


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | 8 OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32.0°C
Min: 24.0°C
RH: 32%
Rainfall: 3 mm
Forecast: Cloudy.
 Max/Min temp.
 32/24 °C

COVID-19

COUNT


CASES	DEATHS
(+91,030)	(+1,331)
68,32,646	1,05,551

covid19india.org


STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,154)	(+8)
TS: 2,04,748	1,189
(+5,120)	(+34)
AP: 7,34,427	6,086


CASES AROUND THE WORLD



3,62,79,666



DEATHS
10,57,896



COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana

Tithi: Adhika Ashwayujya Bahula Shashti till 4.32 pm

Star: Mrigashira till 10.46 pm

Varjyam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 10.06 am to 10.53 am; 2.48 pm to 3.35 pm

Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 20, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.30 am

Zohar: 1.30 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrib: 6.12 pm

Isha: 8.15 pm


SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.50 PM

MOONRISE TODAY 10.28 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 11.58 AM

COUNTER POINT



It's not costly, sir! You can enjoy the luxury of a vacant seat!

IN BRIEF

Ex-CBI director found dead

New Delhi/Shimla: Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar, who led the Aarushi murder investigation, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, and officials suspect he committed suicide. The body of Kumar (69), a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Brockhurst, near Chhota Shimla, in the evening, they added.

Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu, Shimla A) Mohit Chawla and other senior police officials reached the spot. A forensic team has also reached the spot.

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NATION | 4
OPS names EPS as CM pick in Tamil Nadu



WORLD | 5
16-year-old turns Finland PM for a day

SPORTS | 6
Nadal powers into Paris semifinals



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with farmers during her visit to Jakkula Nekkalam village of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday while explaining the benefits of the new Farm Bills. — C. NARAYANA RAO

Reap Farm Bill sops: Nirmala FM says farmers will get good prices for Guntur chillies now

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, who was in Vijaywada on Wednesday, affirmed that new agriculture laws are beneficial to farmers and refuted the allegations of Opposition parties as politically motivated. She stated that farmers can sell their produce in any market in the country for good prices.

Responding about the

pending funds to AP, Sitharaman said that the 14th finance commission funds was a closed chapter and that was intimated to AP finance minister, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. She said that presently the 15th finance commission is under implementation and the union government would reconsider the pending funds to AP, including the finance commission.

The government decided to continue the five-year,

time-bound GST compensation fund and cess beyond the five years limit, said Sitharaman, adding that regarding GST issues, another meeting would be held on October 22 to resolve the problems. Despite the good demand for Guntur red chillies in north India and other places, farmers still failed to get good prices, said Sitharaman, but now the new laws would help farmers to get good price throughout the country.

Refuting objections and allegations of Opposition parties and saying that they were opposing these Bills with vested political motives, she claimed, “These reforms are not new. Even Opposition parties put these reforms in their manifestos. But now they are opposing them. It means that they, particularly the Congress, is cheating the public.”

■ Page 2: APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

AP sees steep fall in issue of passports from kendras

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Issue of passports has fallen steeply at the various passport kendras in Andhra Pradesh. The state has three main Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) at Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati, apart from 21 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs), one for each Lok Sabha segment in the state.

Passport authorities on an average issued 2,000-2,500 passports a day from all these outlets before the outbreak of Covid-19, charging a fee of ₹1,500 for each passport. Following the outbreak of Coronavirus, particularly in April and May, there was no issue of passports as all the kendras were shut down.

However, with the number of Covid-19 cases coming down and the centre “unlocking” facilities,

● **PASSPORT OFFICIALS** on an average issued 2,000-2,500 passports a day from all these outlets before the outbreak of Covid-19, charging a fee of ₹1,500 for a passport.

● **FOLLOWING THE** outbreak of Coronavirus, particularly in April and May, there was no issue of passports as all the kendras were shut down.

● **LESS THAN 1,000** passports are being issued now hitting revenues

passport authorities have started receiving applications at their main passport offices located in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati, apart from smaller centres at Vizianagaram, Rajahmundry, Bhimavaram, Gudur, Bapatla and Narsaraopet.

However, the issue of passports at all these centres is less than 1,000 per

day. As a result, revenues too have fallen.

Vijayawada regional passport officer D.S.S. Srinvasa Rao said, “Though we used to issue 2,000 to 2,500 passports a day before the outbreak of Covid-19, at present, we are issuing less than 1,000, resulting in a major impact on our revenues. However, as we are opening POPSKs in places, where the spread of Covid-19 is relatively less, we expect turnout of a good number of people seeking passports.”

Passport authorities have meanwhile advised general public not to approach any agents, fake websites, private agencies or computer centres for passports.

They have asked people to visit the government web portal www.passport.india.gov.in or use the mPassport seva app on their smartphones to apply online and get their passport.



RHEA GRANTED BAIL, BROTHER TO STAY IN JAIL

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, OCT. 7

A month after actor Rhea Chakraborty was arrested, the Bombay High court on Wednesday granted bail to her in a drugs case in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

On September 8, Narcotics Control Bureau had arrested her for procuring marijuana for Rajput who was her boyfriend. Along with Rhea, bail was granted to Rajput aides Depesh Sawant and Samuel Miranda.

However, it rejected bail of Showik Chakraborty and Avdel Basit Parihar, who supplied the marijuana,

State pins school hopes on edu sop

Jagan to distribute Jagananna Vidya kits

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

The grammar of the education system in Andhra Pradesh is getting its syntax right in the form of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits, which are to be distributed by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to students from Standard 1 to X on Thursday.

The uniqueness of the scheme is that the kit comprises three pairs of uniform, a pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, prescribed text books, notebooks, belt and a school bag, which makes the student fully

ready for the new academic year. The Chief Minister will formally launch the scheme at Punadipadu government school in Krishna district. This is expected to herald a new chapter to strengthen enrollment rate in government schools. Jagananna Vidya Kanuka puts an end to the earlier practice of erratic and non-supply of books, uniform and other essentials to students. The kits will bring relief to parents and will help them save academic expenses significantly and can motivate them to send their chil-

dren to school.

Approximately, 42,34,322 kits will be distributed across the State at an estimated cost of ₹650 crore. The government hopes that this will also bring down the dropout rate.

Krishna district collector Amd Intiaz and Vijayawada commissioner of police Battina Srinivasulu supervised the arrangements at Punadipadu ZP School.

Intiaz said that the Chief Minister will reach the school by 10.35 am and inspect the Nadu-Nedu works. Later, he will also interact with students.

SC: No protests in public places

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

The Supreme Court on Wednesday “unequivocally” said that protests can be held at designated places only and the protesters can't occupy the public places indefinitely causing “grave inconvenience” to the public.

Referring to Shaheen Bagh protest wherein the sit-in by the protesters continued for over two months, Justice Sanjay

Kishan Kaul heading a three judge bench said, “We have to make it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied like this and that too indefinitely.”

Heading the bench also comprising Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Krishna Murari, Justice Kaul further said that in the case of Shaheen Bagh it was not just that the protest was taking place at an undesignated

area, but was a “blockage of a public way which caused grave inconvenience to commuters”.

Speaking for the bench, Justice Kaul said, “We have, thus, no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions.”



K.S. Jawahar Reddy

JAWAHAR REDDY APPOINTED NEW TTD EO

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT 7

Senior bureaucrat K.S. Jawahar Reddy was appointed as new Chief Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on Wednesday.

He is currently Special CS (Health) and held important assignments of CMO and Panchayat Raj in the past. Mr Reddy's handling of Covid-19 containment operations, in particular tracing the contacts in earlier days and massive testing, received wide appreciation.

It was Mr Reddy's dream to serve as TTD executive head for a long time. Though there was some resistance to his appointment, the Chief Minister kept his word in this regard, sources said.

Known for his proximity to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's family since the days of his father late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the 1990 batch officer is likely to become Chief Secretary at a later stage.

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Chemistry Nobel for ‘molecular scissors’

Stockholm, Oct. 7: Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to “molecular scissors” that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer. Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.



Jennifer A. Doudna, left, and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

“There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all,” said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

■ Report on Page 5

BOVINE | MISHAP

Unknown poachers placed explosive to kill wild boars in open field

Cow dies chewing on crude bomb

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

A cow died after its jaw was blown to pieces when it accidentally bit on a crude bomb, placed by some unknown poachers to kill wild boars, while grazing in an open field near Chandamama Palli in Tirupati rural limits.

The incident occurred on Tuesday when the cow was grazing in the open field near the village and acci-

dentally bit the explosive material, which was stuffed in some food material.

The incident came to light on Wednesday after P. Rambabu, who owned the cow, lodged a complaint at the M.R. Palli police station.

“The owner of the cow heard a deafening noise and when he rushed to the spot, he saw the cow with its jaw blown away. Our preliminary investigation suggests that it was a crude

bomb which was fixed for wild boars. We are waiting for reports and we can pinpoint what kind of explosive it was only after analysing the report,” M.R. Palli sub-inspector, Prakash Kumar, told this newspaper.

The M.R. Palli police registered a case under Section 286 of the prevention of cruelty to animals act and also under the use of Explosives Act. A team was also formed to nab those who planted the

bomb. “This cruel method is used by local poachers to kill wild boars and other wild animals. This is definitely illegal and we will act on this. We will catch the culprits soon,” Kumar added.

Meanwhile, the owner of the cow sought the help of some local veterinary doctors to check the injured cow.

Though they administered first aid to it and tied a bandage to the jaw, the cow died of its injuries

three hours after the incident. This is not the first time in the district that domestic animals have been injured falling prey to poaching trap.

A 15-year-old cow also died in a similar manner at Kogileru in Peddapannani mandal three days after it bit into a crude bomb on the night of June 28.

Unconfirmed reports say that about six animals have been injured and a few dead falling prey to such traps in the district.

SHORT TAKES

YSRC GOVERNMENT
CLEANEST, SAYS
TAMMINENIK.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
SRIKAKULAM, OCT. 7

Speaker Tammineni Sitharam threw a challenge at the Opposition asking them to prove any corruption in the present government led by chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Participating in a meeting after reviewing the works related Nadu-Medu, Rythu Bharosa and village secretariat at Shalantri and Kothakota village of Saribujilli mandal of Srikakulam district on Wednesday, the Speaker said the present government came to power 15 months ago and launched several welfare schemes. "Can the Opposition prove any corruption in these welfare schemes," the Speaker challenged. He said the schools which were in dilapidated condition got a corporate look under the Nadu Nedu programme.

LOCATION OF
CAMP OFFICE CM'S
PREROGATIVE: AGDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

AP advocate general S. Sriram informed the High Court that the Chief Minister has the prerogative to set up his Camp Office at a place based on his requirements of work.

A High Court bench comprising Chief Justice J. K. Maheswari, justice Rakesh Kumar and justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy was hearing a batch of interlocutory petitions on Wednesday against relocation of executive and judiciary from Amaravati and also setting up CM's Camp Office at a place other than Amaravati.

The AG objected to the stay order on issue of CM's Camp Office stating there is no rule that such office be located only within the jurisdiction of the state capital. He asserted that it was the prerogative of the CM to set up his Camp Office, whether at Nellore or Tirupati, based on his need to work. He maintained that there is no ban on relocation of such office as per norms of AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions Act, 2020.

When the court raised a series of queries on the issue, the AG informed that the CM's Camp Office is located in Amaravati and at present, he is staying at his residence-cum-camp office. The court wanted to know whether the state government has constructed any other offices for the CM. The AG asked the court for some time to submit details in this regard. He also sought time to file counter affidavits on relocation of offices of several corporations.

The court agreed for the same and posted the next hearing to Friday.

SPECIAL CELL TO
REDRESS MARTYRS
GRIEVANCESDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

The state forest department has set up a 'Special Monitoring Cell' for redressal of grievances of the family members of the forest martyrs at the office of principal chief conservator of forests in Guntur.

The PCCF and head of forest forces N. Prateep Kumar has issued a memo here on Wednesday stating that they were establishing SMC with a broad intent of honouring the sacrifices made by the forest martyrs in protection of forests and wildlife.

TULASI REDDY
PLEA TO
REOPEN RTPPDC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, OCT. 7

Rayalaseema-based Rayalaseema Thermal Power Project (RTPP) has been closed for the past seven months, said Pradesh Congress Working president Dr N. Tulasi Reddy.

Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday in Vempalle, Kadapa district, he said if the situation was like this in the CM's own district, what it would be elsewhere in the state. He said the RTPP came to Kadapa district in 1987 as a result of many struggles. RTPP has a total of six units, with a capacity of 1,650 MW and a staff of 4,000. He appealed to the Chief Minister to take immediate initiative to reopen the closed project.

Union minister urged to protect
Amaravati as solo capital of AP

‘Save Amaravati’ women leaders submit memo to Nirmala Sitaraman

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

The Amaravati Parirakshana Mahila JAC women leaders met Sitaraman seeking protection of Amaravati as the solo capital of AP state. They submitted a memorandum to the Union minister and sought intervention of the union government to cancel the decision of three capitals.

APMJAC women leaders Sunakara Padmasree, Akkineni Vanaja, Gadde Anuradha, Nrala Malathi and Chennupati Usharani submitted the memorandum to minister Ms. Sitaraman at Jakkula-nekkalam village of Gannavaram mandal on Wednesday.

The Union minister interacted with farmers at Jakkula-nekkalam and the APMJAC women leaders met her to explain their difficulties due to three capitals decision of YSR Congress government.

Ms Padmasree said that 29,000 farmers had offered their livelihood 33,000 acres of farmlands for the establishment of Amaravati as solo Capital of the state but chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy decided to trifurcate the one Capital into three Capitals which is illegal. She said that it is a death blow to the 29,000 farmers who sacrificed their valuable lands for the noble cause of Amaravati.

Ms Padmasree said that farmers with their family members have been conducting protests for the past 300 days seeking continuation of Amaravati as solo Capital of AP but the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not respond to their appeals.

She said that farmers were continuing their battles against three capitals through petitions filed in the High Court seeking justice.

She said that the intervention of the union government will resolve the issue and sought the union government initiate measures for the protection of Amaravati.

Ms Padmasree and other women leaders said that Ms Sitaraman assured them to do justice by taking the issue to the notice of the union government.



Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi women JAC leaders Sunkara Padmasree, Gadde Anuradha, Chennupati Usharani giving representation to Union minister for finance Nirmala Sitaraman at Jakkula Nekkalam village against the Three capitals on Wednesday.

— DC

APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

From Page 1

Lauding the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Sitaraman said "Despite many challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic, Modi passed the amendments with a commitment to empower the farmers. Amending labour laws alone will not give proper results. That's why we have made amendments to all three bills at the same time. A farmer can now take his produce to any state and sell it anywhere in the country, without additional burden. They can utilise the e-NAM platform to get more benefit by selling his produce. At the same time, they could also go for agreements with the purchasing companies, can form farmer produce organisations (FPOs), could add value to their farm produce and do much more."

Claiming that she met some farmers "on my way from the airport to here, they thanked Modi for the reforms as they can sell their produce anywhere in India now." Saying that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) will remain intact, Sitaraman was firm that "we are not touching them. Farmers can transact outside the market yard or out of the state. States will not lose their control over agriculture or agri marketing. The amendments we made are under the central list only. We did not touch APMC as they are under the state list."

Continuing her defence, she said "There will be no tax on agricultural produce but the market yards have been collecting different kinds of cesses, between 8 to 8.5 per cent on sales. These legislations would allow farmers to sell anywhere in the country, maintain stock till they get remunerative prices."

Later addressing a meeting organised by the BJP on the new agriculture laws, Ms Sitaraman explained the laws in detail and asked BJP cadres to create awareness among farmers by explaining the salient features through distribution of pamphlets and other forms of campaigning.

BJP leaders, G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, Sunil Deodhar, Kanna Lakshminarayana, P.V.N. Madhav, Vakati Narayana Reddy, Ravela Kishore Babu and others participated in the meeting.

As part of her Andhra Pradesh tour on Wednesday, Sitaraman visited Jakkula Nekkalam village in Gannavaram constituency. She interacted with the farmers of the village and inquired about crops grown, the minimum support price and the market situation.

The farmers expressed that they have been undergoing hardship as there is no support price for their produce, in particular paddy and sugarcane. They said that the banks are not coming forward to offer loans on sugarcane.

They further requested that for the paddy crop they should be paid ₹2,000 per quintal. They sought the government to buy crops soon after harvest without delay.

They lamented that only ₹2,250 per quintal paid for sugarcane was not enough and asked to be provided bank loans. They stated that it is a slight relief to the farmers that they can sell curry leaves anywhere with the new central government new law.

Reiterating that the Centre had brought the new law to support and solve the problems and difficulties of the farmers, she briefed them about the benefits of the new laws.

Police had arrested a few farmers, farmer's organisations and left party leaders who tried to conduct protests against the agriculture bills and the minister's visit to Vijayawada.

The police arrested left party leaders, K. Ramakrishna, V. Srinivas Rao, D. Subba Rao, Ch. Babu Rao, A. Vanaja, V. Venkateswary, Jamalaiah, Suryanarayana and a few Congress party leaders.

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Cheyutha and
Aasara all setDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

At a review meeting, Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, directed officials to focus on branding and marketing facilities for the self-help women groups under YSR Cheyutha and YSR Aasara schemes and ensure that they are corruption-free.

"As we have signed MoUs with major companies, the two schemes should be implemented without any hindrance and the expertise of the business houses should benefit the women entrepreneurs to give them the intended results," said Mr Jagan.

Directing the authorities to take an expert opinion on providing livestock to the beneficiaries of Cheyutha, Mr Jagan demanded the preparation of standard operating procedures to buy healthy livestock, certified by a veterinary doctor. He said, "All the beneficiaries who buy milch cattle should be enlisted for getting fodder through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)," he said.

Officials informed Mr Jagan that so far 21 lakh beneficiaries were enlisted under YSR Cheyutha and provided with the

● So far 21 lakh beneficiaries were enlisted under YSR Cheyutha and provided with the total financial assistance of ₹3,937 crore

● ₹6,792 crore have been utilised under YSR Aasara for 87.74 lakh beneficiaries

total financial assistance of ₹3,937 crore. Similarly, ₹6,792 crore have been utilised under YSR Aasara for 87.74 lakh beneficiaries.

As many as 13.03 lakh women belonging to self-help groups have benefited from both the schemes.

Of the total target of establishing 33,486 retail outlets in rural areas, 8,836 outlets were started and the remaining will be coming up by the end-October.

Soon, RBKs in 6,510 identified villages would have milk procurement centres and bulk milk cooling units (BMCU) with a capacity ranging from 1,000-5,000 litres and nearly 75 lakh litres of milk can be procured daily.

As many as 3.43 lakh buffaloes and 2.2 lakh cows will be bought in two phases and provided to the beneficiaries. Similarly, 2.97 lakh of goats and sheep will be given to the beneficiaries.

CM Delhi visit to
save himself: TDDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Telugu Desam MP K. Rammohan Naidu has demanded that Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy explain to people of Andhra Pradesh whether or not he fought for AP's rights and interests during his just concluded visit to Delhi. He wondered why the CM was not informing people anything about his visit to Delhi. This is leading to suspicions whether his Delhi visit was meant to save himself from the illegal assets cases.

The MP pointed out that in his election affidavits, Jagan Mohan Reddy stated that he is accused in 32 cases of which 11 are being investigated by the CBI.

Mr Rammohan Naidu told the Chief Minister that AP voters gave him

22 Lok Sabha MPs, six Rajya Sabha MPs and 151 MLAs to fight for interests of the state.

But the CM did not have the minimum courtesy to hold a press conference and tell AP people what he has achieved from his Delhi visit, he said.

The MP questioned whether the CM has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil the promise of Special Category Status (SCS) for AP promised during reorganisation of the state, apart from a new railway zone at Visakhapatnam.

He pointed out that before elections, Jagan had said he would keep pleading with centre for SCS. But now, he was not talking about SCS at all but visiting Delhi only to serve his selfish interests and wriggle out his assets cases being investigated by CBI.

CM behind Baypark
deal in Vizag: TDDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Leader of opposition in AP Legislative Council Yanamala Ramakrishnudu on Wednesday alleged that yet another case of benami transactions involving Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has surfaced by way of multi-crore Baypark property in Visakhapatnam.

Mr Ramakrishnudu alleged that the Chief Minister has taken over Baypark in the guise of Hetero, thereby grabbing ₹300 crore worth Rushikonda lands through his benamis.

He demanded that the government explain why Baypark, which was developed with ₹120 crore, changed hands. He alleged that people hold-

● Y accused the Chief Minister of holding various benami companies

ing highest positions in the government were responsible for Baypark going to the Hetero firm. He charged that Jagan's benamis had also taken over Kakinada SEZ recently and now Vizag Baypark is also being grabbed by them.

He accused the Chief Minister of holding various benami companies.

Mr Ramakrishnudu pointed out that Hetero is co-accused in the first charge sheet filed by the CBI in Jagan Mohan Reddy's illegal assets cases. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) too has filed cases against M. Srinivas Reddy, Director of Hetero.

Seema farmers hope more projects
on Krishna post Apex Council meetD. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, OCT. 7

With Apex Council direction to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Projects on Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh, farmers in Kurnool district express happiness that pending projects would get a fillip. The DPR for Gundrevula reservoir, which has been pending, is also being submitted to the Apex Council, said an irrigation official.

Welcoming the Apex Council deliberations which yielded some fruitful milestones, Rayalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samiti (RSSS) president Bojja Dasarath Reddy said the Krishna River Board Management (KRMB) office must be located in Kurnool. He said the KRMB is a tribunal and as such Kurnool has already been designated as

● The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I also envisages of sharing of 530 TMC of Krishna waters for Rayalaseema districts, therefore the Srisaillam reservoir level must be maintained at 854 feet.

● On Galeru, Handri Neeva, Telugu Ganga project and Gundlakamma, he said the Apex Council clarified once again that they are old projects as they were mentioned in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Judicial Capital of Andhra Pradesh state, it is but natural it should be set up here. He reminded Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's commitment to decentralise the administration and therefore the administration must decide on Kurnool for location of the KRMB headquarters.

Dasarath Reddy further said that the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I also envisages of sharing of 530 TMC of Krishna waters for Rayalaseema districts, therefore the

hensions about the Gundrevula reservoir on Tungabhadra since it is a stabilisation project. He demanded that the Chief Minister call for a meet with Karnataka and Telangana states to iron out the differences and pave way for early completion of the Gundrevula Project. Even Rajoli Banda could be taken up on Tungabhadra which would help Telangana districts, he said.

Rayalaseema Joint Action Committee co-ordinator Kamani Venugopal Reddy also demanded that the KRMB headquarters be located in Kurnool as Srisaillam is in the district and Krishna traverses for a length at large in the district. He said it would also be easily accessible to Telangana as Kurnool is on the border between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states.

Srisaillam reservoir level must be maintained at 854 feet. Pothireddypadu could be operational when the reservoir level is at or above the 854 feet of Srisaillam reservoir level, he said. On Galeru, Handri Neeva, Telugu Ganga project and Gundlakamma, he said the Apex Council clarified once again that they are old projects as they were mentioned in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Dasarath Reddy said there is no need for anyone to harbour any appre-

SIX HELD FOR ATTEMPT TO SWINDLE
MONEY FROM AP CM'S RELIEF FUND

Mangaluru, Oct 7: Six people from Dakshina Kannada district were arrested for attempting to swindle crores of rupees from the AP Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CM-RF) using fake cheques.

Sources said the fraudsters created fake cheques resembling real ones and tried to deposit in the bank. One of the accused had allegedly tried to deposit a ₹52 crore cheque at State Bank of India in Moodbidri here.

The bank officials, who grew suspicious, contacted AP officials and learnt

about the scam, following which the transaction was stopped.

A case in this connection was registered in September in Andhra Pradesh, based on a complaint filed by P. Murali Krishna Rao, assistant secretary of the Revenue Department.

It is learnt that an attempt was made to siphon off ₹117 crore from the AP CMRF using fake cheques.

The fraud had come to the fore while examining the cheques issued and money sanctioned. —PTI

HUGE | SUCCESS

Tenders invited for re-allotment of 11 cottages

TTD cottage scheme hits ₹69cr

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

The Covid-19 pandemic notwithstanding, it is raining donations into the coffers of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). This gains credence from that the ambitious launched cottage donation scheme, for which the trust board recently invited tenders for re-allotment of 11 of its cottages and guest

houses at Tirumala. The scheme recently netted a whopping ₹69 crore.

Under the scheme, TTD generally extends 30 days of accommodation for a period spread over 20 years for firms and entities and 20 years or lifetime to the donor or spouse in case of individual donations.

According to details provided by the temple management, details of donors and the rest houses allotted in the tender process

are: Sriapati rest house was allotted for ₹7.11 crore to Hyderabad-based Phoenix

Power Infra Limited; Vidya Sadan guest house (₹7.89 crore - Joopalli Syam Rao, Hyd); Sneha Latha guest house (₹7.87 crore - Picchammai Educational and Charitable Trust, Chennai); Karam Nivas (₹6.80 crore - Bhudati Lakshmi Narayana, Hyd); Vakula rest house (₹6.50 crore - Rajesh Sharma, Mumbai); Gumble guest house

(₹5.99 crore - S. Bhagyasri, Chennai); Sri Niketan (₹5.98 crore - Sarathchandra Reddy, Hyd); Godavari ₹5.5 crore - Mega Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, Hyd); Lakshmi Nilayam (₹5.25 crore - AFCONS Infrastructure, Mumbai); Balaji Kuteer (₹5.11 crore - Om Prakash Agarwal, Hyd) and Shanti Sadan (₹5 crore - M.S. Raksha Ramaiah and M.S. Sundar Ram, Bengaluru).

SHORT TAKES

WOMAN KILLS SON WITH HELP OF HER PARAMOUR

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

A married woman and her paramour allegedly killed her 16-month-old boy to avoid him at Jaggaiahpetta mandal of Krishna district.

According to Chillakallu police, the woman hailing from Khammam in Telangana was having a 16-month-old boy. She reportedly deserted her husband and eloped with her paramour hailing from Warangal. The duo were living at Anumanchipalli of Jaggaiahpetta mandal in Krishna district.

To get rid of the boy, she along with her paramour allegedly strangled the boy to death and carried his body on their bike to Huzurnagar area falling in Telangana state and burned there to avoid detection by the police on October 4.

However, the police found out the boy and exhumed his body and sent it to the government hospital for post-mortem.

The police booked a case and arrested both the woman and her paramour.

ACB TRAPS FOREST OFFICER FOR ACCEPTING BRIBE

DC CORRESPONDENT

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 7

Sleuths of Anti-Corruption-Bureau trapped a forest department section officer of Devarapalli Division in Vizag district while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 from a complainant.

ACB officials said they laid a trap and caught Ramesh Kumar red-handed when he received the bribe from the complainant Srinu. The officials said that Ramesh Kumar demanded the bribe from Srinu for issuing permission to cut the trees and shift the logs from Sammidi village to another village.

SIRIMANOTSAVAM JATARA TO BE HLED ON OCT. 27

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIZIANAGARAM, OCT. 7

The Vizianagaram administration is going ahead with Sirimanotsavam of Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Jatara on October 27 following Covid protocol. The district has registered around 36,000 positive cases and 250 deaths.

However, there is no clarity on the participation of devotees. The jatara is celebrated on the first Tuesday after Dasara festival every year. The festival draws close to four lakh people from Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

On Wednesday, the tamarind tree for the Sirimanu was identified at Balarampuram village near Bheemasingi.

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Damaged road



Motorists have a tough time to ride on the roads which were damaged due to recent rains at Akkayyapalem in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

— P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

AP records 5,120 Covid cases, toll touches 6,086

East Godavari and Chittoor districts reported 807 cases each

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN |

DC

VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Andhra Pradesh has registered 5,120 new Covid-19 positive cases scaling up the overall tally to 7,34,427 and 34 deaths taking the toll to 6,086 in the last 24 hours.

In its Wednesday's Covid-19 bulletin, the state health authorities reported that out of 66,769 samples tested, 5,120 individuals have been found infected. Out of 62,83,009 samples tested so far in the state, 6,78,828 patients have been discharged after recovery from various hospitals while 49,513 patients are still active

and undergoing treatment.

Among the daily new positive cases, both East Godavari and Chittoor reported 807 each followed by 575 in West Godavari, 464 Krishna, 433 Guntur, 424 Anantapur, 367 Nellore, 301 Kadapa, 264 Prakasam, 190 Visakhapatnam, 172 each in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram and 144 in Kurnool.

East Godavari continues to be the worst hit with regard to cumulative confirmed cases with 1,03,246 followed by 71,917 in West Godavari, 67,362 Chittoor, 59,638 Anantapur, 58,106 Guntur, 57,425 Kurnool,

● Out of 66,769 samples tested, 5,120 individuals have been found infected. East Godavari cumulative confirmed cases 1,03,246

55,447 Nellore, 52,411 Prakasam, 51,680 Visakhapatnam, 46,422 Kadapa, 40,980 Srikakulam, 36,587 Vizianagaram and 30,311 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery has been high in East Godavari with 93,642 followed by 65,877 in West Godavari, 60,065 Chittoor, 57,653 Anantapur, 55,330 Kurnool, 52,711 Nellore,

52,377 Guntur, 48,308 Anantapur, 47,294 Visakhapatnam, 47,294 Prakasam, 42,909 Kadapa, 38,316 Srikakulam, 34,354 Vizianagaram and 27,097 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Among daily cases of death, East Godavari registered five followed by four each in Anantapur, Chittoor, Krishna and Visakhapatnam, three each in Guntur and Nellore, two each in Kadapa, Kurnool and West Godavari and one in Prakasam.

Chittoor registered the highest number of cumulative cases of death of Covid-19 patients with 687 followed by 553 in West Godavari, 551 Guntur, 513

506 Anantapur, 481 Krishna, 472 Kurnool, 466 West Godavari, 461 Nellore, 459 Visakhapatnam, 388 Kadapa, 327 Srikakulam and 222 in Vizianagaram.

The state health authorities have discharged 6,349 patients after recovery from various hospitals in the state in the last 24 hours.

Andhra Pradesh has carried out Covid-19 test on 1,17,659 samples per one million population with Covid-19 positive rate at 11.69 while Maharashtra has tested 57,977 samples with positive rate at 20.24 and Telangana has tested 83,771 samples with positive rate at 6.15.

Demand to put off degree exams

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 7

Hundreds of students, mostly members of Student's Federation of India from various degree colleges affiliated Andhra University, staged a protest on Wednesday, demanding the university to cancel the final/end-semester exams for the first and second year degree students in view of the Covid-19 outbreak.

They laid siege to the main entrance creating a tense situation.

The situation aggravated when the protesting students en masse tried to barge into the campus at one go. The city police, who reached the spot to prevent any untoward event, had to use the ropes to prevent them entering inside the campus.

There was a minor scuffle between the police and the students for a while.

SFI Vizag city president Prabhu said that the government had earlier announced cancellation of exams for both first and second year degree students but Andhra University announced the examination schedule for these students from October 19.

"We demand the university to immediately cancel the exams and promote the students to next classes, taking their health and safety conditions into consideration," Prabhu told reporters.

Andhra University officials, including Registrar

TNSF DEMANDS POSTPONEMENT OF UG EXAMS

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

Telugu Nadu Students Federation (TNSF) activists staged a protest on Wednesday at the Vikrama Simhapuri University, demanding postpone

ment of undergraduate examinations scheduled to commence from October 14. The activists claimed that many students who appeared for the PG examinations were infected with Covid-19 and hence they are demanding the varsity to postpone the UG examinations. They sat in the varsity premises and raised slogans against the decision of the varsity to conduct UG exams.

Registrar Dr L.V. Krishna Reddy held discussions with the TNSF and tried to pacify them.

G.V. Ravindranath Babu, reached out to the students and discussed the issue with them.

"The exams can be postponed by a month or so. But we cannot assure you that the exams would be cancelled. We need to discuss the issue with the higher-ups," the registrar told the students. At the assurance of the officials, the students called off their protest and dispersed.

CLASSES AT SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE START

Visakhapatnam: The classes have begun after a gap of six months at the Oil PSUs run Skill Development Centre, Arilova (SDI-A) in the city. The noted petroleum Public Sector Units have been running the SDI-A to

develop skills in various trades to the educated youth. The centre is providing free food, accommodation and uniforms to the youth.

The SDI-A was shut down since March 23 due to the Covid-19.

e-Ticket must for Pushkaralu

DC CORRESPONDENT

KURNOOL, OCT. 7

The once-in-12-years Tungabhadra Pushkaralu from November 20 to December 1 are expected to be a tame affair because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Moreover, the District Administration is contemplating several restrictions, which are bound to discourage pilgrims.

District collector G. Veera Pandian on Wednesday also advised the devout to television Pushkaralu from the comfort of their houses than take the risk of entering Tungabhadra waters when the virus risk is high.

He also announced that children below the age of 12 years and adults above the age of 50 years are barred from entering the bathing ghats for a holy dip.

The collector said an e-Ticket system on the lines of Tirumala is being introduced for

Tungabhadra Pushkaralu. Only persons with the e-ticket will be allowed to have a holy dip.

Efforts are also being made to sell bottled holy water through courier and other parcel services, so that people could still get the feel of Pushkaralu water. India Post and other courier agencies would be roped in to ship out bottled Tungabhadra waters, the district collector said.

He pointed out that the state government has already released ₹120 crore through the Roads and Buildings Department for the Tungabhadra Pushkaralu. Five more bathing ghats are being constructed in addition to the existing 16 ghats on the banks of Tungabhadra. Mantalyam, Yemmiganur, Kodumur, Kurnool Urban and Nandikotkur will be having the new ghats.

It is learnt that some MLAs entered into heated arguments with the district collector over selection of the new ghats.

WOMAN, 76, FOUND DEAD IN LODGE

DC

CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 7

A 76-year-old woman was found dead in a lodge in Visakhapatnam city on Wednesday. Two Town circle inspector K. Venkata Rao said Kasibatla Lakshmi and her son Kasibatla Chakravarthy checked into a lodge on September 1. On Tuesday evening Chakravarthy left for the Railway Reservation counter to book a ticket for them to visit relatives in Vijaya-wada. He never came back to the lodge after booking a ticket.

He returned to the lodge in the morning and found the room locked from inside. After repeated knocks, he approached the management and got the door force opened.

Cops solve crimes held in 5 places of worship

DC CORRESPONDENTS

VIJAYAWADA/KURNOOL OCT. 7

The Andhra Pradesh police have solved five of the plethora of crimes related to places of worship in AP, in Kurnool, Guntur Rural and West Godavari on Wednesday.

Of the three crimes reported in Kurnool district, in the first case, the police busted a gang involved in vandalising religious places in search of treasure troves and arrested five persons.

Kurnool SP, Kagineeli Fakeerappa, told media persons that one Basheer, a resident of Adhoni, along with his accomplice, Shankar, plotted to explore treasure in Peer Bhale Saheb dargah.

The accused gained entry into the dargah on the night of mahamaya amavasya and performed pujas and started digging the lower part of the gummaj. They destroyed the minar and as they failed to find out any treasure, they broke the hundi and ransacked it.

In a second case, the police arrested four persons on charges of desecration of a religious place.

They had inscribed words like 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Om' in Hindi and also 'Ram' and 'Om' on the entrance to the Ranamandala fort causing religious disharmony.

In a third case, the police arrested two minor ragpick-

er girls on charges of breaking the hundi and lifting ₹35,000 at the Hanuman temple at Nandyal town. The theft took place on October 2.

In Guntur district, Narasaraopet town, fake news related to the desecration of a Saraswati idol located on the premises of Krishnaveni college, was circulated on social media platforms by some people on Tuesday.

Upon inquiry, the police found out that the idol was damaged two years ago during the demolition of a nearby shed while the college was being shifted to a new site.

In West Godavari, a case pertaining to theft of a hundi was detected and the two juveniles involved in it were detained.

In a release from the DGP's office here on Wednesday, the police said that after the burning of a chariot at Antarvedi temple in East Godavari, 33 cases were booked related to crimes in places of worship and out of them, 27 cases were solved and three inter-state gangs busted.

The police said that they would not tolerate any activities aiming to stir up communal violence in the state and warned stern action against the perpetrators of such crimes, even as they ruled out any connection between the various crimes.

Ongole police nab 2 burglars

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

Ongole police on Wednesday arrested two burglars including an inter-state thief, who committed multiple thefts in both Telugu states. The accused were identified as K. Sai Kumar, 31, hailing from Narayanpet of Telangana and Shaikh Rahul of Ongole.

According to the police, on the instructions of Prakasam SP Siddharth Kaushal, the department has formed special teams headed by DSP K.V.V.N.V. Prasad to zero-in on old offenders involved in burglaries.

Acting on a tip-off, Ongole II town police along with CCS personnel arrested both the accused at the railway flyover in the town on

Wednesday.

Police said, the inter-state burglar Sai Kumar had till date committed over 30 offences in Telangana state and various districts in AP, while Shaikh Rahul has committed four offences in Ongole town limits. They both were convicted in few cases and the court recently awarded imprisonment to them.

Both the accused, however, were released in September after they were infected with Covid-19. Since then the accused were at large and managed to evade police surveillance.

Acting on a tip-off the police arrested them on Wednesday and recovered gold ornaments worth ₹2.5 lakh and three motorcycles from their possession and sent them to remand.

Three arrested for collecting money

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

Dargamitta police arrested three persons for cheating the public by illegally collecting deposits worth ₹85 crore from them in the name of online trading in just 7 months. The police, however, managed to recover only ₹1.29 crore, 5 laptops and one car from the accused.

According to Nellore district SP Bhaskar Bhushan, the accused were identified as Yallagolla Michel Suman Babu, 48, of Vakadu, who is now residing in Vedayapalem in Nellore city, Yeturi Ravi Kumar, 39, of Nandyal in Kurnool district and Dandugula Yalla Srinu, 31, of Chandrasekhara Nagar in Kurnool town.

The accused, who plotted to mint money illegally from public, started a company titled as "WELPAY

COMPANY" in February, 2020 at Vedayapalem. They engaged one 'Eye 3 solutions' to develop an online application for securing deposits from public. The company has offered public that they will be paid ₹200 per every working day, against a deposit of ₹10,000 and the scheme will be continued for a period of 100-days.

Agents and the sub-agents were deployed to secure deposits and they were assured a commission of 0.5 per cent and 0.25 per cent respectively. The company also assured that amounts will be credited directly into the accounts of customers and agents. The accused trio had collected nearly ₹85 crore from as many as 12,600 customers within 7 months.

The Dargamitta Police had received a complaint against the company, which failed to pay customers.

<p>PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited</p> <p>Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it1@pspcl.in Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in</p> <p>Tender Enquiry No. 238/DIT-1054 dated 05.10.2020</p> <p>Short Description: Providing 4G (LTE/VoLTE) mobile phone services in Punjab State Power Corporation Limited under corporate plan</p> <p>Start date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: Date of uploading of tender (5.10.20)</p> <p>Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: 20.10.2020 upto 11:00 AM</p> <p>Last date for Bid Submission: 20.10.2020 upto 11:00 AM</p> <p>Bid Opening date: 21.10.2020 upto 11:00 AM</p> <p>Note: - The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or GePNIC representatives in case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time. It is also requested to get their digital signature and registration well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.</p> <p>It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL, website. (https://eproc.punjab.gov.in)</p> <p>C-315/2020</p>	<p>SE/IT (A&PM), PSPCL, Patiala</p>
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SHORT TAKES

EX-CBI DIRECTOR
ASHWANI KUMAR
FOUND DEAD

Shimla/New Delhi, Oct. 7: Former CBI director and Nagaland Governor Ashwani Kumar was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, officials said.

Kumar became CBI director in 2008, succeeding Vijay Shanker, in the midst of the agency's probe into the Aarushi Talwar murder case that hogged the headlines.

Kumar later became Governor of Nagaland, they said.

He was presently Vice Chancellor of a private university in Shimla, they said.

The body of Kumar, a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla Wednesday evening, they said.

STONES THROWN
AT KAMAL NATH'S
CONVOY

BHABHRA NATH
CHOUHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 7

Former chief minister Kamal Nath's cavalcade was on Wednesday stoned by some miscreants when he was leading an election rally in Annapur.

The incident happened when the youth wing of BJP was staging black flag demonstration to protest Mr Nath's visit to Annapur assembly constituency which is going to by-elections along with 27 other seats in Madhya Pradesh on November 3.

The demonstrators tried to block Mr Nath's cavalcade while holding the demonstration and shouting slogans against him. However, the security personnel deployed in the area chased them away to clear the way for Mr Nath's convoy to proceed to the venue of the public meeting in the town. Some youths who were part of the demonstration then suddenly started pelting stones at Mr Nath's vehicle.

However, Mr Nath's cavalcade had passed by then.

A video catching the violent demonstration went viral immediately after the incident.

Congress condemned the attack, saying that the BJP was resorting to violence against Congress leaders out of frustration.

"The attack on Mr Nath's vehicle is a clear demonstration of BJP's frustration over growing popularity of Congress. In democracy, there is no place for violence", senior Congress leader and former Union minister Arun Yadav said.

He said Mr Nath enjoyed Z plus security and slammed the Shivraj government for security lapses leading to attack on his vehicle.

UGC DECLARES
24 UNIVERSITIES
AS FAKE

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"Students and public are informed that currently 24 self-styled, unrecognised institutions are functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, which have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh — Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Noida.

Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridical University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University). Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one each.

Crisis blows over, OPS names EPS as CM pick

11-member steering committee as asked by OPS set up

G BABU JAYAKUMAR
& D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 7

With sweets and firecrackers, it was early Deepavali at the AIADMK headquarters premises on Wednesday morning soon after the party coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, named the incumbent Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections.

The meeting, scheduled for 10.00 am, started a little ahead of time with the party headquarters wearing a festive look since morning and the first announcement was on the formation of the 11-member steering committee, which had been Panneerselvam's long time demand.

Party deputy coordinator K.P. Munusamy, who was among those working till 3.30 am to bring about a rapprochement between Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, read out the names of the members of the steering committee, which he said was formed on the basis of a decision taken at the General Council.

Also Panneerselvam put his stamp of approval on the list by signing on it in front of the crowd.

The steering committee members are Forest Minister Dindigul C. Seenivasan, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Law Minister C. Ve. Shanmugam, Food and Civil Supplies Minister R. Kamaraj, former MLA J.C.D. Prabakar, former MP Manoj Pandian, former Minister P. Mohan, former MP R. Gopalakrishnan and Sholavandan MLA K. Manikam.

Munsamy and Vaithilingam, another deputy coordinator, had shuttled between the official residences of Panneerselvam and Palaniswami to finalise the name of the committee members till the wee hours as that was the last hitch to be ironed out to bring both the leaders together to make the announcement they were united.

Once the truce was called, the entire party



AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam greets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai on Wednesday

leadership geared up for the meeting and trooped to the venue. Panneerselvam arrived by around 9.40 am and he was followed by Palaniswami in another five minutes. Musical bands heralded their arrival with welcome notes and supporters, some of them wearing full face masks with the images of the leaders, cheered them with slogan shouting.

Then the two leaders, along with the other party functionaries, chatted for some time before the meeting was called for order. It was rumoured that they wanted the announcements to be made at an auspicious hour that came before 10 am.

Whatever be the reason,

the meeting turned out to be a simple affair with the presentation of shawls, brief expression of thanks and appreciation and several rounds of applause without slipping into long winded harangue that normally marked political meetings.

Then the top brass of the party, including Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, dove down to the MGR memorial.

Both of them paid homage to MGR and also J. Jayalalithaa at their respective samadhis and then drove away.

When Jayakumar was asked by the media on the steering committee having more Palaniswami supporters, he said that

the names were chosen unanimously. He said the show of unity in the party was a huge blow to betrayers and opponents of the AIADMK.

Vaithilingam, to a question on some senior leaders not figuring in the committee, said that there were other vacancies in the party and they would be soon filled up with the senior leaders who were not part of the panel.

AIADMK cadre, both men and women, cheered the leaders for putting up a show of unity with their jubilant gigs and slogan shouting.

A marked sense of relief and celebration filled the air as they distributed sweets and lighted firecrackers.



Gupteshwar Pandey

SHIV SENA TO
CONTEST 50
SEATS IN BIHAR
ELECTIONS

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has announced that it will contest 50 seats in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The party has also decided to field its candidate against former Bihar police chief Guptaeshwar Pandey, who is likely to contest the polls on JDU ticket.

Mr Pandey had criticised the Mumbai police and Maharashtra government in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. He later joined the ruling Janata Dal (United) after taking voluntary retirement from the service. He is expected to contest the elections on a JDU ticket from Buxar.

Senior Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai said, "Maharashtra, Mumbai and Shiv Sena were unnecessarily defamed in the Sushant Singh death case by playing vendetta politics. The Shiv Sena will now fight back by contesting the polls. We will contest 50 seats in Bihar."

According to Sena leaders, the party had contested the 2015 assembly polls too, in which it had polled more than two lakh votes.

Defending the decision to contest against the former Bihar DIG, Mr Desai said, "Not just Maharashtra but the entire nation saw his theatrics. His statements were unbecoming for his post. But our Shiv Sainik is ready to fight against him."

The Shiv Sena had earlier accused the Bihar politicians of trying to make Sushant Singh's death an electoral issue. Some issues can be shipped from Mumbai if they don't have real issues, another Sena leader Sanjay Raut had said.

Bihar will go to polls in three phases: October 28, November 3 and November 7.

BJP spares 11 seats for associate partner VIP

Patna, Oct. 7: The BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar assembly polls.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced at a joint press conference Tuesday that while JD(U) will spare some seats to Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 122 seats and the BJP will accommodate VIP from its quota of 121 seats in the 243-member assembly.

JD(U) has provided seven seats to HAM.

The seat distribution to VIP was announced at a press conference addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal and VIP chief Mukesh Sahni.

Jaiswal told reporters that VIP will also be provided one seat in Bihar legislative council in future.

VIP floated a couple of years ago by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, was with the opposition Grand Alliance till last week.

Sahni had on Friday last announced an abrupt exit from the opposition coalition in protest against "back-stabbing" by RJD,

which helps the anti-NDA grouping, and its de facto leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Sahni expressed happiness over return to the BJP-led NDA with which he had started his political innings in 2014 general election with an aim to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister of the country.

Meanwhile, Bihar BJP leader Usha Vidyarthi joined the Lok Janshakti Party on Wednesday after meeting its president Chirag Paswan, and is likely to be fielded from the Paliganj assembly seat where the JD(U) will contest as well.

Vidyarthi, a former MLA, joined the LJP a day after another senior BJP leader from the state, Rajendra Singh, who was associated with the RSS for a long time, joined Paswan's party.

Singh wanted to contest from Dinara but the seat has been allotted to the JD(U) as part of its seat-sharing arrangement with the ally BJP for the Bihar assembly polls.

The Lok Janshakti Party, which has announced that it will contest from seats given to the JD(U) and not fight against the BJP, hopes that many more leaders from other parties will join it in the coming days. —PTI

I-T RAIDS LOCATIONS IN BIHAR, U.P. IN PROBE AGAINST BUSINESSMAN

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Income Tax Department has conducted searches in poll-bound Bihar and Uttar Pradesh against a businessman involved in mining and the hotel industry and the chairman of a "large" cooperative bank, the CBDT said on Wednesday.

It said the raids were conducted on Tuesday in Patna, Sasaram and Varanasi on the basis of "actionable intelligence" and ₹1.25 crore cash was seized while fixed deposit receipts of ₹6 crore were placed under "prohibitory orders."

"During the search, an amount of ₹75 lakh was found in a car belonging to the businessman involved in mining and hotel industry. Subsequent investigations led to the finding

that this amount was unaccounted and was also linked to the chairman of a large cooperative bank," the CBDT said in a statement.

"Unaccounted cash and documents with details of substantial cash transactions were found and seized. These transactions are not reflected in the corresponding returns of income," it said.

The Board did not identify those who were raided but sources said the businessman has links with a political party in Bihar.

Polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will take place on November 10. —PTI

POCSO accused done to death

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 7

A 37-year-old Kerala man, who was an accused in POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) case and out on parole, was hacked to death by unidentified persons in Thrissur district.

The accused had carried out the alleged sexual assault on a tribal girl in Pazhayannur in Thrissur. His body was found in a vacant plot. The police has registered a case and the probe has begun.

The local police said Sathesh was found with injuries in a vacant house near his home in Eland in Thiruvani village. He was taken into custody about eight months ago in connection with the case of sexual assault on a tribal girl. After being released on parole, he was residing in Malappuram.

However, of late he was often seen near the spot where the tribal girl was sexually assaulted. There were also reports that some people used to visit the village looking for him which led to the suspicion that he might have committed something wrong in Malappuram.

Local residents told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Sathesh.

The cops are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident in any way.

● **LOCAL RESIDENTS** told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Sathesh.

● **THE COPS** are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident.

The cops are also in the process of collecting the details of persons who visited the village to ascertain their identity. The local police is in touch with the Malappuram police to check whether any case is registered against Sathesh in any of the police stations, especially in the area where he used to live.

Though the house where Sathesh's body was found was abandoned, a group of persons used to assemble there for drinking sessions. According to villagers they used to create ruckus in the house.

Sathesh was on parole as part of the government decision to release under-trials and remand prisoners in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Kerala high court had earlier permitted parole for prisoners who are serving less than 6 years term in jail.

The Poojappura central jail in Thiruvananthapuram had reported the highest number of cases with over 470 inmates and about a dozen officials getting infected with Covid-19.

Scribe, 3 others booked for sedition two days after being held by UP cops

Lucknow/Mathura, Oct. 7: The Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras.

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials said.

The FIR claimed that police recovered pamphlets "Justice for Hathras victim", six mobiles and a laptop from them, and during the initial probe it was found that they were going to Hathras with an intention to breach the peace as part of a conspiracy.

The four were held on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gangraped — an incident that has sparked widespread outrage.

Police had earlier claimed that the four, identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malapuram in Kerala, Atiq-ur-Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur, had links with alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

They were on Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code including 124A (sedition) and



Police produce journalist Siddique Kappan and three others, suspected to have links with the Popular Front of India and its affiliate in Mathura, in a court in Mathura on Wednesday.

— PTI

153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), according to the FIR.

They have also been charged with IPC Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief).

The recovered pamphlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public unrest," the FIR said.

The FIR alleged that internet platform Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras were being used to instigate cast violence, riots and collecting donations.

Such websites are spreading anti-national propaganda in the country and distorting facts to create tension and disturb law and order, it alleged.

In this way, it is clear that prima facie internet platform Carrd.co and website 'Justice for Hathras' have committed offences under various sections of the IPC and other Acts.

The four persons and other unidentified persons have been found to be involved in these criminal acts and an investigation is necessary to find the details of their actions, it said.

It has to be probed from where and why these websites are being operated, how much money is being collected through this platform/website, where was this amount used and

who were beneficiaries, the FIR said.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Anju Rajput granted the police a 14-day judicial remand of the four persons, saying the offence is of serious nature and requires more interrogation.

Earlier, the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) had sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking Kappan's release and also filed a habeas corpus petition in the Supreme Court.

The Press Association and the Indian Women Press Corps on Wednesday described the journalist's arrest as the Uttar Pradesh government's attempt to "silence" the media and demanded his immediate release. —PTI

SIT PROBING HATHRAS CASE GETS MORE TIME TO FILE REPORT

Lucknow, Oct. 7: The UP government has given an additional 10 days to the three-member SIT investigating the alleged gangrape and killing of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras as the "probe is not complete", a senior official said Wednesday.

The special investigation team, constituted on September 30 and led by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, was initially given seven days to submit its report.

But the UP government later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has suspected. On Tuesday, it told the Supreme Court it wanted an apex court-monitored CBI inquiry into the incident to ensure "no vested interests will be able to create fake, false narrative with oblique motives".

"Yes...the time for submitting report for the SIT has been extended by 10 days," said Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi. Asked about the reasons for the extension, he added, "The reason is one. The probe is not complete."

The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the case, particularly after the local police burnt the woman's body at night without the family's approval. —PTI

IN BRIEF

N. Korea ex-envoy to Italy defected

Seoul: A senior North Korea diplomat who had vanished in Italy in late 2018 lives in South Korea under government protection, a lawmaker said Wednesday. If confirmed, Jo Song Gil, the North's former ambassador to Italy, would be the highest-level North Korean official to defect to rival South Korea since the 1997 arrival of Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling Workers' Party official who once tutored leader Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong Il. South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that Jo had left his official residence in Rome with his wife in November 2018 and was under protection at an unspecified location outside the European country. Lawmaker Ha Tae-keung, who sits on the intelligence committee of the National Assembly, wrote on Facebook that Jo arrived in South Korea last year and is under the protection of the South Korean government.

40 nations flay China over HR

United Nations: Nearly 40 mainly Western countries criticised China's treatment of minority groups, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, on Tuesday and expressed grave concern at the impact of its new national security law on human rights in Hong Kong. The US, many European countries, Japan and others called on China to allow "unfettered access" to Xinjiang for independent observers, including UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, and to urgently refrain from detaining Uighurs and members of other minorities. The 39 countries also urged China in a joint statement read at a meeting of the General Assembly's human rights committee, "to uphold autonomy, rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, and to respect the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary". It was immediately followed by a statement from Pakistan on behalf of 55 countries opposing interference in China's affairs when it comes to Hong Kong.

Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies

New York: Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65. A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorised to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement. "He was the best father I could ask for," Van Halen's son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. "Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift." With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fuelled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump," "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher". Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

PM FOR A DAY: TEEN FILLS TOP JOB IN FINLAND

Helsinki, Oct. 7: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin faced a quieter day than usual on Wednesday after handing power to a 16-year-old as part of a campaign to promote girls' rights. Aava Murto, from Vaasky in southern Finland, said she was having an "exciting day" as she faced media on the steps of parliament after meeting with the chancellor of justice. Murto added that she had "learnt some new things about legislation". In the afternoon, the student who actively campaigns on climate and human rights issues was to speak with MPs and the minister for development and foreign trade. Her message to decision-makers has been that girls "need to realise more how important they are, and how they are just as good at technology as boys," she said. "I think young people could teach adults to be more innovative and think more about the future," she added. The swap is part of a global "Girls Takeover" campaign by children's rights charity Plan International, which aims to raise awareness of girls' digital skills.

Court: Greek party criminal body**Guilty verdicts delivered against many of the far-right Golden Dawn party's ex-lawmakers**

Athens, Oct. 7: A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial. The court on Wednesday delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's former lawmakers for participating in a criminal organisation, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organisation. The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organization and rose to become Greece's third largest party during the country's decade-long financial crisis.

The court was assessing four cases rolled into one: The fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organisation. The presiding judge of the three-member panel delivered a guilty verdict against Giorgos Roupakias for the murder of Fyssas.

That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. — *AP*



Thousands of people gather for a protest outside a court in Athens on Wednesday.

— AP

Pence, Harris all set for one-off V-P debate**Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid**

Washington, Oct. 7: Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger Senator Kamala Harris are all set for a crucial debate, which comes as President Donald Trump is ill with Coronavirus that has claimed over 200,000 American lives and battered the country's economy. Harris, whose mother was from India and father from Jamaica, scripted history in August when she was picked up by the Democratic Party as its vice presidential nominee. She is the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to be selected as the vice presidential nominee of a major political party in the US. It will be for the first time in the American history that an Indian-origin person will be taking up the podium for a vice pres-

idential debate in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday night. Political analysts believe that an aggressive Harris, 55, who aspires to be the first woman vice-president in history, will easily

prevail over Pence, 61, during the only vice-presidential debate and help Biden, 77, to widen his lead over Trump, 74. The debate comes nearly a week after the first of the three presidential debates in Clevel-

and on September 29 when Biden termed Trump a "liar" and a "clown" as the two candidates fiercely clashed over a number of issues, including racism, economy and climate.

Following the first presidential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and admitted to a military hospital, a development that upended his hectic campaign just weeks before the presidential elections on November 3.

He returned to the White House on Monday night after spending four days at the hospital, but his doctors say the president may not entirely be out of the woods. Biden, in the last few days, has widened his lead over Trump by double digit. However, the Trump Campaign believes that Pence could come out with a stellar performance during the debate. The debate gains added significance, given the Covid-19 infecting Trump, triggering speculation that Pence may be taking over the reigns of the country temporarily. — *PTI*

Nashville, Tennessee. Biden said they should follow very strict guidelines. "Too many people have been infected. It's a very serious problem, so I will be guided by the guidelines of the Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said. — *PTI*

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Virus stimulus bill after poll: Don

Washington, Oct. 7: President Donald Trump has instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the Democrats on another stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit US economy until the November 3 presidential election, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding talks in good faith.

Trump's sudden decision on Tuesday to pull the plug on the negotiations is a major blow to millions of Americans still struggling with the fallout from the pandemic that has badly hit the economy and killed over 210,000 people in the country. "I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small businesses," Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday. Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where he was treated for Covid-19.

For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration were nego-

ISRAELI PM'S WIFE MAY HAVE VIOLATED CURBS

Jerusalem, Oct. 7: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife may have violated the country's Coronavirus lockdown by inviting a hairdresser into the official residence last week to prepare her for a public service video advocating the wearing of masks. The incident, first reported by the Yediot Ahronot daily, was the latest in a string of lockdown violations by Israeli leaders and public figures — drawing widespread criticism. — *AP*

tiating with the House Democrats on a major stimulus package before the presidential election. Analysts have warned that the recovery of the world's largest economy risks stalling without further aid. While the US has regained about half the jobs lost in

Another Trump aide tests positive for virus

Washington, Oct. 7: Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump, tested positive for Covid-19, taking the number of White House staffers infected by the deadly virus to at least 10. "Over the last five days I have been working remotely and self-isolating, testing negative every day through yesterday. Today, I tested positive for Covid-19 and am in quarantine," Miller said in a statement. President Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump, tested positive for Coronavirus last Thurs-

day, soon after it was known that their close aide Hope Hicks contracted the infection. Trump was admitted to a military hospital on Friday and was discharged on Monday. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany and three of the staff from the press office also tested positive.

At least three journalists working at the White House tested positive for the infection. On Tuesday, the White House issued an updated guideline on health and safety of the residence staff. — *PTI*

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"Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" Trump said. In another tweet, he alleged that "crazy" Nancy Pelosi and "the radical Left" Democrats were just playing "games" with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments. "They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be," he alleged. But Pelosi accused Trump of "putting himself first at the expense of the country". "He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes... and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the cheque," she added. "Clearly, the White House is in complete disarray," the top Democrat said. — *PTI*

lion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith," the Republican president alleged. "I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country," he said. Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to

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Belarus Oppn asks Germany to mediate

Berlin, Oct. 7: Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Wednesday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel would be an ideal person to mediate the political crisis in her country.

Tsikhanouskaya said in Berlin that Merkel is "aware of what's going on there" and "would be really helpful in solving this problem."

Tsikhanouskaya met with Merkel behind closed doors on Tuesday. Tsikhanouskaya laid out her aspiration following talks with Norbert Roettgen, a top lawmaker in Merkel's conservative party.

"So, our main ask for her was to be a leader in this mediation, to call for other countries to partici-

pate in mediation for starting this negotiations," Tsikhanouskaya said. Merkel has not indicated whether she would be willing to take on such a role, and even if she did, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has rejected repeated calls for dialogue with the opposition.

Tsikhanouskaya went into exile in Lithuania after the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus, which election officials claimed that Lukashenko won in a landslide. Opposition figures and some poll workers say the results were fraudulent and tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest. — *AP*

T-Rex fossil sells for record \$31.8 mn

New York, Oct. 7: One of the most complete specimens of a T-Rex fossil in the world was sold for a record \$31.8 million Tuesday by Christie's in New York, nearly quadrupling the previous highest price for a dinosaur at auction.

The apex predator made mincemeat of Christie's opening price of between six and eight million dollars, showing off the lasting power of the T-Rex.

It then shredded the previous record set by a specimen called Sue that was sold for \$8.4 million in October 1997 by Sotheby's to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Only around 50 Tyrannosaurus fossils have been discovered since the first was unearthed in 1902. Bids hit the \$9 million mark in less than two minutes after the start of the auction, but after 14 minutes there were just three bidders left in the race, until the hammer came down on an offer of \$27.5 million, to which were added costs and commissions.

The sale was organised in New York, where the expert assessor was located, but with lines open to Hong Kong and London, where Christie's specialists were taking calls from collectors. The fossil, nicknamed Stan, stands 13 feet (four metres) high and 40 feet long, with puncture marks in the skull and neck that experts believe show evidence of fights with fellow T-Rexes. He would have weighed in at around eight tonnes when alive, some 67 million years ago.

The fossil was discovered in South Dakota in 1987 and named after the amateur paleontologist who came across the remains, Stan Sacrlison.

Paleontologists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in South Dakota spent more than 30,000 hours excavating and then assembling the 188 bones of the skeleton. Casts were then taken for dozens of museums around the world. — *AFP*

Pearl killers get 3 months' more jail

Islamabad, Oct. 7: British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides — the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl — will remain in jail for another three months, according to an order issued by Pakistan's Sindh government on Wednesday. The announcement of extending their detention was made by prosecutors during a hearing of the Supreme Court, which

was to decide on Sheikh's release. The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them. Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the government prosecutor, Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case.

The court accepted his argument and adjourned the hearing till October 21. — *PTI*

Charpentier, Doudna win Chemistry Nobel**PEACE PRIZE: WHO, GRETA OR PRESS WATCHDOGS?**

Oslo, Oct. 7: The World Health Organisation is the bookies' favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, though experts say Greta Thunberg or press freedom groups are also contenders. — *AFP*

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said

Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments." He said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage," adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities." But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care." It has already raised serious ethical questions. — *AP*

French researcher in Microbiology, Genetics and Biochemistry Emmanuelle Charpentier (left) and US professor of Chemistry and of Molecular and Cell Biology, Jennifer Doudna. — *AFP*

NBA FINALS



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers drives to the basket during Game Four of the NBA Finals against Miami Heat in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Tuesday. — AFP

JAMES TAKES LAKERS CLOSE TO CROWN

Orlando, Florida (USA): LeBron James scored 28 points as Los Angeles Lakers moved to within one win of a 17th NBA championship on Tuesday with a 102-96 victory over Miami Heat. Humbled by Miami in Game Three on Sunday, James and the Lakers came roaring back in a hard-fought defensive battle that was finely balanced until Los Angeles pulled away in the closing minutes.

The win leaves the Lakers 3-1 up in the best-of-seven series, meaning they can clinch the championship with victory in Game Five on Friday. James started slowly but clicked in the second half to lead the scoring while providing eight assists and hauling down 12 rebounds.

Anthony Davis meanwhile finished with 22 points, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope chipped in 15 points. Caldwell-Pope's tally included a three-pointer and a layup in the closing stages that put the Lakers seven points ahead with two minutes remaining. Davis then drained his second three-pointer with 39.5 seconds left on the clock to give the Lakers a 100-91 lead and effectively seal the contest. — AFP

Knights pin Kings

KKR ride on Tripathi knock; CSK lose again

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

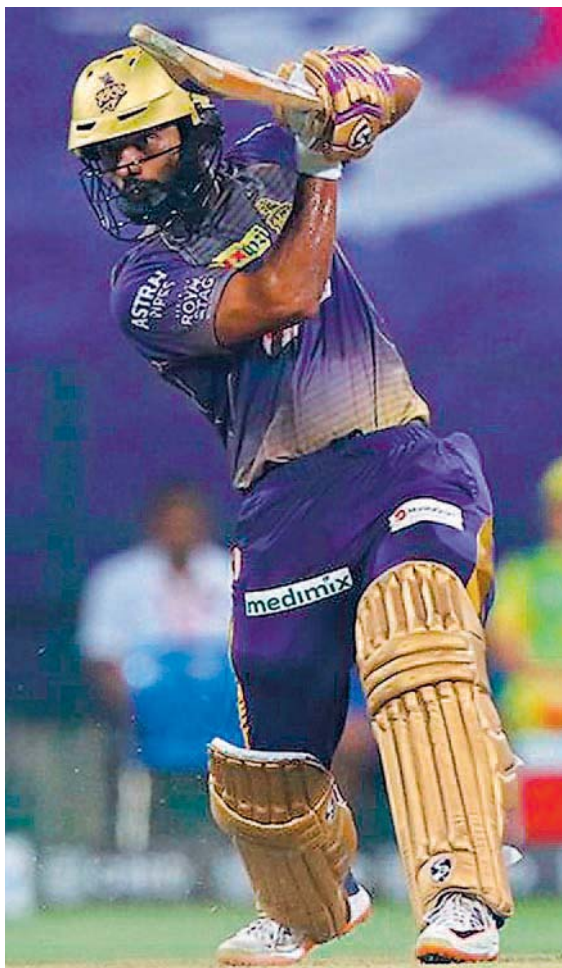
Batting first, KKR were all out for 167 despite Rahul Tripathi's 51-ball 81. In reply, CSK were stopped at 157 for 5 in the stipulated 20 overs.

Chasing a tricky target of 168 on a pitch that seemed to have slowed down, CSK were off to a brisk start with Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis adding 30 runs in less than four overs.

Watson made 50 off 40 balls, while Ambati Rayudu contributed 30 off 27 balls, but the others could not do much as CSK fell short.

Earlier, batting first, KKR lost three wickets in the last over with Dwayne Bravo removing two of them. Bravo, a CSK veteran, celebrated his 37th birthday by returning impressive figures of 3/37 in his quota of four overs.

Tripathi picked up from where he left off against Delhi Capitals and raced to his fifth IPL fifty in 31 balls to give KKR a solid foundation after Dinesh Karthik won the toss. At 93 for two at the midway stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that. — PTI



Rahul Tripathi of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Chennai Super Kings during their Indian Premier League at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. — BCCI

LAST PLACED PUNJAB KINGS TAKE ON SRH

Dubai, Oct. 7: Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here on Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far. KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper K. L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are in excellent form this IPL but despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack.

And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit. — PTI

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: R. Tripathi c Watson b Bravo 81, S. Gill c Dhoni b Thakur 11, N. Rana c Jadeja b Sharma 9, S. Narine c du Plessis b Sharma 17, E. Morgan c Dhoni b Curran 7, A. Russell c Dhoni b Thakur 2, D. Karthik c Thakur b Curran 12, P. Cummins not out 17, K. Nagarkoti c du Plessis b Bravo 0, S. Mavi c Dhoni b Bravo 0, V. Chakravarthy run out 1. **Extras:** (LB-4, W-6) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 overs) 167. **FoW:** 1-37, 2-70, 3-98, 4-114, 5-128, 6-140, 7-162, 8-163, 9-166. **Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-0-47-0, Sam Curran 4-0-26-2, S. Thakur 4-0-28-2, K. Sharma 4-0-25-2, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-37-3. **Chennai Super Kings:** Shane Watson lbw b 50, Faf du Plessis c Karthik b S. Mavi 17, A. Rayudu c S. Gill b Nagarkoti 30, M. S. Dhoni b Varun 11, S. Curran c Morgan b Russell 17, K. Jadhav not out 7, R. Jadeja not out 21. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-2) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wks in 20 overs) 157. **FoW:** 1-30, 2-99, 3-101, 4-129, 5-129. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-25-0, S. Mavi 3-0-32-1, C. Varun 4-0-28-1, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-21-1, S. Narine 4-0-31-1, A. Russell 2-0-18-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	0	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

Deano's last lap



This handout photo taken on Saturday and released by the Melbourne Cricket Club on Wednesday shows a small group of family members attending a ceremony for late Australian cricketer Dean Jones as a hearse transporting his coffin makes one last lap around the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne following his death at the age of 59 on September 24 in Mumbai. — AFP

Nadal, Schwartzman are in semis; Thiem crashes

THE RESULTS

Men's singles quarterfinals: Diego Schwartzman (ARG x12) bt Dominic Thiem (AUT x3) 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Rafael Nadal (ESP x2) bt Jannik Sinner (ITA) 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1.

Women's singles quarterfinals: Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Martina Trevisan (ITA) 6-3, 6-1; Nadia Podoroska (ARG) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR x3) 6-2, 6-4.

French Open pushed back four months due to the coronavirus pandemic, was unhappy with organisers who scheduled five matches on the main Court Philippe Chatrier.

Argentine 12th seed Schwartzman defeated US Open champion and third seed Thiem in a five-hour epic to reach his first ever Grand Slam semifinal. The 28-year-old triumphed 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

It was one marathon too many for Thiem, the runner-up in Paris for the last two years, who had needed five sets and three-and-a-half hours to down world No. 239 Hugo Gaston in the fourth round.

Schwartzman's success came on the same day that compatriot Nadia Podoroska, the world 131, reached the women's singles semifinals with a 6-2, 6-4 win over third seed Elina Svitolina. — AFP

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