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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 31 OCTOBER 2020

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WEATHER

Max: 31.5°C
Min: 21.1°C
RH: 51%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 32/21 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+50,525)	(+579)
81,32,442	1,21,628
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,531)	(+6)
TS: 2,37,187	1,330
(+2,886)	(+17)
AP: 8,20,565	6,676

CASES AROUND THE WORLD	
4,57,03,127	
DEATHS	
11,90,720	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	215
worldometers.info/coronavirus	

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Sudha Pournami till 8.18 pm
Star: Ashwani till 5.57 pm
Varjyanam: 1.27 pm to 3.15 pm;
4.44 am to 6.32 am (Sunday)
Durmuhurta: 6.17 am to 7.48 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awval 13, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.13 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.08 pm
Maghrish: 5.52 pm
Isha: 7.00 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.14 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.44 PM
MOONSET 5.49 AM
MOONRISE 5.46 PM

COUNTER POINT



Instead, we are selling our gold for some money... I have lost my job!

SHORT TAKES

7 killed, 10 hurt as van overturns near parking lot

Vijayawada: Seven persons of a marriage party were killed and 10 injured when their minivan rolled off a parking lot at a hilltop temple in East Godavari just as they were leaving for home, at about 2.30 am on Friday. Police said the victims had come from different parts of the two Godavari districts to the Lord Venkateswara temple at Thantikonda village of Gokavaram mandal for the marriage, which was performed at about 11.30 pm on Thursday. The newly married couple left in another vehicle and their other family members, numbering about 20, got into the minivan. Police suspected the driver began coasting down the slope from the parking and did not switch on the engine.

Full report on Page 6

GOVERNMENT STOPS GIVING ₹10,000 RELIEF

MADDY DEEKSHITHI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The government on Friday ordered the immediate stoppage of disbursal of ₹10,000 aid to flood victims in the GHMC area. All GHMC officials who received money for distribution have been instructed to submit their accounts and hand over the rest of the cash in their possession to their zonal offices.

Since the October 19 announcement of immediate relief by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, the civic body is reported to have distributed ₹357 crore to 3.5 lakh flood victims in the city.

The decision to stop the on-field dispersal of the amount was reportedly taken to free up the GHMC officials and staff to return to their normal assigned duties.

"There is a lot of work related to the GHMC Council polls that needs to be done. There are engineering works that need to be taken up as well as a lot of sanitation work. This will enable many of our officers and staff to resume their normal functions," a GHMC official said.

From now on, distribution of the ₹10,000 will be done from the GHMC headquarters. Those left out can receive the aid from the GHMC head office after due checks of the claims, the official said.

Page 2: Revenue wing to assess damage

OBSC QUOTA IN SAINIK SCHOOLS FROM 2021-22

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Sainik Schools across India will introduce 27 per cent reservation in admissions to OBC students from the year 2021-22.

A letter regarding this was issued to all Sainik Schools on October 13, 2020.

Sainik Schools act as feeder institutions for preparing cadets for the armed forces. At present there are 31 Sainik schools under the ministry of defence.

The reservation for OBC-NCL category will be considered as per the central list of Other Backward Classes available in National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Festival procession



Muslims take part in the Milad Un Nabi procession that was organised at Charminar in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Kishan: BJP, not KCR, made Telangana reality

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy on Friday claimed that even "a thousand KCRs" could not have achieved Telangana statehood without the support of the BJP. He maintained that it was only with the support of the BJP that the separate state Bill was passed in Parliament. He was participating in

an election campaign in the Dubbik Assembly constituency along with party candidate M. Raghuandhan Rao, OBC Morcha president K. Lakman, national vice-president D.K. Aruna and bypoll in-charge A.P. Jithender Reddy.

Kishan Reddy said that the November 3 by-election will decide the future of the state and its political situation. He said that TRS president and Chief Minister K.

Chandrashekhar Rao had failed to deliver his promise of having a Dalit Chief Minister.

The minister stoked the controversy over Central funding and said that for the ₹1-per-kg subsidy rice that is being provided to the poor, the Union government contributes ₹22, while the state government contributes only ₹2.

Page 4: Kishan cautions on voting for Congress

BJP changes leaders in WB to curb infighting

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Amid the raging factionalism in its West Bengal unit, the BJP central leadership, it is learnt, has asked joint general secretary (organisation) Shivprakash, an RSS man, to get the party's house in order in the state. The BJP top brass has been getting reports

that the West Bengal unit was grappling with factionalism and a divided house was sending a negative message to its cadre.

While the top leadership is busy strategising on how to oust the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government in the Assembly polls in early 2021, the state leaders are busy in factional fights.

Sources said the central leadership was not very pleased with general secretary and state in-charge Kailash Vijayvargiya, who has so far failed to contain the factionalism.

There are complaints that he is siding with Mukul Roy, once a close aide of Ms Banerjee, who had joined the BJP in 2017.

Page 2: Many now fall in 'healthy' category

People feel weight gain is ok, say nutritionists

Ideal weight up, people eat more

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The burden of lifestyle diseases in India is 61.3 per cent, and it is feared that the new Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines that have increased the average weight of adults by five kg could add to it.

The ideal body weight is revised and increased by National Institute of Nutrition from 60 to 65 kg for men and from 50 to 55 kg for women earlier this month. It is an acceptable reference body weight through a lifespan. It was

changed after a decade as it was found that body frames and compositions have undergone a change and the ideal weight of 50 kg in women, for example, was not applicable to many.

However, food specialists and nutritionists say that this upward revision in ideal body weight is being taken otherwise by people who have failed to understand the 'reference values of weight'. This section thinks that it is okay to gain weight, given the upward revision.

Nutritionists clarify that people must consume

more of energy-giving foods, proteins and micro-nutrients and not carbohydrates.

Sujatha Stephen, nutritionist at Yashoda Hospitals, said that the estimate average requirement for those in the age group of 19 to 39 years was revised as there has been a major change in the diet.

"Because of this, we are finding younger women who weigh more than 50 kg. The earlier bar made many of them starve to stay within the ideal weight and this led to nutritional deficiencies, apart from other prob-

lems. The revision is based on assessments of the present population," she said.

However, in weight loss programmes, nutritionists say that they still rely on the body mass index formula.

Nutritionist Sunitha Premlatha, said, "It is the height and the BMI index which is the bar. The waist circumference is also an indication which helps to scientifically take up the weight loss programme."

2 lakh e-vehicles to get tax sops

100% road tax, registration fee rebate on cards

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The government on Friday launched the Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy, offering several incentives for manufacturers and customers who patronise electric vehicles.

Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao and transport minister Puvvada Ajay unveiled the policy at Telangana Electric Vehicle Summit here with an aim to attract four billion dollars in investments and create 1.2 lakh jobs in the sector by 2030.

The policy offers exemption from road tax and registration fee to the first set of two lakh EV two-wheelers, 20,000 three-wheelers, 5,000 commercial four-wheeler passenger vehicles, 5,000 four-wheeler private vehicles, and 500 electric buses, purchased in TS will get the benefit.

IT ALSO plans exemption to 10,000 three-wheelers (goods), e-carriers as well as electric light goods carriers' light commercial vehicles and electric tractors.

THE POLICY provides retro-fitment incentive at 15 per cent of the cost to a maximum of ₹15,000 per vehicle for first 5,000 retro-fit 3-seater auto-rickshaws.



Minister K.T. Rama Rao addresses the Telangana State Electric Vehicle summit in MCRHRD on Friday.

lic charging stations directly or under the licensee, franchise or PPP model at airports, railway/metro stations, parking lots, bus depots, markets, petrol stations, malls & electric poles. Residential townships with over 1,000 families will be encouraged to develop charging stations lots.

The policy stipulates setting up charging or battery swapping stations every 50 km within the state boundaries on the highways to cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai, followed by other national and state highways.

To encourage EV vehicles, the policy offers parking with charging points for two-wheelers at Metro Rail and bus stations. Nighttime community parking

with a charging facility in PPP mode is to be set up for e-autos, shared taxis and public transport vehicles within industrial zones.

A battery disposal infrastructure model shall be created to facilitate deployment of used EV batteries. The government will provide incentives to the EV and ESS sectors as per the Electronics Policy 2016.

For the mega and strategic projects, the government will extend tailor-made benefits on a case to case basis. An investment of more than ₹200 crore in plant and machinery or employing more than 1,000 persons shall be categorised as a mega project and these will get capital investment subsidy of 20 per cent of investment capped at ₹30 crore.

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SHORT TAKES

FIVE ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING MARIJUANA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD OCT. 30

Five teenage students, including a juvenile, who smuggled marijuana from Araku Valley for their own consumption as well as to sell it, were arrested from a lodge in Lakdikapul by the Saifabad police on Friday. Police seized 2.7 kilos of contraband from their possession.

The accused were identified as Tandra Karthik, P. Vamshi Vardhan, M. Manikanth, Dharamdas, all 19, and their 17-year-old colleague.

The boys had allegedly planned the trip to Araku 2-3 months ago and gathered ₹5,000 each from their homes citing different reasons. Police said this was their first attempt at smuggling, they used to earlier purchase the contraband within the city. "Earlier this week, they went to Araku in a car and returned to the city on Thursday, after which they checked into the hotel. They smoked ganja and spent the night there. Upon receiving a tip-off, a police team from Saifabad went to hotel and nabbed them on Friday," sources said.

A hotel staffer said that the police showed up within a few hours after the boys checked in. "They told us that contraband is being consumed in one of the rooms and took the boys away," he said.

Sources in the police said that efforts are on to nab the Araku contacts of the students.

● **THE ACCUSED** were identified as Tandra Karthik, P. Vamshi Vardhan, M. Manikanth, Dharamdas, all 19, and their 17-year-old colleague.

● **THE BOYS** had allegedly planned the trip to Araku 2-3 months ago and gathered ₹5,000 each from their homes citing different reasons. Police said this was their first attempt at smuggling, they used to earlier purchase the contraband within the city.

Low passenger traffic dampens SCR festival

People prefer to avoid travel or go in private vehicles

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

● **THOUGH RAILWAY** authorities have made reserving of seats in general compartments mandatory, they have not cut down on the seating capacity inside these coaches. This is posing challenges when it comes to physical distancing norms for passengers.

"Every toilet on board is being sanitised once an hour by our on-board housekeeping staff. Coaches too are being sanitised regularly. Posters on Covid-19 safety measures have been put up, while regular announcements are being made about using masks and sanitisers, apart from maintaining social distancing," the senior official said.

Though railway authorities have made reserving of seats in general compartments mandato-

ry, they have not cut down on the seating capacity inside these coaches. This is posing challenges when it comes to physical distancing norms for passengers.

Reservations have been made mandatory to avoid overcrowding in general compartments, officials said. They, however, explained that they are not in a position to decrease seating capacity, as far fewer trains are being pried due to Covid-19. The number of passenger trains has dropped to 25 per day from 200 earlier.

Explaining the reservation process for seats in general compartments, another official said a reserved ticket costs ₹15 more. Passengers are allowed onto the platform only if they have a reserved ticket. "Government railway police ensure that social

distancing is maintained on platform premises. This is to ensure safe travelling and avoid crowding during pandemic," the official said.

Welcoming the reserved ticket rule, Ramesh Rao, a private sector employee from Secunderabad, said, "This is a small price to pay for checking the spread of virus. I request authorities to continue this system as it solves a bigger mess of Covid spreading in overcrowded general bogies."

A general compartment comprises 72 seats, meaning only 72 passengers will be issued tickets. This will ensure that general compartments are not crowded like in the past.

Railway authorities are also thermally screening passengers and imposing fines on those found without masks.

Many people now come under 'healthy' category

From Page 1

● **THE ICMR** has received feedback on the revised guidelines from food companies who say that the extra food requirements will lead to a burden on agriculture.

physical activity as the time spent in front of screens has increased.

With movement being restricted during Covid-19. Even walking in the neighbourhood has been

affected. For this reason, there is bound to be more weight gain in the younger age groups which will lead to the early onset of non-communicable diseases.

The ICMR has received feedback on the revised guidelines from food companies who say that the extra food requirements will lead to a burden on agriculture.

Food companies have asked the government to reconsider and revise the weight norms.

₹1 LAKH RAIN AID: REVENUE WING TO ASSESS DAMAGE

From Page 1

The government had promised that it would provide ₹1 lakh in assistance to those whose homes suffered catastrophic damages and ₹50,000 to those whose homes suffered partial damages.

This part of the aid is expected to be disbursed once the revenue department conducts a survey and assesses the destruction to the homes.

TSRTC TO EXTEND BUS PASS VALIDITY IN GREATER HYD ZONE

Hyderabad: Telangana State Road Transport Corporation on Friday said that it was extending the validity of bus passes in the Greater Hyderabad zone that were issued prior of

the Covid-19 lockdown. According to TSRTC executive director V. Venkateswarulu, the validity of the old passes will be extended for the number of days that such passes had

left on them. Any RTC passenger holding such a pass can surrender it at any RTC pass counter and obtain a fresh one for the remaining number of days, Venkateswarulu said.

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IN BRIEF
Muslims protest against Macron

Hyderabad: A few Muslims demonstrated against France and its President Emmanuel Macron on the eve of Milad un Nabi on Friday. Posters of Macron were pasted on the surface of roads in different places of the Old City and youths burnt posters. These pictures were then posted on social media platforms. Tahr-eek-e-Islami took out a procession on Friday. Congress activists held a protest at Prabhav Nagar, Erragadda, led by TPCC Committee minorities department chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail. Khateeb (sermonizers) in their Friday sermons called upon Muslims to be aware of "conspiracies" hatched against Muslims.

3 arrested for stealing bikes

Hyderabad: The North Zone Task Force team nabbed three men for allegedly stealing vehicles from parking lots in residential areas. Police said six two-wheelers and an autorickshaw were seized from the accused, who were identified as Pullura Rohit Kishore, 25, Mana Vikas, 20, and Palogi Anil Prabhu, 29. "They started stealing vehicles to fund their vices as they are all addicted to alcohol and marijuana. They usually pawn the vehicle to get money. They operate in the night and target parking lots in colonies. Once the handle lock is forcefully damaged, they either hotwire the vehicle or use duplicate keys to steal bikes," said the police.

INFANT FOUND ABANDONED AT MGM HOSPITAL

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 30

A newborn baby girl was found at the gate of the outpatient (OP) block at MGM Hospital, Warangal on Friday morning. According to Matwada police sub-inspector P. Srinivas Reddy, visitors to the hospital who spotted the baby alerted the police and hospital authorities. The infant was handed over to the Warangal Urban district child welfare department officials.

The baby was suspected to have been abandoned in the early hours of Friday. "We are trying to identify the child's parents and the CCTV cameras footage in the hospital is being checked to identify them," he said.

Warangal district child welfare committee chairperson Mandala Parashuramulu said after the baby underwent tests by the hospital authorities she was shifted to the state-run Sishu Gruha in Hanamkonda. "Our team is collecting information regarding the infant and the reasons why she was left at the hospital," said Parashuramulu.



A youth waves a flag while taking part in a procession in Charminar and praising Prophet Muhammad in Hyderabad on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Blood donations, bike rides on Milad un Nabi

Faithful participate in processions to express devotion

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Milad un Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, passed off peacefully in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the state on Friday amid elaborate security arrangements.

The faithful celebrated the day with religious zeal and fervour but spent less on the decorations. Shia Muslims, who also venerate and celebrate the Prophet's birthday, celebrated on the 17th Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Processions were taken out to express devotion and reverence for the

Prophet. A central procession taken out from the Quadri Chaman, Falaknuma, by various organisations under the banner of the Sunni United Forum of India. A large number of people, including religious scholars, participated in the processions. Hundreds of youth took part in the processions across the city, holding green flags and raising slogans praising the Prophet. Few youth were seen carrying the National Flags as well. Stunt-riders demonstrated daredevil tricks on the roads during the procession.

Religious organisa-

tions held online meetings to highlight the message of the Prophet and organised 'Mahfil-e-Milad' in praise of the Prophet to mark the occasion. Khateeb (sermonizers) of masjids highlighted the life and teachings of the Prophet in Juma sermons. Religious scholars stressed upon the faith to mould their lives according to the golden principles of Islam.

Muslims were given an opportunity to view the holy relics of the Prophet at different places, including Macca Masjid and different shrines in the city.

Special dishes were prepared at homes and food to the poor. Hundreds of youth donated blood to patients of thalassemia. A mega blood camp was conducted at the Central Library, Afzalgunj.

Aleem Baig, joint secre-

tary, Thalassemia and Sick Cell Society, informed that they received more than 2,000 units from various places.

Police had deployed additional forces in sensitive places. Security arrangements were made under the supervision of Dr Gajara Bhupal, in-charge DCP, South Zone.

MAN HELD FOR BRUTAL RAPE, MURDER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The Cyberabad police on Friday arrested a 48-year-old man with a criminal history for the brutal rape and murder of a woman reported earlier this month.

The accused, Kodudula Yellapa alias Ravi Kumar, a stone cutter, was arrested by the Medchal police with the help of the Special Operations Team (SOT), Balanagar.

It was found during investigation that Kumar was involved in seven offences, including four murders for gain, under Medchal, Madhapur and Peddamul police station limits, said P.V. Padmaja, DCP Bala Nagar.

The officer said that on October 17, Kumar approached the victim on the pretext of offering a job to clean his house while she was waiting along with her mother and elder sister. Kumar took the victim to his rented room where he offered her toddy and liquor, the DCP said.

Once the victim was inebriated, Kumar sexually assaulted her and tried to rob her of gold and silver items. When she resisted, he attacked and killed her, the police official said.

After taking off the victim's jewellery and cash, he dumped the body beside the compound wall abutting the Medchal railway gate, said the official. In October itself, Kumar was involved in two more cases of robbery in the limits of Cyberabad Commissionerate, DCP Padmaja said.

Following a complaint against him by the victim's family, special teams were formed by the law and order police, SOT and CCS to detect the case. Kumar was identified from CCTV camera footage and apprehended.

EB COUNTERS TO BE OPEN ON WEEKEND IN BOWENPALLY, CANTT, PARADISE

Hyderabad: The electricity bill counters in Bowenpally, Paradise and Cantonment divisions will be open and functioning during the weekend. Those intending to pay their

electricity bills are requested to utilise the facility till Monday between 10 am and 5 pm. The counter will remain open on Sunday, November 1, a press release said.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Government of India, it is hereby notified that Stone and Metal mine of M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited over an extent of 13.44 Ha in Sy.No.268, Bandaraviyala (V), Abdullapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State (Production capacity-644457 m³/annum) has proposed mining of stone and metal - 644457 m³/annum in an area over an extent of 13.44 Ha. It is hereby notified to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in Rangareddy District for the proposed project. The details of the project activities given by the project authorities are as follows:

1. Name of the Project : Stone and Metal mine of M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited over an extent of 13.44 Ha in Sy.No.268, Bandaraviyala (V), Abdullapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State (Production capacity-644457 m³/annum).
2. Location of the project : Sy.No.268, Bandaraviyala (V), Abdullapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State (Production capacity-644457 m³/annum).
3. Name of the Authorized person to be Contacted with address and Phone No.: Sri K Rajasekhar Reddy, General Manager, Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, H.No.6-2-915, 3rd Floor, Rear Block, HMVSSB Premises, Kharibed, Rangareddy District, Telangana State, Pin code-500004. Ph No.: 8008558580, Email: tsmdctld@gmail.com

4. Capital Cost of the Project : Total cost of the project is Rs. 100 Lakhs.

5. Name of the project consultant/ environmental consultant : M/s. Team Labs & Consultants, An ISO-9001: 2015 certified organization Laboratory Recognised by MoEFCC Laboratory Accredited by NABL, B-115 to 117 & 509, Annapurna Block, Aditya Enclave, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500038 Mobile: 9866145966 Email: teamlabs@gmail.com

6. Line of Activity / Capacity : Mining (Stone & Metal)

7. Date/Time/Venue of Public Hearing : 01.12.2020 / 11:00 A.M.
Venue: Sy.No.268, Bandaraviyala (V), Abdullapurmet (M), Rangareddy District, Telangana State.

8. Place of the availability of Executive Summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA Report of the proposed project along with C.D. : 1. O/o. The District Collector, Rangareddy District.
2. O/o. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Rangareddy District.
3. O/o. The District Industries Centre, Rangareddy District.

4. Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, South Eastern Zone, 1st & 2nd Floor, HEC Building No.34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai -600004.

5. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office - I, Rangareddy District, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016.

6. O/o. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Paryavarana Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-500018.

7. O/o. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 1st Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016.

8. Revenue Divisional Office (RDO) of Ibrahimpatnam of Rangareddy District.

9. Tahasildar Office of Abdullapurmet Mandal of Rangareddy District.

10. The Executive summary of the project both in Telugu & English are available at Gram Panchayat office of Bandaraviyala.

Suggestions, Views, Comments and objections of the Public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of Publication of this Notification. All the interested persons can also make written suggestions to the undersigned Officer of the T.S. Pollution Control Board and can also participate in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date, time and venue specified above.

Place : Rangareddy District
Date : 31.10.2020
DIPR No: 1069/PC/CL-AGENCY/ADV/T/1/2020-21

Sd/- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
T.S. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office-I, Rangareddy District.

SCCL overseer stuck under debris, dead

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
PEDDAPALLI, OCT. 30

Overman R. Naveen Kumar, who was stuck under coal debris after an accident in RG-2 coal mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on Thursday afternoon, has been found dead. It was a great disappointment for members of a special team that struggled for 15 hours to rescue the overseer from the mine in Ramagundam area of Godavarikhani in Peddapalli district on Friday.

Naveen Kumar (26) was the only son of Rapolu Ramesh and Lakshmi of Kachipilli village in Julapally mandal. He had completed his diploma in mining before joining Singareni in 2013.

The death of Naveen shattered his childhood friend Kavitha. Parents of both Naveen and Kavitha, who had been in love, had solemnised their marriage just two months ago on August 5.

The tragic incident took place in Vakeelpally coal mine RG-2 of SCCL Coal debris eight feet in height and 12 metres in depth collapsed in the accident trapping Naveen underneath. After 15 hours of hard work, the rescue team reached the overman in the early hours of Friday only to find him dead.

Ramagundam MLA Koranti Chander Patel, Singareni director Chandrasekhar, RG-2 general manager Suresh and other officials paid tributes and expressed their condolences to family members of Naveen Kumar. After informing that worker

had been stuck under debris, the rescue team worked round the clock to free him. The team managed to reach the overman in the early hours of Friday only to find him dead.

On phone that I was approaching him, Naveen sir was adjusting his telephone wire when within a fraction of a second the rooftop fell on him with a loud thud. The heavy wind that emerged from the thud blew me away and I fell at a distance. Naveen sir was, however, trapped under the coal debris," a distraught Vamshi recounted.

Congress party Ramagundam Assembly segment in-charge M. S. Raj Thakur has accused SCCL management of negligence in not taking proper protective measures against the accumulated debris. "This is the third accident that has taken place in the last five months," Raj Thakur pointed out, demanding an ex-gratia of ₹1 crore and job to a family member of the deceased.

Ramagundam MLA Koranti Chander Patel, Singareni director Chandrasekhar, RG-2 general manager Suresh and other officials paid tributes and expressed their condolences to family members of Naveen Kumar.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

NATIONAL UNITY DAY

31st October 2020

On the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

the Grateful nation pays tribute

Sardar Patel's mantra of unity is the ethos of the nation and his birth anniversary is the festival of Unity of India.



"Sardar Patel did the important work of uniting the country. His thoughts and actions inspire us to live the mantra of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'"

- Narendra Modi



Live telecast of Prime Minister's programme on: Doordarshan Network from Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat from 07:30 am onwards

day2021/11/30/03/12/2021

IN BRIEF

WICCI launches TS handloom council

Hyderabad: The Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) on Friday launched the Telangana Handloom Council.

The council comprises 22 women from diverse backgrounds who collectively bring a wealth of knowledge to help boost the success of women entrepreneurs working in the field of handlooms and textiles in Telangana state, according to WICCI. The council will assist in the creation of a focused strategy to help address problems faced by entrepreneurs, weavers, and help connecting with customers. There are plans for regular workshops, a survey on women working in the handloom industry.

₹31.26L hawala cash seized

Hyderabad: The North Zone Task Force along with Sultan Bazaar police seized ₹31.26 lakh of unaccounted hawala money from two men while they were transporting the cash on Friday. The officials apprehended Manish

Toshniwal, 32, and Vishnu Biradar, 21, and seized their scooter. "We nabbed them based on credible information received about transport of illegal money. They were caught near Kutbiguda in Sultan Bazaar while they were heading to deliver the cash to another party. The duo, along with the seized cash, were handed over to the Sultan Bazaar police for further investigation," said P. Radhakrishna Rao, DCP, Commissioner's Task Force.

IMH TO ORGANISE MENTAL HEALTH SESSION TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

October is the mental health awareness month and a lot of people have approached mental health professionals through online mediums. Their number was much higher than before, experts said.

The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) which gets a lot of queries, found many voluntarily approaching them and also paying attention to online sessions to identify problems around them. It is believed that many people approached the IMH as the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown had affected them, what with the death of near and dear ones, loss of income and loss of livelihood.

Mohammad Aslam, psychologist, said, "We have seen a huge response. For this reason, on Saturday an online session is being organised for 250 persons from Hyderabad. This is a huge response compared to what we have seen earlier."

The Institute of Mental Health Erragadda, clinical psychology unit is also going to participate to record and gauge the response of the participants.

TWO-DAY REGIONAL RSS MEETING BEGINS

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

A two-day regional meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) began at Anojiguda near here on Friday to discuss expansion of its shakhas, social service activities, besides other matters of importance concerning the nation. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is attending the meetings, sources said.

The proceedings of the Dakshina Madhya Kshetra (south central region) were conducted by Sarkaryavah Bhayaji Joshi, Sangh sources said. It would be attended by some of the all-India office bearers who reside in the region and the executive council members from Karnataka, Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh, a RSS release said on Thursday.

"During these two days, there will be discussions on the vertical and horizontal expansion of the RSS shakhas, the social service activities being conducted by the swamsevaks in addition to other aspects of importance concerning the nation," it said.

It was learnt that the RSS had put off several meetings during the lockdown following the Coronavirus pandemic. These meetings were now being held at various locations. The meetings, including at Anojiguda, were said to be smaller in size in keeping with the Covid-19 protocols.

Harish lashes out at BJP for spreading false propaganda

Minister clarifies oppn's contribution to bidi workers' pension is zero

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Finance minister T. Harish Rao on Friday termed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as 'Bharatiya Jhootha Party'. He lashed out at the BJP leaders for spreading lies by way of statements, pamphlets and social media about the Centre's contribution to the state in pensions and other schemes, while speaking to the media at Siddipet.

Harish Rao listed out 11 alleged lies of BJP leaders, including that the Union government is giving ₹1,600 out of ₹2,016 towards Aasara pension for bidi workers in Telangana state, ₹6,000 to ₹8,000 out of ₹13,000 given under KCR Kits and spending ₹50,000 on every sheep unit for shepherd families.

Further he said, the BJP was claiming that the state government had shifted the ESI Hospital to Gajwel, which was sanctioned to Chegutu mandal in Dubbak constituency, by releasing ₹25 crore by the Centre. He mentioned that the BJP leaders were falsely claiming that the Centre was giving ₹29 out of ₹30 being spent on subsidy ration rice and that a polytechnic college granted for Dubbak was shifted to Siddipet.

He said that the BJP leaders are stating that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is



Finance minister T. Harish Rao campaigns at Dharmajipeta ahead of the bypoll to the Dubbak Assembly constituency on Friday.

trying to install electricity metres for agriculture borewells and the Centre has granted ₹5,500 crore to help the local government procure agricultural produce.

Harish Rao said that the BJP also claimed that the Centre has granted ₹5,500 crore to help the local government procure agricultural produce.

The BJP was claiming that the house, where the police seized over ₹18 lakh, did not belong to a direct relative of BJP candidate M. Raghuandan Rao.

Raghuandan Rao pointed out that he himself claimed that police had raided eight

houses of his relatives and the amount seized was neither his nor of his relatives.

Harish Rao clarified that the BJP-led government's contribution towards bidi workers' pension is zero. He alleged that the GST imposed by Centre had affected the livelihood of bidi workers because the demand had dwindled due to higher prices.

The finance minister said that the entire expenditure of KCR Kits was borne by the state government. On contribution to sheep units, he

said that the beneficiary's contribution is ₹31,250 (25 per cent)

while the state government was bearing the remainder ₹93,750. He said that the Centre has not sanctioned any hospital or a grant to Chegutu so far and polytechnic college for Dubbak.

He clarified that the Centre is giving ₹5 kg rice for only half of the ration card holders in Telangana state while the state government is distributing ₹1 per kg rice to all beneficiaries.

Refuting the claims of electricity meters, he

said that the Centre had tried to lure the state government by offering ₹2,500 crore special grant to make the TRS govern-

ment install metres. However, the Chief Minister has opposed it strongly.

Pointing out the claim of Centre's contribution in rice procurement, he explained that Centre has just issued consent to help the civil supplies department to borrow from National Cooperative Development Corporation, but the state government has decided against it as the interest rate is high comparatively.

ment install metres.

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Refuting the claims of

Raghunandan Rao he wanted to know why BJP workers and the candidate rushed to the place if the cash was not his and owner of the house was not his relative.

He said people of Dubbak constituency were wise and would see through the BJP lies and vote for TRS yet again.

Uttam claims growth in Dubbak under Cong

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Telangana Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday said that development in Dubbak had happened only during Congress rule.

Reacting to Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy's comments regarding the Congress rule earlier in the day during the campaign for the Dubbak Assembly constituency bypoll, the TRS government had neglected promises it had made before the last general election.

Pointing out that the government did not allocate a single double bedroom house before the

should know the facts before making allegations.

Alleging that BJP candidate M. Raghuandan Rao, and state finance minister T. Harish Rao are "like brothers", and that the BJP candidate is the benami of Harish Rao, the TPCC chief said that the TRS government had neglected promises it had made before the last general election.

Clarifying that Congress campaign committee chairperson Vijaya Shanti had not taken any decision to quit the party, Reddy said that she will continue in the Congress.



Ahead of the November 3 byelection, TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Congress candidate Cheruku Srinivas Reddy campaign at Raghurampally in Dubbak on Friday.

— P. ANIL KUMAR



Union minister G. Kishan Reddy addressing election campaign in Dubbak on Friday.

Kishan cautions on voting for Congress

From Page 1

Kishan Reddy cautioned the voters against backing the Congress as it would be like supporting the ruling party as evidenced by the manner MLAs of the Congress had jumped to the TRS earlier.

The minister appealed to the people of Dubbak to vote for BJP candidate and spell doom of the Kalvakuntla and Owaisi families.

Reddy alleged that Chandrashekhar Rao had managed a "backdoor entry" for his daughter into the Legislative Council and wondered why the

state government was not implementing reservations for the economically weaker sections. He said that the state government had destroyed the 'Arogyasri' scheme, which is very helpful for poor people.

Talking to the media in

Siddipet, Kishan Reddy accused the TRS government of misusing official machinery for the bypoll, for which the people of Dubbak would thwart the ambitions of the TRS. He expected a silent wave in favour of the BJP and stated that the anti-incumbency vote would benefit the BJP.

CM to inaugurate Rythu Vedika today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The state government strongly believes that its initiative to build Rythu Vedikas in all agriculture extension officers clusters at a cost of ₹572.22 crore with each unit costing ₹22 lakh.

that of MNREGS.

The state government has claimed that the 'first-of-its-kind' initiative is a platform whereupon farmers will be motivated to attain higher returns.

It has also been claimed that they will help in mobilizing farmers to organise themselves into groups for attaining the ultimate objective of getting remunerative prices, better marketing facilities, higher productivity and ultimately making agriculture a profitable livelihood.

Siddeshwaram Sadhana Samithi president Kamanur Venugopal Reddy said the NGT judgment has undermined hopes of farmers

Seema farmers fear NGT stay may block water

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNool, OCT. 30

With the National Green Tribunal (NGT) making environment clearance mandatory for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS), irrigation officials feel implementation of the project could be delayed.

There is, however, a chance that the Krishna River Management Board (KRB) after examining the NGT order in detail, may conform to earlier assurances of Ministry of Jal Shakti, which said there is no need for environmental clearance, as RLIS is not a new project, the officials maintained.

Rayalaseema farmers to get Krishna water and also reduce the burden on Srisailam Reservoir.

Rayalaseema Saguneeeti Samithi president Bojja Dasarath Reddy meanwhile felt that environmental clearance is not a big issue, as RLIS could pass the test easily. The detailed project report (DPR) sought for the scheme is nothing but a deliberative tactic to delay the project.

Dasarath Reddy took the position that if RLIS in AP is delayed, the Palamur-Rangareddy project in Telangana must accordingly be stopped from going ahead. To avoid this, the Rayalaseema Saguneeeti Samithi chief said chief ministers of both AP and TS should meet and find a political solution to speed up their respective projects.

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However, as RLIS is getting into controversies, Venugopal Reddy referred to the central government's nod for Somaila-Siddeshwaram bridge across Krishna River. He suggested that instead of just a bridge, a bridge-cum-barrage could be constructed to help

not only in Kurnool, but also Kadapa and Nellore districts. He claimed that Krishna waters to Rayalaseema for drinking and irrigation needs is mandated under the Bachawat Award and several other agreements.

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Cops seize hawala cash suspected for Dubbak bypolls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The Hyderabad North Zone Task Force along with Mahankali police on Friday apprehended three men and seized ₹16.69 lakh of unaccounted hawala money from their possession.

According to the police, it is suspected that the money could be intended for handing over to a candidate contesting the Dubbak Assembly constituency by-election scheduled for November 3. However, the police was unable to confirm the same. The money was handed over to the income-tax department which would conduct further investigations into the matter.

● **THE ARRESTED** men were identified as Nayi Lalit Kumar Chunilal, 53, Ashok Singh, 36, and Naredy Laxmikanth Reddy, 41, by the police. Reddy was waiting to receive the cash from the duo when the teams nabbed them, police said.

ing ₹16.69 lakh on their bike and met Laxmikanth Reddy near a hotel in Secunderabad. Meanwhile, on credible information, our teams apprehended them along with the hawala money," said P. Radhakrishna Rao, DCP, Commissioner's Task Force, adding that they failed to produce proper documents pertaining to the cash.

CORIANDER CULTIVATION PROMOTED IN KHAMMAM

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, OCT. 29

The state government is encouraging coriander cultivation as farmers are raising the spice in an uneven manner.

Sometimes, coriander is available in a limited quantity in the Rythu Bazaars. At such times, the price of a small bundle of coriander is ₹20 and beyond, and the people are not happy.

Coriander is in demand during the pandemic and many people prefer to have a coriander leaf decoction with hot water in the morning. The plants are not available in the Rythu bazars, particularly in the summer months.

The horticulture department is giving a ₹12,000 subsidy per hectare to the farmers to promote coriander production. Horticulture officer Sandeep Kumar said that the government wants to promote the crop because of the increasing demand for it.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7

MEMORIAL SERVICE
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Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God - Matthew 5:8

MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Saturday 31st Oct 2020 (Saturday) at 11.00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, KPHB, Hyderabad.

Contact No: 9848824040 / 9849837019

Inserted by: G. Sarah Zameen

Family Members and Grand Children.

Pt. 944824450 / 9392297902 / 984887632

Honor her for all that her hands have done. Proverbs 31:31

SHORT TAKES

COVID-19 COUNT RISES IN TS WITH 1,531 NEW CASESDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Telangana state has been witnessing a slight rise in number of Covid-19 cases over the past four days. On Thursday, the state recorded 1,531 new cases, up from 1,504 on Wednesday, the state health department said in its daily Covid-19 bulletin. On Tuesday, the number of fresh cases was 1,481 and on Monday 837.

As per the bulletin, Thursday's 1,531 cases have taken the total Covid-19 infections to 2,37,187 while the deaths from the disease increased to 1,330 with six more fatalities. However, the overall recovery rate from the disease stands at 91.5 per cent, the department said, adding that so far 2,17,401 persons who contract Covid-19, have recovered.

The bulletin said 18,456 positive patients were under isolation while 3,031 patients were in various government and private hospitals.

The rise in cases is also being reflected in the number of Covid-19 instances being reported from Greater Hyderabad. On Thursday, there were 293 cases in GHMC limits, while it was 288 on Wednesday, 279 on Tuesday, and 185 on Monday.

Medchal-Malkajgiri district reported 120 new cases followed by Ranga Reddy district with 114, and Khammam with 83. Three districts, Narayanpet, Kumrambheem-Arifabad, and Jogulambha-Gadwal reported cases in the single digits.

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Authorities put up barricades to caution motorists as the soil beneath the Almasguda road was washed away during recent floods. — P. SURENDRA



Residents of Meerpet MLR Colony continue to suffer as water is yet to recede after the recent rains. — DC

Rains crack open roads

Over 83 kilometres become unmotorable in city

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Even though authorities have claimed special drives to improve sanitation in rain affected areas, the civic conditions continue to be dismal in Navayuga Enclave in Almasguda.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

lanes it has. For instance, if a 10-km long road with two lanes is measured using this system, its length is considered as 20 lane kilometres.

The corporation also said that as part of checking the fitness and safety of roads, its engineers have begun inspections of all flyovers and bridges for their eventual repairs.

With the GHMC elections round the corner and expected to be held soon the corporation said it is not just busy with the road works but also construction of box drains — covering up nallas and drains — at a cost of ₹298 crore for which the tendering process is now on.

The GHMC has also said that following the mid-October heavy rains in and around the city, its engineers along with those from the irrigation department inspected 192 tanks and lakes and found that while the bunds and retaining structures of some of these water bodies suffered partial damage, six lakes suffered serious damages with their bunds giving away and collapsing.

Cotton yield falls 30-40% due to pink bollworm

PILLALAMARI
SRINIVAS I DC
Adilabad, OCT. 30

Farmers without irrigation facilities will be major losers since they cannot go for the second crop. Farmers say that officials have failed to estimate the damage caused to the standing cotton crop in the Kharif season.

Some farmers are removing and burning plants affected by pink bollworm to prevent it from spreading to other areas in the fields.

There is a likelihood of 30-40 percent fall in cotton yield and there will be lesser chances of second cotton-picking due to pink bollworm. It is spreading fast in Jainad, Bela and Talamadugu, Tamsi and Adilabad, Booth mandals.

Meanwhile, farmers with irrigation facilities are preparing to go for Bengal gram, maize and jowar as the second crop in Rabi. It is said that the tenant farmers will suffer huge losses, especially those who took the land on a lease of ₹20,000 per acre.

Srinivas Reddy of Kothur village in Talamadugu removed plants affected with the pink bollworm and burnt the plants.

He said many farmers were confident of a good yield this season since they never anticipated the pink bollworm attack. Many farmers were shocked to see pink bollworms inside all the cotton bolls, he said and regretted that even agriculture officials had failed to alert them about possible ink bollworm attack.

AUTORICKSHAW OVERTURNS AT GADWAL LEAVING 1 DEAD, 4 INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT
MAHABUBNAGAR, OCT. 30

said Gadwal circle inspector Jakku Hanumanthu. The accident occurred near the railway bridge and the passengers were daily wage earners going to work at Repalle. The deceased was identified as Adavavamma, 45. A case has been registered and the investigation on said Hanumanthu.

One person died and four others were injured when an autorickshaw in which they were travelling overturned at Gadwal on Friday. The driver was trying to avoid hitting a pig which had suddenly come in front, and lost control,



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IN BRIEF
BREAST CANCER FIGHT: WEAR PINK TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

'Be Cancer Aware, Check the Change' is an initiative by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to create awareness among the people and seek their support in the fight against breast cancer. People can show support by taking a video or a photograph while wearing pink or even a pink ribbon and posting it on social media before October 31.

Breast cancer is curable if it is diagnosed early and there must be self-examination from the age of 40 years at regular intervals, said Dr Pragnya Chigurupati, oncoplastic surgeon.

Usha Rani Manne, FLO chairperson, said, "Cancer is a major cause of concern for millions in the world. Those who have seen the cases in their families are often worried. They are in the higher risk group but regular self-examinations and medical checks will help."

It is a myth that once breast cancer is diagnosed there is removal of the whole breast through mastectomy, but that is not right. In early stages it has been stated that breast conservation surgery is the goal. Breast cancer incidence in India is seen in 1 in 28 women and the survival rate is 60 per cent.

Several initiatives have been mounted by other organisations to highlight to need to fight breast cancer at an early stage.

RAJ BHAVAN TO BE LIT UP IN PINK TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

For the first time Raj Bhavan will be illuminated in pink on October 31 to spread the message of breast cancer. Ushakumari Breast Cancer Foundation, which has been carrying out the Pink Ribbon Campaign in the Telugu states has been given permission by Telangana State Governor Dr Tamlisai Soundararajan to illuminate her residence in pink.

The foundation has been illuminating heritage and important monuments in the city to create awareness among the people about breast cancer. Dr Soundararajan appreciated the efforts of Dr P. Raghu Ram, founder and chief executive officer of the foundation, for his consistent efforts in creating awareness.

Since 2010, Hyderabad is the only city in Asia whose prominent buildings have been lit in pink to create awareness about cancer. Dr Raghu Ram said, "This Diwali, in addition to gifts for your wife, opt for an annual screening mammogram as early detection (of cancer) saves lives."

Those above 40 years of age are advised to undergo an annual screening mammogram to detect breast cancer early as it helps in fighting the disease better.

WOMAN SAVED FROM BEING MADE 'JOGINI'

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 30

The Bodhan revenue and police officials rescued a woman who was being forced by her family members to become a 'jogini' and also got her married. The incident took place in Pegadapally village in Bodhan mandal 10 days ago.

Based on a tip-off, officials rescued the woman, Gurram Savitha and shifted her to Swadhar home in Nizamabad.

'Jogini' is an exploitative custom, where young girls are married to a deity and nothing but sex slaves. This custom existed in several parts of Telangana, predominantly in the united districts of Mahbubnagar, Adilabad, Medak, Warangal and Nizamabad. The practice was banned in 1988, but is yet clandestinely followed.

Meanwhile, Marigela Sailoo of Pentakalan village in Bodhan mandal who heard about this, came forward to marry Gurram Savitha.

Bodhan talsildar Gaffar Miya and other officials took the initiative and performed the marriage on Friday after convincing the family members of the bride and the bridegroom.

After greeting the new couple, the officials warned that the 'Jogini' system is banned and those found violating, will be strictly punished.

KTR sees state as EV hub

Six companies sign MoUs with TS, pledge investments worth ₹6,000cr

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday said that it was the government's endeavour to develop Telangana state as an electric vehicle manufacturing major.

Addressing the Telangana EV Summit 2020 at MCRHRD Institute here, Rama Rao said, "We invite the industry to come and make Telangana state their manufacturing base as we believe local production is the key to achieve price/ performance parity and enable faster adoption of electric vehicles."

He said that Telangana state has become a leader in the sustainable and renewable energy sector; adding, "We are now among the top states in solar power generation with 4,100 MW installed capacity."

Rama Rao explained that the government is establishing 178 charging stations and the TSRTC has already pressed into service a

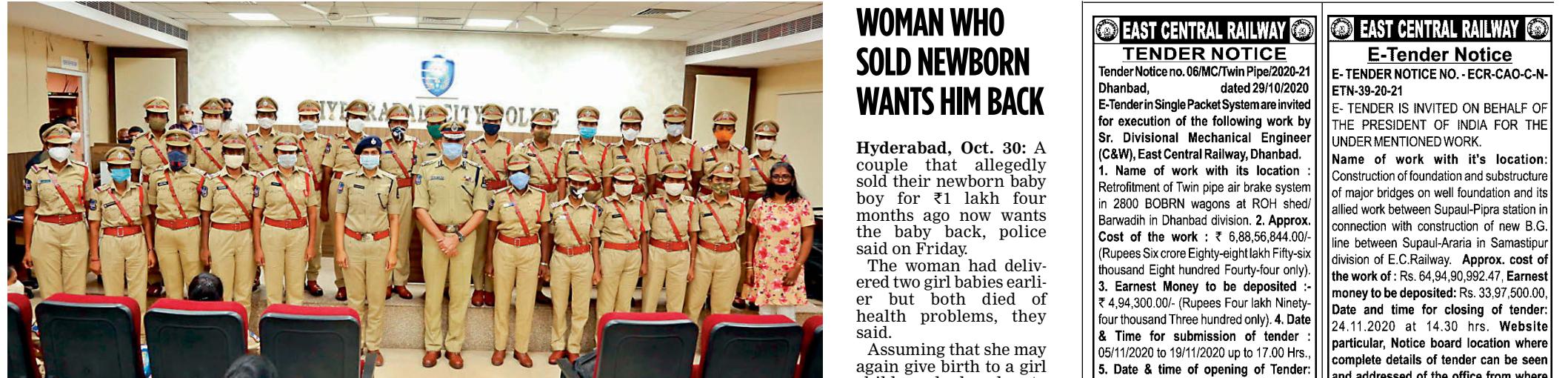


Actor Vijay Devarakonda speaks at the Telangana State Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Solution policy during a summit at the MCRHRD Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday as industries minister K.T. Rama Rao listens.

fleet of 40 electric buses. He highlighted the '3D' mantra — decarbonisation, digitisation and decentralisation — for sustainable development. The government

would promote last and first mile connectivity for public transport, and steps will be taken for a gradual shift of public transport buses to EVs and to encourage general

use of electric mobility. The summit saw six EV firms signing MoUs with the state government for setting up manufacturing units with an investment of about ₹3,000



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar stands for a photograph with 203 probationary sub-inspectors (civil), including 63 women, at his office in Bahseerbagh, Hyderabad, on Friday.

City gets largest batch of women SIs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The Hyderabad city police welcomed 203 probationary sub-inspectors (civil), including 140 men and 63 women, to the force on Friday. According to Hyderabad police chief Anjani

Kumar, this is the first time in the country that such a huge number of women sub-inspectors were recruited.

The commissioner interacted with the new police personnel at his office and addressed the gathering. "The biggest expecta-

tion from the people in khaki is that the public will look up to us in case of emergency and need. In your life, there will be hundreds of occasions when everybody is celebrating, but you might be on duty. If you convert good habits into your personality, you

will enjoy the work," Anjani Kumar said.

"As per my 30 years of experience, I am telling you that no department can give you as much job satisfaction as the police. Every police officer is a citizen and every citizen is a police officer," Kumar said.

WOODCUTTERS FROM TN BACK IN ACTION IN AP FORESTS

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 30

After a six-month pause, there is a gradual movement of woodcutters from Tamil Nadu into Seshachalam hills, which is spread across parts of Chittoor, Nellore and Kadapa districts.

Despite counter-measures by AP Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Taskforce (RSASTF), smuggling of precious wood continues unabated in the region. Arrests of smugglers by the taskforce, police and forest sleuths in the past few weeks indicate the intensity of smuggling activity.

The Chittoor district police wing had seized 2.5 tonnes of logs worth over ₹2 crore in the international market and had arrested 11 smugglers in Thavanampalle limits on October 21.

Other major operations include nabbing eight smugglers and seizing ₹5 crore worth logs on September 28 at Rollamadugu village in Rajampet of Kadapa district, where 100 logs worth more than ₹2 crore were seized on October 13. The task force has recovered 46 logs and arrested four smugglers from Thalakona forests on Friday.

Smuggling activity in Seshachalam ranges had come to a standstill in March following the imposition of Covid-19 lockdown but has resumed again.

Brakes failed as driver did not turn engine on

Vehicle rolls off hilltop parking lot, 7 die

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

Seven persons of a marriage party were killed and 10 injured when their minivan rolled off a parking lot at a hilltop temple in East Godavari just as they were leaving for home, at about 2.30 am on Friday.

Polic said the victims had come from different parts of the two Godavari districts to the Lord Venkateswara temple at Thantikonda village of Gokavaram mandal for the marriage, which was performed at about 11.30 pm on Thursday. The newly married couple left in another vehicle and their other family members, numbering about 20, got into the minivan.

Police said that it is

suspected that the driver began coasting down the slope from the parking lot and did not switch on the engine. This led to the brakes not activating. The vehicle rolled off the hilltop and fell on the temple steps located nearly 10 feet below.

Five persons were killed on the spot. The injured were shifted to government private hospitals in Rajamahendravaram and Kakinada, where two died while undergoing treatment. The condition of two critically injured persons is said to be stable.

Police booked a case under section 304 (A) and 338 of IPC dealing with driving the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner.

J.V. Santhosh, DSP, Rajamahendravaram Urban central zone,

who is the inquiry officer, said, "Though the driver was killed in the mishap, we found his negligence based on preliminary inquiry."

The dead included two 13-year old girls. The bodies of the victims were handed over to the families of the deceased after a post-mortem was conducted at the government hospital.

Alla Kali Krish-na Srinivas, Deputy CM and minister for health, and Ch. Srinivasa Gopala Krishna, minister for BC welfare, inquired about the mishap with the East Godavari district administration and issued directions to provide medical care to the injured persons.

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan expressed grief and offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Farmers worked hard to overcome the crises of labour not being available and poor transport facilities to bring in agriculture inputs.

The Kharif season starts in June and ends with October. All types of crops are grown during this season due to abundant availability of water because of rains — paddy, jowar, maize, groundnut, cotton,

tobacco, turmeric, castor, pulses and millets. The Coronavirus pandemic broke out in March and the lockdown followed immediately. Farmers faced lots of problems when tilling and sowing as Covid-19 protocols had to be followed including physical distancing.

As per the agriculture department, cultivation has been 100 per cent in Krishna, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kur-

10th century idol of sun god found

HOSKOTE
NAGABHUSHANAM | DC
ANANTAPUR, OCT. 30

A nearly 1,000-year-old idol of the sun god was excavated in Kalugodu village, Gummagatta mandal on Friday.

The 10th century statue unearthed while farmer H. Nagendra of Kalugodu village was ploughing his fields. The idol, standing two feet in height, holds two padmas.

The farmer informed nearby people who offered pujas to the idol. Priests of Bommakka Palli Rajarajeshwari temple worshipped the idol at the spot. Historians believe that other idols may be found nearby.

The land is located close to the Vedavathi river bed. Villagers informed that the Gummagatta tahsildar would generate 1,500 jobs.

Principal secretary, transport, Sunil Sharma and principal secretary, industries, Jayesh Ranjan, actor Vijay Devarakonda, transport commissioner M.R.M. Rao were also present.



The 10 century idol of the sun god that was found in Anantapur district.

Reddy said the idol mirrors the style of the Nolamba Pallavas of the 10th century. There might have been a sun god temple on banks of the Vedavathi river bed and chances are that more statues and structures are to be found in surrounding parts.

Nolamba Pallavas ruled many parts of present Anantapur district and the surrounding areas in present-day Karnataka.

Hemavathi, in Amarapuram mandal, was the capital of Amaravati.

After formal examination,

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.-ECR-CAO-C-NET-39-20-21	Dated 29/10/2020
E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK.	
Name of work with its location:	Construction of foundation and substructure of major bridges on well founded and its allied work between Supaul-Pipra station in connection with construction of new B.G. line between Supaul-Araria in Samastipur division of E.C.Railway. Approx. cost of the work of : Rs. 64,94,90,992.47. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 33,97,900.00.
3. Earnest Money to be deposited :-	₹ 4,94,300.00 (Rupees Four lakh Ninety-four thousand Three hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender :
05/11/2020 to 09/11/2020 up to 17.00 Hrs.	Date and time for closing of tender: 24.11.2020 at 14.30 hrs. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.reps.gov.in
5. Date & time of opening of Tender:	At 12:30 hrs. on 23/11/2020. 6. Website particulars: http://www.reps.gov.in No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
6. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W)	East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/0841/DHN/Mech./T/20-21/44
Stay protected from Corona	
Wear your mask properly	
Frequently wash your hands with soap	
Maintain safe distance	
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE	
Looking for something?	
We have it for you	
DECCAN CHRONICLE	

संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवायें, छत्तीसगढ़ विभागाध्यक्ष, ब्लॉक एक, तृतीय तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला रायपुर

क्रमांक एफ : 01-68/2020/विज्ञप्ति/2407 रायपुर, दिनांक: 26/10/2020

:- शुद्धि पत्र :-

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग अंतर्गत संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवायें, छत्तीसगढ़ के विज्ञापन क्रमांक एफ 01-68/2020/विज्ञप्ति/2355, रायपुर, दिनांक 14.10.2020 द्वारा चिकित्सा अधिकारी (एम.बी.बी.एस.) के 300 रुपयों की नियमित नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया है।

उक्त विज्ञापन में कुल रिकियों के वर्गवार संख्या में से महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षण में टंकण नृत्यशृंग 3 पद के स्थान पर 4 पद हो गया है। उक्त पदों की संख्या को 4 के स्थान पर 3 पदा जाये।

संचालक स्वास्थ्य सेवायें, छत्तीसगढ़

कार्यालय आयुक्त आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास :: संचालनालय ::
:: संचालनालय ::
ब

IN BRIEF
ANTRIX TOLD TO PAY \$1.2BN TO DEVAS

Washington, Oct. 30: A US court has asked Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation, to pay compensation of USD 1.2 billion to a Bengaluru-based startup, Devas Multimedia, for cancelling a satellite deal in 2005.

As per the agreement in January 2005, Antrix agreed to build, launch and operate two satellites and to make available 70 MHz of S-band spectrum to Devas, which the latter planned to use to offer hybrid satellite and terrestrial communication services throughout India.

The agreement was terminated by Antrix in February 2011. Over the next several years, Devas approached various legal avenues in India. This included the Supreme Court, which directed for a trial.

In his order dated October 27, Judge Thomas S Zilly, US District Judge, Western District of Washington, Seattle, ruled that Antrix Corporation pay a compensation of USD 562.5 million to Devas Multimedia Corporation and the related interest rate amounting to a total of USD 1.2 billion.

EC CAUTIONS KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA

DC CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The Election Commission on Friday cautioned BJP's Kailash Vijayvargiya over the *chunnun-munnu* remarks he made against Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath saying they were in violation of the model code of conduct provisions.

The poll body further advised the senior BJP leader not to use any such word in his public utterances while the model code of conduct was in place.

The Commission had issued a notice to Mr Vijayvargiya on October 26 seeking his reply.

The BJP leader had made the statement in Sanwer, Indore, during an election rally on October 14. He had also dubbed Mr Singh and Mr Nath as *gaddar* or traitors.

The EC order said that the Commission has carefully considered the matter "and is of considered view that Kailash Vijayvargiya has violated Para (2) of Part I of the General Conduct Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates".

The Commission advised Mr Vijayvargiya that "while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct".

Mr Vijayvargiya responded that the remarks quoted in the notice are in complete misunderstanding of its context.

EC REVOKES STAR CAMPAIGNER STATUS OF NATH

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
 with agency inputs
 BHOPAL, OCT. 30

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and Congress veteran Kamal Nath, who was snubbed by Rahul Gandhi for calling a female minister in Shivraj Cabinet "item" a couple of weeks ago, was on Friday stripped of the status of his party's star campaigner by the Election Commission for "repeated violation of the model code of conduct".

Taking serious note of breach of "ethical and dignified behaviour", the EC's order said, "Now, therefore, for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the commission hereby revokes the status of leader of political party (Star Campaigner) of Shri Kamal Nath, ex-chief minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current by-elections of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh".

"However, if any campaign is done by Shri Kamal Nath from now onwards, the entire expenditure related to travel, stay, visit, etc... shall be completely borne by the candidate in whose constituency the campaign is done by Shri Kamal Nath," the order added.

The Congress said it will move the Supreme Court against the decision. Congress RS MP and lawyer Vivek Tankha said that a petition will be filed in the apex court as soon as possible.

Munger violence: Report by CISF says police fired first

Report may create trouble for Munger SP Lipi who was removed by EC

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
 PATNA, OCT. 30

The Munger incident got politically heated up on Friday after a report claimed that the state police fired in the air which instigated the crowd during the Durga idol immersion procession on October 26.

The internal report filed by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a copy of which is also available with this newspaper, clearly states that the local police fired in the air to control the crowd.

The report says that "on the request of Bihar police at 11.20 PM on October 26, a group of 20 CISF personnel of Election wing departed from their camp for procession control duty. Further state police divided 20 personnel into two groups of 10 each. Out of this one group was deployed at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Chowk along with SSB and state police personnel at 11.45 pm".

The report further adds that "due to dispute between the local police and devotees present in the procession, the crowd started pelting stones at the state police and other CAPF personnel. To control the situation the local police first fired in the air which led to heavy stone pelting from the crowd. As the situation was getting out of hand the CISF personnel fired in the air, as a result, the violent procession got dispersed".

The report is likely to create trouble for the Munger SP Lipi Singh as well as the district administration which had earlier blamed anti-social elements for the incident in which a person was killed and many others injured.

Both Munger SP Lipi Singh and the DM were removed by the Election Commission on Thursday after a group of protesters went on a rampage in the town, setting police stations and outposts on fire and ransacked the SP and SDO offices.

The poll panel has also ordered an inquiry into the firing and stone-pelting during the immersion procession late Monday night in which a 20-year-old youth was killed.

Magadh divisional Commissioner has been asked to carry out a probe.

Chuba Ao has been asked to carry out a probe and submit a report within a week.

On Friday, a Congress delegation led by senior party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala met Bihar governor Phagu Chauhan over the incident and demanded immediate action against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi.

"We have demanded immediate suspension of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi. A compensation of ₹50 lakh must also be given to the family member of the person who

was killed in the incident," Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

The grand alliance has also criticized the incident, likening the district police and the SP with General Dyer of infamous Jallianwala Bagh incident in Punjab during the British rule.

Munger SP Lipi Singh is the daughter of senior JDU leader and Rajya Sabha MP RCP Singh.

Political analysts believe that the incident which occurred on the eve of the first phase of voting may have impacted the polling in the area as it witnessed lower voter turnout as compared to 2015 Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, the state administration on Friday deployed additional forces in Munger to control the situation. Speaking to reporters, DIG Munger Manu Maharaj said,

"Situation has been brought under control and forces have been deployed in the area to monitor the law and order in the area".

Sena, Cong attack BJP for its 'silence'

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The Shiv Sena on Friday hit out at the BJP for its "silence" on the firing on people during Durga idol immersion in Munger in Bihar, where the latter is in power along with the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U).

The Sena, in an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, said the BJP was, however, quick to pounce on and "communalise" the killing of two sadhus by a mob in Palghar district of Maharashtra in April.

One person was killed and over two dozen people, including security personnel, injured in firing and stone-pelting during godless Durga idol immersion in Munger.

"If this incident had happened in Maharashtra or West Bengal (opposition ruled states), the BJP

would have raised a hue and cry. Why are those who tried to communalise the Palghar lynching quiet over Munger?" the editorial asked.

"Didn't the fake Hindutvawadi feel the insult of Goddess Durga and wasn't the subsequent firing symbol of jungle raj? 'Has the BJP put on the glasses of secularism?' the daily asked.

The Sena, in an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, said the BJP was, however, quick to pounce on and "communalise" the killing of two sadhus by a mob in Palghar district of Maharashtra in April.

The BJP also came under fire from the state Congress with its spokesman Sachin Sawant claiming the NDA lead constituent indulged in opportunistic Hindutva politics. "When the Palghar incident took place, the BJP demanded the resignation of the Maharashtra home minister. However, the party has not uttered a word on Munger," Sawant said.

Farooq stopped from leaving for Friday prayers

DC CORRESPONDENT
 SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

congregational Friday prayers at Hazratbal.

A party spokesman said on the official Twitter handle, "J&K administration has blocked the residence of party president Dr Farooq Abdullah and stopped him from offering prayers at Dargah Hazratbal here to offer prayers on the day of Milad or the birth anniversary of Islam's Prophet Muhammad."

A police "bunker vehicle" stayed parked at the main entrance to Mr. Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road, blocking the access to the premises.

Earlier 83-year-leader and sitting Lok Sabha MP was reportedly informed by the authorities that he cannot move out.

The NC condemned the authorities barring its leader from joining the

Vijay Kumar, during a visit of the area told reporters that the assailants came in a car and opened fire at the trio. "Then the militants fled in the same vehicle.

We seized the vehicle near Achabal area of Anantnag," he said adding "With the help of our technical and human intelligence, three militants who carried out the act include a local Nisar Ahmed Khanda, another one namely Abbas Sheikh who was earlier with the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and later joined LeT, and the third one may be a foreigner".

The IGP said that the police had provided 'protection' to Mr. Hussain and that he was lodged at Hotel Dolphin at the Valley's premier resort of Pahalgam. "But he recently gave undertaking that he can move around without security. Now we are investigating what the trio was doing in the Kulgam area," he said.

LeT involved in killing of BJP workers: Police

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
 SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed that the militants involved in the murder of a local BJP youth leader and his two associates in southern Kulgam district have been identified and that Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and the Resistance Front (TRF) carried out the attack on Thursday.

A group of gunmen had at around 8 pm on Thursday shot and critically wounded Fida Hussain Itoo, general secretary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and two other party workers Umar Ramzan Hajam and Umer Rashid Beigh in Kulgam's Yaripora village. They were evacuated to an emergency trauma hospital along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area but doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range),

Over 48,000 new Covid cases; Kerala, Delhi remain a concern

DC CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Rising daily cases in Kerala and Delhi (5,891) remain a big concern as overall fresh cases of coronavirus continue to decline in India.

On Friday, 48,648 new cases were detected as the total number of Covid-19 cases in the country moved closer to 90 lakh.

Out of this 73.73 lakh persons have already recovered while 5.94 lakh still remain infected and under treatment.

The total number of deaths so far due to Covid-19 has been 1.21 lakh with 563 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

The union government is now gearing up for the

nationwide vaccine drive, once the vaccine candidates gets DCGA approval following successful trial results.

nationwide vaccine drive, once the vaccine candidates gets DCGA approval following successful trial results.

The Centre has asked states to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing Covid-19 vaccination drive while ensuring minimal disruptions in other routine healthcare services.

Stating that Covid-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being includ-

ed "sequentially starting from health care workers", the Health Ministry has sought constitution of committees at state and district levels which will review preparatory activities in terms of cold chain preparedness, operational planning, strategies for state-specific challenges in terms of geographical terrain and hard-to-reach areas, etc.

The Covid-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included sequentially starting from HCWs. Therefore, it is important to create a strong advisory and coordination mechanism at state and district level to guide the process of Covid-19 vaccine introduc-

tion while ensuring minimal disruption of other routine health care services including immunisation," the letter by union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan issued on October 26 stated.

As many as 57,386 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours compared to 48,648 new cases.

The national Recovery Rate has now progressed to 91.15 per cent and 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs.

Kerala has contributed the maximum with more than 8,000 to the single day recoveries followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka with more than 7,000 recoveries each.

FIRST PHASE OF NAVAL EXERCISE MALABAR TO BEGIN FROM NOV. 3

PAWAN BALI | DC
 NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

The phase-1 of Malabar will witness participation of Indian Navy units with US Navy Ship USS John S McCain (guided-missile destroyer), Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Ballarat (long range frigate) with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force ship JS Onami (destroyer) with integral SH-60 heli-copter.

The Indian Navy participation in Phase 1 will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsyan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

Locals on Assam side stop the movement of vehicles to Mizoram

Assam-Mizoram highway blockaded again

MANOJ ANAND | DC
 GUWAHATI, OCT. 30

In what is the fallout of long negligence in resolving the inter-state border dispute, the blockade on Assam-Mizoram border has re-surfaced with local residents on Assam side stopping the movement of vehicles to Mizoram demanding withdrawal of forces allegedly four kilometre inside Assam territory.

The border tension between the two states was resolved on Thursday last after Union Home Secretary held a video conference with the chief secretaries of both Assam and Mizoram to defuse the situation.

Asserting that tension was prevailing between the two neighbouring

states following a bomb blast in a school and video clips flashed on local news channel claiming that non-Mizo residents are being harassed in Mizoram, security sources said that it has created anger among the people living in bordering areas.

Meanwhile, additional director general of police (law and order) Assam Mr G.P. Singh told reporters that a recent bomb blast in a school in Lailapur along the Assam-Mizoram border may have been an attempt to terrorise the locals. Assam Police will request its counterpart to

hand over the probe of the incident to a central agency.

"An explosion had taken place in a school. I discussed with the Superintendent of Police of Kolashibari districts. We have seen the additional police post set up by Mizoram. There is a feeling that a bomb explosion might be an attempt to terrorise the locals. I have asked the Superintendent of Police of Cachar to file a case under section of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the court," he said.

"In the investigation, it has emerged that those triggering the explosion might be from Mizoram. We have discussed with police headquarters as it involves a case under unlawful activities, we will request to transfer the case to a central agency," Mr Singh told reporters.

The deadlock at the Assam-Mizoram border has been on since October 9 and took an ugly turn with around 20 shops and houses burnt and several people injured in attacks and counter-attacks by the people living along the border on October 17.

India has invited Royal Australian Navy this year to participate in the Malabar exercise in a message to China.

India, US, Japan and Australia are part of the 'Quad' alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China grouping.

The phase 2 of the exercise is scheduled to be

DECCAN Chronicle

31 OCTOBER 2020

Don't relax yet, ward off India's 2nd wave

Notwithstanding the steady stream of good news with occasional reverses on the vaccine front, there is little on the ground for the world to breathe easy in the fight against the pandemic Covid-19. At present, 4.54 crore people have been infected in the world over with 11.87 lakh deaths as on October 30. The US is leading the tally with 92.1 lakh cases and 2.34 lakh deaths, while India is in the second place with 80.9 lakh infections and 1.21 lakh deaths. The increase in daily caseload, which showed a decline in the beginning of September, has reversed the trend. The number was around three lakhs in the beginning of August and showed a softening effect throughout the month but slowly increased the next month. October 30 recorded the highest-ever daily increase of 5.45 lakh new patients worldwide. The same is the case with the number of daily deaths: it was around 7,000 in the end of July but it halved towards the end of September but the numbers have again crossed 7,000 by the end of October. Many are now suspecting a second wave of the pandemic. The number of new cases in the US is going up in a steady way, and the case is same in many European nations. Britain has imposed its toughest lockdown in many parts. France has imposed a lockdown while German chancellor Angela Merkel, who has ordered tougher measures, has warned of a "long, hard winter" this year. India has seen its ups and downs: the daily increase in the number of infections peaked in the second half of September and then showed a downward trend. They are hardening again.

Indian authorities and experts have been warning of another spike in infections once the festival season ends. The cue came from Kerala, which saw a sharp increase in the numbers after Onam and the state, which contained the virus exceptionally well when others faltered, is at present second only to Maharashtra in reporting new cases. Credit must be given to the Union government that launched Jan Andolan, a mass campaign to make people aware of the need to take precautionary measures such as wearing masks, observing social distancing and hand hygiene. However, it has not gained the traction it should have. Few people bothered about them while celebrating a festival last week and while voting in the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections.

The government may re-launch the campaign in mission mode with increased thrust on the rural areas so that the people take the easy and cheap option of keeping the virus away than the tougher, costlier and often fatal option of fighting it in their bodies. Lockdowns have been proved to have a debilitating impact on the economy and the government may keep that as the last option should the need arise. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned, the virus has not gone away. The government must keep reminding the people about that hard fact.

Pak lies on terror exposed

Pakistan stands self-condemned through the shocking boast of its federal minister Fawad Chaudhry — said to be close to Prime Minister Imran Khan — that the Pulwama terrorist attack on February 14 last year, in which 40 CRPF men were killed, was a "major achievement" of the government and the Opposition parties — meaning the people of Pakistan.

Mr Chaudhry was addressing his country's National Assembly or Parliament, and his remarks were direct and emphatic, removing any scope for backtracking as he appeared to do somewhat in a subsequent tweet. So shocking and dramatic was the statement that the Pakistan PM may wonder what his minister was up to, really.

Had he given himself the mission to undermine the PM who has lately found himself in the line of fire of an effective combine of 11 Opposition parties? Was Mr Chaudhry playing the Army's game if the latter is in the process of washing its hands of Mr Khan whom it had propped up in office two years ago? Such questions are apt to arise in Pakistan's domestic debate, but in India we ought to bear in mind that the evilness of that country's policy toward us derives from the stranglehold the Pakistani military has gained in determining policy since the Ayub coup six decades ago. The civilians make up a huge constituency of incompetents and innocents, who are manipulated at will by the Army.

It is not the Pakistani "Muslim" who is the enemy but the Army. In recent years this premise has sometimes been somewhat obscured in our thinking, and, as a by-product, the Kashmir policy too lacks clarity. The Centre misidentifies the inimical forces, targeting even those who have stood by our Constitution and flag. The broader implications of Mr Chaudhry's self-shaming admission ought to be brought before the world. In this context, raising China's all-season support to Pakistan, which has emerged as its buddy pal, is also to be questioned.

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Farrukh
Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"The older proverbs are the best,
Repeat them Bachchoo
and leave the rest:
'The Higher the monkey climb
The more him parts expose.'
And 'Odours change with time
Don't sniff the festering rose'
And 'Beware the actor
who can't tell
The pitiful human from the pose'"
— From One Day Martyr Rum
by Bachchoo

Communist MP in Britain was Tata's cousin, Gandhi's friend

Iidle thoughts in a supposedly idle season. I access my mobile phone more times a day than I used to before the plague of Covid restricted my visits to people and places, including the mother country in which the Ganga flows. But, gentle reader, even so, I have not succumbed to the temptations of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok or other "time-pass" forums and platforms and don't want anyone to know what I ate for breakfast and neither do I wish to pass on to the rest of humanity some video I may have chanced on, or some witticism which has gone 'viral'. (By the way, isn't this description of popularity a bit

ironic since Covid-19 has invaded all humanity?)

No, no, I am not humourless, but get that way when 20 different people send me a video in which a Chinese-looking youth working at a table hears the standard ring-tone of a mobile telephone and looks around to answer it when he sees that it's his cat seated next to him playing the tune with sticks on a xylophone. Funny the first time and raised a tolerant smile the second, but then...

So, what do I do instead? I cook dishes I find in the cookbooks that have laid on the shelves for years and even download recipes for honey-and-tamarind-marinated pork ribs (apologies to my Muslim, Jewish, vegetarian, vegan and squeamish readers!). And I scribble, as writers must — except I have taken to wondering whether fingering a computer should retain the same metaphor for modest writing as in the era of the fountain pen.

And as everyone does, I read. The latest literary phase has been books and essays on Indians who brought back to India something they had picked up from their sojourns in

the West. The list of such characters includes Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Ambedkar and so, so many more. The latest book, which I am still reading, is a biography of Sharup Saklatvala, who doesn't quite fit the category because he never returned to India after serving twice in the UK parliament as a communist MP from North Battersea in the early 1920s and then again in the late years of that decade.

The book is called *Comrade Sak* and is written by Mark Wadsworth, a black British writer with Caribbean roots. Before I say that this is an essential book which traces the life, convictions and career of this communist Parsi, a cousin of the Tata family, I ought to declare an interest. Or even a couple. Mark, the writer, is a friend and Comrade Sak, Sharup, was a "cousin-brother", as we joint-family-Parsis used to say, of my great grandfather Jamshed Saklatvala. Not that either fact affects my reading or evaluation of the biography which traces not only his life and career but appends his speeches

and his copious correspondence with Mahatma Gandhi about the organisation and representation of Indian workers. Sak was in favour of their unionisation and his ideological insistence led him to support anti-capitalist communism. Gandhi, in very interesting letters in reply, asserted at length that workers and capital could and should live together. He quotes with approval the stance of the Tata capitalists and their supportive benevolence towards their workforce.

I have said above that the factors which may bias my reading don't, but perhaps a few pages of the book do resonate in a personal way. Jamshed Saklatvala, my great grandfather, went to work on the setting up of the steel plant in Jamshedpur, helping the Tata cousins with the survey of the land etc. At the time the Saklatvalas and Tatas were partners in this pioneering capitalist venture.

The Saklatvalas didn't get their name, as I discovered, from some village called 'Saklat' in Gujarat. The surname of my ancestors comes from the fact that they owned mills which turned Bengali

jute into sack cloth which was used for making ships' sails and storage sacks — hence 'sack cloth wala'. And where then did those mills go? Or did the discovery of plastic sacks and the end of sails for ships ruin the trade my ancestors lived off, leaving at least one of us selling words to worthy newspapers and discerning publishers?

Mark's book tells me that Jamshed Saklatvala's private papers emphatically allege that the Saklatvalas were in some sense, through devious means, short-changed or done out of their fortune and partnership by one of the heirs and descendants of the founding capitalist J.R. Tata.

If that is true, just as after the Black Lives Matter explosion, sections of the population of the USA and even of Britain are claiming reparations, perhaps I should, on behalf of the Dhondys and the Saklatvalas claim reparations from the Tata industrial empire. I suppose I would settle for the more profitable branches of the Jaguar and Landrover manufacturing plants and perhaps throw in a small claim on Tata-Tetley tea. Watch this space!

Subhani



Battle for Bihar: Super flop or a blockbuster?

Shobhaa De

It's not the time for "hawa hawai," declared our beloved Prime Minister as he savaged the Opposition RJD in Bihar and mocked the "yuvraj" (Tejaswi Yadav). Pandemic or no pandemic, voters in Bihar showed up in decent numbers (54 per cent) during Phase 1 of the Assembly polls — the first major election of the pandemic. I am not holding my breath for Phase 2 (November 3). I don't think too many other people are either. Diwali will soon be upon us, and it's time for some cheer! Without my favourite weekend distraction (movies at the nearest multiplex), I have been getting my giggles via OTT platforms. We are all spoilt for choice, the head spines!

I was never a gym rat... So I happily imagined I would never turn into a "pandemic binger" — *malab*, for the first few months of the Covid curse, I stayed away from compulsively watching any and every new show dropping on this platform and that platform. My children kept recommending all sorts of amazing series — Turkish, Korean, Spanish — but I chose books and writing over those. More fool me! Now it is a bit too late to convert, jump in and spend five straight hours feeding on tight, taut, well-scripted international/national series everybody is raving over, but I do what hoarders of precious things frequently attempt — I save up my free hours for the weekend and catch one or two of the latest releases that have caught my fancy. Even though *Serious Men* is nearly a month old, I only managed to watch it earlier this week — and I was hooked from the opening scene itself. Since I hadn't read Manu

Joseph's brilliant and multi-layered book, on which the series is based, my mind was unprejudiced and receptive. In any case, I watch just about anything featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and the dialogue delivered in the trailer had me begging for more. Once I started, I got into it fully, more because the city of Mumbai itself was Ayyan Mani's (Nawazuddin's character) co-star! There is something very specific and particular about life in Mumbai's chawls. And director Sudhir Mishra captures the tiny and untidy moments through camera work that is intimate but never intrusive. The script is economical and revelatory without being over-reaching or obvious. Apart from Nawazuddin with his contrived rage, disillusionment, anguish and impatience with his lot, the series is enriched by the presence of a marvelous little chap, Aakshat Das, playing Adi Mani, Ayyan's hearing-challenged son, with total transparency. It is a very tough role for a kid to pull off convincingly, since the dialogues are "constructed" (watch... and find out), but the line this kid hurls arrogantly at pompous adults — "Primitive minds: I can't deal you!" — was just brilliant! His clever and ambitious father has tutored Adi to spit out that scathing sentence at those asking him tough questions to establish his "boy genius" credentials. When he is stumped for an answer, Adi throws this well-rehearsed insult at them and stomps off angrily! It is also the line that ends the series on a very poignant note, on a deserted beach. *Serious Men* is a scathing commentary on caste politics, dishonesty and corruption.

Acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood

Personally speaking, I doubt I will be foolish enough to book tickets at a multiplex to watch a big-ticket film — regardless of the star cast. I am a little bratty now and have grown accustomed to calibrating and curating my entertainment hours as per my convenience. I enjoyed *Emily in Paris* over three nights of carefully measured watching... savouring every tiny glimpse of the most gorgeous, most glamorous city on earth. That holds true for another French import *Call My Agent*, shot in Gay Paree (ummm... pun intended). It features throwaway lines like "Fragility is an actor's strength". Rebecca was a huge let down, as was *A Suitable Boy*. But the Korean *Crashlanding* made up for those wasted hours.

I am looking forward to *Scam 1992*, the Harshad Mehta story that has received great reviews and made an overnight star out of Pratik Gandhi.

These acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood. Watching movies or a favourite series in the privacy of your home has become a highly personalised and transformative act. We watch at our convenience, often relaxing on a comfy bed and munching micro-oven popcorn. There is no interval to break the spell, plus, it is we who possess the power to walk away, do something else, and come back nonchalantly, after an hour or so. Just the convenience of being able to pick up where one had left off has made a lot of diehard movie fans re-jig their entertainment preferences — and from the look of it, web series are winning this round.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

FELLING TREES

The forcible felling of trees (*Moosapet residents decry forcible felling of trees, DC, Oct. 29*) is nothing new for us. Four months back, fruit bearing plants and flower plants were cut in the GHMC Shaktinagar Park in Moosapet. A part of the park was sacrificed to build a toolroom in 200 sq. yards in the name of development when everyone knew that it did not need a building.

L.V. Subba Rao
Hyderabad

MUST WEAR MASKS

People in many localities, malls and markets have stopped wearing masks. Even if shopkeepers or customers suggest they wear masks, the idea is rejected. I strongly feel if the use of masks is made compulsory by law, it will help bring down Covid cases. This small gesture will save the society from the disease. In the US, many states have implemented such a law. May be monetary fine will help in controlling Covid and Covid patients. Shirleka Bhasale Hyderabad

REGRET

We deeply regret if the comments in our recent editorial on the actions of the President of France, in the context of certain acts of violence in that country, have inadvertently hurt the sentiments of any of our readers. It was never our intention to offend our readers or anyone else.

Editor

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Modified Soviet maps satisfy India

NEW DELHI, October 30

Recent Soviet maps, which showed modification of the earlier maps, were satisfactory for India, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said.

Commenting on foreign secretary T.N. Kaul's talks in Moscow during the last two days the spokesman said that the new maps shown to Mr Kaul during his discussions with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firyugin had Jammu and Kashmir, except for Akrai Chin, being shown as being fully inside India.



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and leave the rest:
'The Higher the monkey climb
The more him parts expose.'
And 'Odours change with time
Don't sniff the festering rose'
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"Idle thoughts in a supposedly idle season. I access my mobile phone more times a day than I used to before the plague of Covid restricted my visits to people and places, including the mother country in which the Ganga flows. But, gentle reader, even so, I have not succumbed to the temptations of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok or other "time-pass" forums and platforms and don't want anyone to know what I ate for breakfast and neither do I wish to pass on to the rest of humanity some video I may have chanced on, or some witticism which has gone 'viral'. (By the way, isn't this description of popularity a bit



SHORT TAKES
**QUAKE IN TURKEY
SEA TOPPLES
BUILDINGS IN IZMIR**

Istanbul, Oct. 30: A strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea has shaken Turkey and Greece. Turkey's interior minister reports that six buildings in western Izmir province were destroyed.

Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said on Friday's earthquake was centered in the Aegean at a depth of 16.5 kilometers and registered at a 6.6 magnitude. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.9, with an epicenter 13 kilometers north northeast of the Greek island of Samos. The United States Geological Survey put the magnitude at 7.0. Turkish media showed wreckage of a multiple-story building in central Izmir with people climbing it to reach rescuers.

Smoke was filmed in several spots in central Izmir. The governor said there was no immediate information on casualties. Turkish media said the earthquake was felt across the regions of Aegean and Marmara, where Istanbul is located.

More militant attacks anticipated in France

Soldiers at key sites, places of worship; 47-year-old in touch with attacker arrested

Paris/Nice, Oct. 30: France's interior minister said on Friday more militant attacks on its soil were likely and the country was engaged in a war against Islamist ideology following the second deadly knife attack in its cities in two weeks.

Minister Gerald Darnier was speaking a day after an assailant shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in Nice.

The man was shot by police and is now in critical condition in a hospital.

"We are in a war against an enemy that is both inside and outside," Darnier told RTL radio. "We need to understand that there have been and there will be other events such as these terrible attacks."

President Emmanuel Macron has deployed thousands of soldiers to protect important sites such as places of worship and schools, and France's security alert is at its highest level.

Thursday's attack, on the birthday of the Prophet

Mohammad, took place at a time of swelling Muslim anger across the globe at France's defence of the right to publish cartoons depicting the prophet. Protesters who deem the cartoons an insult to the Prophet Mohammad have denounced France in street rallies in several Muslim-majority countries.

Tens of thousands of Muslims protested in Bangladesh on Friday, chanting slogans such as "Boycott French products"

and carrying banners calling Macron "the world's biggest terrorist" as they marched in the streets of the capital Dhaka.

France's chief anti-terrorism prosecutor said the man suspected of carrying out the Nice attack was a Tunisian born in 1999 who had arrived in Europe on Sept. 20 in Lampedusa, the Italian island off Tunisia that is a main landing point for migrants from Africa.

A Tunisian security source and a French police source named the suspect as Brahim Aouissaoui.

A judicial source said on



A woman lights a candle in front of the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Basilica in Nice on Friday during a tribute to the victims killed by a knife attacker the day before.

— AFP

Friday that a 47-year-old man had been taken into custody on Thursday evening on suspicion of having been in contact with the perpetrator of the attack.

The Nice attack occurred just under two weeks after Samuel Paty, a school teacher in a Paris suburb, was beheaded by an 18-year-old Chechen who was apparently incensed by the teacher showing a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammad

in class.

It was also the second militant attack in Nice in recent years. In July 2016, a militant drove a truck through a seafront crowd celebrating Bastille Day, killing 86 people.

People gathered in front of the Notre-Dame church on Friday morning to lay flowers and light candles. Frederic Lefevre attached heart-shaped balloons to the church gate. — Reuters

Macron remains defiant after attack

Nice, France, Oct. 30: French president Emmanuel Macron vowed his country would stand firm against religious extremists after a knife-wielding man killed three people at a church, in the country's second attack blamed on Islamist terrorism this month.

The assailant, who was shot and wounded by police, was identified as 21-year-old Brahim Aouissaoui, who arrived in Italy last month, then travelled to France, judicial sources said.

France will not "give up on our values," Macron said in Nice, after a Tunisian migrant went on a near-hour-long rampage with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife, targeting people praying in the southern city's Notre-Dame basilica.

A 60-year-old woman died inside the church and the body of a man, a 55-year-old church employee, was found nearby, his throat also slit.

Another woman, a 44-

WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN FRANCE STABBINGS

Paris, Oct. 30: World leaders condemned fatal stabbings in the French city of Nice on Thursday that France called an Islamist terrorist attack.

Condemnation came from US President Donald Trump, UN chief Antonio Guterres, as well as European, Arab and Israeli leaders.

"Our hearts are with the people of France. America stands with our oldest Ally in this fight," Trump tweeted. "These Radical Islamic terrorist attacks must stop immediately. No country, France or otherwise can long put up with it!"

One of the first to condemn was Turkey, embroiled in a row with France over the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed that have triggered a wave of attacks against French people.

— AFP

Trump, Biden head to face-off in midwest US

ZUCKERBERG WARNS 'CIVIL UNREST' IN U.S.

Tampa, Oct. 30: Donald Trump and Joe Biden square off with rallies in key Midwestern states on Friday as a resurgent Coronavirus further highlights their sharp differences just four days before the US presidential election.

Even with the United States reaching another daily record in new Covid-19 infections on Thursday, President Trump stuck to his strategy of downplaying its dangerousness and calling for businesses to reopen.

He has also ramped up fear-mongering, warning of rampaging "socialists" and seeking to portray his Democratic challenger as intent on shutting the country down.

Biden has sought to persuade the few remaining undecided voters that he would provide a steady hand on the wheel and heal America's "soul," calling Trump irresponsible.

The former vice president has held drive-in, socially distanced rallies, while Trump's gatherings have often seen attendees ignore such guidelines and eschew masks.

The two candidates plan to be in three Midwestern states on Friday, with both campaigning in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Trump will also travel to Michigan and Biden also plans to be in Iowa.

Trump's wins in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa helped propel him to victory in 2016.

But polling averages from the RealClearPolitics.com site show Biden up in all four of those states, ranging from 6.5 percentage points in Michigan to just one point in Iowa.

Still, Democrats and Republicans alike have repeatedly warned of the unreliability of polls, pointing to Trump's shock defeat of Hillary Clinton in 2016 despite surveys showing her to be the clear favorite.

Trump and Biden are concentrating their efforts on battleground states that will decide the election in the days before the November 3 polls, and on Thursday both were in the crucial state of Florida. Trump, 74, held another raucous rally in Tampa, telling the cheering crowd that coronavirus lockdowns under Biden would banish normal life. — AFP

HONG KONG HITS OUT AT US IN W.T.O. OVER 'MADE IN CHINA' LABEL RULE

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Hong Kong authorities on Friday said they will launch proceedings at the World Trade Organisation to challenge a demand by the United States to label imports from the financial hub as "Made in China". Donald Trump issued an executive order in June declaring the city no longer sufficiently autonomous from the authoritarian mainland after Beijing launched a crackdown against pro-democracy supporters. The decision, which came

as China imposed a sweeping new security law on the business centre, reflected Washington's belief that Hong Kong is now "just another Chinese city" and does not deserve special trade privileges.

The new rules state that products from the city—which used to be allowed to carry a "Made in Hong Kong" label—now needed to say "Made in China". On Friday, Hong Kong officials confirmed they would bring the dispute to the WTO's settlement mechanism. — AFP

India's First Seaplane Services take-off...

Inauguration of First-Ever Water Aerodrome at Kevadia and Flagging-off of Seaplane Services between Water Aerodrome, Kevadia and Sabarmati River Front, Ahmedabad



Seaplane Services: A New Era of Air Travel in India

- India's First Commercial Seaplane Services
- Travel time between Statue of Unity, Kevadia and Sabarmati River Front will reduce from 4hrs to 45min
- A new dimension to tourism of the region
- Generation of employment opportunities



Salient Features of Water Aerodromes

- Developed at ₹36 Crore each at Kevadia & Sabarmati
- Terminal Building Area - 700 sqm
- Category 2B Type of Floatplanes suitable for carrying upto 14 passengers per flight
- Eight trips per day

by

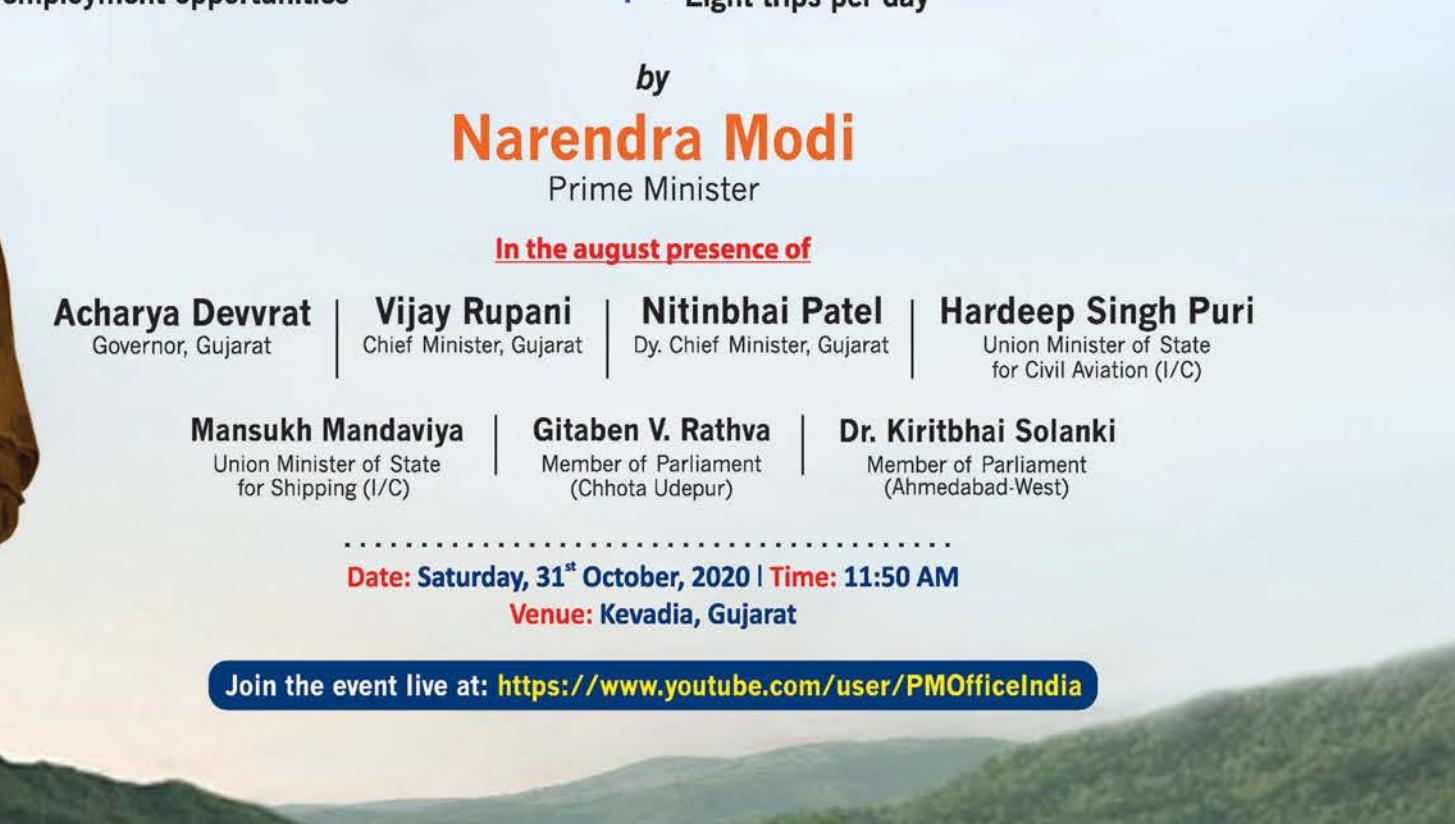
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Acharya Devvrat Governor, Gujarat	Vijay Rupani Chief Minister, Gujarat	Nitinbhai Patel Dy. Chief Minister, Gujarat
Mansukh Mandaviya Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C)	Gitaben V. Rathva Member of Parliament (Chhota Udepur)	Dr. Kirithbai Solanki Member of Parliament (Ahmedabad-West)

Date: Saturday, 31st October, 2020 | **Time:** 11:50 AM
Venue: Kevadia, Gujarat

Join the event live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PMOOfficeIndia>

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Government of Gujarat



MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Government of India

DAV/P 03/10/2020

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40522.10
Nifty 50	11889.40
S&P 500*	00.00
Dollar (₹)	73.71
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.88
Euro (₹)	87.00
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,853.77
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	00.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	00.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	00.00

*As of 9:30 PM IST

Tencent Games ends access for Indian Pubg users

Tencent Games on Friday said it is terminating all services and access for Pubg Mobile users in India to comply with the government order last month. On September 2, India had banned 118 mobile apps with Chinese links, including popular game Pubg Mobile, citing data privacy concerns and a threat to national security. This took the total count of Chinese-linked mobile apps banned by India to 224.

BPCL puts Bina refinery expansion proposal on hold



BPCL has put on hold its plans to expand its Bina refinery and install a secondary unit at its Mumbai refinery to boost efficiency pending privatisation of the company, N. Vijayagopal said. The Central government wants to sell its 53.29% stake in BPCL to raise funds to rein in a ballooning fiscal deficit. "It is for the new owner to decide whether they want and have the flexibility to add refining capacity," Vijaagopal said.

Vodafone Idea shares jump 5% after Q2 earnings

Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday gained nearly 5 per cent after the company reported significant narrowing of losses to about ₹7,218 crore for the September quarter. The stock rose 4.42 per cent to close at ₹8.75 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 6.44 per cent to ₹8.92. On the NSE, it jumped 4.79 per cent to close at ₹8.75. In traded volume terms, 939.19 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and 41.75 crore units on the NSE during the day.

IndusInd Bank profit dips over 53% to ₹647cr

IndusInd Bank on Friday reported over 53 per cent decline in its standalone net profit at ₹647.04 crore in the Q2FY2021. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,383.37 crore in the year-ago period. On the standalone basis, total income fell to ₹8,731.05 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year. In the same period a year ago, it stood at ₹8,877.02 crore, IndusInd Bank said.

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Jio's user base hits 406 m, largest ever outside China

Jio's robust growth offset's Reliance's poor refinery business



New Delhi, Oct. 30: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 15 per cent drop in second quarter net profit after the pandemic-hit oil demand dragged down continued good showing in consumer-facing businesses such as telecom. Consolidated net profit attributable to owners at ₹9,567 crore in July-September compared with ₹11,262 crore a year back, Reliance said in a stock exchange filing.

A plunge in fuel demand after the raging pandemic forced people to stay home and stifled the economy dealt a body blow to the firm's traditional cash cow oil refining and petrochemicals, even as consumer-facing businesses, which account for 35 per cent of the oil-to-telecom-to-retail conglomerate's revenues, continued to do well.

Its digital services, which includes the telecom arm Jio, saw stand-

alone net profit swell to ₹2,844 crore in the second quarter of current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) from ₹990 crore a year back.

In an investor presentation, the company said the total customer base stood at 405.6 million of September 2020, making it the first operator outside China to surpass 400 million subscribers in a single country market.

Net addition of 7.3 million subscribers and per-user revenue rising to ₹145 helped the telecom business soar.

The gradually 'unlock'

that has seen markets and

malls reopen helped the company's retail business recover with almost flat revenue and a 14 per cent lower EBITDA of ₹2,009 crore. Reliance said 85 per cent of its retail stores were open as of second quarter. It added 232 stores to take the total to 11,931 stores. Ambani raised an unprecedented ₹2.5 lakh crore since April from sale of stake in the digital and retail units and a rights issue. Of this, over ₹1.76 lakh crore has already flowed into the company.

Another ₹37.710 crore was raised from the sale of an 8.48 per cent stake in its retail unit.

crore and pre-tax profit dropped 33 per cent at ₹5,964 crore. Refining EBITA almost halved to ₹3,002 crore as revenue slumped 36 per cent.

The firm's twin refineries earned \$5.7 per barrel on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel, as compared to a gross refining margin (GRM) of \$9.4 per barrel last year. The profit in Q2 was lower sequentially as well as the April-June earning of ₹13,248 crore included one-time gain of ₹7,629 crore from sale of 49 per cent stake in petro retailing business to BP. Investors such as Facebook, Google and global private equity funds have picked up a cumulative 32.96 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹1.52 lakh crore.

All the deals, except Google, have been completed, bringing ₹1.18 lakh crore into the company. Another ₹37.710 crore was raised from the sale of an 8.48 per cent stake in its retail unit.

— PTI

Indian Oil posts 11-fold rise in profit

New Delhi, Oct. 30: India's top oil firm IOC on Friday reported an 11-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹6,227.31 crore for the September 2020 quarter, on the back of a boost in refining margins and inventory gain on using low-priced crude oil for making fuels. The net profit stands at ₹6.78 per share.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹563.42 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Indian Oil Chairman Shrikant Vaidya said.

"The profit was up due to higher inventory and foreign exchange gains and better refinery margins," he said.

The company earned \$8.62 on turning every bar-

rel of crude oil into fuel in the second quarter of the current financial year 2020-21, compared with a gross refining margin of ₹1.28 in July-September 2019. IOC gained ₹7,400 crore on using low-priced crude oil it procured during May and June to convert into petroleum products in Q2. This inventory gain compared to an

inventory loss of ₹1,807 crore in Q2 of the 2019-20 fiscal.

Inventory gain is booked when a company buys raw material at a particular price but by the time it is turned into fuel, the rates have gone up. Since retail pump prices are benchmarked at prevailing global rates, an inventory gain is booked.

— PTI

Vasavi's biggest luxury project



Business NOTE

Ashok Kumar Vir, chairman of Kaaalmaans Group, unveils the logo of the prestigious project "Vistara Luxury Living" along with Yerram Vijay Kumar, the chairman and MD of Vasavi Group. Vistara Luxury Living is one of the biggest premium residential project in Hyderabad, which includes five Premium Towers of 32 floors each at Hitec City.

BSE to seek Sebi views on Future deal with RIL

Mumbai, Oct. 30: India's Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will consult the market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and seek clarifications from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their ₹3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, a source said.

The Indian regulator and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment. Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

The dispute centres around Future Group's decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale and some other businesses to Reliance for ₹3.38 billion, including debt.

Amazon argues that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list including any firms from Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani's group.

Amazon has shared a copy of the Singapore arbitrator's interim order with Sebi and the two stock exchanges, hoping they would step in to stall the approval, the second source said.

A BSE source said it will consult Sebi about its

Triumph Trident 660's India launch next year

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 30

British premium motorcycle maker Triumph on Friday unveiled globally its upcoming entry-level, sport naked, the Triumph Trident Roadster.

The new adventure tourer bike will be the most inexpensive Triumph on sale and will bring the brand to a wider spectrum of prospective buyers in India.

The Triumph Trident Roadster equipped with a 660cc triple-cylinder motor will produce 81HP and 64Nm of torque.

The new bike, which would be launched in India next year, is expected to be priced around Rs 7.5 lakh.

The new bike comes with a 6-speed gearbox and can also be optioned with an up and down quickshifter.

The Trident 660 bike gets an impressive service interval of 16,000 km.

"What we wanted with the new Trident 660 was to give the riders in this really exciting middleweight roadster world all the things they want from

their bike, with a genuine set of real advantages that set a new benchmark for choice," Steve Sargent, Chief Product Officer at Triumph Motorcycles.

From the competitive price, to the triple power and performance, plus the benefits of class-leading handling and technology, we believe the Trident 660 is a real milestone in the category, and introduces the Triumph brand and the advantages of a triple engine to a whole new generation of riders across the world," He boasted.

The Trident will get a

class-leading electronics package, including Rain and Road riding modes, switchable traction control (integrated into the riding modes), ride by wire throttle and an all-new multi-functional instruments with colour TFT display, with Accessory fit "My Triumph" Connectivity System and all-LED lighting and ABS.

Once launched in India

later this year the

Triumph Trident will be

the most inexpensive bike

competing against

Kawasaki Z650 bike.

The Trident will get a

large number of bids made. "I am confident in the company's future prospect because it is involved in many different businesses ... and they are all online services, which is the direction the world would be heading to, so I think its potential is huge," Chan said.

Starting as a payments processor in 2004, Ant has built an empire in China by offering its users short-term loans that are credited within minutes, and selling insurance and investment products.

The unprecedeted

retail frenzy for Ant

shares is backed by

massive amount of margin

lending by financial institutions, with brokerages in Hong Kong lending billions.

— Bloomberg

India's forex kitty touches all-time high of ₹560 b

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The

country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by ₹5,412 billion to touch an all-time high of ₹560,532 billion in the week ended October 23, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended October 16, the reserves stood at ₹555,12 billion after increasing by ₹3,615 billion.

of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves were up by ₹175 million in the reporting week to ₹36,860 billion, as per the central bank data. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by ₹8 million to ₹1,487 billion.

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During the reporting week, the surge in the forex kitty was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

FCA rose by ₹5,202 billion to ₹517,524 billion, the RBI's weekly data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect

Gold ETFs log ₹2.4K cr inflow in Sept. quarter

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Gold

exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw staggering net inflows of over ₹2,400 crore in the three months ended September 30, as investors continued to hedge their exposure to riskier assets due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from Covid-19.

In comparison, investors had infused ₹172 crore in this asset class in July-September 2019, according to the data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India. The category has been among the better-performing

ones so far this year and received a net inflow of ₹5,957 crore.

As per the data, a net sum of ₹2,426 crore was pumped into gold-linked ETFs till September 30.

Divam Sharma, co-founder, Green Portfolio, said returns generated by gold ETFs over the last one year have increased number of investors buying the asset.

"Gold investment picked up due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from COVID-19 pandemic," said Harsh Jain of Groww.

— PTI

COVID PANDEMIC HITS INVESTOR PERCEPTION OF INDIA: SURVEY

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 30

Among the emerging nations, India seems to be the worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the strength of the economy has deteriorated the most in India in the first half of 2020, finds a study.

The Investors' Macro Ratings Index, which looks at investors' perception of the economy based on parameters like real GDP growth, inflation, fiscal deficit and bank credit, has deteriorated in all the emerging economies, as per a report by Motilal Oswaal Financial Services.

However, India was the most affected in the first half and Taiwan was the least affected.

The study examined macro-economic parameters in emerging economies like India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

As per International Monetary Fund's projection, India's real GDP growth is expected to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020, which is the highest contraction among the 10 emerging markets. India is also the only economy with a double-digit contraction. On the other hand, China is expected to see 1.9 per cent growth, the highest among all of them. At 4.9 per cent retail inflation in 2020 will be the highest in India.

MEGA LISTING

Ant's dual listing to raise \$34.4b, dwarfing Saudi Aramco's listing

Ant's IPO sees \$3 trillion in retail demand

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Retail investors placed bids for a record \$3 trillion (2.3 trillion pounds)



SHORT TAKES
Amritra Srihitha
Mandava sisters in golf top three

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Hyderabad sisters Amritra and Srihitha Mandava finished second and third at the World Amateur Ranking Junior golf tournament at the Classic Golf Resort in New Delhi on Friday. Amritra matched winner Ragini Navet's first (69) and third round (72) scores but fell short of three strokes in the final tally in the Girls 13-14 years category. Ragini aggregated 212 (69, 71, 72) and Amritra got 215 (69, 74, 72), one better than her sister Srihitha, who scored 216 (72, 71, 73) to finish third in the three-round event contested over 54 holes. Earlier this month, Srihitha had emerged runner-up in the Girls 12-14 section, three strokes behind Zara Anand at the same course. Ragini had finished third then.

Football coach Narsing no more

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

Former football coach and office-bearer of Bolarum Sporting and Cantonment Club B. R. Narsing Rao (Lingam) passed away on Thursday. His last rites took place on the same day. He was 65 and left behind his wife and four daughters.

Bolarum Sporting and Cantonment clubs observed a two-minute silence before the morning practice at Bolarum grounds on Friday. Later in the afternoon, they held a condolence meeting. An active coach, Lingam was known to visit residences of players on his bicycle to inform them about the matches. Later, he retired as manager of Vijaya Bank.

Mike Tyson back in the boxing ring

Los Angeles: Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. insisted Thursday they are preparing for a bruising battle when the two fifty-something fighters face each other in an eight-round exhibition bout in Los Angeles.

Former world heavyweight champion Tyson, 54, will be fighting for the first time in 15 years when he meets four division world champion Jones, 51, at the Staples Center on November 28. While the California State Athletic Commission-sanctioned event has been dismissed as a "circus act" in some quarters, Tyson and Jones bristled at criticism the pay-per-view fight would not be a legitimate contest.

"Not a real fight? It's Mike Tyson versus Roy Jones. I'm coming to fight and I hope he's coming to fight and that's all you need to know," Tyson told a virtual press conference. Jones, whose last fight came in 2018 with a unanimous decision over cruiserweight Scott Sigmon, also rejected the fight's exhibition tag, while describing himself and Tyson as "freaks". — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET
IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians from 3.30 pm; Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD.

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Hobart Hurricanes from 10.10 am; Sydney Sixers vs Melbourne Stars from 1.35 pm; Sydney Thunder vs Brisbane Heat from 4:50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

FORMULA ONE
Imola Grand Prix: Practice 1 from 4.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

FOOTBALL
English Premier League: Sheffield United vs Manchester City from 6 pm; Burnley vs Chelsea from 8.30 pm; Liverpool vs West Ham United from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2

Italian League: Crotone vs Atalanta from 7.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Parma from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Bologna vs Cagliari from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

UFC FIGHT NIGHT
Uriah Hall vs Anderson Silva and other bouts from 4.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

BIG BEN STROKES

Stokes, Sanju help Royals snap Kings' win streak



Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals plays a shot against Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab: K. L. Rahul c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 46, Mandeep Singh c Ben Stokes b Jofra Archer 0, Chris Gayle b Jofra Archer 99, Nicholas Pooran c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 22, Glenn Maxwell not out 6, Deepak Hooda not out 1. Extras (LB-1, W-8, NB-2) 11. **Total (for 4 wickets in 20 overs)** 185.

FoW: 1-1, 2-121, 3-162, 4-184.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-26-2, Varun Aaron 4-0-47-0, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-47-0, Shreyas Gopal 1-0-10-0, Ben Stokes 4-0-32-2, Rahul Tewatia 3-0-22-0.

Rajasthan Royals: Robin Uthappa c Nicholas Pooran b Murugan Ashwin 30, Ben Stokes c Deepak Hooda b Chris Jordan 50, Sanju Samson run out 48, Steve Smith not out 31, Jos Buttler not out 22.

Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. Total (for 3 wickets in 17.3 overs) 186.

FoW: 1-60, 2-111, 3-145.

Bowlers: Arshdeep Singh 3-0-34-0, Mohammed Shami 3-0-36-0, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-43-1, Chris Jordan 3.3-0-44-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-27-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	12	8	4	0	16	+1.186
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	0	14	+0.048
Delhi Capitals	12	7	5	0	14	+0.030
Kings XI Punjab	13	6	7	0	12	-0.133
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.377
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.467
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	5	7	0	10	+0.396
Chennai Super Kings	13	5	8	0	10	-0.532

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

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SRH lock horns with Virat & Co

Sharjah, Oct. 30: An IPL Play-offs spot at stake, Royal Challengers Bangalore need to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats and put up a strong challenge against strong-willed Sunrisers Hyderabad when the two teams clash, here on Saturday.

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

- Matches: 15
- Hyderabad: 7
- Bangalore: 7
- Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)

MEETING IN 2019

- Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 118 runs at Hyderabad
- Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 4 wickets at Bangalore

MEETING IN 2020

- Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

against RCB and MI — to reach 14 points to stay in the reckoning.

Just winning both the games might not be enough for SRH. They would be hoping that at least one out of RCB, DC (14 points) and Kings XI Punjab (12 points) don't reach the magic figure of 16.

If that happens, SRH will progress to the play-offs because of a superior NRR than all the teams which can finish on 14 points.

— PTI

Mumbai, Delhi to meet in a big bout

Dubai, Oct. 30: Their play-off berth secured, defending champions Mumbai Indians would look to add to the woes of Delhi Capitals, who are on a three-match losing streak, and consolidate their position at the top when the two teams face each other in their penultimate IPL league game here on Saturday.

CSK six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday sealed MI's play-off berth. The defending champions are currently on 16 points and with an excellent net run rate (NRR), are almost certain

to finish in the top two. Despite three defeats on the trot against Kings XI Punjab, KKR and Sunrisers Hyderabad, DC are placed third with 14 points from 12 games, courtesy their consistent run in the first phase of the league. The three defeats should come as an eye opener for DC as they can ill-afford to take things lightly and need at least a win to seal their play-off place.

But it won't be an easy task as their last two games are against the top two teams on the table — MI and RCB. — PTI

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