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VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | 25 OCTOBER 2020

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DC WISHES
ITS READERS A VERY
HAPPY DASARA

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of
DECCAN CHRONICLE
will remain closed today for
Dasara. There will be no edition
on Monday, October 26, 2020



WEATHER
Max: 34.0°C
Min: 25.0°C
RH: 81%
Rainfall: 1.8mm
Forecast: Rain.
Max/Min temp.
34/25 °C

COVID-19
COUNT

CASES (+51,997)	DEATHS (+626)
78,62,483	1,18,535

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,273)	(+5)
TS: 2,30,274	1,303
(+3,342)	(+22)
AP: 8,04,026	6,566

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,27,54,704

DEATHS
11,52,536

COUNTRIES
AREAS WITH
CASES **213**

worldometers.info/
coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwavyuja Shuddha
Navami till 7.42 am
Star: Danishta till 4.23 am
(Monday)
Varjyam: 6.56 am to 8.39 am
Durmuhurtam: 4.12 pm to
4.58 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HURI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 7, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.35 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.30 pm
Maghrib: 5.50 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.03 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 12.02 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 1.41 PM

COUNTER POINT



I promise to get a Covid vaccine manufacturing unit in your town and provide jobs!

INSIDE

■ **STATE... PAGE 2**
CM seeks Central funds for Polavaram project

Dasara celebrations



A priest performs pujas for Goddess Durga during the Dasara Navaratri Celebrations organised by Bengali Association at Waltair Kalibari on the station road in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.
— K. MURALI KRISHNA

Festival gift: Centre okays interest sop

Interest on interest for loans up to ₹2 cr waived

New Delhi, Oct. 24: In a festival gift to borrowers, the finance ministry on Saturday approved guidelines for a scheme for grant of ex gratia payment of the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months of loans up to ₹2 crore.

The guidelines came after the Supreme Court directed the Centre to implement “as soon as possible” interest waiver on loans of up to ₹2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per the operational guidelines issued by department of financial services, the scheme can be availed by borrowers in specified loan accounts for a period from March 1 to August 31, 2020.

“Borrowers who have loan accounts having sanctioned limits and outstanding amount of not exceeding ₹2 crore (aggregate of all facilities with lending institutions) as on February 29 shall be eli-

New Delhi, Oct. 24: The government on Saturday further extended the deadline for filing returns by individual taxpayers for FY 2019-20 by a month till December 31. Also, the due date of furnishing Income-Tax Returns (ITRs) for taxpayers whose accounts require to be audited was extended till January 31,

ble for the scheme,” it said. Housing loan, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered.

As per the scheme, the lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest with regard to the eligible

2021. Earlier in May, it extended various due dates for filing ITRs for FY 2019-20 from July 31 to November 30. The due date for ITRS for “the taxpayers (including partners) who are required to get their accounts audited [for whom the due date is October 31, 2020] was extended to January 31, 2021”, it added.

borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower fully or partially availed the moratorium on repayment of loan announced by the RBI on March 27, 2020.

The scheme is applicable on those who have not availed the moratorium scheme and continued to repay loans.

REVENUE STAFF DEMOLISH GITAM COMPOUND WALL

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 24

In a midnight operation that lasted till early Saturday, revenue officials in the presence of police demolished a compound wall facing the beach road and the main gate of the campus of the GITAM deemed to be university to free 40 acres of encroached land.

The campus houses an engineering college, a dental college, a medical college and other educational institutions over 120 acres of prime land. The varsity was founded by late TD member of Parliament M.V.V.S. Murthy and is being run by his grandson, TD leader M. Sri Bharat.

RTC specials to run from border

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

With talks between the AP and TS governments over running of inter-state buses failing, the APSRTC has decided to run special buses from the borders of Telangana to various places in the state so that AP natives can return to celebrate the Dasara festival.

Transport minister Perni Venkataramaiah alias Nani said special buses have been arranged from all check posts on the Telangana state border. He said that AP transport officials had been holding talks with their Telangana state counterparts since June 18. AP had sent proposals to operate buses on over

1.61 lakh km routes, decreasing 1.04 lakh km from earlier routes. However, the talks did not yield any results.

As a result, the minister said, APSRTC buses will operate from the borders at Panchalingala, Garikapadu, Vadapalli, Jeelugumalli and Kallugudem. He asked people to make use of these buses to reach their destinations. With the absence of direct bus services, it has been seen that people travel to the border of one state, cross a small distance using local transport and board another bus in the neighbouring state.

SCORE | HIGH NEET All India rankers repeat good show in state AP girl student tops TS Eamcet

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

A student from AP topped the agriculture and medical stream of the Telangana state Eamcet, the results of which were released on Saturday. Girls bagged the top spots in the test which was conducted by the JNTU-H on behalf of

the TS Council of Higher Education. Guthi Chaitanya Sindhu of Tenali secured the first rank, while Bareddy Sai Thrisha Reddy of Sangareddy and Tummala Snikitha of Hyderabad secured the second and third ranks, respectively. All three are NEET All India rank holders. Sindhu

was ranked 6 in NEET and Thrisha was placed 14th and Snikitha second.

This year, 78,981 candidates registered for the Eamcet A&M stream, of whom 63,857 appeared and 59,113 qualified. The qualifying percentage stood at 92.57.

Meanwhile, the first phase of web-based coun-

selling for admission into engineering and pharmacy colleges for 2020-21 was conducted for candidates from October 12 to October 22. Of the 74,094 seats available, 50,288 were allotted — 50,137 for engineering courses and 151 to pharmacy. There are 19,998 engineering and 3,808 pharmacy seats.



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 <p>Lifelong Glass Top 3 Burner Gas Stove ₹6,145 ₹1,999</p>	<p>amazonpantry MONTHLY GROCERIES UP TO 60% OFF</p> <table> <tr> <td>  <p>5kg Basmati Rice ₹365 ₹254</p> </td> <td>  <p>Vim Dishwash 750ml ₹155 ₹110</p> </td> <td>  <p>L'Oréal Shampoo 1L ₹799 ₹399</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>25% CASHBACK ON FIRST ORDER*</p>		 <p>5kg Basmati Rice ₹365 ₹254</p>	 <p>Vim Dishwash 750ml ₹155 ₹110</p>	 <p>L'Oréal Shampoo 1L ₹799 ₹399</p>
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IN BRIEF

CM greets people on Vijayadasami

Vijayawada: Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy greeted the people of the state on the occasion of Vijayadasami. He said that the festival marks the triumph of good over evil and victory of the Gods over evil forces. The festival conveys to the world the final victory of Jaganmatha over Mahishasura, the embodiment of evil. He wished that Durga Matha would bless people of the state, usher in peace and prosperity to the state and augur well to all the families.

Governor conveys Dasara wishes

Vijayawada: Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Vijaya Dasami in Andhra Pradesh. The Governor in a statement issued on Saturday stated that the Navaratri festival symbolises the triumph of good over evil. He said that he prayed to the divine mother to shower her choicest blessings on all the people on the happy occasion of Dasara festival.

Jayaram offers silk robes in Srisailem

Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh minister for Labour Gummanur Jayaram offered silk robes (pattu vastralu) to Lord Mallikarjunaswamy and Goddess Sri Bhramarambha Devi in Srisailem on Saturday on behalf of state government on the occasion of Dasara festival. The minister, along with family members, arrived at the Srisailem temple on Friday night and spent his night stay in the temple's guest house.

APGEA refutes APNGOA claims

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government employees' association (APGEA) refuted claims of the Andhra Pradesh non-gazetted officers' association (APNGOA) leaders about meeting Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, seeking to resolve employee issues and alleged that APNGOA is a sympathiser of the earlier Telugu Desam government and is trying to appease the present YSRC government to erase its pro-TD pro reputation.

PMK FOUNDER CONGRATULATES JAGAN

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder, S. Ramadoss, has written to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, congratulating him for the state government's announcement of establishing 56 backward class corporations and the list of chairpersons to head these corporations.

In a letter addressed to Jagan, the Tamil Nadu-based PMK leader said, "I extend my congratulations to you on behalf of my party (Pattali Makkal Katchi), as the state government of Andhra Pradesh, under your leadership, has successfully announced the establishment of 56 backward class corporations for the upliftment of the backward classes and a list of chairpersons to head these corporations."

CM seeks Central funds for Polavaram project

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has sought required funds for Polavaram project without objections by the Union Government as it was a national project. He directed officials to take the issue to the notice of the Centre. He conducted a review meeting on Polavaram in his camp office Saturday night in view of funds slash by the Union Government.

The Chief Minister reviewed the latest developments on the reimbursement of balance expenditure incurred by the state to the tune of ₹4,013.65 crore, out of which ₹2,234.288 crore was proposed for EBR (Extra Budget Release) by Ministry of Finance (MOF) to Ministry of Jalshakthi (MOJS). It has been stated by MOF that the cost of irrigation compo-

Silent Dasara impacts markets across state

Market likely to recover after second wave of Coronavirus

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

The alacritous Dasara festival turned silent in Andhra Pradesh this year due to Coronavirus pandemic, untimely incessant rains and soaring prices of essential commodities. Further, news that the 'Second Wave of Virus' could be in offing restrained masses from celebrating the festival, while cash constraints discouraged people from spending.

Navaratri celebrations that used to be held in every locality were virtually absent, though the festival started on October 17 and is concluding with Teppotsavam in Krishna River on Sunday.

Every year, 70,000-80,000 devotees would daily visit Durga temple on Indrakeeladri during Dasara festivities. The rush would cross the one-lakh figure on the auspicious Moola Nakshatram Day, which is the birth star of Goddess Durga. Similar festivities would be held across all the 13 districts of the state on par with Durga temple celebrations in Vijayawada.

According to market sources, at least ₹1,000-crore turnover is registered during Dasara festivities every year. Sales of electronic goods, household items, clothes, jewellery, two/four wheelers and real estate would abnormally increase during the period. Traders are lamenting that their turnover this year has been very poor.

Senior market analyst P. Prakash said lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic has taught a hard lesson to the public about the importance of liquid cash during crises. He pointed out that majority of people have shunned weekend entertainments and luxuries due to the cash crunch. Now, Corona's 'Second Wave' is further leading to people withholding money, which is why Dasara sales have crashed.

Senior sales manager N. Krishna rued that even price concessions with zero per cent interest finance have failed to attract customers during this Dasara. He said people are giving priority to only essential needs. Automobile industry, which witnesses sales of bikes and cars in large numbers during Dasara, is still struggling. Vehicle dealers said majority sections of the society used to purchase vehicles of their choice during Dasara, treating the period as auspicious. But this time, only a few people have purchased vehicles.

Realtor K. Siva Reddy pointed out that real estate companies would start new ventures during Dasara festival, giving various offers. This was missing this time.

Indian Chamber of Commerce leader A. Aanjaneyulu said market will recover only after the second wave of Coronavirus and return to normalcy.

● Senior sales manager N. Krishna rued that even price concessions with zero per cent interest finance have failed to attract customers during this Dasara.



A priest offers harathi to Goddess Kanakadurga, decked up in Durgadevi alankaram, on the 8th day of Dasara festival in Vijayawada on Saturday. — C. NARAYANA RAO

Rare darshan of Goddess in two avatars on one day

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

In what is a rare occurrence, devotees of Goddess Durga could have Her Darshan in two Avatars on the same day on Saturday. The deity appeared in Her original Durga Avatar in the morning and as Mahishasura Mardhini Avatar in the evening.

Sunday's traditional Teppotsavam (float festival), during which Durga and Malleswara Swamy are normally taken for a boat ride on Krishna River on the Vijaya Dasami (Dasara) day, has been cancelled. The cancellation is to prevent people from

gathering in large numbers on the Prakasam Barrage to view the Teppotsavam when there is a huge threat of Coronavirus.

Krishna district collector A. Md. Intiaz and Vijayawada police commissioner Battina Srinivasulu held a high-level meeting with officials of the temple and other departments on Saturday. Md. Intiaz said another reason for cancelling Teppotsavam is that Krishna River is receiving huge inflows from upstream and water is gushing out at high speeds from Prakasam Barrage into the sea.

The collector said both the Prakasam Barrage

and Durga flyover will be closed to traffic on Sunday evening while the Teppotsavam Pujas are on.

Many VIPs visited the temple on Saturday for darshan of Goddess Mahishasura Mardhini, including home minister Mekatothi Sucharitha, agriculture minister K. Kanna Babu, social welfare minister P. Viswaroop, AP DGP Gautham Sawang, MLA Vidadhala Rajini and others.

The home minister told the media that she prayed to the Goddess for prosperity of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Kanna Babu said that he prayed to the Goddess for wellbeing of farmers in the state.

STATES GOT DISCRETIONARY POWERS

From page 1

On other issues, justifying the heavy penalties being levied by AP government on traffic violators, Venkataramaiah said it is unfortunate that Telugu Desam leaders and a section of media were crying hoarse. He pointed out that the Centre has amended 31 sections of the Motor Vehicles Act, which gives discretionary powers to states, which includes levying penalties. "Will the government penalise those who are following rules," he asked.

The minister recalled how some people are circulating posts over social media about first covering the potholes on roads first before penalising traffic violators. "What is the connection between potholes on roads with traffic violations," he asked.

The minister pointed out that roads eroding during the rainy season was a common phenomenon and they would be repaired once the season is over. He said the Jagan Mohan Reddy government had allocated ₹2,500 crore for road repairs.

● Senior sales manager N. Krishna rued that even price concessions with zero per cent interest finance have failed to attract customers during this Dasara.

Vizagites skip visits to villages this Dasara

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 24

For the first time in decades, Vizagites did not visit their native villages this Dasara and preferred to stay home. According to estimates, around half a million people mostly from north coastal districts of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram celebrate Dasara and Sankranti in their native places. They take all modes of transport to make it on time.

Apart from the settlers from north coastal Andhra, migrant labourers also spend the festival period in their native homes. Railways run special trains and RTC deploys additional buses to the two districts and some to East Godavari.

"Around 90 per cent of the migrant labour stayed back at their villages due to lockdown and loss of jobs and not many returned to the city. Due to financial conditions, they may not be in a position to celebrate any festival in their villages also," said CPM city secretary Dr B Ganga Rao.

An employee of a private

● An employee of a private bank Nalli Phalguna said there was a risk of Covid infection in villages as using masks, and main-bank Nalli Phalguna said there was a risk of Covid infection in villages as using masks and maintaining social distance are not heeded. "There is no proper transport and I cannot risk riding a motorcycle with family all the way to Tekkali, which is 180 km from here," Phalguna said.

Official sources said prior to Covid, around 60 per cent of the 28 lakh population was leaving for their native places for Dasara and even more for Sankranti. For last Sankranti, RTC put into service 300 additional buses to these two north coastal districts and 120 to Hyderabad.

Around 20 per cent of revelers, who did not find space in bus or train, made their own arrangements by hiring vans or riding on motorcycles carrying children and wife.

Market sources said shops also did not make much business this Dasara.

Named after Gandhi, Gitam goes the Godse way: Adeep

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 24

Brushing aside the allegations of Opposition leaders, Anakapalle MLA Gudivada Amarnath said that there was no need for the government to be vindictive towards the TD and stated that officials have taken appropriate legal action against Gitam University for encroaching government land.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, the MLA said that Gitam University, which belonged to the son-in-law of TD MLA and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna, has encroached upon the government lands to an extent of 40 acres worth ₹800 crore.

During the TD term, N. Chandrababu Naidu gave away valuable lands in Visakhapatnam to his family members and one among them was Gitam University. It was revealed in a preliminary inquiry by revenue officials that the University has encroached government lands and the officials took appropriate action, he said.

While the state government is responsible for safeguarding the lands and taking action against illegal encroachments, the opposition leaders are spreading false propaganda stating that the government was vindictive. The previous government failed to take action against land encroachments in Visakhapatnam and did not make the SIT report public.

"Unlike the TD government, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has constituted SIT to investigate land scams in Visakhapatnam and will take action based on the report," he said.

Amarnath said all the TD politburo members were highly corrupt and recently the high command made K. Atchannaidu, who was involved in the ESI scam, as president of the party.

He said that only those who had encroached lands were being given posts in the TD.

Pendurthi MLA Adeep Raj criticised that the Gitam institute, which was named after Mahatma Gandhi, is indeed going Godse's way, by involving in illegal activities.

He said that people are extremely happy as the encroached valuable lands were taken back and are now in safe hands.

Reiterating that the TD leaders had grabbed lands in Visakhapatnam on a large-scale, he said that the state government will take action as promised to the people.

NAIDU, LOKESH CONDEMN DEMOLITIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 24

Telugu Desam supremo, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Saturday strongly condemned the demolitions taken up by the AP government at the Gitam university in Visakhapatnam, saying that it was a clear act of vengeance against political opponents in the state.

Gitam stood out as a glorious temple of learning which had shaped the lives of thousands of students, provided jobs to youth and helped in providing medical services, said Naidu, adding that the matter was in court but the demolitions were initiated without waiting for the final verdict.

Alleging that this was nothing but the political vengeance on the part of the ruling YSRC, Naidu said the ruling party was taking revenge out of personal jealousy and vindictiveness against opposing parties and persons.

In a separate statement, TD national general secretary, Nara Lokesh, said that the demolitions and diabolical acts of Jagan were going out of control. Gitam, which has a long history in giving good educational services, came under a meaningless attack. Jagan knows only how to demolish but not to construct.



Earth movers deployed to demolish the constructions on the encroached land in the Gitam Medical College premises in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. — DC

No notice issued, says Gitam official

from Page 1

A Gitam official said no notice was served to them before demolishing the walls. An official statement is yet to be issued. Before carrying out the meticulously planned 'Operation Demolition', the beach road leading to the educational institutions was barricaded. The hospital belonging to the medical college houses several Covid-19 patients.

Revenue divisional officer P. Kishore and his team conducted an inquiry and reportedly found that the Gitam campus had encroached 40.51 acres of land under various survey numbers at Rushikonda and Yendada of Vizag city following which demolition of the compound wall was taken up.

The Gtam authorities constructed compound walls and some structures in the allegedly encroached crores of worth government lands. Based on the RDO report, a special investigation team (SIT) is also probing into the matter.

The RDO said that in 1981, the Gitam management applied to the AP government for allotment of 71.15 acres of land at Rushikonda and Yendada for setting up of educational institutions. Since the land was assigned for landless poor and some in legal dispute, the then government allotted 14 acres of land to Gitam subject to certain conditions that it should purchase the lands as per the price prescribed by the government after the settlement in the court.

In 2014, the Chief Commissioner of Land Affairs visited Gitam and ordered that the 35 acres be given to Visakhapat-

● RDO P. Kishore and his team conducted an inquiry and reportedly found that the Gitam campus had encroached 40.51 acres of land under various survey numbers at Rushikonda and Yendada of Vizag city.

nam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA), project officer of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), deputy commissioner of commercial taxes, deputy director social welfare and other departments for construction of hostels for SC and ST students and other offices for public utility.

The Gitam management went to the High Court and obtained a stay on the CCLA order. Later the government made an offer to Gitam management to purchase the 40 acres of land at the rate of ₹8 crore per acre. But the Gitam management did not respond.

Bhimili tahsildar K. Eswara Rao, who executed the demolition, told *Deccan Chronicle* that only 20 acres where no structure had been built except compound wall was taken over and fenced. A billboard warning encroachers was also put up. He said structures have come up in another 20 acres, which include part of the dental college, Mother Teresa Hospital and a nationalised bank. Demolition of these structures would be taken up after receiving instructions from the government, he said.

Many TD leaders cried foul and said it was political vendetta while ruling party leaders defended the action stating that everything went as per law.

Avanti: Gitam was asked to regularise lands in 2014

KMP PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 24

Defending revenue department's action in removing encroachment of government land, which was under Gitam management, minister for tourism and culture Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao said the revenue department's action was not a sudden decision. The officials marked the encroached land and concrete structures that were built on encroached land 40 days ago.

● The government land was grabbed in a big way during the previous regime, he said.

gime that forced one cabinet minister to lodge a complaint against another.

Stating that Naidu should have been blamed for the encroachment and the present demolition, the minister said former minister K. Atchannaidu himself admitted that Gitam management had encroached land but surprisingly is now condemning the latest action because it was taken up at odd hours.

"The management should have surrendered the land and protected its name," he said.

On the decision of the State Election Commission to hold local body elections, the minister said it was surprising that the same commissioner cancelled the elections in the beginning of virus infection and now wants to hold them citing Bihar elections when the infections run into lakhs of cases.

"The commissioner wants to impress Naidu since his term is coming to an end," Srinivas said.



Buggana eclipsing Vijaysai role in Delhi

There seems to be more than meets the eye in Andhra Pradesh finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy's frequent trips to the national capital. Within a short span, the FM called on several Union ministers, officials and NITI Aayog representatives in New Delhi. In his latest trip, he met Union minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep S. Puri and request-

ed him to expedite clearances for the Bhogapuram international airport near Visakhapatnam and Orvakallu airport in Kurnool district. In his previous visits, he met Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat. A little bird says that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has given Buggana the important

task of coordinating with the Centre, and he would be going to Delhi frequently. Buggana is an ideal pick for the job as he is knowledgeable and more articulate than the other Cabinet ministers. With facts at hand, Buggana, a former chairman of the powerful Public Accounts Committee during the Naidu regime makes a better presentation of the state's requirements. What is

curious, however, is the absence of V. Vijayasai Reddy during Buggana's meetings at Delhi. Apart from being the parliamentary party leader of the YSR Congress, Vijayasai Reddy was also earlier designated the special representative of AP to pursue issues relating to the state with the Centre. Does it mean further dimming of Saireddy's 'aura' in the ruling dispensation?

CONGRESS LEADERS MADE TO PAY AND WORK

Several Congress Squeued before Manickam Tagore, the new in-charge of Telangana state party, trying to curry favour. They claimed that they had been working hard at winning the Dubbaka byelections for the party. That they thought would be enough to put them in his good books. Tagore seemed to oblige and made many of them in-charge of booths at Dubbaka. But the sting was in the tail. Tagore made it clear that they have to improve the party status, for which they would get a good position in the party, by loosening their purse strings. They cannot expect financial help from either the All India Congress Committee or the state unit to build up the party. Their hard work will be suitably rewarded in the future, Tagore told them. The leaders are now reeling under the 'zor ka jhatka dharee s' e'lage'.



AP babu hangs out at the CMO

A P bureaucrat Karthikeya Mishra may set a record of sorts for frequenting Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence-camp office in Tadepalli, surpassing his senior and special chief secretary (agriculture) Poonam Malakondaiah. Mishra served as industries commissioner during the Naidu regime and used to be in the news for his foreign jaunts with Nara Lokesh. He also got

the important post of East Godavari collector in the previous regime. The Jagan government somehow did not include him in the group of officers whom it branded as 'TD men' and kept without posting for a long period. Mishra became commissioner, health and family welfare, and, after some time, was moved to finance. He has been given the most important task of mobilising finances to meet the ever-growing

welfare budget. Grapevine has it that Mishra is not enthused with his job and wants to go back as collector to any district. Normally, officers go to the camp office only on being called for a meeting by the CM or to discuss important files with his officials. But it has come to the CM's notice that Mishra is loitering around the camp office, making him wonder why the official is seen more often than needed.



REGION

SHORT TAKES

2nd counselling at Manuu's ITI

Hyderabad: The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) is conducting the second counselling for admissions in different trades on October 28. Dr Arshia Azam, principal, said the application forms can be obtained from Manuu and ITI, Hyderabad, or can be downloaded from the university website manuu.edu.in. The last date for submission of filled in application forms is October 26.

One injured in small explosion

Hyderabad: One person was reported injured in an explosion of a small container at Asbestos Colony in Jagathgirigutta on Saturday morning. Police said that the explosion occurred when the victim, Yousuf Ali Khan, got down from an autoricknear the compound wall of a house, and stepped on the container. "The man sustained an injury on his leg following the explosion. We suspect it to be a chemical explosion. The material was seized and sent to laboratory for analysis," said A. Ganga Reddy, station house officer of the Jagathgirigutta police station.

₹113CR AID GIVEN TO 1.13L FAMILIES IN TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said ₹113 crore flood relief aid has been disbursed to 1.13 lakh households, of which over 70,000 households were covered by 9 pm on Saturday. He said as per direction of Chief Minister N. Chandrabab Naidu to distribute ₹10,000 financial assistance to flood and rain-affected families as quickly as possible, 780 teams were sent from visit house to house and disbursed cash using mobile based app. The Chief Secretary said that the disbursement drive will continue till late in the night in most places and will resume after the Dasara holidays.

Infra gets ready for Covid shots

Med device makers rush to meet targets

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Manufacturing of syringes, needles, and maintaining a cold chain is being undertaken by medical device manufacturers in the country to ensure that Covid-19 vaccine administration is not delayed due to lack of these devices.

Fifty-six million needles, auto-disposable syringes are being manufactured and will be available by March 2021. The total demand is estimated as 140 million for the vaccine alone.

The medical device industry is under a lot of stress as the manufacturers are having only 30 per cent human resources at the factories.

While the demand has doubled in the healthcare sector for these medical devices the supply is not as required. There are problems faced by small manufacturers across who are not able to pool in their human resources because of Covid-19.

A manufacturer in Hyderabad on condition of anonymity said, "Indian govern-

TS registers 1,273 cases, 5 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

With fewer people coming forward for testing, the state recorded 1,273 new Covid-19 cases and five deaths due to the disease on Friday. The toll now stands at 1,303 and the tally at 2,30,274. On Friday, 35,280 were samples tested in the state.

According to the state health bulletin issued on Saturday, the state has 19,937 active cases. Of these, 16,809 are in home and institutional isolation and only 3,000 receiving treatment at hospitals.

ment has to start creating a separate stockpile for the Covid-19 vaccine.

This is already set in motion by other countries. This will ensure that once the vaccine is available there will not be any problem in administering."

Indian government has so far taken stock

The highest number of cases continue to be reported from the GHMC limits at 227, followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri at 104 and Ranga Reddy at 102 cases. There has been a decline in cases in rural areas.

Though the case numbers are falling, the government has urged people to be cautious and follow precautionary measures. The government has asked people not to give up on the habit of wearing masks. Physical distancing and frequent hand sanitising were also stressed upon.

of the capacity of each of the manufacturers and their ability to upscale it.

But there is very little aid in terms of the gap created by human resources. Till the workers come in full force the capacity will be only 30 per cent in the production.

Rescue workers need antifungal medicines

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Anti-fungal medicines are urgently required for residents and volunteers cleaning the muck and slush from Babanagar, Nallabagh, Alinagar, Osmanagar and Al Jubail Colony in the Old City. Cleaning of knee-deep slush has been a challenge and many of them are suffering from fungal infections. It is stated that 70 per

cent of the residents and volunteers are complaining of severe fungal infections, which causes itching and rashes.

Manual removal of the muck is being taken up as the machines cannot enter these small colonies. The stagnating water is drying very slowly and the outlets are still choked.

The areas are now covered with muck, slush and waste which the floodwater car-

ried along with it. Sewage, sand, carcasses of animals and waste is now being removed but it is also adversely affecting the workers.

Azam Khan who is working with volunteers in Babanagar, says "Along with the residents, there are students, doctors, engineers, techies who are volunteering for cleaning. There is still a lot of much to be removed."

Only a few of them have protective gumboots and gloves. Most of them are suffering from severe scratching and itching and need creams which will help them. Volunteers estimate that the work will continue for another week at least. Some residents have begun to return but many are still too scared to. A call has been given to citizens to come to these areas and provide aid that would help residents

Congress calls Central team visit an 'eyewash'

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The Congress has called the visit of the Central team to assess the damage caused by torrential rains and floods an eyewash. The party said the Central team had failed in assessing the damage in a scientific manner.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Congress spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan said that the Central team had made a mockery of the suffering of lakhs of people.

He wondered how visiting officials could study such largescale loss caused by rains across the state in just two days.

"The Congress welcomed the team and wished that it would tour the state extensively to assess the largescale damage inflicted by the recent rains and bring relief to the suffering people. But

■ CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON Dr Dasoju Sravan said that the Central team had made a mockery of the suffering of lakhs of people. He wondered how visiting officials could study such largescale loss caused by rains across the state in just two days.

we are extremely disappointed to know that the visit was a mere eyewash and a drama enacted by TRS and BJP governments to fool people to hide their failures. How they can arrive at the real picture by depending on government officials, who failed to deliver their duty when rains and floods struck people," Dr Sravan asked. "Rao is probably the only Chief Minister in history who did not visit the flood-hit

areas and did not bother to console those who lost their lives due to rains. Rao did not even take up an aerial survey," said Dr Sravan.

Alleging that the Central team had not given an appointment to the Congress, which stood by the people during the floods, Dr Sravan alleged that the team members sat in a star hotel and prepared reports based on the briefing given by state officials. Demanding that the Centre announce the recent rains and floods as a national calamity, Dr Sravan urged the Central team to make more visits to the state and speak to wider sections of people to make a proper assessment of the damage.

Though Rao has promised to pay ₹10,000 as compensation to every family affected during rains, TRS MLAs and corporators are distributing much lesser amounts in the form of cash, he claimed.

JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI DEMANDS MORE AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The Jamaat-e-Islami claimed that 400 of its workers are extending assistance in the rescue and relief operations in rain-affected areas of Hyderabad.

It has also decided to distribute 3,000 kits containing essential items valued at ₹4,000 each to the needy families.

Moulana Hamid Mohammed Khan, state president, Jamaat-e-Islami, told the media, "In the second stage, we plan to distribute aid of ₹10,000 to those who suffered heavy damages. We have distributed more than 50,000 food packets so far."

He said the financial aid given by the government is not sufficient and demanded the government to sanction ₹25 lakh ex gratia to the next of kin of rain victims. The government should take a serious note of the damages and evolve concrete strategies to protect the people from such disasters, he said.

He asked the government to explore a permanent solution for draining out stormwater and protecting habitats from inundation.

■ MOULANA HAMID Mohammed Khan, said the financial aid given by the government is not sufficient and demanded the government to sanction ₹25 lakh ex gratia to the next of kin of rain victims.



GHMC staff sanitising public places in Musheerabad, Hyderabad, on Saturday as a preventive measure against Covid-19. — P. SURENDRA

SHORT TAKES

CORRECTION

The headline for the report on *INS Kavaratti* published in these columns on Friday, October 23, should read as 'INS Kavaratti commissioned into Indian Navy' and not as rendered. The error is regretted. — *Editor*

MUMBAI WOMAN SLAPS TRAFFIC COP, ARRESTED

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 24

A woman rained slaps on a traffic policeman alleging that he abused her, soon after he had intercepted their two-wheeler for riding without a helmet in south Mumbai's Kalbadevi area on Saturday. The video of a woman beating up the policeman went viral following which the 30-year-old woman and her 26-year-old friend were taken into custody. The officials stated that the policeman had not abused them and had asked for a penalty to be paid for riding without a helmet.

The officials said that the policeman Eknath Parte who was posted at the busy Kalbadevi Naka when he intercepted the two-wheeler being driven by Mohsin Khan on which Sadhavika Tiwari was pillion. When Eknath stopped them and confronted the rider not wearing a helmet, he picked up a fight with the official. Sadhavika got violent and manhandled Ekanth alleging he had hurled abuses at her. Soon after she began slapping him with people witnessing the same.

Meanwhile, the traffic police in an official statement, said that Ekanth had not used foul language and had addressed both the accused in a polite manner. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Yashasvi Yadav praised the constable for not losing his temper and being patient while being thrashed.

SURVEILLANCE DRONE SHOT DOWN BY ARMY AT LOC

Srinagar, Oct. 24: A surveillance drone of Chinese make was on Saturday shot down by Army troops shortly after it crossed into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

The DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone, fitted with cameras, was spotted hovering in air by the alert troops in Keran sector and subsequently shot down, the officials said. They said the drone was seized and further investigation is on.

There has been a spurt in the use of drones from Pakistani side over the past few months to smuggle arms and narcotics.

Earlier in June, an attempt to drop weapons through drone was scuttled by BSF personnel — *PTI*



MLA PUTS UP SIGNBOARD IN TULU LANGUAGE

GURURAJ A PANIYADI | DC MANGALURU, OCT. 24

While people and elected representatives from coastal Karnataka have been pressing to add the Tulu language in the 8th Schedule and holding various types of campaign, Belthangady MLA Harish Poonja has gone a step ahead by putting up his office signboard in Tulu language.

Though there are scriptures and inscriptions of Tulu script, it has been almost forgotten during recent years. For the last few years, Tulu activists have been toiling to familiarise the script and many have shown interest in learning and writing in Tulu script. Techies too have developed fonts for computers. Though Tulu is a spoken language, people use Kannada and English script to write in Tulu language also. However, the unique move of Harish Poonja has now gone viral on social media and received appreciation from the people.

Tulu is the language of the Dravidian family, spoken in Dakshina Kannada, Southern part of Udupi district, and Northern part of Kerala's Kasargod district. People from this region are settled in various parts of the country and abroad.

Unfazed by threats, Nusrat lights up Durga Puja



Actress and Trinamul MP Nusrat Jahan (2nd from right) along with other women takes part in Maha Ashtami celebrations at a community Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata on Saturday. Last month she had received death threats on social media for dressing up as Goddess Durga for advertisements for a clothing line that she posted on Instagram on September 17. Dismissing criticism she was quoted as saying: 'I'm God's special child. I celebrate all festivals. I respect humanity and love more than anything.'

— *PTI*

J&K PARTIES FORM ALLIANCE, FAROOQ IS CHIEF

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 25

Jammu and Kashmir's half-a-dozen mainstream regional political parties along with the CPM's local unit on Saturday formally structured their alliance and unanimously elected former chief minister Farooq Abdullah as its president.

Abdullah who heads the erstwhile state's oldest political party National Conference told reporters, "Ours isn't an anti-national group. Our aim is to ensure that the rights of people of J&K and Ladakh are restored."

BJP wants Mufti arrested over her tricolour remark

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 24

The BJP has demanded arrest of former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti after she said that she wouldn't hold any other flag unless and until Jammu and Kashmir's state flag is restored.

The Congress also criticised her for showing disrespect to the national flag. She has been trolled widely also on social media platforms for her

remarks.

On Friday, Ms Mufti had while addressing her maiden press conference after her release from a 14-month-long detention said that she wouldn't raise any flag other than that of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir till its special status is restored.

"I won't hold any other flag until our state flag is returned," she said when asked about her statement that there would be no one left in J&K to raise the

Indian national flag if Article 370 was abrogated that she gave days before the erstwhile state was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year.

Narinder Raina, president of BJP's J&K unit, termed Ms Mufti's remarks as "seditious"

and said that she should be booked for the same and arrested immediately. Asserted that "no power on earth can either hoist the state flag again or

restore Article 370", he told reporters in winter capital Jammu, "I request lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to take cognisance of the seditious remarks of Mehbooba Mufti, book her for the seditious act and put her behind bars."

Mr Raina pledged to "shed every drop of our blood for our flag, country and motherland" and said that J&K is an integral part of the country and, therefore, only one flag can be hoisted here.

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DECCAN Chronicle

25 OCTOBER 2020



Kushalrani Gulab

Off the beaten track

A woke Navaratri, and a happy Dasara!

As a responsible citizen aiming to be a non-participant in the pandemic (I suffer absolutely no FOMO or fear of missing out, particularly when it comes to Covid-19, thank you very much), you will not be surprised to learn that I have set not so much as the tip of a toe anywhere near a puja pandal this Navaratri/Durga Puja.

To be fair to the SARS-CoV-2 virus — which has had bad press since the moment it was born and needs to be shown by us woke people that circumstances of birth alone is no reason to be cast out of society — I also have not been near any puja pandal in the last 30 years if not longer, because I am the Indian version of Scrooge. From the moment we hit August every year, which, depending on what the lunar calendars are up to at the time, marks the beginning of the festive season, you hear me bah, humbugging all over the place, with emphasis on the 'bah'.

I do not enjoy crowds. I especially do not enjoy crowds in a hot and sweaty climate punctuated by distinctly uncooling monsoon showers that set my sinuses aflame and cause me to sneeze like a machine gun on speed. I do not enjoy amplified *aartis* by priests so *besura* that even Cacofonix the bard would be dashing about with gags and ropes to tie them to trees while Asterix and Obelix stuff their ears with broccoli and tuck into roast boar. I do not enjoy the 'talent shows' organised by cooperative housing societies in which uncles attempt stand-up comedy so bad that the YouTube shows look good in comparison, aunts explore their inner item girl and give themselves displaced vertebrae for life and children run even more amuck than they normally do, only this time on a stage with amplifiers.

Finally, I absolutely do not enjoy my eardrums being shattered day after day by the techno-Bollywood remixes that our gods and goddesses are apparently fond of, according to puja and dandiya organisers, with *Sheila ki jawani* at No. 1 on the pandal charts, *Lungi dance* at No. 2 and *Chammak challo* at No. 3, all at ear-splitting volume.

So I was delighted when I read the rules for Navaratri in Mumbai this year. Keep it low key, urged the state government. Do not do anything that involves mass gatherings; there will be no garba and no dandiya; discuss viruses and dengue-bearing mosquitoes whenever it appears that a crowd is gathering — that will send everyone home.

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, the High Court demanded barricades outside the pandals and a maximum of only 45 people inside at any point depending on the size of the pandal, thus ensuring that 90 per cent of the population of the city would push and shove their way to the barricade, thus maintaining what we might now name 'antisocial distance' just to add another virus-related phrase to the Oxford English Dictionary.

"Aha," said my Scrooge, rubbing its hands with glee as it read these rules in the newspapers. "Maybe I'll get through this year with my eardrums and sanity intact."

And so far, dear reader, this whole puja season I have not had to use my ear plugs at all. Instead, there is a blessed silence every day — or at least what passes for silence in urban India with its daily aural mix of shattering power drills, blaring car horns, screaming food processors, piercing pressure cooker whistles and the occasional cawing crow.

And I have to admit it: I am bored witless.

Where are the social media posts about divine *bhogs* that I look forward to every year with my tongue hanging out? *Bhog* is not permitted, say the state governments. It might contain a certain virus.

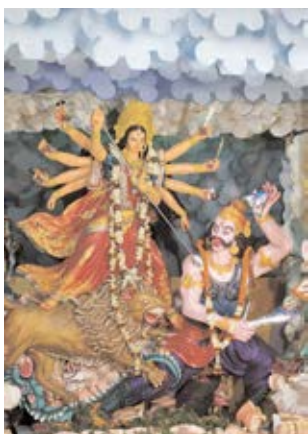
How will I know if *Sheila ki jawani* is still No. 1 on the pandal charts 10 years after it first released or if *Chammak challo* has finally climbed to the top, pulling the lungi down and revealing its underwear and banian, all modesty damned?

How can I perfect my sneer at the residents of my cooperative housing society when it's time for them to display their untalents on Navaratri nights? (Note for grammar Nazis: if you can unfriend people on social media, you can certainly display an untalent.) I usually get a refresher course during the festive season, but not this year.

I feel so bereft without everything I hate about Navaratri and the pujas, that I might actually do the unthinkable today: 30 years or more after I told my parents that if I was old enough to vote, I was old enough to stop participating in the annual family pandal hop, I might just step out of the house and visit a puja pandal. Since it's the last day of the puja, I doubt if there will be a crowd.

And with a little bit of luck, I will not be hit by an unseasonable monsoon shower, find my sinuses inflamed, sneeze like machine gun on speed, and be arrested for spreading a certain virus.

Kushalrani Gulab is a freelance editor and writer who dreams of being a sanyasi by the sea



Finally, I absolutely do not enjoy my eardrums being shattered day after day by the techno-Bollywood remixes that our gods and goddesses are apparently fond of, according to puja and dandiya organisers, with *Sheila ki jawani* at No. 1 on the pandal charts

Subhani

AIR IN INDIA IS FILTHY — TRUMP

COVER YOUR NOSE PROPERLY



Will the BJP use Nitish to get own CM in Patna?



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

There are two somewhat related perspectives to keep in mind with regard to the coming Bihar Assembly elections, where the first votes are to be cast on Wednesday, October 28. These have been largely overlooked in the media and in the facile opinion polls, which appear to have partly relied on the 2015 polling data on caste arithmetic as if this was the sacred *gayatri mantra* itself, besides strongly hinting that the presumed magic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could safely take the ruling alliance home.

As we'll see below, at least some crystal-gazers may be rather hoping that it will be just one part of the NDA — namely the BJP — that will reach the dry shores, no matter what the overt optics.

The first consideration stares us in the face, though we have been oblivious. It is quite simply the fact that the failure of the three-time chief minister Nitish Kumar's government in coping with the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic, besides the mass return home of the poor from the country's major cities regarded by Bihar's massive pool of the labour force as the nation's employment capitals in the absence of any worthwhile prospects at home, and the recent floods that played havoc with people's already wretched lives, are stark truths that frame the real narrative for this election. Without ambiguity

these point to the Nitish government's casual disregard of the suffering of some of the poorest people that there are in the country. This can be seen in leaders of the ruling alliance speaking without pause about roads repaired or built more than 10 years ago, and their breathlessly recalling the serious uptick in crime that was relevant two decades ago, before the new generation of voters was born.

Parroting pre-history is part of an untidy and scarcely convincing strategem of the JD(U) and BJP to hide policy failures and executive inaction, and meant to help them smoothly glide over the wretchedness they have presided over for most of their 15 years in office — in other words, to trick voters.

Does the trick work? Among some sections, yes — defined in the main by class. The bulk of these are the state's upper caste and upper crust, not that anyone's vote can still be thought of as being immutable.

But ordinary folk have not forgotten the humiliation and the hurt caused by the CM urging them not to come trudging back to the state though, with the national lockdown suddenly announced by the Prime Minister in March, it was clear that they had no money to pay rents in metropolitan cities and no money to eat. They also calculated that, if the disease took them, it was better to die in their unpretentious homes in

the village than on the uncaring roads of the big cities. Mr Kumar's self-serving statements are being recalled at election time.

With the aim of building a strong caste support base of the poorest sections in his favour, Mr Kumar's self-serving administrative decisions divided and sub-divided big chunks of the OBCs and the SCs into super-fine strips till they could not be sliced up any further and gave them some benefits in the early part of his tenure to secure their undying loyalty.

However, if the wildly cheering, pressing, crowds at the poll rallies of young RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the CM candidate of the Mahagathbandhan — the alliance of the RJD, Congress, and all shades of the Left in Bihar, which are ranged against the ruling NDA — are any indication, then attempts to chisel the caste arithmetic may prove to be of little avail for the chief minister.

And the reason for this is plain enough. Mr Yadav speaks only of the crushing burden of unemployment, which has made even the upper castes reel, as he promises a million jobs on arrival (as CM — replacing Mr Kumar). It is this which makes the sentiment for "*badlao*" (change) in Bihar palpable, although elections

Ordinary folk have not forgotten the humiliation and the hurt caused by the CM urging them not to come trudging back to the state after the national lockdown was suddenly announced by the Prime Minister

are notoriously hard to call. The media, except in the past few days, and the opinion polls, missed this, though it was out there, large as a football.

So gobsacked is the ruling alliance that the BJP is now promising the Covid vaccine free (only) for Bihar, such is the desperation. In the event of an anti-climax, it is the EVM factor that is likely to be blamed, and people are watching keenly. The political timbre and mak-eup of Bihar is different from next-door Uttar Pradesh, although both are Hindi-speaking. Bihar can be volatile across the board. This is where Jayaprakash Narayan's all-encompassing movement was bred, and also Communists of every hue.

The second factor to watch out for, mentioned above — relating to JD(U) leader and CM Nitish Kumar's unravelling — is the ambition nursed in the BJP's bosom to have its own chief minister in Bihar for the first time, even if as part of an alliance. Other than Punjab and J&K (now, alas, only a UT), Bihar is the only state in North India where there has never been a CM from the BJP. That is Bihar's uniqueness among the Hindi-speaking states.

If this is understood, then the side-court play — the Chirag Paswan phenomenon and the rushing of key RSS people to get the election nomination of Mr Paswan's LJP, otherwise no great shakes as a political force — does not remain obscure. It is not clear how it will pan out, but one thing is clear — Mr Kumar may get to rue that he let the BJP ride the waves stepping on his shoulders even as he fooled himself that he stood for secular politics and secular values while canoodling with the BJP-RSS.

LETTERS

COVID VACCINE

When the nation is eagerly waiting for vaccine, such promises are unwarranted (*BJP vaccine card unethical, DC, Oct. 24*). Is the Central government planning to segregate people who voted in favour and against it? When states are begging for their share of GST, this promise will complicate the Centre-state relations.

P. Ramakrishna Rajahmundry

FILTHY COMMENT

It is preposterous and unpardonable of US President Donald Trump to declare India, China and Russia filthy when his own reign is not perfect (*India, China 'filthy', says Don, rejecting climate talk, DC, Oct. 24*). American voters of Indian, Chinese and Russian origin must teach him a lesson in etiquette by voting for Biden. His antipathy towards Indian immigrants and are clear as day for all to see.

Parthasarathy Mandadi Tirupati

ONION PRICES

The soaring onion prices are breaking the back of poor and middle class. We have had a history of governments losing elections when onions prices were skyrocketing. It seems the government has not learnt any lessons from the past (*Onion price hits ₹100/kg after record rains, DC, Oct. 23*). Our onion surplus country, in spite of lack of storage facilities, the traders are making a killing by creating artificial scarcity. Governments should deal with an iron hand the illegal hoarders.

Udatha Rama Chandara Rao Yeleswaram, East Godavari

TRANSPORT FINES

Not only trade unions, but also the general public oppose the amended Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 imposing heavy fines for violating traffic rules (*Autotrickshaw drivers oppose amended MV Act, DC, Oct. 24*). First of all government should provide better road infrastructure. Then the enhancement of fines may be five per cent as many are in crisis.

P. Govardhana Rao Kankipadu, Krishna district

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Pakistan to use U.S. arms against India

UNITED NATIONS, OCT. 24 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and US Secretary of State William Rogers discussed for forty minutes last night on Indo-American problems. During the talks Mrs. Gandhi expressed concern over U.S. arms sales to Pakistan.

Mrs. Gandhi reportedly told Mr. Rogers that this was bound to affect Indo-US relations, hamper Indian efforts to normalise and establish friendly relations with Pakistan, and as in 1965 might even encourage Pakistan to use the arms against India.

Meanwhile Pakistan made clear today that it was seeking arms only to use against India and force India to give up Kashmir. This made nonsense of Mr. Rogers' explanation to Mrs. Gandhi that the arms were intended to wean Pakistan away from China.

The Gandhi-Rogers meeting took place in Hotel Carlyle.

Rana Mitter



Xi's world: How Covid accelerated China's rise

Back in February, the Chinese State appeared in trouble. A terrifying virus had infected thousands of people and the country's social media exploded in anger against the authorities faster than Chinese censors could scrub away the critical comments. Like governments elsewhere, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) turned to the emergency analogy of choice, the Second World War. Channelling Mao Zedong's guerrilla campaign against the Japanese in the 1930s, state media declared that China was fighting a "people's war" against the virus.

As in that earlier war, China's conflict with the virus has shifted from a defiant retreat to a declaration of victory. Nor is this just bluster. The latest economic figures suggest its economy is the only one in the world that will make a full recovery from the virus — growing by two per cent while America's falls by five per cent, the Eurozone by eight per cent and Britain by 10 per cent. Justin Yifu Lin, former chief economist of the World Bank, thinks China is on track to become the world's biggest economy by 2030. Beijing can now look forward, while other major economies are

still working out how to manage the damage while racking up staggering amounts of debt.

None of this could have happened had China not dealt so swiftly (often brutally) with Covid-19. This week, the Chinese media has been full of images of people queuing for the new anti-viral vaccine — it feels there that the crisis is genuinely over.

Yet when I call friends in Shanghai, they point out that after the institution of an efficient (and highly intrusive) track-and-trace system and harsh lockdowns, life is pretty much back to normal.

Back in the spring, observers queried whether China's high figures for suppression of the virus could possibly be real. Xi Jinping, China's President and CCP secretary-general, can survey the state of his country and reflect that it is far better off than anyone might have expected when the pandemic started. The regime will have been further encouraged by opinion polling that suggests positive ratings for the government's performance among Chinese citizens, with one survey suggesting 80 per cent satisfaction rates. The CCP has used this to justify doubling down on surveillance of its citizens, and the

pandemic will almost certainly be taken as a pretext to clamp down on dissidence.

Not so long ago, it seemed as if Xi's grand Belt and Road Initiative — designed to bring billions of dollars of infrastructure investment to a swath of territory from Western Europe to Southeast Asia by way of East Africa — might not live up to his grand ambitions. Had he overreached? But the pandemic has changed the balance of global trade in ways that might now make China seem like an attractive partner for developing nations.

China's opportunity is clear. Previously, the Western world could dangle the prospect of generous investment to countries such as Pakistan or Myanmar through institutions such as the World Bank, tied as they are to norms of good governance and democracy. In a post-Covid world, in which there will be less trade, less travel, less globalism, how can the West continue to influence such countries?

Xi's China has ended up in a strange position; expecting a lower growth rate than was predicted at the end of 2019, yet relatively stronger than many of its global rivals in terms of capacity to act. Still, there is no clear path from

here to the next "people's victory". The impressive economic figures conceal a longer-term problem, as the economist George Magnus has argued, of an unbalanced economy marked by under-consumption, a rising trade surplus, and debt still rapidly rising.

The "dual circulation" idea that China can simply separate its domestic and international economies is unsustainable in the long term; major structural reforms will still be needed. And there are other issues, such as pollution, climate change, and demographic decline — from 2029, there will be five million fewer Chinese per year, and the population will be rapidly ageing.

China's higher global status creates new vulnerabilities too. Beijing is having to come to terms with the reality that the oppression of the Uighurs and the constraining of freedoms in Hong Kong are not simply internal matters for a country that wants to achieve global influence through "a community of common destiny", because the result is that Chinese businesses and investment become negatively associated with the authoritarian values of their homeland. The single greatest obstacle to the

CCP's power, however, lies not in Beijing but in Washington. A second Donald Trump term, more virus-driven economic panic, and more chaos in the liberal global order, could end up further boosting Beijing's message of economic success and authoritarian government. A Joe Biden administration may find it easier to bring China-sceptic forces together.

The fear of a new US administration may be behind the latest war metaphors coming out of Beijing. On VJ day in August, China stressed internationalism when it commemorated its founding role in the UN in 1945. This autumn, however, the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 has dominated China's official media channels. In Chinese, that conflict is known as Kangmei — the "Resist America" war. In Beijing's mind, the US is down, not out. America remains the only real challenge to China's global future.

Rana Mitter is a professor of history professor at Oxford University and the author of China's Good War: How World War II is Shaping a New Nationalism. By arrangement with the Spectator.

IN BRIEF

Actor Arnold feels 'fantastic' after op

Los Angeles: Veteran Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger has revealed that he underwent a second heart operation and is now feeling absolutely fine. In a post on Instagram, the 73-year-old actor said he had been given a new aortic valve. "Thanks to the team at the Cleveland Clinic, I have a new aortic valve to go along with my new pulmonary valve from my last surgery," Schwarzenegger said. "I feel fantastic and have already been walking the streets of Cleveland enjoying your amazing statues. Thank you to every doc and nurse on my team!" he added. The actor also shared photos that showed him giving a thumbs-up from his hospital bed and exploring Cleveland.

INDIAN BOY'S EASY SOLUTION TO HANG HEAVY OBJECTS

Dubai, Oct. 24: A sixteen-year-old Indian boy based in the UAE has come up with an innovative solution to hang weighted items from the wall without drilling holes, as part of a school assignment, which has now become a business idea for his family, according to a media report.

Ishir, a student of GEMS World Academy in Dubai, had to submit an innovative project for his Grade 10 International Baccalaureate (IB) course when he noticed how walls get damaged when nails are drilled into them, the *Khaleej Times* reported. "While screw and nails have been in use since time immemorial, they pose problems for people on a daily basis such as damage to walls, outsourcing labour, dust pollution and other dangers of drilling," Ishir told the daily, adding that he wanted a non-intrusive solution to this issue.

Though Ishir had a fair idea as to how he wanted to execute the project, he reached out to his elder brother Avik, an engineering student at Purdue University in the US, for further guidance.

Biden promises free vaccine for everyone in US if elected

Biden slams Trump for his policies to combat Covid pandemic

Washington, Oct. 24: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that if elected as president in the November 3 election, he will ensure free Covid-19 vaccination for all Americans, laying out his pandemic response plan just days before the US presidential polls.

In a major policy speech on the Coronavirus in his home state of Delaware, Biden on Friday played US President Donald Trump for his policies to combat the Coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 2,23,995 people and has had a devastating impact on the country's economy.

"President Trump said we're rounding the corner, it's going away, we're learning to live with it. They are quotes. But as I told him last night, we're not learning to live with it. We're learning to die with it. This is a dark winter ahead," Biden, 77, said.

Already more than 2,20,000 people in the US have lost their lives to this virus. Worse yet, a new study from Columbia University suggests that anywhere between 1,30,000 and 2,10,000 of those deaths were avoidable, he said.

"Once we have a safe and effective vaccine, it has to be free to everyone, whether or not you're insured," the former vice president said. He said that if elected, he would direct the federal government to "bulk-purchase as many doses as necessary of the Covid-19 vaccine so we can provide it free to those who are uninsured, underinsured or Medicaid-eligible."

"Covid-19 dwarfs anything we've faced in recent history and it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. The



Jeremy Bines, choir director of the Deutsche Oper, and singers from the choirs of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the choir soloists of the Komische Oper Berlin and the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin sing with protective face masks during an acappella demo concert #KulturVerbindetAlle (Culture brings all together) at the Gendarmenmarkt on Saturday. — AFP

US sets infection record as fatalities near 2,24,000

Boise (US), Oct. 24: The US Coronavirus caseload has reached record heights with more than 83,000 infections reported in a single day, the latest ominous sign of the disease's grip on the nation, as states from Connecticut to the Rocky Mountain West reel under the surge.

The US death toll, meanwhile, has grown to

2,23,995, according to the Covid-19 Dashboard published by Johns Hopkins University. The total U.S. caseload reported on the site Friday was 83,757, topping the 77,362 cases reported on July 16.

The impact is being felt in every section of the country — a lockdown starting on Friday at the Oglala Sioux Tribe's reser-

vation in South Dakota, a plea by a Florida health official for a halt to children's birthday parties, dire warnings from Utah's governor, and an increasingly desperate situation at a hospital in northern Idaho, which is running out of space for patients and considering airlifts to Seattle or Portland, Oregon. — AP

not have a plan to fight the coronavirus, Biden said the longer he is the president, the "more reckless" he gets. — PTI

EU, W.H.O. SOUND ALARM AS VIRUS CASES SURGE

Stockholm, Oct. 24: The European Union's disease control agency has joined frantic health workers to sound the alarm over a Coronavirus surge across the continent, as the World Health Organisation warned of an "exponential" rise in infections.

Even countries that avoided severe outbreaks during Europe's first wave of contagion in the spring have watched their case numbers surge, with Germany's death toll passing 10,000 on Saturday. Governments have reintroduced containment measures to slow the renewed spread of the virus in nations that only weeks earlier believed they had triumphed over the crisis.

POLAND'S PREZ TESTS COVID POSITIVE: AIDE

Warsaw, Oct. 24: Poland's President Andrzej Duda has tested positive for Coronavirus, an aide said on Saturday, as the EU country faces a record rise in cases and mass protests despite a ban on public gatherings intended to stem infections.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, as recommended President @AndrzejDuda was tested yesterday for the presence of Coronavirus. The result turned out to be positive. The president is fine," Blaziej Spychalski, secretary of state in the president's office, said on Twitter. — AFP

Ethiopia says will not 'cave in' after Trump slams dam

Addis Ababa, Oct. 24: Ethiopia vowed on Saturday not to "cave in to aggressions of any kind" after US President Donald Trump lashed out over the country's Nile River megadam and suggested Egypt might destroy it.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office defended the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, set to become Africa's largest hydropower plant, and said Ethiopia was working to resolve longstanding issues over the project with downstream neighbours Sudan and Egypt.

"Nonetheless, occasional statements of belligerent threats to have Ethiopia succumb to unfair terms still abound. These threats and affronts to Ethiopian sovereignty are misguided, unproductive, and clear violations of international law," his office said in a statement.

"Ethiopia will not cave in to aggressions of any kind," the statement added. A separate version of the statement issued in Amharic featured more muscular language.

"There are two facts that the world has certified. The first is that there has been no one who has lived in peace after provoking Ethiopia. The second is if Ethiopians stand united for one purpose, it's inevitable, they will triumph," it said.

Abiy's office did not explicitly mention Trump, but its statement came the morning after the US president weighed in on the dam dispute in support of Egypt.

"It's a very dangerous situation because Egypt is not going to be able to live that way," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office Friday during a ceremony marking a breakthrough normal-

INDO-AMERICANS STAND WITH BIDEN, CALL TRUMP 'FOE'

Washington, Oct. 24: Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris have the best understanding of the Indian-American community, the diaspora leaders supporting the two Democratic candidates have said, describing US President Donald Trump as a "foe" who criticises India on the world stage.

With less than a fortnight to go for the November 3 presidential election, Indian-Americans on Friday asserted that Biden, first as a US Senator and thereafter as the vice president, has a strong track record of helping the community. Trump, a Republican, is being challenged by Biden in the US presidential election.

"After four years of the Trump administration, we know our children and grandchildren will not have the same opportunities as we had. We need a leader who understands our community, our values, our pride and appreciates our hard work and gives equal opportunity and say in his administration," said Ajay Jain Bhutoria, a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur.

Bhutoria said that Biden and Harris are the leaders who will lead the country out of this mess and restore its soul, revive the middle-class economy and re-establish America's leadership on the world stage and best relationship with India.

— PTI

isation deal between Israel and Sudan. — AFP

GAMES

MOTO GP

Honda's Nakagami clinches first pole

Alicaniz, Spain: Japanese rider Takaaki Nakagami grabbed his maiden MotoGP pole position for Sunday's Teruel Grand Prix, while championship leader Joan Mir could only qualify in 12th place on Saturday.

The 28-year-old Nakagami, who signed a new deal with Honda's satellite team earlier this week, posted a fastest lap of one minute and 46.882 seconds.

"It's an incredible feeling. Everything is going pretty well so far," he said. Italian Franco Morbidelli, who was quickest in practice, qualified second, just 0.063 seconds slower, as Alex Rins rounded out the front row. Of the four likely world title contenders, Spaniard Maverick Vinales qualified best.

The Yamaha man will start the race on the second row after qualifying fourth, 0.359 seconds slower than Nakagami.

Frenchman Fabio Quatararo, who trails Mir by six points at the top of the riders' standings, will also start on the second row, in sixth.

Vinales sits third in the championship, a further six points behind, with Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso 15 points adrift of Mir in fourth. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Chennai Super Kings from 3.30 pm; Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Southampton vs Everton from 7.30 pm; Wolverhampton vs Newcastle from 10 pm; Arsenal vs Leicester from 12.45 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

FORMULA ONE

Portuguese Grand Prix: Main Race from 6.35 pm on Star Sports 3, 2 HD

WWE

Hell in A Cell: Bouts from 4.30 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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Varunaway victory

Chakravarthy's fiver demolishes DC as KKR win big

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 24: Leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy dished out the best bowling performance of this IPL with a five-for after his batting colleagues stepped up in style as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by 59 runs here on Saturday.

Promoted to open the innings, Nitish Rana revelled in his new role as he overcame a personal tragedy to smash a whirlwind 81 and shared a game-changing 115-run stand with Sunil Narine (64) to lift KKR to an imposing 194/6 after being put in to bat.

Chasing a stiff target, Chakravarthy (5/20) and Pat Cummins (3/17) gave the DC batsmen a torrid time to restrict them to 135 for 9 in 20 overs.

Cummins gave a perfect start, dismissing both the openers Ajinkya Rahane (6) and in-form Shikhar Dhawan (6) in his first two overs.

Then Chakravarthy played the finisher's act in the back-end of the innings to choke the DC run chase.

Coming on the back of a horror batting show against Royal Challengers Bangalore when they crumbled to 84/8, KKR ticked all the boxes to keep their playoff hopes alive by securing their sixth win, with three matches left.

For DC, this was their second successive loss but they still maintained the second spot.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer was the top-scorer for DC with 47 as he, along with Rishabh Pant (27), held on after Cummins' twin strike. They took on the opposition attack in the second half but KKR's strategy to press in Chakravarthy paid dividends.

The spinner opened his account after Pant holed out at deep square leg and in his next over he got two in two, dismissing Shimron Hetmyer (10) and Iyer off consecutive balls. — PTI



Varun Chakravarthy of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Shimron Hetmyer of Delhi Capitals during their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubman Gill c Patel b Nortje 9, Nitish Rana c Deshpande b Stoinis 81, Rahul Tripathi b Nortje 13, Dinesh Karthik c Pant b Rabada 3, Sunil Narine c Rahane b Rabada 64, Eoin Morgan c Rabada b Stoinis 17, Pat Cummins (not out) 0. Extras (LB-1, W-6) 7. **Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 194.** FoW: 1-11, 2-35, 3-42, 4-157, 5-194, 6-194.

Bowling: Tushar Deshpande 4-0-40-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-27-2, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-33-2, Axar Patel 1-0-7-0, Marcus Stoinis 4-0-41-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-0-45-0.

Delhi Capitals: Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Cummins 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Cummins 6, Shreyas Iyer c Nagarkoti b Varun 47, Rishabh Pant c Shubman Gill b Varun 27, Shimron Hetmyer c Tripathi b Varun 10, Marcus Stoinis c Tripathi b Varun 6, Axar Patel b Varun 9, Kagiso Rabada c Tripathi b Cummins 9, Ravichandran Ashwin (not out) 14, Tushar Deshpande c Morgan b Ferguson 1, Anrich Nortje (not out) 0, Extras (LB-1, NB-2, W-3) 6. **Total (for 9 wickets in 20 overs) 135.** FoW: 1-0, 2-13, 3-76, 4-95, 5-95, 6-110, 7-112, 8-132, 9-135. **Bowling:** Pat Cummins 4-0-17-3, M Prasidh Krishna 2-0-19-0, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 2-0-11-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-30-1, Sunil Narine 4-0-37-0, C.V. Varun 4-0-20-5.

KXIP thwart SRH in thriller

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab Innings: KL Rahul b Rashid Khan 27, Mandeep Singh c Rashid Khan b Sandeep Sharma 17, Chris Gayle c Warner b Holder 20, Nicholas Pooran not out 32, Glenn Maxwell c David Warner b Sandeep Sharma 12, Deepak Hooda st Jonny Bairstow b Rashid Khan 0, Chris Jordan c Ahmed b Jason Holder 7, Murugan Ashwin run out 4, Ravi Bishnoi not out 0. Extras (B-1, LB-1, W-5) 7. **Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 126.** FoW: 1-37, 2-66, 3-66, 4-85, 5-88, 6-105, 7-110. **Bowling:** Sandeep Sharma 4-0-29-2, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-31-0, Jason Holder 4-0-27-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-14-2, Thangarasu Natarajan 4-0-23-0.

bowlers also produced a clinical performance to restrict Kings XI Punjab to a modest 126 for 7. SRH bowlers responded impressively to their skipper Warner's decision to field first, picking wickets at regular intervals to

control the innings. Kings XI Punjab skipper K.L. Rahul (27), Mandeep Singh (17) and Chris Gayle (20) all got starts but their innings never got going as they failed to grab the momentum. Sunrisers Hyderabad

perfectly planned Gayle's dismissal who came at one down.

They kept the big-hitting batsman quiet for a long time, consistently bowling wide of the off stump and in the process frustrated him. — PTI

RR face MI in a must win game

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 24: Skipper Rohit Sharma's fitness would be a concern for defending champions Mumbai Indians as they aim to continue their dominant run, while a depleted Rajasthan Royals would hope to stay afloat when the two teams clash in an IPL match here on Sunday.

Mumbai roared back to form by crushing Chennai Super Kings by 10 wickets on Friday after their Super Over loss to the Kings XI Punjab. RR, on the other hand, lost to the Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets in their last game.

Table-toppers MI are on course to make it to the play-offs but the game is crucial for Rajasthan, who are languishing at seventh place and a loss would mean a step closer to elimination.

Questions remain on

whether Rohit, who suffered a hamstring injury and missed the game against CSK, will be available on Sunday for MI.

For Rajasthan, the biggest worry is the form of skipper Steve Smith, who has made 265 runs from 11 matches and a misfiring top-order.

In the course of the season, RR have made constant changes at the top and that has hurt them badly.

The team does possess quality players like Ben Stokes (110 runs), Sanju Samson (272 runs) and Jos Buttler (271 runs), but the trio has failed to deliver collectively. With two crucial points at stake, the management would be hoping that the three click on Sunday, something which has not happened this season. — PTI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	10	7	3	0	14	+1.448
Delhi Capitals	11	7	4	0	14	+0.434
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	7	3	0	14	+0.182
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	6	5	0	12	-0.476
Kings XI Punjab	11	5	6	0	10	-0.110
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	4	7	0	8	+0.035
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.620
Chennai Super Kings	11	3	8	0	6	-0.733

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

EMBATTLLED CSK TAKE ON RCB IN SEARCH OF PRIDE

Dubai, Oct. 24: Their house in complete disarray after eight defeats from 11 outings, Chennai Super Kings will look to give their forgettable campaign a semblance of respectability when they take on in-form Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here on Sunday.

CSK, with six points from 11 games, still have a theoretical chance to make it to the playoffs, provided they do not lose any of their remaining three games, improve their net run-rate and all other match results go their way.

The three-time IPL winners have struggled in all departments of the game, leading to heavy criticism towards skipper M.S. Dhoni for not showing enough faith in the youngsters.

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence as the tournament has progressed. Virat Kohli and his men are placed third on the points table with 14 points, the same as the table toppers Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals. — PTI

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