

SHORT TAKES

WELDERS CALLED FAMILY IN SEPTEMBER

FROM PAGE 1

The three workers had called up their family members on September 13 and informed that they were coming back shortly. After that, there was no communication from them till the families were told on September 17 that they had been kidnapped.

The families were glued to their phones for information and relatives, police, officials, and politicians visited their houses daily to pacify them.

B. Sudhakar, Venkata Rao's father, said, "Really, it is a re-birth for my son. Thanks to the government for their timely response. For the last month, we have had hardly any sleep and were constantly looking for information.

Danayya and Venkata Rao are relatives," said Jogarao's father, Gandhi.

Thanks to the police, MPs and ministers who regularly monitored with the government and also visited our families, he added.

ENSURE PIPED WATER IN SCHOOLS: GUV

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan directed officials to expedite supply of piped water to schools and anganwadi centres under Jal Jeevan Mission in the state.

The Governor reviewed the implementation of the 100 days campaign under Jal Jeevan Mission with Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney and other senior officials through a video link on Monday.

He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Mission in all the States and Union Territories on October 2 to ensure piped water to schools and AWCs so that children stay healthy.

He explained that 'Har Ghar Jal' was intended to provide safe and adequate potable water through taps in every household as children were vulnerable to water-borne diseases like typhoid, dysentery, diarrhea and cholera. He said that consumption of potable water would help avoid such health problems.

NO ONE IS ABOVE LAW: CHIEF WHIP SRIKANTH REDDY

NAGESWARA RAO BALLED I
DC
KADAPA, OCT. 12

Government Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy on Monday stated that the government, administration and judiciary must be treated impartially and none was above the other.

Speaking to the media in Rayachoti, he said a recent development was being blown out of proportion while no part of the system can work unilaterally and against the interests of the people. He said that no one was above law and justice should prevail irrespective of the stature of the individual.

He said a man who served as Advocate General was found guilty and the CID filed a case against him. The son of a Chief Justice was accused of violating the law, he said.

He wanted to know if it was right to issue a gag order when things point at criminal manipulations.

He said people should have the power to question when the Prime Minister or a Chief Minister commit mistakes. Why should someone fear when there is talk of inquiry, he asked.

FARMERS TOLD NOT TO GROW TOBACCO

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC
ELURU, OCT. 12

Housing minister, Cherukuvada Srranganatha Raju, said that the farmers should be weaned away from tobacco crop cultivation and encouraged to raise alternative crops.

Participating in the agriculture advisory board meeting held here on Monday, Raju said that there was no demand for tobacco world-wide as governments were not encouraging tobacco products in view of people's health and India is also discouraging the crop.

Indian tobacco is decreasing and over-dependence of tobacco as a commercial crop is not advisable, said Mr Raju.

Cargo-handling ops halted in Kakinada

All reservoirs and lakes were full to the brim and fields were inundated with rainwaters

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, OCT. 12

Incessant rains due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal disrupted normal life on Monday in East and West Godavari districts and cargo-handling operations were halted in both the deep water as well as the anchorage port on the Kakinada coast.

Twenty ships in the two ports were stranded. The authorities closed the Kakinada-Uppada beach road to traffic, taking the precautionary step as the sea was rough and the Indian Meteorological Department had predicted that the depression will cross the Kakinada-Yanam coast in the early hours of Tuesday with a wind speed of 55-75 kmph.

All reservoirs and lakes were full to the brim and fields were inundated with rainwaters. Fields under Yeleru ayacut have been inundated for almost one month due to floods and depression. The heavy rains on Sunday and Monday ruined the remaining crops.

The authorities shifted 270 families, including 70 families from hope island and 200 families in Phule colony in Kakinada to safer places and they have been provided shelter in a high school in the city. Two shops in a municipal shopping complex at Peddapuram collapsed due to heavy rains.

East Godavari recorded 5,006.8 mm rainfall with an average of 78.2 mm and Kakinada Urban recorded highest rainfall with 182.6 mm. Roads were flooded, disrupting traffic. People were forced to stay indoors.

According to sources, non-Basmati rice and broken rice, exported to East African countries, were being loaded into eight ships. The heavy rain halted the handling operations and the steel barges were brought back and anchored at the jetties. At the deep water port, cargo like granite, fertiliser, sugar, liquids were being

unloaded but these were also stopped, said an official of the Kakinada Sea Port Limited.

Reservoirs like Yeleru, Pampa, Maddigadda, Subbareddy and others are flowing at full levels and officials discharged surplus waters downstream. At the Dowleswaram barrage, officials discharged 1,63,488 cusecs of surplus water and say that it may

COURT COUNSEL FOUND LEADERS SPARED

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the High Court said that though Advocate-General S. Sriram had agreed to entrust the investigation to other investigating agency, he had raised serious objections on submission of certain documents by the court's counsel N. Ashwani Kumar pertaining to statements made by the Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram, Deputy CM K. Narayana Swamy and MP V. Vijaya Sai Reddy on the ground that they were not arrayed as parties in the writ petition nor those facts were corroborated.

Ashwini Kumar, in his petition submitted earlier, mentioned that the CID was taking a different stand in cases related to attack on the High Court and its judges. He said that in case of any offensive posts against the government, CID was registering FIRs and arresting the accused immediately.

He stated that in case of posts against the High Court, the CID added only a few persons as accused in FIRs, while trying to shield or save accused persons who are influential.

BUGGANA SEEKS EARLY RELEASE OF IGST ARREARS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Minister for finance Buggana Rajendranath appealed to the Centre to release arrears of Integrated Goods and Service Tax at an early date.

The minister took part in the 42nd GST Council meet held virtually from New Delhi chaired by the Union minister for finance Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.



Motorists have a tough-time to move on the road as a huge branch of a tree fell due to depression over the Bay of Bengal in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

WOMAN WASHED AWAY IN RIVULET

Kadapa: Rajeshwari, a woman from Dappelpalli village in Lakkireddypalli mandal of Kadapa district, got washed away in a rivulet that she was crossing on Sunday evening. There have been heavy rains since past two days in the district because of

which all rivulets are in flood. Villagers and relatives of Rajeshwari searched for her but could not find her anywhere. Her body was found floating in an irrigation tank near the village on Monday morning.

Police have filed a case.

Police have filed a case.

Farmers complete 300 days stir

DC CORRESPONDENTS
VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA/
KADAPA, OCT. 12

A large number of farmers and farm labourers staged protests in several villages falling under Amaravati region marking the completion of 300 days of their ongoing campaign against the state government's move to set up three capitals on Monday.

The farmers staged relay protests and raised slogans in favour of retaining Amaravati as the capital city for AP as the present YSR Congress government proposed legislation to relocate administrative and judicial capitals in Visakhapatnam and Kurnool respectively while allowing Amaravati to be the legislative capital.

TD MLC Nara Lokesh visited capital city villages like Penumaka, Yerrabalem, Krishnapalem and others to mark the completion of 300 days of protests by the farmers. He thanked especially the farmers, women and the

youth, who were relentlessly continuing their protest seeking Amaravati to be the capital city for AP despite being implicated in police cases, arrests and humiliation.

He turned critical of the Chief Minister Y.S. JaganMohan Reddy for reneging on his word to support Amaravati as the capital city for AP and alleged that the CM was trying to take revenge against the former CM and his father N. Chandrababu Naidu by relocating it.

Referring to the allegations of insider trading



TD leader and MLC Nara Lokesh addresses the farmers at Mandadam in Guntur district on Monday.

— TEJO ROY ELETIC

and attribution of caste in development of Amaravati, he said that the YSR Congress government had failed to prove its charges and slammed the government for failing to take up developmental works in the state.

He found fault with the CM for failing to pay a visit to Amaravati even as 92 farmers had sacrificed their lives for the capital city. He reiterated that they were committed for Amaravati to be the capital city for AP for comprehensive development of the state.

In Rajahmundry, mem-

bers of Amaravati Parirakshana Samiti joint action committee staged a protest at Kotipalli Bus Stand Centre. Rajahmundry rural MLA

Buchalaiah Choudhary called upon the CM to give up his three capitals as a large number of people were staging protests against relocation of the capital city from Amaravati for the last 300 days and demanded justice to them.

In Kakinada, political JAC member Gadula Saibaba flayed the state government for attributing caste to the ongoing aviation by the people at Amaravati.

In Kadapa, local TD leaders staged a protest at Sub Collector's office. They submitted a representation to the Sub Collector, seeking continuation of Amaravati as AP's capital city. Several leaders including Govardhan Reddy, Pothuganti Peeraya, Janardhan and Yatagiri Ram Prasad laid stress on the part of the state government to develop Amaravati as the capital.

11 CONTROL ROOMS SET UP IN PRAKASAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, OCT. 12

In view of the rain warning in coastal Andhra Pradesh, revenue officials advised fisherfolk to avoid venturing into the sea in Prakasam district.

Control rooms have been established at 11 coastal mandals and rehabilitation centres are being readied to deal with any eventuality.

Revenue divisional officer of Ongole, Prabhakar Reddy, said they have set up a control room at the RDO office.

Boulders crash into house, 2 die

K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 12

Boulders crashed into a small asbestos house on the foothills in Gajuwaka instantly killing a pregnant woman and her three-year-old son.

The boulders slipped due to heavy rain caused by the depression in the Bay of Bengal. The incident took place on Sunday night when the family was asleep. Two more persons of the same family sustained injuries.

The deceased were identified as Ramalakshmi, said to be in an advanced state of pregnancy and her son, Gnaneswar.

The police, with the support of fire service personnel and local people, retrieved the bodies from the spot and shifted them to the government hospital morgue for post-mortem. The injured persons were taken to a nearby private hospital for treatment. Heavy rains have been lashing parts of Vizag city since Sunday.

In December 2015, four people belonging to two families were crushed to death when a huge boulder broke off from the hill abutting their house at Sanjeevaiah Nagar Colony of the Thatichetlapalem area in Vizag City following heavy rain.

Land shrinks in CK Dinne mandal

NAGESWARA RAO
BALLEDA I DC
KADAPA, OCT. 12

A 20-metre deep ditch was formed due to the heavy rains at a farm near Bhirkakhan village in Chintakommandine (CK Dinne) mandal of Kadapa district on Monday.

Trenches have been formed in the area several times in the past.

Farmers who went to their fields on Monday morning noticed the huge pit that was filled with water. There were continuous rains for the past two days and the land was soaking wet.

On August 25, 2019, there was a 100-foot pit formed at Ippapenta village in CK Dinne mandal. Mining and geology department officials and scientists had inspected the spot and said there were huge



deposits of limestone reserves.

The limestone layer undergoes a chemical reaction when rain falls in the area. When acidic rain falls limestone reacts to the acid forming precipitations, they said. Due to certain factors, voids can be formed. It is unavoidable and farmers and nearby villagers were advised to be cautious.

CM holds review meet on power

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I
DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed officials to ensure quality and uninterrupted nine-hour power supply to farmers during daytime to help them raise crops in the state.

He held a review meeting on free power supply to farmers with the minister for energy Balineni Srinivasa Reddy and senior officials here on Monday. He laid stress on bringing awareness among farmers that they would not be charged even after fixing electric metres to their pump sets.

Explaining about the benefits of fixing metres to agriculture pump sets, remittance of power bill amounts directly into the bank accounts of farmers, who in turn, would pay to Discoms, he felt the need to highlight such issues for the benefit to farmers and people. He

● The CM laid stress on bringing awareness among farmers that they would not be charged even after fixing metres

also called for dispelling apprehensions about free power supply.

He directed officials to maintain ISI standards for power transformers, electric metres, motors and capacitors and asked them to approach Central agency Energy Efficiency Services Limited.

Meanwhile, the officials informed that they had informed farmers that they would not face any financial burden for fixing of electric metres to their pump sets and said that they have trained 14,353 linemen.

The officials said that they had prepared bid documents for installation of 10,000 MP solar power plants and assured that once the judicial preview was over, they would call for tenders.

PARTY | TIME Russian women hosting VIP parties is quite common these days, says Raghu

MP confirms woman served him champagne

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

YSR Congress rebel MP Raghu Ramakrishna Raju once again courted a controversy when a photo, shot at a private party, showing a Russian lady pouring champagne in his mouth, went viral on social media.

The Narasapuram MP gave a clarification on this while addressing media-persons in New Delhi on Monday. He confirmed that it was him in the picture and the photograph was taken about two or three years back at a private party either in Kolkata or Hyderabad.

Mr Raju said, "An MP from the Telugu states hosted a party for his son.

I graced the party along with several other politicians. The picture was taken when everyone was in a partying mood. Many politicians drank champagne served by the Russian," he added.

Maintaining that there is nothing wrong in the picture as Russian women hosting VIP parties is quite common these days, he clarified that champagne is not alcohol and he did not drink any cheap liquor sold by the YSRC government.

"I have forwarded this photo to more than 500 people in the past. I think Subba Reddy or some other critic of mine could have circulated the picture now to malign my name. What's the big deal in it? I did nothing wrong," he



said.

The MP claimed that he has been receiving abusive messages on WhatsApp

and had seen abusive posts on social media against him. "YSRC supporters having profile pictures of

A file photo of Russian woman pouring champagne in the mouth of the MP Raghu Ramakrishna Raju gone viral on social media.

minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and MP Avinash Reddy have been sharing the photo with abusive comments against me. I have saved those profiles and contact numbers of people, who may be 'devotees' of YSRC leaders, and filed a police complaint against them," he added.

Alleging that there is no law and order in AP, he said that he had filed a police complaint, hoping that police will take strict action against those who posted abusive comments against him. He also said that he will approach the Delhi police, as the incidents happened when he was in the national capital and they will take stern action against those who abused him on WhatsApp and

social media. When *Deccan Chronicle* contacted a couple of YSRC MPs for their reaction to the photo, they refused to comment. The photo, however, garnered trolls and reactions by netizens across AP.

People took to the micro-blogging site and shared it with funny captions. A user wrote in Telugu on MPs recent Facebook post: "Sir, miru Delhi nunchi vechepudu oka full bottle thisukuni randi", which means "Sir, bring a full bottle when you are coming from Delhi".

Another user also dared the MP to resign for his post and re-contest from his constituency. The user also exuded confidence that he would defeat Ramakrishna Raju.

IN BRIEF

5-day QFCI convention begins

Visakhapatnam: Director (Operations), RINL, AK Saxena, inaugurated the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) Visakhapatnam chapter's 20th chapter Convention on Quality Concepts (Digital form) on Monday. Mr Saxena stressed the need and importance of small group activities, including quality circles, 5-S, lean, and six sigma. The theme of this five-day convention is "Developing Self Reliant India through Quality Concepts". Over 450 delegates from around 65 quality circle teams from different industries participated in the virtual convention. Director (Projects), RINL and Chairman, Vizag Chapter of QCFI K.K. Ghosh highlighted the growth of the chapter and the success and patronage the convention has been receiving over the

Sirimanu fete: Tree cutting ritual starts

Visakhapatnam: The first ritual of the Sri Pyditalli Ammavari, the presiding deity of Vizianagaram, Sirimontotsavam was performed to the identified 30 ft tree in Balarampuram village in Jami mandal on Monday. Sirimontotsavam is one of the biggest festivals in the north coastal region. The temple priests would select a big tree in the district every year and after performing special prayers, the tree would be cut and a 30 ft wood log would be made as Sirimanu. This year, the tree identified in Balarampuram village in Jami mandal. Temple priest Bantupalli Venkata Rao along with the other performed special rituals. Later, he directed some of the villagers to cut the tree. Vizianagaram MP B. Chandrasekhar, MLAs K. Veerabhadra Swami, B. Appalarasayya, Joint Collector J. Venkata Rao, and several other officials and elected representatives were present. After cutting the tree, it was shifted to Vizianagaram and would be made as Sirimanu for the three-day festival to be held from October 27.

■ The priests would select a big tree in the district every year and cut it into a 30-ft log

No Corona to protest



Students, under the aegis of SFI, stage protest against the government demanding abolishing the degree examination in the wake of the pandemic, outside the AU Registrar Office in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

— P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

Covid-19: AP records 3,224 cases in 24 hours

Over 1,24,171 samples were tested for 1 mn population

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Andhra Pradesh recorded a steep fall in the fresh Covid-19 positive cases on Monday. Over 3,224 Covid cases were registered against the average cases of over 5,000 per day in the last few days.

The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin here this morning stating that out of 61,112 samples tested, 3,224 individuals tested positive taking the tally to 7,58,951 and 32 deaths increasing the toll to 6,256 in the last 24 hours.

The state tested 66,30,728 samples so far and of them, 7,08,712 patients have been discharged after recovery while 43,983 are still

active cases with the virus.

Among the fresh Coronavirus cases, East Godavari has registered 547 followed by 489 in West Godavari, 379 in Guntur, 293 in Chittoor, 270 in Prakasam, 209 in Anantapur, 191 in Vizianagaram, 190 in Kadapa, 166 in Nellore, 136 in Kurnool, 135 in Visakhapatnam, 133 in Srikakulam and 86 in Krishna.

With regard to the cumulative cases, East Godavari continues to lead with the highest number of 1,06,590 followed by 75,489 in West Godavari, 70,615 in Chittoor, 61,156 in Anantapur, 60,221 in Guntur, 58,241 in Kurnool, 56,844 in Nellore, 54,658 in Prakasam, 52,651 in

Visakhapatnam, 48,209 in Kadapa, 41,381 in Srikakulam, 37,515 in Vizianagaram, 32,036 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery of the Covid-19 patients has also been good in East Godavari with 98,608 followed by 69,351 in West Godavari, 64,060 in Chittoor, 58,861 in Anantapur, 56,378 in Kurnool, 54,924 in Nellore, 54,902 in Guntur, 50,377 in Prakasam, 49,654 in Visakhapatnam, 44,531 in Kadapa, 39,861 in Srikakulam, 35,377 in Vizianagaram, 28,933 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

With regard to the deaths registered in the last 24 hours, Krishna

and Prakasam have registered five deaths each followed by four each in Guntur and Kadapa, three each in Anantapur and East Godavari, two each in Chittoor and West Godavari and one each in Kurnool, Nellore, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam.

Chittoor has registered the highest number of cumulative deaths of Covid-19 patients at 707 followed by 571 in East Godavari, 564 in Guntur, 536 in Prakasam, 527 in Anantapur, 498 in Krishna, 478 in Kurnool, 474 each in Visakhapatnam and West Godavari, 472 in Nellore, 400 in Kadapa, 331 in Srikakulam, and 224 in Vizianagaram. Over 5,504 patients were discharged.

Arrangements peak for Tirumala Brahmotsavams

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

With just three days left for mega Navaratri brahmotsavams at the world-renowned hill temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala, arrangements being made have reached their peak level.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is making all efforts to ensure that devotees visiting the hill town during brahmotsavams have darshan of the Lord without any hassles, while strictly adhering to Covid-19 protocol. The newly appointed TTD executive officer K. S. Jawahar Reddy, additional executive officer A.V. Dharma Reddy, and chief vigilance and security officer Gopinath Jatti are continuously reviewing the ongoing arrangements at Tirumala.

Unlike the annual brahmotsavams last month, which were conducted in Ekantham (solitude) due to Covid-19 restrictions, TTD has decided to take out the procession in the four mada streets during vahana sevass. However, only a limited number of

pilgrims with darshan tickets will be allowed in the galleries.

As these Brahmotsavams will be over nine days, there will be rigorous thermal screening. Foot-operated sanitisers have been kept in place at all galleries around the mada streets. TTD has decided to deploy only a limited number of security personnel and Srivari Seva volunteers, as there will be limited number of Bhajans and cultural programmes before vahana sevass. The number of pilgrims will also be less.

While the Annaprashadam wing is making necessary arrangements for continuously serving food to visiting devotees, the temple potu is building enough stock of laddus for distribution to devotees during the nine-day event.

Navaratri brahmotsavams will start with Ankuraranam on Thursday between 7 pm and 8 pm. Morning Vahana Sevass will be from 8 am to 10 am while the evening sevass will be between 7 pm and 9 pm, including the Garuda Seva on October 20. Bangaru Tiruchi Utsavam will be on October 16 from 9 am to 11 am, followed by

Pedda Sesha Vahanam between 7 pm and 9 pm. On Day II, October 17, Chinna Sesha Vahanam programme will be in the morning and Hamsa Vahanam in the evening, followed by Simha Vahana and Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanam on October 18, Kalpavruksha Vahanam and Sarvabhoopala Vahanam on October 19.

The most important day of the brahmotsavams, October 20, will have Mohini Avataram and auspicious Garuda Vahana Seva from 7 pm. Hanumantha Vahana, Pushpaka Vimanam and Gaja Vahanam will be on October 21, Surya Prabha and Chandra Prabha Vahanams on October 22, and Swarna Rathotsavam and Aswa Vahanam on October 23. The brahmotsavams will conclude on October 24 with Pallaki and Tiruchi Utsavam from 3 am to 5 am, Snapana Tirumanjanam and Chakra Snanam between 6 am and 9 am and Bangaru Tiruchi Utsavam in the evening. Arrangements are also made being for floral and photo exhibitions at Kalyana Vedika.

18.57L KG VEGGIES GIVEN TO BALAJI SHRINE

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

TTD Additional EO Mr A.V. Dharma Reddy informed that about 18.57 lakh kilos of vegetables had been donated at free of cost to TTD by the vegetable donors in the year 2019-20, while this year due to COVID-19 restrictions only 1.65 lakh kilos of vegetables were donated till September.

Speaking during a meeting held with vegetable donors at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Monday, the Additional EO said that the vegetable donors have been rendering incredible service to the devotees of Lord Venkateswara by donating varieties of vegetables for the preparation of Annaprashadam since 2004.

"This year due to the COVID-19 restrictions, only 1.65 lakh kilos of vegetables were donated until September. The donors, however, have agreed to provide a variety of vegetables during the Navaratri brahmotsavams slated to take place between October 16 to 24. The devotees coming for brahmotsavams will get quality and delicious Annaprashadam every day," he added.

DyEO of Anna Prasadam Nagaraja, Catering Officer G.L.N. Shastri, AEO Lokanatham, vegetable donors from the states of AP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were also present.

TD may not to contest against Balli family

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, OCT. 12

All eyes are on the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat, which has fallen vacant because of the sudden demise of the sitting YSRC member Balli Durga Prasad.

Though TD is projecting that they are gearing up for the by-election, the party may not enter the fray if the seat is given to any family member of Durga Prasad, reliable sources in the party told this newspaper.

However, TD would extend its support to the nominee of BJP if the saffron party decides to field a candidate for the segment, the sources said, pointing out that the TD bigwigs wish to be in the good books of the BJP top brass.

Durga Prasad was earlier a four-time TD MLA from Gudur. On being denied a ticket, he jumped over to YSRC on whose ticket he won the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat defeating former union minister Panabaka Lakshmi in the 2019 general elections.

Incidentally, she will be in the fray if TD decides to

contest going by the recent announcement of TD boss N Chandrababu Naidu. Further senior leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy told party men to prepare for the Tirupati Lok Sabha by-election.

During Sunday's meeting with party in-charge for the seat, Narasimulu Yadav and convener Ugra Narasimha Reddy, Chandramohan Reddy instructed in-charges of all the Assembly segments to strengthen the party base from the grass-root level.

Speaking to this newspaper, he said that they are gearing up for the by-election as per the directions of the party high command.

Meanwhile, sources close to Balli Durga Prasad family said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has promised the ticket to the family and left the choice of selecting a candidate to Durga Prasad's widow, Saralamma. She has to choose between sons Kalyan and Karthik or daughter Haritha.

A YSRC leader said that the family is likely to nominate Kalyan, an engineering graduate.

Seaward artillery practice to be held at Suryalanka

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 12

Seaward artillery practices over Suryalanka area to be held from Nov. 23 to Dec. 4, 2020.

The state government issued GO MS No. 97 dated 15-09-2020, according permission to carry out operational training of SAGW

units of Indian Air Force Station, Suryalanka in Bapatla mandal in Guntur district from 06.00 hrs to 22.00 hrs.

The areas extending up to 100 kms from the firing points are unsafe.

The Union ministry of defence (Navy Wing) is taking up training programme.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on [@SCRRailwaysIndia](#)
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

Open e-Tender Notice No. : C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/331
8332/2020-21/26,
Dated : 12-10-2020.

E-Tenders from the experienced Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Sl.No. : 1. Tender Number & Date : C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/331, Dated : 12-10-2020. Description of Work : Cleaning of HL Bay, ML Bay, LL Bay and inspection Bay and administrative building and disposal of scrap / garbage and upkeep of Electric Loco Shed, Lallaguda Premises for a period of 2 years. Tender Value Rs. : 90,05,954.73. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 1,80,100/-. Cost of Tender Form : Nil. Completion Period : 24 Months. Date & Time of Closing & Opening : 06-11-2020 15:00 hours & 06-11-2020 15:15 hours.

Sl.No. : 2. Tender Number & Date : C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/332, Dated : 12-10-2020. Description of Work : Management of Locomax System at ELS/LGD for a period of 2 years. Tender Value Rs. : 51,63,431.61. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 1,03,300/-. Cost of Tender Form : 5,000/-. Completion Period : 24 Months. Date & Time of Closing & Opening : 06-11-2020 15:00 hours & 06-11-2020 15:15 hours.

Validity of offer : 63 days from the date of opening of tender.

Submission of tender document : through IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in".

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, ELS, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

E-Tender Notice No. : 349/DRM/W/GNT of Dated : 09-10-2020

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30 hours of 03-11-2020.

Sl. No. 1. Tender Id : 2347. Sr.DEN/DEN : N. Description of Work : Safety related Track Maintenance works in ADEN / Nalgonda Section. Approximate Value in Rs. : 1,39,13,698/-. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 2,19,600/-.

Sl. No. 2. Tender Id : 2348. Sr.DEN/DEN : N. Description of Work : Safety related Track Maintenance works in ADEN / North / Guntur Section. Approximate Value in Rs. : 1,90,48,025/-. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 2,45,200/-.

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15:30 hours of 03-11-2020. For detailed information login to website www.ireps.gov.in.

2. Any further Communication / Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager, A1143 (Works), Guntur.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](#) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

NEW SP FOR ANTI-SMUGGLING TASKFORCE

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, OCT. 12

G. Anjaneyulu, who assumed charge as the Superintendent of Police for the AP Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling taskforce, assured that he would strive hard to curb the red sanders smuggling activity in the Seshachalam forests.

He assumed charge as the SP of the task force at its office headquartered in Tirupathi on Monday.

The task force SP said, "I will strive hard to train and strengthen the task force team for special combing operations to protect precious red sanders in Seshachalam forests."

"We will coordinate and take support from the police and forest departments to prevent smugglers from entering into the forest area. The task-force department will be upgraded with technical intervention and we will ensure safety and security of the task force personnel participating in the combing operations," he maintained.

Taskforce DSP Venkataiah, RI Bhaskar, Ravi Kumar, CI Subrahmanyam and others met the SP in his office and congratulated him.

SAFETY | FIRST

As per the rules, Vizag port is not allowed to store nitrate

No unloading of ammonium nitrate at Vizag

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 12

The revenue and police department issued notices to Visakhapatnam port trust not to allow the berthing of four ships carrying ammonium nitrate.

The RDO issued the notice under section 133 for maintenance of tranquillity in the Visakhapatnam port area. A note from the assistant commissioner

of police, harbour division, T. Mohan Rao, said that in view of precautionary measures to safeguard human life and both public and private properties, ammonium nitrate is strictly restricted to the limits harbour subdivision as it was necessary to prevent untoward incidents and in the interest of the safety of citizens of Vizag city and AP.

Since the trade is injurious to public health and

public property, the VPT authorities are requested not to allow the merchant vessel, Kraszewski, transporting 20,041 tonne of ammonium nitrate in bags to unload at EQ-06 berth in Visakhapatnam Port.

Announcing the promulgation order under section 144 Cr PC to prevent the movement of vessels of ammonium nitrate, which is highly explosive substance, Rao said these orders will be in force

from October 11 till October 31.

A senior port official also confirmed that there would be no berthing of ammonium nitrate ships at Visakhapatnam port. Earlier, the petroleum and explosives safety organisation gave permission to importers to get the ammonium nitrate unloaded and evacuate it from the port premises without loss of time.

As per ammonium

nitrate 2012 rules, Visakhapatnam port is not allowed to store nitrate.

Krasezewski, carrying the Cyprus flag, was anchored on the high seas since August 11 and East Ayuthaya, carrying the Thailand flag, with 14,000 tons of nitrate, arrived on August 29. The third vessel, Diana, carrying 10,000 tons of nitrate arrived on September 9. All the three ships loaded nitrate at Ukraine port.

Currency racket busted: 8 arrested

VADREVV Srinivas | DC KAKINADA, OCT. 12

East Godavari Police arrested eight persons in two separate incidents for circulating fake currency notes in Tallarevu and Ambajipet mandals on Monday and seized ₹91,74,500 fake currency notes from them.

Superintendent of Police

Adnan Nayeem Asmi told reporters that Korangi police arrested Dangeti Srinivasa Rao, 52, Dangeti Venkata Brahmajee, 26, of Georgepet, Dommeti Dasaradha Ramudu of Pottigondhi village in Tallarevu mandal, Undru Chinnavallu of Pottigondhi village and Puliyat Ramkumar of Sirgindalapadu of

Ramachandrapuram mandal and seized ₹88,74,500 fake currency notes from their victim.

There were 4,211 ₹2,000 notes and 905 ₹500 notes besides which were a CPU, monitor and a colour printer and a Panchaloha idol of Nagadevatha.

He said that Srinivasa Rao made fake currency, kept them in the middle of

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LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

I **BALUTHI NAGA SRINIVAS**, S/o B.Venkata Durga Rao, R/o D.No.30-20-5A/1, Seetharampuram, Vijayawada, Krishna District, AP, India. That I having Property Doc.No.3023/2011, Dt.31.03.2011, SRO Vijayawada and Document No.5982/2006 Dt.06.04.2006. I lost my original Documents on 03-10-2020, at Photostat center for taking photostat at Civil Courts, Government, Vijayawada. It was lost by me. If anybody found it please inform to the above address.

(CA/VJ-20/21-00092)

IN BRIEF

Lanka suspends expatriates rescue

Colombo: Sri Lankan officials say they have suspended bringing back expatriates stranded overseas due to the Coronavirus because the country's quarantine facilities are full. Army Commander Shavendra Silva, who heads the task force to control the pandemic, says Sri Lanka's quarantine facilities have filled up amid a steep rise in Covid-19 patients in the past week. Sri Lanka had earlier announced that it successfully contained the spread of the virus, and no local clusters were reported for two months.

Death penalty for rape in B'desh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Cabinet on Monday approved an increase in the maximum punishment in rape cases to death from life imprisonment after a series of recent sexual assaults triggered protests on streets and in social media.

Cabinet spokesman Khandaker Anwarul Islam said President Abdul Hamid is likely to issue an ordinance amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act because Parliament is not in session. Details of the amendment were not immediately available, but Islam said the Cabinet agreed to a proposal that trials in rape cases be completed in a speedy manner. Under the current law, the maximum punishment in rape cases is life imprisonment, except for cases in which the victim dies, when capital punishment is allowed.

Protesters raze statues in Portland

Portland: Protesters overturned statues of former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln in Portland, Oregon, in a declaration of "rage" toward Columbus Day. Protest organisers on Sunday night dubbed the event "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage," in response to Monday's federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarising figure who Native American advocates have said spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas. The group threw chains around Roosevelt's statue, officially titled "Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider."

Poland defuses WW bomb, shifts 750

Warsaw: Hundreds of people in northwest Poland have been evacuated for a few days to allow Navy sappers to neutralise a British World War II giant Tallboy bomb resting under a waterway leading to the port of Szczecin. The 5.4 tonne bomb was found in Sept. 2019 during work to deepen the waterway. It's located on the southern edge of a popular Baltic Sea resort of Swinoujscie, that, like Szczecin, was a busy Nazi Germany military port during the war. In a defusing project that began on Monday and is expected to last for five days, experts will be seeking to neutralise the Tallboy underwater by causing its explosives to burn out in a controlled way.

CLOTH MASKS NEED DAILY WASH TO CUT VIRUS RISK

Melbourne, Oct. 12: Cloth masks may reduce the transmission of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, only if they are washed daily at high temperatures, according to a study.

"Both cloth masks and surgical masks should be considered 'contaminated' after use," said Professor Raina MacIntyre, from the University of New South Wales in Australia. "Unlike surgical masks, which are disposed of after use, cloth masks are re-used. While it can be tempting to use the same mask for multiple days in a row, or to give it a quick hand-wash or wipe-over, our research suggests that this increases the risk of contamination," MacIntyre said.

The researchers analysed data from a randomised controlled trial (RCT) they published in 2015. The latest study, published in the journal BMJ Open, is still the only RCT ever conducted on the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing viral infections, they said. The researchers did a deep dive into the 2011 data on whether the health workers in their study washed their masks daily, and if so, how they washed their masks. The team found that if cloth masks were washed in the hospital laundry, they were as effective as a surgical mask.

US Supreme Court confirmation hearing



White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows (left) looks on as Judge Amy Coney Barrett arrives to testify at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on her nomination to serve as an associate justice on the US Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. — AFP

Don's task: Resetting campaign that GOP fears is slipping away

Washington, Oct. 12: President Donald Trump is running out of time to recover from a series of self-inflicted setbacks that have rattled his base of support and triggered alarm among Republicans who fear the White House is on the verge of being lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The one-two punch of Trump's Coronavirus diagnosis and his widely panned debate performance also has Republicans worried they could lose control of the Senate. With just over three weeks until Election Day, Senate races in some reliably red states, including South Carolina and Kansas, are competitive, aided by a surge in Democratic fundraising that has put both the Republican Party and Trump's own campaign at an unexpected financial disadvantage.

The president will aim for a reset this week, hoping an aggressive travel schedule and Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation hearings will energise his most loyal supporters and shift attention away from a virus that has killed more than 214,000 Americans on his watch. Optimists in the president's inner circle point to his unique ability to command attention and to his 2016 campaign, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift. But that comeback was aided by outside forces

Trump begins the election trail again

Washington, Oct. 12: US President Donald Trump will launch a campaign marathon on Monday, holding rallies in three key swing states over the next few days as his White House race against surging rival Joe Biden enters its critical final weeks.

The Republican leader will hold a rally in Florida, followed by Pennsylvania and Iowa — states all crucial to clinching a victory on November 3. Trump will likely try to galvanise his electoral base by touting his nominee for Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney Barrett.

The Republican-controlled Senate will begin hearings for the 48-year-old judge, whose confirmation — of which there is little doubt — will shift the nation's highest court firmly to the right for generations.

Trump's doctors gave

him the all-clear Saturday to return to the campaign trail after he was ruled no longer a Coronavirus transmission risk, and on Sunday he said while calling in to a campaign event that he tested "totally negative." But he has yet to be declared virus-free, and his immunity claim is unproven.

"It looks like I'm immune for, I don't know, maybe a long time and maybe a short time, it could be a lifetime, nobody really knows, but I'm immune," Trump said. The word 'immunity' means something, having really a protective glow.

"So now you have a president who doesn't have to hide in a basement like his opponent," Trump added — in a jab at Democratic challenger Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to campaigning during the pandemic. —AFP

against an unpopular opponent.

This year's campaign, other Republicans worry, may instead resemble 1980 or 2008: a close race until, at the end, it decidedly wasn't. "It's not good for my side," said veteran

GOP pollster Whit Ayres. "Pretty obviously, in many ways down-ballot Republicans are in the boat with Donald Trump. That's good for Republicans in deep-red states, but more problematic for those in swing states." —AP

EU weighs in on action against Russia for poisoning Navalny

Brussels, Oct. 12: European Union foreign ministers were weighing on Monday whether to impose sanctions on Russian officials and organisations blamed for the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a Soviet-era nerve agent.

The ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, are considering a proposal from France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from travelling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and spread of chemical weapons.

Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was the victim of a Novichok nerve agent. German Foreign Minister

read of chemical weapons. Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was the victim of a Novichok nerve agent. German Foreign Minister

IRAQI MILITIAS OFFER TRUCE FOR U.S. PULLOUT

Baghdad, Oct. 12: Iraqi militias backed by Iran have agreed to temporarily halt attacks targeting the American presence in Iraq, on the condition that US-led coalition troops withdraw from the country in line with a parliamentary resolution, three militia officials have said.

The militia officials said after a roadside bomb targeted a convoy that was transporting equipment for the US-led coalition, damaging one vehicle, an Iraqi army statement said. The attack on a highway south of Baghdad prompted questions over whether such a truce could hold across all militia factions.

Roadside bombs and in particular rocket attacks targeting the US Embassy in Baghdad — located inside the heavily fortified Green Zone — have become a frequent occurrence and have strained ties between Washington and Baghdad. The militia factions offered a truce and will refrain from targeting the US in Iraq, including the embassy, on the condition that all American-led forces withdraw within an "acceptable timeframe," said Mohammed Mohie, a spokesman for the powerful Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah. —AP

China to test 9mn for Covid in 5 days

Quingdao city begins nucleic acid test campaign

Beijing, Oct. 12: China's Qingdao city has launched a citywide nucleic acid test campaign that will cover its nine million residents over the next five days, amid apprehensions of a second wave after the coastal city reported 12 Covid-19 cases. The cases were connected to Qingdao Chest Hospital which is a designated medical institution for the Covid-19 patients from overseas.

In May, China tested 11 million people in Wuhan — the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Qingdao health authority has said that a citywide testing program has been launched. The five districts — home to about six million people — will be fully covered in the next three days. The whole city will be tested within five days, covering roughly nine million people, state-run *Global Times* reported.

So far, all medical staff, new hospitalised patients and nurses in hospitals at Qingdao have been given nucleic acid tests, with all 114,862 results coming back negative. As of Saturday, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases on the Chinese mainland had reached 85,557, including the 218

● **ONE OF** the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing.

● **IN THIS** process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was

patients still being treated.

Altogether 80,705 patients have recovered, according to China's National Health Commission's report released on Monday. It said 4,634 people have died to Coronavirus on the mainland.

They also mobilised teams to test disabled people, the elderly and those vulnerable in their own homes.

One of the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing.

In this process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was positive within the batch.

Videos circulating online showed residents

lining up late on Sunday to get tested, said the *Global Times*, adding that some of these test points were open from 07:00 to 23:00.

The new cases come a week after China's Golden Week holiday — which saw millions travel across the country.

A *Global Times* report quoting the Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism said the coastal city had received 4.47 million passenger trips over this period.

The nearby city of Jinan, in the same province as Qingdao, called for anyone who had visited the city since 23 September to get tested, according to a report by *The Paper*.

Earlier last month, Qingdao announced that two port workers who handled imported seafood had tested positive. They were not known to have infected anyone else.

Daily Coronavirus infections have fallen drastically in China, and for the most part the country appears to have recovered from the worst.

China currently has 91,305 virus cases and the death toll stands at 4,746, according to WHO data.

— Agencies



Asif Ali Zardari

EX-PAK PRESIDENT ASIF ALI ZARDARI HOSPITALISED

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Pakistan's former president and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was admitted to a private hospital in Karachi after he felt "unwell", his party has said.

"Doctors are conducting his medical check-up and necessary medical tests," the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) tweeted on Sunday without providing much details.

Zardari was "shifted to hospital after feeling unwell late on Sunday evening," it said. The former president's long-time associate Dr Asim Hussain told a private news channel that Zardari was brought to the hospital due to low sugar level. It was reported that the PPP leader was admitted in the emergency ward of the private hospital in Karachi. It, however, did not mention the hospital's name.

Zardari, who is facing multiple corruption cases, was released from jail in December last year after the Islamabad High Court approved his bail on medical grounds. He had been suffering from ischemic heart disease, which means his heart may have an inadequate supply of blood and oxygen. —PTI

Imran's top aide resigns, facing graft charges

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Lt. Gen. (ret'd.) Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned on Monday, amid allegations that he used his offices to help family set up several off-shore businesses.

"I requested the honourable prime minister to relinquish me from the additional portfolio of SAPM on Info & broadcasting. He very kindly approved my request," Bajwa, the former Pakistan Army spokesman who also served as Commander of the Southern Command, tweeted. However, he would continue working as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority.

The development comes more than a month after Bajwa submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Khan following a report on a website that alleged that he had used his offices in setting up off-shore businesses of his wife, sons and brothers. However, Khan rejected his resignation at the time and asked him to continue working as his special assistant.

The report alleged that Bajwa's younger brothers opened their first Papa John's pizza restaurant in 2002, the year he started working as a Lieutenant Colonel on the General Pervez Musharraf's staff. It claimed that his brother Nadeem Bajwa, 53, who started as a delivery driver for the pizza restaurant franchise, another three brothers, his wife Farrukh Zeba and

FATF'S REGIONAL GROUP KEEPS PAKISTAN ON FOLLOW-UP LIST

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Noting that Pakistan's measures against money laundering and terror financing "is not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating", a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force on Monday retained the country on its 'Enhanced follow-up' list, according to a media report.

The development came only a few weeks ahead of the meeting of the FATF — the Paris-based global money laundering and terror financing watchdog — to decide on Pakistan's grey list status.

The first Follow-Up Report on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) underlined that the country's progress on the 40 FATF recommendations on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror (AML/CFT) system largely remained unchanged — non-compliant on four counts, partially compliant on 25 counts and largely compliant on nine recommendations. —PTI

three sons now own a business empire which set up 99 companies in four countries, including a pizza franchise with 133 restaurants worth an estimated \$39.9 million. —PTI

TOP HONOURS

U.S. Economists worked towards improving the theory of how auctions work

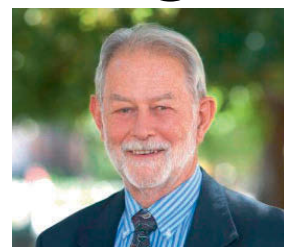
Milgrom, Wilson bag Nobel Prize in Economics

Stockholm, Oct. 12: Two American economists won the Nobel Prize on Monday for improving the theory of how auctions work and inventing new and better auction formats that are now woven into many parts of the economy.

The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "have benefited sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," the Nobel Committee said, noting that the auction formats developed by the winners have been used to sell radio frequencies, fishing quotas and airport landing slots.

Both economists are based at Stanford University in California, and Milgrom said he received news of their win "in a strange way." "I got a knock at my door from Bob Wilson," he said. "He was my Ph.D. advisor, and he lives right across the street from me."

Milgrom said students, friends and colleagues had long suggested he and Wilson might be due for the prize. "It's really sweet actually," he said. "It's nice to have their respect but their affection as well." The winners were announced in Stockholm by Goran



Robert B. Wilson

Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, rounding off a week of Nobel Prizes. Technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic



Paul R. Milgrom

Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the award was established in 1969 and is now widely considered one of the Nobel prizes.

The committee said Wilson's work showed "why

rational bidders tend to place bids below their own best estimate of the common value," that is, "the value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone."

"(Bidders) are worried about the winner's curse — that is, about paying too much and losing out," the committee said.

Wilson, 83, described his former student as "sort of the genius behind all of this auction work," noting that they first worked together on auctions in the 1970s. "We're really motivated to use theory in a very practi-

cal way to improve various economic processes," Wilson said. Milgrom, 72, developed a more general theory of auctions that takes into account what is known as the "private value" of what's being sold that can vary greatly from bidder to bidder. Speaking to reporters in Stockholm by phone after learning of his win, Wilson struggled to think of an auction he himself had participated in. But then added: "My wife points out to me that we bought ski boots on eBay. I guess that was an auction." —AP

DECCAN Chronicle

13 OCTOBER 2020

Judiciary must keep itself above suspicion

The move by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to write a letter to Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde, with a “sense of pain and anguish” at the “politicisation of institutions”, monitored by N. Chandrababu Naidu, “through honourable sitting judges of Supreme Court”, is unprecedented in India’s history. True, there have been confrontations between politics and the judiciary, between Parliament and other legislative bodies over the division of powers. There were times that the judiciary was accused of “judicial overreach” and “legislating in disguise” in the course of interpreting legislation and executive orders. The relationship between judiciary and political pillars of the legislature and executive is complex, but there is little doubt, even factoring in the impeachment powers of Parliament, that the judiciary is independent and supreme in interpretation of the Constitution and legal matters.

Equally important, as much as the powers of judiciary are supreme, the dignity, honour and majesty of the courts are sacrosanct too. Indian history records that whenever Indian politics was set to compromise with the values of democracy or unhesitant to trample on the rights of citizens or let down the foundational values of our republic, it was the judiciary that time and again has saved our nation. The Indian judiciary is not just one of the four pillars of the modern Indian nation or democracy — it has also been the exemplar of the highest standards, ethical conduct and has served as a role model for the other three. Like Caesar’s wife, it stands even above suspicion or a shade of doubt, and must continue to do so.

The political rivalry between YSRC chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his arch-rival Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is irrelevant here; it is best decided every five years in the people’s court. But when a chief minister, or even an ordinary citizen, raises issues, casts aspersions or makes allegations against a sitting Supreme Court judge, the onus shifts to the nation’s highest court and the CJI to ensure that every citizen of this country is assured that there is no need to worry about the serious allegations by ensuring transparency, fearless introspection and ensuring fairness.

One cannot completely dismiss the views of Mr Reddy’s rivals that this could be an arm-twisting tactic at a time when serious cases of financial wrongdoing are pending in the courts, including a matter on fast-tracking such hearings, in which, if found guilty and sentenced, the young CM could face disqualification from holding office and contesting elections for a considerable time.

The court will have to undertake this testing ordeal of not getting arm-twisted into weakening its resolve to rid India of political corruption but also simultaneously stand above any shred of doubt that no one in the judiciary, much less so, someone in the highest court, is possibly guilty of allegations of extra-constitutional judicial intervention at the behest of any political leader. Given its track record and the Indian people’s overriding trust and unshakable faith in the courts, one expects this is exactly what the CJI would ensure happens. Hail the judiciary!

Indefatigable Nadal

The Spaniard Rafael Nadal’s 13th triumph in the French Open is an incredible achievement. The unforgiving clay courts of Roland Garros present a challenge that can also drain the fit and tuned-to-the-minute athletes. Roger Federer acknowledged this as “one of the greatest achievements in sport” after his great rival equalled his record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday. A naturally gifted champion like Federer has only one French Open in his 20 Grand Slams. A persevering Nadal adapting his baseline game to Wimbledon grass and the hard courts of the Australian and US Open championships and conquering each of them consistently enough is a saga in itself.

Not fortunate to be gifted with the dulcet touch and graceful athleticism, Nada makes up for it by his willingness to chase down each point like a man possessed. There is a terrier-like determination to him on a tennis court that makes him a role model for fellow sportsmen who struggle to withstand the vicissitudes of form and, more importantly, fitness. Nadal has had his share of injuries, surgeries and endless queries in random drug tests, besides his self-doubts, in a remarkable journey of endurance in which the ability to stay motivated for years after raking in millions of dollars also counts.

In crushing Novak Djokovic, the third gladiator of modern tennis, Nadal not only emphasises that he is the king of the rectangle of clay. In this virtual monopoly of Grand Slams, broken only by Thiem’s victory at the US Open, the three greats are signalling they are in no hurry to make way for a generational change in men’s tennis. On the other hand, with Serena Williams not winning a Grand Slam since becoming a mother, the field is wide open on the distaff side. Young Iga Swiatek, the first ever Pole to win a Grand Slam, brings with her a powerful forehand and angled ground-strokes that makes her appear to be the one poised to emulate the likes of Nadal in exhibiting a metronomic thoroughness in tennis conquests.

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Subhani



Tackle Xi in Myanmar; don’t forget Rohingyas



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
Reflections

India’s foreign secretary and Chief of Army Staff may not have recently paid a joint visit to Naypyidaw, the capital of the country formerly known as Burma, if so much did not hang on the outcome of the November 8 elections. What probably influenced both Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Gen. M.M. Naravane most was the spectre of “Paukphaw”, the China-Myanmar friendship that President Xi Jinping had underscored during his state visit in January.

Although India and Myanmar are distant neighbours at present, they comprised one administrative unit from 1885 to 1937. They might have been politically one now if Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted U Nu’s 1947 proposal for a “United Nations of South Asia”. The fears, hatreds and resentments that make these elections so different from the 2015 polls when Myanmar soared on the cusp of hope may signify major changes in the road ahead.

The electoral outcome is bound to leave a heavy imprint not only on Myanmar’s place on the chequerboard of Asia’s power politics but on the social and demographic character of a country that seems incapable of accepting that it must rise above tribal and religious loyalties to claim the status of a nation. It’s not just a question of more than 37 million voters choosing their parliamentary and sub-national assembly representatives or of the all-powerful military appointing its tame legislators. Empowering the people is what matters.

Under Myanmar’s 2008 constitution, the Tatmadaw — Myanmar’s all-powerful military — chooses the vice-president and the home, defence and border affairs ministers, and controls 25 per cent of all parliamen-

tary seats.

The future of 1.3 million Rohingyas whom the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, calls “the world’s fastest-developing refugee emergency ... a humanitarian nightmare”, will have to be decided. So will the future of Aung San Suu Kyi, still elegantly winsome at 75, whose National League for Democracy infused the future with optimism in 2015. Today, she seems rather like a faded rose, having lost much of her shine as the global pin-up girl of Asian democracy and must justify her glory as Nobel Peace Prize laureate. For all that she is styled State Counsellor, Ms Suu Kyi seems to dance to the Tatmadaw’s tune on the Rohingyas.

Like the rest of the world, the Naypyidaw regime must also come to grips with a fast-spiralling Covid-19 crisis that may keep voters away from the polls. With nearly 24,000 infections, a meteoric rise from the 887 that were recorded on September 1, Myanmar has suddenly surged from only marginally infected to being Southeast Asia’s fourth-worst hit country.

The speculation is that pressed on so many fronts, Myanmar might feel that the future would be better protected if China’s rising influence were to be checked. That might explain reports of New Delhi’s offer of a \$6-billion petroleum refinery project and the talks

The electoral outcome is bound to leave a heavy imprint not only on Myanmar’s place on the chequerboard of Asia’s power politics but on the social and demographic character of the country.

India’s national interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond ‘Look East’ to ‘Act East’

to boost connectivity, power and energy projects, as well as joint efforts to tackle the pandemic. Worthy as these initiatives may be, one cannot but wonder why they are not components of a permanent programme binding two such physically close neighbours.

When India did take an interest in Myanmar after years of neglect, it was to deny the Naga or Mizo rebels sanctuary or prevent China and Pakistan from gaining strategic advantages. These legitimate objectives were small in themselves and appeared to reduce foreign affairs to immediate petty gains, with little inkling of the broad sweep of history. Myanmar’s expulsion of Indian labourers, clerks, doctors, teachers and lawyers prompted little reaction because the victims seemed to be culturally, socially and financially remote from the mandarins of South Block.

Rightly or wrongly, it was whispered at one time that a pragmatic approach was discouraged by India’s ethnic Myanmar first lady. That was nearly two decades ago. A subsequently more sympathetic attitude was attributed to Ms Suu Kyi’s personal contacts in New Delhi during the years her mother was Myanmar’s ambassador and she a student at the city’s Lady Shri Ram College. Inevitably, the suffering Rohingyas are now seen as Muslim jihadists rather than victims of racism.

Myanmar’s 2014 census listed Rohingyas as illegal Bengali immigrants. Most were stripped of citizenship in 1982. They are denied education,

employment and the right to move about freely. This legal subjugation is nothing compared to the terrible atrocities of repeated military crackdowns, particularly in 2017-2018, when entire villages were burned down, men were murdered and women subject to gangrape.

Predictably, perhaps, some Rohingya groups responded with militancy. But the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation demands the right to “self-determination within Myanmar”, while the Rohingya-led National Democratic Party for Human Rights supported the 1988 democracy movement. It returned four members to Parliament in 1990 when the Tatmadaw cheated the victorious NLD of its right to form the government.

The former Army strongman, Shwe Mann, is now projecting his Union Betterment Party as the middle ground between the NLD and the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, while the tycoon and legislator Thet Thet Khine, who left the NLD to launch the People’s Pioneer Party, focuses mainly on the economy. Meanwhile, the NLD’s promise of imported cars has invited ridicule. Unhappily, none of the 16 major parties in the fray is campaigning to enfranchise the marginalised ethnic groups like the persecuted Rohingya.

They needn’t be India’s priority either. The political challenge of “Paukphaw” — including China-backed projects like the \$4 billion Myitsone Dam, the Belt and Road Initiative, the economic corridor stretching from China’s Yunnan province to Rakhine state, and the \$15 billion Yatai New City Project at Shwe Kokko on the Myanmar-Thai border — matters far more. However, India’s national interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond “Look East” to “Act East”.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

LAW & ORDER

The recent increase in crimes, especially in North India is due to unavailability of police in crime prone areas and their excess deployment for protection of ruling political bigwigs (CBI takes over Hathras probe, DC, Oct. 12). If the police protection is withdrawn, then one can imagine the plight of politicians.

N.S. Sharma
Visakhapatnam

LETTER TO CJI

The Telugu Desam’s reaction to the letter written by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to CJI was on expected lines. They have conveniently skipped the main issues raised in the letter. Stopping investigation on an FIR, gagging the media from publishing the contents of the FIR are some of the atrocious decisions taken recently by AP HC. The Supreme Court too found fault with HC on this. TD is always harping on Jagan as the prime accused in several charge sheets pending trial in a CBI court. During 2014-19, when the TD was in power, nothing was finalised against Jagan and there is no answer from the TD or BJP on it.

Govardhana Myneedu
Vijayawada

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Two get letters of intent to make baby cars

NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

Letters of intent are understood to have been issued by the Ministry of Industrial Development to Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi’s son, and Mr. Madan Mohan Rao of Madras for the manufacture of small cars in the private sector.

The issue of licences to the two parties for the manufacture of baby cars would be considered by the Ministry of Industrial Development after they submit detailed project reports which would have to be scrutinised by the Directorate-General of the Technical Development, Ministry of Industrial Development.

Mr. Gandhi has already assembled a small car out of locally made components which was tested by the Directorate-General of Technical Development. His proposal envisages an initial production of 2,000 cars, per annum to be progressively increased to an annual turnout of 20,000 units.

Aakar Patel



If you do not admit there’s a crisis, you can’t solve it

If I do not acknowledge that I have a problem, then I cannot solve it. If the problem is a minor one, this is less consequential and does not affect me beyond a point. It is only an irritant that I can continue to ignore.

But if the problem is a major one, and if the problem affects not just me but many people around me, then ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

The sale of cars in India has not grown for the past five years. The number of cars bought by Indians in 2015-16 was 27 lakh units. The number of cars bought in 2019-20 was 27 lakh units. India’s middle class is either not growing or not spending.

The government says that stagnating car sales is not a problem because young people prefer to use Uber and Ola cabs. The United States sold two crore cars last year. Uber and Ola (and its various

equivalents) do not seem to affect any other nation.

The sale of two-wheelers in India has not grown for the past four years. Altogether 1.7 crore units were sold in 2016-17, and 1.7 crore units were sold in 2019-20. This is the vehicle of the lower middle class, the size and consumption of which has not grown for four years. What theory the government has for this we do not know as it has not been acknowledged that there is no growth.

Commercial vehicles have not shown any growth for the past four years. Sales were seven lakh units in 2016-17 and seven lakh units in 2019-20. This includes vehicles like trucks, heavy lorries, tankers and small tempos that carry products either to the manufacturers or to the market. The real meaning of four years of zero growth in this market can simply be imagined.

Real estate has shown no growth over the last four years. Indians

bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2016. They bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2019. India’s exports have not grown for six years. The country exports the same quantity that it did when Dr Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. India was exporting about \$300 billion a year when the UPA-2 left office. It exported about \$300 billion in 2019-20. Why is this the case? We do not know because the government does not speak about it. When imports into India fell more than exports out of India, the government celebrated the moment as a singular achievement.

Employment has not only not grown in the past six years, it has actually gone down. A report produced by the government showed it to be at over six per cent in 2018, more than at any other time in history. Why are Indians losing employment? We do not know. The government has dismissed the issue and said that pakora sellers

and Uber drivers were replacing traditional employees.

It is true that Covid-19 has affected India’s economy deeply and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. We are unlikely to get back to the GDP figure that we achieved in January this year for another three years. This means that by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s second term ends in May 2024, we will still only be economically where we were in January this year. The problem is that where we were in January this year was not a good space. All the numbers that have been referred to above are before the Covid-19 pandemic’s outbreak.

The stagnation in our economy had happened before the lockdown and has nothing to do with our current crisis. If and when we are able to overcome the Covid-19 related problem with our economy, we will go back only to the earlier problem.

India’s GDP growth declined every quarter for 10 quarters before

Covid. Why? We do not know. It could be one reason, and it could be many reasons. But if we do not acknowledge the issue at all, we will never solve it. You can only think about, discuss and then implement corrective measures if you acknowledge that corrective measures are needed. If you carry on like nothing has happened, then deep problems cannot be fixed by themselves and they won’t go away. The government went from saying that India was the one bright spot in the world’s economy and the fastest growing economy in the world, to not saying anything about the economy at all.

The problem is a major one, and it affects not just the Prime Minister but hundreds of millions of people across the country. Ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist

quick BITES

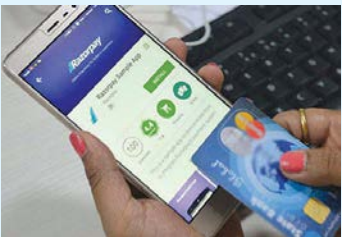
INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,593.80	0.21
Nifty 50	11,930.95	0.14
S&P 500*	3,538.30	1.76
Dollar (₹)	73.27	0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.47	0.91
Euro (₹)	86.53	0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,073.240	0.46
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.53	-1.32
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.899	-0.041
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.779	0.00

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Govt extends tenure of 3 EDs of Canara, IOB

The government has extended the tenure of three executive directors of Canara Bank and Indian Overseas Bank by two years. Canara Bank said the tenure of EDs Debashish Mukherjee and Matam Venkata Rao has been extended for two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. IOB said the government has extended the term of Ajay Kumar Srivastava as executive director for a period of two years.

Razorpay joins the league of unicorns in India



Payments solution provider Razorpay Razorpay said it has gained the 'unicorn' status after having raised \$100 million funding from GIC, Sequoia Capital and existing investors. Witnessing a 300 per cent growth in its business during the past six months, Razorpay said it has raised a Series-D fundraising of \$100 million, giving the company more than \$1 billion in valuation. This round was co-led by GIC and Sequoia.

Credai seeks fiscal sops for realty sector

Realtors' apex body Credai said the industry is going through much pain due to the pandemic and urged the government to take fiscal measures for improving the liquidity position of cash-starved developers. The industry body, which represents more than 20,000 builders from across India, has sought financial support in the form of interest waiver and extension of the moratorium period till March 2021 for the sector.

Hiring activities up 24% in Sept: Naukri JobSpeak

With life returning to normalcy gradually, hiring activities grew 24 per cent in September as compared to the previous month, mostly driven by pharmaceuticals and education sectors. At 1,755 job postings, there was an improvement of 24 per cent in hiring activities last month compared to August with 1,413 listings, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index for September 2020.



Meeting ends without a decision Consensus eludes GST Council again

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The stalemate over compensating states for the shortfall in GST collections continued on Monday with a meeting of the GST Council ending without reaching any consensus.

The panel, which is the highest decision-making body on indirect taxes, for the second time in a week failed to reach a consensus on the Centre's proposal of states borrowing against future GST collections to make up for the shortfall.

This was the third meeting in a row that discussed compensation shortfall without a decision.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who heads the Council, said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields, resulting in rise in borrowing costs for the government and the private sector.

However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said, adding 21 states had agreed to borrow as suggested by the Centre.

However, other states insisted on a decision to be taken by consensus, she said.

"We were not able to arrive at a consensus," Sitharaman said.

In its previous meeting last week, the council had decided to extend the surcharge on taxes on luxury goods such as cars and tobacco products beyond June 2022 but failed to reach a consensus on



STALEMATE CONTINUES

- FM said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields
- However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said
- Dissenting states insisted on consensus decision

ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue.

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

The Centre had in August given two options to the states—to borrow either Rs 97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or Rs 2.35 lakh crore from the market. It had also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

Following a demand by some states, the amount of Rs 97,000 crore was increased to Rs 1.10 lakh crore.

As many as 21 states -- which are BJP-ruled or

have supported it on various issues— have opted to borrow Rs 1.10 lakh crore to meet the compensation shortfall.

The Centre has released Rs 20,000 crore to the states towards compensation shortfall so far in the current fiscal.

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs.

On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods, and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss. But due to a slowdown in the economy, collections have fallen short of the money needed for compensating states.

Travel industry unhappy with redirection of LTC money

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

Naturally, the travel industry is unhappy with the Centre's decision to redirect the leave travel concession (LTC) allowance of government employees to purchase of consumer goods.

After the prolonged lockdown, the travel and tourism industry was expecting the festive season to boost travel demand, as people usually use the opportunity to travel to their home state.

After almost eight months of nil to very limited tourism activity, festive season was one of the few demand drivers that the travel and hospitality industry was looking forward to and the industry was hoping for more tax-based stimulus in the hands of all citizens to travel when spent against GST-rated travel agents, hotels tour operators, tourist transporters and restaurants, said the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (Faith).

"Redirecting the LTC money of government employees to buy consumer goods would dry up those funds for the travel sector. Additionally, it would also send a vote of no-confidence to the tourism travel and hospitality industry, which was looking to get back on its feet after 'Unlock'," said Faith.

Additionally, since tax-free LTC is a four-year block scheme, it will also cut away funds for future travel demand sources for the next year when the LTC block ends in 2021. The tourism ministry was



But consumer durables are in a sweet spot

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The government's leave travel concession (LTC) scheme meant to induce demand has put consumer durables and electronics in a sweet spot.

The government has put forward a few riders for those availing the LTC scheme. The employee, who wants tax-free LTC, will have to buy goods or services worth three times the fare and one-time the leave encashment.

Further, the goods and services bought under the scheme should be carrying a GST of 12 per cent and above. This will weed out all the basic amenities that have a GST of less than 12 per cent and the focus will be on dis-

cretionary items like computers, consumer durables, smartphones, home appliances, furniture and home furnishings.

"Both in terms of price point and GST, consumer durables are in a sweet spot. People who have been deferring purchase of consumer durables, electronics, mobile phones and household electronics will have a reason to buy," said Naval Seth of Emkay Global Financial Services. Even those who had not made any festive season purchase plans will find a reason to upgrade consumer appliances with the scheme.

According to Kamal Nandi, president, Consumer Electronics and Appliances

Manufacturers Association (Ceama) and business head and EVP, Godrej Appliances, the measure will augur well for the consumer durables segment in the upcoming festive season.

"Traditionally, the Indian customer makes many of his/her big-ticket purchases, such as appliances, during the festive season. Due to the current pandemic, consumers have appreciated the value appliances add to their lives as they are looking for comfort and convenience at home with the adoption of 'work from home' format and for the overall health, hygiene & safety of their family from the coronavirus," he said.

Consumer durables have been seeing a good month-on-month recovery in sales in the past couple of months. "The category has not yet made growth over the same month last year. But we expect a positive growth during the festive season," said Seth.

planning to make 2021 the year for domestic tourism.

The industry wants LTC funds to be restored and

income tax benefits be offered to citizens travelling within the country, paying up to Rs 1.5 lakh to

GST-registered travel agents, hotels tour operators, tourist transporters and restaurants.

IIP contracts 8% in Aug; inflation spurts

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

Despite the gradual relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the industrial output contracted by 8 per cent in August, mostly due to minimal output from the manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors. While at the same time, consumer inflation in the September month increased to 7.34 per cent from 6.69 per cent in the previous month on account of rising food prices, according to government data released on Monday.

The Index of Industrial Production, or IIP, had contracted by 1.4 per cent in August 2019. The index had contracted 10.4 per cent in July 2020, which was better than 15.7 per cent contraction in June this year.

"It may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

"The manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 8.6 per cent, while the output of mining and power segments fell 9.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively," it said, adding that with the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting.

The consumer price also went up to an unsatisfactory level, marking the highest level recorded in eight months, and it is also above the Reserve Bank's target range of 2-6 per cent. "The consumer inflation in September increased to 7.34 per cent from 6.69 per cent in the previous month on account of rising food prices. Food inflation in September rose to 10.68 per cent compared to 9.05 per cent in August," the release said.

Despite the central bank's effort to contain inflation by keeping rates low, unabated high prices have hurt the economy.

Sahara says over ₹3,200 cr paid to co-operative society members

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The Sahara Group on Monday said it has paid Rs 3,226 crore to more than 10 lakh members of its four associated co-operative credit societies in the last 75 days, including some payments against requests from people who had complained about delayed payouts.

The group said there has been some delay in payments, primarily due to an embargo imposed for last eight years by the Supreme Court, while about Rs 22,000 crore of its funds, including interest amount, are deposited in the Sahara-Sebi account, which was created to refund bondholders of two group firms.

In a statement, Sahara said Sebi has been able to repay only Rs 106.1 crore to the investors in these eight years despite repeated attempts, which the group said only affirms its view that there are no claimants left as most bondholders were already repaid before it was asked by the regulator to deposit the money. —PTI

Rao to man regulation department at RBI

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, OCT. 12

The Reserve Bank of India on Monday rejigged the portfolios of deputy governors following the appointment of M. Rajeshwar Rao as the new deputy governor. Rao was appointed following the retirement of his predecessor N.S. Vishwanathan and has been given the charge of department of regulation, enforcement, inspection, legal department and risk monitoring. Vishwanathan's vacancy was filled after a delay of six months. Rajeshwar Rao is a seasoned central banker.

Last week, the appointments committee of the Cabinet cleared the name of Rao for the post of RBI deputy governor. With this, the RBI now has four deputy governors. The other three are B.P. Kanungo, M.K. Jain and M.D. Patra.

According to the central bank's website, Kanungo will handle ten portfolios. These include coordination, currency management, external investments and operations,

department of government and bank accounts, information technology, payments and settlements, foreign exchange, internal debt management and right to information and secretary's department.

Jain will be in charge of eight portfolios, including central security, corporate strategy and budget department, consumer education and protection department, supervision, financial inclusion and human resources.

Patra will handle the monetary policy department, department of economic and policy research, deposit insurance and credit guarantee, department of statistics, financial markets and international department and financial stability unit.

The RBI needs four deputy governors: two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy department.

Prior to taking over as the ED, Rao was chief general manager, financial markets operations department.

HERO LAUNCHES GLAMOUR BLAZE AT ₹72,000



MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 12

Hero MotoCorp, India's biggest motorcycle maker, on Monday introduced a new special edition of the popular Glamour bike called the Glamour Blaze priced at Rs 72,200 at Delhi showroom to boost sales ahead of the festive season.

Powered by a BS 6-compliant 125cc engine, the bike is looking at making a mark in an extremely popular segment which also sees stiff competition between competing products.

The 125 cc engine comes with Xsens Programmed Fuel Injection and offers 10.7 bhp and torque of 10.6 Nm. It also gets an idle start-stop system called i3S by Hero.

Mahindra Alfa 3-wheeler now BS6-compliant

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 12

Mahindra & Mahindra on Monday launched the BS6 compliant variants of Alfa, its flagship 3-wheeler brand in Asia's third biggest economy. Mahindra Alfa comes with a few cosmetic changes and enhanced performance.

The Alfa three-wheeler is available in both passenger starting at Rs 2.67 lakh and cargo variants at Rs 2.59 lakh at Mumbai showroom.



Singapore Air's A380 restaurant tickets sell out in 30 minutes

KYUNGHEE PARK
SINGAPORE, OCT. 12

Singapore Airlines Ltd said all seats on its Airbus A380 pop-up restaurants were reserved within 30 minutes of bookings opening on Monday.

With flights largely grounded by the coronavirus pandemic, Singapore Airlines is trying novel ways to raise money, including using two A380 superjumbos parked at Changi Airport as temporary restaurants on Oct. 24 and 25.

A meal in a suite costs \$8642 (\$474, or roughly Rs 35,000), while seats in

business class are going for \$8321 and then dropping to \$896.30 for premium economy and \$853.50 for economy. Customers can also pay with frequent-flyer miles.

About half the seats in each aircraft will be available for dining, in line with restaurant guidelines on group limits and distancing, Singapore Airlines said in a statement. It plans to open a wait list later on Monday due to strong demand. In normal flying service, the carrier's A380s can seat as many as 471 people, according to its website.

The company will study

the wait list and see how it can "potentially accommodate some of those who are still interested in this unique dining experience," vice president of commercial operations Lee Lik Hsin said.

Singapore Airlines, which suffered a record \$81.12 billion (\$827 million) net loss in the quarter through June and is laying off about 20 per cent of its workforce, is also selling a range of first- and business-class meals and offering a service whereby a private chef reheats, plates and serves customers in their homes.

—Bloomberg

China bans Oz coal imports as political relations sour

Oct. 12: China has suspended purchases of Australian coal, according to people familiar with the order, as Beijing continues to tightly control imports of the fuel amid soured political relations with Canberra.

Chinese power stations and steel mills have been verbally told to immediately stop using Australian coal, the people said, asking not to be identified as the matter is private. Ports have also been told not to offload Australian coal, one of the people said. China's customs administration wasn't immediately available for comment.

The ban marks an escalation in tensions that have



already jolted agricultural exports from China's biggest supplier of commodities. It isn't clear when the halt might end or how it might affect long-term contracts that are already in place.

The fossil fuel has been a previous target for China's ire with what it regards as an increasingly hostile government in Canberra, most recently in 2019 when

shipments became subject to port delays. It's one of the few resources in which China is largely self-sufficient.

China is, overwhelmingly, the key buyer of Australia's most lucrative export, iron ore, although curbs on that product would be a heavy blow to a steel industry that relies on vast and cheap supplies from mining heavyweights like Rio Tinto Group and BHP Group.

More broadly, China keeps a tight grip on coal imports, as it seeks to balance the needs of its miners and industrial users. The fuel still accounts for over half of its energy needs. —Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES



Para shuttler Manasi Joshi poses with the Barbie model.

Barbie model after role model Manasi

New Delhi: Indian para athletes have been making the headlines lately. Weeks after an unprecedented nine Para athletes were honoured with the National Sports Awards 2020, para shuttler Manasi Joshi has now made every Indian proud becoming the first ever Para athlete to have featured in TIME magazine as Next Generation Leader. She is also the first Indian para-athlete to have a Barbie doll modelled to her likeness announced on the occasion of the International Day of Girl Child. Joshi joined the likes of Australian Paralympic medalist wheelchair para athlete Madison De Rozario and Para Swimming champion Sumeyye Boyaci among many others, in celebration of extraordinary women who inspire girls around the world to be anything they dream to be.

The only other Indian to have received this laurel is gymnast Dipa Karmakar in 2019. Extremely delighted with Manasi's latest recognitions, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President Deepa Malik said these honours will give a great boost to the Indian Paralympic Movement.

Football captain Carlton no more

New Delhi: Former India football captain and mid-fielder Carlton Chapman, who formed a deadly trio at the club level with Bhainchong Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s, died on Monday following a heart attack in Bengaluru. He was 49. Chapman was hospitalised on Sunday night at a hospital in Bengaluru and passed away early this morning. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001 and the country won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy. At the club level, he had two successful spells with East Bengal and one with now defunct JCT Mills. A product of the Tata Football Academy in early 1990s, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993 and scored a hat-trick in his team's 6-2 win against Iraq club Al Zawra in a first round match at the Asian Cup Winners Cup that year. — PTI

Akbar elected FMSCI president

New Delhi: Former racer Akbar Ebrahim was on Monday unanimously elected for a second term as the president of India's motorsports governing body, FMSCI. The elections were held via video-conference amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Ebrahim had his first stint as FMSCI chief from 2016-2018 following which he was replaced by J. Prithviraj. "It is without doubt, going to be a very challenging and tough year given the unprecedented pandemic situation the whole world is facing. I am sure that the FMSCI will collectively rise to the occasion and manage the situation to the best of its ability," Ebrahim said in a statement. Farooq Ahmed was unanimously elected as the vice-president. The FMSCI boasts of more than 50 affiliates across all corners of the country and there are more than 1200 registered athletes. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Chennai Super Kings from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Matches from 12.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

TENNIS

St Petersburg Open: Matches from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: Azerbaijan vs Cyprus from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Ukraine vs Spain from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD; Germany vs Switzerland from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

BANG ON TARGET

AB de Villiers goes great guns as RCB crush KKR

Sharjah, Oct. 12: AB de Villiers hit a power-packed 73 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore outplay Kolkata Knight Riders by 82 runs in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

The South African great smashed six sixes in his 33-ball blitz and put on an unbeaten century partnership with skipper Virat Kohli, who scored 33, as Bangalore posted 194 for 2 in 20 overs.

Proteas quick Chris Morris and spinner Washington Sundar claimed two wickets each to keep down Kolkata to 112 for 9 in 20 overs.

But the evening belonged to the 36-year-old De Villiers who scored his third IPL half-century of the season to go past 3,000 runs in the Twenty20 tournament. "Genius. Find me another word for @ABdeVilliers17. This one will do for now! Genius," veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle wrote on Twitter.

Opener Aaron Finch (47 from 37 balls) looked sluggish in the middle and struggled to find boundaries before being castled by Prasidh Krishna.

With boundaries drying up, De Villiers unleashed his array of shots against a disciplined Nagarkoti, smashing him for consecutive sixes, over midwicket, one of which hit a running car. — PTI



AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore plays a shot on way to his half-century during an IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Aaron Finch b Prasidh 47, D. Padikkal b Russell 32, Virat Kohli not out 33, AB de Villiers not out 73. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-6, NB-1) 9. **Total: (for two wickets in 20 overs) 194.** **FoW:** 1-67, 2-94.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-38-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Andre Russell 4-0-51-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-25-0, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 4-0-36-0.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Tom Banton b Saini 8, Shubman Gill run out 34, Nitish Rana b Washington Sundar 9, Eoin Morgan c Udana

b Washington Sundar 8, D. Karthik b Chahal 1, A. Russell c M. Siraj b Udana 16, R. Tripathi c Morris b M. Siraj 16, Pat Cummins c Padikkal b Chris Morris 1, K. Nagarkoti b Chris Morris 4, Chakravarthy not out 7, Prasidh Krishna not out 2. **Extras:** (LB-3, W-3) 6. **Total: (for 9 wickets in 20 Overs) 112.** **FoW:** 1-23, 2-51, 3-55, 4-62, 5-64, 6-85, 7-89, 8-99, 9-108.

Bowling: Chris Morris 4-0-17-2, Navdeep Saini 3-0-17-1, Mohammad Siraj 3-0-24-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-20-2, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-12-1, Isuru Udana 2-0-19-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	0	10	+1.038
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	0	10	-0.116
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	3	4	0	6	+0.153
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

Teen nabbed for threatening Ziva

Ahmedabad, Oct. 12: A 16-year-old boy was nabbed on Sunday from Mundra in Gujarat for allegedly issuing threats against cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's minor daughter, police said.

"The class 12 student from Namma Kapaya village was detained for questioning in connection with a disgusting threat message that was posted on the Instagram account of Dhoni's wife Sakshi Dhoni a few days back," Kutch (West) superintendent of police Saurabh Singh told reporters.

The teenager "confessed" to have posted the threatening message on the Instagram account after the IPL 2020 match between KKR and CSK cricket teams, police said.

Ranchi police had shared information regarding the boy with Kutch (West) police and asked them to con-

firm if he was the one who had posted the threat message, Singh said.

"We detained him for questioning after Ranchi police informed us that the accused hails from Mundra in Kutch district."

"We have confirmed that the boy is the same who had posted the message. He will be handed over to Ranchi police as the FIR was lodged in that city," the SP said, adding that a team of Ranchi Police is likely to reach Kutch tomorrow to take custody of the teenager.

Dhoni is captaining the CSK cricket team in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

The nature of the threat had caused a huge outrage on social media, with several cricketers, politicians and celebrities expressing disgust and demanding action. — PTI

ISHANT OUT OF IPL WITH RIB CAGE INJURY

Dubai, Oct. 12: Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League with a rib-cage injury, his team Delhi Capitals said on Monday.

The 32-year-old Test specialist had played only one of the seven games that the Capitals have played so far, finishing his four overs wicketless for 26 runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi.

"Fast bowler Ishant Sharma experienced an acute episode of left rib cage pain while bowling at a team training session on October 7, 2020 in Dubai."

"Subsequent investigations revealed that he sustained a left internal oblique muscle tear. This injury will unfortunately rule him out of the remainder of the IPL," Capitals said.

Ishant has played 97 Tests, 80 ODIs and 14 T20Is for India and is set to spearhead the ace attack during Test matches in Australia. — PTI

Depleted Dhoni side face SRH

Dubai, Oct. 12: Time is fast running out for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings, a team which desperately needs its batting to click when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday in a battle to keep its IPL hopes alive.

CSK with five defeats in seven games are currently at the penultimate position in the eight-team standings halfway into the tournament. While Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis have had decent outings so far, CSK need a stronger show from its faltering middle order to.

SRH, on the other hand, are a only a tad better-placed than CSK at the fifth spot with three wins from seven games.

But the five-wicket defeat to RR on Sunday would be hurting the Hyderabad outfit badly.

Batting has not been SRH's concern at all as the likes of Jonny Bairstow, skipper David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 13
● Chennai: 9
● Hyderabad: 4

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 6 wickets at Hyderabad
● Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Chennai

MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 7 runs at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD

● Faf du Plessis is the highest run-getter for Chennai Super Kings in the current edition. The South African batsman scored 307 runs at a strike rate of 147.59 in seven innings of as many matches.

— S. PERVEZ QAISAR

Williamson are all among runs and have the ability to shoulder the responsibility on their own. But it is the bowling unit which let Hyderabad down on Sunday. — PTI

ICC SETS DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION OF ITS CHAIRMAN

Dubai, Oct. 12: The ICC on Monday set October 18 as the deadline for its Board of Directors to propose candidates for the chairman's post to succeed Shashank Manohar, ending a nearly three-month-long impasse on the nomination process.

"The process, which is being overseen by the Independent Chairman of the ICC Audit Committee, has commenced and the first stage is for the nominations of potential candidates to be made by current Board Directors by 18 October 2020," ICC stated in a release.

The candidate would require two thirds of the 17 ICC Board member votes, which roughly comes to 11 or 12. — PTI

NBA | CHAMPIONSHIP

Lakers crack the whip to win title

Orlando, Oct. 12: Kobe Bryant's spirit could be felt by the Los Angeles Lakers as they finished a run to the NBA title on Sunday, nine months after Bryant's death in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers completed a championship run dedicated to the late LA legend by defeating Miami 106-93 to capture the NBA Finals four games to two in a quarantine bubble at Orlando, Florida.

"Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud. We miss him, and this is definitely for him," Lakers star forward Anthony Davis said.

"I think Kobe and Gianna have guided this team the entire year," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said.

"Kobe's voice is always in my head, always, every day, every minute... for us to be able to win this championship doesn't take away the sting of the loss, but what it does is it helps us add to their legacy."

Bryant's widow, Vanessa Bryant, posted a congratulatory message on *Instagram*, saying: "Wish Kobe and Gigi were here to see this."

The Lakers captured their first NBA title since 2010, when Bryant led them to the last of his five career crowns.

"There would be times in my hotel room here — when you're in a bubble for 100 days, it's tough — there would be times in the middle of the night, I would hear his voice: 'Stay the course. Finish the task,'" said Pelinka.

Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud. We miss him, and this is definitely for him.

— ANTHONY DAVIS
after winning the NBA title

"He said, 'I'll give you two, three years, you'll fix this. You'll get the Lakers back on top.'"

Pelinka looked to the heavens and said, "I guess you were right, man. You gave me the energy to do it."

Outside the Lakers' home arena, the Staples Center in Los Angeles, fans took to the streets chanting, "Kobe, Kobe," despite being urged to celebrate at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

JAMES SAVOURS MVP TITLE

The sight of LeBron James hoisting an NBA championship trophy as Most Valuable Player of the title series was no surprise — but the path he took to a fourth career crown was anything but usual.

"I can't sit here and say one is more challenging than the other or one is more difficult than the other," James said after capturing his fourth NBA title with a third team, and his fourth Finals MVP award.

He posted a triple-double of 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in the title-clinching 106-93 victory over the Miami Heat in Game Six. — AFP



LeBron James (centre) of the Los Angeles Lakers is jubilant as he holds his MVP and the NBA Championship trophy after winning the NBA title at AdventHealth Arena at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Sunday. — AFP

No direct entry for badminton Finals

New Delhi, Oct. 12: India ace P. V. Sindhu will not get a direct entry in the rescheduled World Tour Final as the Badminton World Federation (BWF) has decided against handing automatic invitations to current world champions in the season-ending tournament.

According to the BWF rules, world champions have always enjoyed a direct qualification to the prestigious World Tour Finals but with the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting the international calendar, the world body has decided to do away with the criteria this year.

"Players will qualify for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2020 in Bangkok (Thailand) according to current regulations. The exception to that is current world champions will not get an automatic invitation (World Tour Regulations, Clause 8.2.3) and only

points earned from World Tour tournaments will be taken into account," BWF said.

"The remaining Grade 2 tournaments counting towards qualification are: DANISA Denmark Open 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 750), Asia Open I 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000), Asia Open II 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000)," the statement added.

Sindhu, who won the World Championship gold medal last year, had pulled out of the Denmark Open and will now have to perform at the Asia legs to make it to the World Tour Finals. "We don't regret the decision to pull out of the Denmark Open. Now that the BWF has laid down the criteria, Sindhu will try to do well in the Asia leg if there are no more post-noments and qualify," Sindhu's father P. V. Ramana said. — PTI

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