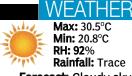
# nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 12 OCTOBER 2020



Forecast: Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely.



CASES	DEATHS
(+76,408)	(+1,080)
71,14,102	1,09,127

**C** WUNT

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+1,717)(+5)TS: 2,12,063 1,222

AP: 7,55,727 6,224

(+5,210)



worldometers.info/

(+30)

#### TROGUIDE Sarvari; Dakshinayana

**Tithi:** Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Navami till 5.46 pm Star: Pushyami till 10.14 am (Monday) Varjyam: 9.13 am to 10.49 am

Durmuhurtam: 4.20 pm to 5.07 pm Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm HIJRI CALENDAR Safar ul Muzaffar 23, 1442 AH

**PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.08 am **Zohar:** 12.13 pm **Asar:** 4.19 pm

Maghrib: 6.03 pm

Isha: 7.11 pm **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.08 AM** SUNSET TODAY 5.57 PM **MOONRISE TODAY 12.24 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 1.54 AM** 



They are planning to campaign with film actresses and news anchors!

IN BRIEF

#### **Non-AC trains over** 130kmph to be AC

New Delhi: Trains running on identified routes at a speed of 130 kmph or above on the railway network will have only air-conditioned coaches in the near future as part of

the Railways' plans to upgrade the network, an official said on Sunday.Stressing that the ticket prices of such trains will be "affordable", railway ministry spokesperson D.J. Narain clarified that it should not be misconstrued that "all non-AC coaches will be made into AC coaches." "AC coaches are a technical necessity wherever the speed is above 130 kmph. Railways is work-

ing on a massive upgrade of

the network," Narain said.



NATION 4

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**Nadda kickstarts BJP** campaign in Bihar



WORLD 5

Joe may end cap on **Green card: Indians**  **Hamilton equals** 

SPORTS 8 **Schumacher record** 

Vol. 83 No. 283 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹7.00

### 20th Grand Slam title tie



Rafael Nadal celebrates after beating Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the French Open men's singles final in Paris on Sunday. The 13th Roland Garros title helps Nadal tie with Roger Federer at 20 Grand Slams. Nadal beat World No. 1 Djokovic who has won 17 Grand Slams so far. Full report on Page 8

### Cong, BJP struggle to get strong women nominees

**S.A. ISHAQUI I DC** HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has strategically cornered the Congress and the BJP by increasing reservations for women in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Council, where elections are due by February next

The government's move appears to be giving a tough time to the two Opposition parties to find strong women candidates in the ensuing elections. The Greater Hyderabad

**CONG WOMAN** 

Municipal Corporation Act, 1955 stipulates 33 per cent reservation in the GHMC Council.

During the 2016 elections, Chandrasekhar Rao strategically allotted 50 per cent seats to women through a government order while reserving the wards.

Now the amendment proposed to the GHMC Act 1955 will give legal sanctity to the 50 per cent reservation to women, once the Amendment Bill is passed in the Assembly, a senior official in government exp-

The move that went largely unnoticed the last time resulted in the ruling party building a strong women base in the GHMC area.

The ruling party had 79 women corporators in the outgoing GHMC Council and its ally MIM

As the ruling party had more than 50 per cent women, it will be easier for the TRS to find women candidates in the ensuing elections to the civic body.

Page 2: Party leaders lobby to get seat for wives

#### Maoists stab TRS PROTESTS 'RAPIST' leader to death **NOMINEE, GETS HIT**

A TRS leader belonging

was killed inside his

Saturday.
The killing comes with-

in a week of a high-level

meeting of police offi-

cials from Telangana

state, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh at Venk-

border areas of the three

The extremists struck

even before a proper plan could emerge out of

The slain ruling party

leader has been identi-fied as Maaduri

Bheemeswar Rao (50).

Maoists stabbed him several times in his

Bheemeswar Rao is

survived by his wife Kumari and three chil-

this meeting.

by Maoists at

midnight on

Deoria (UP), Oct. 11: A ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, OCT. 11

Congress worker was roughed up by her colleagues at a party meet Deoria after she alleged that a "rapist" had been given the ticket for the Assembly by-elec-tion, prompting the party to order a probe into the incident and expel two members for "indisci-

Poline".

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to UP DGP seeking strict action against the accused. The woman, Tara Yaday, lodged a police complaint against four office-bearers of the party, including the district president, for allegedly beating and molesting her.
As the videos of the

ugly scenes at the meeting held on Saturday went viral sparking outrage, the state unit of the Congress termed it as a "political conspiracy" to defame the party.

Report on Page 4

Kumari, who is in a state of shock, said they heard a knock on their door after they had gone to sleep for the day.
"When we refused to open the door, they

to Alubaka in V e n k a t a p u r a m area of Mulugu district broke it open. They were six. One stood guard outside while the others entered the house. I pleaded with them to spare my husband and not leave me and my children orphaned. They pushed me away and stabbed him repeatatapuram to thwart Maoist activities in the edly," Kumari recount-

In a letter left there, the Vazedu committee of the Maoists accused Bheemeshwar of exploit-ing innocent people by selling fertilisers and pesticides at higher rates. Bheemeshwar was using police to harm those who questioned him by branding them as informers, it Naxal

> Page 2: TRS, BJP leaders told to resign

## 2 killed as building falls after heavy rains in Hyd

18-yr-old scheduled to marry next week, relative dead

ATHER MOIN I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

An 18-year-old girl, whose wedding was scheduled next week, was killed when a part of an old residential building she lived in with her family, collapsed on Sunday morning. Also killed in the incident was her sister-in-law.

The building collapsed at about 11.45 am in Moosa Bowli in Hussaini Alam area of the Old City. The walls of the house were weakened after getting soaked in the recent heavy rains that have been lashing the city.

Four others in the house when it collapsed suffered injuries and were treated the Princess Esra Hospital and the Osmania General Hospital and later

discharged.

Anees Begum, the 18-year-old who died in the accident, was scheduled to get married next week and the family was looking forward to the event. The other deceased was identified by the police as Farah Begum, 28, Anees Begum's sister-in-law.

The injured were listed as Haji Mohammed Khan (54), Anees Begum's father, Azmath Khan (28), Master



The building at Hussaini Alam in Hyderabad which collapsed on Sunday killing two people after heavy rains is being razed to the ground.

Hussain Khan (2), and Parveen Begum (42).

As soon as the information about the house collapse was received by the police, they passed on the news to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). A team of the NDRF along with the GHMC's Disaster Response Force rushed to the spot operation. Personnel from tĥe Hussaini Alam police station and the fire department too reached the spot and assisted in the rescue operation.

Once everyone was evacuated, the authorities demolished the remaining part of the building. It is learnt that the GHMC had previously issued a notice to Haji Mohammad Khan's

family that owned the house to demolish the structure as it had become decrepit. MIM MLA Mumtaz Khan,

corporators Raj Mohan and Mahmood Quadri reached the site and monitored the rescue operation. Mumztaz Ahmed Khan said, "we will ensure to release of the compensation from the government to the family."

### CBI takes over Hathras probe

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI/HATHRAS, OCT.

The CBI on Sunday took over the investigation into the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district and registered an FIR under the relevant Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections.

The case was earlier registered at Chandpa Police Station in Hathras on a

complaint by the victim's brother.

Talking to reporters, CBI spokesperson, R.K. Gaur, said, "The complainant had alleged that on September 14, the accused tried to strangulate his sister in the millet field. The case has been registered by CBI on the request of Uttar Pradesh government and further notification from government of India".

The 19-year-old woman died of severe assault injuries

Safdarjung Hospital on September 29. She was allegedly gang-raped on September 14 by four upper caste men whom she named in her dying decla-

Victim's family alleged that the police hurriedly conducted her last rites without their presence or permission, while local police officers said the cremation was carried out as per the wishes of the family. The incident sparked protests and furious

demonstrations against the police and the UP government across the country.

The victim's family members will appear before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday. The court will record the version of the victim's family members in the case.

It had on October 1 asked the woman's parents to come to apprise it of their version of the incident. The hearing is likely to be held

### **AMENITIES TO COME UP AT 8 PLACES ON ORR**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Eight interchanges on the Outer Ring Road will soon have wayside amenities for travellers, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority has said. These amenities will include fuel stations, rest and relax-ation facilities, rest rooms, restaurants, among others.

The eight interchanges identified for developing the facilities as part of the first phase of the project are at Patancheru, Med-chal, Shamirpet, Ghat-kesar, Amberpet Bonguluru, Narsingi, and

the Police Academy, the HMDA said on Sunday. All these facilities will be developed in the public private partnership mode and the HMDA has called for tenders for constructing these facilities.

Each of the proposed facilities will be developed on plots ranging from 10 acres to 20 acres, and will also include shopping areas that will include grocery outlets, pharmacies, play areas for children and adequate parking area.

It may be recalled that it was only recently that the minister for municipal administration and urban development K.T. Rama Rao instructed officials to take up further develop-ment of the ORR and provide and increase facilities and amenities for the road users. In all, 19 inter-changes on the ORR will be developed.

#### **Mysore Dasara**



A roundabout illuminated ahead of Mysore Dasara Festival, in Mysuru on Sunday.

### MAN VS | WILD Big cat that terrorised Mailardevpally people snared Elusive leopard caught after 4 months

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

A leopard that had triggered panic in the Mailardevpally area near Rajendranagar in May this year was caught in the early hours of Sunday in one of the cages that was set up by forest department officials near

Walamtari Locals had complained of a leopard prowling in the area, and the officials had set up the trap cages on Friday night.

It had reportedly killed

The leopard, a male aged about six years old, was taken to the Nehru Zoological Park where its

health was checked. "We will keep the leopard under observation for two days. Then we will release it into the wild. It has a few bruises on its forehead, we assume that it might have banged its head against the pillars in the cage to break it," an official from the zoo park, who was a part of the

■ Page 2: Carcass of calves placed as bait

rescue effort said.



The leopard that was caught in a cage set up by the forest department at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, early on Friday.

### PM rolls out property cards, terms it a 'historical move'

New Delhi, Oct. 11: Prime Minister Nare-ndra Modi on Sunday launched the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' (ownership) scheme via video conferencing, and asserted that it is a "historic move" set to transform

rural India. The move will pave the way for villagers to use property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits. The PMO has said the launch will enable around one lakh property holders to download their property cards through an SMS

link sent on their mobile phones, and this would be followed by the physical distribution of property cards by respective state governments.

These beneficiaries are from 763 villages across 6 states, including 346 from UP, 221 Haryana, 100 Maharashtra, 44 MP, 50 Uttarakhand and two from Karnataka. (SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas. Speaking at the

programme, Modi assert-

ing that the government

what was done in the pre-ceding six decades. The Prime Minister flayed those opposing the new farm laws, saying their politics was powered by brokers and middlemen, and accused them of using "foul language" and spreading "lies" in attacking the Centre.

in the past six years than

Farmers are not going with those who have opposed the "historic" reforms enacted by his government. Modi said in a reference to the three contentious agriculture

SHORT TAKES

#### TRS AND BJP **LEADERS TOLD TO RESIGN**

From page 1

"Bheemeshwar was using police to harm those who questioned him by branding them as Naxal informers. He was fleecing money in the name of interest from farmers who had run up debts with him," the Maoists' letter said. It warned TRS and BJP leaders of the area to resign or meet a simi-

Mulugu superintendent of police Sangram Singh G. Patil, however, maintained that the Naxals had demanded funds from Bheemeswar.

They killed him when he refused to pay. "Maoists are depriving tribals living in the border areas of the fruits of development and welfare programmes of the state government. They are hampering progress by digging up roads and causing inconvenience to people," he said.

#### **VERY HEAVY RAINS, TAKE CARE: KCR**

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Minister Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday asked people in the state to be alert and cautious following Indian Meteorological Department's warning of heavy to very heavy rains across the state over the next two days.

He instructed Chief Secretary to keep the official machinery on high alert and wanted him to monitor the situation with district collectors, superintendents of police and police commissioners at regular intervals and take necessary relief measures.

Accordingly, the Omer Corretary Somesh Kumar Chief issued directions to the authorities stating that IMD has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall over isolated parts of the state, especially the erst-while districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad,

Warangal and Khammam. While cautioning the state administration that massive flooding and waterlogging are likely to occur in low-lying areas and trees and electric poles falling on roads, he asked the collectors and superintendents of police to ensure that the entire district administration strictly follows the flood

Stating that reservoirs, tanks and streams may overflow causing inundation of lowlying areas and cause low bridges and causeways to overposing threat to traille people, he asked the authorities to pay special attention to low-level bridges and causeways. The Chief Minister also wanted prohibition of all traffic and pedestrian movements so as to ensure no loss of lives.

#### adilabad air **CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY**

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, OCT. 11

The All India Radio (AIR), Adilabad station is unique as it is known to create programmes in the Telugu dialect and promoting local culture and food among its listeners.

The Adilabad AIR will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. It is considered the first local radio station in united Andhra Pradesh and the third in the country.

Its tagline is 'Mana Basha, Mana Yasa and Mana FM' and this reflects in its programmes, content and commitments.

Adilabad AIR program head Sumanaspati Reddy said that AIR Adilabad was set up in Adilabad district on October 12, 1986, to preserve the local culture and traditions, especially of the Adivasis and other marginalised sections for future generations.

The station was initially established initially as 'AM' and later upgraded into 'FM' in 2015. Its programmes are now available on AIR Live (Adilabad) App.

Sumanaspati Reddy said. "We are not only focusing on preserving and promoting Telangana dialect through our programmes but also encour-

age local artists."

Adilabad AIR has been organising food festivals to popularise and showcase a variety of local recipes and snacks. Besides this, the station also creates programmes to raise awareness on various issues among the children, women, and farmers.

**SET UP** to preserve the local culture and traditions.

## Set up helpline for Dharani: People

### Some columns on the website not active; don't know whom to approach, say citizens

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, OCT. 11

Though municipal bodies have asked citizens to update their non-agricul-tural property details online on the Dharani portal, citizens have sevdoubts registration on the portal, apart from information to be shared with field officials in case of offline

registration. Citizens feel a helpline that could guide them on

registering their properties online would have been a great help.
"I received a text from the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) to register my (GWMC) to register my property details online. However, when we tried to do the same, some of the columns on the website were not active.

We did not know how those details are to be filled. There is also no information on whom to approach in case of such approach in case of such problems. Government should have created awareness about this instead of going forward with the process in haste," said M. Sudheer Babu, a retired teacher from Warangal.

GWMC officials, including bill collectors and tax inspectors, have been going door-to-door to register details of non-agricultural properties on the

 GWMC OFFICIALS, including bill collectors and tax inspectors, have been going doorto-door to register details of non-agricultural properties on the Dharani app.

ENUMERATORS WILL be able to register a house owner's details quickly if the information like name, owner's Aadhaar card number, electricity meter number, and family members' Aadhaar card numbers are kept ready.

Dharani app. Even they are facing problems with non-availability of house owners and non-cooperation from residents in

Warangal Urban district collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu said enumerators will be able to register a house owner's details quickly if the information like name, owner's Aadhaar card number, electricity meter number, and family members' Aadhaar card numbers are kept ready.

"Owners must keep these details handy before the arrival of enumerators to speed up the proc-



Enumerators register non-agriculture property details in Warangal.

- 56 CATEGORIES in the Dharani survey have to be filled.
- 100 HOUSEHOLDS a day is the target.
- 30 MINUTES it takes for each enumerator to fill each form.

**NEW FEATURE** in survey allows for house owners to upload the details of their property by themselves through the dharani portal link https://bit.ly/36o32bd

MANY NON-RESIDENT Indians (NRIs) who own property here are worried. Many of them do not have either an Aadhaar card or an Indian mobile number to enrol their property details online.

### Deadline nears, staff rush to finish survey

**PILLALAMARRI** SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, OCT. 11

The ongoing survey under LRS (layout regularisation scheme) to assess the property of the residents or owners in municipalities and gram panchayats is lagging behind the given target scheduled date, October 12, due to various reasons in erstwhile Adilabad district. The survey cannot possibly not be completed by the deadline.

The staff conducting the survey is feeling the burden of work given the high number of targets and collecting the details is not easy and time-consuming for each property assessment.

In some case, respondents or owners of the property are not giving proper information and avoiding the information, fearing that the govern-ment may use the data against them in the future. Internet glitches hit the online uploading of LRS data in municipalities and also server problems slow down the uploading.

In Nirmal district, the

respondents or owners of the property are not giving proper information, fearing that the government may use the data against them.

survey was completed with regard to 40,000 houses out of a total of 1.74 lakh families by October 7. Nirmal district collector, Musharatt Farooqui, asked officials to speed up the survey and complete it within the deadline.

Asking each member in the survey to conduct surveys of 60 houses, collect accurate data about the owner in the application form and upload the information later if there are internet problems is proving impossible.

In Adilabad municipality, 4,749 properties have been assessed out of a total 41,356 properties, including 36,356 houses and 5,000 business establishments in Adilabad municipality by October 9. Only 15 per cent of the survey has been completed out a total of 468 gram panchayats in Adilabad

### People want govt to lower the amounts to be paid under LRS

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, OCT. 11

Who is responsible for selling plots in illegal layouts? Why does the government leave the realtors and go after gullible people who bought plots with their hard-earned money? How are realtors allowed venture layouts without proper specifications such as 30 feet roads, greenery and leaving ten percent open space for parks? Will the Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, waive the 14 per cent tax on the land or not? What is the fate of plot owners whose plots in the layouts that had less than 10 percent open space for green-

These and other questions are plaguing citizens as the LRS buzz takes Neither the town plan-

ning officials nor the revenue officials have any answers to the questions. G. Anand, a resident of Khammam, said "There ernment should give clari-

• THERE are various questions on the LRS. Every five persons out of 10 in Khammam town are worried about the scheme. Getting huge amounts for LRS is a problem to many.

are various questions on the LRS and there are no answers. Every five per-Khammam town are worried about the scheme. Getting huge amounts for LRS is a problem to many. Mr Chandrasekhar Rao has thought only of filling the government's coffers without considering the problems of the people.

People who took plots in layouts that not follow some of the specifications are worrying about claiming open space by the realtors after paying amounts as individuals.

N. Venkat Rao, who bought a plot in such a venture, said, "The gov-

fications on such issues. The officials should suggest we form residents welfare associations and hand over leftover space (not as per the norms) to them as a safety measure. The amounts to be paid under LRS should be reduced as per the space availability in the layout."

The government's decision not to register plots that were not regularised turned out to be a curse for many. Some realtors hid the old

plans and designed new layouts as per their convenience. Many of the crop channels were made into plots. Such incidents happened in the ventures Raghunathapalem mandai

A. Purnima, a housewife, said, "We purchased the plot as part of saving and hoping it may help at the time of our daughter's marriage. Collecting huge amounts in the name of LRS is nothing but inhuman, especially in Covid-19 times.

### Details to be updated by October 15

PULI SHARATH KUMAR I DC KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 11

The survey of non-agricultural lands going on in urban and rural areas to enrol complete details of each property on the revenue portal, Dharani, to be launched on Vijaya Dashami festival, seems impossible for officials in Karimnagar district. Intending to offer perma-

nent solutions for each and every matter related to properties, including mutations, instant registrations and putting an end to land disputes, along with massive corruption in the revenue department, Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, brought reforms in the revenue system by introduced the new revenue act and new regularisation scheme (LRS) and ordered the concerned authorities to update all details pertaining to lands by the sec-

ond week of October. Minister for backward class welfare, food and civil supplies, Gangula Kamalakar, said that the



Mayor Y. Sunil Rao inspects the enrollment of property details online done by an appointed staff in Karimnagar

government in the past regularised lands by issuing GO 58 and 59 and resolved the issues of lands belonging to the endowment and wakf board department. Now to show permanent solutions to the property and title right issues of lands which belong to the people, the govern-ment decided to enrol the complete details of the lands online on the Dharani portal, he added.

To complete the property survey in the 60 divisions under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits, officials have allotted 180 staff, three for each division, which includes bill collectors working in

- DECCAN CHRONICLE the revenue department, sanitation officers and 60

members appointed on daily wages through the Varadhi society. The appointed staff are assigned the work of collecting details from every house. In every division, there are more than 1,000 households. If the allotted staff collects the details from 100 households per a day, it would take 10 days to complete the process. But it is not be that easy to collect the information of about 56 categories from 100 households in a day, as

it takes a minimum of 30 minutes. technical Moreover, issues like servers not

working and access to the internet slow the process down. Apart from that, the people go to their offices during the day to work and may not be available when the staff visits houses. Even if the staff works from 7.30 am to evening 5.30 pm, it is impossible to complete the survey in 60 divisions present under the KMC limits with only a few days remaining.
City mayor, Yadagiri
Sunil Rao, said that to

overcome such hurdles, the KMC added a new feature in the dharani survey which enables house owners to upload the details of their property by themselves through the dharani portal https://bit.ly/36o32bd

Many non-resident Indians (NRIs) who owned operty nere are worried Many of them do not have either an Aadhaar card or an Indian mobile number to enrol their property details online. Moreover, with the Covid-19 pandemic situation and restrictions on travel, they are unable to return and regularise their lands.

### **UoH students fume over FIR**

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The Cyberabad police on Saturday booked at least 14 students of University of Hyderabad (UoH) for taking part in an anti-CAA rally from the university campus to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) on February 21 this year.

The notice said that the students may be arrested without a warrant if necessary in relation to a first information report (FIR) that had been filed against

**108 STAFF DEMANDS** 

TO BE LOOKED INTO,

Hyderabad: Employees

working for the 108

ambulance services in

Telangana state have

been playing a vital and

critical role in saving

lives of the people, par-ticularly in these diffi-

Coronavirus pandemic,

health minister Etala

Addressing a meeting of 108 ambulance work-

assured them that the

government will attend

to their demands related

to Provident Fund (PF),

Insurance (ESI), and

capping work hours to

cult times of

Rajendar said.

Employees

**SAYS ETALA** 

■ THE FIR invokes Indian Penal Code Sections 143 (unlawful assembly) and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) read with Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

The complaint said that students of the university had illegally gathered at the Manuu campus and conducted a rally showing placards and shouting slogans against the Centre, and gave lectures that were being deemed as provocative and intended to break tranquillity at the

The complaint further

conducted without permission from either Manuu authorities or

from the police. The FIR invokes Indian Penal Code Sections 143 (unlawful assembly) and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) read with Section 34 (acts done by

tion). Students calling it a witch-hunt by the police have argued that it was only a 100-metre march to Manuu from the HCU campus, and was very peaceful. They said that slogans were raised, but not to violate anybody's feelings. "The police have also stooped to the same level as the Delhi Police wherein they targeted and hunted students who engage politically and raise questions to the state," said a press release by the Student Union body

ance of common inten-

### several persons in further-Telangana registers 1,717 cases, 2,103 recover

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The state recorded 1,717 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, the state health department reported on Sunday, adding that five more people lost their lives to the disease, taking the total cases so far to 2,12,063, and the fatalities

For the 24-hour period between Friday and Saturday evening, the department, in its Covid-19 bulletin, said that 2,103 persons were declared as recovered from the dis-

With this, the number of

people who have over-Covid-19 so far has reached 1,85,128 which is 87.29 per cent of all cases in the state so far. A total of 46,657 tests

were conducted between Friday and Saturday evening and results from 1,093 of these tests were awaited, the bulletin said. While 20,529 persons tested were primary contacts of Covid-19 patients, 5,598 were secondary contacts. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area had 276 new cases, followed by 132 in Ranga Reddy, 131 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 104 in Kar-

imnagar, 101 in Nalgonin Bhadradri-Kothagudem, and 85 in Siddipet districts. There

patients admitted to government hospitals while this number was 2,674 in private hospitals.

The health department appealed to the people to follow safety measures including wearing face masks, maintaining six feet with any other person around them, keeping their hands clean by washing with soap or using a sanitiser, and stepping out of required to do so.

### Party leaders lobby to get seat for wives

From page 1

Party leaders, those who had a clue about the state government's move of increasing women reservations, began lobbying for party\_tickets to their spouses. The Mayor's post has already been reserved for women from the Backward Class community, which has sparked

lobbying separately.
The MIM, despite facing difficulty in finding women candidates particularly active women leaders, looked at non-politicians and chose candidates who have been active in social service and also popular in the areas and fielded them. This resulted in the party getting 19 women corporators, including two doctors popular in their respective divisions.

Although leaders of the have strong women base admitted in private that it was not easy for them to find winning women candidates. They firmly opine that they should look at non-politicians in certain wards. They also admit that it would not be difficult to field candidates in 75 wards out of 150 wards, but choosing winning candidates could

be a tough proposition.

A senior leader in the Congress pointed out that the CM has forced the Opposition parties into a defensive mode so that they could not even oppose or find fault with the state government in providing 50 per cent reservation to women though there are flaws in the procedure adopted by the government in going about it. If any party came openly against the

Congress and the BJP openly claimed that they in GHMC limits, they

flaws, it could prove suicidal to them in the GHMC

#### **CARCASS OF CALVES PLACED AS BAIT**

From page 1

"We had placed the carcass of the calves in two cage to lure the animal. Once it caught the scent of the carcass, it entered the cage and was caught in it," he added.

This particular leopard has been eluding forest officials for the last five

Just a month ago cages

were laid to trap the leop ard after a cattle death was reported in the area but in vain.

polls, he added.

Officials of the forest department said that Rajendranagar, the area in which the leopard was prowling, made for a good habitat.

It was earlier suspected that the leopard may have made its way towards the forest in Vikarabad.

#### DISHA'S FAMILY **STAGES PROTEST AGAINST RGV'S FILM PROPOSAL**

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The family members of Disha, a veterinarian who was raped and killed in November 2019, held a protest here demanding that a movie on her reportedly being made by film-maker Ram Gopal Varma be stopped.

Disha's kin, friends and members of different organisations assembled outside the office of Ram Gopal Varma and raised slogans against

The Telangana High Court had last week had disposed of a plea filed by the veterinarian's father seeking to stop the movie, to allow him to petition appropriate authorities at the Centre. The court felt it cannot give any direction even before the movie-makers approach the Censor Board for

certification of the film. Justice P. Naveen Rao who heard the case on Friday asked assistant solicitor general N. Rajeswara Rao what the Centre and the Censor Board were doing in the ma-

The ASG said the petitioner, Disha's father, had made no representation to them till now.

tter.

SHORT

TAKES

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCREASED DURING LOCKDOWN: JUDGE**

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, OCT. 11

District judge M. Laxman said that the National Women Commission is working for the welfare of women and their rights. Women can get any assistance from the commission if they have any issues.

Women can get protection and services of a para legal volunteers by approaching the Commission," he said.

The district judge participated in a webinar organised by Women Commission, National National Legal Services Authority (NSLA) and the Legal S (DSLA) District Services Authority (DSLA) addressed the women.

He said that domestic vioincreased during the Covid-19 situation and senior citizens are being neglected in the society. Such cases will be solved by DSLA if they approach it,

#### **YOUTH DROWNS** WHILE TAKING **SELFIE IN ADILABAD**

Hyderabad, Oct. 11: A youngster who was on a picnic with a group of friends drowned in a waterfall while trying to take a selfie near Khandala village in Adilabad Rural mandal on Saturday.

The incident came to light on Monday. The victim was idenas Akash, 22, Subhashagar in Adilabad, the

Adilabad Rural police said. Police said Akash was standing on a rock and trying to take the selfie when he slipped and fell into a deep portion of the water. His friends tried to rescue him but in vain. They called the police who deployed expert divers to retrieve the body. A case of suspicious death was reported based on a complaint lodged by the family. Inquiries have been taken

— INN

#### **APPLICATIONS DATE FOR HOSP MGMT EXTENDED**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The last date for submission of applications for admission to the Masters in Hospital Management programme offered by the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has been extended to October 20, hospital authorities said on Sunday.

NIMS, a university under a special Act of the state government, offers this course to medical and non-medical graduates. Anyone who meets this requirement and does not cross 30 years of age on December 31, 2020, is eligible to apply. For SC/ST students, a three-year age relaxation rule will apply. The two-year programme offers a six-month internship at

Students can apply at https://nims.edu.in/nimset?ta b=curr&adm\_id=MjM2\_along with an application fee of ₹1,100. More details are available with Dr G. Sravanthi at 8555839760, K. Anusha at 7794043987, Shipra Chakrabo-rty at 9046484856, Vignan Reddy at 9059544844, and Suresh Alishala at 9160793142, NIMS said. Queries can also be nimsmhm2020@gmail.com.

NIMS, A university under a special Act of the state government, offers this course to medical and nonmedical graduates. Anyone who meets this requirement and does not cross 30 years of age on December 31. 2020, is eligible to apply.

### **50 TSWCE students test +ve**

### School officials said only 3 pupils infected as they did not want parents to panic

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 11

As many as 50 students of the Telangana Social Welfare Centre of Excel-lence (TSWCE) situated in Alugunoor of Thimmapur mandal have tested positive for Covid-19.

A total of 206 members of talented students who had been selected from various corners of the state from Class 10 to Intermediate are pursuing their education at TSWCE centre in Alugunoor. The school management reopened the school some days back. Having learnt that some

of the intermediate students who are pursuing CEC (Civics, Economics and Commerce) group are showing Covid symptoms.

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC

The Telangana government has decided to enhance the loan limit for

self-help groups (SHGs) that lift farm produce in

the state from ₹5 lakh to

₹10 lakh. However, the

enhanced amount will be

available only to those thrift groups whose pay-

The decision to enhance

the loan limit has been

taken for strengthening

the women SHGs and

Nearly 8,193 self-help groups will be eligible for

₹10 lakh loans in

Khammam district. It has been noticed that these

growth in rural areas.

enhancing

economic

ments have been proper.



The Telangana Social Welfare Centre of Excellence situated in Alugunoor of DECCAN CHRONICLE Thimmapur mandal.

help groups eligible for loans up to ₹4 lakh.

All these groups are involved in some kind of economic activity, with 50

per cent of them lifting

Since the involvement of

these thrift groups, lifting

of paddy has become easy for civil supplies and agri-

farm produce.

TSWCE approached the requested them to conduct students. Antigen tests health officials and Covid-19 tests of all their were conducted on 206 per-

Loan limit to self-help groups enhanced

• **NEARLY 8,193** self-help groups will be eligible

for ₹10 lakh loans in Khammam district. It has

others in the district.

ble for loans up to ₹4 lakh.

groups not only employ themselves but also pro-

vide employment to some

the district, including

1,488 eligible for loans

below ₹1 lakh, 1,791 eligi-

ble for loans up to ₹2 lakh,

2,478 that can take loans till ₹3 lakh and 3,108 self-

There are 24,195 SHGs in

others in the district.

been noticed that these groups not only employ

themselves but also provide employment to some

There are 24,195 SHGs in the district, including

1,488 eligible for loans below ₹1 lakh, 1,791 eligi-

loans till ₹3 lakh and 3,108 self-help groups eligi-

ble for loans up to ₹2 lakh, 2,478 that can take

Nearly 20 per cent of these

farming and ready-made

fabrics. N. Sunitha of Chaitanya

Mahila Sangham in Wyra

said, "Our loan limit has

been extended from ₹5

lakh to ₹10 lakh. With the

loan, we can now double lifting of paddy from 100 tonnes to 200 tonnes.

Government makes payments to groups within a

week after we pay farm-

ers. The facility will be helpful in strengthening

our group economically".

Bankers have already

identified the thrift groups eligible for ₹10

lakh loan. The groups will be extended loans within a

day or two.

departments

released by the health department about 176 positive cases were reported in the last 24 hours in the erstwhile Karimnagar district. Of them 104 positive cases were reported in Karimnagar, 22 in Rajanna Sircilla, 28 in Peddapalli and 22 in Jagtial districts.

AS PER the bulletin

sons, including staff members. Overall, 56 tested positive, including 50 students and six staff mem-

However, they did not disclose the development in order to avoid parents from getting panicky. They announced that only three

students have contracted the Coronavirus and they have been shifted to a quarantine centre.

Principal of the TSWCE centre, Sammaiah said that classes were resumed after duly taking consent of parents.

Since, the students who tested positive have been shifted there is no need to panic. The health condition of the remaining stu-dents is good, he added. Meanwhile, as per the

bulletin released by the health department about 176 positive cases were reported in the last 24 hours in the erstwhile Karimnagar district. Of them 104 positive cases reported Karimnagar, 22 in Rajanna Sircilla, 28 in Peddapalli and 22 in Jagtial districts.



Elkathurthy police show the arrested lorry driver.

### Drunk truck driver booked for murder

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, OCT. 11

In a first, the Warangal Commissionerate police registered a case charging a truck driver for murder after he caused an accident while driving under the influence of alcohol, killing a man and his buffalo.

According to Elkathurthy police inspector Srinivasji, the accused, Boppala Anjaneyulu, was speeding recklessly at the time of the accident on Saturday.

The deceased, Ambala Swamy (60), a resident of Mulkanoor village was returning home with his buffalo after finishing his farm work. The truck hit Swamy and his buffalo near the warehouse of the Mulkanoor agricultural market.The buffalo died on the spot. Ambala Swamy was taken to the MGM Hospital where he was pronounced dead by a doctor.

Mulkanur police registered a case under Sections 279, 429, 304 Part II of the Indian Penal Code and section 185 of Motor Vehicle Act 1988 against the lorry

#### **CROP LOSS DUE TO** RAINS IS ₹25-L **IN KHAMMAM**

DC CORRESPONDENT

The value of crop loss due to the fourth spell of rains in Khammam district is estimated at ₹25 lakh. Crop on 30,000 acres belonging to 14,500 farmers in 243 villages in the district were dam-

The crops like green gram, cotton, paddy, maize, black gram, chilli and red gram were among the damaged crops. The present Kharif registered the highest rainfall with 47 per cent excess rains.

The total rain days in the ongoing Kharif sea-son was 72 against 59 in 2017-18, 48 in 2018-19 and 55 days in 2019-20.

Rainfall was witnessed for 14 days in June, 22 days in July, 19 days in August and 13 days in September.

October has already seen four rain days and crop damage occurred more in these three days. The farm officials surveyed the crop loss and submitted it to the government. There is no response from it. Telangana Rythu Sang-

ham district president Bonthu Rambabu said that the farmers spent ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 on each acre for raising the

crops.

He demanded that the government release the compensation immediately. He said that cotton plants witnessed infesta-tion of pests due to the the stagnant rainwater in the fields. "The farmers will organise a struggle against the government if compensation is not paid," he said.

THE TOTAL rain days in the ongoing Kharif season was 72 against 59 in 2017-18, 48 in 2018-19 and 55 days in 2019-20.

CROPS LIKE green gram, cotton, paddy, maize, black gram, chilli and red gram were damaged.

### **International Day of the** Girl Child celebrated

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, OCT. 11

The Childline 1098 Warangal Urban District Abhyudaya Seva Samithi jointly celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child under the theme 'My Voice, Our Equal Future' on Sunday at Markondaiahnagar.

Childline District Nodal Coordinator Idpai Pasha presided over the meeting. Warangal District Child Welfare committee chairperson Mandala Parashramulu

"Discrimination against girls from certain sections of the society continues to take place even today. Girls are forced into child marriage, female feticide and trafficking of girls

"It is gratifying to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi's, 'Bheti Bachao Beti Padao' as well as Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao setting up SC, ST, BC, Minority, KGVB, Model Schools for the development of girls. Parents should pay special attention to girls and work continuously for their development. Girls should be sent for voca-

tional training." Childline District nodal coordinator Iqbal Pasha said that the Childline 1098 is there to protect children. The develop-ment of a country will take place when a girl child grows mentally and



District collector G. Ravi unveils a wall poster to mark International Day of the Girl Child at the collectorate in Jagtial district on Sunday.

### Collector: Give equal opportunity to girls

DC CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 'International Day of the Girl Child,' district collector G. Ravi unveiled a wall poster with the theme 'My Voice for our Equal Future' at the collectorate

in Jagtial on Sunday.

He said, "It is the responsibility of parents to provide equal opportunities to girl children along with the boys and to motivate them to aim high in life." He said, "Girls are competing equally with

their set goals. But, the social evils like child marriage, child trafficking, female foeticide still exists in society and prevent them from achieving their life ambitions. "In many regions, especially in rural areas, girl children still drop out of

striving hard in achieving

school, irregular attendance and illiteracy. There is a need to create awareness among the people and motivate them to encourage the girl chil-

under the slogan, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' 'Let's save the girl child, let's save the creation'. Present A rally was taken out on the occasion was ICDS

supervisor Revathi, village head Hari Prasad childline counsellor T. Sirisha along with others

### MISSING CLASS 12 STUDENT TRACED BY COPS IN 72 HRS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

In a swift operation, police brought Rachakonda traced and brought home a 16-year-old girl within 72 hours on the filing of a missing com-

The Class 12 student, a resident of Ganapathi Colony in Hayathnagar. was missing since Wedn esdav night. In the early hours of Thursday, the parents lodged a missing complaint with police.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Rachakonda police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said, "Special teams were formed and all wings worked hard to trace the

The police tracked her within 72 hours. "This was the best gift to the parents on International Girl Child Day," he said. The girl's father had

told her not to use her phone late at night for chatting.

After an argument on Wednesday night, the girl left the house, leaving her mobile behind and without any money.

THE CLASS 12 student, a resident of Ganapathi Colony in Hayathnagar, was missing since Wednesday night. In the early hours of Thursday, the parents lodged a missing complaint.

### Trump fan dies of a heart attack as prez tested positive WARANGAL, OCT. 11

Bussa Krishna, a diehard fan of US President Donald

Trump, died of a heart attack on Sunday at his native Konne village of Bachannapeta mandal in Jangaon district. Trump Krishna, as he was called by the villagers, on

hearing the news that the US President had tested positive for Covid-19, Krishna was worried and depressed. He was praying for the speedy recovery of Trump, his friends said. Krishna made headlines when he built a six-foot-tall

statue of Donald Trump in his house and performed daily prayers including, abhishekams to his statue four years back. He had turned his home into a shrine of sorts for Trump.

The 33-year-old used to carry a photo of Trump to all the shrines he visited in the country. He also gave Trump's picture holy baths in rivers and waterfalls. He fasted on Fridays for the long life of Trump. Before commencing any work, he would pray to a picture of



Bussa Krishna supporting Donald Trump's win in the upcoming Presidential elections.

The walls of his house have 'Trump' written all over. Even the shirts he wore daily have Trump's name on them. Krishna was also rooting for the reelection of Trump as the

President of the USA.When Donald Trump visited India earlier this year, Krishna was eager to meet him and had even written to the govallowed by the authorities

BACK IN I BUSINESS 4 families, comprising of 16 members, came to Palli village in Talamadugu mandal; purchases may start on Oct. 19

### Agri labourers from Maha arrive for cotton picking in Adilabad

SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, OCT. 11

Agriculture labourers have started returning in huge numbers to Adilabad district from Maharashtra for cotton picking during the Kharif

A bumper cotton crop is being expected in the district but many farmers were forced to invest huge money on second or third sowing of seeds due to lack of germination and untimely rains after sowing seeds a little early in the Kharif season in some

Landowners are engaging

AS MANY as 4,21,343 farmers have cultivated cotton in 1,33,838 acres in the district and officials estimate that Kharif will have 47,93,390 quintals of cotton yield.

agriculture labourers from Maharashtra and are likely to pay ₹5 to ₹6 for picking one kg cotton produce. The labourers have come with families as schools have remained closed.

Most of them are from Kinwat taluka. Babu Khale of Nanded district said that four



Agriculture laborers came in a hired van to Adilabad district from Himayatnagar in Nanded district of Maharashtra for to pick cotton on Sunday.

families, comprising 16 members, came to Palli village in Talamadugu mandal. He said that cotton yield would be low

in the barren lands they had Adilabad district. He said

said they will complete cotton picking in their own lands within no time.

laborers from Maharashtra began with sowing of BT cotton seeds and that gave good yield in the starting years".

DECCAN CHRONICLE

said Sudeep of Gona of Bheempur mandal and added that BT cotton also created a demand for agriculture labourers and the situation was different when farmers used to sow non- BT cotton

It is also observed that Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has created demand for agriculture labourers in villages.

Ramakanth Reddy of Palli village said that they have engaged the labour for cottonpicking from Maharashtra for the Kharif.

According to sources, as many as 4,21,343 farmers have cultivated cotton in

and agriculture officials have estimated that Kharif will have 47,93,390 quintals of cotton yield.

Meanwhile, the district administration is planning to start commercial operations of cotton soon and a meeting has been convened with ginning and pressing factory owners and officials of Adilabad branch of Cotton Corporation of India and Adilabad Market committee on Monday to decide on the date for starting cotton purchases. It is likely that the purchases could start on October 19 instead of during the com-

mencement of Dasara.



SHORT TAKES

#### **CONG ALLEGES** K'TAKA CM'S KIN **HAND IN SCAM**

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP over reported allegations of corruption against some family members of Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in connection with a housing project and demanded a time-bound judicial probe into the matter.

When Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had made the allegations against the Chief Minister in the Karnataka Assembly last month. Assembly last month, Yediyurappa had dismissed them as "baseless" and challenged the Congress leader to prove the charges.

media reports, Citing Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi on Sunday alleged that the BJP govern-Karnataka is "engulfed in the clutches of corruption with dented, tainted leaders ruling the roost".

"If the Chief Minister has

the slightest sense of shame, he must resign or be sacked,' Singhvi said.

He also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Narendra Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda over the reported allegations of corruption and kickbacks against the son, son-in-law, and grandson of Yediyurappa.

The matter relates to a ₹662crore construction of an apartment project in Bengaluru, Singhyi said.

#### **WOMAN DIES AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO 16TH CHILD IN MP**

Damoh (MP), Oct. 11: A 45year-old woman gave birth to her 16th child in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, but both of them died soon afterwards, a local health worker said on Sunday.

woman, Ahirwar from Padajhir village in the district, delivered a baby boy at home on Saturday, Kallo Bai Vishwakarma, an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) under the National Rural Health Mission

(NRHM), said. "However, the condition of the woman and her newborn turned critical and they were rushed to a primary health centre, where both of them were pronounced dead," she

According to her, Ahirwar had given birth to 15 children earlier, however, the family had lost seven of them. District Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Sangeeta Trivedi confirmed the inci-

#### **INDIA, CHINA CORPS COMMANDERS' TALKS TODAY**

PAWAN BALL I DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

Indian and Chinese Corps Commanders are scheduled to hold the 7th round of military talks on Monday where India will again press China to disengage from all friction points in Ladakh and restore the status quo of April 2020.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, foreign affairs minister S. Jaishankar, national securitv advisor Aiit Doval and Army Chief General M.M. Naravane among others are part of this crucial group.

Last week, the high-powered China Study Group had dis-cussed the agenda for the 7th round of Corps Commanders level meeting on the five month old stand-off between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

#### **PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE IN POONCH, RAJOURI**

Jammu, Oct. 11: Pakistani troops on Sunday shelled mortars in three sectors along the Line of Control in Poonch and Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border in Degwar and Khari Karmara sectors in Poonch and Rajouri's Sunderbani drew a befitting retaliation by the Indian Army, he said, adding that there was no immediate report of any casualty. Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Degwar sector around 6.15 pm. It was followed by firing and artillery shelling in Khari Karmara at 6.40 pm, the spokesperson said. At 6.45 pm, Pakistani troops targeted forward areas along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri, he said.

# Nadda sounds poll bugle in Bihar with Gaya public rally

First public meeting by political party under the shadow of Covid pandemic

NAYEAR AZAD I DC PATNA, OCT. 11

BJP chief J.P. Nadda kickstarted the NDA's political campaign in Bihar by addressing a public rally at the historic Gandhi Maidan in Gaya on Sunday. He listed the works done by the NDA government at the Centre and praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's policies for the development of Bihar.

He also used the occasion to lash out at the Opposition parties, especially the Congress and the RJD, for misleading people and doing caste and religion-based politics. "Modi believes in show-

ing work to the people but the Congress has been doing politics based on caste and religion for political gains. Remember 'Modi hai to Mumkin hai' and 'Nitish hai to Pradesh agay badhega (Modi makes it possible and under the leadership of Nitish Kumar the state will progress)'. The future of India is secure in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is important that we should support Nitish Kumar for the progress of Bihar,"

Nadda appreciated the Nitish Kumar-led state government for extending help to people during Covid-19 pandemic.

He said, "The Nitish Kumar government took care of the people. Financial assistance was also provided by the state government to those who were stuck outside Bihar."

This was the first public meeting to be organised by a political party under the



BJP national president J.P. Nadda with party leaders and NDA candidates during the first election rally at Gandhi Maidan in Gaya on Sunday.

### Congress forms committees, Surjewala to head key panel

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT, 11

The Congress will hold a meeting of its Central Election Committee on Monday where the last of the candidates to the 70 seats on which it is contesting in the Bihar Assembly polls would be finalised.

The party also formed various panels for the upcoming Assembly polls with party general secretary Randeep Surjewala named chairman of the election management and coordination committee. The 14-member election

shadow of Covid-19. Besides, Nadda other senior BJP leaders are

expected to address public

rallies ahead of polls in

According to a senior

nation committee includes senior leaders like Kumar, Anwar, Shatrughan Sinha, Kirti Azad, Shakeel Ahmed and Sanjay Nirupam while Mohan Prakash would be the convenor of the panel.

Elections to the 243member Bihar Assembly will be held in three phases from October 28 to November 7. The counting would take place on November 10.

On Sunday, Congress president Sonia Gandhi also approved the setting up of the publicity com-

BJP leader in Patna, the

party has prepared a list of

its senior leaders which

include Union ministers

Amit Shah, Smriti Irani,

former Maharashtra CM

Devendra Fadnavis and

management and coordi- mittee, media coordination committee, public meeting and logistics comand office management committee for the Bihar elections, a party statement said. spokesperson Khera will head the media

convener respectively. While Subodh Kumar has

Congress coordination committee of which Prem Chand Mishra and Rajesh Rathor would be convener and co-

been appointed the convener of the publicity committee, Jaeya Mishra was named the co-convener of the panel.

national general secretary

From the state, Deputy

Kumar Modi, Union min-

Girirai Singh Ashwini

Minister Sushil

Nityanand Rai,

Bhupendra Yadav.

Chief

isters

Kumar Choubey, Ravi Shankar Prasad and R.K. Singh along with others

### **NITISH TO HIT CAMPAIGN TRAIL FROM TODAY**

Patna, Oct. 11: Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar will hit the campaign trail from Monday, when he will address people of several Assembly segments, spread across half a dozen districts that go to polls in the first phase of elections, a top leader of the

ruling party said.
Sanjay Kumar Jha,
JD(U) national general
secretary and a key aide of
the Chief Minister, said he will be addressing people in a total of 35 Assembly constituencies over the next couple of days.

"The campaign will be through virtual mode on October 12 and 13. From October 14, he is likely to fly to different parts to address election meetings while remaining physical-

ly present," Jha said.

He said the virtual campaign will commence on Monday evening, connecting the CM to 11 Assembly segments of six districts. This will be followed by addresses to 11 Assembly segments of five districts on Tuesday morning and another 13 constituencies of four districts in the

have been included in the list of campaigners which the party will release in a

### Hathras case: MP doctor who stirred row served notice

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

An assistant professor of a government medical college in Madhya Pradesh has landed in a soup for staying with family of the alleged gangrape victim of Hathras in Uttar Pradesh recently by purportedly identify-ing her as their kin, with the authorities concerned serving a show cause notice to her for her conduct.

Dr Rajkumari Bansal, assistant professor of forensic science department in Netaji Subĥash Chandra Bose medical college in Jabalpur, has been served a notice seeking an explanation for her conduct by the college authorities, according to dean of the college Dr P.K. Kasar.

It was not desirable for a public servant to part in such take movements and the matter was taken seriously by the authorities, he added.

Dr Bansal was seen among the family members of the 19-year-old victim, who died in hospital on September 29 during treatment, and replying to the visiting media persons on behalf of the

The special investiga-tion team (SIT) constitut-ed by Uttar Pradesh police to probe the incident has revealed her

However, she was not yet contacted by the SIT so far for investigation into the matter. Dr Bansal, however, denied that she had ever given her identity as sister-inlaw of the victim as was

being reported in a section of the media.

I have never given my identity as the victim's kin. It was the media which described me as the victim's sister-in-law. I had never concealed my media"

reporters on Sunday.

Dr Bansal said she was moved by the inciand decided to dent visit the victim's family humanitarian grounds.

She met the victim's family on October 4 and stayed with them till October 6 following their

She chose to reply to questions by the media persons since the victim's family requested her to talk to tĥem on their behalf.

She said she has donated her one month's salary to the victim's family. She also refuted the allegations that she had links with the Maoists and the Bhim Army. "I do not know how such allegations emerged and from where", she

Meanwhile, Congress MP and AICC legal cell chairman Vivek Tankha issued a veiled warning to the Madhya Pradesh government not to harass her to appease the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Adityanath. "I appeal to the Madhya Pradesh government not to harass Dr Rajkumari Bansal to appease the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister. There are many people like her in the society who get emotionally involved in incidents such as Hathras", Tankha

THACKERAY

**CAR SHED** 

**SHIFTS METRO** 

FROM AAREY

MUMBAL OCT, 11

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC** 

In a major decision,

Maharashtra Chief Min-

ister Uddhay Thackeray

has announced that the

metro car shed project at

Aarey Colony nas been

shifted to Kanjurmarg

metro car shed at Aarey.

The project will now be

relocated to Kanjurm-

arg. The plot belongs to

the government and it

will be available at zero cost. No cost will be incurred for the pur-

pose," Thackeray said in

Despite stiff
Opposition from the
Shiv Sena and environmentalists, the earlier
Devendra Fadnavis-led

government had decided

to build a metro car shed

at Aarey Colony, which is called the green lungs of Mumbai city. The citi-

zens and green activists

had protested the project

citing the felling of trees

and perceived damage to

the environment in

Aarey due to the project.

the Aarey Colony is one

of the few green spaces

left in Mumbai. The

Maharashtra govern-ment, on September 3,

had declared 600 acre of

Aarey land as a reserve

now revised the forest

area to 800 acre. Biodiv-

ersity in Aarey needs to

be to conserved and pro-

tected. Nowhere is there

an 800-acre jungle in an

urban set up. Mumbai has a natural forest

cover. There will be no

infringement on rights

of tribals in the Aarey forest," said the CM.

Thackeray earlier had also directed the state

home department to

withdraw cases regis-

"The government has

Spread over 2000 acres,

a webcast on Sunday.

"I had opposed the

#### ASSAM GOVT **EXPEDITES BODO** PEACE-ACCORD

MANOJ ANAND | DC **GUWAHATI, OCT. 11** 

Assam government has accelerated the process of implementing the peace-accord peace-accord signed with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) which ied to surrender and dis banding of all the armed rebel groups in Western Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

Informing that several key points of the peaceaccord have already been implemented, security sources said that the ministry of home affairs has also directed the state government to expedite the process of implementing accord

Admitting that with-rawal of cases drawal and rehabilitation of armed cadre would take some more time, security sources said that cases would be withdrawn only after the judicial review of all the

However, the process of rehabilitating the cadres has already started and 1,279 cadres are getting a stipend of ₹6,000 per

They will also get a one-time grant of ₹4 lakh each. The one-time grant will be put in fixed deposit accounts for a period of three years and they would be able to withdraw it only if they maintain good conduct during this



People throng a market at New Market area in Kolkata on Sunday for shopping ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festival amid the Coronavirus

### Centre wary as winter, festivals approach

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, OCT, 11

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan urged people to stay away from large congregations and diligently follow Covid-19 guidelines during the upcoming festive season, saying no religion or God asks people to celebrate ostentatiously.

Requesting people to celebrate the approaching festivals at home with their loved ones instead of going out to fairs and pandals, he said fighting against Covid-19 is every-one's foremost dharma and as the health minister it is his dharma to mitigate the virus and prevent deaths at any cost.

"Extraordinary circumstances must draw extraordinary responses. stances No religion or God says that you have to celebrate in an ostentatious way, that you have to visit pandals and temples and mosques to pray," Vardhan

During the fifth episode

of 'Sunday Samvaad', the health minister's virtual interaction with people on social media, Vardhan discussed the possibility of increased Coronavirus transmission during the coming winter season as transmission of respiratory viruses is known to

viruses are known to thrive better in the cold weather and low humidity conditions. In view of these, it would not be wrong to assume that

increase during the colder

the winter season may see increased rates of transmission of the Coronavirus in the Indian mission context too," he noted.

He stressed that if people congregate in large numbers to to celebrate festivals, "we may be heading for big trouble".

Meanwhile, the number of Coronavirus cases in increased 7,053,806 on Sunday after the country recorded 74,383 infections in the last 24 hours. The death toll due to the deadly virus

fresh fatalities being reported in the said peri-

India is expected to become the pandemic's worst-hit country in the coming weeks, surpassing the United States, where more than 77 lakh infections have been reported.

second worst-hit nation in terms of Covid-19 cases after the US and at the third spot in terms of

ASSEMBLY | BYPOLLS |

#### Party orders probe into incident, expels two members for indiscipline

### Cong woman protests 'rapist' nominee, thrashed

Deoria (UP), Oct. 11: A Pradesh director general worker was roughed up by her colleagues at a party meet in Deoria after she alleged that a "rapist" had been given the ticket for the by-election, dent and expel two members for "indiscipline".

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to Uttar

of police seeking strict accused.

The woman, Tara Yadav. lodged a police complaint against four office-bearers of the party, including the prompting the party to district president, for order a probe into the inci- allegedly beating and molesting her.

As the videos of the ugly scenes at the meeting held on Saturday went viral sparking outrage, the state unit of the Congress termed it as a "political him. As she hurled a bouconspiracy" to defame the

According to eyewitnesses, Yadav allegedly tried to "manhandle" party secre-tary Sachin Naik, and also hurled a bouquet towards him during the meeting on Saturday.

Yadav was protesting over the party nominating Mukund Bhaskar Mani for the November 3 by-polls, accusing him of being a rapist, a charge denied by

quet towards Sachin Naik, angry workers allegedly roughed up Yadav and whisked her out of the meeting venue, the eyewitnesses claimed.

"A police complaint has been received. The matter is being probed. However, no case has been registered so far," SHO Kotwali Chandrabhan Singh said. Yadav, who claimed to be associated with the party for four years, said she

choice of candidate and never expected that the party members would react in such a manner.
"You have given the tick-

et to a rapist, and this has tarnished the image of Congress. You could have given the ticket to someone else. As I said this, I was pushed by someone from behind. Can I not even put forth my point of view. These people want to destroy the Congress and

was only questioning the end it," Yadav said. In a statement issued on Sunday, the UP Congress said, "In the context of by-polls to the Deoria Assembly constituency, a meeting was held at the party office in Deoria on October 10. In this meeting, Deendayal Yadav and Ajay Kumar Sainthwar indulged in indiscipline,

tered against the protestors last year for opposing the felling of trees at Aarey Colony. The Mumbai Metro and have been expelled from the party with imme-

Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) had chopped more than 2,600 trees at Aarey colony on October 25 last year to construct a car shed for the ₹32,000 crore underground Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro corridor.

cent per country quota on

allotment of the coveted Green Card or permanent

One of the original co-

sponsors of the Fairness

for High Skilled Immigra-

nts Act, Democratic Cong-ressman from Illinois Raja Krishnamoorthi

said on Saturday that re-

moving per country cap

from employment-based

Green Cards would remove the Green Card backl-

og for Indian IT professio-

nals, who are being brou-

ght here often to fill the

shortages in the IT industry. "I'm hopeful that under a Joe Biden admin-

istration, we're finally

going to be able to get this

legislation through the

Senate, and then signed into law," Krishnamoo-rthi said. — PTI

legal residency.

Joe may end cap on Green card: Indians

Washington, Oct. 11: Di- immigration system whi-

Joe 'shipped' jobs

stressed that profession-

als from India on H-1B

visas have to wait for decades to get their Green

Card, Indian-origin law-

makers have expressed

hope that a Biden admin-

istration would come to

their rescue by removing

the country cap on the legal permanent residen-

cy. A Green Card, official-

ly known as a Permanent

Resident Card, is a docu-

ment issued to the immi-

grants in the US as evidence that the bearer has

been granted the privi-

lege of residing perma-

nently. It allows a non-US

citizen to live and work

permanently in America. Indian IT professionals,

most of whom are highly

skilled and come to the

US mainly on the H-1B

work visas, are the worst

sufferers of the current

Washington, Oct. 11: US President Donald Trump

has alleged that Democra-

tic presidential candidate

Joe Biden in his previous

capacities as Senator and vice president was busy shipping jobs to China, prompting the latter to

Biden said Trump will be the first president in

modern American history to "leave office with

fewer jobs than when it

began". Making his first

### IN BRIEF

#### **Thailand bus-train** collision: 17 dead

Bangkok: At least 17 people died early Sunday when a train collided with a bus in central Thailand, officials said. The tour bus was travelling with 65 passengers on board when it crossed the railway track during rain in Chacheongsao, 80 kilometres east of Bangkok, where a train smashed into the vehicle. Prathueng Yookassem, the district chief officer, told

Thailand's PBS TV that at least 17 people died and 30 were injured. "It was raining, perhaps, the driver did not see the train," he said. All of the injured were brought to two hospitals. Police say they are investigating. The bus passengers were travelling from Samut Prakan province to a Buddhist tem-ple in Chachoengsao for a

#### merit-making ceremony. **Mexico asks Pope** for abuse apology

Mexico City: Mexico's president published an open letter to Pope Francis calling on the Roman Catholic Church to apologise for abuses of Indigenous peoples during the conquest of Mexico in the 1500s. In the letter published Saturday, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador also asks the pope to lend Mexico ancient pre-Hispanic Mexican or colonial-era documents. The Catholic Church, the Spanish monarchy and the

Mexican government should make a public apology for the offensive atrocities that Indigenous people suffered,' the letter states. Lopez

Obrador asked the Pope to make a statement in favour of Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico's 19th-century independence leader who was believed to have been excommunicated by the church for his involvement in the uprising.

#### France aircraft collision kills 5

Paris: An ultra-light airplane has collided with another small plane, killing five people as the two aircraft fell into gardens around a town southeast of France's capital. The collision occurred on Saturday in the skies above Loche, about 50 kilometers from Tours, southeast of Paris, according to the mayor, Marc Angenault, who was quoted by the France Bleu radio station. According to Nadia Seghier, head of the prefecture, the state authority of the Indre-et-Loire region, the ultra-light plane fell around a home near the town's centre without injuring people on the ground. The tourism aircraft, reportedly a four-seat single engine plane, fell into an uninhabited sector. Two of the dead were in the ultra-light plane and the three others in the other small aircraft. There were no reports of survivors. About 50 firefighters and 30 gendarmes rushed to the area of the crash, as well as aviation specialists, the radio station said.

### N. KOREAN **NEW MISSILE**

Seoul, Oct. 11: South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to commit to its past disarmament pledges while expressing concerns over the North's unveiling of a suspected new long-range missile during a military parade. During celebrations marking the 75th birthday of its ruling party in Pyongyang on Saturday, North Korea paraded a variety of weapons systems, including two missiles that were disclosed for the first time to a foreign audience. One is what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile that is larger than any of the North's known ICBMs, and the other would likely be an upgraded version of a missile that

can be fired from submarines. While some experts say they could be mock-ups of missiles under development, their disclosures suggest North Korea has been continuously pushing to boost its weapons capability amid a stalemate in nuclear diplomacy with the United States. South Korea's Defence Ministry said Sunday it was expressing concerns about the fact that "North Korea unveiled weapons including what was suspected to be a new long-range ballistic missile"

A ministry statement demanded North Korea abide by 2018 inter-Korean deals aimed at lowering animosities. South Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement urging North Korea to return to talks to produce progress in its past commitment to achieving denuclearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

### **Anti-TB vaccine trials in UK**

London, Oct. 11: Scientists in the UK will begin recruiting frontline healtold vaccine used to combat tuberculosis (TB), the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin or BCG jab, can be repurposed to help boost immunity against the Coronavirus as well. The University of Exeter in south-west England said on Sunday that it is leading the UK arm of the worldwide research called the BCG vaccination to Reduce the impact of Covid-19 in healthcare workers (BRACE) trial. Participants will be given either the BCG vaccine, currently given to more than 100 million babies worldwide each year, including in India, to protect against TB, or a placebo injection.

The BCG vaccine boosts immunity by "training" the immune system to respond to other subsequent infections with greater intensity. Researchers hope this improved "innate immunity" will buy crucial time to develop an effective and safe vaccine against Covid-19. "Covid-19 has killed more than a million people globally, with well over 33 million people acquiring the disease, sometimes in its severest forms. BCG has been shown to boost immunity in a generalised way, which may offer some protection against COVID-19," said Professor John

Campbell from Exeter University, who is the UK lead for the BRACE study. "We're excited to be con-

tributing to the large-scale, international BRA-CE study where we are seeking to establish whether the BCG vaccine could help protect people who are at risk of Covid-19. If it does, we could save lives by administering or topping up this readily available and cost-effective vaccination," he said. In the UK, routine BCG vaccination – which dates as far back as the 1920s – was stopped in 2005 because of low rates of TB in the general population.

Previous studies suggest that the BCG vaccine could reduce susceptibility to a range of infections caused by viruses including those similar to the novel coronavirus causing Covid-19. Examining the mechanism by which this may work is part of the trial being conducted by BRACE researchers.

The UK arm of trial is initially recruiting care home and healthcare workers in the south-west of England, who can attend clinics in Exeter. It is targeting these professionals because they work in fields with high exposure to Covid-19.

Adviser: UK running into Covid-19 headwind London, Oct. 11: One of the UK's senior-most gov-

# Trump no longer considered transmission risk to others

President Donald Trump is no longer considered a transmission risk to others, the White House physician has said, as the president held an in-person event on the White House lawns for the first time since contracting the Covid-19 disease. White House physician Dr Sean Conley said on Saturday, "This evening I am happy to report that in addition to the President meeting CDC criteria for the safe discontinuation of isolation, this morning's Covid PCR sample demonstration, by currently recognised standards, he is no

ernment medical advisers warned that the country was running into a headwind with infections at a "tipping point" similar to the one in March, when Britain went into lockdown. Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, issued a warning that the "R number", or the rate at which infection is transmitted, is between 1.2 and 1.5, which means it grows larger as every case generates more than one new case. -PTI

mission risk to others."

In a White House memorandum. Dr Conley said now at day 10 from symptom onset, fever-free for well over 24 hours and all symptoms improved, the assortment of advances diagnostics test obtained reveal there is no longer evidence of actively replicating virus.

"In addition, sequential testing throughput his illness has demonstrated decreasing viral loads that correlate with increasing cycle threshold times, as well as decreasing and now undetectable subgenomic mRNA," he said.

Melania tested positive for Covid-19 last week. The president was taken to a military hospital for treatment, which the White House said was taken as a "matter of abundance caution". After spending four days, he came back to the White House on Monday. White House physician Dr Sean Conley said on Thursday that the president was "safe" to return to public life on Saturday. In his first public address from the Blue Room Balcony of the White House, Trump said that he

was feeling great.

### **INDIAN ENVOY SELF ISOLATES AFTER MEETING VIRUS +VE NEPAL MINISTER**

Kathmandu, Oct. 11: India's Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been staying in self isolation after he met Nepal's Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Yogesh Bhattarai, who tested positive for the Coronavirus on Saturday, an Indian off-

icial said on Sunday. Ambassador Kwatra has

quarantined himself as he had met with Bhattarai, Indian Embassy spokesperson Abhisekh Dubey said. However, his health is good and he has not developed any symptoms of infection, he added The duo had discussed ways to promote tourism in both countries.

### Protest against Netanyahu



Israeli security officers detain protesters during a demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, on Saturday.

#### public address from Blue Room Balcony of the White House after being discharged from hospital where he was treated for Covid-19 infection, Trump charged Biden and his

ed would not let him do. "The Democrats' is a socialist programme and

campaign of taking the country on the path of socialism, which he vow-

to China: Trump JOE BIDEN is set to make his first general election campaign visit Monday to Ohio, signaling the former vice president's hopes of winning the state Democrats lost

by a significant margin

four years ago. platform — and it really is more than socialist. It's not just socialist; it's beyond socialism," he said. As one member from the audience screamed "communist", Trump said, "Communist. That's about right."

Biden, who was campaigning in Erie city in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, alleged that Trump was only protecting the interests of the rich and billionaires.

### Shelling dashes Karabakh truce

an, Oct. 11: Hopes that a dug through piles of deb-Russian-brokered ceasefire between Armenia in search of signs of sur-and Azerbaijan might vivors, an AFP journalist hold were further eroded in the city reported. Sunday, with both sides accusing the other of intensive shelling of civilian areas and escalating two

weeks of fierce clashes. Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said that overnight shelling by Armenian forces on the country's second largest city, Ganja, had left at least seven peo-ple dead and 33 wounded including children, less than 24 hours after the halt to fighting was supposed to take effect.

ris with their bare hands They retrieved one near

ly naked body and gingerly put it in a white bag to be taken away in an ambulance while several horrified residents watched on and wept.

One witness said they were woken by a huge blast that levelled an entire square block of one- and two-storey houses in the early hours of the morning, leaving nine apartments destroyed.

#### **28 ARRESTED IN NAGS SOUTH WISCONSIN PROTESTS**

Wauwatosa, Oct. 11: Police used tear gas on demonstrators and arrested 28 people during a third straight night of protests over the lack of charges against a suburban Milwaukee police officer who fatally shot a PoC teen, authorities said, as they took to Twitter on Saturday to outline what they called an "escalation in force by the protesters.

About 100 people gathered outside City Hall on Friday past Wauwatosa's 7 pm curfew and refused multiple orders to disperse, according to police. Police said they used tear gas on the crowd, after bottles were thrown at officers. On Saturday, the Wauwatosa Police Department posted on Twitter that people have been asking valid questions about the police response over three nights of protests.

Police posted a picture of bottles they said were found in a backpack, including a bottle of lighter fluid, noting that the materials can be used to start fires.

'Over the past three nights, we have seen an escalation in force by the protesters," police tweet-

### Prominent cleric shot dead in Karachi

prominent Pakistani Sunni Muslim cleric was shot dead along with his driver by unidentified assailants in Karachi, police said on Sunday. Maulana Dr Adil Khan, head of Karachi's Jamia Farooqia seminary, was attacked in a market on Saturday evening, they said. According to a senior police official, as the car carrying Khan stopped near a shopping centre in Shah Faisal Colony to purchase sweets, armed pillion riders opened indiscriminate fire on the car The police official said it appeared to be a targeted attack. Khan was the son of late prominent scholar Maulana Saleemullah Khan, who founded the Jamia Faroogia, a seminary located in Shah Faisal Colony. Jamia Farooqia adheres to the Sunni Muslim teachings of the Deobandi sect.

The seminary spokesperson, Amjad Rizvi, said that the Maulana expired in hospital from multiple bullet wounds while his driver, Maqsood Ahmed, died on the spot.

oust the Imran Khan-led government.

Karachi, Oct. 11: In a formation of the Pakistan rare public appearance, Maryam Nawaz, Vice-President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), will address the grand anti-government rally on October 18 here organised

by the alliance formed by

the opposition parties to

On September 20, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties announced

TO ADDRESS OCT. 18 KARACHI PDM RALLY Democratic Movement (PDM) and launch of a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" starting with countrywide public meetings, protest demons-

trations and rallies before

a "decisive long march' towards Islamabad in January 2021. The first anti-government rally is scheduled on October 16 in Gujranwala. — *PTI* in Gujranwala.

#### **TEMPLE IN SINDH** VANDALISED. **ONE ARRESTED**

Islamabad, Oct. 11: A Hindu temple has been vandalised by a person in Pakistan's southeast Sin-dh province, according to the police. One person has been arrested and a case registered in connection with the incident which took place on Saturday, TheExpress Tribune

#### CHINA CONSULAR **ACCESS FOR TWO CANADIANS**

Toronto, Oct. 11: The Canadian government said Saturday that China granted consular access to two detained Canadians in China for the first time since January.

The Global Affairs department said Dominic Barton, Canada's Ambassador to China, was granted virtual consular access to Michael Spavor on Friday and virtual consular access to Michael Kovrig on Saturday.

Monkey species is probably the ancestors of some of the modern primates

### Oldest monkey fossils outside of Africa found

IN RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE, MARYAM

Beijing, Oct. 11: Scientists have found that the fossil samples unearthed in a lignite mine in China belong to a monkey species that lived about 6.4 million years ago, a discovery which indicates that they existed in Asia at the same time as apes, and are probably the ancestors of some of the modern pri-

mates in the area. According to the researchers, including Nina G. Jablonski from the Pennsylvania State University

in the US, the samples collected from a mine in southeastern Yunan Province in China are "some of the very oldest fossils of monkeys outside of Africa". "It is close to or actually the ancestor of many of the living monkeys of East Asia. One of the interesting things from the perspective of paleontology is that this monkey occurs at the same place and same time as ancient apes in Asia," Jablonski noted. The study, publis-

hed in the Journal of Human Evolution, noted that the unearthed jaw and thigh bones were found in close proximity, "and are probably of the same individual". The scientists also uncovered a left calcaneus — heel bone — that belongs to the same species of monkey, Mesopit-

hecus pentelicus. The significance of the calcaneus is that it reveals the monkey was well adapted for moving nimbly and powerfully both on

the ground and in the Jablonski said. This locomotor versatility no doubt contributed to the success of the species in dispersing across wood-land corridors from Europe to Asia," she added.

According to the researchers, the lower jawbone and upper portion of the leg bone indicate that the individual was female. The scientists believe these monkeys were probably "jacks of all trades" able to navigate in the

their teeth indicated they could eat a wide variety of plants, fruits and flowers, while apes eat mostly fruit. "The thing that is fascinating about this monkey, that we know from molecular anthropology, is that, like other colobines (Old World monkeys), it had the ability to ferment cellulose. It had a gut similar to that of a

trees and on land, and

cow," said Jablonski. The monkeys were successful since they could

eat low-quality food high in cellulose and obtain sufficient energy by fermenting the food and using the subsequent fatty acids then available from the bacteria. They said a similar pathway is used by animals like cows, deer, and goats. "Monkeys and apes would have been eating fundamentally different things. Apes eat fruits, flowers, things easy to digest, while monkeys eat leaves, seeds," Jablonski said.





## **Chronicle**

# Recovery contingent on curbing Covid-19

fter a six-month-long flow of negative news, the Reserve Bank of India's economic forecast has offered a glimmer of hope. While the annual economic growth rate would continue to be in the negative territory with an expected contraction of 9.5 per cent, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Indian economy will post a

positive growth of 0.5 per cent in January-March quarter, unless the country witnesses a second wave of Covid-19 cases.

Though a half percentage growth is negligible, it shows that the economy has passed its worst phase. This optimism was also reflected in the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) for September 2020, which rose to 56.8 — its highest mark since January 2012 — supported by acceleration in new orders and production. The services PMI too has almost reached the positive territory in September with 49.8, which is shy of 0.2 points. Since PMI records business expectation, it needs to be seen as to which sector would contribute to this growth.

Another data point that was not highlight-

the only way to kickstart the economy. However, the subwould make it this responsibility. According to the contraction in gross tax collections.

ed by the RBI governor is the rise in bank Public investment, deposits. According to RBI data, banks have therefore, remains seven per cent more deposits in September compared to February. The loan books of the banks have risen merely by two per cent. When seen together, these metrics indicate that people who have surplus dued tax collections money are not confident enough to spend. Job losses and reduction in salary have difficult to shoulder reduced disposable incomes of lakhs of people and, as a result, taken a toll on con-

The central bank's optimism also betrays RBI, there has been the fact that consumer confidence is at an a 23.7 per cent all-time low. According to RBI's consumer confidence survey, people have curtailed spending and discretionary spending would continue to remain low in the near future. A subdued demand would make business-

men hesitant in expanding their operations. Exports, another key component of the Indian economy, are also languishing at low levels. Given the global economic outlook, Indian exports may not see a major revival unless the country can attract some of companies de-risking their operations from Chinese dependence. This, however, may not happen in the short term, as infrastructure in India remains woefully inadequate.

Public investment, therefore, remains the only way to kick-start the economy. However, the subdued tax collections would make it difficult to shoulder this responsibility. According to the RBI, there has been a 23.7 per cent contraction in gross tax collections and a 14.7 per cent plunge in transfer of taxes to states and Union Territories.

A full recovery in the economy, therefore, would be incumbent on how fast the world defeats the coronavirus. Until then, the economic activity will not reach the pre-pandemic levels and the bullishness of stock markets would not reflect the real state of the economy.

### Don't buy into US rhetoric

ust days before US deputy secretary of state Stephen Biegun comust days before US deputy secretary of state Stephen Bieguit Collimences a visit to New Delhi on Monday, America's national security adviser Robert O'Brien has observed, "The time has come to accept that dialogue and agreements will not persuade and compel China to change." The remark is in the context of the "CCP's (Chinese Communist Party's) territorial aggression" and China's "attempt(ed) to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force".

Many may may aggregate the transfer of the US NSA's asymment It.

Many may agree with the general drift of the US NSA's comment. It will become clearer after Mr Biegun's talks here if, officially, India at this stage would go so far as to withhold any further discussions and consultations — at the military and diplomatic levels — with China in order to make it move back its troops in Ladakh.

The Chinese aggression was evidently a key issue in the meeting of the Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India) foreign ministers in Tokyo earlier this month. The Quad, which began its journey as an informal grouping of liberal democracies of the Indo-Pacific region in 2007 in order to counterbalance China and act as a moderating influence on it, has been active of late. This arises from China's ongoing marked aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific littoral — aimed

at territorial expansion — taking on a continental dimension in Ladakh. The tenor of the US criticism of Xi's China has of late taken on a sharp political and ideological dimension. But India and other Quad members have been more calibrated, calling for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" or FOIP. The situation in Ladakh is likely to loom large at the meeting of – the defence and foreign ministers of India and the US — in New Delhi later this month. While being prepared for any military eventuality, it might be prudent not to cancel further talks with the Chinese unless it seems this would make Beijing reverse its militarist stance in

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Ill, Boris had a harder time; virus blow to **James Bond** 

e Mayor of London, Sadiq The Mayor of London, Smith Khan, has said that new restrictions appear to be inevitable, which seems to indicate that things are going to get worse before we finally see the New Year. And so it is going to be corona carols for all of us! We can only hope that Santa comes along to stuff the Covid vaccine into our Christmas

If things were not gloomy enough erwise we are in a standard English warmer except a lot of people are of Covid has seen thousands of new over in August and we would be back to our usual round of pubs shut again as will restaurants. Nothing is certain and the rules keep

he scientists are definitely quar-Boris Johnson want dire lockdowns mingle. London has escaped the worst the North. In Scotland, as of this weekend, all pubs, restaurants and cafes are allowed to be open. So can a pub stay open serving coffee but not Irish coffee?

and trace programme, according to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson was going to be a "Moonshot"

ut let us face it, Boris has had a B tougher time than other heads of state when he got Covid-19. Look at how luxuriously Donald Trump gets treated when he catches the virus — his own four-room suite in Walter Reed hospital with a personal chef and doctors and secret service staff. You have to feel sorry for the British Prime Minister. In 10 Downing Street there are no doctors or staff to look after the Prime Minister. When he had Covid last March, he was alone in a flat at the top of No.11. He was being supplied food pushed through the door, because his then pregnant girlfriend had to isolate elsewhere to be safe. Finally Boris had to check into hospital — but only because he was, by then, seriously unwell. We do not pamper our Prime Chequers but there are no chefs or housemaids in 10 Downing Street. The family has to cook, wash the dishes and do their own laundry. Now, I won-

ames Bond normally comes to the rescue of the British people in distress. But this time he has struck a hard blow. The release of the latest Bond film No Time to Die was postponed for six months. We had even heard that cinemas were supposed to open with a bang and Bond. Now Cineworld, a cinema chain which owns 127 theatres, has decided to close them all down. Others may follow suit. It seems as though the great film industry in the UK is going to be badly impacted. How will one survive without eating popcorn and watching action on the big screen?

done by the Queen as usual. She has buoyed sinking spirits by honouring the many wonderful doctors and nurses and other "warriors"

der how things are back in India?

who were at the frontline of fighting Covid. Every year she bestows hon-ours on people in June, which is her official birthday month. Due to Covid the date was put back to October. Normally there is intense competition and lobbying by the top people to grab a gong. One is told that there are even agencies you can hire to secure you an honour, though that sounds a bit odd. (What do they do — sidle up to the Queen, and whisper in her ear?) But this time, it is the many ordinary people — NHS nurses, volunteers who donated their time to prepare free meals or encouraged people to exercise daily online — 414 of them have been honoured, out of a total of 1,495. This spirit of helping others is a unique thing about the local culture. It is wonderful that this is being

Kishwar Desai is an awardwinning author. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.



### How farm laws might hurt national security



Manish Tewari

Subhani

**State of the Union** 

exploitation and aggres-

sion becoming the domi-

nant social strain. It was

better to die honorably

than live in ignominy.

However, it was in the nineteenth century especially on the 10 of May 1857

that the 11th and 20th

Bengal Native Infantry

Regiments in conjunction with the 3rd Light Cavalry

rose up against the British

Raj. They murdered their

European officers and

moved towards Delhi that was captured by the sepoys

of Meerut within 24 hours

and Bahadur Shah Zafar II

was proclaimed as the

Emperor of Hindustan.

This kickstarted the First

War of Independence. After

the British succeeded in

putting down the uprising

the British plan to demili-

tarise Punjab that was sup-

posed to be implemented in

the wake of the Anglo-Sikh

Wars never really came to

In fact, they had to re-mil-

itarise it based upon the

martial race theory that

they conceived. The mar-

tial race theory categorised

the Dogras, Garhwalis,

Gujjars, Gorkhas, Jats,

Kumaonis, Pathans, Rajputs, Sikhs, Janjuas,

Khokhar and Yadavs as

martial races. As a conse-

quence, very heavy recruit-

ment into the British

Indian Army started tak-

ing place from undivided

Punjab and the North West

Frontier Province (NWFP)

now in Pakistan from

Throughout World War 1.

the British recruited heavi-

ly from Punjab. About half

a million men were recruited from the province.

According to certain histo-

rians, 50 per cent of these recruits were Punjabi

Muslims, 36 per cent

around the 1870.

Pathans,

Kodavas.

Ghumman.

fruition.

Mahars.

Gakhars.

the 27<sup>th</sup> of eptember, President Ram Īndia, Nath Kovind, gave assent to the three farm bills, namely, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amend-ment) Bill, 2020, thereby paving the way for their notification as law.

These acts unconstitutionally passed by the Rajya Sabha have created great trepidation among the agrarian communities, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh, as also in various other parts of the country. The first two bills are especially troublesome because they have been perceived as the first act in dismantling ment and the Minimum Support Price regimes. What gives further credence to these concerns is the fact that the debt burthe Corporation of India (FCI) in the current fiscal has already crossed 3.15 lakh crores and the government has no plans of defraying the debt. The FCI has barely any independent means of servicing this debt and if things continue as such FCI may just fold up. It would be pertinent to underscore that FCI is the principal instrumentality of the Union government for public procurement of agricultural produce in the country.

However, far more dis-concerting than the economic imperative are the national security implications that have totally been ignored. It has the potential of destabilising the entire western border and creating conditions for the return of militancy to Punjab. However, to under-

stand this properly, we must peep into the past. The saga of Punjab has

when it came to people being recruited once they attained military age both at the cusp and again during the war. Moreover, during World War I, 75,000 since times immemorial acres of land on the Lower been impregnated with the Bari Doab Canal alone was granted on peasant conditions to those who had discreed of resisting of aggression and persecution. For 800 long years, from the 11th to 18th century, tinguished themselves in the various battles of the Punjab saw at least 70 inva-Great War. This process of recruitsions that left the frontier ment exacerbated during the Second World War with ethos of Indian subcontinent heavily militarised with a culture of resisting

the numbers from Punjab crossing a million. When the Second World War ended in 1945 most of the recruits were demobilised and came back to their respective villages. The Partition of India followed in 1947. The worst affected provinces were the Punjab and Bengal. More than a million innocents were slaughtered between July and September of 1947 in the Punjab alone. This was the direct consequence of dismembering a heavily militarised region without thinking through its impli-Post 1947 agriculture,

Armed Forces and immigration continued to be the main occupations of the people of Indian Punjab. Over a period of time due to the institution of the Recruitable Male Population policy in 1966 the share of Punjab in the Armed Forces started dropping and as barriers to immigration became higher agriculture soon became the mainstay for the people of the state.

Incidentally even today Haryana, which has only 2.2 per cent of India's population, contributes 7.82 per cent to the Armed Forces. Punjab with 2.4 per cent of the National population still contributes 16.6 per cent to the Armed Forces even though these num-

**SYL** provided the trigger to a festering yet nascent militant movement that soon evolved into full-fledged terrorism consuming the lives of thousands of innocent citizens

Hindus, 12 per cent Sikhs pre-1966 days when both these states were a part of and one to two per cent Christians. However Sikhs Joint Punjab formed post were more in proportion than Punjabi Muslims the merger of Patiala and the East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) and erst-while British Punjab in After the 1965 war the Minimum Support Price

regime and public procurement were introduced in 1966-67 for wheat and later expanded to other commodities. This gave the Punjabi farmer an assured return on his produce. He could plan the future of his children assured of a safety net. The NDA/BJP government now wants to dismantle this social security architecture.

After the Green Revolution in 1974 the paddy and wheat cycle with public procurement and MSP as its two pillars brought prosperity to the Punjabi farmer. In 1982 when the Satluj Yamuna link canal (SYL) was sought to be constructed it had a very negative impact on the state for canal water is the mainstay of the agricultural economy. It provided the trigger to a festering yet nascent militant movement that soon evolved into full-fledged terrorism consuming the lives of thousands of innocent citizens while allowing Pakistan to destabilise this sensitive border state for over a decade and a half. Those were the bloodiest years for the state post-Independence. Even today Pakistan is hell bent on reviving militancy in Punjab. Weapon drops via drones and arrests of Pakistan-trained terrorists

are regular occurrences. Given this background how wise would it be from the national security perspective to dismantle both the public procurement and MSP regimes through these recent legislative enactments is a question that Prime Minister Modi must ask himself. Contrary to whatever the government may claim these laws have stoked the innermost fears of the people. The genie is out of the bottle. The NDA government has gone where angels fear to

The author is a lawyer Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

#### **LETTERS**

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**

On the occasion of the World Mental Health Day on October 10, it is pertinent to note that society is getting sick morally, mentally and physically with each passing day and unless it changes its thought process, things will come to a nought in the years to come.

Dr K. Srinivas Hyderabad

#### **EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The education system has become a double-edged sword (Hiked fees: Case against Glendale filed, DC, Oct. 9). On one hand we have teachers doing their duty irrespective of whether they are paid or not and on the other we have students, a majority of them unable to pay, hindering their education. School managements are not paying teachers by blaming children for not paying for Wille paying fee. While some managements are in a position to pay, but do not. Some parents don't pay though they can after seeing other children being allowed to attend classes without paying fees.

Blandina

#### **DHARANI PORTAL**

I am a landowner and have not updated details on the Dharani portal as I am getting tax receipts in the name of the owners from whom I purchased 20 years ago. The Dharani updation staff are not accepting previous electricity and water bills on my name. They are not even accepting people who bought houses through notarised document. The change of name on the tax receipt has not been done by Rajendranagar municipality for 80 per cent in our locality. How will the updation be done?

**Syed Wasif** Hyderabad

#### Site for Vizag steel plant selected VISAKHAPATNAM, Oct. 11

The plant selection committee of the Union Government has approved Gajuvaka-Kanithi-Balacheruvu area for the proposed steel plant in Andhra Pradesh.

According to present indications about 6,000 acres would be earmarked for the plant at Gajuvaka

YEARS AGO IN area which Chronicle lies on the grand trunk .road.

The Anglo-American consortium and the Hindustan Steel had also recommended the same site for location of a steel plant.

An intensive study of the area would be made and extensive drilling operation will be conducted to study soil and rock conditions.— PTI





already, the weather has turned wet and windy. There has been an odd day of sunshine now and then but othautumn. The political climate is no angry and fed up. The second coming cases every week. Everyone had thought the lockdown was and parties. But now pubs are to be

relling and they have been fighting for some time. Those advising but others are complaining that we need herd immunity and freedom to so far but there are local lockdowns in shut. But cafes not serving alcohol are No clarity yet!

he only constant is that like the scientists, the government is also at a loss. They are now not very sure about how they can calculate the precise numbers of those who got the virus. The latest is that the test and trace programme missed out on 50,000 cases because the computer was old as was the Excel spreadsheet and the last few rows were left out. So there are 50,000 people out there who tested positive but cannot be traced because the computer was dysfunctional. The test

Minister. If he wants a posh meal at home, he cooks it himself or orders a takeaway. Things are better at

ut some cheering up has been

KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 12 OCTOBER 2020

# quick

INDICATO	K5	%
Sensex	40,509.49	0.81
Nifty 50	11,914.20	0.67
S&P 500*	3,477.13	0.88
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.67	0.30
Euro (₹)	86.31	0.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,558▼236	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.82	-0.52
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.937	-0.002
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769	0.002
* As of Friday/Saturd	ay	

### **FPIs invest** ₹5,245 crore into equities in Oct.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have invested Rs 1,086 crore on a net basis so far in October in Indian markets. tracking encouraging factors including improved GST col-lection, acceleration in economic activity and positive global cues. Depositories data shows FPIs pumped in a net Rs 5.245 crore into equities and withdrew Rs 4,159 crore from the debt market during October 1-9.

### Cello re-enters stationery biz after 5 years



After selling its stationery business to France's BIC five years ago, the Cello Group is re-entering the category and plans to launch products in the local market. In Dec. 2015, BIC Group acquired Cello Pens for Rs 540 crore. "We have just started stationery business with a different brand name (Uno-max)... here was a non-compete (agreement)... so we couldn't do same products portfolio," Gaurav P. Rathod, MD, Cello Group, said.

### Snapdeal on-boards over 5,000 mfg-sellers

Snapdeal has added over 5,000 manufacturer-sellers on its platform so far this year, most of them in the September quarter. exceeding the target it had set for itself earlier in the year, a company official said. Adding new sellers will help the e-tailer to ramp up its Diwali sales plans as direct shipment to buvers help manufacturers move stocks faster to customers. The marketplace has over 5 lakh registered sellers.

#### **H&M** to expand physical stores in India

Swedish apparel retailer H&M will continue to expand its physical stores in India although it is closing down 250 stores globally, betting on the long-term potential of the country. H&M, which opened its first store in India in 2015, has 48 outlets in 24 cities but may not open as many stores in the next five years, as it also focuses on enhancing its digital pres-ence, according to H&M India's country manager Janne Einola.



**■ ₹20-crore entry capital recommended** 

### Panel for low base for microinsurers

**FALAKNAAZ SYED** MUMBAI, OCT. 11

At a time when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods to the Covid-19 pandemic, a panel set up by the insurance regulator has recommended a steep cut in the entry level capital requirement for floating a standalone microinsurance company to help accelerate the expansion of this segment. The panel wants the threshold be cut to Rs 20 crore, from the current requirement of Rs 100 crore for microinsurance companies. Stating that India would

need to allow multiple players in the field if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration, the panel has sug-gested that microinsurance companies, as well as cooperative and mutual insurers, should be allowed to act as composite insur-ers to transact both life and non-life business through a single entity. "Their portfolios should have a balance of both life and non-life business," said the panel.

However, the changes would require amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938 to bring the standmicroinsurance business under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (Irdai) purview. This will include defining microinsurance, microinsurers, reducing the capital requirement and/or

giving powers to insurance



regulator to decide on capital requirements for standmicroinsurance companies.

However, amending the Insurance Act, 1938, may require time. In the immediate term, the central government may be approached to issue rules under Section 24(2)(c) read with Section 14(2)(q) of Irda Act, 1999 giving the Irdai powers to put in place a regulatory framework for floating micro insurers.

Such an approach was adopted by the government to allow insurers in special economic zones (SEZs) when there was no specific power with the Irdai for regulating entities in SEZs said, the Irdai-appointed committee in its report.

"India too will need to improve access for multiple players if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration. This is all the more urgent in the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods, are now leading more insecure lives and

are falling back into pover-

ty," said the report.

The committee has also suggested that a risk-based capital (RBC) approach should be adopted to enable the progressive growth of the microinsurance business while maintaining the highest prudential standards.

Referring to the low insurance penetration, the report said, "Dedicated standalone microinsurance institutions can close this gap by making insurance affordable and available to low-income families, thereby providing a measure of risk mitigation and security. The committee therefore recommends that the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India license such businesses which can cater to the low-income segment.

The Irdai had constituted the committee in February 2020 consisting of members from NGOs, independent consultants and experts working in financial inclusion and regulato-

#### **GST COUNCIL TO MEET AGAIN TODAY TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES**

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The GST Council in its meeting on Monday is likely to discuss the suggestion of non-BJP ruled states of setting up a ministerial panel to develop consensus on the issue of compensation, sources said.

The Council, chaired by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, will for the third time in a row discuss the issue of funding the shortfall of goods and services tax (GST) revenue of states. While some opposition

ruled states are demanding that a Group of Ministers be set up to arrive at a decision on the mechanism for funding the compensation shortfall, BJP-ruled states, which have already opted for the borrowing option given by the Centre, are of the view that they should be given a go-ahead so that they can get money

quickly. The 43rd meeting of the council will discuss the single agenda of the way forward, sources said. In its previous meeting last week, the council had decided to extend the surcharge on taxes on luxury goods such as cars and tobacco products beyond June 2022, but failed to reach a consensus on ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue.

The projected total compensation shortfall in current fiscal stands at Rs 2.35 lakh crore. —PTI

### Oil PSUs asked to build 50,000 houses for renting Dharmendra Pradhan

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The petroleum ministry has asked oil PSUs such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to build 50,000 houses for renting to migrant workers as part of the government plan to develop affordable rental hous-ing after millions of labourers fled cities for villages amidst the coronavirus lockdown.

The ministry wants IOC and other public sector undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control such as Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Gail India Ltd and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to build the housing units on their land, three officials who attended a meeting on the subject said.

The meeting, they said, was chaired by oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan who asked the PSUs to come up with plans to build the housing units at the earliest.

The ministry had on October 5 tweeted about the meeting, saying Pradhan "held a meeting with officials of MoPNG and PSUs to review the efforts made by PSUs in providing houses on rent to migrants and urban poor working on oil & gas projects under the affordable rental housing scheme of @MoHUA\_

India."

MoPNG is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, while MoHUA is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Áffairs.

"The Affordable Rental Housing Complexes, a sub-scheme of #PMAY



aims to provide ease-ofliving to urban poor and migrant workers in need of affordable housing near their work sites as a result of the #Covid19 induced reverse migration," the ministry had tweeted without giving

Under diktat from the ministry, the PSUs have started looking for land within or near their installations for the housing project, the officials

However, some of the PSUs officials found little merit in the move.

They said operating units such as refineries rarely have spare land and they often struggle to house new units or staff. Also, the new projects such as pipelines are in remote areas where migrant workers may not be willing to go.
Those working on oil

and gas projects are often housed in temporary housing units near the project sites and it may be difficult to get them into rented units, they said.

The government had in July approved a plan to develop affordable rental housing for migrant workers after millions of labourers fled cities for

villages as the lockdown left many of them without jobs and homes.

The scheme, part of a housing project aimed at providing housing for all by 2022, was aimed at converting existing vacant government housing into affordable rental housing complexes (ARHC).
Private developers could

also participate.

The programme will benefit about 3,00,000 workers initially, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs statement issued after the Cabinet approval

The plan, announced initially in May as part of a coronavirus stimulus package and approved by the Cabinet in July, will offer subsidised loans, tax incentives and additional floor space allowances to

developers.

No government agency has a database of the total number of migrant workers in India. The government had recently informed the Supreme Court that approximately one crore migrant workers had returned home in Shramik Special trains, buses and on foot since the lockdown began on March 25. —PTI

### Sail to produce HH rails for high-speed lines

New Delhi, Oct. 11: State-owned steel maker Sail plans to commence commercial production of head hardened (HH) rails in this fiscal, its chair-Anil Kumar Chaudhary said.

HH rails are special rails used in high-speed freight corridors and metro rail projects. Such rails are manufactured using the head hardening technology to bear about 50 per cent higher pressure compared to normal rails.

Sail has set up facilities for production of HH rails at the new Universal Rail Mill (URM) at its Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh, and the cold trials for the same have already completed, been Chaudhary said.

"Though the commissioning of the facility has got delayed on account of Covid-19 pandemic, the company is planning to commence commercial production of the head hardened rails during the current financial year as per the requirement of Indian Railways," he said.

He said the company meets the requirement as and when any order is received from Railways.

### Project completion drags in H1

Price rise helps pharma mkt in Sept.

SANGEETHA G.

Lockdown and unlock restrictions have affected completion of capacity expansion projects to the extent that the value of projects commissioned in the past two quarters are a fraction of those completed in the pre-Covid quar-

Projects commissioned

during the September and June 2020 quarters were worth Rs 32,600 crore and 24,000 crore, respecitively. In comparison, project completions averaged Rs 1.3 lakh crore per quarter in 2019-20 and

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Despite having a higher

base, the pharma market clocked 4.5 per cent growth in September.

Volumes were lower, but

prices largely compensat-

Rs 1.6 lakh crore per quarter in 2018-19, says CMIE's CapEx service that tracks project execution. Most projects completed

in the September 2020 quarter were in the infrastructure sector. Rail and road transport claimed the biggest share among all sectors. These two together accounted for 43 per cent of the total completed projects. The transport infrastructure services sector accounted for 35 per cent of the total value of commissioned projects.

Government projects accounted for 63 per cent of all commissioning of projects in the September

In the last three quarters, government projects accounted for over 60 per cent of all commissioning, with the private sector

'Private sector projects could take much longer to revert to aggressive completion of projects. While the logistical reasons for slowing down of project completions may be getting over, the problem of depleted demand will linger and will remain a hindrance to project completions," says CMIE.

If the lockdown was not a good period to implement a project, it was also not a

abandoning a project. Hence, compared to the past, the number of projects getting abandoned during the nine-month period till September 30 remains modest. Projects worth Rs 77,500 crore were abandoned during the nine-month period. In the past five-six years, such a number had averaged Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore per nine-

good time to decide about

month period.
While implementation of projects worth Rs 9.9 lakh crore was stalled during the first nine months of 2020 till September 30, projects worth Rs 9.2 lakh crore have been revived.

### Action-packed week ahead for stock market

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, OCT. 11

This is billed to be an action packed week for the stock market. UTI AMC and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders will debut on the bourses on Monday. The day could also see the market's full response to the RBI's policy decisions on Friday.

Tech majors Wipro, Infosys, and HCL Technologies will announce their results on October 13, 14 & 16, respectively. The Supreme Court will hear the matter of loan moratorium and interest waiver on Tuesday, October 13.

Macroeconomic release of IIP, CPI and WPI inflation numbers are also scheduled on Monday & Wednesday. US stimulus packages

and upcoming presidential debates will also be closely watched for cues.

Experts believe the market is poised to scale higher due to improving macroeconomic scenario, the pick-up in industrial activity and gradual return to normalcy with Covid-19

cases flattening.

Last week, Tata Steel informed the stock exchanges about highestever quarterly deliveries of 5.05 million tonnes of steel in the quarter, a jump of 72



steel in the quarter. The bull party may continue in the market, with the RBI policy measures favouring heavyweight financials and IT sector expected to

duced 3.85 million tonnes of

announce good numbers, HDFC Bank will be kicking off the earnings season ing off the earnings for banks on Saturday.

Wishra VP-

Mishra, research, Religare Broking, said, "We feel the recent buoyancy in the banking, financials and IT majors could help the Nifty to retest the 12,100 zone. On the flip side, the 11,600-11,800 zone would act as a cushion in case of any profit-taking.

#### ed for the same. The pharbetic therapy posted growth of 6.5 per cent last maceutical market had registered 11.9 per cent growth in September last 2.2 per cent Volumes declined 4 per cent last month, but a 4.6

a 3.8 per cent rise in new launches made good the drag in volumes, according to Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Cardiac drugs grew by

per cent rise in prices and

17 per cent, vitamins, minerals & nutrients by 16.3 per cent and anti-dia-

decline in August, the market had made consid-

good recovery of 1.4 per cent in September against 11 per cent year-on-year decline in August. There has been a healthy uptick in Covid-related medi-But growth was muted

recovery

September. Anti-infec-

tives therapy showed a

for the quarter ended by September. Volumes fell 6.5 per cent, while prices grew 4.6 per cent. Though volumes of drugs outside

tial medicines declined by 4.9 per cent, prices rose by 4.8 per cent. Essential medicines too saw price growth of 3.6 per cent.

meanwhile, expects pharma exports to grow by 11-12 per cent this fiscal, better than last year's 10 per cent growth Export growth will outpace growth in domestic formulations expected at 5-6 per cent, leading to 8-9 per cent overall growth.

### Lower air fare applicable to premium class seats

**DEEPAK PATEL** NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

Lower fare limits decided by the government for economy class seats of domestic flights on May 21 would now also be applicable to premium econo-Ministry of Civil Aviation

has said. However, the upper fare limits set by the government for economy class seats would not be applicable on the premium economy class seats, according to a ministry order dated October 5, accessed by PTI.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had on

May 21 placed upper and lower limits on domestic airfares through seven bands, classified on the basis of flight duration, till August 24. Later, it was extended till extended November 24.

Among the Indian domestic carriers, only Vistara has premium economy class seats in its flights.

Modifying its May 21 order, the MoCA in its Oct. 5 communication stated, The fares indicated... are not applicable for business class and premium economy class. However. in premium economy class, the lower fare band would be applicable."

**LOW** APPETITE

A reason for weak interest in these stocks is limited free float

### Five of 12 PSU bank stocks trade near face value

New Delhi, Oct. 11: Five out of 12 public sector banks are trading near the face value of their equity shares on the bourses, regardless of a rally in stock benchmark indices, an analysis

shows. of Indian Overseas Bank are even trading below the face value of Rs 10 per share. On the BSE, the stock closed at Rs 9.27 on

Friday.
The Chennai-based bank tapped the market first in September 2000, offloading part of the government's stake at the face value of Rs 10 per share.

Remaining four public sector banks— Bank of Maharashtra, Uco Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank and Central Bank of Indiaare trading near the face value of Rs 10 per share.

Shares of Punjab & Sind Bank closed at Rs 10.81 Bank Maharashtra at 11.29 on Friday. Mumbai-based Central Bank of India is slightly better positioned, with a closing price of Rs 12.45 per share followed

Gurpreet Sidana, chief operating officer, operating officer, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "We've witnessed a

by Kolkata-based Uco

Bank at 12.14 per unit.



remarkable recovery in the benchmark in the last few months but the PSU banking pack is still struggling.

"After the initial rebound, mostly PSU initial

banking stocks are again hovering closer to their There are multiple overhangs on the sectors, including asset quality concerns, subdued busi-

ness environment and

low credit offtake.

All these issues put together are weighing on stock prices of the PSU banks and even the biggest name on the list, SBI, is not spared as it is currently quoting less than the sum total of value of its subsidiaries,

Sidana explained. One reason for the low interest of investors in these stocks is their limited free float, an analyst said, adding that most of the banks have government holding of over 90 per cent, leaving a limited number of shares for the public to trade.

The government holding in Indian Overseas Bank is at the highest level of 95.84 per cent followed by Uco Bank at 94.44 per cent, Bank of Maharashtra at 93.33 per cent and Central Bank of India at 92.39 per cent. The government holding in Delhi-based Punjab & Sind Bank was at 83.06 per cent at the end of June 30, 2020.

-PTI













#### **Football coach**

**Tony passes away** 

Hyderabad: Football coach and vice-president of the Telangana Football Association S. Tony passed away in Secunderabad early on Sunday. He was 69 and is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters. His last rites were performed on

Sunday evening. The affable Tony played for the Andhra Pradesh Police team and later joined IDL from where he took voluntary retirement

Tony was also the founder of Shastri Soccer Club at Trimulgherry, which was estab-lished in 1963. He also maintained the Susai Senior Football **Club and Sachdev Sports** Football Club.

He produced many international and national footballers from the Secund-erabad Cantonment

Tony was also the coach of St Andrews School team which was champion of the 7th, 8th and 9th editions of the Jaya Rao Memorial Inter-School football tournament at Bolarum

The Telangana football Association conducted an online condolence meeting at 11.30 am which was attended by all the TFA office bearers, referees and senior players. A two-minute silence was also observed during the class for referees and coaches at Gymkhana Grounds.

Former Indian captain Victor Amalraj expressed condolences to the bereaved family members. The Hyderabad Globe Football Club too paid rich tributes to Tony.

### Mixed day for girls

at Asian chess

Chennai: The Indian women's chess team endured mixed fortunes, winning the first two matches before being upstaged by Iran which pushed them to eighth spot after three rounds of the Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship on Sunday. The team led by Mary Ann Gomes started with a 4-0 rout of Svria before edging Mongolia 2.5-1.5. In the third round, the topseeded Indians went down 1.5 2.5 to sixth-ranked Iran despite

R. Vaishali (Elo rating 2149) winning on the top board against Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, the highest rated player in the event at 2393. Bhakti Kulkarni and P. V. Nandhidhaa lost against Mobina Alinasab while Padmini Rout drew with Anousha Mahdian enabling Iran to pull off an

In the second round game against Mongolia, India won narrowly. — PTI

#### Alex conquers 1st **MotoGP** podium

Le Mans, France: The Repsol Honda Team achieved their best result of the season to date, Alex Marquez stunning with second place from 18th on the grid as Stefan Bradl makes it a double top ten. It was another cold start to the day in France for round 10 of the MotoGP World Championship. Forecasts had predicted it to stay dry throughout, but the French sky had other ideas just moments before the lights went out. A delayed start due to rain on the grid saw the race declared wet and had the entire field switch to wet tyres, the race distance reduced by one lap. Alex shot forward from 18th on the grid and made up eight

Live on

places in just a few laps.

a delighted Repsol Honda

The gap to eventual race-win-

ner Petrucci proved too big as

Alex crossed the line in front of

CRICKET IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

St Petersburg Open: Matches from

3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD **WWE RAW** 

Bouts from 5.30 am (Tuesday)

# Royals in the pink

### Tewatia, Parag snap Rajasthan's 4-match losing streak

Tewatia's uncanny ability to win tricky games rescued Rajasthan Royals yet again as they eked out a five-wicket victory Sunrisers Hyderabad to snap their four-match losing streak in the IPL, here on

Sunday. Tewatia, who became a household name with five sixes in an over against Kings XI Punjab, smashed an unbeaten 45 off 28 balls as Royals over-hauled the 159-run target with a ball to spare.

Along with Riyan Parag (42 not out off 26 balls), Tewatia won the game in 'Royals' style keeping Steve Smith's men in the mix after they were reduced to 78 for 5 in 12

With two needed off two balls, Parag hit Khaleel Ahmed for a six over extra cover and broke into an impromptu 'Bihu jig'. They added 85 runs for the sixth wicket in eight overs when their illustrious international stars flattered to deceive.

Tewatia brought back memories of the Sharjah night but this time it was Rashid Khan who was at receiving end in the 18th over as the left-hander struck three consecutive boundaries.

With 22 needed off two overs, Tewatia launched into T. Natarajan, who lost his length trying to bowl yorkers, for a four and a six over short fine leg that swung the match in favour of Royals.

Earlier, Manish Pandey struck an impressive halfcentury but Rajasthan Royals restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad to 158 for 4 in stipulated overs.



Rahul Tewatia (left) and Riyan Parag of the Rajasthan Royals during their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

#### **SCORECARD**

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner b Archer 48, Jonny Bairstow c Samson b Kartik Tyagi 16, Manish Pandey c Tewatia b Unadkat 54, Kane Williamson (not out) 22, Priyam Garg run out (Archer/Buttler) 15. Extras: (nb-1, w-2) 3. Total: (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 158. FoW: 1-23, 2-96, 3-122, 4-158

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-25-1, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-31-0, Kartik Tyagi 3-0-29-1, Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-31-1, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-35-0, Ben Stokes 1-0-7-0.

Rajasthan Royals: Ben Stokes b Ahmed 5, Jos Buttler c Bairstow b Ahmed 16, Steven

Smith run out 5, Sanju Samson c Bairstow b Rashid 26, Robin Uthappa Ibw b Rashid 18, Riyan Parag (not out) 42, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 45. Extras: (lb-4 w-2) 6. Total: (for 5 wkts. in 19.5 overs) 163. FoW: 1-7, 2-25, 3-26, 4-63, 5-78.

**Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-32-0, Khaleel Ahmed 3.5-0-37-2, T. Natarajan 4-1-32-0, A. Sharma 1-0-11-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-2, Vijay Shankar 3-0-22-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE							
Teams	Р	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR	
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327	
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	0	10	+1.038	
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017	
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820	
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	3	4	0	6	+0.153	
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872	
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588	
Kings XI Puniab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381	

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

### Quinton, Surya script MI win

Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Dhawan scored unbeaten 69, while skipper Shreyas Iyer made 42 as DC scored 162 for four.

For MI, Krunal Pandya picked up two wickets giving away 26 runs.

Later chasing the target, Quinton de Kock and Survakumar Yadav scored 53 each to guide MI home with two balls to

Earlier, Dhawan gave himself enough time to play sheet anchor's role even as MI bowlers did a decent job in the slog overs to not let the batsmen play too many big **SCORECARD** 

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c Krunal Pandya b Boult 4, Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 69. Aiinkya Rahane Ibw b Krunal Pandya 15, Shreyas Iyer c Boult b Krunal Pandya 42, Marcus Stoinis run out 13, Alex Carey (not out) 14. Extras: (w-5) 5. Total: (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 162. FoW: 1-4, 2-24, 3-109, 4-130

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-36-1, James Pattinson 3-0-37-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-26-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-26-2, Kieron Pollard 1-0-10-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-0.

Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma (c) c Rabada b AR Patel 5, Q de Kock c Shaw b Ashwin 53, S. Yadav c Iyer b Rabada 53, Ishan Kishan c A. Patel b Rabada 28, H. Pandya c Carey b Stoinis O, K. Pollard (not out) 11, K. Pandya (not out) 12. Extras: (w-4) 4. Total: (for 5 wkts, in 19.4 over) 166.

FoW: 1-31, 2-77, 3-130, 4-130, 5-152. Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-28-2, A. Nortje 4-0-28-0, A. Patel 3-0-24-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-35-1, H. Patel 2-0-20-0, M. Stoinis

shots.

Dhawan's unbeaten 69run knock came off 52 balls with six fours and a six, while Iyer's 33-ball 42

had five shots to the fence. After Prithvi Shaw (4) was snared early by Trent Boult and Ajinkya

back in the dug out soon, there were no free runs for the Capitals in the beginning after electing

Rahane, playing his first game of the season, was trapped in front of the wicket by Krunal Pandya, introduced timely by MI skipper Rohit sharma, considering that the India Test vice-captain struggles against

left-arm spinners. With in-form Iyer and Dhawan at the crease, the boundaries came here and there. It kept the scoreboard ticking at a decent run-rate. Iyer's trademark along

ground-strokes, played with straight bat, were effective and a treat to watch.

### **CSK'S BATTING MAIN WORRY FOR DHONI**

**Dubai, Oct. 11:** Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni says batting has become his team's major worry in an IPL campaign thrown haywire by "too many holes in the ship".

"Too many holes in the ship and when you try to plug one there is water flowing from another. We need to get our act together." Dhoni said after they lost to RCB by 37 runs on Saturday night.

"Batting has been bit of a worry and today also it was evident. We can't just keep turning up...It is almost the same thing that is happening maybe the individuals are different.



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates his 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win over Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the French Open men's singles final at Roland Garros in Paris on Sunday.

### Nadal lifts 13th French trophy

Paris, Oct. 11: Rafael Nadal demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's alltime record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday.

For world number one Djokovic, the defeat ended his hopes of an 18th Slam and of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors

Nadal, 34, claimed his 100th match win at Roland Garros against just two defeats since his 2005

The Spaniard, the oldest champion in Paris since Andres Gimeno in 1972, claimed the title without dropping a set

He finished the one-sided affair with just 14 unforced errors to his opponent's 52.

"Congrats to Novak for another great tournament. Sorry for today. We've played plenty of times together — one day one wins, another the other," said Nadal.

"After all the things I have been through in my career with injuries, I could not have done it without my family.'

Nadal said he wasn't even thinking about matching Federer's record.

"It's been a very tough year. Winning here means

### LEADING MEN'S GRAND SLAM WINNERS

20: Roger Federer (SUI)
20: Rafael Nadal (ESP)
17: Novak Djokovic (SRB)
14: Pete Sampras (USA)
12: Roy Emerson (AUS)
11: Rod Laver (AUS), Bjorn
Roger (SWE) Borg (SWE)

10: Bill Tilden (USA)

everything to me so it's not about equalling Roger on 20, for me today it's just a Roland Garros victory," said Nadal who had skipped the US Open due to the global health crisis.

"Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent most of the most important moments of my tennis career here.

"Just playing here is a true inspiration. The love story I have with this court and city is unbelievable." For Djokovic, it was just his second loss of 2020 following his default at the US

#### **'KING OF CLAY'**

"Today, Rafa showed why you are the king of clay. I was out-played by a better

Nadal also used his victory speech to thank organisers for staging the tourna-ment, pushed back from its traditional May-June slot due to the coronavirus pan-



Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes celebrates on the podium after winning the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nuerburgring racetrack in Nuerburg, Germany, on Sunday.

### HAMI EQUALS SCHUMI'S **RECORD WITH 91st WIN**

Nürburgring (Germany), Oct. 11: Lewis Hamilton controlled his emotions on Sunday as he Michael egualled Schumacher's record of 91 F1 wins with a measured triumph and thoughtful homage at the Eifel Grand

After completing his seventh win of the season, Hamilton was surprised to greeted Schumacher, the son of the German seven-time champion. Mick presented a red helmet from his father's career collection Hamilton.

"Congratulations on a great achievement," said Jr Schumacher.

Thank you so much," he said. "It's such an honour. I don't know what to say. When you grow up watching someone and idolising

them... "Seeing his dominance for so long, I don't think I imagined I would be near it's an incredible honour. "As I came in the pit lane,

that was only when I realised I had equalled the record. "I hadn't computed it when I crossed the line and I couldn't have done this without this incredible team pushing behind me. So, a big thank you – and huge respect to

Michael." Taking full advantage of team-mate and pole-sitter Valtteri Bottas' early retirement with engine problems, the runaway series leader and six-time champion drove a welljudged race to claim his landmark victory. On a circuit where Schumacher, a seven-time champion, won five times, Hamilton came home 4.5 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen take his second Nurburgring victory, the other for McLaren in 2011.

Daniel Ricciardo was third for Renault.

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### KKR fret over Russell's fitness, Narine's chucking complaint

OVERALL:

Knight Riders will have a lot on their plate when they take on a resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore in Monday with their lethal weapon Sunil Narine blunted by a chucking complaint and fitness clouds hovering enforcer Andre

Narine, who have had multiple complaints of suspect action against him, is again in trouble after onfield umpires' report post KKR's thrilling two-run win against Kings XI Punjab in which the spinner played a massive role. Not only KXIP, the match against CSK also witnessed

Narine's entry after 10

**NUMBERS GAME** 

Bangalore: 10

Nolkata Knight Riders beat

Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Bangalore • RCB beat KKR by 10 runs at FOR THE RECORD

AB de Villiers' duck in the previous match against Chennai Super Kings was ninth in 148 innings of 160 matches in IPL.
Virat Kohli scored 674 runs at an average of 37.44 in 21 innings of 24 matches against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL. - S. PERVEZ QAISER

overs, stifling M.S. Dhoni's spinner was getting his men. It seemed that the mojo back and could have

However, the first warning (a second one would bar him from bowling) from the

Kohli's in-form men.

IPL authorities is certain to ring alarm bells in the KKR camp as he was supposed to be Dinesh Karthik's 'go-to man in pressure situations. Andre Russell, who hurt his knee when he accidentally dived into the advertisement boards after missing a catch on Saturday, could also be a doubtful

starter.

RCB, on the other hand, are coming into the game following a 37-run morale boosting victory against CSK and will fancy their chances. The biggest positive for RCB is that captain Kohli is slowly hitting the