy: Unctad

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The lockdown measures in India could lead to a sharp recession in 2020. Despite a projected rebound in 2021, the contraction registered in 2020 could translate into a permanent income loss for the country, finds the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In the wake of the pandemic shocks, the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output short by over \$6 trillion by the year end of what economists had expected it to be before the Covid-19 pathogen began to spread, says the UNCTAD Trade and

Development Report 2020.

The UN agency expects South Asia and South-East Asia to contract 4.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively, in 2020 and recover 3.9 per cent and 4.3 per cent, respectively, in 2021.

"In the case of India, the baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as strict lockdown measures to stem the virus' spread brought many productive activities to a halt across the country. Although we expect a rebound in 2021 in line with the growth rates of the Indian economy in recent years, the contraction registered in 2020 is likely to translate into a permanent income loss," finds the report. —Bloomberg

China's stock market tops \$10 trillion

Oct. 13: Chinese domestic equities are worth more than \$10 trillion for the first time since 2015, when a record crash erased half the market's value in months and saddled millions of investors with losses.

The world's second-largest stock market has added \$3.3 trillion since a low in March, helped by Beijing's policies to encourage equity trading, a flurry of new listings and the strengthening yuan. Stocks have been close to the \$10 trillion milestone since July, when China's government acted to tame a speculative rally that had suddenly pushed a gauge of large caps near a 12-year high. The country's total market capitalisation is now \$10.04 trillion and just shy of the all-time high, according to data compiled by Bloomberg as of October 12. The US has the world's most valuable stock market at \$38.3 trillion.

Chinese shares have rallied since a long holiday break on optimism the government will introduce reforms to turn the region around Shenzhen into a global technology hub and that the ruling Communist Party will introduce policies to stimulate demand when it holds a major meeting later this month. Equities surged over the summer as margin debt climbed at the fastest pace since 2015 and turnover soared.

Covid cover can be renewed or merged into other policy

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 13

The insurance regulator on Tuesday allowed insurance companies to offer policyholders who have bought Covid-specific insurance covers to either renew, migrate or port their policies.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Tuesday issued revised guidelines in this regard. By the guidelines, 'Corona Kavach' and 'Corona Rakshak' policies of any tenure can be renewed for further terms of three-and-a-half months, six-and-a-half months or nine-and-a-half months, as per the option exercised by the policyholder, subject to the underwriting policy of the insurer.

Both the policies can be renewed till March 31, 2021. Similarly such policyholders can also port to a comprehensive



health plan.

Where the policy is renewed, an additional waiting period of 15 days should not be imposed and the coverage has to be continued seamlessly.

During renewal, policyholders can enhance the sum insured. For any increase in the sum insured, the waiting period shall start afresh only for the enhanced portion of the sum insured, said the regulator.

Renewals may be done before the expiry of the existing policy contract

said the Irdai in a circular issued to non-life and pure health insurance companies.

Inaugurated in July, Corona Kavach is an indemnity plan that will cover hospitalisation expenses. The cost of treatment for any comorbid condition, including pre-existing comorbid conditions along with the treatment for Covid-19, will be covered under this policy.

The sum insured in Corona Kavach policy ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh. On the other hand, Corona Rakshak is a fixed benefit plan in which if a policyholder is diagnosed with Covid-19 and hospitalised for three days, a fixed amount (sum insured) will be paid by the insurance companies. For Corona Rakshak Policy, the minimum sum insured would be Rs 50,000 and the maximum limit is set at Rs 2.5 lakh.

Wipro net falls 3.4%; buyback at ₹9,500 cr

New Delhi, Oct. 13: IT services major Wipro on Tuesday posted a 3.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,465.7 crore in the three months ended September and projected revenue growth in the December quarter even as it announced a plan to buyback shares worth up to Rs 9,500 crore.

The Bengaluru-based company, which had a net profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) at Rs 2,552.7 crore in the year-ago period, recorded

almost flat year-on-year revenue growth at Rs 15,114.5 crore in the latest September quarter.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the company's net profit climbed over 3 per cent while revenue was up by little over 1 per cent.

Wipro CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte said the demand environment has improved from the first quarter even though the pace of decision making remains a bit slower on the larger deals.

The buyback proposal,

which is subject to shareholders' approval, will involve purchase of up to 23.75 crore equity shares, representing 4.16 per cent of the company's total paid-up equity capital, at Rs 400 per share. The buyback size will be up to Rs 9,500 crore and the price of Rs 400 per scrip is more than 6 per cent higher than the company's closing price of Rs 375.5 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday. Wipro's rival TCS unveiled a Rs 16,000 crore share buyback plan last week. —PTI

Upside seen for beaten down Vedanta stock

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 13

Vedanta, which failed in its bid to delist from the stock exchanges last week, is back in brokerages' focus, with a positive outlook, as the valuation of the stock, after the sharp slump post-delisting fiasco, is looking attractive.

Vedanta fell more than 15 per cent on Monday from a high of Rs 122 to Rs 94.8 on the BSE, as the company's delisting process got aborted on Friday. But on Tuesday Vedanta gained 2.78 per cent to close at Rs 99.65 on the BSE.

"While the stock will continue to stay listed on the exchanges, and may bear the brunt of failed attempt at de-listing in the near term, the focus will be on how Vedanta will utilise the \$3.15 billion (the debt it raised for delisting) and what could be the operating performance over the next few quarters," said Hemang Jani, head-equity strategy, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "Discussion around capital allocation will dominate investor concerns, while the operating performance of mining com-

panies is getting better due to firm commodity prices globally. Historically for companies announcing the de-listing, the stock (post failed attempt at de-listing) tends to reach the levels before the buy back, which in case of Vedanta was around Rs. 85-90. Book value of Vedanta as of March 31, 2020 was Rs 147," Jani said.

"While a buyback may not be considered in order to make the next attempt at delisting successful, a generous dividend can be expected given the strong cash on the balance sheet and the need of liquidity by promoters. But, any increase in inter company loans will be a negative," Jani added.

Vikas Jain, senior research analyst, Reliance Securities said, "The delisting for Vedanta has failed as the floor price was very low and in the reverse book building it could not get the desired quantity of shares. We believe as the share price has already declined by 40 per cent over the past three days and buyback is being cancelled we could see some bounce back to near-term highs of 120 levels." —PTI

GST: Centre permits 20 states to raise ₹68,825 crore

New Delhi, Oct. 13: The Centre on Tuesday permitted 20 states to raise Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings to bridge the GST revenue shortfall.

The decision came a day after the GST Council meeting failed to reach a consensus over the Centre's proposal of states borrowing against future GST collections to make up for the shortfall.

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.

The Department of Expenditure has granted permission to 20 states to raise an additional Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings, an official release said. —PTI

Fiscal impact of festival package to be 0.16-0.2% of GDP: Analysts

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The government measures announced on Monday to boost consumer demand by Rs 1 lakh crore would have a fiscal impact of Rs 31,600 crore to Rs 40,000 crore on the Centre, depending on how they play out. The expenditure will translate into 1.16 per cent to 0.2 per cent of the GDP.

According to analysts, apart from the Rs 25,000-crore additional capital expenditure provided for various infrastructure/capacity building projects, the fiscal impact of the other components in the package is negligible.

Barclays India estimates that the actual fiscal cost of the measures will be Rs 31,600 crore or 0.16 per cent of the GDP. SBI estimates that Rs 40,000 crore is the maximum additional cash outgo for the Centre during the current fiscal, which is around 0.21 per cent of GDP.

In a bid to boost to manufacturing and consumption in the economy, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced payment of

cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees, with certain riders. Besides, she also announced additional capital spending and Rs 12,000 crore interest-free loan to states.

The government estimates the LTC scheme would cost Rs 5,675 crore for the Centre and Rs 1,900 crore for public sector banks and enterprises. As the employee has to buy goods and services worth three times the travel fare and one time the leave encashment received, the GST collected at 12 per cent and above will largely offset the extra cost that may be incurred on the government's balance sheet.

For instance, an employee eligible for business travel will get Rs 36,000 per person. For a family of four this works out to Rs 1,44,000. The total purchases he has to make works out to Rs 4,32,000 and on this he would pay a GST amount of Rs 1,03,680.

"The scheme is unlikely to work unless the government decides to pay the GST component also over

and above the fare entitlement amount as is done by many PSBs. We believe only around 10-15 per cent employees would use the LTC Scheme, says the SBI research report, Ecowrap.

Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, feels the demand projections are difficult to achieve. "The estimates could be achieved only if consumers behave in the way they are expected to. While some government employees might opt it, purchases worth Rs 28,000 crore by private sector employees (as assumed by the government) are very unlikely," she said.

As for the interest-free festival advance of Rs 10,000 for employees, up to a total of Rs 4,000 crore, the money will come back to the government in 10 instalments and 6 or 7 per cent interest incurred on this Rs 4,000 crore by the government will have almost nil impact.

"Similarly, the Rs 12,000-crore interest-free 50-year loan to states will have to be repaid and the interest part will not be a major burden on the Centre," said Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist, Barclays.

CHANGING ENERGY-MIX Renewables will push coal off the grid, taking 80% of demand growth by 2030

Three takeaways from IEA's energy outlook

JAMES HERRON OCT. 13

Once a year, the International Energy Agency attempts to impose some order on the chaotic world of oil, gas, power and carbon by publishing detailed scenarios on how the next few decades might unfold.

Here are the three big takeaways from the 2020 World Energy Outlook, published on Tuesday:

Forecasting is harder than ever

Predicting the future of energy is an even greater challenge than usual this year, coming after what the IEA described as a disruption not seen since "World Wars and the Great Depression." Just about every global trend in fuel and power demand pivots

on questions more suited to an epidemiologist than an energy expert: Will there be an effective and widely available vaccine for Covid-19? Will habits learned during lockdown, such as remote working and an aversion to flying, outlast the pandemic?

The IEA attempted to cut through this knot by offering one main scenario in which the pandemic is brought under control next year, and another that features prolonged virus outbreaks and lockdowns.

The gulf between the two outlooks is vast.

In the former, oil use recovers by 2023, in the latter it takes as long as a decade. Global electricity demand in 2030 in the pessimistic case is 27,000 terawatt hours lower than in the main scenario, equivalent to twice the consumption of Japan.



Coal is dying, long live solar

The fuel that was once the staple of utilities will probably never return to pre-pandemic levels of demand. By 2040, coal's share of the energy mix will fall below 20 per cent for the first time since the industrial revolution, the IEA said.

Meanwhile, power produced from solar photovoltaics has become cheaper than electricity from plants fired by fossil fuels in most nations. Renewables will push coal off the grid, taking 80 per cent of demand growth by 2030.

"I see solar becoming the new king of the world's electricity markets," said Fatih Birol, the executive director of the IEA. "Based on today's policy settings, it's on track to set new records for deployment every year after 2022."

No peak on the horizon

Predictions of peak oil demand are very much in fashion, as even oil giants like BP Plc say consumption may never again reach the heights seen in 2019. The IEA, formed in response to

the oil shocks of the 1970s and duty-bound to preserve the security of energy supplies, has long resisted such predictions.

The agency stuck to that position this year. Even its most pessimistic Covid-19 scenario showed petroleum consumption regaining pre-pandemic levels by the latter part of this decade, and plateauing there in the 2030s.

"In the absence of a larger shift in policies, it is still too early to foresee a rapid decline in oil demand," the report said.

Even so, the agency tiptoed closer than ever to an acknowledgment that the petroleum industry is facing an historic change. "The era of global oil demand growth will come to an end in the next decade," Birol said.

—Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## Ronaldo tests Corona positive

**Lisbon:** Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday. Ronaldo "is asymptomatic" and "will not play against Sweden" in Wednesday's Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward, who has been voted the world's top player five times, played in Portugal's goalless Nations League draw against France on Sunday.

Ronaldo has scored 101 goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team against Sweden as they aim to hold on to top spot in their group.

The test result also means Ronaldo is a doubt for Juventus' Champions League group match with Barcelona on October 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi. — *AFP*

## Tokyo to hold gymnastics meet

**Tokyo:** Tokyo is planning to hold an international gymnastics meet next month that will exempt non-Japanese athletes from a 14-day quarantine period, an approach that might foreshadow planning for next year's postponed Olympics.

The Japanese Gymnastics Association announced the meet will feature athletes from the United States, Russia, China and Japan. The one-day event is set for November 8 at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium. The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported that 2,000 fans will be allowed to attend, and it said athletes' travel will be restricted while in the country. Kyodo said the non-Japanese athletes will take a polymerase chain reaction test before they leave home, and will also be tested daily in Japan. — *AP*

## Wawrinka edges Evans in 1st round

**St. Petersburg:** Stan Wawrinka saved three match points to achieve a comeback win over Dan Evans and reach the second round of the St. Petersburg Open, after the tournament was disrupted by an unnamed player's coronavirus case. Serving to stay in the match at 5-6 down in the second, Wawrinka gave Evans three chances to seal the match but saved them all and then won the second-set tiebreaker and deciding set to complete a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5 victory.

Wawrinka next plays Evgeny Donskoy after the Russian wild card beat Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 7-6 (4). Cameron Norrie managed a surprise win where his fellow British player Evans couldn't. Norrie hit 16 aces on his way to a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over the eighth-seeded Taylor Fritz. — *AP*

## Alex, Stefan look to extend good run

**Aragon:** Fresh off the best result of the year so far, the Repsol Honda Team land in Spain for the first of two races in Aragon primed for more as Marc Marquez continues his rehabilitation at home. A pair of unforgettable rides in Le Mans saw Alex Marquez charge from 18th to second, taking a debut podium in just his ninth race and his first-time racing in the wet while Stefan Bradl shot through the field to take eighth after starting 21st. The Repsol Honda team arrives back in Spain for the Aragon Grand Prix with renewed vigour. Claiming Honda's 849th premier class podium, Alex Marquez proved to the world why he is a double World Champion and now a factory MotoGP rider.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

**UEFA Nations League:** England vs Denmark from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3, HD; Croatia vs France from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Portugal vs Sweden from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

## WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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## A KING-SIZE WIN

## All-round Chennai beat Sunrisers by 20 runs

**Dubai, Oct. 13:** Chennai Super Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs in their IPL match, here on Tuesday.

Shane Watson top-scored for the CSK with a 42-run knock while Sandeep Sharma was pick of the bowlers for SRH. The pacer took two wickets and conceded only 19 runs in his four overs.

Kane Williamson scored 57 for SRH while Dwayne Bravo and Karn Sharma took two wickets apiece for CSK.

Earlier, Watson and Ambati Rayudu shared a 81-run stand but Sunrisers Hyderabad did well to restrict Chennai Super Kings to 167 for 6.

Watson's 42 off 38 balls was studded with one four and three maximums, while Rayudu's hit three boundaries and two sixes in his 34-ball 41-run knock.

Jadeja (25 not out) and Dhoni (21 off 13 balls) played quick cameos smashing a total of five fours and two sixes between them in a stand of 32 in just 2.4 overs.

SRH bowlers did a commendable job, claiming four wickets for 47 runs in the last six overs. Sandeep Sharma (2/19), Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and T. Natarajan (2/41) picked two wickets apiece.

Desperate to snap their two-match losing streak, CSK elected to bat. The three-time champions sent young England all-rounder Sam Curran instead of Watson to open the innings with Faf du Plessis.

Sharma drew first blood for the Sunrisers, remov-

## SCORECARD

**Chennai Super Kings:** S Curran b S. Sharma 31, F du Plessis c Bairstow b S. Sharma 0, S. Watson c Pandey b Natarajan 42, A Rayudu c Warner b K. Ahmed 41, M.S. Dhoni c Williamson b Natarajan 21, R Jadeja (not out) 25, D. Bravo b K. Ahmed 0, D Chahar (not out) 2. **Extras:** (lb-3, wd-2) 5. **Total:** (For 6 wkts, in 20 overs) 167.

**FoW:** 1-10, 2-35, 3-116, 4-120, 5-152, 6-152. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-19-2, K. Ahmed 4-0-45-2, S. Nadeem 4-0-29-0, T. Natarajan 4-0-41-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-30-0.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** D. Warner (c) c & b Curran 9, J. Bairstow b Jadeja 23, M. Pandey run out 4, K. Williamson c Thakur b Sharma 57, P. Garg c Jadeja b Sharma 16, V. Shankar c Jadeja b Bravo 12, Rashid Khan hit wicket b Thakur 14, S. Nadeem c & b Bravo 5, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 1, T. Natarajan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (w-6) 6. **Total:** (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs) 147.

**FoW:** 1-23, 2-27, 3-59, 4-99, 5-117, 6-126, 7-146, 8-146. **Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-0-28-0, S. Curran 3-0-18-1, R. Jadeja 3-0-21-1, S. Thakur 2-0-10-1, K. Sharma 4-0-37-2, D. Bravo 3-0-25-2, P. Chawla 1-0-8-0.

ing du Plessis in the beginning of the third over. The South African sneaked one to Jonny Bairstow off the very first ball he faced for a golden duck. Curran was off to a bright start, smashing Ahmed for the first boundary of the match in the second over. — *PTI*



Shane Watson of Chennai Super Kings en route to his 42 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. — *BCCI*

## Royals eye revenge against Delhi

**Dubai, Oct. 13:** Bolstered by the arrival of Ben Stokes, Rajasthan Royals will hope for a stronger show from their slightly off-colour top order when the side try to settle scores against second-placed Delhi Capitals in their return leg IPL match here on Wednesday.

The Capitals had beaten RR by 46 runs last week and Steve Smith's men will look to return the compliment when they meet for the second time in the tournament.

The last time the two teams clashed, RR didn't have Stokes in the ranks and even though the England all-rounder didn't set the stage on fire in his first game but his presence inspired the former champions to snap a four-match losing streak with a five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"With Stokesy back, it



brings a nice balance to us. He just bowled one over as he just got out of a lockdown and is just working back into things," Smith had said.

While Stokes will be an important cog in the RR wheel, the team will also have to fix their top order which has been short of runs in the last five games, leaving too much for the lower-order to get. Skipper Smith and

Sanju Samson have failed to make any significant contribution with the bat since setting the Sharjah ground on fire in their first two matches.

Jos Buttler produced a superb 44-ball 70 against Mumbai Indians but didn't capitalise on the starts in the last two matches.

Delhi, on the other hand, were brought down by Mumbai in their last game and Shreyas Iyer's

## GAYLE HINTS AT PLAYING AGAINST RCB

**Dubai, Oct. 13:** Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle has hinted that he may get his first IPL game of the season against Royals Challengers Bangalore on Thursday, having recovered from a bout of food poisoning.

"To all the fans out there, the wait is over. The Universe Boss is back. I know you all have been waiting for such a long time, the wait is over unless something dramatic happens to the Universe Boss again, which I hope not," Gayle said in the short video.

KXIP had earlier posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets on Monday.

"He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (on Thursday)," a team source said. — *PTI*

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

● Matches: 21

● Rajasthan: 11

● Delhi: 10

## MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets in Jaipur.

● Delhi beat Rajasthan by 5 wickets at Delhi

## MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

● Delhi beat Rajasthan by 46 runs at Sharjah.

## FOR THE RECORD

● Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a century of sixes in IPL.

● Steven Smith will become the 107th player to complete a double century of matches in Twenty-20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

men will look to shrug off the odd defeat and get back to the top with a professional display. — *PTI*

## DENMARK OPEN | BADMINTON

## Lakshya off to winning start

**Odense, Oct. 13:** Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov in straight games in the opening round of the \$750,000 Denmark Open, which marked the resumption of the international calendar after a coronavirus-forced break of seven months.

The 19-year-old Indian, who claimed five titles including two Super 100 tournaments last year, produced a clinical performance to outwit Popov 21-9 21-15 to reach the second round.

He will take on the winner of the match between Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus and Belgium's Maxime Moreels.

"I moved quite well, that was the key. In the second game he had a lead but I had made a few mistakes. I was able to cut down on them and find my rhythm," Lakshya, who is currently ranked world no.27, was quoted as saying by Badminton World Federation (BWF).

"I'm very happy to be playing again after seven months and it felt very normal on the court."

Lakshya looked in good touch as he moved well on the court and found his



Lakshya Sen

touch from the word go.

The Indian jumped to a 11-8 lead at the break in the opening game and didn't allow his opponent to make a comeback, reeling off three points to move to 14-8. The second game was a more competitive affair as both the players fought tooth and nail, moving neck-and-neck till 12-12.

After that, Lakshya once again broke off and moved to 15-12 and 16-14 before closing the match comfortably.

Denmark Open Super 750 event is the only event happening this year as the BWF was forced to cancel multiple tournaments and postpone the Asia leg and the World Tour Final to next year. — *PTI*

## GAMES-BOUND SHOOTERS TO TRAIN AT BIO-SECURE CAMP

**New Delhi, Oct. 13:** The Karni Singh Range will be divided into four "risk" zones to ensure that Olympic-bound shooters can safely resume training at a two-month long national camp which will be conducted from Thursday in a bio-bubble to ward off the Covid-19 threat. The Sports Authority of India and the National Rifle Association of India will take joint responsibility of conducting the camp in a secure environment.

"In order to maintain a secure bio-bubble whereby the athletes can train safely and to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, the responsibility of maintaining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared by the Sports Authority of India and the NRAI," read a statement from SAI on Tuesday.

The camp had earlier been postponed twice because of the pandemic and is expected to feature 32 shooters (18 men and 14 women), eight coaches, three foreign coaches and two support staff. All 15 Olympic quota winners will be a part of it. The exercise will take place at a total cost of ₹1.43 crore. — *PTI*

## SFI undecided about nat'l swimming meet

**New Delhi, Oct. 13:** Swimming Federation of India (SFI) on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of conducting any competition in the country unless the pools are reopened for training in all the states following the coronavirus-induced break.

Last month, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had announced the reopening of pools used for training of sports persons across the country from October 15.

The restriction on swimming pools were in place since March 24 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"On October 15, not all swimming pools will open, may be one or two. Pools are maintained by clubs, state governments etc. So it would not be possible to conduct national competitions if all states do not

allow reopening of pools," Virendra Nanavati, SFI Executive Director, said during a virtual press conference.

"So we have to wait for 4-5 months and see if it is possible to have competitions," he added.

The governing body also said that strict action will be taken against swimmers, who violate the SOPs laid down by the sports ministry to ensure a safe return for the sport following the coronavirus-induced break.

"The swimming pools will open with strict SOPs in place and we cannot deviate from the SOPs by even 1 %. Already our swimmers have been affected by the six months break due to Covid-19," said R.N. Jayaprakash, president of the SFI. — *PTI*

## It's time for Rahul to take a leaf out of Kohli's book



Hemant Kenkre  
Silly Point

Over the weekend, the Indian Premier League (IPL) highlighted the tale of two captains — Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul. For Kohli, winning the IPL is his last frontier as the glittering crown is the only one missing in his cupboard. He showed his intent, as a captain, in his last innings against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Dubai International Stadium.

He was face to face with his predecessor (for India), Mahendra Singh Dhoni,

and was well aware of the importance of the success of this match as he navigated his team, Royal Challenger Bangalore (RCB) to a win. Rahul, on the other hand, is in charge of a team that looks like one that's on a downhill race on the sand dunes of the Arabian desert with just one victory in the seven matches they have played so far, even as he continues to get runs.

RCB and victories are two words that, somehow, don't fit into the general thinking of the fan. From

2008, when the IPL kicked off, till the last season the team has flattered to deceive its fans with no silverware on their shelves. Kohli, the only member of the original side, has been judged, as a captain, more for his role in the (mis)fortunes of RCB than for India for the past eight seasons since he took on the leadership.

It just maybe that the match against CSK on Saturday could be a turning point in Kohli's tryst with IPL as the skipper of RCB. Till his unbeaten innings of 72 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in RCB's fourth IPL fixture, he had not tasted the joy of scoring a fifty in eight innings — a rarity for someone considered one of the world's best in all formats of the game.

His 90-run knock against CSK came in trying circumstances, having lost compatriot AB de Villiers for a duck and was left with lesser known partners to build a competitive total.

What we saw was vintage Kohli who shrugged off all the rust accumulated with lack of match practice and emerged as the champion that we know.

Watching his 52-ball innings was like going through a master class of correct batting and the only typical Twenty20 (T20) shot he essayed, a falling sweep extracting maximum runs, came on the first ball of the last over — the 47th he faced. It was almost like Kohli, the captain, had spoken with Kohli, the batsman.

At the half-way stage of

IPL, RCB is sitting pretty with eight points from six games (as one writes this) and are showing all indications of being a contender to qualify for the final stages of the league. The two teams that have a lot of soul searching to do as the matches progress, CSK and Kings XI Punjab (KXIP), are probably looking for some succour in the desert. They are left with wooden spoons, at this point in time, languishing at the bottom of the table with four and two points respectively.

Their current plight may be self-inflicted given the players they selected. While CSK's problems are obvious, team KXIP's morale must have delved down further after losing a match they should have cantered home with. Like

in the case of RCB and it's skipper, KXIP now faces the same in reverse with Rahul under fire for lack of changing gears. It must be hurting Rahul to have the Orange Cap (for the highest aggregate scorer in the tournament) in his kitbag but not much points in the team kitty.

While Rahul is being criticised for his strike rate of 127.58 for his 74-runs off 58 balls, the real problem facing the team lies elsewhere.

The main issue is their dependence of top three batsmen, including an informal Mayank Agarwal and Nicholas Pooran and no one in the middle to build further on a good start. The lack of power coming from the blade of Glenn Maxwell is hurting KXIP much more than Rahul's

strike rate.

It is a similar situation with a few other teams in the IPL who are also top heavy and tend to struggle in the middle by not converting the starts into big totals.

While Kohli's RCB was boosted by stability in their bowling attack, thanks to consistent shows by youngsters Navdeep Saini and Washington Sunder, his personal show of leading from the front has made the team look well-balanced and ready for more challenges. For KXIP, the coming week is crucial with matches slotted against RCB and leaders, Mumbai Indians. Rahul could well take a leaf out of Kohli's book. Maybe it's time for Rahul the batsman to have a word with Rahul the captain.